

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date: July 15, 2024

Action Required:

Presenter: Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability, Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager

Staff Contacts: Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability
Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager

Title: 2024 Climate Action Report

Background

The City of Charlottesville has a long history of environmental stewardship and climate action. The City joined the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2006 and established the Climate Protection Program in 2008. In 2019, the City adopted emissions reduction goals of 45% reduction (from 2011 baseline) by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, and directed staff to write a plan for reaching those targets. In January of 2023, Charlottesville City Council adopted the City's first Community Climate Action Plan as an addendum to the City's Comprehensive Plan. This report is the first update to City Council and to the public on progress made towards implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Discussion

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) includes a commitment to annual progress reports. After the adoption of the CAP last year, the City Manager directed Climate Program (CP) staff to compile and publish a *Climate Action Workplan* consisting of actions being taken both within the City organization and in the broader community to make progress towards implementation of the CAP. CPP staff worked with internal and external partners to build the first Climate Action Workplan, which was published in July of 2023. In December of 2023, CP staff were directed to align the workplan with the fiscal year, and thus with the City's budget cycle.

The Climate Action Workplan consists of two parts: City-led Initiatives and Programs and Community-led Initiatives and Programs. The CAP Update Report uses this workplan as its foundation and provides an update on each workplan item. The report also captures other City-led climate actions beyond those in the workplan and acknowledges there are many actions happening in the community beyond the scope of this report. The updated FY25 Climate Action Workplan is included as an attachment to this report.

Since 2016, the CP has been publishing the City's Greenhouse Gas Inventory annually (with the exception of a COVID-related delay in 2020 & 2021). Going forward, q will be aligning the annual

update of the GHG Inventory with the annual CAP update. The City's updated CY22 GHG Inventory is included in this report.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The work of the Climate Protection Program and the Office of Sustainability more broadly directly contributes to Councils' *Climate Action* Strategic Outcome Area.

Community Engagement

Office of Sustainability staff recognizes broad public interest in and support for the Charlottesville's climate and sustainability work. We also know that there is a need to expand our community outreach and encouragement efforts to mobilize the public to take action towards meeting our community-wide emissions reduction goals. To that end, the Office of Sustainability is launching a Climate Action and Sustainability dashboard tool to help make our work more transparent and accessible to the community. A preview of the dashboard will be part of this presentation.

Budgetary Impact

There is no budget impact associated with this report.

Recommendation

This is an informational report only, no formal recommendations needed.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

1. 2024 CPP Report_DRAFT R1_071024
2. FY25 Climate Program Workplan_DRAFT_071024
3. July 2024_CPP Update to Council_CivicClerk Version2