

Charlottesville Budget Forum

FY 2021



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COMMUNITY CLIMATE
COLLABORATIVE

Today's Agenda



1. Climate Policy Priorities (25 minutes)

- Background of our community's efforts and current status
- C3's climate policies recommendations

2. Charlottesville's Budget Process (15 minutes)

- Key dates
- Ways to get involved

3. Q&A Session (20 minutes)

Add Your Voice From Anywhere!



How?

- Support our **Community Climate Letter to City Council - Budget FY21**
 - Sign on at: theclimatecollaborative.org/c3-f21budget-letter
- Email the City Council at [**council@charlottesville.org**](mailto:council@charlottesville.org)
 - More info at: theclimatecollaborative.org/c3-f21budget-email

Climate Policy Priorities



1. Strengthen the **City's Environmental Sustainability Division**
2. Incentivize Cleaner, More Efficient, and More Equitable **Energy Consumption Patterns**
3. Incentivize Cleaner, More Efficient, and More Equitable **Transportation Systems**
4. Ensure That **Climate is a Priority Criteria** for Key Decision Making in the City

Why is This Important?



Local Effects of Climate Change - *Check out our report!*

- Annual number of days with a heat index above 105 °F
 - From **<1 day/year** to **20 days/year** by 2050 and **47 days/year** by 2100
 - Costly A/C use, up to **89% higher residential electricity consumption**
 - **Health risks:** heat exhaustion, stroke, and vector borne diseases
- Drier conditions
 - Increased **need for irrigation, lower crop and livestock productivity**
- Less frequent yet more extreme rainfalls
 - More **flooding, landslides**, property/infrastructure deterioration

Why is This Important?



Energy Equity

- The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines **housing affordability** as home with **less than 30% of a household's income being spent on housing-related expenses**
- Charlottesville has nearly 1,000 households spend **at least 20% of their income to paying energy bills**, approx. 4,000 households spend **at least 10%**
 - Families with less than 30% of AMI (\$89,600, as of 2018)

Where Are We?



Charlottesville's 2016 GHG Inventory vs. Baseline Year (2011)

- Charlottesville reduced its GHG emissions by 21.1%
 - 70% to 95% of these reductions were a result of **external factors**
 - Not as a result of **climate leadership!**
- State and regional efforts accounted for nearly **98.5%** of the city's electricity sector GHG emission reductions
- Transportation GHG emissions reduced by 20.6%, but **private vehicles usage increased by almost 5.8%**

How is Climate Action Being Incentivized?



Local Incentives for Climate Action (Check out our report!)

- **49 incentives** for climate initiatives available for Charlottesville residents
 - **78%** incentivize **energy efficiency upgrades**, **20% renewable energy**, and **only 8%** incentivize **low carbon transportation initiatives**
 - **63%** offer **rebates** (40% lower than \$100 and 70% lower than \$500)
 - **40%** require **property ownership**
 - **Only 10%** focus on **income or age qualifying populations**

How is Climate Action Being Incentivized?



Energy efficiency context local expert Tray Biasioli (Think Little)

- **Energy efficiency outreach & implementation**
 - Special focus on particularly **heavy energy user**
- **Increase incentives for homeowners to pursue advanced energy efficiency**
 - **On-bill financing** of energy efficiency?
- Take advantage of Virginia's increasingly clean grid



What is the City Planning to Do?

City Budget Highlights (detailed information from CIP)

- **Increased investment:** Urban Tree Planting
- **Same level of investment:**
 - Municipal Building Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 - Sidewalk Repair
 - Residential housing rehabilitation and energy efficiency upgrades
- **Lower investment:**
 - New Sidewalks and Bicycle Infrastructure
 - [Facilities] Energy Performance Contract (Audit)

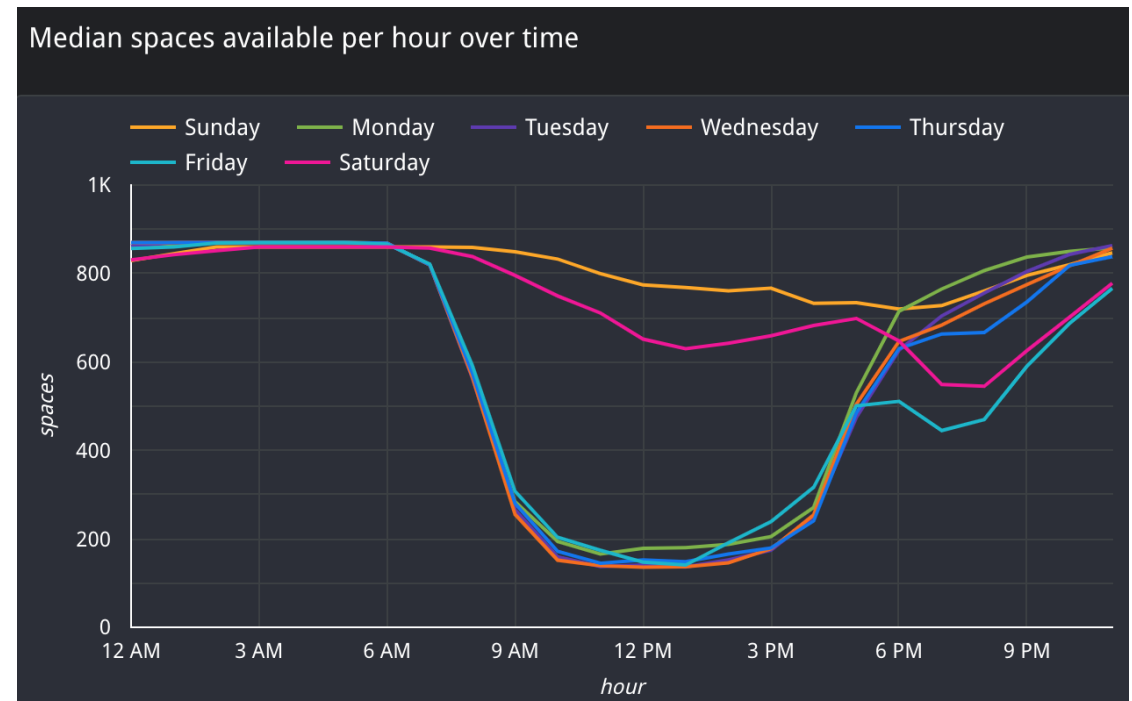
Note: *General Fund expenditures are expected to increase in the next 5 years*

What is the City Planning to Do?



Disputed investments, the parking structures case with Joshua Carp:

- Expanding parking capacity will likely induce more individual vehicle use
- Agreement with Albemarle to provide 90 parking spaces
 - Plan to build 300 new parking spaces
 - Existing parking structures are almost never full



Climate Policy Priorities



1. Strengthen the City's Environmental Sustainability Division

- Provide the division with sufficient resources to:
 - Conduct a **Greenhouse Gas Inventory every 2 years**
 - Publish annual data for electricity, natural gas and transportation use (**94% of Charlottesville's GHG emissions**)
 - Implement **climate policies** in a timely manner
 - Assess net climate impacts of major City projects and policies



2. Incentivize Cleaner, More Efficient, and More Equitable Energy Consumption Patterns

- Match County of Albemarle's Climate Action Pool of \$ 500,000
 - FY21 budget proposes extra \$250,000 to increase energy efficiency of lower-income households
 - A **Climate Action Fund** would give a clear signal to residents and businesses regarding the City's **commitment to support climate action**
 - Allows **prompt response to new opportunities**
 - Clear **diversity and equity goals** should be incorporated



3. Incentivize Cleaner, More Efficient, and More Equitable Transportation System

- **Strengthen CAT** by providing resources for better route and bus-fleet management; increasing the share of permanent employees/drivers;
 - Commit to **increase CAT's ridership by 100% by 2025**
- **Improve Bicycle and Walking Access**
- **Clean Transportation Infrastructure:** require a minimum of 3% **parking ratio of EV charging spaces to parking spots in municipal parks and facilities**



4. Ensure That Climate is a Priority Criteria for Key Decision Making in the City

- Require key strategic **boards and committees** to include a community member with experience in climate action/policy and/or create the **“Charlottesville Climate Advisory Committee”**
- Require the City’s **“Budget Priorities”** to include **Climate Leadership**
- Ensure that the **City’s Comprehensive Plan** is developed with an important focus on promoting **equitable climate change mitigation/adaptation**

Add Your Voice From Anywhere!



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Charlottesville's Budget Process



Key dates, looking forward:

- **Monday 03/16, 1st Charlottesville Public Hearing (Budget FY21)**
- **Monday 04/06, 2nd Charlottesville Public Hearing (Budget FY21)**

Add your voice!

- Show up in person and **remember to sign up to speak**
- The first community members sign up will be granted the opportunity to **express their thoughts for up to 3 minutes**
- Sign sheet will be available at 6:00pm (**arrive earlier to secure your spot!**)

Charlottesville's Budget Process



Tell your Story!

- Stick to the **highlight** (like a movie trailer)
- Motivate with **hope** and **recovery**
- Make your “**ask**”
- Don't forget to check out our **Talking Point** suggestions

Charlottesville's Budget Process



Other ways to get involved

- Write a Letter to The Editor (LTE) to your local newspaper
- Join Charlottesville's advisory boards
- Join our **Climate Policy Task Force!**

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CAT Advisory Board



If you ride the CAT bus, The Charlottesville Area Transit Advisory Board welcomes you as a member.

The Advisory Board meets every three months and its purpose is to listen to the needs of CAT riders and address issues that would represent their interests.

If you would like to become a member of the Board, Please send an email to jamesirvingmann@yahoo.com and I will send you a copy of our bylaws and keep you informed about our meetings.

James Mann, Chairman
CAT Advisory Board



Questions?

Thank You— Your Voice Matters!



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