

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

February 6, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome, Moment of Silence Mayor William Cogswell, Chairperson
2. Sustainability Updates:
 - [Climate Action Plan: 2024 Progress Report](#)
 - Compost Expansion
 - Recent grant awardsKatie McKain, Director of Sustainability
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

CO₂E = 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.

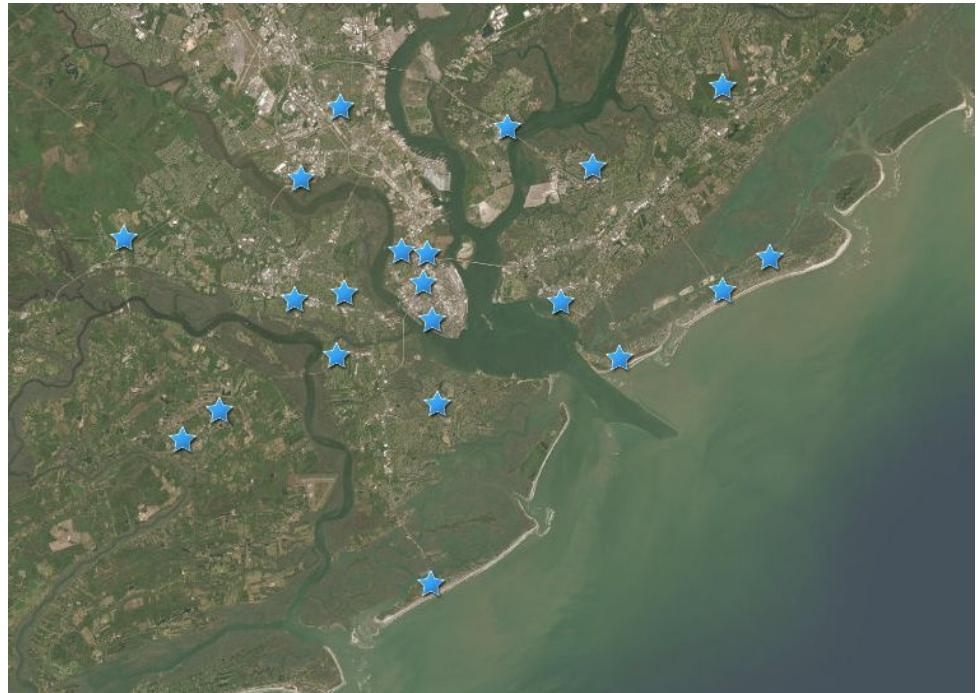


WASTE

- 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 CO₂ 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 Wappo 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 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

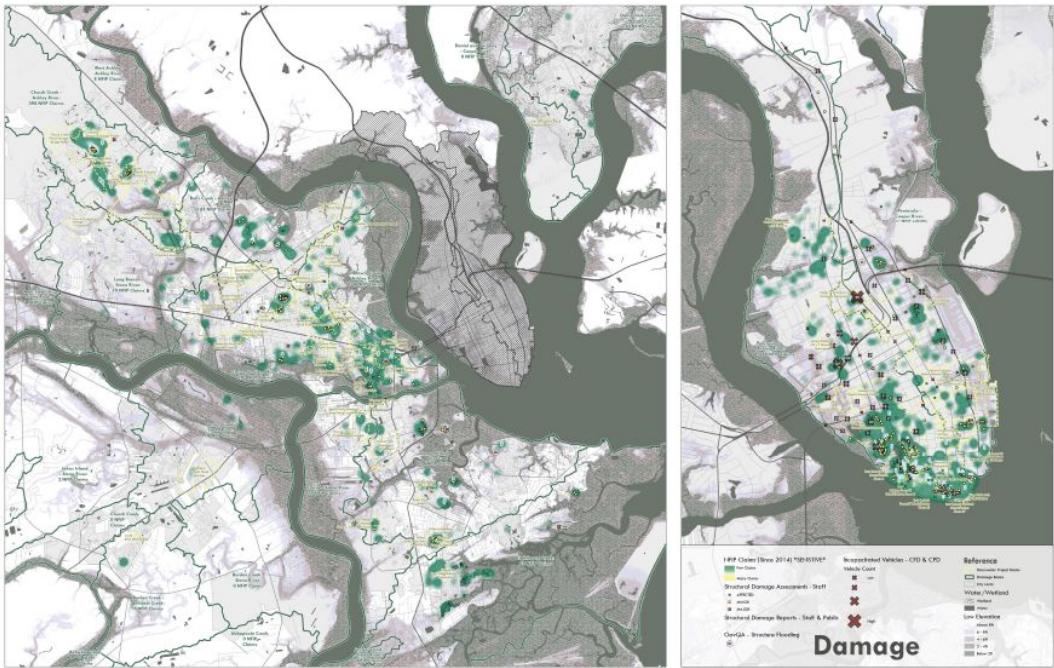


- Congressional authorization for **\$25 million** for stormwater projects
- **\$7.625m** provided in recent Disaster Supplemental for Brick Arches and Dupont Wappoo Drainage Improvements (highly competitive)
- **Brick Arches**- builds on City progress to restore historic drainage system on peninsula 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



Basin Flood Action Program

- 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.