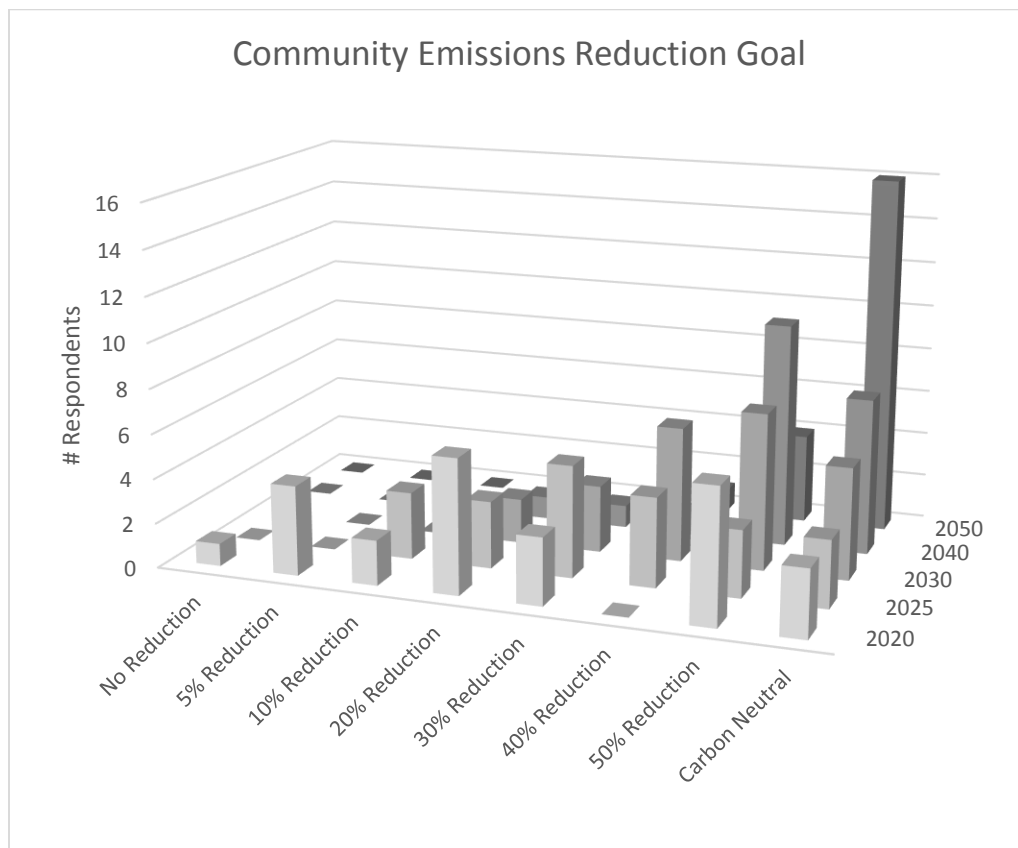


## Carrboro Climate Action Survey Results

April 20, 2016

A 10 question survey was made available in March and April, 2016 as one public input mechanism in consideration of the draft Community Climate Action Plan. The survey was made available via Survey Monkey and a print version. A total of 26 people completed the survey. The quantitative and qualitative results for each question are presented below.

- 1) **What greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the community should Carrboro adopt?** (In considering this, please "normalize" your response to a per capita basis to account for changes in population over time.)

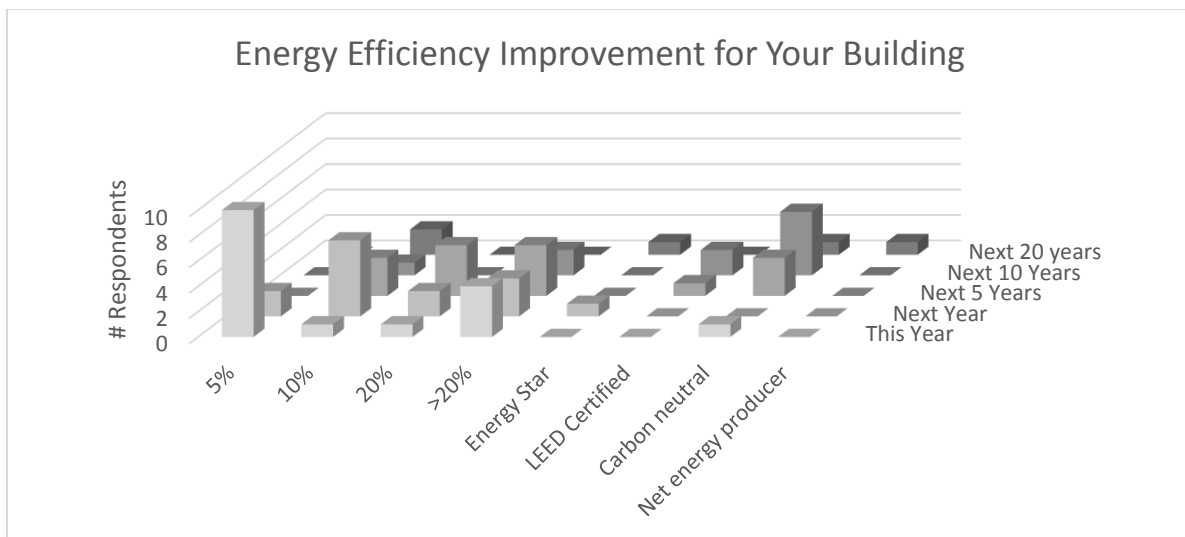


Respondents' comments:

- Is the 50% by 2025 plan feasible? What has been done so far and is there a sense of the current carbon footprint and its change in the last 20 years?
- We have solar panels and solar hot water and low consumption car.
- It would be very helpful for the Climate Action Plan document to provide the per capita GHG numbers determined for Orange County in the 2005 survey referenced on p.4
- I don't know what's realistic. But the goal should be carbon neutral ASAP.

- There is no time or planetary allowances Plan B if Plan A fails, so I feel we have to be very aggressive.
- Given the current status, I think we need a very aggressive response such as that called for by <http://www.theclimatemobilization.org/>.
- This is a tough question. But we should just do our best
- According to a 2006 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all transportation combined. And according to a 2009 report by the Worldwatch Institute, livestock and their byproducts account for at least 32,000 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) per year, or 51% of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. If the Carrboro Climate Action Plan encouraged people in Carrboro to stop purchasing and consuming animals and their secretions, the 50% goal could be reached overnight.
- I know these goals would be difficult to reach, but if the community is serious about this issue, we need drastic change now!
- Using too much greenhouse gasses causes too much of a problem. But some people need to use greenhouse gasses.

- 2) **Which, if any, of the following energy efficiency goals have you committed to for the building(s) you own/manage/occupy?** (In considering your response, note that it is often found that 5-10% improvements are feasible with low cost/no cost approaches, whereas achieving higher improvements often involves more investment.)



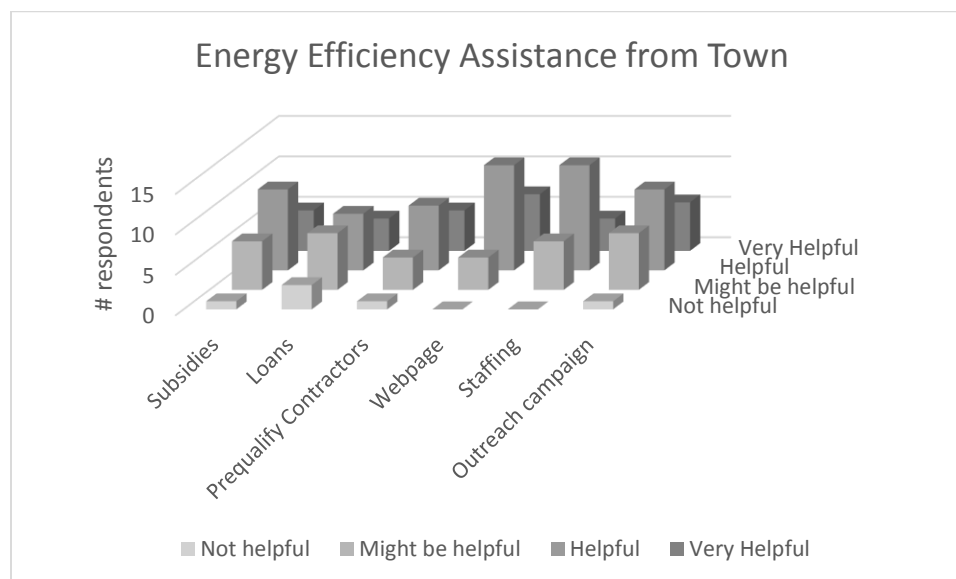
Respondents' comments:

- We did this when we purchased & renovated our house on Oak St in 2002. The house had no insulation & we completely insulated it. We installed double tight, double pane windows throughout, put vapor barrier in the crawl space. We installed a new, 12 SEER heat pump, a gas

HWH and gas fireplace. Duke Energy regularly provides us a Home Energy Report showing our house is 38% more efficient than what they call an "Efficient Home."

- My house is terrible -- totally shaded and lots of windows. I'm not sure what I can do to make it more efficient. We've already sealed the crawlspace.
- I own some rental property....
- I do not understand this format. However we currently produce about 50% of our energy.
- Not able to get much more efficient than present unless I invest in solar installation or hybrid vehicle which are both expensive options at this time.
- By not purchasing or consuming animals or their secretions, we have already reduced our household carbon footprint by 50%.
- I installed solar panels 2014 and do everything else I can to reduce my energy use.
- Currently in top 5% of efficiency and close to carbon neutral-have dealt with the low hanging fruit and then some.
- Need solar energy

### 3) What type of energy efficiency assistance from the Town for your building(s) would be beneficial?

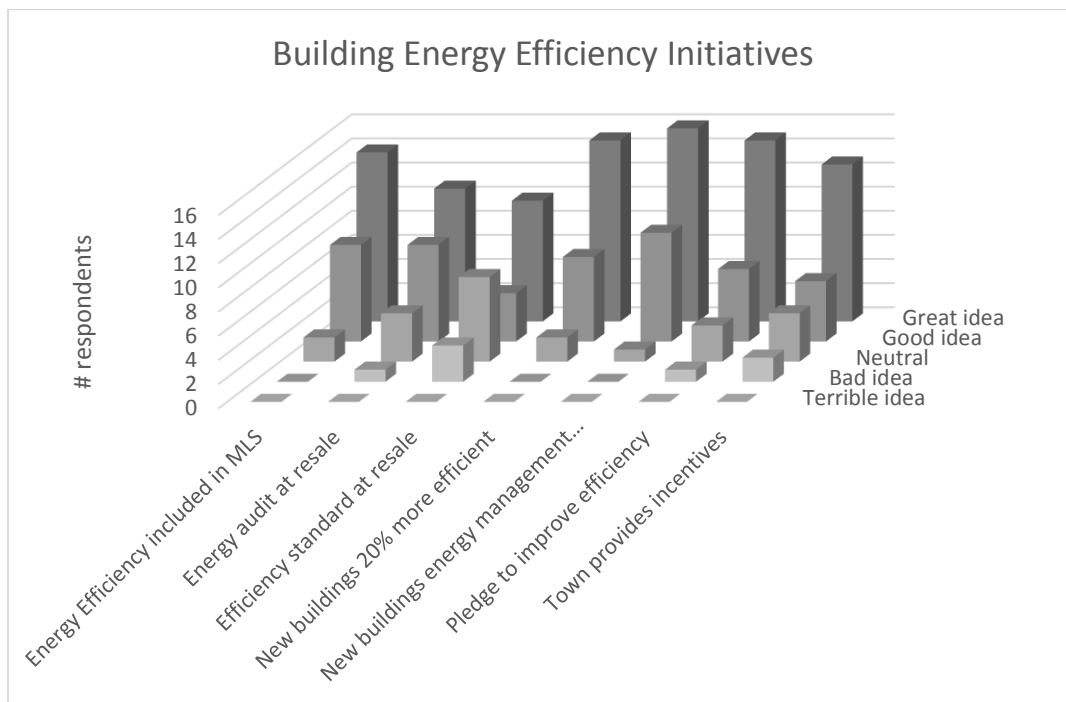


#### Respondents' comments:

- Unless there are outside (presumably federal) funds, subsidies and loans are not practical from the Town.
- As I stated above, we have already done the work, and with our own funds. We support the town assisting other owners, including owners of rental property, to make the kind of changes we have made.
- This is a hard challenge and I'm not under an illusion that we have an easy way to get there, but we need to be bold and creative and I imagine have dozens of things we do like those in the above list.

- Host weekly or monthly vegan potlucks at the Century Center; show films such as Cowsspiracy and Plant Pure Nation.
- Subsidies based on income level.
- Boulder, CO provides the best municipal example around. It is too ambitious for Carrboro alone, but Carrboro could partner with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to pursue something similar.

#### 4) What is your opinion on these approaches as a future community scale initiative?

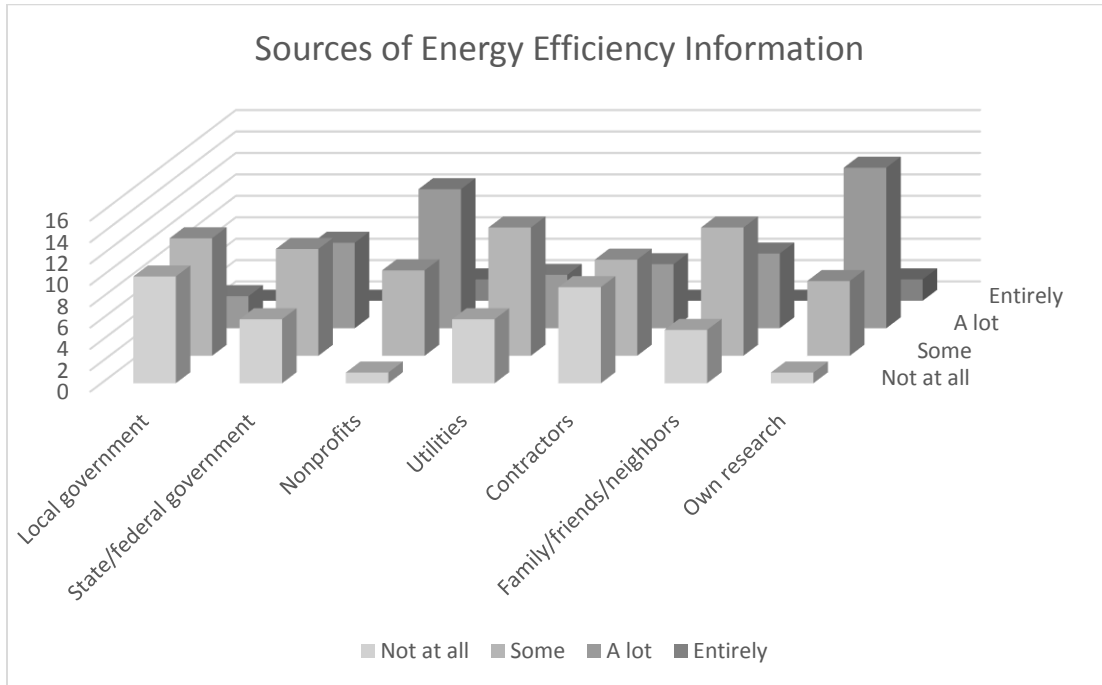


#### Respondents' comments:

- Change zoning so that property owners can build AND SELL a "granny flat" or "tiny house" on a subdivided portion of their property. Given the cost of building there is little incentive for an owner to create a <750 sq ft rental unit--it takes too long to pay for itself. Being able to subdivide & sell is a huge financial incentive, the town gets a stock of small-scale, AFFORDABLE, ultra-efficient housing.
- I love the idea of including btu/ft2 data in MLS listings
- The town should make investments in and awareness of efficiency and renewables easier, but not subsidize or require improvements in private buildings
- The town could require new developments to obtain Energy Star certification.

- Adding efficiency requirements will increase housing costs punishing low income buyers/sellers. Maybe the town could provide funding to increase low income housing efficiency.
- The Town should serve plant-based foods at all town functions.

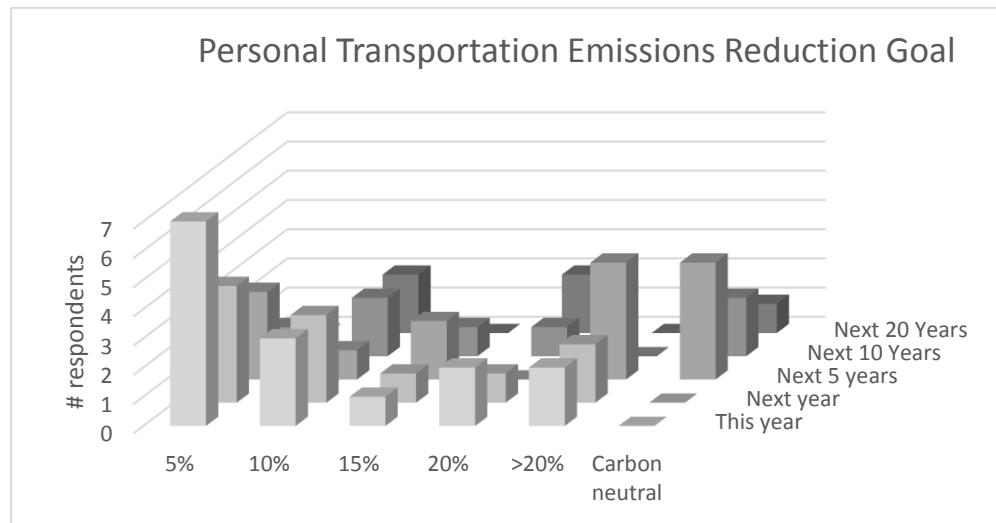
##### 5) Whom do you look to for energy efficiency information?



##### Respondents' comments:

- Media – “The Nation”
- Have worked with local architects who are experts.
- There's tons of information already available. Perhaps the town could help steer people towards it.
- Hard to find broadly applicable evidence-based information.
- Watch Cowsspiracy on Netflix.

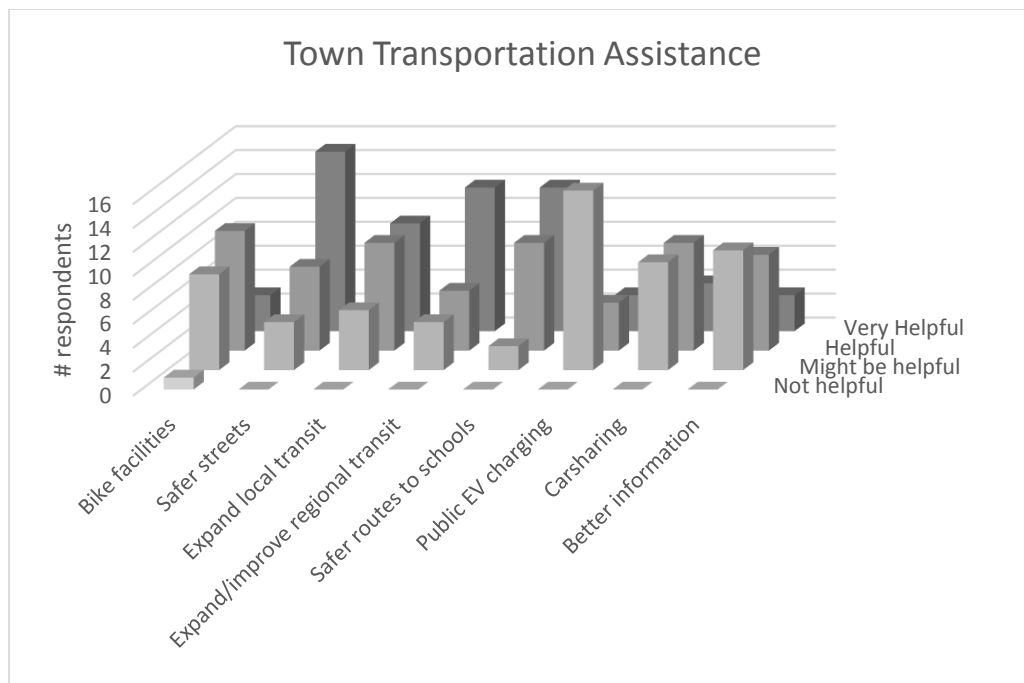
6) Which, if any, of the following goals have you committed to for your transportation footprint?



Respondents' comments:

- We minimize our transportation footprint.
- For cars, we have for years used efficient cars. Can't go too much more in that area. With scattered family, we are flying more which is bad for carbon footprint.
- Moved into town from Chatham County in 2002; thereby reduced my annual VMT from ~12,000 to ~2750.
- Please improve bike infrastructure along Estes and 54 and Fayetteville and Dairyland. Are bike paths required on new roads in town? They should be.
- No further change in transportation footprint planned given reductions already in place.
- Working in Hillsborough makes it very hard to reduce my carbon footprint. More transportation options would help a great deal! It is impossible at this time to answer this question
- I work from home and walk when I can.
- I rarely drive or fly so my emissions output is low now, but always try to do more.
- Last year I switched to an EV. This year I'm trying to minimize its use and bike as much as possible. Next year I'm going to starting offsetting emissions from trips. Within 5 years, I intend to offset 100% of emissions from trips.

## 7) What type of transportation related assistance from the Town would be beneficial?

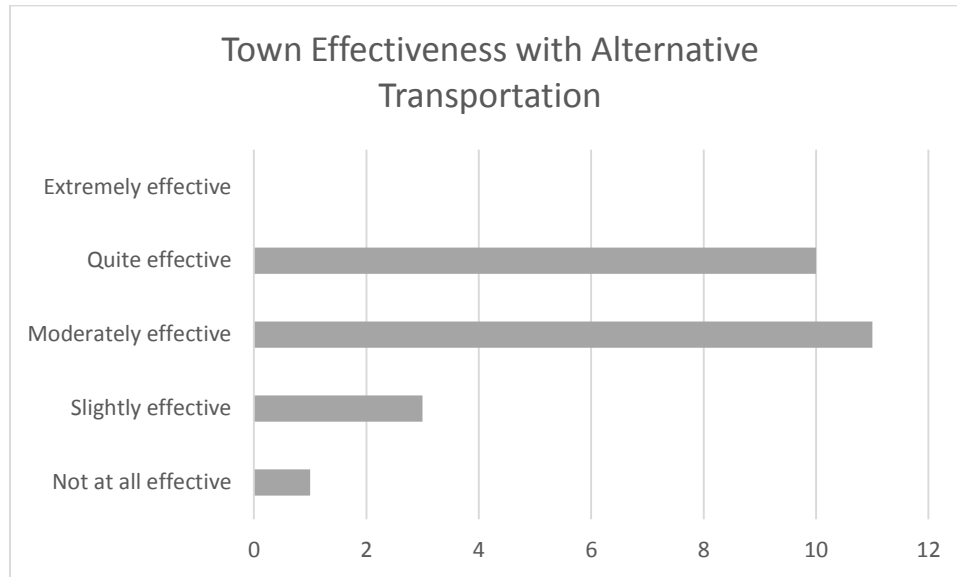


### Respondents' comments:

- A great PR/visibility campaign could be to close down Weaver Street once a week (Sunday mornings?) and encourage fitness and alternative transportation awareness.
- Pave the entire length of the proposed Bolin Creek Greenway. This will provide an alternate bike route for commuting & recreational use the entire length of the town. By permanently stabilizing the OWASA sewer easement the health of the creek will be considerably improved, and cyclists will have an alternative to commuting & recreational routes on which they are exposed to vehicular emissions. 2) RE: electric vehicle charging stations don't necessarily help reduce emissions when their power source is combustion of fossil fuels, as from coal burning plants, for instance.
- Bolin Creek greenway to access CH High School is important to pursue for long term transportation alternatives to driving
- Make it easier to park downtown in one place and walk to more than one shop instead of having to move the car for fear of towing (at Carr Mill Mall for example). Make pedestrian (and bike?) zones where it is safe and pleasant to walk between shops. Also increase frequency of buses.
- Help people select what kind of car to buy to maximize whatever their goal is, hopefully, maximal efficiency.
- I live close to downtown so the sidewalks are developed and bus options are already pretty good for me. But I would travel by bike more if there were bike lanes that are separated from the car lanes by more than a painted line. This is especially important for children. I encourage the Town to consider more dedicated bike routes that are not available to car traffic. Thank you!

- Better business routes to Hillsborough!
- Support Uber, Lyft, and other sharing economy initiatives. Install parking meters.
- The big challenge facing the Town is finding the capital to make investments in the needed infrastructure. The Town, in collaboration with Chapel Hill, Orange County, and UNC, should develop a financing plan, including floating a bond.

**8) How effective has the Town been in the past in supporting you with transportation alternatives?**



**Respondents' comments:**

- We would use the bus if it were more frequent and convenient (F bus waits 20 minutes at end of line.)
- The town subsidizes the buses, unusual for a town this size. That is the single greatest contribution to alternative transportation. Keeping density downtown and promoting bikes are the next most important factors. All of these actions are deliberate policy. Go Carrboro!
- No question that the town's contribution to the bus service and construction of sidewalks has made a big difference. But need to be more aggressive in making long term improvements. For instance, by identifying areas for allowing much greater residential density. According to figures reported by Langdon Morris of Innovation Labs, by the end of the century some 3 billion people will have relocated from rural to urban areas. We need to take steps to accommodate them, EVERYWHERE. Greater density of residents and businesses both creates a tax base that can FAR better support the pedestrian, cycling, and public transit infrastructure we need to end CO2 emissions from cars.
- Fare free buses and new bike lanes are great

**9) Please provide any additional input**

**Respondents' comments:**

- The town should set an excellent example, which it mostly does. I am proud that our town Hall is the old school, our community center is a former church, and our downtown shopping center is



an historic mill. I suspect Town Hall is an energy sink, and it is a shame that the old library upstairs is not able to be used. Further renovation should be planned!

- See my note just above regarding the density/transportation nexus. The Community Action Plan seems very parochial, in the sense of not looking enough at the larger picture. "Let's buy Priuses and fix our houses and everything will get better" doesn't begin to cut it. Urbanization is the most powerful tool we have to address climate change & resource depletion. Globally, it is already well along, with more than 50% of us living in cities. But locally we continue to put considerable impediments in the way. We're still making babies in Carrboro, but not doing enough to accommodate them, or employees who can't afford our housing, or those rural folks who want to move into town. The price of admission is pretty steep--as well we know.
- Please be ambitious but not foolish in pursuit of this goal. Some of these services are and can be provided by others with more skill sets and experience. Just because it should be done doesn't mean it should be done by the town alone.
- Has the town considered supporting a community-owned solar farm or wind turbine?
- Consider micro/neighborhood energy production coops. Tree planting initiatives.
- 1) We know we can't do this alone as just one small town, but we could do something really significant while still putting ourselves in a position to be a great partner with others in the future. 2) I think we need a combined approach of reducing our carbon emissions (like seems to be the focus based on the survey) and carbon sequestration. Things like changing our crop and forest management practices can sequester significant amounts of carbon and are needed after we get to carbon neutrality to reduce levels from their current dangerously high value. 3) The rules of our current economy often get in the way and so I think we need to think broadly how we can create a parallel economy that will work with a dramatically different set of objectives than the current global economy. Just one example: Federally created money is given to large financial institutions and has very little chance of helping our local community, but we could create money which can pay for work that helps the community.
- Just asking people about goals I think is a really good way to get people thinking about how they can make tangible progress.
- Need more human-powered (bicycling and pedestrian) options between downtown and communities along Homestead Road, Carrboro and Duke, and between Carrboro and Southpoint Mall and/or RTP (similar to the American Tobacco Trail). More bus options would also be helpful. No rail transit - too costly to build and no flexibility if routes need to be changed.
- The town should consider promoting plant based diets since the animal agriculture industry is a leading cause of global warming. We should also take personal responsibility in global warming rather than place blame on wildlife such as deer. I strongly believe the deer culling programs should be removed from this plan since it clearly is not related to our carbon footprint.
- Consider promoting plant-based diets because they are more environmentally friendly. Also, the town should acknowledge that climate change is caused primarily by humans and human behavior should be the focus (rather than any focus on things like deer population, which is unrelated to climate change).
- The town needs to recognize animal agriculture is the leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions, by far. Plant-based foods should be served at all town functions. The town should set a national example by committing to consumer education about plant-based diets, and form a task force to come up with ways to facilitate outreach and education.

- I appreciate the efforts of the Task Force and the Town to pursue Climate Action planning.
- It would be great if we can make these changes. First, educate people about it. GREAT IDEA!

#### **10) Respondents Choosing to Provide Names**

James Carnahan 122 Oak St Carrboro

Cindy Shea 303 Tripp Farm

Anne Tazewell 102 Webb Dr. Carrboro

Laura Wenzel 1015 Tallyho Trail Chapel Hill (Carrboro)

Tom Grizzle 1541 Ferrell Road Chapel Hill

Abraham Palmer; abraham.palmer@gmail.com; 121 Circadian Way (Carrboro)

Rob Pinder, 105 Fidelity St. A22, Carrboro, NC 27510