

RSAC Meeting 5

Implementation Planning Part II

12 December 2023

SSG



Agenda

Welcome - Arielle + Erica, SSG

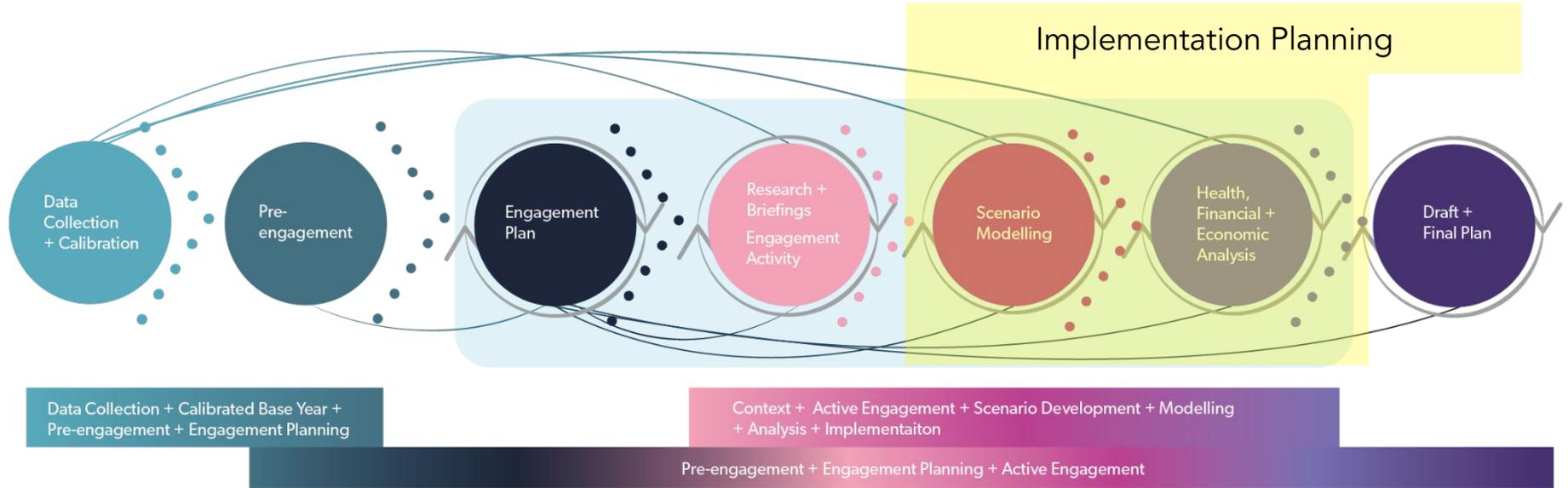
Agenda Review - Erica

Implementation Progress - Jared, CIVIX

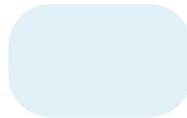
- Implementation Planning Review
- Federal Funding Opportunities Review
- Prioritization Criteria + Considerations
- Prioritization Scoring

Roundtable Discussion - RSAC

Closing + Next Steps - Arielle + Erica



Technical +
Engagement
Process Informing
Each Other



Active
Engagement Period

Remaining Timeline for Plan

December 7, 2023: First county council briefing

December 15, 2023: Community engagement for draft plan complete

Mid-Late December 2023: Financial modeling results

February 2023: Second county council briefing - present draft plan

February - March 2023: Draft plan review

March 2023: Final council council briefing - vote for acceptance

Engagement Update

Engagement activities

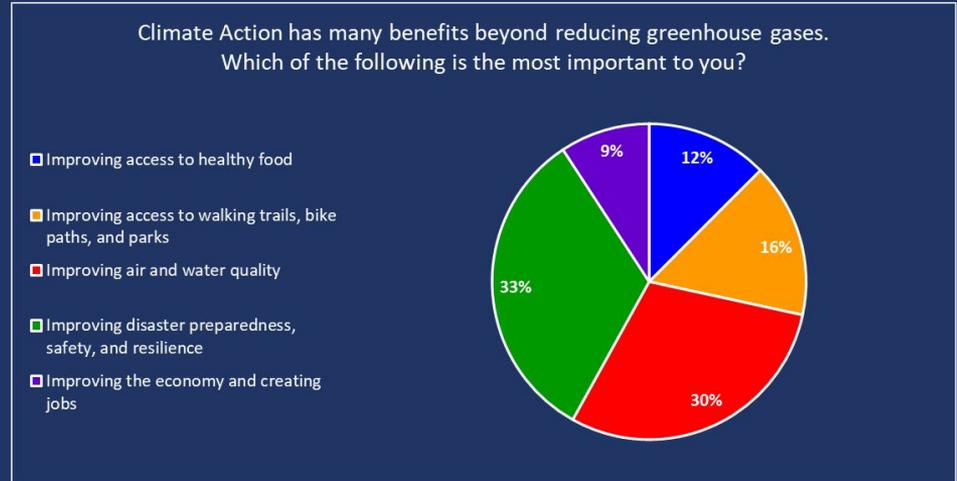
- 3 articles about Climate Action Plan
- 2 webinars with a final one on January 18th
- 6 in-person presentations
- 8 tabling sessions
- 1 radio podcast
- 220 recipients on e-alerts
- 680 Instagram followers

Community questionnaire

- To date, 303 respondents

Engagement timeline + next steps

- Data from the engagement sessions will be synthesized and codified into a comprehensive report
- More engagement sessions will be scheduled in 2024 for those groups who could not meet during the engagement timeframe but information will be focused on the draft plan



Implementation Planning Review

Implementation Planning

Enabling the County and community to take practical action on reducing climate pollution (GHG emissions) and generating community benefits with three primary lenses:

- 1. Funding Availability**
- 2. Feasibility + County Capacity**
- 3. Community Priorities**

Implementation Planning

✓ Prioritize climate actions based on:

- GHG Reduction Potential
- Feasibility
 - County Capacity
 - Community Capacity
- Funding Opportunities
- Co-benefits
- Equity Impacts

✓ Identify specific funding pathways and program designs for major actions

Example Action & Category (May include: transportation, land use and zoning, renewable energy, water conservation, agriculture, etc.)

ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT (FEASIBILITY)	Scoring	Justification
Staffing and technical capacity	1-3	Does it leverage existing staff knowledge? Does it require hiring specialists or contractors or investing in training?
Existing Resources	1-3	Can the City use existing equipment, facilities, etc.?
Legal or Jurisdictional Control	1-3	Can the municipality implement the action on their own, does it require partnerships, or does it require the government to incentivize a private sector action?

ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT (COMMUNITY READINESS)	Scoring	Justification
County/Community Readiness / Political Will	1-3	Does it fit in with past public engagement and community advocacy? Are the Mayor or City Council championing the action?
City Policies and Programs	1-3	Does it fit in with existing policies and programs? Or, does it require altering existing policies and programs?
Example Policies and Programs from Other Jurisdictions	1-3	Are similar cities already doing this action and can provide best practice? Or, will the City be pioneering a pilot program (as may be the case with some IRA funding)?

ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT (COST)	Scoring	Justification
Cost	1-3	What is the cost over time?
Potential Funding or Grant Options	1-3	List of any potential funding sources: taxes, grants, yearly operating budget, etc.
Funding Availability and Application Involvement	1-3	Is the funding automatic (like IRA tax credits)? Or, does it involve an extensive application? Does it involve new funding mechanisms?

	Scoring	Justification
POTENTIAL GHG IMPACT	1-3	What is the GHG reduction over time?
CO - BENEFITS	1-3	Co-created by public process, may include public health, air quality, beautification, economic development, etc.
IMPACTS ON EQUITY	1-3	Co-created by public process to determine most important, location-specific indicators of equity.
OTHER NOTES		Any other notes.

Action prioritization score = feasibility score + community readiness score + cost score + potential GHG impact + co-benefits + impacts on equity

Federal Funding Opportunities Review

Unprecedented funding opportunities

Three recent actions made available the most funding ever before to respond to and mitigate climate change:

- 1. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**
- 2. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**
- 3. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)**

Climate Action Priorities + Revised Criteria / Scoring

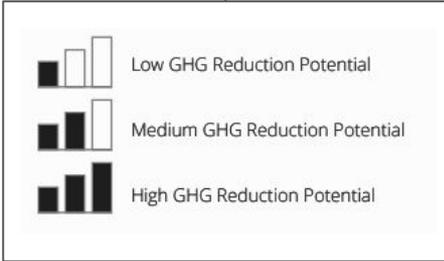
Prioritization Criteria + Considerations

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	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 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?

Prioritization Scoring

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



Roundtable Discussion

SECAT feedback: Prioritization Scoring

- Concerned that equity weight is too low
- Political will should be a 5 - “Nothing gets done without County approval.”
- “Cost and capacity are closely related - they should be closer or the same in weight”
- “Is it possible to forecast for or calculate County Readiness? How would we do that?”
- Incentive programs will rank higher in feasibility; regulatory measures will rank lower

Roundtable Discussion

- How can we incorporate Charleston County-specific, local equity priorities into potential actions?
- What other considerations should we keep in mind while narrowing down criteria and potential actions?
 - Ex: significant/rapid population growth in the County; plans for new County facilities

Roundtable Discussion

- Can you think of examples from your work or programs/projects from around the County that focus on equity issues and also positively impact GHG emissions, air quality, or pollution?
- What will help us get to a final draft and proposed actions that are feasible, impactful, and beneficial to the County?
- Any other questions or comments to share?

Workbook Request

Please revisit the RSAC workbook to review materials from today's meeting and add your feedback.

THANK YOU

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SSG

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 Benefits

- ❑ 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 Benefits

- ❑ 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

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

\$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories

- **\$250 million** for noncompetitive planning grants
- **\$4.6 billion** for competitive implementation grants

Administered by the EPA

SC Office of Resilience (SCOR) is leading the state planning effort

Climate Goals

- ★ Reduce GHG emissions
- ★ Reduce air pollution
- ★ Create community benefits for disadvantaged communities
- ★ Leverage other resources to maximize GHG reductions