

Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

Oct. 7, 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 Dale Morris
3. New Climate Ambassador Program Katie McKain
4. Mattress Recycling Pilot Program Progress Katie McKain
5. Consider Leaf Blower Resolution Katie McKain
Mallary Scheer
Michael Cunningham,
Carolina Landscape
6. Public Comment Period

USACE Peninsula Flood Risk Management Study

By: Dale Morris,
City of Charleston, Chief Resilience Officer

New Climate Ambassador Program

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

Implementing the Climate Action Plan

Climate Ambassador Program

The program aims to train and build climate leaders

who will engage and inspire Charlestonians

to take action to address climate change and implement the Climate Action Plan.

How the Ambassador Program Works

- Community groups can request an Ambassador of their choice to speak at their next meeting or event
- Time period: September 2021 through January 2022.
 - Cohort 2 starts in January with new content to share and new goals
- Ambassadors will inspire community action and share:
 - Climate impacts in Charleston
 - The new Climate Action Plan (May 2021)
 - What the City is working on to address carbon pollution
 - How everyone can help

Meet Your Ambassadors!

- Cohort 1 has 22 volunteers
- All were trained and certified in August
- Pics and bios are posted online at

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2585/Climate-Ambassador-Program>



David Quigley (left)

Former newspaper journalist. David Quigley enjoys golfing, hiking, running and reading. He loves the outdoors, and wants to make the world a better place.

Danielle Wittenberg (right)

Am a community activist and environmental advocate. Charleston, SC. Love writing, reading, and traveling. I am a community and environmental volunteer for a number of local organizations and am passionate about improving healthy, sustainable generations.

Christine van Riel (center)

From North, Missouri and moved to Charleston in 2002. I am a registered nurse. I work for the Charleston County Recycling and Disposal Department. I volunteer as the Chairwoman for the Charleston Recycling Drive and am a member of the Charleston County Sustainable Agriculture and Agroforestry planning committee.

Carol A. Jackson (right)

Charleston native and service on Charleston City Council. Representing the 10th Ward. Volunteer for a number of local organizations and am passionate about improving healthy, sustainable generations.



Alan Barrie

Former news reporter. Am originally from Shreveport, Louisiana. Moved to Charleston in 2004 and have lived in Charleston since. I love meeting new people, learning and learning new skills. I enjoy golfing, hiking, reading and researching world issues.

Baldwin Glasser

Am the Sustainability Director at the College of Charleston and am also a member of the Charleston Climate Coalition. You can always find me at an energy performance theater discussion or a local community meeting around the country.

Denyse Bourque

Am originally from Auguste, MI and am a Political Science Major. I am currently a member of the Charleston Climate Coalition. I am also a member of the Lowcountry Climate Action Network. I have worked on a community climate and environmental justice issue in the Bronx, NY.

Dinesh Mohamed

Am originally from Auguste, MI and am a Political Science Major. I am currently a member of the Charleston Climate Coalition. I have worked on a community climate and environmental justice issue in the Bronx, NY.



Jennifer Quigley

Was born in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico but grew up in Williamsburg, Georgia. Currently works at the Fox Family by providing street support and leadership experiences to at-risk youth. In my free time I like to read, write, run, and play tennis in Disney. ☺

Mark Popp

Am a local artist and have been involved in the arts for many years. I am currently working on a new environmental justice project.

Meagan Bailey

Am a registered nurse and am currently involved in the City of Charleston. I am working on a new environmental justice project to change the way we live.

Scott Quigley

Am originally from Atlanta, Georgia. I am a registered nurse and currently involved in the City of Charleston. I am working on a new environmental justice project to change the way we live.



Business Support for Ambassador Program

Costa is providing merch to giveaway to help incentivize participation and community action!

Ambassador contests and participant raffles!



Ambassador Program Results & Next Steps

Results as of Oct 6, 2021:

- 5 presentations given
- Over 120 people reached
- Over 15 dates booked for Oct/Nov

CITY OF CHARLESTON
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability

IS YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP CONCERNED ABOUT FLOODING, EXTREME HEAT AND OTHER IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE?

REQUEST A SPEAKER
TO PRESENT AT YOUR NEXT MEETING OR EVENT!

LEARN HOW THE CITY IS ADDRESSING THE CAUSES OF THESE CONCERNs THROUGH OUR NEW [CLIMATE ACTION PLAN](#), AND WHAT YOUR GROUP CAN DO TO HELP!

Speakers are certified Climate Ambassadors. Request online:

CHARLESTON-SC.GOV/SUSTAINABILITY

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2585/Climate-Ambassador-Program>

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Next

- We are looking for more speaking opportunities
- Please share with groups you know
 - Non-profits, schools, businesses, houses of worship, neighborhood associations, clubs, etc.

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Implementing the Climate Action Plan

Other big projects in action now that were identified in the plan

- New residential compost grant project- coming winter 2021!
- Fleet Transition Plan
- New Communication and Outreach plan
- Mattress Recycling Pilot Program
- Phasing in alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers

Mattress Recycling Pilot Program Update

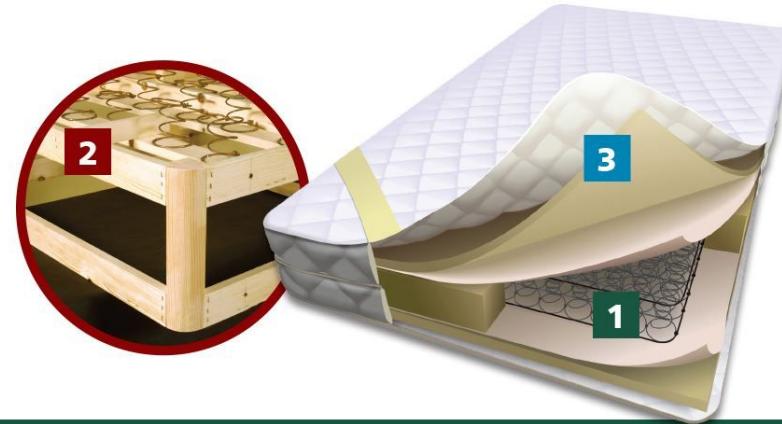
By: Katie McKain,
City of Charleston, Director of Sustainability

Mattress Recycling Process

HOW MATTRESS RECYCLING WORKS

Old mattresses are not reused for bedding. Instead, mattresses are taken apart and the components are repurposed for:

1. **STEEL** that can be smelting down and made into new items like bicycle spokes;
2. **WOOD** (from box springs) that can be used to construct new things like bookcases and shelves or for craft projects; and
3. **FOAM** that can be repurposed into carpet padding and moving pads.



Mattress Recycling Program Details

- **Drop Off:** Bring mattresses to a drop site - Free for City residents
- **Pick Up:** Schedule a time for mattresses to be picked up with Bedshred.com, fee applies

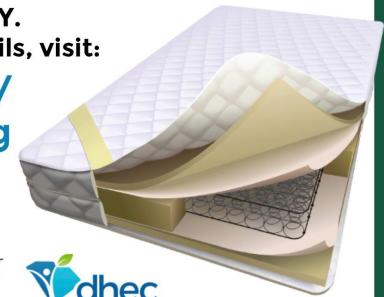
Drop site dates & times are posted online

www.charleston-sc.gov/mattress-recycling

**KEEP YOUR
OLD MATTRESSES
& BOX SPRINGS
OUT OF THE LANDFILL!**

City of Charleston residents can recycle their unwanted mattresses and boxsprings (any size) **for FREE**.

RESTRICTIONS APPLY.
For location, times and details, visit:
[charleston-sc.gov/
mattress-recycling](http://charleston-sc.gov/mattress-recycling)



Mattress Recycling Results

Jan. 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021 test period

Results as of 9/30/21

- 368 mattresses recycled
- Diverted over 9 tons from landfill
- Saved over 12,000 cubic feet of space in landfill
- Cost approx: \$6,000 (about \$17/piece)
- Happy residents!



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To Continue Program After Test Period Ends (Dec 31):

- Funding request in FY22 budget (Environ. Mgmt)
- Continue discussions with Charleston County about expanding program



Consider a Resolution to Transition Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers to Alternatives

By: Katie McKain and Mallary Scheer
City of Charleston

Michael Cunningham, Carolina Landscape

Leaf Blower Pollution

Leaf blowers are commonly gas-powered with inefficient 2-stroke engines

- Health issues
 - Blowing leaves stirs up dust and other particulate matter in air - affecting our lungs and air quality
- Noise and quality of life issues
 - Decibel level at operator ear is dangerous and could cause hearing loss
 - Residents are unhappy with the inconsistent hum of blowers citywide
- Water quality issues
 - Fuel spillage when refueling and mixing oil and gas
- Greenhouse gas pollution
 - Greenhouse gas emissions, nitrous oxide, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, air toxics
 - "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,"

Action in Other Southeast Cities

Over 100 cities across the country have banned or restricted them

- Key Biscayne, FL
- Palm Beach, FL
- Chapel Hill, NC
- Coral Gables, FL
- Key West, FL
- Boca Raton, FL
- Winter Park, FL- in progress
- Kiawah, SC- testing electric options

Research from Landscaping Companies

- 16 local companies contacted
 - 4 have tried electric, 2 use electric successfully on smaller sites
- Many companies are supportive of a transition to electric, when technology is adequate to meet their needs.
- Concerns:
 - Power and air flow of electric versions is not comparable to gas-powered yet.
 - Up-front cost is higher due to having to purchase extra batteries, adaptors and chargers.
- Companies seem willing to do more research on their own and keep testing products.

Incentives to Smoothen Transition

- Leaf blower rebates from utilities
- Leaf blower exchange program

Leaf Blower Exchange to Support Resident Transition

- An opportunity for residents to trade in their gas-powered blowers for an electric version.
- Host event at an equipment retailer
 - Resources and demos available
 - Manufacturers able to help and/or provide discounts
 - If possible, a voucher program offering a rebate on a trade-in
 - Responsibly dispose of old equipment
- Now seeking partners and funding for vouchers
- Partners interested in supporting so far
 - SCDHEC
 - SC Energy Office
 - BCDCOG

Consider a Resolution

- Electric works well on smaller areas, especially paved areas
- Parks Dept has done tests and electric should be suitable for City needs.

Recommendation to adopt a resolution instead of a ban, for now, at least.

The resolution would commit the City to leading by example and transitioning our leaf blowers first, and re-evaluating the progress of the community in one-year.

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