



Montgomery County Climate Action Plan

Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education Actions



VISION: Montgomery County’s community members are empowered, engaged, and motivated to take action on climate change while striving for equity among all members of the community.

- Facilitate inclusive, community-driven civic leadership, particularly with residents who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC), low-income residents, and other communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change so that power and decision-making are shared and solutions are co-created.
- Build strategic partnerships among Maryland counties to shape ambitious state climate policies .
- Build strategic partnerships with municipalities to pilot innovative programs that can be replicated across the County.
- Empower youth to take action at home and in their community.
- Build community trust and partnerships with residents by amplifying their voices, listening to their concerns, and tailoring resources and support relevant to their day-to-day lives.

ACTIONS:

- P-1: Undertake Vigorous Public Outreach Campaign Aimed at Empowering the Public with Information on How to Reduce Emissions and Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change
- P-2: Conduct an Outreach Campaign that Uses Evidence- Based Communications Strategies
- P-3: Form a Climate Change Communication Coalition
- P-4: Enhance County Websites to Focus More Sharply on Climate Change
- P-5: Establish a Community Justice Academy in which Graduating Community Ambassadors Representing their Neighbors Conceive and Co-Create Integrated Health, Equity and Quality-of-Life Solutions Directly Applicable to their Communities
- P-6: Use the Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee as a Resource to Advise the County on Performance Metrics and Plan Implementation
- P-7: Facilitate Ongoing Input from Community Members on the CAP’s Implementation
- P-8: Engage County Artists through Public Art Installations to Raise Awareness, Discussion, and Action on Climate Change
- P-9: Support the Efforts of Community Organizations, Businesses, Municipalities, and Associations that Promote and Operationalize Equitable Climate Action
- P-10: Establish a Statewide Coalition of Local Governments and Youth Groups Focused on Advancing Ambitious State Climate Policy by Collectively Advocating their Positions before the State Legislature, the Public Service Commission, and the Utility Companies
- P-11: Establish Partnerships with Federal Agencies Located within the County’s Boundaries on GHG Mitigation and Climate Resiliency Efforts
- P-12: Advocate for the Continued Integration of Climate Change Education into the Existing School Curriculum
- P-13: Develop a Standardized Climate Change Curriculum across Public Schools and Recommend the Same for Private Schools and Home Schools
- P-14: Provide Professional Development for Educators on Climate Change Topics
- P-15: Use School Gardens or Other Outdoor Learning Facilities as a Jumping-Off Point to Address a Multitude of Climate-Related Topics
- P-16: Develop Increased Opportunities for Students to Participate in Climate Change Learning Experiences Outside of the Classroom
- P-17: Develop Sustainability Goals for Schools to Reach and Provide Incentives to Do So
- P-18: Encourage Climate Change Action at Home
- P-19: Establish Cross-Departmental Partnership to Facilitate Implementation of Climate Goals at County Schools

SUMMARY:

The degree to which community members are actively engaged and participating in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and build climate resilience is critical to the Climate Action Plan’s (CAP’s) success. To that end, the County must enhance climate communications to the general public; standardize authentic and inclusive community engagement that creates new entry points for residents to be involved in climate action; strengthen state and regional coordination and collaboration; develop new strategic partnerships to galvanize support across key stakeholder organizations, communities, and jurisdictions; and develop increased opportunities for students to participate in climate change education and experiences, and empower them to take action at home and in their community. The County must move toward a model that is more inclusive, participatory, and community-driven.

Read the [Annual Climate Work Plan](#) for the current status of Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education Actions.

