

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	July 1, 2019
Action Required:	Vote on Resolution
Presenter:	Susan Elliott, Climate Protection Program Manager
Staff Contacts:	Susan Elliott, Climate Protection Program Manager Kristel Riddervold, Environmental Sustainability and Facilities Development Manager Paul Oberdorfer, Director of the Department of Public Works
Title:	Proposal: New Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Goal

Background:

This agenda item follows from the June 2017 commitment by City Council to the [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) (the Covenant) as part of a [Response to the U.S. Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement](#). The June 2017 commitment built on previous commitments and existing efforts of the City through its [Climate Protection Program](#). The updates on the City's activities following this commitment were presented to City Council on [November 19, 2018](#) (Item 5. Report) and [May 6, 2019](#) (Item 8. Resolution) and included a proposed timeline for community engagement and consideration of a new greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the City.

Review of Timeline and Activities

From February 14 – March 17, 2019, staff solicited direct input from the community on a new greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal. Community members could completed an online questionnaire with a set of questions and an open response option or could contact staff directly. The online questionnaire provided information regarding what the City aimed to achieve with this process and points of reference from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) October 2018 findings and data from [Charlottesville's 2016 greenhouse gas inventory](#).

The community input received was presented to City Council on [May 6, 2019](#) (Item 8. Resolution) along with draft recommendations from staff for a new GHG reduction goal. A second period for public input was open from May 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019 for community response and further input on the draft reduction goal.

This timeline was developed to allow time for community input as well as staff preparation of Council packet materials to propose a reduction goal for adoption at the first Council meeting in July, which is before the July 10, 2019 reporting deadline for the Covenant of Mayors.

Community Input – First Comment Period February to March 2019

From February 14th through March 17th, staff received 142 responses to the online questionnaire and three community letters signed by 41 for-profit and non-profit businesses, 7 independent schools, and

827 residents of whom 422 live in the city. The full responses were included as Attachments 1-4 in the [May 6, 2019 Council Agenda Packet](#) (Item 8. Resolution). The list below summarizes the positions supported overall by the input received:

- Goal Alignment with Albemarle County and the University of Virginia
- Reflection of the IPCC Recommendations
- Importance of Charlottesville as a Leader
- Need Interim Targets within the Overall Goal
- Front Load Reductions – pursue steeper reductions in the near term
- Identify of Sub-Goals by Sector and by Strategy in the Climate Action Plan
- Address Equity Specifically in Goals and the Climate Action Plan
- Frequent Measurements (every 2 year minimum) & Accountability Mechanisms
- The Importance of Funding and Financing to Enable and Support Private Sector Action

Community Input – Second Comment Period May 2019

During the second public comment period, staff received 26 public input responses, which are provided as attachments to this memo. All comments received support the proposed GHG reduction goal, and some urge for greater action. Additionally, many of the comments request a commitment to producing an updated community GHG inventory at a minimum of every two years.

Why This Reduction Target?

Evidence for climate change being human-driven has reach a [“gold standard” level](#), which is the same threshold used t

The most recent IPCC report, which took two years to develop and references 6,000 works, lays out the scientifically-based challenge that communities and governments face. News articles, such as [this one by the Guardian](#), attempt to capture some of the key highlights:

- the world has already warmed by 1 degree Celsius (1C), and we are experiencing the effects of climate change;
- while only 0.5 degrees different, the impacts to ecological and social systems of our world will be substantially improved if we can limit warming to 1.5C as opposed to 2C;
- pathways to limiting the amount of warming have been identified, but they are not achievable under current commitments;
- commitments of 45% reduction by 2030 from 2010 levels and carbon neutral by 2050 are in alignment with a 1.5C warming limit

Discussion:

Staff recommends that the City of Charlottesville adopt a new GHG reduction target that represents leadership in the topic of climate change and adequately responds to the challenges of climate change in both scale and timeline. Given the use of new inventory protocol standards as part of the Covenant commitment and recommendations from the IPCC that reference 2010 as a baseline emissions year, staff also recommends that the City maintain comparison to its 2000 inventory for reference, but

establish its 2011 inventory year as the basis for emissions reductions.

Staff proposes that the City of Charlottesville adopt a 45% reduction by 2030 interim target, from its 2011 inventory year, and the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

A precise path from the City's 2016 emissions inventory to carbon neutrality in 2050 is not currently clear. There is wide-spread recognition that carbon capture and sequestration will need to be part of the strategy globally to limit warming, and investments are being made to further the potential and understanding of these strategies ([DOE \\$20 million investment](#), [H.R. 763](#), [Washington DC Carbon Neutrality Strategy](#)). The level of advancement that has been made in energy storage and renewable energy technologies over the past 10 years speaks to the potential for further technological advancement in this area over the next 30 years.

Accompanying this proposed reduction goal is direction to develop a Climate Action Plan that focuses clearly on the 2030 interim target and incorporates periodic reviews to track and integrate new technology developments and policy strategies. Staff are pursuing strategies that could make updating the community GHG inventory easier and will evaluate the needed time commitment during 2019 so that a more specific reporting frequency can be integrated as part of the Climate Action Plan.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan:

These efforts are in alignment with City Council's Green City Vision, the Strategic Plan: Goal 3 – A Beautiful and Sustainable Natural and Built Environment; and the Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 4 (and as proposed in the 2018 update).

Community Engagement:

City staff discussed the public input process during focus group sessions with community groups that are "climate mission aligned" in the fall of 2018. Based on their input, staff have pursued the public input timeline and opportunities as described above. In addition, sustainability staff from the City, County, and UVA, recognizing that all three organizations are undertaking climate action planning and goal setting concurrently, are working together to coordinate on community engagement. We have set up a joint landing page website – climateactiontogether.org – as a central landing point for information about climate action planning locally. Through this webpage, each organization's website, press releases, and social media, we are promoting opportunities for community engagement. City and UVA staff participated in the County's Climate Open House event on March 18th, City and County staff co-presented at the March Sierra Club Chapter meeting, and City, County, and UVA staff have participated in community events and tabling opportunities. Additional joint efforts are anticipated to continue.

Budgetary Impact:

Funds have already been appropriated as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget within the Environmental Sustainability Division cost center to be used for this purpose. No additional budgetary impact is expected following this action.

Recommendation:

The City of Charlottesville should adopt a 45% reduction by 2030 interim target, from its 2011 inventory year, and the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Additionally, the City should develop a Climate Action Plan that incorporates the aspects indicated by the community through the community input.

Alternatives:

Council can modify the proposed GHG reductions goals or not adopt a new reduction goal. Council can also amend the proposed resolution or not adopt it.

Attachments:

1. Community Input Responses
2. Resolution Establishing a New GHG Reduction Goal

Public Input Received on Draft Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Goal Recommendations

NAME	COMMENT
Brian L. Poe, PhD	<p>Please take up the recent recommended greenhouse gas reduction targets of 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.</p> <p>It's essential to track our progress, so please formalize plans to take inventory of greenhouse gas emissions every 2 years.</p> <p>We have a moral imperative to switch to energy systems and lifestyles that are ecologically regenerative. Please think of the transition in terms of fossil fuel phase out and not renewable scale up.</p> <p>We can thrive while shifting into a just and sustainable world. It can be done, and Charlottesville can be a global leader.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>
Marcia Geyer	<p>I'd like to express support for the science-based commitment that City Council is to vote on as the initiation of Phase 2. I'd also like to ask that a commitment be added to repeat the GHG measurements every two years, to provide timely clarity and detail about how well reductions of the parts of the goal are being met or not met.</p> <p>Thank you for your work!</p>
Josh Morrison	<p>Over 100 cities nationwide have committed to 100% renewable energy and we have done nothing. Everyone has to do their part to avoid an outright crisis and so far Charlottesville has not. We need policy, action, and funding to address many environmental issues. We also need to take on single use plastic.</p> <p>Please act for us and the future.</p>
Herb Stahl	<p>The more you can do to protect our planet, the better. We are in bad shape and need all the help we can get.</p>
Cathy Butler	<p>Dear council members,</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time and energy put into discussing emissions reductions for our city. I'm thrilled to hear about the goals that you have set. I also would love to see you commit to measuring our emissions every two years so that we can see that we are indeed on track for the goals that you are recommending. Thank you again for all of your hard work!</p>
Shawnee West	<p>I want to thank all city council members who have committed to climate issues. I support the goals for reducing fossil fuels and using renewable energy, such as solar panels on schools and city buildings. And to emphasize that Dominion Energy does the same. I also support the commitment to measure these results every two years. with hope for all our children.</p>
Dave Stackhouse	<p>I applaud the City's commitments to reduce carbon emission to 45% by 2030 and to 0% by 2050. However, these goals are not aggressive enough and do not adequately address the urgency needed to stop and reverse warming from carbon emissions.</p>

	<p>Our City should be a leader and an example in these efforts. I personally invested in solar voltaics on my home and have not used a single watt of energy from Dominion in the past 12 months. My system alone has removed the equivalent of over 7 tons of carbon from going into the atmosphere, or the equivalent of planting over 365 trees. If I can achieve this as a private individual with limited resources, why can't our City do this and more? 2030 is ten years from now and a goal of 45% reduction in 10 years is inadequate. And 2050, your target for carbon neutrality, is over 30 years from now. Meanwhile our planet continues to heat up.</p> <p>We need dramatic action NOW! Why not set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 or 2035?</p> <p>And what budget expenditures has the City made that will allow it to achieve the stated goals? Goals are commendable but don't achieve results without implementing action plans. Action (such as budget allocations that fund hiring a professional group to create and implement) is needed in order to convert goals to achieve results.</p> <p>I urge the City to set more aggressive goals and to immediately establish a "climate action" department, and to suggest and approve budget funding that will allow hiring of staff, development of action plans, and to begin implementation as soon as staff and plans are established.</p> <p>Anything less may be only a "wish and a prayer". Wishes and prayers are always good, but ultimately it's our actions that bring about the future reality.</p>
Elizabeth Tabony	<p>Thank you for setting goals for the reduction of fossil fuel emissions for the city of Charlottesville!</p> <p>Please commit to measuring emissions every two years in order to implement these goals!</p>
Madeleine Hawks	<p>In a time when the city has a lot of priorities and competing interests to focus on, I really appreciate the attention of council and staff to climate change related problems. I support the recommended reduction goals (45% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050). I hope that the city will continue to monitor success at meeting those goals and understanding emissions every two years.</p>
Carol Carter	<p>I'm writing to support the recommended carbon reduction goals of 45% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.</p> <p>Thank you for focusing on climate and energy issues which are crucial.</p> <p>Please continue to measure carbon output compared to goals each 2 years so that improvements and adjustments can be made.</p> <p>Many of us who can afford to are stepping out of our traditional comfort zones in order to try to reduce carbon by adding EE to our homes and appliances, buying EVs and going solar. It will really help if Cville gets more EV chargers (to reduce range anxiety).</p>

	<p>Residential EE programs through organizations like LEAP esp in low income areas where residents do own their homes can really help residents to keep their homes comfortable as well as to reduce carbon and to keep money in their pockets for more important things than fuel bills.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
<p>Allison Love</p>	<p>Thank you for your attention to climate issues, and the importance of making changes in order to successfully reduce/eliminate carbon emissions.</p> <p>I am writing as a resident of Greene County who commutes to Downtown Charlottesville to work every weekday. I am greatly concerned by the steadily increasing numbers of commuters that commute with me. Traffic is definitely increasing. I am concerned at the frequent and often reckless driving, the excessive rates of speed and the texting that occurs while driving. There is also quite a lot of impatience and road rage, and I am always concerned about being involved in an accident.</p> <p>In addition, I am disappointed to see more development along Route 29 between Greene and Albemarle counties. We do not need more housing developments, or more shopping areas, because our roads cannot handle the ever-increasing number of automobiles. They are already unsafe. Anyone who disagrees with me should ride with me once.</p> <p>I would love to see electric commuter buses between Greene and Charlottesville, and I would pay to ride one to work and back. I do not think that I would be alone in that. I hope that electric commuter buses could be part of the plan for decreasing emissions. I would wholeheartedly support it! I also think that electric buses could also run between downtown and shopping areas. I feel that retirement of current buses would be an essential part of meeting the goal.</p> <p>I also want to applaud your recommended emission reduction goals, and I would encourage measuring emissions every two years, and posting them on billboards or other signage to encourage people. Thank you for your actions and goals towards a better, healthier planet.</p>
<p>deKoven Pelton</p>	<p>I whole heartedly support the goals of 45% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. I don't see how we can look anyone under 35 in the eyes if we do not support these goals for our future, their future and all future generations. I believe it is possible to beneficially alter the current climate path with a commitment to reduction goals, education, encouragement, and monitoring to be sure we are making progress toward the goal. Please confirm absolute commitment to these goals for Charlottesville and commit to measuring the emissions every two years.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to climate issues. I feel this issue is the highest priority.</p>

Corey Salem	This is a great initiative and something we should be proud to lead as a community. I believe in us. Think about our future. A future we can depend on!
Ellen Tully	I support the two staff recommended GHG emissions reduction goals of 45% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. But I strongly urge that the language include some measurement of progress, at least every two years. Without metrics there is no way to determine whether progress is being made towards reaching these goals.
Tray Biasioli	I fully endorse the city's proposed GHG reduction goals, and recommend that their be intermittent reporting to ensure city progress toward these necessary targets. I look forward to the development of policies that align with these targets.
Morgan Butler	<p>Attached please find comments from the Southern Environmental Law Center on the City's draft greenhouse gas emission reduction goal and key focus areas for the climate action planning process.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me with any questions.</p> <p><i>[STAFF COMMENT: LETTER ATTACHED AFTER THIS COMPILED FORMAT OF COMMENTS]</i></p>
John Semmelhack	I fully support City of Charlottesville staff recommendations for a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 interim target, from its 2011 inventory year, and the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.
Susan Kruse	<p>Please accept these as the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative's formal public comments on the City of Charlottesville's climate action goal setting process. We will also be forwarding a copy of these comments to City Council and the former and current City Manager. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process and for all your hard work to prioritize climate action.</p> <p><i>[STAFF COMMENT: LETTER ATTACHED AFTER THIS COMPILED FORMAT OF COMMENTS]</i></p>
Kevin Chandler	I would just like to thank the City Council and its staff for the thoughtful deliberations on the City's climate goals. More importantly, I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved for stepping up and setting aggressive standards. Lastly, I encourage the City to commit to measuring progress every two years to ensure we are on track to achieve our targets.
Navarre Bartz	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I want to thank you so much for taking a stance on targets for greenhouse gas emissions here in Charlottesville. You're showing the world that Charlottesville is a leader in the fight against climate change and a great place to live.</p> <p>A 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 and complete carbon neutrality by 2050 is an ambitious goal, and I hope that we will be measuring our progress toward these goals. In that regard, I would ask that you commit the city to measuring our progress toward these goals every two years to ensure we stay on target.</p>

	<p>Again, thank you for showing that Charlottesville is a world-class city, and I hope you have a lovely day.</p>
Clement Tingley	<p>There is a Climite emergency - it cannot be characterized as anything less than that. I urge the City adopt itsclimate reduction goals.</p> <p>I appreciate that City Council and its staff have seen fit to work on this vital issue. I hope the City will monitor its progress and report to the public on its progress no less than every other year.</p>
Anna Henry	<p>I just want to voice my support for the strong climate goals you have proposed for the City — aligning with IPCC recommendations to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 and be carbon neutral by 2050 will make us a leader in Virginia and will empower our locality to make a meaningful impact in the fight against climate change.</p> <p>One small note I would like to add is that we ought to address the plan for the City’s natural gas utility. Rebates are still being offered to promote the installation of new natural gas systems, but we will most likely need to phase out natural gas at some point if we wish to reach carbon neutrality. So, I think it would be best to start thinking of a plan now so that there aren’t any sudden corrections as we get closer to target dates for achieving our climate goals.</p> <p>Thanks so much for the work that you’re doing!</p>
Matthew Gillikin	<p>I am writing in support of the city's proposed greenhouse gas reduction targets. These targets are in line with IPCC recommendations and will establish Charlottesville as a regional leader in addressing climate change.</p> <p>I would particularly like to see the city implement changes to reduced reliance on car transit and to incentive use of high efficiency electrical appliances in residential and commercial settings.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP) • Charlottesville Food Justice Network • Charlottesville Low-Income Housing Coalition • Greater Charlottesville Habitat for Humanity • Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) • Legal Aid Justice Center • Piedmont Housing Alliance • sinBarreras <i>without barriers</i> • Virginia Organizing 	<p>Dear City Councilors -</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Charlottesville's climate action planning process. On behalf of nine local nonprofit service providers, I am pleased to submit a letter encouraging the City to consider the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. We submit this letter as a part of the formal public comment process for climate emissions goal setting.</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Susan Kruse</p> <p><i>[STAFF COMMENT: LETTER ATTACHED AFTER THIS COMPILED FORMAT OF COMMENTS]</i></p>

<p>Chris Meyer / Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)</p>	<p>Please find attached a letter of support for the explicit inclusion of CPACE in the City's climate action plan as a way to reduce emissions from the commercial building sector.</p> <p><i>[STAFF COMMENT: LETTER ATTACHED AFTER THIS COMPILED FORMAT OF COMMENTS]</i></p>
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May 30, 2019

energy@charlottesville.org

BY EMAIL

Re: Comments on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goal and Key Focus Areas

The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) would like to provide the following comments on the City of Charlottesville's proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal, as well as one of the key focus areas of the climate action planning process discussed with City Council at its May 6, 2019 meeting.

Although we are a regional organization that works across six states, SELC is headquartered in Charlottesville and has a special affinity for our hometown. Our unique Charlottesville-Albemarle Initiative promotes land use, transportation, and environmental policies that strengthen the community, protect natural resources, and improve residents' health and overall quality of life. Climate change poses a significant threat to all of these goals, so we applaud the City for expanding its efforts on this crucial issue and working to involve the community closely in the climate action planning process.

Although many people view it primarily as an environmental threat, climate change will impact nearly every important issue the City will confront. From the cost of food and housing to the quality of the air we breathe and the need for increased health care, every person in our community will be affected. Further, those impacts are likely to fall heaviest on our most disadvantaged residents. For example, families who struggle to pay to heat or cool their homes will be even further strained as heat waves and protracted cold spells occur more often, and many of the residents who will experience the worst effects of flooding from more severe rainstorms are likely to be among our lower-income households. In short, climate change intersects with many high-impact issues the City is striving to do more to address and to set an inspiring example.

We can start to respond to the climate crisis by adopting an ambitious goal for reducing our carbon pollution and then crafting an action plan that charts the course for achieving that goal. SELC supports the GHG reduction target that City staff has proposed, and we commend staff for advancing a goal that demonstrates Charlottesville is serious about doing its part to address this threat. Reducing emissions 45% from 2011 levels by the year 2030, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 as staff is recommending, is consistent with the overarching goal articulated by the International Panel on Climate Change. In the absence of effective leadership on this issue at the federal level or from Virginia's General Assembly, localities like Charlottesville must show the way forward and commit to achieving the level of reductions that

the world's preeminent climate scientists have determined is necessary to avoid the most harmful consequences of climate change.

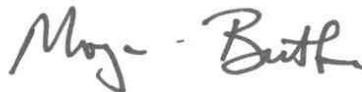
In addition to supporting staff's proposed GHG reduction target, we want to stress the importance of the City conducting GHG inventories on a frequent basis so that we can continually track progress toward meeting the 2030 and 2050 goals. If, for example, the next inventory takes place in 2025 and reveals that we are far behind the pace needed to reach our 2030 target, we will likely have too little time left at that point to make the changes necessary to achieve our goal. Frequently tracking our progress—we recommend that an inventory be conducted every two years—will be key to achieving success.

Finally, we wanted to flag an important missing component in the key focus areas staff has proposed for the climate action planning process. Strategy 3 rightly focuses on the transportation sector—a major source of GHG emissions in the City, and the primary source in Virginia and the United States. However, as drafted in the resolution presented to City Council at its May 6 meeting, Strategy 3 focuses solely on the importance of promoting zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). Although we certainly agree that ZEVs must be a key piece of the City's transportation-climate strategy, they are only part of the needed solution.

It also is critical for the Climate Action Plan to focus on ways to enable residents to reduce their reliance on the automobile—particularly single-occupancy vehicle trips—including improving our public transit system and making it safer and easier to get around on foot or a bike. This will require not only making greater and smarter investments in these cleaner transportation alternatives, but also carefully coordinating transportation improvements with land use planning to help make these modes more accessible and convenient. As such, we recommend that the transportation focus area be expanded from highlighting only ZEVs to also include enhancing alternative transportation modes and ensuring that our land use patterns support them. Among other benefits, this would help ensure the City's transportation-climate strategy will benefit an even broader array of the public and be more effective overall.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. SELC looks forward to continuing to be closely involved as the City continues its work on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Morgan Butler
Director, Charlottesville-Albemarle Initiative



May 31, 2019

Dear Charlottesville City Council -

On behalf of the board and staff of the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative, I want to thank for prioritizing climate action, and **I urge you to adopt staff's recommended greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of a 45% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.**

The importance of developing successful models for local government action on climate change is more urgent than ever. International scientists and policy makers are increasing their calls for drastic steps to decrease emissions. The next 10 years will determine whether or not we are able to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. This community must do all it can to lead the way and build a small city model that can be replicated across the Commonwealth and beyond. **By adopting staff's recommendation, the City of Charlottesville could become the first locality in the state to adopt a goal of carbon neutrality.**

The immensity of the problem will require cross-sector solutions. The Charlottesville Climate Collaborative works with many leaders in these sectors and has witnessed a widespread desire for technical support and community-wide action. During the first public comment period, the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative submitted several letters in support of what is now the staff's recommendation — a 45% emissions reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

The first was on behalf of 41 local for-profit and non-profit businesses, representing nearly 3,000 employees including business such as Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, the CFA Institute, Champion Brewery, Virginia Organizing, and the Legal Aid Justice Center.

We submitted the second letter on behalf of 7 independent schools, including the International School, Peabody School, and Village School.

The final letter was submitted on behalf of 827 citizens — 422 of which are City residents. An additional 108 citizens have joined that letter during this current comment period bringing the total to 936 — 485 of which are City residents. I have attached these additional names to this document.

These letters clearly demonstrate that our community is not only ready for City Council to set leadership targets on climate, but that momentum exists for businesses and citizens to take action independent of government to help us reach these ambitious goals.

In addition, the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative requests that the City conduct an emissions inventory every two years to keep us on track. An ambitious target can only be met if we are regularly checking on our progress to ensure that our policies are having the desired impact. With only 10 years to hit our 45% target, I am confident that staff and Council agree that regular measurement is an essential part of climate action.

The Charlottesville Climate Collaborative is well-positioned to work with businesses who are ready to invest in sustainable practices, schools who are educating the next generation of climate leaders, and non-profit organizations advocating for affordable housing, energy efficiency, food security, and climate justice. We believe that our work can support City leaders by convening sectors and developing common sense policy solutions. **We stand ready to aid you in this process.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Trice".

Susan Trice, Executive Director
Charlottesville Climate Collaborative

Hillary Geissing	City of Charlottesville	22902
Connor Kenaston	City of Charlottesville	22902
Cary Oliva	City of Charlottesville	22901
Shantell Bingham	City of Charlottesville	22903
Beryl Solla	City of Charlottesville	22902
Abdullah Abood	City of Charlottesville	22903
Seth Herman	City of Charlottesville	22902
Steven Johnson	City of Charlottesville	22903
Madeleine Hawks	City of Charlottesville	22902
Douglas Olson	City of Charlottesville	22902
Jocelyn Johnson	City of Charlottesville	22902
Jane McDonald	City of Charlottesville	22903
Cathleen Butler	City of Charlottesville	22902
Polina Mischenko	City of Charlottesville	22903
Kimber Hawkey	City of Charlottesville	22902-5713
Frederick Schneider	City of Charlottesville	22902
Kimber Hawkey	City of Charlottesville	22902-5713
Elizabeth Tabony	City of Charlottesville	22903
Kaki Pearson	City of Charlottesville	22903
Richard McCrone	City of Charlottesville	22903

Melinda Baumann	City of Charlottesville	22901
George Wilkes	City of Charlottesville	22903
Erik Pearson	City of Charlottesville	22903
Dorothy Carney	City of Charlottesville	22903
Katie Barry	City of Charlottesville	22903
Ted Pearson	City of Charlottesville	22903
Mercedes Ferreira	City of Charlottesville	22905-4252
William Lankford	City of Charlottesville	22902
Nikolai Braun	City of Charlottesville	22902
Burnet Davis	City of Charlottesville	22902
David White	City of Charlottesville	22902
PETER DENNISON	City of Charlottesville	22903
Brian Kelly	City of Charlottesville	22901
Clare Venus	City of Charlottesville	22901
Laura Covert	City of Charlottesville	22902
Angela Orebaugh	City of Charlottesville	22903
Roland H. Simon	City of Charlottesville	22903-1417
Francine Smith	City of Charlottesville	22902
Herbert Stahl	City of Charlottesville	22903-3613
Patricia Wilkinson	City of Charlottesville	22902
Lorrie Delehanty	City of Charlottesville	22902

Joanne Kittredge	City of Charlottesville	22901
Elisabeth Christian	City of Charlottesville	22903
Eric Turkheimer	City of Charlottesville	22903
Nancy Damon	City of Charlottesville	22903
Donna Thacker	City of Charlottesville	22903
Ellen Rambo	City of Charlottesville	22903
John Delehanty	City of Charlottesville	22902
terri di cintio	City of Charlottesville	22903
Tammy Wilt	City of Charlottesville	22903
Lauren Breeden	City of Charlottesville	22903
Alex Taurel	City of Charlottesville	22903
avery patterson	City of Charlottesville	22940
Chelsea Blakely	City of Charlottesville	22903
greg jackson	City of Charlottesville	22902
Katherine Reeves	City of Charlottesville	22903
Brian Meffle	City of Charlottesville	22903
Kelly Jones	City of Charlottesville	22903
June Jones	City of Charlottesville	22903
Martha Donnelly	City of Charlottesville	22903
Gina Carroll	City of Charlottesville	22906
edward clarke	City of Charlottesville	22901

J.T. Newberry	City of Charlottesville	22902
Daniel Mietchen	City of Charlottesville	22902
Annette Osso	County of Albemarle	22923
Barbara Baker	County of Albemarle	22902
Sarah Lanzman	County of Albemarle	22935
Janice Lugar	County of Albemarle	22903
Abby Sabri	County of Albemarle	22932
David Bruton	County of Albemarle	22932
Elizabeth Burdash	County of Albemarle	22936
Cynthia Bowles	County of Albemarle	22902
David Crouch	County of Albemarle	22903
Rebecca Hettig	County of Albemarle	22923
ANDREA BURTON	County of Albemarle	22903
Beth Gould	County of Albemarle	22901
Diane Grieder	County of Albemarle	22902
Carla Moore	County of Albemarle	22903
Brian Doench	County of Albemarle	22903
Elizabeth K Williams	County of Albemarle	22924
Shirley Freeman	County of Albemarle	22902
Charlotte Graham	County of Albemarle	22902
gary powell	County of Albemarle	22902

Elizabeth Crocker	County of Albemarle	22947
Emily Gogoll	County of Albemarle	22912
Laura Giannini	County of Albemarle	22902
Scott Ziemer	County of Albemarle	22932
David Silver	County of Albemarle	22901
Patrick Thornton	County of Albemarle	22902-7207
Beth Sneider	County of Albemarle	22903
James Sivley	County of Albemarle	22902
JULIE HORNE	County of Albemarle	22902
Robin Munson	County of Albemarle	22932
Diane Szaflarski	County of Albemarle	22911
Virginia Fuentes	County of Albemarle	22903
Phyllis White	County of Albemarle	24590
Bev Thierwechter	County of Albemarle	22932
Madison Crouch	County of Albemarle	22903
tim sanjule	County of Albemarle	22932
Amanda Barone	County of Albemarle	22903
Salena Levi	County of Albemarle	22901
Robyn Sealey	County of Albemarle	22903
Rowen Perry	County of Albemarle	22901
Marc Oettinger	County of Albemarle	22903

Sue Weiss	County of Albemarle	22932
John Carter	County of Albemarle	22901
Kari Miller	County of Albemarle	22911
Rebecca Keller	County of Albemarle	22911

May 30, 2019

Dear City Councilors and County Supervisors,

As stakeholders in Charlottesville's actions on climate, affordable housing, and food security, we thank you for your commitment to addressing the local impacts of climate change and for recognizing the need to develop comprehensive Climate Action Plans. As a collaboration of environmental and social justice organizations, we have come together to collectively urge you to ensure that the strategies and outcomes of your climate action planning processes are viewed specifically through an equity lens, recognizing that low-wealth members of our community are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Having worked closely with some of the most vulnerable members of our community, we know that the changing climate has already begun to affect the lives of families in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Equitable strategies and outcomes of local climate action planning are imperative for a number of reasons:

1. Extreme temperatures increase energy use and utility costs, moving the affordability of housing beyond the means of low-income families.

As temperatures rise, so will energy costs. The ability to cool and heat a home during temperature extremes is not simply a matter of comfort but a matter of necessity. Air conditioning is also a critical tool in mitigating mold growth and ensuring healthy indoor air quality. With much of the housing available for low-income families desperately in need of insulation and other energy efficiency upgrades, the increased energy costs associated with climate change will have a direct impact on housing affordability.

2. The health impacts of climate change will have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable residents.

Extreme weather events, like flash flooding or intense heat, are becoming increasingly more frequent and severe. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council¹, the greater Charlottesville area is experiencing an average of 9-14 days of extreme heat per summer, and the average national increase in the risk of death increases by about 2.5% for every 1°F increase in the intensity of heatwaves. While climate change impacts all of us, low-income families, children, and the elderly are members of our community that feel the effects to an even greater extent.

3. Changes in local weather patterns resulting from climate change will have a direct impact on the accessibility and affordability of food.

As the climate changes, so does local growing seasons and availability of certain crops. Many low-income families currently experience difficulty in accessing healthy food options and the effects of climate change on food scarcity are likely to continue negatively impacting

¹ <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/climate-change-health-impacts-virginia-ib.pdf>

access to affordable food options.²

4. Lack of access to living wage jobs hinders the flexibility to mitigate the rising costs associated with climate change.

The lack of reliable public transportation and the availability of affordable housing near major employers in our community has a direct impact on the ability of low-income residents to acquire and maintain living wage income opportunities. Combined with rising energy costs, these factors will make stable access to food, safe living conditions, and the ability to build financial independence further out of reach for vulnerable communities.

We urge City Council and the County Board of Supervisors to ensure that forthcoming climate action plans are developed with inclusivity and equity for all community members by incorporating the following:

1. Include strategies for increased affordable housing in local climate action plans.

If residents cannot afford to live near major employment centers, they will continue to be pushed out into surrounding counties making it difficult to reduce transportation emissions and the ability for families to maintain higher wage jobs. Strategies to address zoning and density restrictions, incentives for implementing energy efficiency upgrades, and other opportunities to increase affordable housing should be analyzed.

2. Explore financing models for energy efficiency projects for low and middle income households.

Significant energy efficiency upgrades and access to renewable energy are often out of reach for low and even some middle income families. Financing models with low interest rates, minimal credit requirements, and the ability to impact tenants as well as home owners are a solution other communities are embracing to address this disparity. Financing projects through the City utility should be explored and prioritized for low-income and extremely low-income renters, with priority on extremely low-income.³

3. Equitable climate action planning should examine the nexus of reliable public transportation, affordable housing, and access to healthy food hubs.

Reliable public transportation to and from affordable housing, job centers, and grocery stores and community garden sites are needed to ensure climate resiliency for low-income residents. Walkable, bikeable neighborhoods and a robust and efficient bus system are essential components of an equitable and resilient community.

Sincerely,

Members of the Charlottesville City and Albemarle County Non-Profit Service Providers

(See attached list of nonprofit service providers.)

² https://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/FoodSecurity2015Assessment/FullAssessment.pdf

³ Low-income is defined as 30- 60% of AMI, and extremely low-income is defined as less than 30% AMI.





May 30th, 2019

City Council of Charlottesville
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear City Council,

As one of the leading non-profit organizations in region interested in the continued green growth of the City of Charlottesville, we are pleased to offer our support for development of a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy, or C-PACE, financing program. C-PACE provides building owners an innovative way to finance environmentally friendly renovations to their properties with no upfront capital, and to stimulate investment in a cleaner environment and local economy. As a non-profit leader who discuss green economic development strategies with localities, we support C-PACE as a powerful tool for communities like Charlottesville to promote sustainability and a business-friendly environment. This is of course very important now considering the new commercial buildings happening in the City's core.

From a local government perspective, C-PACE financing improves the building stock, which helps attract and retain businesses, creates jobs in the construction sector, brings in incremental tax revenue, and would further consolidate Charlottesville as a leader in the new technologies of the future. We believe that the City of Charlottesville can benefit from a C-PACE program that enables energy efficient buildings and attracts businesses that increasingly include sustainability and job growth as their core goals.

Please let us know how we can help to bring C-PACE to fruition in the City of Charlottesville.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Meyer
Executive Director
Local Energy Alliance Program
www.leap-va.org

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING A NEW GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) REDUCTION GOAL

WHEREAS, the weight of scientific evidence and scientific consensus indicates that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities is driving climate change, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and other community leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville resolved in June 2017 to stand with cities and other public and private sector partners throughout the world to advance action in accordance with the with the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, the first global commitment to fight climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville adopted a Statement of Economic Principles in September 2017 that supports growing a wide array of local industry sectors, the availability of excellent affordable housing, a globally competitive workforce, redevelopment that produces local jobs and affordable housing, builds upon Charlottesville's commitment to sustainability, and promotes active partnerships at the regional level; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville is currently in Phase 2 of implementing its Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy commitment which requires a new reduction goal to be adopted, and will develop a Climate Action Plan in Phase 3; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has been involved in and continues to explore a variety of important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our community; and

WHEREAS, 90% of Charlottesville's carbon emissions profile is attributed to residential, commercial, and transportation sector activities; and

WHEREAS, initial costs for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures can pose a barrier for residential, commercial, and non-profit property owners and slow adoption of low carbon actions despite many such installations resulting in net-cost savings over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the private financial sector has access to resources that local government does not and that can aid in increased investment in energy performance of buildings in Charlottesville; and,

WHEREAS, the affordability of housing is affected by the cost of the housing unit and the cost of powering the home, known as the energy burden; and

WHEREAS, improvements in building energy performance through energy efficiency and renewable energy installations can reduce the energy burden cost for the building occupants and, in many cases, improve the comfort and quality of life of the building occupants; and

WHEREAS, local investment in energy improvements for buildings and low carbon strategies requires a skilled local workforce and supports local businesses and industries that are

seeing national and global growth, and enables partnerships such as those seen in the GO Solar program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the City of Charlottesville adopts the goal of 45% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 target from its 2011 inventory year, and the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050; and, develops a Climate Action Plan pursuant to this goal and that includes the following aspects:

- Front Load Reductions – pursue steeper reductions in the near term
- Identify of Sub-Goals by Sector and by Strategy in the Climate Action Plan
- Address Equity Specifically in Goals and the Climate Action Plan
- Identify Measurement Frequency & Accountability Mechanisms
- Addresses Funding and Financing Options to Enable and Support Private Sector Action