

Charleston County

Climate Action Plan

7 December 2023

SSG



Climate Action Planning



Climate Action Planning is
Economic Development

Charleston County spends
\$2.2 billion per year on
energy

Charleston County CAP Project Timeline



Engagement Activities

Public meetings | 2 + 1 upcoming

Events | 15 + 5 planned

Publications | 4 articles

Questionnaire Responses | 250+

Additional Engagement Input

**Resilience and Sustainability Advisory
Committee (RSAC)**

**Staff Expert Climate Advisory Team
(SECAT)**

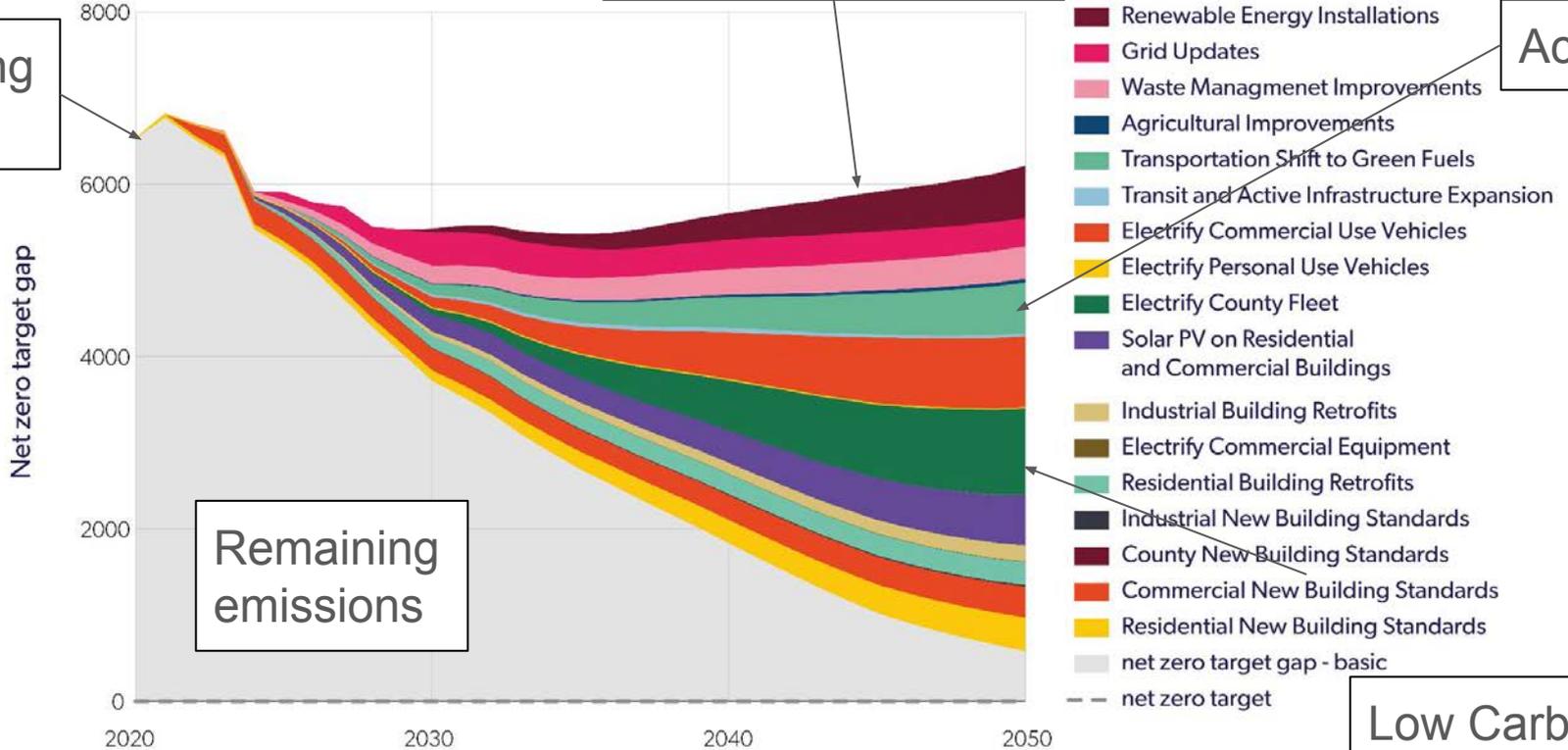
Both groups are providing SSG with continual advice and assisting in ensuring our approach is properly localized to Charleston County.

A Pathway

Reference Scenario
(What will happen if no action is taken)

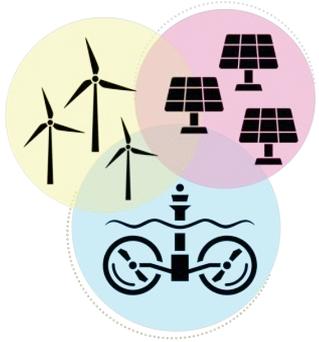
Starting point

Actions



Low Carbon Pathway

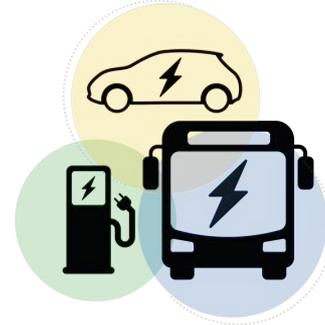
Potential Climate Actions



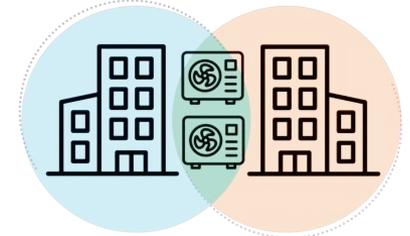
Increase renewable energy



Improve building energy efficiency



Emissions free vehicles



Implement Low Energy HVAC



Maintain and protect infrastructure



Reduce water consumption

Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Two recent actions made available the most funding ever before to respond to and mitigate climate change through infrastructure programs:

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

- **\$783+ billion**
- Largest piece of federal legislation ever to address climate change
- Most provisions already in effect
- Works with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Many federal agencies involved

Climate & Energy Focus Areas

- ❑ Lower energy costs
- ❑ Create green jobs with good wages
- ❑ Grow domestic manufacturing
- ❑ Lower cost of electric vehicles
- ❑ Reduce air pollution
- ❑ Make homes and communities more resilient to flooding and fire

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021

- **\$550 billion** from 2022-2026
- Roads, bridges, mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband
- Works with Inflation Reduction Act
- Funding available to states, cities, counties, towns, tribal entities, MSAs, MPOs

Climate & Energy Focus Areas

- ❑ Better transportation infrastructure
- ❑ Power systems for clean energy
- ❑ Expand broadband internet access
- ❑ Access clean drinking water
- ❑ Make public infrastructure and homes more resilient to climate impacts
- ❑ Strengthen freight & supply chains
- ❑ Clean up legacy pollution sites

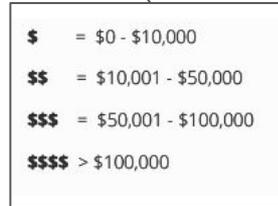
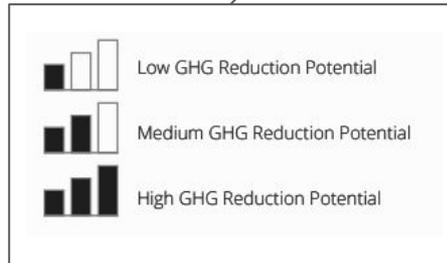
Implementation Considerations

01	County Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is this action within the County's authority and legally feasible?• Can the County implement this action on its own/without involvement or support from other tiers of government?• Does it require the government to incentivize a private sector action?
02	Staffing + Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the County have staff or partners with the capacity and technical skills required to support this action?• Will it require additional staff capacity or temporary staff augmentation?• Does it require investing in training for current staff?
03	Potential GHG Reduction Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is it likely that implementing this action will have a significant impact on GHG emissions?• Does this action need to be addressed in the next 1-5 years, 5-10 years, 10-20 years to meet GHG reduction goals?
04	Political Priorities + County Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has this action been identified as important by Charleston County?• Are any elected officials or leaders championing this effort, or likely to support?• Are any similar initiatives already underway?
05	Community Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has this action been identified as important by the community?• Are people in the community interested in the issue?• Is there community momentum to move this initiative forward?

6	County Policies + Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this action fit in or conflict with existing County policies and programs? • Is there opportunity to build on existing initiatives? • Does it require altering existing policies and programs? • Does it require developing new policies and programs?
7	Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the cost to launch and implement this action? Cost over time? • Does this action require full or partial funding from the County? • Can it be achieved via low or no-cost mechanisms? (incentives, service/project partnerships)
8	Existing Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are resources (funds, staff, expertise) either readily available or can resources be obtained to implement and manage the action? • Is there opportunity to build on existing initiatives? • Can the County leverage existing partnerships to implement this action?
9	Funding + Resource Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there funding/resources that can be obtained to implement the action? • What level of effort is required to obtain those resources? (automatic/opt-in tax credits vs. competitive grant applications) • Does the County have staffing/capacity to pursue new funding?
10	Co-Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this action create co-benefits for the County and community? (job creation, open space, environmental preservation) • How desirable are the secondary benefits? • Does it have potential to reduce inequity? Does it benefit vulnerable communities?
11	Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the action have the potential to reduce inequity? • Does it benefit vulnerable communities? Which communities? • Does this action have any potential unintended consequences for equity in Charleston County?

Implementation Scoring Example

Capacity		Readiness		GHG	Cost Feasibility			Benefits		TOTAL
County Authority	Staffing + Technical Capacity	Political Priorities + County Readiness	Community Readiness	Potential GHG Reduction	Cost	Existing Resources	Funding + Resource Opportunities	Co-Benefits	Equity	
5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	30



Call to action!

Help shape implementation outcomes

Documenting Council and community priorities helps shape climate actions to benefit communities through:

- 1. Program design**
- 2. Accessibility**
- 3. Benefits + beneficiaries**
- 4. Urgency**

THANK YOU

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SSG