



Montgomery County

Climate Work Plan

Fiscal Year 2022



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Purpose of the Annual Climate Work Plan

The Montgomery County Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a strategic plan to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 and to reduce climate-related risks to the County's residents, businesses, and the built and natural environment. The annual climate work plan describes the actions that the County is making progress on in the near-term in support of the CAP. The annual process of updating the work plan enables the CAP to remain a flexible, living document.

Budget and Staffing

This section provides an overview of the funding sources and staffing available in FY22 in support of climate action.

Operating budget

- Climate actions are funded by the Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account (NDA) as well as by County departments' budgets. The [County's Operating Budget](#) is available on the County's website.
- The [FY22 Climate Change Planning NDA budget](#) includes \$400,000 for climate-related studies and analysis, communications, and outreach efforts. In addition, the FY22 Climate Change Planning NDA budget also includes funding for three new climate positions in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):
 - An Energy & Climate Policy Manager will advocate with State-level policymakers and regulators for policies that align with our efforts to clean the electric grid, increase energy efficiency programs, and reduce GHG emissions.
 - A Zero Emissions Vehicles Program Manager will accelerate the adoption of zero emission vehicles in the private sector.
 - A Climate Engagement and Communication Manager will engage the public in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with a particular focus on efforts to engage underserved communities that are likely to be more acutely affected by the impacts of climate change.
- A new position has been added to the DEP Tree Montgomery program to clear the backlog of requests for new trees and allow the program to focus proactively on areas with little tree cover.
- A new DEP position will provide community outreach and partnerships support across multiple DEP issue areas; a portion of this position will support climate change public engagement activities.
- The Fiscal Impact Statement for the Building Energy Performance Standards bill includes funding requests for new DEP positions to support program implementation.
- Individual department budgets also include funding for programs and staff whose work supports climate resilience, sequestration, and the reduction of GHG emissions. These include:



- Within DEP, the Energy, Climate, and Compliance Division; the Watershed Restoration Division; and the Recycling and Resource Management Division.
 - Within the Department of General Services (DGS), the Office of Energy and Sustainability and Building Design and Construction.
 - Within the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), the Weatherization Assistance Program.
 - Within the Department of Permitting Services (DPS), Residential Construction and Fire Code Compliance; Commercial Building Construction; and sustainability and energy staff.
 - Within the Department of Transportation (DOT), Transit Services; Community Mobility Services; Transportation Infrastructure Construction and Maintenance; Non-Roadway Right of Way Maintenance; Transportation Management, Operations and Storm Response; and Transportation Policy, Planning & Project Development.
 - Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Home Energy Programs, the African American Health Initiative, and the Latino Health Initiative.
- Staff throughout other Departments in the County are also engaged in many activities supporting climate action (as listed in the tables on the following pages). While the funding in these departments related to climate may not be as separately identifiable as the program funding highlighted in the bullets above, this work is critical to supporting the County government's efforts to address climate change.
 - In addition to the County government, County agencies including the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College (MC), the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and WSSC Water all include staff and programs focused on or involved in activities that address climate change.
 - In addition, the County has encumbered FY21 funds for the following efforts that will take place in FY22:
 - \$100,000 for an expert consultant to help create a Sustainable Economic Development Plan.
 - Consultant support in planning for an Electric Vehicle Group Buy program, and in conducting an initial pilot program.
 - Consultant support in further researching the incorporation of onsite solar into the County's proposed Building Energy Performance Standards.

Capital budget

- The [County's Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#) budget includes funding for the conservation of natural resources.
- Climate-related programs funded with capital dollars include:
 - Agricultural land preservation easements
 - Facility planning for storm drains and stormwater management, and stormwater management facility major structural repair and retrofits



- Stream valley improvements
- Outfall repairs
- Drainage culvert replacement
- Flooding mitigation
- Reforestation, tree maintenance, and street tree preservation
- Advanced Transportation Management System
- Bicycle-Pedestrian Priority Area Improvements, bikeway program, sidewalk projects, and pedestrian safety projects
- Bus Priority program, bus rapid transit development, Ride On bus fleet, and bus stop improvements
- Trail projects
- Park improvements
- Energy conservation and efficiency projects M-NCPPC at parkland
- Materials Recovery Facility upgrades.

Other funding sources

- The County is a recipient of philanthropic, state, and federal grants that support climate action. They include:
 - Maryland Energy Administration funding for energy efficiency
 - Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Coastal Service Grant to study drainage in River Falls and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust funding for urban tree planting and green streets
 - Transportation Land-Use Connections grant from Transportation Planning Board for Kensington-Connecticut Avenue Corridor Bike/Pedestrian Access Study
 - Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education grants for teacher stipends to lead Green Teams
 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Small Watershed Grants
 - US Department of Defense funding for climate resilience study at the NSA Bethesda facility (Walter Reed)
 - Casey Trees grant for tree planting in the public right-of-way.

Frontburner Climate Actions

The tables on the following pages provide an overview of each CAP action that the County plans to make progress on during FY22. **The County anticipates taking action on 75 out of 86 CAP actions in FY22.**



Clean Energy

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
E-1: Community Choice Energy Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop CCE implementation plan. • Participate in Maryland Public Service Commission workgroup to develop the regulatory framework for the program.
E-2: Private Building Solar Photovoltaic Code Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Appendix ZE (a net-zero energy stretch code) with the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code for both commercial and residential including major alterations.
E-3: Promote Private Solar Photovoltaic Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote residential solar installations through the annual solar co-op program. • Explore programs, incentives, and financing with the Green Bank and other partners to increase PV systems installations. • Improve data collection of solar permitting and inspections.
E-4: Public Facility Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Groundwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Oaks landfill solar installation, generating 6 megawatts of electricity. • Complete the Scotland Community Center resilience hub and solar installation. • Complete Phase I of the Brookville Bus Depot microgrid and electric bus charging station installation. • Implement solar installations at selected MCPS schools. • Launch agrivoltaic study project in the Agricultural Reserve. • Implement solar installations at selected M-NCPPC locations.



Buildings

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
B-3: Energy Performance Standard for Existing Commercial & Multifamily Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete building typology study to inform BEPS standards. • Participate in public hearing and Council work sessions about the Building Energy Performance Standard bill; continue outreach to external stakeholders. • Subject to passage of the bill, draft regulations and identify state-level legislative solutions to overcome enforcement challenges. • Subject to passage of the bill, establish the BEPS Advisory Board. • Develop position descriptions for BEPS program implementation. • Continue exploration of expanding DC Building Innovation Hub into a regional entity.
B-5: All-Electric Building Code for New Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate adoption of the net-zero energy appendices to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and evaluate opportunities to include decarbonization language in the code.
B-6: Disincentivize and/ or Eliminate Natural Gas in New Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore next steps to address state-level preemption issues that constrain the County's ability to ban natural gas in new construction. • Develop alternative strategies to a natural gas ban that disincentivize fossil fuels or incentivize electrification.
B-7: Net Zero Energy Building Code for New Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate opportunities to reach net-zero energy in both commercial and residential construction through the 2021 codes. • The Department of General Services has embarked on demonstrating commitment for net-zero buildings; design standard for new buildings is that they be net zero. • MCPS will assess if schools that are currently under construction can be made net zero.



Transportation

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
<p>T-1: Expand Public Transit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore County-operated bus services to full budgeted level in FY22. • Support project progress of Purple Line, Bethesda Metro South Entrance, Capital Crescent Trail, and Silver Spring Green Trail. • Continue design efforts for Veirs Mill Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and 355 BRT; begin preliminary engineering for US29 BRT Phase 2; and perform preliminary engineering for Great Seneca Science Corridor Transit Enhancements. • Pursue grant funding and federal funding opportunities. • Initiate transportation funding workgroup to identify funding resources for transit expansion. • Re institute Flex demand-response service. • Implement new bus priority program including acquiring State approvals for and implementation of dedicated bus lanes in three defined areas: Wheaton, Germantown, and US 29. • Initiate Reimagine Ride On system redesign plan and coordinate with and support WMATA bus network redesign plan). • Conduct study of potential for further reduced or free bus fares for all, or for sub-markets of the population. • Expand free fare hours of service on Ride On and Metrobus for seniors and people with disabilities.
<p>T-2: Expand Active Transportation and Shared Micromobility Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance implementation of bikeway recommendations in the Bicycle Master Plan through capital projects and development approvals. Complement this low-stress bikeway network with expansion of bicycle parking resources, including corrals for dockless vehicles. Expand service areas and continue to pilot test personal mobility options (including shared e-scooters & bikes) with view to move beyond the current pilot program to a longer-term program structure and financial plan. • Sponsor Learn-to-Ride bike and e-scooter classes; sponsor Bike-to-Work Day, Walk & Ride Challenge, Car-Free Day, and other initiatives focused on promoting non-auto modes. • Continue aspects of the Shared Streets program to encourage active transportation and community use of public rights-of-way. • Transmit the proposed Complete Streets Design Guide to Council for adoption and begin efforts to amend the County Code and county regulations to be consistent with the Guide.



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
T-2: Expand Active Transportation and Shared Micromobility Network <i>(Continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with Transportation Planning Board consultant and Town of Kensington on Transportation Land-Use Connections grant for Kensington-Connecticut Avenue Corridor Bike/Ped Access and Safety Study. • Continue and increase marketing and outreach efforts for recently established Bike Match MoCo program.
T-3: Private Vehicle Electrification Incentives and Disincentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Electric Vehicle (EV) Group Buy effort. • Promote EV charging equipment rebates and power cost reductions to increase appeal of EVs. • Explore options for hosting "EV exposure events". • Expand availability of EV charging in public parking facilities.
T-4: Constrain Cars in Urban Areas, Limit New Road Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue actions to support removal of the extension of the Mid-County Highway from the Council of Governments' regional plan to be adopted in FY22.
T-5: Zero Emission Public Buses and School Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue development of a zero-emissions transit plan. • Place an additional 10 EV transit buses into service for Ride On. • Release RFP for next round of electric transit buses. • Research hydrogen fueling options for transit and large vehicles and pursue federal grant opportunities (e.g. USDOT's RAISE Grants) for hydrogen fuel cell fueling site and vehicle acquisition. • Finalize MCPS order for first 25 EV school buses (expected Fall 2021). • Continue regional collaboration with other jurisdictions and transit providers and local collaboration between MCDOT, DGS, MCPS, and others on Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) bus contracting model.
T-6: Electrify County and Public Agencies Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete study to right-size the County vehicle fleet and develop a targeted approach to transition the County's fleet to ZEVs, including necessary infrastructure and support facilities. • Pilot test EV police vehicle. • Pilot test new type of vehicle charger which would reduce infrastructure/charging network constraints for administrative fleet.
T-7: Expand the Electric Vehicle Charging Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability of electric vehicle charging stations at public parking facilities and other County locations, including M-NCPPC parkland sites. • Expand use of the pilot program for residential charging. • Examine opportunities for on-street charging and/or streetlight charging pilot program at selected locations in the County. • Encourage and, where possible, require new projects to provide EV charging or EV charging-ready spaces in their parking facilities. • Modify the public benefits list for site plan approval to encourage or require EV charging stations in a wider range of projects.



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
T-7: Expand the Electric Vehicle Charging Network <i>(Continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement EV charging station wayfinding signage program to facilitate EV access and to reinforce awareness of the general public about widespread availability of EV charging. • Install pilot EV charging station at a MCPS administrative center.
T-8: Transportation Demand Management and Telework Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize NextGen Transportation Demand Management regulations. • Implement requirements for TDM strategies to be adopted for new and existing projects in additional areas of the County under NextGen. • Begin implementation of White Oak Transportation Management District • Promote use of more generous transit/vanpool subsidies available to private sector employers and employees through FareShare, and to County government employees through Get-In. • Provide assistance to businesses to support continuing and formalizing telework programs.
T-9: Traffic Management Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue installation of pedestrian HAWK signals. • Implement adaptive traffic signal control systems in select corridors
T-11: Off-Road Vehicle and Equipment Electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research hydrogen fueling options for transit and large vehicles and pursue federal grant opportunities (e.g., USDOT’s RAISE Grants) for hydrogen fuel cell fueling site and vehicle acquisition. • Introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blower equipment. • M-NCPPC – Department of Parks will continue conducting a pilot on commercial-grade electric (battery-operated) landscape equipment, to include large-scale mowers to smaller blowers, string trimmers, chainsaws, etc. • Perform evaluation of MCDOT’s pilot implementation of electric mowing, string trimming, and handheld blower equipment currently underway and scheduled for completion in fall of 2022.
T-12: Advocate for a Vehicle Carbon Gas Tax or VMT Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore next steps for state-level advocacy on this issue.
T-13: Advocate for Rail Alternative Fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the critical issues related to this action.



Sequestration

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
S-1: Retain and Increase Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue planting and maintaining reforestation by all departments as required for compliance with laws. • Continue Reforest Montgomery and manage all Planning Department tree-related programs under one tree czar. • Expand the Reforest the Reserve effort focused on reforesting stream valley buffers and areas that need planting. • Evaluate tree spacing requirements for reforestation to improve establishment of newly planted forests.
S-2: Retain and Increase Tree Canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate tree spacing requirements for street trees to enhance opportunities to shade impervious surfaces. • Plant more shade trees by increasing staffing in the Tree Montgomery Program to target neighborhoods where tree canopy is lacking in underserved areas. • Administer grant from Casey Trees for tree planting in the public right-of-way. • Administer grant to Conservation Montgomery to continue the Home Tree Care 101 classes and resources in multiple languages (already offered in English and Spanish). • Conduct research on micro-forests, edible forests, and asses the flow of waste and wood in the County.
S-4: Regenerative Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with farmers to encourage regenerative farming practices. • Host educational events about the benefits of regenerative agriculture.
S-5: Restore Soil Fertility, Microbial Activity, and Moisture-Holding Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand commercial food composting pilot and launch residential food composting pilot. • Host educational workshops and outreach emphasizing soil health. • Continue the healthy lawns program.
S-6: Whole-System Carbon Management and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on available tools.



Adaptation

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
A-1: Water Infrastructure Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop WSSC service-area-wide future conditions flood zone and use this to screen all WSSC horizontal assets, for the 100-year storm event projected for 2065. • Finalize WSSC Climate Change design guidelines by citing Design Flood Elevations for critical sites. • Complete WSSC Calendar Year 2021 GHG inventory and update the WSSC GHG Action Plan.
A-2: Repair and Enhancement of Stormwater Conveyance Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement CIP work program for repairs. • Conduct flood plain study before resizing culverts.
A-3: Temperature Monitoring and Alerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for NOAA urban heat mapping grant. • Conduct a campaign to spread the word about Alert Montgomery and how to sign up. • Explore options to expand Alert Montgomery messaging, focusing on underserved communities. • Update the County's extreme temperature plan to include a climate change lens; determine ways to send messages to broader sectors of the County.
A-4: Extreme Weather Energy Efficiency Building Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for adopting resiliency ready language into the building codes.
A-6: Green/Cool/PV Roof and Pavement Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve the energy and green building codes through adoption and amendments. The International Green Construction Code would cover commercial buildings; there is already a requirement for certain aspects of green roofs for commercial projects, and both the energy code and green code have elements for reflectivity/cool roofs (white roof or concrete in place of blacktop).
A-7: Green Public Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Green Streets projects.
A-8: Harden Emergency Shelters and Install Resilience Hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Scotland Community Center resilience hub and solar installation.
A-10: Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the funding and staffing for RainScapes program, Tree Montgomery, and Watershed Restoration and Grant programs. • Explore options for incorporating green infrastructure into building codes. • Implement CIP work program for planning and implementation of water quality best management and stormwater management projects. • Pursue Congressional earmarks to support additional work in this area.



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
A-11: Climate Adapted Development Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options through the buildings codes and investigate examples being implemented by other municipalities.
A-13: Ban Stormwater Management Requirement Waivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to push for full compliance with requirements. • Examine what other jurisdictions in the region are doing on this issue.
A-14: Update Floodplain Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete update of FEMA floodplain maps by summer of 2023. • Conduct outreach during flood awareness month (April).
A-15: Water Supply Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work on special protection areas requirements that protect the aquifer in the Clarksburg area. • Work on ensuring adequate implementation of the Ten Mile Creek Special Protection Area Master plan. • Implement water quality best management practices and stormwater management facilities in areas where there is no stormwater controls or inadequate stormwater controls. Identify sites for needed water quality treatment and stormwater management facilities for water supply protection. • Implement stormwater management inspection and maintenance program. • Conduct water quality improvement activities and projects, and stream restoration and protection activities to incrementally improve water quality in streams that are located in urban areas of the County. • Conduct winter salt management activities and expand pet waste campaigns. • See related actions in S-1 and S-5.
A-16 Flood Rescue Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement grant project for piloting roadway water sensors.
A-17: On-Site Water Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with WSSC to establish jurisdictional overlap to enforce water efficiency and auxiliary water measures in the 2021 International Green Construction Code.
A-18: Expanded Community Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M-NCPPC – Department of Parks is examining different typologies and models to suit different communities and increase the amount of gardens in parkland.
A-20: Study Potential for Buildings in the County to Flood and Possible Remedies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the County's hazard mitigation plan to include climate change.



Governance

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
<p>G-1: Build awareness among all Montgomery County Government staff about climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage departments' Climate Ambassadors to build awareness. • Conduct staff educational sessions about climate change. • Develop and define a comprehensive communication and education strategy. • Develop and launch a few simple short educational videos/ messages. • Incorporate a training/workshop within one of the quarterly Aspiring Leader sessions. • Inform new MCG employees of the County's climate initiatives at new employee orientation sessions.
<p>G-2: Establish a Climate Change Academy to integrate Climate Change Training into the Professional Development of MCG staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm and survey departments to define and shape professional development needs. • Determine mandatory components of education and training.
<p>G-3: Incorporate climate competencies into Montgomery County Government job descriptions and Performance Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin review of job descriptions to incorporate climate competencies in positions that are climate-relevant. • Create climate change competency language. • Identify and prioritize with departments the key climate change related job classifications.
<p>G-4: Identify and create new positions that are needed for the County government to prepare for and respond to climate hazards, implement climate adaptation measures, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the FY23 budget process, include proposals for new climate positions as needed.
<p>G-5: Establish a cross-departmental Climate Innovation Lab to develop, fund and implement climate and resiliency initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch climate innovation accelerator cohort to support the implementation of FY22 CAP projects.
<p>G-6: Designate Climate Ambassadors within each County department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene meetings/trainings with departments' Climate Ambassadors and continue the process of designating ambassadors. • Share information about departments' energy usage with ambassadors.



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
G-7: Evaluate and update county planning, policy, and operations activities to account for the risks of climate change impacts and prioritize the needs of vulnerable residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the County's hazard mitigation plan and potentially the critical infrastructure plan to account for climate change. Conduct extreme weather-based planning exercises and trainings. Coordinate Thrive-CAP implementation through recurring check-in meetings.
G-8: Evaluate and update county planning, policy, and operations activities to reduce greenhouse gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See related activities in B-7, T-5, T-6.
G-9: Incorporate climate considerations into the County's budgeting processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in Cost of Carbon study with the University of Virginia, Environmental Finance Center, and Rotunda Solutions, and incorporate findings into the FY23 budget development process.
G-10: Develop financing strategies for implementing climate actions and incorporate climate considerations into County finance practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce legislation to expand the role of the Green Bank to also serve as the County's Resilience Authority in order to help finance projects focused on addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding and other resilience activities. Introduce legislation to expand the scope of the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program. Coordinate with the Montgomery County Green Bank Board of Directors and staff on development of financing strategies ideas.
G-11: Develop climate, energy, health and racial equity metrics and a data-driven assessment and reporting process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop climate metrics with an emphasis on climate equity metrics. Update the climate webpage to display a dashboard of action status updates. Engage community advisory groups in the development of metrics.
G-12: Formalize the Climate Leadership Team to guide the implementation of climate plan actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the membership of the Climate Leadership Team and include communications/engagement staff. Draft an Executive Order to formalize its role.
G-13: Update the County's teleworking and transit benefit policies to encourage MCG staff to reduce vehicle miles traveled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the County's new teleworking policy and develop procedures as required. Eliminate inefficiencies generated by the County's vehicle use policies, through the Zero Emissions fleet transition plan.
G-15: Consolidate County climate data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a "data retreat" with County departments to develop a comprehensive list of climate data for publicly displaying.
G-16: Conduct climate vulnerability detailed assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement US Department of Defense resilience grant of NSA Bethesda facility (Walter Reed). See G-7 for related activities.



Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
<p>P-1: Undertake vigorous public outreach campaign aimed at empowering the public with information on how to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts from climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct expanded public outreach activities on climate change. • Launch the Climate Stories Ambassadors program with a focus on amplifying the voices and perspectives of underserved communities.
<p>P-2: Conduct an outreach campaign that uses evidence-based communications strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use evidence-based communications strategies in tandem with P-1 and P-3.
<p>P-3: Form a Climate Change Communication Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the climate change communications coalition. • Coordinate department-level climate communications.
<p>P-4: Enhance County websites to focus more sharply on climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add links to County climate initiatives to the County homepage, related department homepages, and other high traffic County webpages.
<p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire consultant to assist with designing the academy. • Identify grant funding to support academy start-up in late FY22. • Collaborate with community-based organizations on program design and delivery.
<p>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of metrics. • See related activities in G-11.
<p>P-7: Facilitate ongoing input from community members on the CAP's implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in community meetings about the Climate Action Plan. • Conduct CAP roadshows in community locations to meet people where they are. • See related activities in P-5.
<p>P-8: Support the efforts of community organizations, businesses, and associations that promote and operationalize equitable climate action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide this support through two new outreach and partnerships positions at DEP and leveraging staff capacity in other departments.



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
<p>P-9: Engage County artists through public art installations to raise awareness, discussion and action on climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly display the climate change art contest winning entries in the virtual information room and other venues.
<p>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, Public Services Commission, and the utility companies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host strategic planning sessions with other local MD jurisdictions to plan advocacy actions for the upcoming General Assembly session.
<p>P-11: Establish partnerships with federal agencies located within the County’s boundaries on GHG mitigation and climate resiliency efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Department of Defense resilience grant for NSA Bethesda facility (Walter Reed). Collaborate with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to install a GHG monitoring station at a County-owned site.
<p>P-12: Advocate for the continued integration of climate change education into the existing school curriculum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevate climate change content where it already exists in the K-12 MCPS curriculum. Create formal MOU to establish County/MCPS relationship for climate change education and training. Identify County and MCPS lead teams to ensure flow of support and collaboration.
<p>P-13: Develop a standardized climate change curriculum across public schools and recommend the same for private schools and home schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of the environmental literacy curriculum which embeds climate change. Identify curriculum areas where additional climate change content could be created and integrated, including environmental justice. Promote climate change resources developed by students, such as https://climatedu.org
<p>P-14: Provide professional development for educators on climate change topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue providing and expand on professional training for MCPS staff on sustainability and on climate change curriculum lessons. Conduct climate change symposiums for MCPS students and staff. Increase the comfort level of educators to answer questions about climate change.
<p>P-15: Use school gardens or other outdoor learning facilities as a jumping off point to address a multitude of climate related topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage MCPS schools to build and use school gardens for instruction. Continue to advocate for garden coordinators (both volunteers and paid positions) at MCPS schools to assist with garden building and maintenance. Support MCPS schools with creating and using outdoor learning spaces while integrating the use of outdoor spaces into the curriculum.



Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
<p>P-16: Develop increased opportunities for students to participate in climate change learning experiences outside of the classroom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a Youth Climate Summit in Winter/Spring 2022 for MCPS students. • Identify opportunities for extracurricular activities and Student Service Learning, including local projects at students' schools. • Increase student opportunities for exposure to careers in the green industry and knowledge of the pathways to get there, including internship opportunities and hands-on experiences with organizations working on climate change. • Partner with M-NCPPC – Department of Parks nature centers as important venues for providing climate change learning experiences for students.
<p>P-17: Develop sustainability goals for schools to reach and provide incentives to do so</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of MCPS schools certified as Maryland Green Schools, with a focus on middle schools. • Identify ways to provide stipends for leaders of Green Schools programs.
<p>P-18: Encourage climate change action at home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the MCPS Community Resources webpage with information on what students and families can do at home to tackle climate change. • Promote energy awareness during Energy Action Month in October. • Partner with Parent Teacher Associations to use School STEM nights as opportunities to talk to parents about climate change action at home.
<p>P-19: Establish cross-departmental partnership to facilitate implementation of climate goals at County schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a mission statement for this group. Determine department/agency participant list and begin convening meetings.



Economic Development

Climate Action	FY22 Next Steps
Sustainable Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the Sustainable Economic Development Plan, an economic inclusion strategy based on the CAP, including the identification of actions with high-job creation potential and career pathways for underrepresented and historically marginalized people.• Complete analysis of opportunities to transition “legacy businesses” (those that contribute to community stability and identity) into worker-owned coops, particularly those with the greatest potential to advance racial equity and contribute to the County’s resiliency and climate change goals.



Racial Equity & Social Justice

This section describes steps the County is taking to ensure equitable CAP implementation, so that everyone in the County has a role to play and that everyone shares in the benefits of climate action.

- Conduct community engagement that centers on the most vulnerable communities, including engagement to solicit input and co-create climate policies and programs at their initial stages.
- Develop and launch the Community Justice Academy, including hiring a consultant with expertise in collaborative governance, to support civic leadership and facilitate community-driven solutions in partnership with the county. See P-5.
- Launch the Climate Stories Ambassadors Project to amplify the rich diversity of underrepresented voices and perspectives in our community and spark creative climate solutions. See P-1.
- Develop climate metrics and climate equity metrics in consultation with the community. See G-11. Leverage the Montgomery County Planning Department's Equity Focus Areas mapping tool and other related data sets.

Legislative Agenda and Regulatory Policy Agenda

This section provides an overview of the County, state, and federal legislative and regulatory issues that the County plans to actively work on in support of CAP implementation in FY22. Additional legislative and regulatory actions may develop through the fiscal year as work progresses on the climate actions previously discussed.

County

Legislation:

- Participate in public hearing and Council work sessions about the Building Energy Performance Standard bill; continue outreach to external stakeholders.
- Evaluate modifications to the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program and introduce legislation to expand the type and size of projects eligible for C-PACE funding. It also would include climate resiliency activities as eligible PACE measures.
- Introduce legislation to expand the role of the Green Bank to also serve as the County's Resilience Authority in order to help finance projects focused on addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding and other resilience activities.
- Introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blower equipment.

Regulations:

- Adopt the 2018 International Green Construction Code (Executive regulations pending before Council).
- Adopt the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code.



- Issue regulations to implement the Transportation Demand Management law, which expands strategies to reduce the use of single-occupant vehicles, particularly for work trips.
- Develop regulations for Building Energy Performance Standards.

State

- Explore legislative options for increased Building Energy Performance Standard compliance incentives.
- Assess options for overcoming implied preemption to natural gas regulation.
- Participate in Public Service Commission proceedings regarding EmPOWER Maryland modifications.
- Participate in the Public Service Commission Workgroup advising on regulations governing the Community Choice Energy program.
- Explore next steps for state-level advocacy on vehicle carbon gas tax or VMT tax.
- Explore next steps to address state-level preemption issues that constrain the County's ability to ban natural gas in new construction.

Federal

- Advocate for earmarks and legislation in support of County climate initiatives. The most recent [federal priorities letter](#) is available on the County's website.
- Identify climate-related uses for Federal stimulus and infrastructure funding that may be provided to Montgomery County.