

FW: Draft Climate Action Plan - Initial Comments by Jay Murdoch

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Mon 3/1/2021 10:17 AM

To: [Redacted]

From: Jay Murdoch [Redacted]

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:44 PM

To: Climate <Climate@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Cc: Jay Murdoch [Redacted]

Subject: Draft Climate Action Plan - Initial Comments by Jay Murdoch

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello -- I want to compliment the County, staff, working groups and consultants of their work. The draft climate action plan is impressive and well thought out.

The comments below are offered for consideration. I expect that some of what's suggested below has been discussed by the working groups, staff and consultants.

I will follow with other comments after the 28th. Further, I welcome the opportunity to engage with the working groups, should they be maintained going forward, and county staff on any next steps and implementation efforts.

Thanks for the opportunity to offer comments and to everyone's hard work on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Jay Murdoch
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
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Vision

Clean Energy

Montgomery County uses and invests in clean, reliable, affordable electricity

- Ensure broad access to affordable zero-carbon electricity

- Create clean energy jobs, secure funding to support clean energy, and optimize

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economic activity in clean energy

- Expand renewable electricity generation and use of distributed energy resources
- Value low energy load homes and buildings as more persistent than renewable energy generation and a means to relieve stresses on the grid

Reason: The cleanest energy is the energy never consumed. Before investing in renewable generation, as a policy, we need to first substantially reduce the energy consumption of homes and buildings. Code minimum is insufficient. Only low energy load homes and buildings can act as self-contained power plants, saving as much energy as would be generated by a plant.

Buildings

Montgomery County is home to resilient and efficient buildings Homes and buildings in Montgomery County are disaster hardened, carbon-neutral, and consume 70% less energy than those meeting the national model energy codes

- New County buildings and affordable housing shall be Passive House or equivalent
- By 2030 all new commercial, multifamily and institutional buildings shall be Passive House or equivalent
- ~~—Increase energy efficiency in all buildings, with the County leading the way with its own building portfolio~~
- Support sustainable, carbon-neutral building design and improvements and adopt “Buy Clean” policy and codes
- Expand access to tax credits, financing and programs to construct or upgrade resilient, ~~efficient~~ low energy load homes and buildings
- Conduct education and training for home buyers, design professionals, builders, and trade contractors on Passive House and disaster hardened homes and buildings
- Create jobs and grow the workforce by transitioning to resource-efficient, low-carbon, resilient buildings and creating a center or excellence at Montgomery College and affiliates

Reason: By declaring Passive House, or equivalent, as the mandatory bar for truly energy efficient homes and buildings, this signals to the market the bold direction the County is taking. Any other path is one of incrementalism. Starting with county buildings and

affordable housing, this requirement should then apply to commercial buildings. Single family detached will have to follow on another path, one where federal, state and local tax incentives will need to be co-mingled to bridge the gap from code minimum, to achievable and far superior energy consumption reductions. Buy Clean policy needs to be integrated into design, construction and procurement to drive demand for low embodied carbon materials and products. Lastly, education and training needs to be provided to foster

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capacity building in the workforce.



For COVID-19 Information and resources, visit: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COVID19

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