

# Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Public Hearing – Carrboro Downtown Area Plan

Purpose: *The Town Council is asked to consider adopting the Downtown Area Plan, which explores opportunities for growth in the downtown area and along Jones Ferry Road in line with the Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan.*

Department:

**1. How will this action impact the Town’s or the community’s greenhouse gas emissions?**

X	Will REDUCE greenhouse gas emissions
	Will not reduce or increase greenhouse gas emissions
X	Will INCREASE greenhouse gas emissions
	Not applicable

**2. Please explain.**

- This plan does not directly make changes to the built environment; however, it serves as a guide for developers and a tool for Town Council for the prioritization of various projects in the downtown area.
  - These decisions will have climate impacts (at which time specific climate action pocket questions would be completed).
- The plan guides provisions in the New Carrboro UDO, which may impact greenhouse gases as development and projects that align with the Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Area Plan are prioritized.
- The plan discusses various opportunities for in-fill and redevelopment to bring more affordable housing and commercial variety to the downtown area.
  - If this goal is realized, greenhouse gas emissions may increase as more community members travel to or through Carrboro.
  - Greenhouse gas emissions may decrease as more community members live within walking distance of their daily needs.
- The *Implementation* chapter of the plan generalizes climate impact for each action item.

**3. Does this action impact:**

X	Water quality
X	Erosion and Surface run-off
X	Flooding
X	Air quality
X	Heat islands or extreme heat
X	Biodiversity
X	Solid waste
	Hazardous waste
	Other
	This action does not impact the environment

**4. Please explain.**

- As previously stated, the plan does not directly make changes to the built environment, however, it serves as a guide for developers and a tool for Town Council for the prioritization of various projects in the downtown area.
  - Various impacts to air quality, heat island effects, water quality, and other environmental impacts have been explored by the plan (See *Strategies and Considerations* chapter).
  - Understanding impacts to environment will be specific to action items as they are implemented; specific climate action pocket questions would be completed in preparation for such projects.
- The *Implementation* chapter of the plan generalizes climate impact for each action item.

**5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts?** NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.

- Staff across the organization will continue using climate impact tools to analyze and understand project-specific greenhouse gas and environmental impacts.
- The plan includes a metrics and reporting section, which specifically notes trends to measure to qualify and quantify climate goals:
  - Downward trend of impervious surface cover
  - Upward trend of tree canopy coverage
  - Upward trend of linear feet of sidewalks and greenways
  - Upward trend square feet of green infrastructure
  - Upward trend of number of green energy installations and green buildings