

Survey Responses -- Feedback on the Montgomery County Draft Climate Action Plan

What are the strengths of the Draft Climate Action Plan?

- The focus on equity and environmental justice; the discussion on GHG reduction steps based on the CURB model; inclusion of adaptation and climate resilience; the mention of using a climate lens for budget decisions; the use of climate/resilience ambassadors - engaging the youth in the process. Also, inclusion of county volunteers in writing the report.
- It paints a beautiful, detailed picture of what we need to do.
- It was rooted in community research, expertise, and guidance. It includes some of the work group recommendations, but no urgent or policy steps forward to help the county reach its climate reduction goals.
- Comprehensive
- Combined mitigation & adaptation plan - wisely done. Thank you for putting racial equity upfront. The more energy, social, housing, etc. issues are considered in an integrated sense, the better. I also really appreciated the clarity of the maps and figures throughout the report.
- It is a necessarily ambitious agenda that shows the difficult steps that are necessary to meet the county's climate emergency goals. 2. It applies quantitative analysis to the recommendations of the working groups (I was a member of one of them) 3. It integrates racial and economic justice in a way that may be unmatched in any climate action plan 4. It includes considerable technical documentation, including maps of climate impacts, that shows the increased burden of climate impacts and energy costs on the least well off members of our county, 5. It articulates which solutions need action from various administrative entities - county administration, legislation, state government and private sector. 6. It emphasizes nature-based solutions, including protection of wetlands, forests and other natural habitats 7. It includes an ambitious agenda for public engagement and education both in the schools and in the community.
- Definitely wide-ranging
- All a joke
- I strongly support the proposed requirements for net-zero buildings, especially with regard to single family houses, and the use of graywater systems.
- NONE.....Have you seen what happen it Texas!!!!!!
- It is difficult to discover any strengths in this plan. Fossil fuels are used to create electricity (except if generated via nuclear). Expanding electricity isn't the answer. Mandating electricity as the sole power source is setting up for failures, some very severe.
- This plan is based on fact-less falsehoods. There are no strengths to it at all other than to support the electric companies.
- The strengths of the draft CAP are the recommended actions for building and transportation, as well as the public education components.
- I am very proud of Montgomery County's initiative and the seriousness of its commitment; as the CAP itself demonstrates, there are many opportunities for local communities and government to take meaningful action.
- Add Critical my needed environmental sustainability that would support pervious surface protections to include preserving farmlands, forests and trees, watersheds with wet and dry stream waterways and floodplains. These missing elements of natural resources need to be brought into your "Climate Action Plan as vital resources that produce Clean Air and Clean Water.
- Ambitious plan to reduce emissions ASAP.

- The depth and breath of the action plan is impressive. Well done! It includes elements of surrounding jurisdiction's climate action plans (DC & Arlington).
- Far and away the best government attempt to confront this malicious adversary that I have seen. Its Buildings section has some compliance enforcement procedures.
- The growth of solar on all parts of buildings and the support for composting all over the county
- The Climate Planning Process effectively engaged a large number of white, middle class residents in formulating the recommendations.
- Translating goals into specific, prioritized steps. Focusing efforts with the biggest bang for the buck (electrification, transportation, buildings) helps channel attention and action. The CAP offers a 'forest for the trees' view about what the county can and should do. Most of the time the tasks appear daunting but this makes it seem possible, with measurable ways of tracking progress.
- Lovely Brochure. Makes its case, if you do not question the assumptions. Lots of graphs. Glad citations were included.
- Clear, concise, and remarkably comprehensive.
- It has a lot of paths that are used to approach the goal. I also like the extensive section about racial justice and climate change in our county. The ideas and goals are there and I find it a great start.
- Pleased to see this receiving a priority in our County
- The CAP does an excellent job addressing climate equity issues. Additionally, the attention to the education plan was good.
- Very impressed with plan for composting and innovation such as raised solar panels in Ag Reserve.
- I think it's incredibly thorough and has great emphasis on community input and collaboration.
- The plan is very hopeful and broad, which allows it room for expansion.
- The strengths are definitely how inclusive it is and how the actions seem plausible
- The plan covers all the necessary bases
- The strengths is the thought itself and that it is implementing racial injustice.
- Includes SDGs education
- I think the education part of the climate action plan is really strong- if climate education and hands-on experiences were put into schools, knowledge of these issues would be so much larger.
- Certainly addressing inequities in race and income within the county while instituting the MoCoCAP is a strength.
- It's comprehensive.
- Forward looking plan with some great focus areas to reduce carbon emissions in a fair, even-handed manner with environmental justice considerations. Great job!
- The plan has many actionable items, and I think it is smart to include sections that address the means of communication and also racial equity, as these are critical components often overlooked in climate planning. The commitment to a commercial building energy performance standard and transition to a electric vehicle infrastructure are of significant importance to achieve county goals. The big key is the agency with which the county can act to influence what are ultimately decisions by private actors to adopt these changes. Likewise, promoting larger adoption of solar PV will also be a major factor.
- We've got a plan. That's better than a lot of places. We have big goals, again good.
- I'm glad that the County is looking at many different ways to address climate change.
- I think that it is super important to preserve forests and preserving undeveloped land. I think that the increase in renewable energy is also extremely important. I also like the idea of expanding community gardens.
- I like how there are multiple actions for every general component of the plan
- The increase in bike/walking paths -Restoration of woodland and wetland
- I think that the strengths of this plan are that it states a lot of very good and necessary points to helping our environment in the future and making sure that people know how to help if they can.
- Noble plans.

- This plan has excellent plans for energy, new development, and transportation
- Seemingly comprehensive. Very pleased to see that it includes updating those sadly already way out of date flood designations. Please also that environmental justice is emphasized.
- I love that the plan pays attention to affordability and that the cost will impact certain groups more than others, and to be successful this needs to be taken into account.
- Encouraging solar panels on rooftops of private businesses. These probably have the biggest opportunity of significant impact on reducing CO2 emissions. But it doesn't seek to address a fundamental problem that most 90% of commercial real estate is occupied by tenants that are leasing who pay the electric bill, and the group that typically makes a decision about solar, are the land lords do not pay an electric bill so do not recognize the incentive of cost savings. If a county level incentive was created that benefited landlords it would be of great help to the installation of commercial solar.
- Enhanced public transportation, better-maintained sidewalks.
- Very comprehensive. Strong focus on social and equity issues. Appreciate the detail provided in the climate risk section.
- 100% Fleet EV vehicle goal by 2027 is aggressive, yet attainable. Does the County know which fleet vehicles, both light and heavy duty, it will be purchasing?
- attention to equity issues AND how to address them. social vulnerability data and maps. comprehensive overview.
- I applaud the consideration of equity in the short run - in the long run, addressing climate change rapidly will be the most equity-friendly solution and I appreciate the effort to balance that.
- The Climate Ambassadors, invited art, and the expressed openness to public input. I have sent more detailed comments to Climate@montgomerycountrymd.gov.
- None!
- I am happy to see how collaborative this plan is. The interdepartmental sharing of information and data and then the publication of such on shared websites is very nice.
- I think giving a full section to racial equity and climate justice, and a run down on the history of discrimination in the County was really important. I also liked that metrics to measure climate equity/environmental justice was included with the recommended actions.
- The Plan has realistic goals and timetables.
- None
- Actions planned are reasonable as far as they go.
- We can not criticize the fact that the plan is not good. We should look to the fact that at least a plan is being formed. All of the social justice posturing will not save a tree, or feed a child in Pakistan. The human frailty is thinking that no other solutions and problems are on the horizon. We can look to the past for some ideas that worked or failed. Examine present low cost solutions. Put aside prejudicial thinking. Implement ideas with best practice to minimize future hazards.
- None
- None. This is a HORRIBLE plan. It took the county 3 years to write this????
- Smarter traffic management systems
- Its goals are worthy of implementation and it is comprehensive.
- Generally well thought out plan. Pleased to see a thoughtful consideration of racial and social impact and the costs of these efforts. Taking action on climate change is a necessity and not an option, but I am pleased to see a much more thoughtful review than other plans (e.g. the Takoma Park city plan).
- Conversion of transit vehicles to electric: will have a big impact on carbon emissions and on NOISE! Focus on County buildings is a strength. Carbon sequestration is essential; appreciate inclusion of preservation of parks, wetlands, and tree canopy.
- Ambitious.
- A-7 was one of the better proposals.
- The plan does a good job laying out the target actions, explaining them clearly and noting the co-benefits or challenges without getting into deep detail on how each action will be accomplished.

- 130 pages of pure bullshit by communist control freaks hell bent on destroying the USA.
- Speakers explain it with smiles and lot of self compliments. More seriously, it seems that it is a multi faceted plan.
- racial equity lens environmental issues
- Setting goals.
- Basic reminders on how to save energy using programmable thermostats, etc.
- Lots of people have spent lots of time and money on this. I suspect that I have paid for this through my taxes. What are you thinking?? Get rid of natural gas in homes? Many items just as crazy like requiring solar panels.
- I am thrilled that so much attention has been paid to EV car charging. We have one EV (a Nissan Leaf) and would love to get another as our larger family car, however, there are only a few super chargers in the area, none near our house, in fact, there is not a single charge (even a level 2) in all of Kensington.
- None! The whole thing is unnecessary rubbish.
- There are none
- lots of spending by the government, increased dependency on the government to survive in this county,
- The DCAP should give county government employees the tools to stand up to real estate developers with detailed maps. It's a plan that tries to avert catastrophe.
- It is very focused on equity, which I appreciate. And it seems focused on making actual change.
- Energy conservation and efficiency are noble goals. Climate change is NOT for local government.
- It panders to the progressive orthodoxy
- strong goals

What are the weaknesses of the Draft Climate Action Plan?

- The cost of new standards would drive away businesses. The cost of renewables will come down naturally with the cost of research already amortized in the prices. That will happen in the near future. The county should encourage and educate, NOT REQUIRE. For example electric cars are now competitive for local trips.
- The report is too much like a menu of options rather than a set of implementable steps that will get us to the ambitious goal. How will the plan be implemented? What are the priorities? Will there be a package of legislation introduced to incentivize/require these actions? Will adequate budget resources be devoted to implement these critical actions in a timely way?
- It doesn't show any ACTIONS that will make the dream picture into true life. Time is not our friend but we aren't moving forward on energy efficient buildings; nor do we seem to have any laws or even pending legislation to make sure we have time limits to accountably accomplish our goals. So far as I can tell we can't even insist on various departments using an equity and environmental lens in their actions. And where are the BIPOC communities who should be in leadership positions guiding the County's policies? Where are the public education companies that should be blanketing the county with persuasive and positive information on the policies we need - things like buy local, only buy what you really need, repair, reuse. Where are the local, easy to use compost sites? We need Montgomery College and Maryland University doing research and data collection for us. We need funding- grants, philanthropists to invest, bonds like war bonds that everyone can invest in, and creative people working together to find out of the box ways to fund our efforts. We need scientific systems thinkers and analysts helping us do everything in the CAP and we need to a detailed ACTION plan with ACCOUNTABILITY, transparency, and TIMELINES.
- It misses the point on the most important items.
- Completely absent of the community engagement approach and health frame established by the work groups. It doesn't set a clear path for how we will reach our reduction goals - merely suggestions and not real policy-driven steps to accomplish what we need in this climate emergency
- It lacks a concrete implementation plan and timeline with milestones. I urge the County to develop a detailed implementation plan for 2021 by Earth Day (April 22) so that we can begin addressing the climate emergency immediately.

- Did not examine at detail to see weaknesses, but I think the County should be on its toes regarding implementation. It's easy to get off track.
- The weaknesses are more with the presentation than with the substance of the draft plan. 1. The draft should clarify that the recommendations are NOT a menu with options for action. Rather as has been explained in the briefings on the CAP. ALL of these actions are necessary to achieve the GHG reduction goals. This should be explained several times in the report, probably beginning in the Executive Summary. 2. the draft CAP and the analysis by the consultants clearly indicates that not all recommendations are equal in terms of GHG reduction and other impacts. The figures and tables in each section show this. The unequal impacts imply a prioritization because the reductions in GHG emissions are cumulative. By taking on the actions with the biggest impacts earlier, the net effect will be greater. For example, if community choice energy (the action with the largest potential impact) is implemented by 2024, the net GHG emission reductions will be greater than if this is implemented in 2026 or 2027. Other actions such as solar panels on public buildings have far less impact (Table 13) (because relatively few of the buildings in the county are public buildings). Thus, it is less important and a lower priority to have solar panels on schools than it is to require solar panels on all new homes in the county. Even where all of the proposed recommendations have high GHG reduction potential such as in the building sector (Table 10, p 102), there is a logical sequence of actions. The narrative associated with the recommendations identifies deadlines such as "all new building construction must be 100% electric by 2022" (page 101). 3. The report needs to be much more transparent and obvious about timelines for actions. This should also be part of the Executive Summary. Also, a Table or Figure laying out a timeline for what must be accomplished by when will create both a roadmap for implementation and a sense of urgency.
- Social equity issues should be stripped out of the plan. Parts of this plan are just a 'trojan horse' for other social issues. You will lose support because of this. We need carbon taxes in all shapes and forms. Zoning should be levied against large single-family homes because of the emissions impact of the building materials and filling the house with goods.
- The very benefit you seek - benefit to disadvantaged communities- will result in traverse. Increased costs for appliances, 25 % of grid power in MD is COAL and grid power results in over 25% of GHG emissions versus home appliances at less than 4% of GHG pie. Property values also decline for all electric homes. You just lowered your tax base. In all this is short sighted thinking. Want cleaner? CleN up the grid!!!!
- I did not notice anything about lawns, specifically the current county requirement that residents maintain the grass height of their lawns at 12" or less (if I recall correctly). I think residents should be allowed to let lawns be semi-wild (i.e., meadows), which would encourage carbon sequestration, biodiversity and reduce air pollution associated with lawn mowing.
- See number 1
- Our democratic system is set up for the consumer, for the citizen, to determine how they are to live and power their homes. The government is not to pick winners and losers. The free market will do that. An electric heat pump does not provide warmth on the 20-25 degree days. There are many days when the sun doesn't shine or the wind doesn't blow to create adequate renewable energy.
- Based on false data and an over reach to obtain a political agenda. Climate change has been happening for millions of years. Well before fossil fuel consumption.
- One of the weaknesses of the draft CAP is that it does not take adequate measures to move Montgomery Country away from electricity that is generated from fossil fuels and towards renewable sources.
- Look at existing conflicts of interest in County Codes and Laws: EXAMPLE "Forest Conservation Laws conflict with funding Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Financial Assurance Plan" that does not protect the Forested canopy, native plants, then scrapes and compacts soils, without preventing soil erosion downstream. Upcounty example off Travis Avenue in Blohm Park. To achieve Climate Change, the Council needs to know how the MS4 Permits have taken pristine parks and streams down (trees, habitat and stable soils) with heavy trucks, and equipment transforming them into sewer like moonscapes that are left baron of the natural resources.
- Needs more public notice and conversation. In particular the issue of requiring homeowners and property owners to replace propane and heat oil before renting, selling etc. What is the analysis on power grid - Texas is an example that does need to be reviewed and discussed.

- I worry that the fine words about vulnerable communities won't translate into action (and MoCo's performance on that dimension with Covid vaccination to date does NOT inspire confidence).
- The language around building codes is based in incrementalism and is not aspirational. Thus the plan does not signal where we expect to be by 2030 and 2050. As an example, Passive House should be the goal for all commercial and institutional buildings, for all new affordable housing projects, and eventually new single-family detached and attached (townhouses). Setting net-zero as the target is yesterday's thinking.
- Its Buildings section has some compliance enforcement procedures, but I suggest that compliance inspection event is triggered when the owner refinances the property. Currently, the inspection occurs only because of owner or tenant changes.
- Self-driving cars are a bad idea. Instead of focusing on expensive self-driving cars that won't make it to rural areas, we should improve and expand public transportation. Self-driving cars will be too expensive for most people to rent, and they're still individual cars, and thus energy wasters.
- The Climate Action Plan doesn't provide enough specific recommendations that will benefit lower income families or Black and Brown communities. Lack of detailed action steps about County and MCPS working together to improve climate-resilience of MCPS buildings and school grounds, and to provide meaningful climate education to students, families and staff.
- Comprehensive is an understatement. Just looking at the PDF would normally cause one to despair. But the Virtual Tour really helps the navigation. I know I would not have reached this point if just faced with a multi-page document.
- Its focus on MC, as an island, w/o regard to costs/benefits in county and outside county. What do we do with solar panels after 25 years, for example? What is environmental cost of lithium battery production/conversions?
- I think it's good, but it lacks a lot of details about the bureaucracy where the money is coming from, and how these projects will be implemented. There need to be more details about how the plan will actually be done and how it will affect other aspects of life in the county.
- The Draft doesn't mention technology, which will contribute greatly to carbon emissions as wireless infrastructure threatens our landscape and lives. See <https://jsis.washington.edu/news/what-will-5g-mean-for-the-environment/>
- I noticed that climate equity was included in the CAP but not in the education curriculum, which I think is almost equally important
- Of course, the Draft Climate Action Plan is a set of amazing recommendations, but because there is opposition to the plan, it will be difficult to implement all of them. I can't stress this enough: work with as many student groups in MoCo as possible and ask them to advertise and lobby for this plan! Students have a lot of power when they come together (MCR-SGA, MoCo 4 Change, Sunrise Groups, even environmental school clubs)!
- The weakness are that the concepts are a bit vague and unclear where they lie in the list of prioritization. Each goal should have an accountability timeline beyond "reach by 2035." Also, the CAP's accessibility should be improved because the only reason why I knew what it covered was because my friend made a 15 page summary of what the county should've created. Also, how will the CAP be accessible to people that speak other languages. Finally, I feel the CAP adequately covers educational topics, but we need more clarity and defined actionable steps for the policy.
- It's vague and leaves much to the imagination about how it will be implemented with no real timeline
- It is very vague
- There has been a lot of talk about CAP, but there might be push in implementing or sticking exactly to the schedule.
- Not clear how it can be realistically implemented
- This is not exactly a weakness, but I was wondering if there was more in-depth information about how private schools fit into the education action plan- specifically, how will the county contact these schools and get them to implement these actions?
- Need more clarification in the housing/building section of the MoCoCAP with regards to how you are going to address the use of gas stoves and fireplaces either woodburning or gas burning. There was no mention with regards to use of gas powered lawn equipment used either by homeowners or gardening companies.

- Bureaucratic gobbledegook.
- The Plan is a light on some technical areas, such as energy storage options, smart grid enhancement and using ALL available carbon free energy sources (even nuclear).
- The plan neglects to address the very real issue of textile waste. When we can collect, reuse, and recycle clothes, we dilute the power of the high polluting fashion industry, which produces 10 percent of global carbon emissions – that’s more than international flights and maritime shipping combined. Encouraging textile collection, reuse, and recycling in some way would be prudent in the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan. Annually, Montgomery County’s 972,000 residents discard approximately 38,000 tons of clothing, shoes and textiles. If we could recycle all of that, the county would save greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing approximately 8,300 cars from county roads. An eco-conscious approach to used textiles will also help keep them out of landfills, where the organic parts of cloth and fabrics break down and produce methane. According to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), clothing and textile products comprise nearly 8 percent of all municipal solid waste dumped or incinerated. Put into perspective, that’s more than 11 million tons being added annually to U.S. landfills, the nation’s third-largest source of human-related methane emissions, accounting for approximately 15 percent of these emissions in 2018. Planet Aid (which operates a thrift store in Rockville, Md., and has thousands of clothing donation bins throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and D.C.) has been engaged with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), which is proposing a state textile disposal ban that will potentially go into effect this spring. In the process of providing comments to this proposal, we have participated in virtual textile working groups wherein a variety of stakeholders have been discussing the opportunities and challenges with such a ban. Massachusetts is far along in its journey to zero waste, and their waste ban proposal model may be worth emulating.
- I'd restructure the plan to open with the climate emergency before diving into the racial equity piece. I think stating the need for the plan up front is critical. I agree that racial equity must be addressed early on as well before discussing specifics of the plan, but the climate emergency is the foundation that justifies why the plan exists at all. Furthermore, the climate risks themselves are really hard to break down for an average reader. They rely heavily on fairly dense analysis and apply somewhat vague metrics to measure the risks, and this could be clarified a good deal. Finally, while I understand that all recommendations must be implemented to achieve the county's goals, specific recommendations lack a clear sense of their priority, their specific costs, or the specific measures that comprise them. It seems as though the plan assumes a linear deployment of each strategy, but that does little for me as a citizen to understand which of these recommendations will ultimately lead to achieving the plan.
- I had a lot of trouble connecting the plan to actions to take. Will the county be incentivizing the installation of solar panels, increasing insulation, move to electric cars? I could not seem to follow the line.
- The idea that we would not use some portion of the Ag Reserve to harness solar energy is outrageous. History will look at back at our short-sighted selfishness in horror if we choose pure aesthetics over the health of our planet. I support solar throughout the ag reserve, and the mere 2% proposal is not enough (but is better than nothing).
- I see that the plan includes this, however I want to ensure that the climate change crisis is completely embedded into the curriculum in Montgomery County Schools. Oftentimes people do not feel comfortable or confident discussing the climate crisis, so I propose implementing special climate-centered trainings for educators across the county. I also feel that it is important to hold discussions about this topic, and what people in the community can do to help.
- I'm not sure if you said this on another link but you could give more detail for example on the local vehicle carbon gas tax, like how specifically to advocate for it and you can tell residents how they can help
- Little planned expansion of wetland cleanup and general cleanliness, unless included in the restoration.
- Just one small point is that there is a lot of writing until you get to the actual plans so maybe just a little less information before or even out some after.
- Where is all this additional electricity usage going to come from? We might try to reduce usage but eliminating natural gas and having all vehicles go electric is going to require significantly more energy production. Is the county going to convert our green spaces into solar farms? We don't want to end up like California where the grid can't handle the demand.

- This draft is missing the HUGE area of waste removal. Landfills are the 3rd largest source of man-made methane - it's EASY to transition to organic waste composting with free residential pick-up... and an expense for trash pick-up. Flip the system as it currently exists to get more people to compost naturally (great for carbon sequestration also).
- Missing, at least as far as I could see, was any discussion of the role of artificial turf in enhancing the heat island effect and helping to put harmful chemicals into the runoff water. Yes, heat island effect is mentioned, but attributed only to pavement and rooftops. Aerial heat maps show turf fields at red hot spots on a sunny summer day.
- I don't think it's aggressive enough. For example, net zero building codes by 2030. Why not tell builders that 20% of the homes they build have to be net zero by 2022, 30% by 2023 etc. What about having a tiny house competition where builders compete to design a net zero tiny house community on 1/4 acre of land. It must be netzero (obviously), beautiful and affordable. The winner gets a prize and permits to build this design.
- As stated we need to incentive the landlords of commercial buildings, who do not pay electric bills, their tenants do, to put solar on their buildings.
- DO NOT widen I-270 and 495. This is a huge waste of money (the ICC all over again). Private fossil-fueled vehicles are not our future. Spend the money to increase and subsidize public transportation options.
- Is there a timeline for when certain actions will be completed? Great list of action items, but how will they be carried out, by whom, and when?
- Will an RFP be sent out for the EV charging infrastructure? ChargePoint has been the choice for Montgomery County parking and transportation for numerous years.
- no clear timeline, schedule, priorities for action. Have to start somewhere, even if intent is to do all.
- Do not take away our gas cars.
- No mention of how existing county buildings could be used as installation points for EV chargers (schools, libraries, and so forth) nor of services/apps that could help private citizens coordinate among each other to share use of an EV charger locally. Please also consider how EV chargers could be installed curbside without a driveway.
- The draft CCAP tends to assume that most barriers are cost-related. The tables are relatively uninformative. The summary sections could be improved. I have sent more detailed comments to Climate@montgomerycountymd.gov.
- That it exists and my taxes contributed to producing this Marxist document.
- I am very encouraged by this plan. I am eager to get involved.
- Overall, I do not find the way that the information was presented, particularly the climate change projections section, as easily digestible to the general public. This is frustrating since the DCAP is presented as a way to engage the general public about climate change. I'm quite passionate about effective science communication, so I would love to see this section revised. A key takeaways section on how this will affect the weather in MOCO would be a great addition at the beginning.
- It neglects to offer obvious specifics, such as encouraging building apartments above Metro stations. The Plan offers an unrealistic suggestion of a carbon fund for flying, but nothing about a surcharge for driving. Driving emits more GHG than flying. Also, it's nice to want access to affordable clean energy but not how to achieve it.
- Multiple.
- Action is too gradual and too slow. The situation is urgent, now!
- The major weakness here is the group think, that Montgomery County favors. If the only thing that is important is a fake concern for underserved people then everyone will be alienated. If the goals are realistic all people will see opportunities and progress. People have great things to offer. Simple solutions that are tossed aside to be repackaged by a current flavor company as the next new thing have got to stop.
- A plan that is over 100 pages is ridiculous. Do you really expect all residents to switch to electric vehicles (expensive) or use public transportation? This plan is out of touch with reality! I will be moving out of MoCo as soon as possible. I have lived here my whole life but what was once a well-respected county is now an embarrassment. Everything from our educational system to now this-what a shame!
- Too Utopian.

- The goals are unrealistic. It would stop all growth and construction in the county, and lead to capital and business flight. It tries to solve way to many unrelated problems (eg social justice and community gardens - really??) Its one "\$" label on the cost of its biggest recommendations for the impact on private investment is RIDICULOUS- ALL of those are 5-\$ items for private cost. For the county to impose restrictions like no natural gas, all electric cars - this is ridiculous. This is not how people live here today, and it won't change in 10 or 15 years. The plan is a death blow to economic growth in MoCO, and a death wish to the democratic party here. It will turn even reliable and green democrats against the county politicians (I can be considered both, and will not support it), This plan takes a bunch of unrelated social justice issues into it and creates an economic disaster for the county. Instead of creating the best county to do business in a green way, it will create a brownfield of abandon businesses and homes as bad as the pandemic did, Coming on the heels of the pandemic it is an even worse disaster. TRASH THIS PLAN NOW.
- Congestion pricing does not enhance equity. Adding new public transportation will not solve this problem. More fees will just increase inequality and raise the cost of living in Montgomery County. This is not a good solution.
- It seeks to make tremendous changes in a short period of time. It is VERY AMBIGUOUS on the topic of cost and how capital expenses will be covered. It does not address the economic impact on individuals and business. The focus on the disproportionate influence of climate change on people of color is bizarre. Climate change will disproportionately effect people of lower socioeconomic status regardless of their race.
- I live in a historic home and by city and county code am either prevented or hampered by significant paperwork and review on changes. I would love to replace my windows with energy efficient ones but it is either not allowed or they must be the most expensive all wood option. Provisions should be made to expedite approval for things like solar panels and new windows in historic districts without the current level of review or requiring more expensive options.
- Climate governance: I appreciate the cross-departmental effort, but this section could be more explicitly anti-hierarchical. Important perspectives and low-cost solutions will come from County staff at all levels, not just departmental leadership. Would like to see more explicit inclusion of young people's voices as well (through MCPS partnerships?) in decision-making and governance; we should not be viewing young people solely as recipients of the education/engagement component of the plan. Student and youth leadership is extraordinarily passionate, creative, and knowledgeable about climate topics. The role of County artists and arts organizations in this plan is unclear and appears to be an overlooked resource.
- Banning natural gas? A nonstarter.
- Increasing costs on those least able to afford them. Top-down designs out of touch to realities on the ground.
- I feel my views or thoughts are not really wanted nor will they truly be considered but since this survey asks: Equity is defined but is a more complex than described. There is truly not equity in this proposal and there never will be in part because in this program it is more social engineering than true equality for all. Equality in a capitalistic republic must be deeply rooted in opportunity and not simply unequal distribution to incentivize or to have our government intrude and dictate most aspects of our lives or what we can and cannot possess. Often sacrifices by all must be made for the greater good but great care and judgment must be exercised.
- I would have liked a little more background on previous climate efforts. The plan says that we had set some goals back in 2006, and the county did reduce its emissions since then - but were those reductions at all in line with the goals? If not, why did we come up short, and what are we going to do differently this time to get on a path to zero emissions by 2035?
- Show us how 5 parts per 10,000 CO2 cause global temperature increase. Core samples taken hundreds of million years ago show 8000 PPM with no temp impact.
- It appears that there will be significant costs imposed on homeownership (starting on page 61) and a restriction on movements by automobiles. You start the report by stating how unaffordable housing prices are in the county and yet this report contains proposals that will increase the cost of home ownership
- Urban plans. work on commute organisation. I didn't pay attention to all (with 3 kids at home it is hard), but it miss enpasizes on strategies to limit car use or to articulate different ways of commute (walking & biking path with public transportation). I didn't hear how to connect community together.
- looking at over development/density/traffic/lack of green space and its relationship to climate

- Specific implementation.
- I bet there are lots of folks in this county who have no idea what is being proposed and I also bet they would be against this effort. How do you plan to get their attention.
- A very simple thing I have noticed is the lack of bike racks in many shopping centers (at least where I live, Kensington, there are literally none). Would love to have bike racks at every commercial spot.
- Everything. It's loaded with climate indoctrination, false claims, impositions on our freedoms to live as free individuals, and will cost us a lot of our hard earned money for a problem that doesn't truly exist!
- The entire plan
- Lack of information on where the "renewable" and "carbonless" electricity will come from. the US does not produce enough electricity to support what you are proposing, especially if others try to follow the same lame methodology. I find it appalling to put the will of Takoma Park on the whole County just to support the Administrations cronies.
- The DCAP relies on cultural changes that I think are unlikely: an aging, vulnerable, population riding bicycles and buses when the weather has gotten worse than it is now.
- Additional taxes and increase of taxes is bad policy and drives people to move out, and will put a strain on low and middle income families.
- I don't think you appreciate how much COVID has changed things. I will personally not be using any public transportation until we have reached herd immunity in vaccination rates. Of course, it is a privilege to own a car, but it feels that to implement a lot of these anti-personal vehicle points you would be forcing people to choose between spending money (during a recession) to purchase an Electric Vehicle or pay increased tolls and taxes to keep their car, and the health of themselves and their families.
- The plan rests on a false premise that Climate Change is man-made and that it is bad. Climate Change has occurred since before Man existed. Carbon is not a pollutant. It is an element of nature and a fundamental component of all life on Earth. More specifically, use of natural gas should be promoted and incentivized, not discouraged.
- I may have missed it but don't see incentives for purchasing electric vehicles and/or charging stations. Also an expansion of free charging stations seems important for those residing in multifamily residents with no chargers. Offer an incentive to condo buildings as a plus.
- It's completely out of touch with reality
- impractical and no indication of financial considerations either for government or tax payers in making so many conversions of systems in a short time period

Please leave any other comments you have about the plan here.

- The plan looks like it is requiring new standards. I suggest it would be recommendations. To establish another MCC bureaucracy would raise taxes and make the county noncompetitive. The tax burden in this county is large for retired citizens. Most of the businesses I worked for have moved out of the county.
- While the county has definitely made an effort to engage residents, a lot more engagement would be beneficial. The county could hold train the trainer sessions so volunteers could be activated to hold sessions in their neighborhoods and buildings (virtually). Additionally, more analysis regarding the lessons from the pandemic to inform climate work would be helpful. Will telework continue? What does this mean for VMT? With COVID we have seen significant behavior change - could this be carried over to climate work - even though the impacts are less personal and not immediate?
- The CAP team and all the volunteers who helped are to be commended on the work they have done. Now please create an action team with authority and accountability and deadlines to write the legislation and find/publish a detailed funding program with frequent reporting requirements to the Council and the public. We need to get this into reality YESTERDAY!
- I'm part of the Cedar Lane Ecosystems Study Group, and we are submitting comments that address the above responses.

- So much of the work of work groups was omitted from this plan - and that's really unfortunate on many levels. You had so many smart experts willing to volunteer their time to move our county forward, and so much was just left as meeting notes. That's disrespectful and disingenuous - and ultimately harmful to our county. If you want our help (and time) and we give it, then use it. We won't be so willing going forward.
- The County Executive, County staff and the consultants deserve much credit for a very thorough and ambitious report that can set an example not only for Montgomery County but for other jurisdictions in the US and beyond. THANK YOU!! I hope that you will continue to find ways to continue to engage with the working groups that developed the recommendations that constitute the CAP.
- Promote smaller sized families. Population is a real driver of increasing environmental damage.
- Will never work
- Clean up the grid. Let's not keep plugging on more to coal!
- Are you folks ready for double electric costs?????
- It's one of the least thought out plans I've ever seen
- I am so excited to see a comprehensive and aggressive climate plan being proposed for Montgomery country.
- It is my understanding that solar panels can be recycled (as they frequently are required to be recycled in other countries), however regulatory and market conditions do not currently allow for cost-efficient recycling in the United States. This is an important concern and would ask the County to consider adopting policies to incentivize solar panel recycling going forward.
- It may have a good start, but needs more research into clean energy that includes ecology of trees, previous surfaces and waterways as valuable strategies to achieve CAP targets.
- The developers will demand "tax incentives" to cooperate. Do NOT fall for that ruse yet again! They get way too much and deliver away too little.
- I new set of R-PACE and C-PACE legislation and program requirements is needed so that property owners can tap equity in their homes/buildings to make energy efficiency.
- As far as I have read the CAP draft, the problem of C. Chg. in MoCo has been competently analyzed, its presentation of Co. factors that cause the CO2 pollution is organized, and the changes identified to solve MoCo's contribution to C. Chg. is encouraging. The world needed to approach our Climate Emergency as MoCo did, but it should have done it 40 years ago.
- The CAP should include a focus on wired internet, which is cheaper, faster, safer, and more energy efficient and secure than 5G. 5G would be a huge new energy waster -- intensifying our climate crisis. 5G will use 10 time more energy than a fiber-optic network such as Verizon FIOS. Energy experts estimate that wireless internet communication technologies could be responsible for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, undermining our efforts to combat climate change. 5G will also require trees near up to 68,00 utility poles to be trimmed. Trimming more than 25% of a tree kills it. We need our trees to combat the climate crisis. Please urge the County Council to vote no on ZTA 19-07, which would allow 4G and 5G cell towers to be put on enlarged street lights and utility poles every few houses.
- The County should require the school district to stop generating disposable meal packaging. The County should hold paid Drawdown workshops for school food service workers, building maintenance & grounds staff, bus drivers and other school staff to generate ideas of how school properties and operations can efficiently and effectively reduce carbon emissions. The County and MCPS should provide free transit passes to public employees, and bike racks at all schools and County buildings. The Plan should include a goal that 100% of schools will reach MAEOE Green School certification by 2025, like 2 other Maryland Counties have done. The County should consider maintaining all school grounds to more effectively manage existing and future climate-related improvements like Rainscape projects, native trees, school & community gardens, on-site community composting, permaculture and other public education demonstration projects.

- Leverage the Virtual Tour by linking to videos, podcasts, infographics or GIS-based story maps to help folks work through lots of data and reports. I must admit I've not often accessed the cable TV channel but offering archives would be a help.
- Do not relish being berated by County Government when the goals are not reached. Too much government intervention and inevitable bureaucratic explosion. The County is greedy in its "we know best" control aspirations. Will MoCo be only employer, landowner, electrical provider left functioning or just the only big one?
- Let's get moving.
- Do not raise gasoline prices. An additional gas tax is wrong for these difficult times.
- How can I help with school garden creation (I have helped implement at 2 MCPS schools already) or school composting implementation?
- When parts of the plan are implemented (e.g solar, energy conservation, green schools, etc.) is there a way to ensure that the change will occur equitably across MoCo? Furthermore, will "down county" schools have the same prioritization as upper county (more affluent) schools?
- - How will the gardening aspect be made more accessible to students with disabilities - Is their parts of the plan that aim to help those affected when climate change starts taking a major toll -How will you integrate student voices from around the county and make sure it's not centered on specialty schools like PHS, edison, rm and etc -When will we start seeing some of these actions take place - Will this be cost-effective? and will the opportunities be granted to the same level to schools with lower funding - Would more environmental based field trips also be included in the plan?
- I am super excited about the MoCoCAP. I think it has been a long time coming and we can't start soon enough. You have covered a lot of subjects with a lot of detail. Please keep in mind the varying environments that county residents live in. I live in North MoCo in a rural environment with no sidewalks and narrow roads that don't encourage walking or biking. In fact, it's an extreme hazard for anyone not driving and sometimes for drivers as well.
- A more robust network of mass transit ride-on buses free 24/7 for all residents -- or at the minimum senior citizens -- rather than cutting back on routes. Many destinations in the county are inaccessible by mass transit. The hours of operations are limited late nights, weekends, etc. FLASH should be accessible to individual without smart phones.
- I plan to provide more detailed comments to climate @montgomerycountymd.gov
- How will we be updated and follow progress?
- I think that it is truly inspiring for our county to take on such an important issue, and become a leader in combating the climate crisis.
- This is not presented as a draft.
- PLEASE add content on better waste removal as a climate-protective strategy.
- I look forward to contributing to the implementation of the plan, to the extent I can. I note that for residences, a changeover to electricity would obviously be not only costly, but hazardous to health. With everything electric, when the power goes out from a storm or Pepco's incompetence, it leaves people with no heat, no hot water, no ability to cook, whereas with natural gas at least once can cook by lighting the stove with a match. I recognize that this switch is necessary, but it must be combined with a totally reliable electric supply. Even solar panels on the roof don't ensure power when the grid is down, since they are networked in. The pollution from everyone running generators should probably be factored in.
- Making the switch to renewable energy needs to be made affordable and not making the switch needs to come at a steep price. The sale of every house that has combustion appliances could be taxed at a different rate. Getting a permit for a gas hot water heater should cost more, while getting a heat pump hot water heater comes with a rebate. With every change of energy use you create more friction for non-renewable appliances/HVAC/HWH and less friction for renewable.

- Figure out a plan to incentive landlords of commercial properties to install solar. Perhaps through a reduction of property taxes or some sort of grant that alleviates other costs of ownership.
- I'd like to see styrofoam recycling and compost pickup and would happily pay for that.
- ChargePoint is happy to work with Montgomery County and the Climate Action Committee on creating a well formulated and strategic EV fleet plan to attain the 100% goal by 2027.
- Would like to see buildings (new AND existing) and county transportation systems prioritized, along with CCE. Focus on systems and policies (not individual behavior) and building in climate concerns to existing policies and programs.
- You can't even open up schools and businesses and this is what you are working on?
- I request that you stop this process now, and engage with business leaders to enact programs to achieve reasonable goals that lead to increased economic opportunities. As we all know, life is not fair, so this Marxist plan to enact "Social Justice" will never achieve its goals. If you are serious, you can reduce MoCo government waste today by downsizing the county government.
- It would be great to see some partnerships with public health institutions especially in higher ed. to collect and distribute information to the public. I love the emphasis on incorporating more comprehensive climate change curriculum in our public schools. Fantastic!
- The plan should do more to encourage mass transit, such as dedicated funding and more diverse modes/
- Total waste of taxpayers' money - biggest loser since the Y2K scam put lots of money in consultants' bank accounts.
- I am composing an email for my suggestion. Thanks!
- Take risks! Be bold! People will adapt as their neighbors do.
- If a fairness doctrine is not a part of this plan. It is doomed to failure.
- This is a political document nothing more - I'm sure hundreds of thousands of dollars were wasted creating this document.
- The plan needs a whole new section that focuses on the cost of green energy and how to de-regulate and lower the cost of installing solar and wind power in MoCo. Companies pay a ridiculous cost today to file permits here. The county requires a full review of every installation, even though most plans are essentially the same as the prior install for that size solar job. This is ridiculous. Talk to the oil and gas companies about getting into the solar business, create more competition, streamline the permit process (make it automatic and online) - and help get the cost of solar down to about \$1 per installed watt - then the homeowners and businesses will go do the conversions themselves. Seek the state of MD to change the SERC rates to provide 10 years of value in the first 4 years (and 0 after that), helping make the conversion process a no brainer. (After 4 years the business or home owner gets free electricity - that is its own reward).
- This plan seems more about expanding government power and less about actually helping the environment and enhancing equality. The goals are overly ambitious and unrealistic, and they don't take into account the views of the people who live in the county.
- The CAP is more of a political statement than a practical plan. The plan is quixotic at best if other jurisdictions, or the other nations (like China and India), are not controlling emissions.
- How has the commission considered the construction and waste efforts for old houses on big metal radiant heating powered by gas furnaces? In some initial research it seems these existing radiators do not work well with electric heat. What is the environmental waste and financial cost of removing and replacing?
- I love the climate adaptation ideas but am skeptical about our ability to implement them.
- No HOV freebies for electric car people.
- Unfortunate big waste.
- Climate change is very important but how it is fairly and equally addressed is also important. This comprehensive plan is not the best way to do it.

- To the extent that this plan is in itself a communications tool, I'd like to see it implement the recommendations embedded in action P-2 (Conduct an Outreach Campaign that Uses Evidence-Based Communications Strategies), rather than just mentioning those approaches as actions that will be implemented later. For example, the plan could do more to highlight that many of the recommended actions will have a positive impact on public health, and none are expected to have a negative health impact.
- Show us proof of need!
- And as strangely as it could be, to hear something like "we should stop dumping our trash and now find strategies to reduce our trash" seems to come from another world. Are we in 2020 or in the 1980s? It should have been done right? As a young student I visited recycling facility in Paris, I had hope that something could be done fast, everywhere ... but when I see that China refuse to recycle poorly sorted material... it makes me having doubts on what it is done here.
- Simply plant more trees to use any excess carbon!
- This is the worst display of "liberal" think I have seen in quite a while. Have any of you ever run a business? Regarding the item below: I would like to find ways to oppose this, not support it.
- This whole thing is based on dubious "science" by a conglomerate of "experts" who have an agenda that has nothing to do with the intended "goals." Imposing carbon taxes on us, taking away our freedoms to live and travel as we so choose is an infringement on our rights and liberties. All based on fraudulent data by a group of "experts" with conflicts of interest. The science is FAR from settled on this topic, yet the power hungry people in control with the help of the media have pushed their narrative & shoved it down the throats of the rest of us who just want to live and be left alone.
- I was pleased to see mention of fuel cells as a potential technology for vehicles. However, the plan does not note the potential use of fuel cells as a distributed energy technology, nor the use of hydrogen energy storage. Fuel cells can be used alone to generate energy for buildings or to feed into the grid, and can generate power in conjunction with other renewables such as wind or solar. It would be wise to consider the capabilities of fuel cells and hydrogen energy storage.
- The scientific method is not based on consensus. There are many divergent opinions regarding climate change. There were seven ice ages since the beginning of time on earth. Hello???????????
- The plan is flawed as there is not enough electricity produced in the east coast to support the demand that you propose. Additionally, who is going to pay for the electric cars you want to force people to use or the charging stations that it would take to support the additional cars. that electricity comes from someplace, and it is not from the suppliers in the east coast region.
- I don't remember anything about invasive species (more worried about bugs that kill plants than about invasive plants.) I'd like to see more about soil health, maybe inoculating the ground with mycorrhizae spores?
- Creating new gov't sectors, contractors, campaigns, etc. should not be implemented if there are any added costs or increases our budgets as we are already strained for resources and heavily taxed.
- Regarding point T-4: My husband and I live in south Silver Spring, right off of East West Highway, and own a car. Our condo building has a parking garage full of cars - we bought this property in part because of the accessibility of the area. We loved taking the metro to work everyday, but we also loved that we could visit our parents in Bethesda by car so we wouldn't have to spend over an hour on a dirty and late bus. Furthermore, Silver Spring is right next to the beltway - it's a major thoroughfare and that's partly why it's such a busy place. The idea that you would be able to eliminate cars in cities, like Silver Spring, without negatively impacting the economic viability of the area is ridiculous - so many roads here are major thoroughfares to DC and Baltimore - that's why many people live here. We bought the most fuel-efficient used car that we could afford, but I doubt we'd be able to afford an electric car, even with the meager subsidies this plan promises. Trying to eliminate cars from city centers will actively harm working- and middle-class families. This also seems incredibly one-sided and heavy-handed - is there no room for

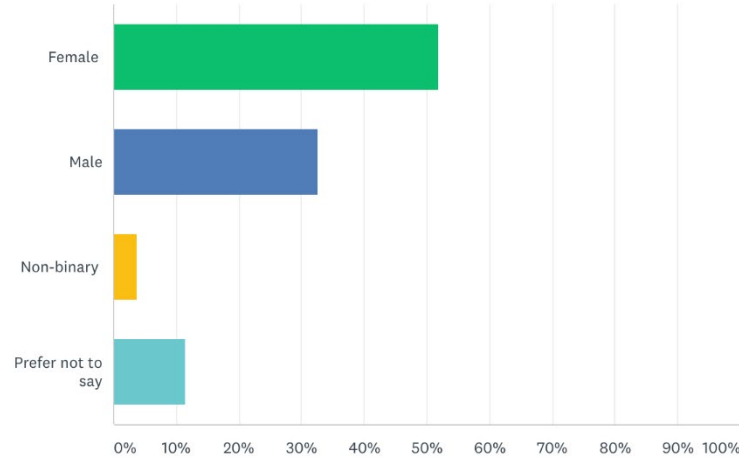
compromise? These suggested policies will further drive working- and middle-class families out of urban areas, making city centers a space for wealthy families who can afford to pay car-related taxes and purchase electric vehicles. Furthermore, I heartily support adding protected bike lanes to roads around the county, but I am tired of bikers breaking traffic laws. It happens constantly. They do not stop for red lights, they do not signal, and they weave in and out of lines of stopped cars, putting themselves, pedestrians and drivers at risk. Laws MUST be passed, and included in this plan, that focus on curbing lawlessness among bikers and provisions should be made for enforcement efforts. In addition, I question the ability of the County to do a lot of this with our looming budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic. Though a lot of this is very necessary to combat climate change, it seems unlikely that we will be able to do even a good chunk of this - is it not better to just focus on a few important points that offer the most bang for the buck, rather than do a lot of initiatives badly? MoCo Parks can't even keep the tiny Acorn Park by our condo clean or keep any of the plants alive - how are they supposed to build and then properly manage all the new green space we are seeking to build?

- The plan is wrong and flawed in so many ways, you should scrap it and start over. Good government means changing the bad things we can and accepting those we cannot change. Montgomery County could totally shut down, and it would not move the needle on Climate Change one iota. So, accept Climate Change, and instead focus on things that really matter: clean water, clean air, energy efficiency, more parks, better transportation, free internet for all. These are concrete improvements the county can make — let's focus on what is doable and real, not on fantasies that would misdirect precious tax dollars.
- It's crazy that an extremist agenda that would have been laughed out of the room ten years ago is now actually being pushed as a series policy proposal.
- The state's 50% goal for renewable energy by 2050 is much more realistic than this 100% goal for 2030. Additionally, how do elected officials justify paying for offset credits when people are unemployed and in need of food? Very unrealistic especially with Covid-19 changes to our environment

Demographics

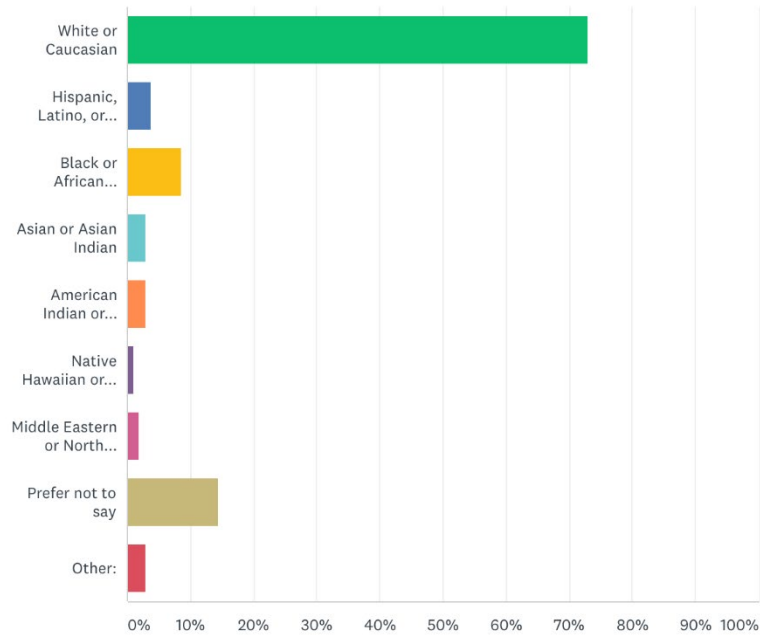
Please indicate your gender

Answered: 104 Skipped: 0



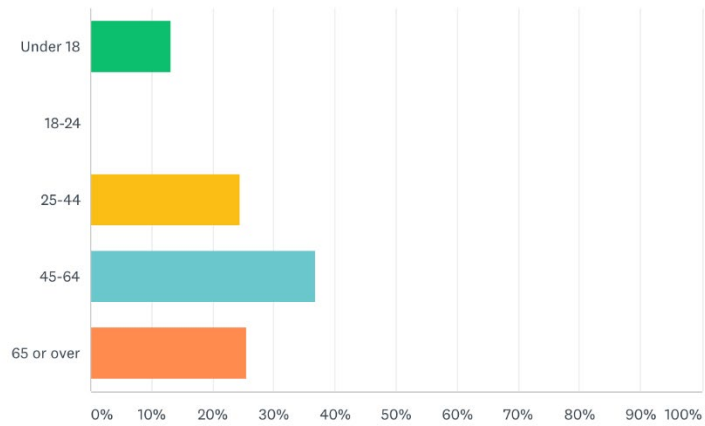
Please indicate your race or ethnicity (check all that apply)

Answered: 104 Skipped: 0



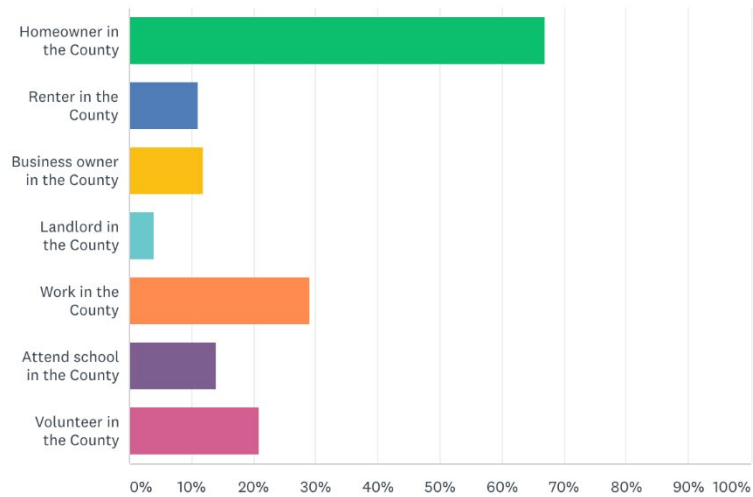
Please indicate your age

Answered: 98 Skipped: 6



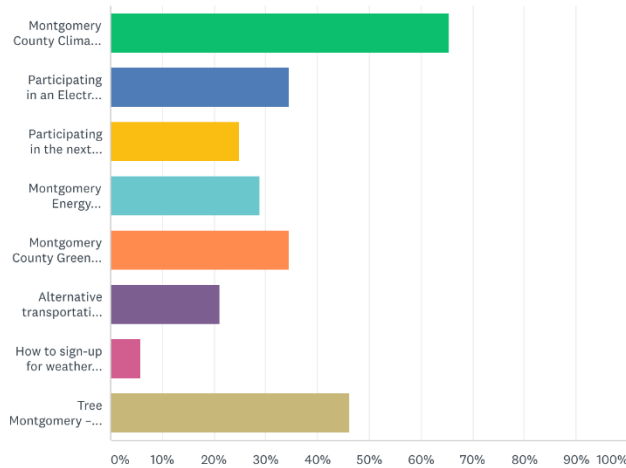
Please describe yourself: (check all that apply)

Answered: 100 Skipped: 4



The Climate Action Plan calls on both system-level changes as well as personal action to reduce emissions and increase resilience to a changing climate. Please indicate which resources you are interested in learning more about, to help you take future action: (check all that apply)

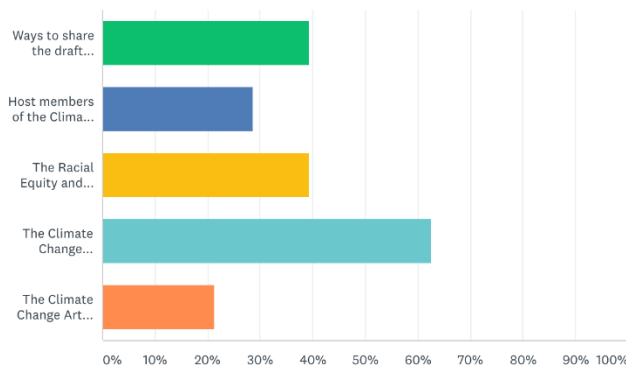
Answered: 52 Skipped: 52



[Full description of response options: Montgomery County Climate Newsletter; Participating in an Electric Vehicle Group Buy Program; Participating in the next Montgomery County Solar Co-operative; Montgomery Energy Connection – Your link to energy savings; Montgomery County Green Bank loan options for solar and energy efficiency; Alternative transportation options (e.g., Capital Bikeshare, car/van pool, FLASH); How to sign-up for weather alerts; Tree Montgomery – Free trees!]

The success of the Climate Action Plan is based largely on the degree to which community members are actively engaged and participating. Would you be interested in getting more information about any of the following opportunities to help build support for climate action? (check all that apply)

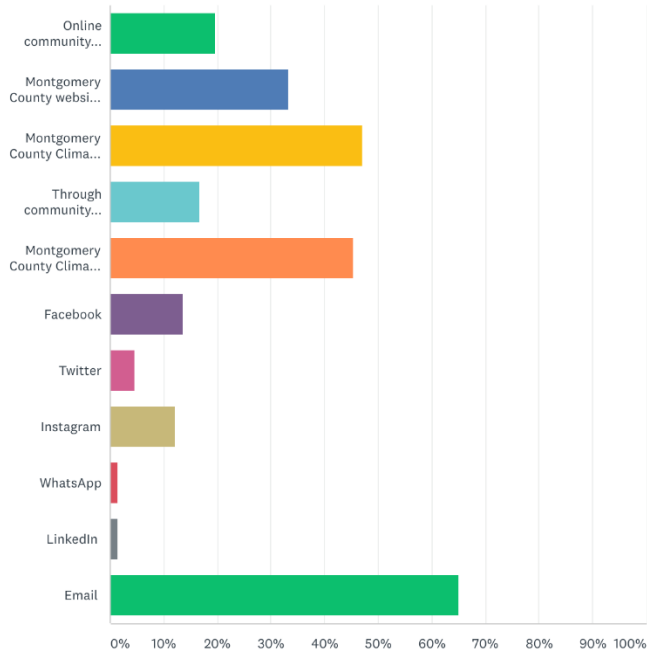
Answered: 56 Skipped: 48



[Full description of response options: Ways to share the draft Climate Action Plan and this survey with others in the community via methods like social media and conversations with neighbors, family, and friends; Host members of the Climate Planning Team at a virtual meeting of your community, workplace or civic organization; The Racial Equity and Climate Change Task Force to advance racial equity and climate action; The Climate Change Communication Coalition; The Climate Change Art Contest, which includes all forms of creative expression]

How would you prefer to receive information about climate initiatives in Montgomery County? (check all that apply)

Answered: 66 Skipped: 38



[Full description of response options: Online community listservs; Montgomery County website (homepage); Montgomery County Climate website; Through community leaders in my neighborhood; Montgomery County Climate newsletter; Facebook; Twitter; Instagram; WhatsApp; LinkedIn; Email]