

Climate Change Non-Departmental Account
Monthly Reporting

In May 2020, County Council approved reporting language in its Operating Budget miscellaneous provisions of Resolution 19-472 with regards to the Climate Change NDA:

This resolution appropriates \$400,000 to the Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account (NDA). Funds in this NDA must be used for the prioritization of greenhouse gas reduction strategies, developing an implementation plan to meet the County's goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and a 100 percent reduction by 2035, and to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Only after the previously described work is completed may funds be used for other climate change-related initiatives. The Executive must transmit within 15 days after the end of a month a report on the previous month's expenditures from this account.

In accordance with the resolution, the Executive hereby transmits the monthly report for August 2020.

FY21 Climate Change NDA expenditures reporting:

(includes expenditures incurred through 9/10/20):

Expenditure Description	Amount
Resilience Ambassador pilot (resilience surveys to inform the climate plan and operating expenses)	\$2,765.11

August highlights:

- Climate Planning update:
The technical climate consultant has baselined the County's current and projected GHG emissions, and organized and categorized the 850+ workgroup recommendations. The GHG analysis has identified the County's major emission reduction areas: increase renewables in the electricity mix; shift passenger vehicle use to transit/non-vehicular options; electrify and increase efficiency of building systems/end uses (new and existing buildings); electrify passenger vehicles; and divert organic waste.

The consultant also conducted down-scaled climate modeling of the County for 2035, 2050 and 2100 time horizons and identified the major climate risk areas for Montgomery County: drought; extreme heat; flooding; and high winds. Next steps include: 1) prioritizing and strengthening actions that have the greatest potential for meeting the County's GHG emissions reduction goals and the highest community co-benefits and feasibility; and 2) conducting a more detailed climate risk assessment will include GIS

analysis of key precipitation and temperature indicators and statistics in combination with critical assets and vulnerable communities.

The draft Climate Action & Resilience Plan is on track for issuance in November 2020 for public review and comment. (Note that the climate planning effort is being funded with FY20 Climate Change NDA funds.)

- Proposed 2018 International Green Construction Code:

The Department of Permitting Services has proposed that the County adopt the 2018 International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The proposal to adopt the IgCC with amendments was posted in the August register and will be open for public comments through Monday, October. 5.

The building sector comprises 50 percent of the County's community-wide GHG emissions. Improving the efficiency of new and existing buildings is a critical step that the County seeks to take to meet its GHG reduction goals. Adoption of the 2018 IgCC will be an important tool in the County's multi-faceted approach to achieve net zero energy buildings.

The 2018 IgCC provides a whole systems approach to the design, construction and operation of buildings. The IgCC includes measures that result in better indoor environments and lower impact on natural resources. It includes solar photovoltaic options, energy modeling options and building design improvements. The 2018 IgCC applies to certain new buildings and additions to existing building of more than 5,000 square feet.

- Climate Change Budgeting Process Workgroup gets underway:

A workgroup of 15 community experts on budgeting, GHG accounting, and program evaluation began convening in August to help the County incorporate climate considerations into the budgeting process. The workgroup is identifying ways that the County can identify climate-relevant programs throughout the budget as well as approaches that the County should use to measure and begin to identify the climate impacts and other environmental impacts of projects funded in the capital and operating budgets. The workgroup is developing recommendations that can begin to be implemented in the upcoming budget cycle as well as longer term proposals.

- *Examining the Role of Forests and Trees in Montgomery County's Greenhouse Gas Inventory* Report Released

The report, written by a team of experts from the Climate and Land Use Alliance, the World Resources Institute and the Woods Hole Research Center, in close collaboration with the Department of Environmental Protection, was a result of the County's

participation as a pilot jurisdiction to help ICLEI develop an appendix to the U.S. Community Protocol for GHG Emissions Inventories.

The report found that in the period 2011-2016, average annual emissions as a result of the loss of forests and trees were less than the period 2001-2011. The County's tree canopy also increased during the 2011-2016 period, which resulted in higher annual removals of CO2 compared to 2001-2011. Montgomery County's net GHG emissions could be lower if additional forests and trees were added to its land base, or if losses of these resources were reduced further.

The report is available at:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/workgroup-recommendations/Examining%20the%20Role%20of%20Forests%20and%20Trees%20in%20Montgomery%20County's%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Inventory%20\(July%202020\).pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/workgroup-recommendations/Examining%20the%20Role%20of%20Forests%20and%20Trees%20in%20Montgomery%20County's%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Inventory%20(July%202020).pdf)

For more information:

A description of the FY21 Climate Change NDA budget allocation is available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/fy21-climate-nda-budget.pdf>

The complete list of the County's FY21 climate initiatives is available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/fy21-montgomery-county-climate-work-plan.pdf>