

**Resilience and  
Sustainability  
Advisory  
Committee  
Meeting**

**February 6, 2025**

# Agenda

1. Welcome, Moment of Silence

Mayor William Cogswell, Chairperson

2. Sustainability Updates:

Katie McKain, Director of Sustainability

- [Climate Action Plan: 2024 Progress Report](#)
- Compost Expansion
- Recent grant awards

3. Resilience Updates:

Kaylan Koszela, Director of Resilience

- Army Corps Partnerships
- Basin Flood Action Committee
- Upcoming Public Engagements

4. Committee Member Discussion

- Open floor for new business and updates from committee members

5. Public Comment Period\*

# Welcome and Moment of Silence

By: Mayor William Cogswell, Chairperson

# Sustainability Updates

By: Katie McKain, Director of Sustainability

CITY OF CHARLESTON

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 *PROGRESS REPORT*

This report highlights implementation progress from May 2021 (plan adoption) to December 2024. The 5-year action plan has a goal to be fully implemented by 2026.





## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 10,700+ RESIDENTS REACHED AT 39 EVENTS\*
- YOUTH FOCUSED PROGRAMMING IN 2024;  
COLLABORATION WITH LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS.
- 40+ LIBRARIANS TRAINED ON HOW TO HOST A  
COMPOST WORKSHOP AND USE OUR RESOURCES.
- 400+ RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN 3 PUMPKIN  
SMASH EVENTS.\*
- 200 RESIDENTS AT DRIVE ELECTRIC CHARLESTON  
EVENT LEARNED ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES
- 20 COMPOST WORKSHOPS REACHED OVER 1,500  
RESIDENTS, 1,000+ KITCHEN CADDIES GIVEN AWAY
- 12 MONTHLY COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS WITH  
HUNDREDS OF SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTIONS\*
- 100+ VOLUNTEERS

\* = 2024 DATA

CO<sub>2</sub>E = CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT



## TRANSPORTATION

- 28 EV CHARGING PORTS WERE INSTALLED AND IN 4 CITY GARAGES.
- CITY AWARDED \$195K IN EECBG FUNDING FOR FLEET TRANSITION PLAN AND NEW EV PICKUP
- BCDCOG WON \$6.6M AWARD FOR CHARGING, FUELING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DOT GRANT.



## **CARBON SINKS**

- POLLINATOR GARDEN GUIDE CREATED AND 'NO MOW MARCH' SIGNAGE FOR RESIDENTS
- CHARLESTON CLIMATE COALITION AWARDED \$40K TO SUPPORT CHARLESTON RAINPROOF REINVIGORATION AND FOCUS ON EASTSIDE AND ECOCORRIDOR.
- MULBERRY FOOD FOREST OPENED IN 2024





## **BUILDINGS**

- SOUTHEAST GRANT AWARD TO ADOPT STRONGER BUILDING AND ENERGY CODES AND CREATE WORKFORCE TRAINING.
- SCOR AWARDED \$124.4M SOLAR FOR ALL GRANT TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY ON LOW INCOME HOUSING AND GOVERNMENT/NON PROFIT BUILDINGS.

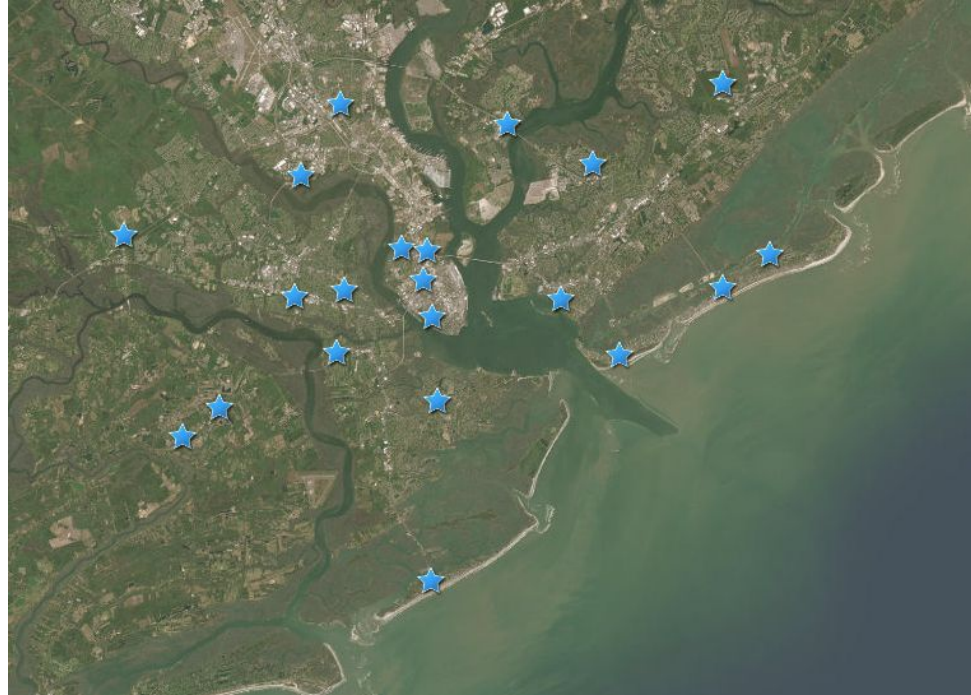


## WASTE

- CITY AWARDED \$15K DES GRANT TO SUPPORT COMPOST PROGRAM AND YOUTH CENTERED MARKETING MATERIALS.
- 228 TONS OF FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTED, 20 DROP SITES, 2,991 HOUSEHOLDS COMPOSTING, AND 372 METRIC TONS OF CO<sub>2</sub>E ELIMINATED\*
- 5 TONS OF PUMPKINS COMPOSTED\*

# Compost Program Expansion

- 8 partners strong!
  - North Charleston and College of Charleston Join
- 3 New Food Scrap Drop sites
  - North Charleston
  - College of Charleston
  - Eastside
- Public Works assumes program management



# Recent Grant Awards

Awards are highlighted in the Climate Action Plan Progress Report, relative to their action.

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38167/Climate-Action-Plan-Progress-Report-2024>

# Resilience Updates

By: Mayor William Cogswell

# Key Resilience Projects:

## Corps Partnership:

- **Battery Extension** (Peninsula CSRM/Perimeter Protection): Preconstruction, Engineering, & Design to Extend the Battery for Charleston Peninsula
- **Tidal & Inland Flooding Study** for the entire City
- 65% federal cost share for expansive and expensive projects
- **\$7.625 million** awarded for 2 stormwater projects: Brick Arches and Dupont Wappoo Drainage Improvements

## Charleston Water Plan

- Since August release, guiding scope of Tidal & Inland Study, guided formation of watershed-based planning of Basin Flood Action Program, plus embedding future mapping and modeling into current and planned city projects
- City will receive a Harvard/Bloomberg fellow for summer of 2025 to assist with communication and data collection recommendations from the water plan.
- Public engagements- May 2025

## Basin Flood Action Program

- Basin Flood Action Committee Kick-off: March 2025, will include opportunity for public



## Battery Extension (Charleston Peninsula CSRM):

- **Why?** Without an 'elevated edge,' flooding and SLR on the peninsula will become challenging to manage, continuing to impact residents, businesses, roads, tourism, Medical District, colleges, & public safety
- **8-mile storm surge structure** @ 12' NAVD 88
- Includes, **10 pumps** (permanent and temporary to account for impoundment and overtopping) & **nature based-features** (living shorelines)
- **Four phases:** West side (Coast Guard Station to the Joe) & nonstructural (Rosemont & Bridgeview communities); East side (Morrison drive to Historic Charleston); refinement of existing Batteries; & Wagener Terrace (combo wall)
- **Design goal-** extension of existing Batteries: **protection PLUS public amenity** w/ increased public access to Charleston waterfront and perimeter connectivity for bike/ped; integration with Ashley River Crossing and Lockwood knee wall (\$50 million included for aesthetic mitigation)
- **Improved stormwater & tidal flooding management** by integrating the Tidal & Inland Batteries to utilize project to address interior drainage & tidal flooding (upsized pumps, outfalls, O&M of



# Battery Extension (Charleston Peninsula CSRM):

## Timeline:

- **2018:** Kick off of Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study for the Peninsula
- **2022:** Chief's Report & Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Authorization
- **2023:** Design Agreement Negotiations
- **Nov. 2024-** City kicked off preliminary work on preferred design and alignment for Phase 1 (west side) to bring to the Preconstruction, Engineering, & Design (PED) phase (6 months of work)
- **2025-** est. kick off of PED with USACE Charleston District
- **2028-** est. kick off of construction Phase 1 IF City and USACE can design a structure that





# Tidal & Inland Flood Risk Management



- Authorized by Congress in WRDA 2020 to **address flood damage reduction across the City of Charleston**
- **50% cost share-** city/USACE
- **2024 Kick off, 6-year timeline**
- Scope of initial study area, guided by Water Plan- **James Island, West Ashley, & Peninsula** (integrate w/CSRM)
- Examples of solutions to explore; **nature based** (living shorelines, marsh restoration):  
**improved drainage conveyance** (surface &



# Utilizing Corps Partnership for Stormwater Projects



- Congressional authorization for **\$25 million** for stormwater projects
- **\$7.625m** provided in recent Disaster Supplemental for Brick Arches and Dupont Wappoo Drainage Improvements (highly competitive)
- **Brick Arches-** builds on City progress to restore historic drainage system on peninsula to improve connections into current stormwater system to help mitigate flooding
- **Dupont Wappoo-** builds on City progress to reduce heavy flooding in the 1,600-acre Dupont Wappoo drainage basin in West



- 16 Detailed Basin Maps for each area of the City derived from Water Plan
- BFAP focus is on immediate steps to tackle flooding and planned actions
- PDF exists today and **interactive GIS map coming soon**
- Revised citizens Advisory Committee to oversee City flood adaption efforts, **kicking off March 2025- public feedback welcome!**
- **May 2025** Public Water Open Houses Across the City



# Any New Business?

Committee Members



# Public Comment Period

## 2 Submitted Comments

Is there any interest or discussion of purchasing energy from renewable sources to power municipal buildings? Thank you, John

*by John Fowler, 484 Wallace Drive, Chas, SC 29412 02/06/25 9:00:07 AM*

Dear Mayor Cogswell and Charleston RSAC Committee Members,

My Name is Marlo Ann Shedlock, my address is 468 Huger Street & my phone number is 520-208-7940.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to comment. My comments today are regarding the Director of Sustainability's Position. I have been fortunate to have worked with Katie McKain over the past 7 years in my role as the Adopt - A - Highway Coordinator for Charleston County.

I would prefer if Katie did not leave Charleston and her role as Director of Sustainability, but since this is not an option, I encourage you to please replace this position with another passionate & knowledgeable individual who will be able to creatively tackle the big challenges facing our city.

I respectfully request that you continue to Keep this position and hire an individual who will be able to accomplish the following:

1. Lead city government towards a solutions to make a more resilient Charleston
2. Help grow the department (hire more sustainability positions)
3. The City is currently behind on meeting our climate actions goals, so I encourage you to hire an individual who will not only meet our climate action goals but exceed them.

Thank you for your time.