

# Policy Briefing Summary

## City Council



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<b>Regarding:</b>	<b>Resolution to allocate \$125,350 to the Local Energy Alliance Program ("LEAP") from the 2025 City Climate Program Support Grant and authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding</b>
<b>Staff Contact(s):</b>	Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager, Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability
<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager</b>
<b>Date of Proposed Action:</b>	June 2, 2025

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### Issue

The City of Charlottesville, Virginia's, Office of Sustainability is proposing to provide \$125,350 of previously appropriated funds to the Local Energy Alliance Program ("LEAP") supporting the Climate Protection Program. This proposal includes support for the Energy Resource Hub.

### Background / Rule

For over a decade, the City has partnered with LEAP, a local 501(c)3 organization, to provide energy efficiency, weatherization, and solarization to City residents. Ongoing Program support includes both direct services, like energy audits and contractor services, as well as education and outreach. This work is focused on reducing energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2024, in response to the recognized need to scale up community adoption of energy efficiency and electrification actions to reach our community greenhouse gas reduction goals, the City partnered with Albemarle County, LEAP, and the Community Climate Collaborative (C3) to launch the Energy Resource Hub, an online and in-person service to assist both residents and businesses in navigating and accessing energy programs and incentives. This Program Support Grant will fund continued operation of the Energy Resource Hub and other ongoing Climate Program support activities.

### Analysis

Climate Action is a strategic outcome area of the City's Strategic Plan and the Climate Action Plan is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

City Staff has coordinated closely with LEAP on the development of this Program Support Agreement. The proposed Grant of \$125,350 to LEAP to implement the 2024 Climate Program Support Agreement (attached) during the coming year, will directly support implementation of the following strategies and key actions from the Climate Action Plan:

- Strategy: Increase energy efficiency and onsite renewable energy use in existing buildings
  - Key Action: Education/Encouragement
  - Key Action: Increase participation by low-income households in fully funded programs for energy efficiency improvements and solar energy systems
  - Key Action: Develop and identify funding assistance programs designed for mid-income households
  - Key Action: Identify options for residents in single-family properties, as well as apartments and town-home style housing, for both owner-occupied and rental units
  - Key Action: Evaluate and increase resource support for commercial buildings

- Strategy: Support transition to carbon-free sources and carbon-neutrality for building energy supply
  - Key Action: Prioritize transition to electric for the Miscellaneous Heating Fuels that contribute to the Buildings and Energy sector emissions
- Strategy: Leverage outside funding sources
  - Key Action: Increase participation in funding programs available from Federal and State governments, as well as from utility companies

### **Financial Impact**

There is no additional budgetary impact to the City. Funding support for this Program will come from previously appropriated funds in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted Operating Budget for the Office of Sustainability.

### **Recommendation**

City Staff recommends adoption of the attached resolution.

### **Recommended Motion (if Applicable)**

"I move adoption of the resolution to allocate \$125,350 to LEAP and to authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding."

### **Attachments**

1. RES\_\$125,350 Climate Program Grant and MOU
2. 2025 CPP PSA MOU
3. 2025 CPP PSA Proposal