



## Town of Carrboro Planning Department

### **MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 14, 2022  
 To: Richard White, Town Manager  
 From: Trish McGuire, Planning Director, Laura Janway, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator  
 Subject: Town Council 6/25/19 Resolution

The purpose of this memo is to provide a summary of the actions taken by Town staff and the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to address the 6/25/19 Town Council Resolution Regarding Climate Action Goals and Budget Plan.

Reports on follow-up have been provided in Environmental and Climate Protection Plan (ECPP) and Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) implementation updates since the resolution was adopted.

Resolution Section	Action/Direction	Follow-up
1	The Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs the Town Manager to charge staff to work with the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to review the carbon reduction goals in the Environmental and Climate Protection Plan (ECPP) and Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EAB reviewed CCAP carbon reduction goals (8/22/19, 9/5/19, 9/19/19).</li> <li>• EAB reviewed ECPP carbon reduction goals (10/3/19).</li> </ul>
1	The Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs both staff and the EAB to recommend changes as may be needed to achieve goals defined the Town of Carrboro's 2009 climate resolution, recognizing the latest science and historical responsibilities for climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff provided EAB example climate action goals from other local governments, definitions of common terms used in climate goals, scientific recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report and findings from Dr. Yann Robiou du Pont's research into how to integrate the principles of climate equity in assessing carbon reduction goals (8/22/19, 9/5/19, 10/3/19, 11/7/19, 12/5/19, 1/16/20).</li> <li>• EAB recommended a change in the CCAP goals to an 80% community reduction of 2010 levels by 2030 (9/19/19).</li> <li>• EAB recommended a change in the ECPP goals to an 80% community reduction of 2010 levels by 2030 (10/3/19).</li> </ul>

2	<p>The Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs the Town Manager to charge staff to work with the EAB to identify substitutions to or additional activities or projects and their estimated CO<sub>2</sub> reductions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EAB began prioritizing their new plan recommendations (7/24/19).</li> <li>• EAB members continued discussions of recommendations (8/22/19, 9/5/19, 10/3/19, 11/7/19, 12/5/19, and 1/16/20).</li> <li>• EAB discussed options for changes in advisory boards related to CCAP implementation (9/5/19).</li> <li>• EAB chair prepared a memo to the Town Council to advise on board structure, including the creation of a new, climate-focused advisory board (5/7/20). This memo was sent to the Planning Director and Town Manager.</li> <li>• Staff prepared an update to the Town Council on progress developing a charge for a climate advisory board (9/8/20): <a href="https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4633095&amp;GUID=19E588CE-3D16-4C0D-8A64-02381FACAC7F&amp;Options=&amp;Search=">https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4633095&amp;GUID=19E588CE-3D16-4C0D-8A64-02381FACAC7F&amp;Options=&amp;Search=</a></li> <li>• Town Council created the Climate Action Team (10/27/20): <a href="https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4676567&amp;GUID=10DD6A89-8A4B-4223-9EFA-BBB4EF150093&amp;Options=&amp;Search=">https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4676567&amp;GUID=10DD6A89-8A4B-4223-9EFA-BBB4EF150093&amp;Options=&amp;Search=</a></li> </ul>
2	<p>The Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs both staff and the EAB to recommend such changes to include within the Town's Climate Plans, in order to more effectively reach the Town's climate reduction goals, while also recognizing principles of race and equity and climate justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EAB discussed current recommendations and added additional sections related to environmental justice and climate equity, carbon offsets and climate research protection, and biodiversity ideas (8/22/19, 9/5/19, 10/3/19, 11/7/19, 12/5/19, and 1/16/20).</li> <li>• CCAP implementation update included EAB recommendations. Council directed staff to incorporate inputs from the EAB into the plans and bring this item back to the Council (1/21/20): <a href="https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4310397&amp;GUID=F77AC2D4-C628-4257-B4F7-78EFA3BACD89&amp;Options=&amp;Search=">https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4310397&amp;GUID=F77AC2D4-C628-4257-B4F7-78EFA3BACD89&amp;Options=&amp;Search=</a></li> <li>• Town Council directed the EAB to reassess the Town's climate goal of an 80% reduction from 2010 levels and determine whether it is an appropriate goal (1/21/20).</li> <li>• Staff provided EAB members with additional climate science information, including the UN Environment Programme's 2019 Emissions Gap Report. EAB members discussed the Board of Aldermen's 2009 carbon reduction resolution and their recommendations to the Council to update the ECPP and CCAP goals to an 80% reduction from 2010 levels by 2030. EAB members decided they were confident they had</li> </ul>

		<p>used the most stringent and pessimistic scientific research available, as well as climate equity research, to inform these goals (2/19/20).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft updated plans presented to the Council. Town Council accepts the updated plans (10/13/20):  <a href="https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4664131&amp;GUID=2B0E9EF2-793D-4AF7-9344-D22C35B0CF82&amp;Options=&amp;Search=">https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4664131&amp;GUID=2B0E9EF2-793D-4AF7-9344-D22C35B0CF82&amp;Options=&amp;Search=</a> </li> </ul>
3	<p>The Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs the Town Manager to charge staff to update cost estimations of current and proposed projects and activities and develop a 10-year annual climate emergency budget proposal for implementing updated climate action plan goals and related activities and projects for consideration by the Carrboro Town Council beginning in the FY 2020-21 budget cycle, and annually thereafter.</p> <p>The Board of Aldermen will assess the recommended climate plan updates and budget based by cost, ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per the Town's carbon reduction goals, and implications for race and equity and climate justice for final inclusion in the Town's FY 2020-21 budget and annually thereafter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff prepared a climate action budget and Environmental Sustainability Work Plan for the FY20-21, FY21-22, and FY22-23 budgets.</li> <li>• Staff prepared and presented a 10-year annual climate emergency budget proposal to the Town Council (1/21/20):  <a href="https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4310398&amp;GUID=1FB7ECA5-F986-442E-BA24-1F0DC83ACF07&amp;Options=&amp;Search=">https://carrboro.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4310398&amp;GUID=1FB7ECA5-F986-442E-BA24-1F0DC83ACF07&amp;Options=&amp;Search=</a> </li> <li>• The Climate Action Team reviews the yearly draft Environmental Sustainability Work Plan. The EAB performed this task for the FY20-21 and FY21-22 budgets. The CAT reviewed the FY22-23 work plan.</li> <li>• The Council is scheduled to have a work session on 6/14/22, which will include a greenhouse gas emissions reduction model and 10-year climate emergency cost estimate projection.</li> </ul>
5	<p>The Board of Alderman directs the Town Manager to charge staff to leverage resources from Orange County, the State of North Carolina and the Federal government, when these are available, for helping achieve the Town's goals and for offsetting costs when possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCAP implementation reports include regular updates on funding opportunities that have been identified.</li> <li>• 2019 – Staff applied for funding from the VW Mitigation Fund for a pilot program in collaboration with OWASA to power Town vehicles using biogas. The proposal was not successful but the state's grant administrators urged the Town to apply again in a subsequent phase of the funding program.</li> <li>• 2020 – Staff continued monitoring VW mitigation fund grants.</li> <li>• 2021 – Town submitted proposals to the VW Mitigation Fund for two EV charging stations at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and the Rosemary St. Municipal lot. Staff Received notice of award February 2021.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town contributed \$4,800 to Piedmont EMC's funding match for a grant from the VW Mitigation Fund to install a DC Fast-Charging Station in Carrboro Plaza.</li> <li>• Town submitted two proposals to the Orange County Climate Action Grant Fund. The first proposal requested funding for a solar array and green roof on The 203 Project, which was funded at approximately \$40,000. The second proposal request funding for a part-time staff member to monitor the organics collection at the Carrboro Farmers' Market, which was funded at approximately \$4,000.</li> </ul>
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### **Resolution**

**A motion was made by Alderman Slade, seconded by Alderman Foushee, that the following resolution be approved:**

#### **RESOLUTION REGARDING CLIMATE ACTION GOALS AND BUDGET PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro's standard for setting climate action goals is defined in the 2009 RESOLUTION TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN A SOCIALLY JUST MANNER FOR CARRBORO'S PORTION OF CO<sub>2</sub> IN THE ATMOSPHERE; TOWARD GETTING THE ATMOSPHERE BACK TO A SAFE LEVEL BELOW 350 PPM OF CO<sub>2</sub>; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 resolution resolved that "The Town of Carrboro will seek, and will facilitate the community at large, to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by its proportion of the amount which is required to stabilize the climate back to less than 350 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere in time for a 90% probability for success as defined by the most up to date scientific consensus;" and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro has been implementing the municipal Energy and Climate Protection Plan (ECP) since its adoption in May 28, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro has been implementing the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) since the plan was adopted on January 24, 2017; and

WHEREAS, carbon sequestration by trees, water and soil is a necessary component for addressing the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, Orange County designated a portion of a recent property tax for use in climate change mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the largest share of global greenhouse gas emissions emitted since the industrial revolution come from the United States, and cumulative emissions are the critical factor behind the warming we are experiencing today; and

WHEREAS, climate change is an existential threat and an emergency; reports and predictions are always trending for the worse, the time window for action continually shrinks and the probabilities of having passed a point of no return are constantly increasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs the Town Manager to charge staff to work with the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to review the carbon reduction goals in the ECPP and CCAP, and for both staff and the EAB to recommend changes as may be needed to achieve goals defined in the 2009 climate resolution cited above, recognizing the latest science and historical responsibilities for climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs the Town Manager to charge staff to work with the EAB to identify substitutions to or additional activities or projects and their estimated CO2 reductions, and for both staff and the EAB to recommend such changes to include within the Town's Climate Plans, in order to more effectively reach the Town's climate reduction goals, while also recognizing principles of race and equity and climate justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen directs the Town Manager to charge staff to update cost estimations of current and proposed projects and activities, and develop a 10 year annual climate emergency budget proposal for implementing updated climate action plan goals and related activities and projects for consideration by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen beginning in the FY 2020-21 budget cycle, and annually thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Aldermen will assess the recommended climate plan updates and budget based by cost, ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per the Town's carbon reduction goals, and implications for race and equity and climate justice for final inclusion in the Town's FY 2020-21 budget and annually thereafter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Alderman directs the Town Manager to charge staff to leverage resources from Orange County, the State of North Carolina and the Federal government, when these are available, for helping achieve the Town's goals and for offsetting costs when possible.

**This, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye: Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Alderman Bethany Chaney, Alderman Barbara Foushee, Alderman Jacquelyn Gist, Alderman Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Alderman Damon Seils, Alderman Sammy Slade**