TOWN OF CARRBORO CLIMATE ACTION TEAM





AGENDA Climate Action Team

April 20, 2023; 7:00 pm Zoom Virtual Meeting*

Time	Item	
	Call to Order, Announcements	
7:00 pm	Approve 2/16/23 Minutes	Chair, All
7:05 pm	Elect Chair, Vice-Chair	All
	<u>Discussion Items</u>	
7:15 pm	Draft FY23-24 Environmental Sustainability Work Plan	Staff, Chair, All
8:00 pm	Plan for Earth Day and Future Outreach Events	Staff, Chair, All
8:30 pm	Discussion Topics:	Chair, All
9:00 pm	Announcements, Adjourn	Chair, All

^{*}To attend this virtual meeting, please use the link below:

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TOWN OF CARRBORO CLIMATE ACTION TEAM—SUMMARY





Meeting on February 16, 2023, 7:00 pm

Board Members	Town Council Members	Staff	Guests
Rob Pinder	Randee Haven-O'Donnell	Laura Janway	Riz Rashdi (CAT Applicant)
Chrissie Schalkoff	Sammy Slade		Meg Molloy (CAT Applicant)
Tilly Pick			Greg Randolph (CAT Applicant)
Kathy Kaufman			Brooke Barton

Note: Absent/Excused: Caroline Zhou, Lauren Nyland, Heidi Paulsen

Call to Order, Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. Chair Kaufman was experiencing internet issues, so members agreed that member Schalkoff would run the meeting until the Chair's internet issues were resolved.

Approve 1/19/22 Meeting Minutes

Pinder motioned to approve the 1/19/22 meeting minutes, seconded by Pick. All voted in favor. **AYES: (4)** Kaufman, Pinder, Schalkoff, Pick; **NAYES: (0)**.

Elect Chair, Vice-Chair

Pick motioned to move the election to the next meeting, seconded by Pinder. All voted in favor. **AYES: (4)** Pick, Schalkoff, Kaufman, Pinder; **NAYES: (0).**

Discussion Items

Discuss Ecosystem Module Presentation for National Invasive Species Awareness Week Outreach

Staff member Janway provided a presentation of the latest version of the Ecosystem Module. Town Council Member Haven-O'Donnell recommended disseminating information about fertilizer use during the spring. Town Council Member Slade mentioned that they could integrate the Town's stormwater consulting program into module presentations. Member Pick mentioned the Green Neighborhood Program and that one of the best ways to get involvement will be to provide examples of potential projects. Applicant Molloy mentioned that they need to be sure that people can maintain the work that they begin and it might be helpful to show people the three simplest things they can do. Members agreed that talking to landlords is important and demonstration projects in visible places might be helpful. Town Council Member Haven-O'Donnell mentioned the possibility of a call for native plant cultivars to share with neighbors and community members.

Discussion Topics

- Weatherization
- Green Neighborhoods Program
- Invasive Species

CAT members provided updates on discussions held by groups of CAT members and applicants outside of CAT meetings.

Chair Kaufman asked about the next steps for the invasive species group. Applicant Molloy mentioned that it is important to think about how to engage people who cannot afford to spend lots of financial resources on this topic.

Members discussed how to present the module in neighborhoods. Applicant Rashdi left the meeting at 8:15 pm and member Pinder left at 8:22 pm.

Member Schalkoff and applicant Molloy discussed their meeting about food choices. They mentioned that there are not a lot of barriers to get started and the initiative can focus on individual food choice habits as well as the restaurant supply side. Their ideas included an overarching campaign with separate brands or logos for food choices and invasives, among others. They discussed an image that restaurants or businesses can publicly display and having a menu of climate action choices for restaurants, such as a once-a-week climate friendly meal, creating a separate menu section dedicated to climate-friendly food choices, introducing composting, or landscaping with natives. They stated that there is a question of how to give these restaurants recognition for their efforts. Schalkoff also mentioned that more educational materials could be created using the results from the Town's food choice survey and the Town could continue work on the climate friendly cookbook and consider holding a community fall harvest festival. Applicant Molloy mentioned that the best places for change are places like restaurants and schools and the messaging is important. Chair Kaufman mentioned that restaurants could also be informed of how they could get energy audits, tax credits and rebates. Town Council Member Haven-O'Donnell discussed the need to calculate the impact of eating local food. Applicant Randolph left 8:46 pm. Members asked staff how they can interact with other residents, businesses, and organizations to discuss climate action. Staff member Janway stated that she would get clarity from Town staff and report back.

Adjourn

Motion by Pick to adjourn, seconded by Schalkoff. All voted in favor. **AYES:** (4) Pinder, Kaufman, Schalkoff, Pick; **NAYES:** (0). The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

FY23-24 Draft Environmental Sustainability Work Plan

Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement

CCAP Policy Connections

- Ecosystem Recommendation #4: Tree Preservation, Protection and Conservation
- Ecosystem Recommendation #5: Improve Regulations and Community Capacity to Discourage Invasive Plants and Encourage Native Plants
- Ecosystem Recommendation #6: Pursue Watershed Restoration Actions to Protect Local Streams from Changes in Rainfall Due to Climate Change
- Ecosystem Recommendation #2: Evaluate Extent to Which the Deer Population and Climate Change affect Native Plant Ecosystems.
- Ecosystem Recommendation #3: Accelerate/Expand Organic Waste Collection/Composting

ECPP Policy Connections

• 3.D Urban Forestry Program

- Climate Action Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels
- Climate Action Goal 2: Achieve 80% reduction in municipal emissions by 2030.
- Climate Action Goal 3: Expand equitable and inclusive community participation in the decision-making and implementation of climate change goals and policies.
- Environment Goal 1: Conserve and restore watersheds, ecosystems and native species.
- Environment Goal 2: Promote policies to ensure distribution of environmental burdens and access to natural areas and ecosystems to be equitable across race, income, and ability, especially in neighborhoods that have been denied and historically underserved.
- Green Stormwater Goal 1: Increase the use of native plants and vegetation to mitigate climate change impacts, including stormwater mitigation and heat island effect.
- Water Goal 2: Protect and restore watersheds and ecosystems, and cost plans
- Energy Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction 2010 levels of per capita greenhouse emissions by 2030.
- Recreation, Parks and Culture Goal 3: Ensure that recreation and park facilities and programming are environmentally responsible and help further climate change related goals

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Continue to Promote Projects from FY22-23	Interpretive sign and citizen science projects for Anderson Park stream restoration project	Outreach related to the restoration of the water quality buffer in Anderson Park and creation of wildlife and pollinator habitat	Projects are focused on ecosystem resiliency and not direct mitigation

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Bee City USA, Mayors' Monarch Pledge	 Recognize National Pollinator Week Hold outreach events Explore new Rec. & Parks programming Increase and enhance pollinator habitat Collaborate with Stormwater Utility 	Meet annual requirements of Bee City USA and Mayors' Monarch Pledge participation to renew membership for 2024	Projects are focused on ecosystem resiliency and not direct mitigation
Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Initiative	 Continue to develop and support independent Volunteer Program Hold group invasive species removal events Look for partnerships for this program and Bee City USA, such as a Master Gardener Program Develop an outline of a long-term Town invasive species management program (large-scale approach, communication/coordination with major landholding partners) 	 Remove invasive species to improve habitat for native vegetation and wildlife Develop a vision for the Town's long-term invasive species management program 	Project is focused on ecosystem resiliency and not direct mitigation
Evaluate Extent to Which the Deer Population and Climate Change affect Native Plant Ecosystems	 Potential graduate student project Reach out to Duke Forest and UNC to ask about their data on impacts of grazing on native plant species and their invasive plant management programs 	Determine whether native plant ecosystem effects from the deer population and climate change are apparent in the community forest.	Project is focused on ecosystem resiliency and not direct mitigation
Explore Carbon Offsets	 Researching types of carbon offsets Determining when and how to pursue Potential costs and benefits Compile information to share with the community; create module 	Determine how carbon offsets could be used to reach climate action plan goals	Town contributions to GreenSource Advantage Program reduce approx. 4 mtCO2e annually
Explore SWIFR Grant for Curbside Composting Program	 Use results of Orange County Zero Waste Plan to inform Town's next steps Continue to scope program components and budget and incorporate equity 	Be ready to move forward with either a SWIFR grant or a composting program aligned with County's plans	These GHG emissions would occur in FY24-25 at earliest
Implement Composting in Town Buildings	Explore grant opportunities and potential vendors	Reduce waste and emissions from Town facilities	• TBD

Project	Activities	• Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Composting Bin Sales	 Continue sales of composting bins at Town Hall 	• Increase backyard composting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	• 164 mtCO ₂ e
Multifamily Composting Pilot	 Continue multifamily composting pilot Analyzing participation and diversion rates and examining how the pilot could be expanded townwide using grant funding 	 Allow residents of multifamily housing the opportunity to compost Increase composting; reduce GHG emissions Gauge success for future multifamily programs 	• 7.76 mtCO ₂ e
Farmers' Market Composting Staff	 Hire part-time staff member to monitor compost drop-off at Farmers' Market Targeted composting outreach 	 See staffing memo for more details Staffing the compost collection site will result in a cost of \$88/MTCO2E reduced 	• 43 mtCO ₂ e

Community Integration

CCAP Policy Connections

- Community Integration Recommendation #3: Create Participatory Green Neighborhood Budgeting Program to Reduce Carbon Emissions, Build Community, Save Money, and Reallocate Savings to New Green Project Initiatives
- Community Integration Recommendation #5: Expand Capacity to Pursue Community Sustainability Initiatives

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- Climate Action Goal 4: *Enable lower-income residents and small businesses to be able to financially participate and benefit from climate resiliency programs.*
- Environment Goal 1: Conserve and restore watersheds, ecosystems and native species.
- Environment Goal 2: Promote policies to ensure distribution of environmental burdens and access to natural areas and ecosystems to be equitable across race, income, and ability, especially in neighborhoods that have been denied and historically underserved.
- Transportation & Mobility Goal 3: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicle use by 80% by 2030.

- Green Stormwater Goal 1: Increase the use of native plants and vegetation to mitigate climate change impacts, including stormwater mitigation and heat island effect.
- Green Stormwater Goal 4: Expand the use of green stormwater infrastructure to further watershed restoration and meet climate resilience goals.
- Water Goal 2: Protect and restore watersheds and ecosystems, and cost plans
- Energy Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction 2010 levels of per capita greenhouse emissions by 2030.
- Land Use Goal 3: Support development patterns that advance climate action goals and environmental protection.

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Green Neighborhoods Grant Program	 Round two of grant program Initiate additional neighborhood emissions reduction projects Refine program for year three if needed based on results of first two rounds 	 Provide residents with funding to reduce emissions and build community within neighborhoods Refine program if needed 	• Goal: 9,412 mtCO ₂ e (9% community reduction/year)
Climate Action Intern	Hire intern to assist with outreach events and specific projects/initiatives	Assist Environmental Sustainability Coordinator and Environmental Planner with outreach events and other project work	Staff member will contribute to all climate action mitigation and resiliency projects
Climate Action Modules Project	 Work with volunteers to continue editing current module library Additional volunteers to create content for new modules on relevant topics, such as carbon offsets 	 Identify climate resilience, sustainability, and mitigation measures based on outreach topics Design and format climate outreach education and action modules Identify resources and area-specific expertise for module presentations Train and collaborate presenters 	Project will contribute to emissions reduction in all sections of the CCAP.
Community Climate Action Plan Survey	Hire vendor to administer CCAP survey (last CCAP survey was completed in 2019)	 Benchmarking for dietary emissions Obtain information related to TDM, composting, and other climate action initiatives 	Related to benchmarking and tracking of GHG emissions

Food Choice Measures

Policy Connections

- Food Choice Recommendation #1: 50% Challenge
- Food Choice Recommendation #2: Develop Local Dietary Consumption and Associated GHG Profile

Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan

- Climate Action Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels
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- Climate Action Goal 4: *Enable lower-income residents and small businesses to be able to financially participate and benefit from climate resiliency programs.*
- Energy Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction 2010 levels of per capita greenhouse emissions by 2030.

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Food Choice Events	 Request recipes for climate-friendly food cookbook Virtual outreach to promote climate-friendly foods, including cooking demonstrations – work with Recreation and Parks and CAT Create social media campaign Disseminate information on how to make climate-friendly choices and impacts of food waste 	 Educate Carrboro residents on emissions related to food choices Reduce emissions related to food choices in Carrboro 	• Dietary emissions GHG reduction goal: 9% community reduction/year (current estimate: 1,575 mtCO ₂ e)
Food Waste Reduction Outreach	Food waste Prevention Week; collaborate with Public works	 Educate Carrboro residents on emissions related to food choices Reduce emissions related to food waste in Carrboro 	• TBD

Transportation Measures

Policy Connections

- CCAP Transportation Recommendation #4: Further Promote Walking, Biking, Transit
- CCAP Transportation Recommendation #1: 50% Challenge, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Motor Vehicle Use by 50% by 2025

- Climate Action Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels
- Climate Action Goal 2: Achieve 80% reduction in municipal emissions by 2030.

- Climate Action Goal 3: Expand equitable and inclusive community participation in the decision-making and implementation of climate change goals and policies.
- Climate Action Goal 4: Enable lower-income residents and small businesses to be able to financially participate and benefit from climate resiliency programs.
- Transportation & Mobility Goal 3: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicle use by 80% by 2030.
- Energy Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction 2010 levels of per capita greenhouse emissions by 2030.

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Town Alternative Fuels Fleet Study	• Examine study and how its results could be incorporated into the Capital Improvements Program	• Reduce emissions from Town fleet 80% by 2030	• 712 mtCO ₂ e by 2030
TDM Strategies for Town Employees	Estimate GHG emissions reductions related to Town's Flexible Work Policy	Reduction in employee commuting trips from strategies such as hybrid telework schedules	 Goal: 15 mtCO₂e (6% Town reduction/year) TDM: Efficient Strategy (\$88/ mtCO₂e reduced)
Plan for multi-level electric vehicle (EV) and bicycle charging stations	 Manage existing stations Develop Town program guide Identify funding for charger installation plan Conduct outreach to identify locations for residential and commercial EV/bicycle charging stations - outreach should consider who currently has access to EVs and who still needs access to EVs and how to increase access. 	Use EV Suitability/Priority map generated in work with other jurisdictions to help site new stations	• 27 mtCO ₂ e /year

Building Energy Efficiency Measures

CCAP Policy Connections

- Community Integration Recommendation #6: Facilitate Low-Cost Financing for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects
- Buildings Recommendation #1: Reduce Emissions Attributed to Carrboro Buildings by 80% by 2030
- Buildings Recommendation #4: Create Rental Property Task Force and Process
- Renewable Energy Recommendation #3: Create Rental Property Task Force and Process

ECPP Policy Connections

• 2.B.i Building Assessments and Ratings, 2.B.ii Facility Energy Efficiency, 3.B Community Buildings

- Affordable Housing 7: Reduce utility expenses for all homes
- Climate Action Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels
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- Climate Action Goal 4: *Enable lower-income residents and small businesses to be able to financially participate and benefit from climate resiliency programs.*
- Water Goal 3: Reduce the amount of Carrboro's treated water use while increasing water rate affordability.
- Energy Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction 2010 levels of per capita greenhouse emissions by 2030.

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Energy-Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (EERLF)	 Provide loans, grants for energy efficiency improvements in commercial and residential buildings Expansion of the program to residential buildings planned; staff will perform targeted outreach to owners of rental properties Engagement campaign, focus groups, surveys Leverage IRA funding and opportunities for residents Work with Finance, Housing and Community Services, and Economic Development 	 Launch redesigned program: Mid-year FY23-24 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings in Carrboro Reduce utility bills Benefit LMI households (rentals as well as owner-occupied) 	 15% energy savings/project Weatherization Commercial: 1,987 mtCO₂e /project Single-Family: 141 mtCO₂e /project Multifamily: 93 mtCO₂e /project Solar: 2.56 mtCO₂e /installation
Rental Property Task Force	Recruit representatives for task force to address how to align landlord and renter interests towards improved energy efficiency and achieving renewable energy in rental units	Task force will develop policy recommendations	• Approx. 56% of properties in Carrboro are rental properties; emissions reductions to be determined
Establish a certificate program and public database for the energy performance of rental housing	Collaborate with Triangle Green Building Council to understand where such database has been implemented, what information is required, and how to get it. Understand challenges from state law. Town Council continue to seek statutory authority from NC Legislature.	Incentivize property owners to reduce energy usage in rental property	• TBD

Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Develop free or low-cost financing program for weatherization, energy efficiency, renewable energy/community generation, and water conservation projects	 Inventory all currently available programs to low-income households in terms of weatherization, energy efficiency, and water conservation. Understand who is currently accessing them and who is not. Understand current collaborations between program agencies, funding opportunities/ challenges, if any. Convene program agencies to understand how they can better work together within current funding limitations and identify additional funding opportunities. Conduct engagement of past participants to understand challenges and benefits of programs. Bring in work from Project 1.1A 	Reduce energy use from low-income housing	• TBD
Facilities Rehabilitation Project	 Member of staff committee Outreach, partnerships, education Assist with analyses, research as needed Intersection with future updates to GHG emissions inventory 	Reduce GHG emissions and heating and cooling costs from municipal buildings	 270 mtCO₂e in FY24-25 or later 18% reduction in Town emissions if Century Center, Town Hall, and Public Works reach Net Zero

Renewable Energy Measures

CCAP Policy Connections

- Renewable Energy Recommendation #1: Pursue Community Solar Projects
- Renewable Energy Recommendation #2: Pursue Downtown Geothermal Heating and Cooling

ECPP Policy Connections

• 3.C Renewable Portfolio

- Climate Action Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels
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Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Solarize the Triangle Membership	• Second round of TJCOG regional-scale solarize campaign to launch in spring 2023	Educate residents on solar and promote bulk-purchasing opportunities	• TBD based on participation; contract deadline is March 31, 2023
Exploration of Large-Scale Energy Generation	Continued exploration of solar and other large-scale electric generation with local partners	 Determine viability and opportunities for the Town Determine GHG emissions reductions and other benefits 	• TBD
Develop partnerships with public agencies or organizations to increase opportunities to access renewable energy	• Partner with groups like the UNC Environmental Finance Center, utilities, and DOE to understand financial opportunities (funding programming in town or pushing state to allow for renewables at community scale).	Increase opportunities to access renewable energy	• TBD
Town Solar Installations	• Solar will be installed on the 203 Project in 2023	Reduce GHG emissions and heating and cooling costs from municipal buildings	 203 Project solar:: 90.6 mtCO2e Total: 15% reduction in Town's annual GHG emissions
Continue evaluation of the potential to integrate renewable energy infrastructure during the review of development permits	 Research current practices nationwide. Identify challenges at the state level. Work with NC Clean Energy Tech Center & NC Green Buildings Council on understanding financial benefits to developers. Seek authority from state, if necessary. Educate developers on benefits. Understand current challenges, especially for affordable housing developers. 	Reduce energy use from buildings	• TBD

Additional Projects

CCAP Policy Connections

- Community Integration Recommendation #4: Integrate Climate Action with Local Living Economy
- Community Integration Recommendation #5: Expand Capacity
- Community Integration Recommendation #8: Environmental Justice and Climate Equity

ECPP Policy Connections

• 4. Measurement, Inventory, Assessment, and Reporting

- Climate Action Goal 1: Achieve 80% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as compared to 2010 levels
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Project	Activities	Goals	Estimated Annual GHG Emissions Reduction
Contribution to NC GreenPower	Town contributes annually to NC GreenPower	 Support local projects that produce greener, more sustainable electricity Provide grants for 5 kW solar educational projects for K-12 schools across NC Carbon offsets 	Insert calculated GHG emissions reduction
Dashboard Exploration	Continue to work with staff to develop and/or identify a platform for a dashboard which visualizes progress on the Town's priorities	Allows information to be more accessible to the public	• Tracks progress on GHG emissions reduction goals
Educational Display	Design educational display for 203 Project to highlight sustainable features	Provide educational material to members of the public	• The 203 Project will be a LEED Gold-equivalent building

Recognition Program for Businesses	Continue exploring potential for program to recognize businesses in Carrboro for environmentally-friendly initiatives	 Recognize businesses for taking actions consistent with CCAP goals to reduce emissions or enhance ecosystems in Carrboro 	 Emissions reduction TBD Commercial buildings represent 25.7% of the community emissions in Carrboro
Racial Equity	Utilizing REAL (racial equity assessment lens), Decision Making for Racial Equity (DRE tool), and Pocket questions to perform racial equity analyses	 Embedding equity in town governance and informing decision-making 	• Item is focused on racial equity and not GHG emissions reduction
Collaborative Initiatives	 Cities Initiative Orange County Climate Council	 Strengthen partnerships with other local governments; collaborate on projects and grant proposals 	 Participation will inform all CCAP and ECPP climate action mitigation and resiliency project work
Continue Sustainability Organization Participation	 Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) Southeast Sustainability Directors' Network (SSDN) 	• Utilize ICLEI and SSDN resources and tools to help inform current initiatives and plan future projects	 Participation in sustainability organizations will inform all climate action mitigation and resiliency work
Staff support to Climate Action Team	 Agenda, minutes, presentation preparation Scheduling, attending meetings; providing public notice 	 Identify activities to educate and engage Carrboro residents in Town climate action initiatives 	TBD based on community participation
Renew Interdepartmental Staff Climate Action Team	Hold meetings with staff to discuss implementing ECPP and reducing Town emissions	Share information and hold discussions between staff members of different Town departments	• TBD
Update ECPP	Update ECPP with longer-term goals/projects	• Updated Town plan	• TBD