

A large blue square graphic with a white border. Inside the square, the text "Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the main title, the date and format "Feb. 18, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)" are also centered in white, sans-serif font.

# Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

**Feb. 18, 2021** (Virtual Meeting)

WEBINAR LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87142628321>

Call 1 (929) 205 6099, Webinar ID: 871 4262 8321

# Welcome and Moment of Silence

By: Mayor John Tecklenburg, Chairman

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence  
Mayor John Tecklenburg
2. USACE Peninsula Flood Risk Management Study  
Mark Wilbert
3. Climate Action Plan Update  
Katie McKain
4. Review and Discussion of Policies Being  
Considered in Draft Climate Action Plan  
Katie McKain
5. Gas Powered Leaf Blowers  
Councilman Mike Seekings
6. Public Comment Period

# USACE Peninsula Flood Risk Management Study

By: Mark Wilbert,  
City of Charleston, Chief Resilience Officer

# Climate Action Plan Update

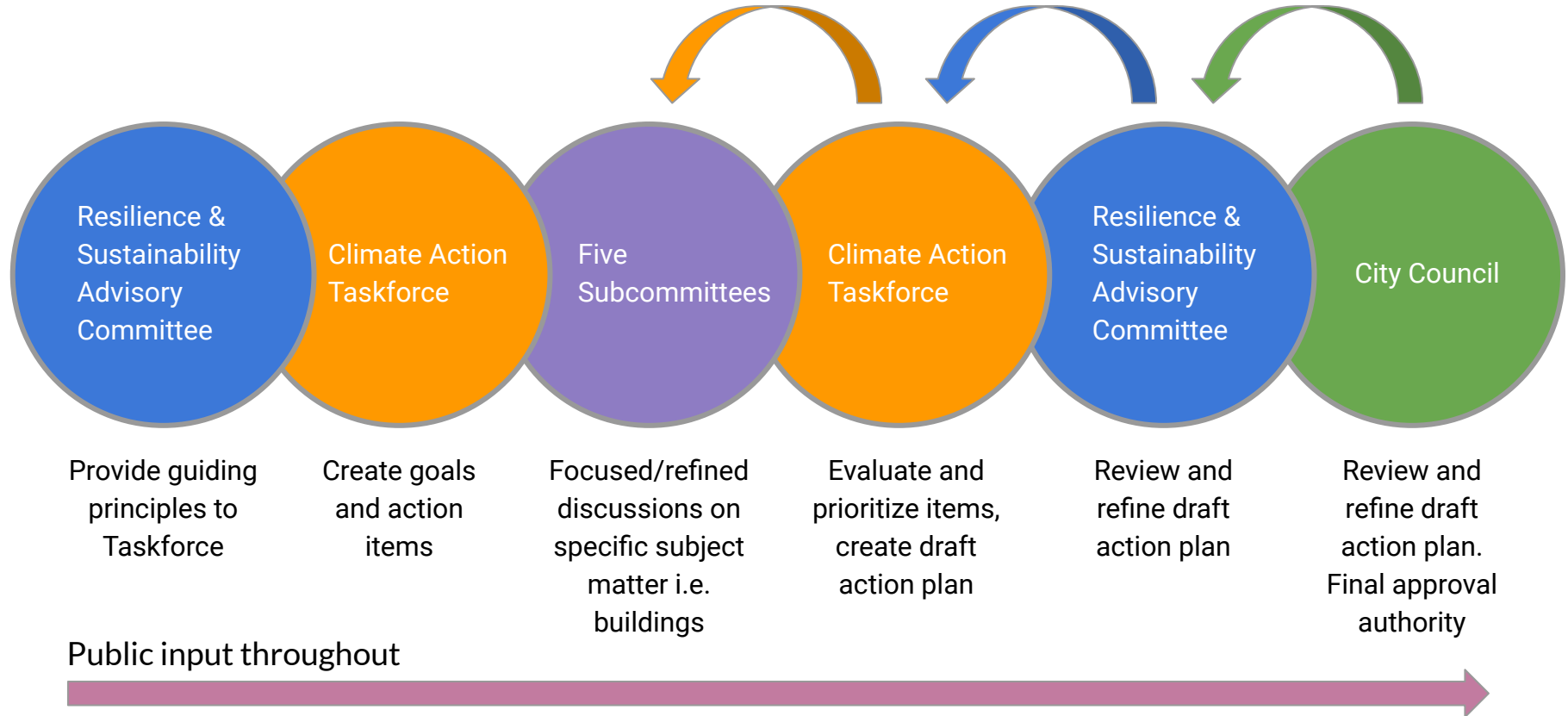
By: Katie McKain,  
City of Charleston, Director of Sustainability

# Climate Action Planning Process

A Climate Action Plan outlines actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



# Plan Evolution Involves 8 Committees



# Climate Action Plan Taskforce & Five Subcommittees

Over 23 meetings so far

Subcommittees have been diligently working on creating a comprehensive list of potential action items for their specific focus areas.

1. Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Waste
4. Carbon Sinks
5. Education/Outreach

Next steps are to assess and prioritize the list within each subcommittee.

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# Timeline

## Climate Action Plan

- **Feb 18:** Draft Action Items to RSAC and for discussion
  - **Early March:** Shortlist of Draft Actions to RSAC
  - **Early-Mid March:** Third round of community engagement
  - **Mid March:** First Draft of Action Plan to RSAC
  - **April 8:** Discussion of Final Draft Action Plan at RSAC Meeting
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# Review and Discussion of Policies Being Considered in Draft Climate Action Plan

# Draft Policies Being Considered

## Transportation

Strategy	Action Item
Embrace electric and other low or no emission engines	Consider options to phase out gas powered leaf blowers and other small inefficient engines
Embrace electric and other low or no emission engines	Create a policy to require new single family homes to contain a 240 Volt plug (dryer type plug) in the garage to accomodate a future level 2 electric vehicle charger
Embrace electric and other low or no emission engines	Create a policy to require level 2 charging stations in new multi-family and large commercial construction
Increase bicycle and pedestrian activity	Consider strengthening bicycle parking requirements in new development
Reduce single occupancy vehicles on road	Right-size parking codes including implementing parking maximums, and explore opportunities to allow developers to pay into a parking in lieu fund

# Draft Policies Being Considered Buildings

Strategy	Action Item
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
Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Consider requiring or expanding incentives for sustainable construction via the zoning code, such as building certification programs
Increase energy efficiency and conservation	Consider requiring utility data be disclosed by sellers

# Draft Policies Being Considered

## Waste

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
Increase Recycling and Composting	Consider requiring restaurants, events and large commercial to recycle. Phase in requirements for smaller businesses and residential
Reduce consumption and waste	Establish sustainable procurement practices for City operations

# Draft Policies Being Considered

## Carbon Sinks

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
Protect and promote natural ecosystems	Adjust land use policy to make room for existing marshes to migrate, such as adjusting zoning and developing more stringent marsh buffers
Expand and protect tree canopy	Strengthen tree protection regulations in zoning per recommendations in the Trees to Offset Stormwater project report

# Committee Discussion on Policy Priorities

1. Given our 5 year action plan timeline, which policies do you feel are
  - a. most appropriate to consider in short term future?
  - b. Appropriate to perhaps wait a few years?
  - c. Not as appropriate to consider?
2. Are there any policy considerations missing you think should be considered?

## **Transportation**

- ◆ EV Ready (residential)
- ◆ EV charging stations (multi-family)
- ◆ Phase out gas powered leaf blowers
- ◆ Strengthen bicycle parking codes
- ◆ Right-size parking codes

## **Buildings**

- ◆ Support strengthening state energy code
- ◆ Require and/or incentivize building certification
- ◆ Disclose utility data

## **Waste**

- ◆ Mandate commercial recycling
- ◆ Sustainable City procurement practices

## **Carbon Sinks**

- ◆ Allow for marsh migration
- ◆ Strengthen tree protection codes

# Gas Powered Leaf Blowers



"The hydrocarbon emissions from a half-hour of yard work with the two-stroke leaf blower are about the same as a 3,900-mile drive from Texas to Alaska in a Raptor,"

said Jason Kavanagh, Engineering Editor at Edmunds.com.

Leaf Blower's Emissions Dirtier than High-Performance Pick-Up Truck's, Says Edmunds' InsideLine.com

# Background Information

- Leaf blowers commonly have a 2-stroke engine, these are inefficient and are often considered outdated technology
- Gas powered leaf blowers pose a public health danger
  - air pollution - from both emissions and dust particles
  - High noise decibel levels
- Over 100 cities across the country have banned or restricted them
  - Key Biscayne, FL passed a ban on all gas powered leaf blowers in 2018
  - Palm Beach, FL passed a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers on properties less than an acre
  - Chapel Hill, NC passed restrictions on the hours they can be used
  - Palo Alto, CA banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in residential zones since 2005
  - Santa Monica, CA banned all leaf blowers, even electric

# Alternatives Available

- Electric powered blowers are quieter, lighter and less polluting
  - Cord and cordless options
  - Electric equipment is comparable in price to gas powered
  - Gas powered are still preferred for heavy duty
- Alternatives to mechanical blowers
  - Electric leaf suckers / Vacuums - reduce dust particles
  - Push Power or Lawn Sweeper - human powered leaf collector
  - Mulching mower
  - Rakes and brooms



**Electric**

**Backpack style  
\$229- \$439**

**Smaller  
\$65-\$169**



**Gas Powered**

**Backpack style  
\$249-\$499**

**Smaller  
\$69-199**

# Public Comment Period

**If you would like to speak, please “raise your hand”:**

- Join on the webinar itself <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87142628321>
- Or Call 1 (929) 205 6099, Webinar ID: 871 4262 8321, press \*9