Policy Briefing Summary
City Council

Regarding:	**Draft Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan**
Staff Contact(s):	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability, Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager
Presenter:	**Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager**
Date of Proposed Action:	November 16, 2026

Issue
Through the Resilient Together project, staff have been working to develop a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan for Charlottesville. The draft plan has been completed and shared with the community for public comment. This presentation will provide Council with a briefing on the draft Plan and allow Council to ask questions and provide feedback.

Background / Rule
In 2017, the City of Charlottesville formally joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which committed the City to plan for both the causes and effects of climate change. The Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2023, guides the work of reducing our community's greenhouse gases. The proposed companion Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) will guide the work Charlottesville does to prepare for the impacts. Additionally, the City's Comprehensive Plan calls for both a CAP and a CARP.

In 2022, as the first step in preparing for the impacts of climate change, the City conducted a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. That study identified the specific climate-driven hazards and vulnerabilities expected to impact the Charlottesville area. During the same timeframe, Albemarle County's Climate Program conducted a similar assessment for the County. Because the impacts of climate change will affect our jurisdictions similarly, the decision was made to work collaboratively on regional climate adaptation and resilience planning. City and County Climate Program staff reached out to UVA Office for Sustainability staff and invited the University to join the collaborative planning work. The resulting collaborative Resilient Together project was formally launched in September 2023.

From the outset, Resilient Together aimed to produce separate but complimentary Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans (CARPs) for each organization. Like the CAP, the CARP is intended to be adopted as an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Charlottesville's draft plan is complete and is currently being shared with the community for public review and comment via the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan page on Connect Charlottesville. The comment period will close on November 30.

Analysis
The attached presentation provides an overview of the development of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, including history and background of the Resilient Together project, content and examples from the plan, and its relationship to other City plans and projects.

The Resilience Plan features 16 broad strategies to be initiated over the next ten years that will strengthen our community systems as the shocks and stressors of climate change intensify. The strategy topics are variable, with some addressing multiple hazards and others addressing a single hazard. Each strategy includes implementation projects that have been organized by the estimated

timeframe to begin work on them. Lead departments, internal and external partners, level of staff effort, and funding sources have also been identified for each project.

The projects identified in the CARP are intended to be primarily led by the City, and in some cases partner organizations. However, durable resilience is not something a local government can do to or for a community. The work of resilience building must be taken up collaboratively and at the individual, household, neighborhood, and community level. In service to this idea, each strategy also includes a "Community Action" section that shares information and resources to support community-led resilience building. Many of the City-led implementation projects are designed to support community members in household and community resilience-building.

The development of the CARP was informed by multiple rounds of engagement efforts to collect community-member, partner organization, staff, and subject-matter expert input. The strategy topics were chosen based on local context, lessons learned from peer communities, and community-member input. The implementation projects associated with each strategy were identified and developed by inter-organizational staff working groups and then refined by Charlottesville staff from across departments.

Financial Impact
There is no budget impact associated with this report.

Recommendation
This is an informational report, no formal action is needed.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)
N/A

Attachments
1. CARP_Council Preso_ Attachment A_111626
2. CARP_Council Preso_Attachment B_111626