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

Webinar ID: 871 4262 8321
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
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]
Ambassador Program Results & Next Steps

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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.

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