

# Big Moves

## of the Charleston County's Sustainability Plan

September 2024



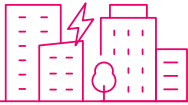
### Big Move

### N°

### Action

# 1

## Affordable and Resilient Buildings



1

Consider a net-zero design for all new municipal buildings and assess its financial value over the lifetime of the building.

2

Develop a high-performance building performance standard (BPS) for new residential and commercial buildings for developers and owners to consider.

3

Explore zoning incentives for any housing type that is net zero emissions, with additional bonuses for net-zero, affordable housing projects.

4

Consider incorporating low-carbon considerations into planning approvals, where feasible.

5

Encourage developers with incentives or other measures to prioritize heat pumps, heat pump hot water tanks, and induction cooking for new developments to ensure affordability.

6

Advocate for the State to update its building code to enhance energy performance and ensure safe buildings.

7

Support educational sessions for builders on net-zero design principles and funding opportunities.

8

Undertake energy audits for existing municipal buildings and where there is a lifecycle business case, implement deep retrofits.

9

Initiate voluntary energy use disclosure and benchmarking for large non-residential and multi-family buildings.

10

Initiate a Home Energy Score program with appropriate partners, including utilities.

11

Refer homeowners to, and support the expansion of Sustainability Institute's weatherization project for low-income households.

12

Share information on incentives and technical resources to encourage residents, especially low-income households, to purchase and install heat pumps and highly efficient appliances.

13

Identify systemic barriers and opportunities to scale-up rooftop solar photovoltaic installations in Charleston County with appropriate partners.

14

Advocate for the State to enable and activate residential and commercial PACE programs in South Carolina.

15

Initiate a pre-approved contractors program, include training and a public registry.

16

Support new or existing programs for business owners to retrofit older commercial buildings.

17

Facilitate a concierge service for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding with the objective to maximize IRA investments in Charleston County.

18

Partner with organizations to offer energy savings workshops for residents and businesses.

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# 2

## Sustainable and Inclusive Transportation



19

In accordance with established procedures, assess options for revising existing and new zoning codes to advance mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented development.

20

Establish an objective that new developments outside Urban Growth Boundary are limited to net-zero emissions projects.

21

Apply Complete Communities policies for priority low-income, disadvantaged communities (LIDC) neighborhoods, where feasible and applicable.

22

Expand and improve active transportation infrastructure. Focus investments in LIDC neighborhoods and major activity centers.

23

Collaborate with Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) and local municipalities to expand the regional public transit networks.

24

Support BCDCOG in developing a Multi-Modal, Safe Streets for All Transportation Plan.

25

Support outreach and education campaigns to encourage walking, bicycling, and riding transit.

26

Support the development of a last-mile delivery task force to identify innovative transportation solutions for businesses.

27

Expand e-bike/bike share programs in LIDC neighborhoods, as financially feasible.

28

Right-size and decarbonize the municipal fleet and equipment at the point of vehicle replacement, considering vehicle use, available technologies, and the business case.

29

Provide Cars 4 All incentives to help lower-income consumers replace their old higher-polluting vehicles with newer and cleaner transportation, subject to grant funding.

30

Support installation of DC Fast Charging stations in LIDC neighborhoods, subject to funding availability

31

Review land development regulations and consider Climate Positive Design solutions for parking lots and major developments.

32

Support partner organizations in expanding existing smart commute programs.

33

Coordinate with BCDCOG on strategies to electrify the transit fleet, including charging infrastructure and enabling land-use policies.

34

Support businesses in developing collaborative green fleet strategies.

35

Advocate for BCDCOG to investigate the inclusion of electric ferries along major waterways as part of their public transit system to reduce congestion and increase accessibility.

36

Advocate for Port of Charleston to provide renewable shore power services.

37

Support the airport in supplying electric and low-carbon fuel options for clean aviation.

38

Support rail companies in switching to battery-electric or other clean fuel-powered locomotives.

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# 3

## Clean Energy for All



39

Continue to deploy solar PV projects for municipal facilities, where there is a business case.

40

Explore affordable, green energy options for the community and businesses with utilities serving the Charleston County area.

41

Emphasize the importance of clean electricity for the County's Climate Action plan to the Public Service Commission.

42

Partner with appropriate organizations to develop group buy programs for solar and energy storage systems to increase affordability and energy resilience for community members.

43

Partner with appropriate organizations to develop a community solar garden program for LIDC neighborhoods.

44

Participate in the effort to develop a business hub for offshore wind as part of the economic development strategy in Charleston County.

45

Support partner organizations in developing an energy storage program, including vehicle to grid for residential and commercial vehicles.

46

Support partner organizations in establishing workforce development programs to build local capacity and expertise for renewable energy installations.

# 4

## Innovative



47

Leverage existing sustainable agriculture task force and organizations to identify actions to support local farms and reduce GHG emissions.

48

Assess the inclusion of carbon sequestration in the Greenbelt Program.

49

Consider incentives and technical assistance for local landowners and organizations to undertake ecological restoration projects, supporting carbon sequestration.

50

Advocate for industry decarbonization as one of the key strategies for regional economic development.

# 5

## Circular Economy



51

Conduct a waste audit every five years to identify trends in waste generation.

52

Collaborate with vendors to identify and close gaps in the current composting programs for residents and businesses and evaluate the opportunity for biodigesters as an alternative to compost.

53

Collaborate with industry experts to develop a circular economy strategy (including recycling) that focuses on the ideas of zero landfill waste and using waste as a resource.