

**City of Charleston DRAFT Climate Action Plan (March 2021)**

To provide your feedback on this draft list, please complete the community survey by March 28, 2021:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FKQ2K8L>

<b>Citywide or Government Operations</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
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The City of Charleston’s Office of Resilience and Sustainability has been working diligently with community members since fall 2020 on a 5-year strategic framework to reduce carbon pollution. Below are the draft strategies and action items proposed from the 6 community working groups.

<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>BUILDINGS</b>	
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Support efforts to strengthen the energy code at the state level and advocate for state building policies that align with carbon neutrality by 2050 and other initiatives in the SC Energy Efficiency Roadmap
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Support state efforts and explore local equitable gap funding opportunities for energy efficiency in new construction and upgrades to existing construction
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Consider expanding incentives for sustainable construction and renewable energy via the zoning code, such as building certification programs like Charleston RISES
Government	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Increase staff capacity and funding to improve energy efficiency of existing City buildings and ensure new City buildings lead by example by being energy efficient and pursuing industry best practices that align with carbon neutrality by 2050
Government	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Create mechanical, electrical and plumbing standards that include energy efficiency for City facilities
Government	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Consider creating stronger guidelines above minimum code for new City construction, include total cost of ownership standards and consideration of a tailored Charleston RISES certification
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Assess feasibility of expanding staff capacity and training to strengthen enforcement of energy code compliance
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Consider developing or adopting alternative standards that expand allowable construction method options to include those which are inherently more energy efficient and sustainable, such as rammed earth
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Explore opportunities to restart the Green Business Challenge
Citywide	Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Support state efforts for the disclosure of utility data by property sellers

Citywide	Promote and plan for renewable energy	Support renewable energy projects including community solar and other initiatives, such as those in the SC Energy Efficiency Roadmap
Citywide	Promote and plan for renewable energy	Create design guidelines for renewable energy standards in the historic district
Government	Promote and plan for renewable energy	Investigate the feasibility of renewable energy and battery storage opportunities for City facilities and plan for future funding opportunities
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create education campaign around lifestyle actions to support energy and water efficiency, include the promotion of existing energy audit and retrofit programs
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create an education campaign around lifestyle actions to support community use of renewable energy
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create more awareness to designers of energy efficiency opportunities and sustainable construction methods and materials, such as passive solar and mass timber
<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Citywide	Increase use of public transit systems	Require new large development projects located along existing or planned transit corridors to install bus stop shelters and transportation infrastructure like turnouts
Government	Increase employee commuter options	Create City policy that allows teleworking and flexible work schedules
Citywide	Improve land use policy to reduce vehicle miles traveled	Concentrate development in compact walkable centers that are well connected to public transit and offer a mix of uses, services and housing options
Citywide	Improve land use policy to reduce vehicle miles traveled	Right-size parking codes including implementing parking maximums, and explore opportunities to allow developers to pay into a parking in lieu fund
Citywide	Embrace electric and other low or no emission motors	Expand publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, especially at ride share, mobility hubs, on-street peninsula access and City parking facilities
Citywide	Embrace electric and other low or no emission motors	Create policy to require charging stations in new large commercial construction and consider EV ready requirements for smaller projects
Government	Embrace electric and other low or no emission motors	Create a plan to transition the City fleet and other small engines to alternative fuel vehicles, include vehicle replacement standards and charging infrastructure
Citywide	Embrace electric and other low or no emission motors	Consider options to phase in alternatives to gas powered small inefficient engines

Citywide	Increase bicycle and pedestrian activity	Re-examine options for new bike share programs, including electric options, and expand bike share access to City employees
Citywide	Increase bicycle and pedestrian activity	Improve and expand bicycle and pedestrian facilities and infrastructure, such as intersection improvements, bicycle repair service stations and bicycle corridors identified in the People Pedal Plan
Citywide	Increase bicycle and pedestrian activity	Establish temporary and permanent car free areas such as rethinking curb spaces
Citywide	Increase bicycle and pedestrian activity	Transition existing Complete Streets resolution into ordinance prioritizing pedestrians at key crossings
Citywide	Increase bicycle and pedestrian activity	Expand consistent wayfinding signage to increase safety and the user experience
Citywide	Reduce idling	Explore creative options to enforce the City's existing anti-idling policy
Citywide	Reduce idling	Improve traffic signal infrastructure on the peninsula and perform signal timing updates for all modes
Government	Reduce idling	Encourage virtual community meetings or those located along transit, as possible
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create education campaign to support community use of electric vehicles
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create a media campaign aimed at supporting multi modal transportation and specifically humanizing people traveling on bike, foot and transit with appropriate branding and messaging.
	<b>Supporting Regional Partners</b> (listed separately from City action list)	
Citywide	Increase use of public transit systems	Support the BCDCOG's efforts in exploring the use of zero emission water transportation
Citywide	Increase use of public transit systems	Explore opportunities with BCDCOG to provide gap services and first/last mile trips to those not located on transit corridors such as park and rides efforts and supporting vanpool and carpool program
Government	Increase employee commuter options	Explore opportunities with CARTA to create an employer transit program for part-time City staff riders, such as charging fees based on use
Citywide	Embrace electric and other low or no emission motors	Collaborate with the BCDCOG to promote viability of electric vehicle rentals for visitors with rental car agencies at the airport, local hotels, and tourist attractions
Citywide	Embrace electric and other low or no emission motors	Support efforts for electric shorepower at a new cruise terminal

<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>WASTE</b>	
Citywide	Reduce consumption and waste	Continue supporting the elimination of single-use plastics
Citywide	Reduce consumption and waste	Perform a garbage can audit and use the data to evaluate and restructure the way garbage and trash are collected to incentivize recycling and composting
Government	Reduce consumption and waste	Promote zero waste office practices for City staff to reduce, reuse and recycle and consider establishing sustainable procurement standards for City operations
Citywide	Reduce consumption and waste	Strengthen partnerships to enhance edible food recovery and donation, such as Food Rescue US
Citywide	Reduce consumption and waste	Support the reuse, repair, recovery and refurbishment economy, including for construction waste
Citywide	Increase Recycling and Composting	Explore ways to create more opportunities for community wide composting, such as drop centers
Government	Increase Recycling and Composting	Explore opportunities to make composting more available in City buildings, at City sponsored events such as Farmers Markets, and private events held on City property
Citywide	Increase Recycling and Composting	Continue to add recycling bins next to garbage cans in public places and label them with consistent signage
Citywide	Increase Recycling and Composting	Support Charleston County's efforts to promote education for events and commercial recycling, and examine options to encourage businesses and events to recycle
Citywide	Increase Recycling and Composting	Create a program to recycle mattresses
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create an education campaign around lifestyle actions to achieve zero waste, include promotion of existing Charleston County programs like recycling and food waste composting and education and access information such as Citywide Zero Waste app
<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>CARBON SINKS</b>	
Citywide	Protect and promote natural ecosystems	Collaborate with regional and state partners to increase preservation and restoration of saltwater ecosystems like our marshes and wetlands as these are key carbon sequestering assets

Citywide	Protect and promote natural ecosystems	Continue the coordinated buyout of repetitive loss properties and convert land use to natural conditions that capture carbon and water
Citywide	Protect and promote natural ecosystems	Examine land use policy to make room for existing marshes to migrate, such as adjusting zoning and developing more stringent marsh buffers
Citywide	Protect and promote natural ecosystems	Continue to expand Charleston Rainproof and Adopt a Drain programs as ways to protect water quality and health of blue carbon
Government	Protect and promote natural ecosystems	Pilot the application of super sink plants in appropriate public spaces, such as non-invasive native bamboo, and adapt practices to be pollinator friendly
Citywide	Expand and protect tree canopy	Plant and prioritize tree plantings in areas that need it most, such as underserved communities with less overall canopy and communities with aging inventory
Citywide	Expand and protect tree canopy	Consider strengthening tree protection regulations in zoning per recommendations in the Trees to Offset Stormwater project report
Citywide	Expand and protect tree canopy	Encourage tree plantings on private property, such as reviving the Charleston Trees Program
Citywide	Expand and protect tree canopy	Continue the City's Street Tree Program planting trees in the ROW in partnership with residents
Citywide	Expand and protect tree canopy	Perform street tree inventory and use data to guide funding, maintain existing canopy and seek opportunities to grow canopy and diversify species
Citywide	Expand and protect tree canopy	Explore partnerships to create an urban forestry workforce training program with local school programs, such as Trident Tech horticulture program
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create education campaign about trees, their host of benefits, how to properly care for a tree, and the programs and resources that exist to support planting more trees.
Citywide	Education Campaign	Create an education campaign around the importance of protecting our saltwater ecosystems as major carbon sinks and support existing community-based marsh restoration programs like From Seeds to Shoreline and SC Oyster Restoration
Citywide	Education Campaign	Encourage and demonstrate native plant landscaping that requires less maintenance and resources and care of carbon sinks to have carbon free maintenance, such as using electric powered equipment