

# 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

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| 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<br>Mallary Scheer<br>Michael Cunningham,<br>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.

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# 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 G. White, Jr.

Former newspaper journalist David Quisenberry, gardening, beekeeping, running and calling his two dogs, Lucy and Rana.



Dantele Mahendran / jph 16

I am a community advocate, author from the Easley of Charleston, SC. I live within the community and am excited to work with you all in the future. Let's meet the needs of our Climate Action Plan through the city of Charleston.



Christina van Ralbe (prof.)

Oliver in Miami, Mass., and as the Sustainability Manager at M&E. I am an Accredited Commercial Energy Manager and a LEED Certified Registered Professional. I volunteer as Chairman of the Baker's Lane Golf & Country Club, have riding skills and sailing for fun and large plans for my future.



Carol A. Jackson (jackson@)

volunteer for a number of local organisations and am passionate about maintaining a healthy planet for future generations.



Arjen Eemhuis  
 Farmingdale High School

I am originally from Córdoba, Argentina. I moved to Dallas in 2004 and later married to Charlaean in 2004. I love making new friends, volunteering, and learning new cultures. I enjoy riding my bicycle with my wife, Denise, and fishing, hiking, and restaurants and furniture.



### Salvage Classes (Part 1)

Edwin Sledge puts his background in wrestling use as an activist helping lead the Charleston Climate Coalition. You can also see him analogize an improv performer at [www.thedailybeast.com](http://www.thedailybeast.com).



Denny Overab (1981)

I am the Sustainability Director at the College of Charleston. Just inspiring others to take climate action. You can offer me with thousands of smiling face friends or helping around the community.



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I am originally from Augusta and am a Fisheries Biologist currently hired and volunteer the last season of summer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where I have worked as a community advocate and as an environmental justice activist for my entire life since 2005.



Jonathan Guerrero  
Domingo, 10 de 11 m 00

I was born in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico but grew up in Waynesboro, Georgia. I am married to Maria Family and we have three children. I have a strong support and leadership experience in JCEC + you. In my spare time, I love to spend time with my little family and play tennis. Diana J



Haribardh Prasad-Rathi

the assembly, rivers and creeks. The assembly and walking communities he promotes.



### Meany Valley 3407

asked about telling the story about climate action, I feel like I perform improv. The core BB and am trying to change the world at Bassett.



Keith Curtis (p. 110)

The District. We are leading  
engage with the community,  
local climate makers such as  
floods and extreme heat.  
enjoy blue-birding and blue-





# 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

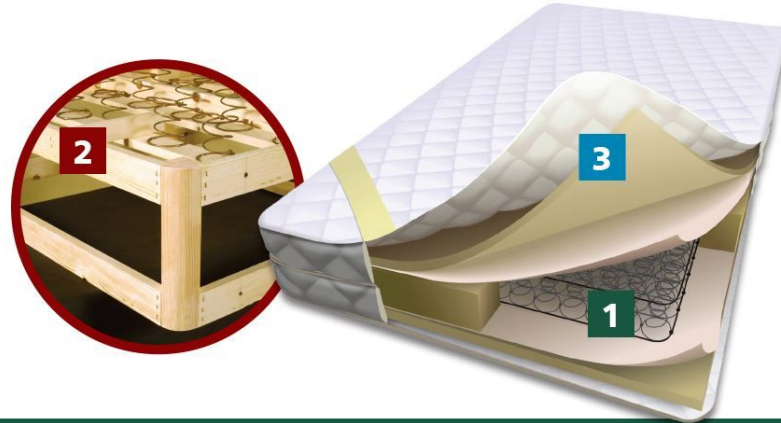
By: Katie McKain,  
City of Charleston, Director of Sustainability

# 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 smelted 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](http://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