

News Release



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City of Fredericksburg Announces First Environmental Sustainability Coordinator ***MacKenzie Bellimam joins the City of Fredericksburg***

(Fredericksburg, VA) January 18, 2022 - The City of Fredericksburg welcomes MacKenzie Bellimam as the new Environmental Sustainability Coordinator and is working in the Environmental Programs section of the Public Works Department. This new position is an important step to fulfilling City Council's vision for a green, clean environment for Fredericksburg in the next 15 years.

Ms. Bellimam brings a wealth of environmental expertise and hands-on experience working in local government in stormwater, waste management, community engagement and education, as well as carrying out sustainability programs. She most recently worked as an environmental specialist for the Rappahannock Regional Landfill (R-Board).

Over the next year, Ms. Bellimam will be working with City staff, citizens, and partners to create an environmental sustainability plan for our community. This plan will explore ways to improve energy efficiency, enhance green infrastructure, and grow our urban forest within the city, to list a few of the issues that will be addressed. She will also be charged with pursuing grants to advance green initiatives. And she will be working with City Schools on a joint program to evaluate and pursue building energy savings.

"The mission of our new Sustainability Coordinator is to work collaboratively with community partners and citizens to create an attractive, clean area to live in, to conserve and protect our natural resources, and come up with sustainable options for our green future." states Diane Beyer, Director of Public Works.

In 2016 City Council adopted the *City's Vision and Desired Future States*, in which they declared that "Fredericksburg is a responsible, modern city with a quality of life that is guaranteed by thoughtful environmental stewardship. Our location on the Rappahannock River compels us to consider the environmental impact of every decision that we make." A major step toward fulfilling this vision was secured in 2019 with City Council's adoption of the *100% Renewable Energy Resolution*, and commitment to the goal of powering municipal operations with 100% renewable energy by 2035 or earlier. The City and community of Fredericksburg have already demonstrated leadership on environmental and climate issues through the activities and programs of the Clean and Green Commission and this new dedicated position will help the City further progress our collective efforts.

The City is excited to welcome Ms. Bellimam on board as part of the City team. For more information, please feel free to visit www.fredericksburgva.gov or call the Public Works office at 540-372-1023.

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