

June 16, 2021

Dear Council Members,

I think there is much to be admired and lauded in the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan. However, there needs to be significant improvement with regard to addressing climate change.

I was very surprised that the Thrive 2050 was not integrated with the Climate Action Plan. These two documents, which will guide Montgomery County during the coming years, need to be integrated.

Specifically, the Thrive 2050 document needs to address climate change in a deeper and more thorough manner. The Chapter "Healthy and Sustainable Environment" makes some good points, but it only scratches the surface of what needs to be addressed.

We are in a climate emergency; one would never know that from the Thrive 2050 document. I would like to see more attention to developing corridors of natural areas that will help reduce climate change through increased carbon sequestration and increase biodiversity. We must see ourselves as a part of our natural world and strive to support the natural world on which we depend so it also thrives.

Parks and increased public natural green space are a part of the solution. But I think Montgomery County needs to address and support making private and commercial green spaces more supportive of our natural world. Doug Tallamy's work points the way regarding this issue.

Please require change in the Thrive 2050 Plan so it more thoroughly addresses our climate emergency and is integrated with the Climate Action Plan. I expect all county efforts to actively work together to reduce climate change and to address mitigation efforts. We, our children, and our grandchildren deserve no less from our government.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Jacob