

**Provide a Recommendation to Council Regarding Possible Incorporation of the Climate Action and Response Plan into the Town’s Comprehensive Plan**

**Staff:**

John Richardson, Community Resilience Officer

**Department:**

Manager’s Office

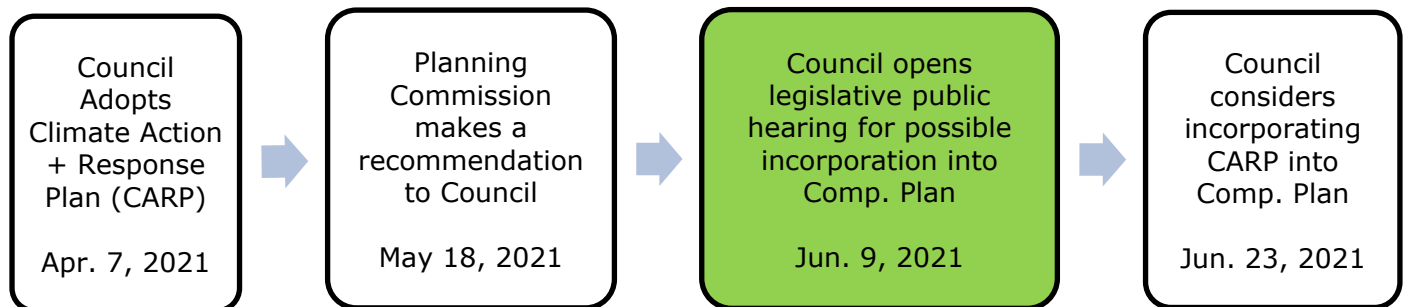
**Overview:** On April 7, 2021, the Town Council adopted the [Climate Action and Response Plan](#) and asked staff to return with the option to consider adding the plan as a component of the Town’s [Comprehensive Plan](#). Taking this action would be consistent with Council decisions to incorporate other Town plans into the Comprehensive Plan – specifically those for parks, greenways, mobility, stormwater, cultural arts and most recently, future land use. See the attached report for more details.



**Recommendation(s):**

That the Planning Commission provide a recommendation to Council regarding possible incorporation of the Climate Action and Response Plan into the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

**Where is this item in its process?**



**Attachments:**

- Staff Report

# Staff Report

*This report was developed by staff from the Manager's Office on April 30, 2021*

This report provides details about the process and what it would mean for the Council to officially include the Climate Action and Response Plan as a component within the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

1. Purpose
2. Process
3. Examples of Development Conditions

## 1. Purpose

The main reasons for the Council to officially incorporate the Climate Action and Response Plan into the Town's Comprehensive Plan are to:

- Recognize the Climate Action and Response Plan as part of the Town's local land use goals, policies, and programs as it relates to new Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, which combines existing city- and county-enabling statutes for development regulations into a single chapter; and
- Use the Climate Action and Response Plan as the basis for site-specific conditions in a conditional zoning district.\*

\* Under 160D, conditions and site-specific standards imposed in a conditional zoning district are limited to those that address conformance of the proposed development to Town ordinances and the officially adopted comprehensive plan as well as impacts reasonably expected to be generated by the proposed development. Therefore, adoption of the Climate Action and Response Plan as part of *Chapel Hill 2020* is necessary to use the plan as the basis for voluntary conditions in proposed conditional zoning districts.

## 2. Process

Pursuant to 160D -703 (b), in order for the Council to officially incorporate the Climate Action and Response Plan into the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the following steps must be taken:

1. The Planning Commission must provide a recommendation to Council
2. The Council must open and hold a public hearing
3. The Council must allow up to 24 hours after the virtual public hearing for any additional public comments.

The schedule for the process described above is as follows:

May 18 – Planning Commission Meeting

June 9 – Council Public Hearing

June 23 – Council Business Meeting (possible action)

### **3. Examples of Development Conditions**

As noted above, adding the Climate Action and Response as a component of the Town's Comprehensive Plan would allow the Town to cite climate-related goals, targets, and strategies as the basis for possible voluntary conditions, agreed to by developers, as part of the Town Council's approval of Conditional Zoning Districts under the development review process.

Examples\* of possible development conditions include:

- EV charging

The project will include EV charging stations for 3% of all parking spaces and will size and install electrical capacity and conduit for at least 20% of all parking spaces.

- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

The project will provide 20% of the cost to construct a solar-powered bus station and related site features in accordance with all Transit and Community Arts and Culture design specifications as part of the Town's North-South Bus Rapid Transit project

- Green building

The project will design all buildings to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. The applicant will provide pre- and post-construction energy models, sealed by an energy engineer, that demonstrate the expected performance for each building, including any on- or off-site renewable energy systems or renewable energy purchases that will be used to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

\*Each example above is also somewhat dependent on project size, site conditions, and service impacts.