

Charleston County Sustainability

January 25, 2023



What is Sustainability?

- Sustainability focuses on balancing the triple bottom line which is the integration of social equity, economic viability, and environmental preservation (people, profits, planet).
- I am focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- Covers 2 years – 2018 & 2020
- Provides carbon dioxide equivalent emissions for County government, Charleston County, & all cities and towns within the County
- <https://charlestoncounty.org/ccrs/files/Greenhouse-Gas-Inventory.pdf>

Climate Action Resolution

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL, that Council ...encourages the development and implementation of an equity-centered, community-based, integrated climate action plan

***Passed March 10, 2021**

Climate Action Plan

- Currently working with procurement on contract negotiation for the selected consultant
- Plan will establish greenhouse gas reduction goals and activities to achieve those goals
- Activities will aim to be in line with actions in City of Charleston's existing Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Plans in the Southeast

- Columbia, SC is committed to 100% clean energy by 2036
- Greenville, SC plan in the works

State	Number of Climate Action Plans
Arkansas	3
Florida	15
Georgia	8
Louisiana	1
North Carolina	8
South Carolina	1 (City of Charleston)
Tennessee	6
Virginia	11

RSAC Role in Climate Action Planning

- The committee will act as an advisory board to County Council
- The main focus will be greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and activities
- If the Climate Action Plan is approved, the committee will recommend and monitor ongoing activities

Volunteer Groups

- Buildings
- Transportation
- Waste
- Carbon Sinks

Sustainability Education within County Government

- Perspectives Report
- Green Liaisons – team of County employees from each department
 - Printing reduction competition
 - Battery drop-off
- 9 ■ Sustainable Steps – monthly column in County Courier

Sustainability Projects within County Government

- Energy efficiency for buildings – EnergyStar
- Green Globes certification
- Revising energy element in Comprehensive Plan
(Energy & Sustainability)

Projects to Benefit County Residents

■ Food Waste Drop-Off Sites

- Opened site at Bees Ferry Landfill, part of a regional program with the City and Folly Beach

■ Electric vehicle charging:

- working with internal team to start pilot program for charging stations at County sites including parks and libraries
- Received \$10,000 mini-grant for this project

Communications & Marketing

- Website: <https://charlestoncounty.org/ccrs/>
- Sustainability Video
- Social media (Instagram & Facebook)

Questions

