



STAFF REPORT – NOVEMBER 2025 CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE TO COUNCIL

The actions are implemented across several Town departments. This report was produced by the Town's Office of Sustainability and Resilience, with department support.

November 30, 2025

Buildings & Energy Actions		
Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
1. Upgrade Cedar Falls Tennis Courts with LED Lights	Improves outdoor lighting quality and reduces emissions through a 56% increase in energy efficiency	✓ April 30, 2025 (Parks & Rec) Note: While lights are installed, court upgrades will not be ready until spring 2026 due to weather delays
2. Scope a Regional Electrify Program with Central Pines	A regional Electrify program, similar to Solarize the Triangle, could support electrification and energy efficiency upgrades to homes 	✓ November 30, 2026 (Sustainability)
3. Launch a Regional Electrify Program with Central Pines	A regional Electrify program will support electrification and energy efficiency upgrades to homes, including solar and battery storage, HVAC, appliances, lawn equipment and EV charging 	Sustainability staff coordinating with Central Pines and other participating municipalities to finalize contracts and begin vendor selection FY26, Q4

Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
4. Conduct Assessment of Sustainable Technologies at Town Facilities	Identifies investment opportunities in solar, battery storage, EV charging, and rainwater capture to make Town facilities more sustainable and resilient; positions the Town to take advantage of federal grants and IRA direct pay benefits through 2033 	Sustainability project budget was paused until FY26; vendor now under contract FY26, Q4 (orig. FY24, Q2)
5. Install 6 Rooftop Solar Systems on Affordable Housing Partner Homes (pilot program part of Solarize the Triangle)	Installs approximately 4 kW of solar on up to 6 income-eligible units identified through staff and our affordable housing partners	1 project completed; sustainability staff rescoping remaining 5 projects due to challenges with utility procedures for facilities with tenants FY26, Q4 (orig. FY24, Q4)
6. Begin Piloting Weatherization Gap Program	Enhances weatherization work within Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation program and provides key operational insights for possible program expansion 	Sustainability staff exploring a way to include this work within the regional electrify program (see above) FY26

Transportation + Land Use Actions		
Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
1. Launch Chapel Hill E-Bike Lending Library Pilot Program	Projected lifetime emissions benefits of the pilot program: 251 metric tons saved 	✓ April 3, 2025 (Sustainability, Manager's Office, Office of Mobility and Greenways)
2. Begin Piloting Electric Landscaping Equipment Crews	Estimated to reduce annual emissions 21 metric tons and saves \$7,000 per year from landscaping activities; provides operational insights into landscape equipment electrification	✓ May 1, 2025 (Parks & Rec and Sustainability)
3. Take Delivery of 7 Additional Electric Transit Buses	Each electric bus reduces fleet emissions by 40%, for a total emissions reduction of 360 metric tons per year; the fleet now has 11 total EV buses and this order will increase the total to 18 	✓ August 1, 2025 (Transit)
4. Develop Safe Routes to School Action Plan	Reduces emissions by providing strategies and recommendations for travel to school without a car 	✓ June 11, 2025 (Office of Mobility and Greenways)

Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
5. Begin Piloting EV Refuse Vehicle	Reduces emissions from vehicle and provides operational insights into heavy duty vehicle electrification and fast charging infrastructure	Vehicle delivered; Public Works coordinating with vendor to address punch list items before putting vehicle into service FY26, Q2 (orig. FY24, Q4)
6. Streamline EV Charging Station Permitting Process in Collaboration with Planning and Inspections	Reduces permitting soft costs and enables faster deployment of public and private EV charging stations to support community-wide transition to electric vehicles 	Sustainability staff coordinating internal reviews FY26, Q3 (orig. FY24, Q3)
7. Begin Piloting Staff E-Bike Pilot Program	Reduces emissions from fleet transportation and supports wellness.	Policy and procedures complete; Sustainability staff finalizing check-out location details across participating Town facilities FY26, Q2 (orig. FY25, Q4)
8. Purchase 5 More Electric Fleet Vehicles in FY25	These four EVs will generate 53% or lower carbon emissions and save a projected 9.9 metric tons per year	Fleet staff have purchased 5 more EVs; 4 Ford F150 Lightnings and 1 EV Chevy Blazer FY25, Q4
9. Complete Feasibility Study of the Everywhere-to-Everywhere Greenway Network	Enables future projects that reduce emissions by providing transportation options that don't require a car 	Office of Mobility and Greenways - project underway FY25-27

Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
10. Begin Piloting New Wayfinding Strategy	Supports build-out of Town-wide Mobility Plan and reduces emissions by increasing use of existing trails, paths, bike lanes	Office of Mobility and Greenways and Sustainability finalizing options for pilot; currently aligning with feedback from Downtown Wayfinding Study, and the streetscape planning completed by Economic Development FY26, Q2 (orig. FY24, Q4)
11. Design Bolin Creek Greenway Extension (Umstead to Estes Ext.)	Reduces emissions by providing more transportation options that don't require a car 	Office of Mobility and Greenways - design and engineering underway FY25-27
12. Design Estes Drive Extension (MLK to Carrboro)	Reduces emissions by providing more transportation options that don't require a car 	Office of Mobility and Greenways - design and engineering underway; funding through NCDOT delayed to 2031 FY25-31 (orig. FY25-27)
13. Design and Construction of Cameron Ave Protected Bike Lanes	Reduces emissions by providing more transportation options that don't require a car 	Office of Mobility and Greenways – design and engineering underway FY25-27 (orig. FY25-26)

Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
14. Design of Tanyard Branch Trace Neighborhood Connector (formerly Campus-to-Campus)	Reduces emissions by providing more transportation options that don't require a car 	Office of Mobility and Greenways – design and engineering underway FY26-27 (orig. FY26, Q2)
15. Implement Safe Streets for All Grants	Two federal planning and demonstration grants that reduce emissions by providing plans and demonstration projects to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and access to transit	Grants unfrozen and staff is waiting to hear next steps from Federal Highway Administration FY25-27 (orig. FY25-26)
16. Work with NCDOT to Secure Funding for North-South BRT Project	Enables bus rapid transit project to move forward 	Transit's work continues to secure about \$5.5M in non-federal funds to support federal investments in NSBRT
17. Participate in TOD and LUMO Rewrite Visioning	Provides Town with updated sustainable development and redevelopment practices (projected benefits TBD) 	Sustainability and Planning staff continuing looking for ways to include development practices that support Town's Climate Action Plan Ongoing

Water, Waste & Natural Resources Actions		
Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
1. Participate in Countywide Solid Waste Master Planning ★	The Solid Waste Master Plan: Road to Zero Waste plan prepares Orange County to meet zero waste operations goal by 2045	✓ June 3, 2025 (Public Works Solid Waste, Sustainability)
2. Scope Expansion of Town Facilities Composting Pilot	Will evaluate the potential to expand the Town Hall and Fire Station #1 waste reduction pilot to other Town facilities	Project delayed due to Sustainability Office staffing turnover; planning to fill position in 2026 FY26, Q4

Resiliency Actions		
Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
1. Promote "Lights Out for Birds" Outreach (3 rd year)	Supports biodiversity by helping community members ensure safe passage for birds during the fall migration	✓ October 23, 2025 (Sustainability & Comms)
2. Expand Flood Alert System Sensor Technology ★	Two new stream and precipitation sensors were installed along Bolin Creek near Homestead Road and Lake Hogan Farm Road; this work enhances early warning flood alert system for low-lying areas of Town 	✓ October 27, 2025 (Public Works, Stormwater, Sustainability, Emergency Management)
3. Launch Year 5 of Leave Your Leaves Campaign ★	Creates fertile soil and healthy trees, supports local wildlife, reduces flooding and improves water quality, and reduces emissions	Campaign runs Oct 1 – Nov 30, with good participation; see report from last campaign for additional context FY26, Q2

Action	Benefits / Results	Status / Target Date
4. Resilience Hubs Assessment	As part of a US Department of Energy Planning Grant with Central Pines, we will explore ways of enhancing three community resilience hubs (Library, Hargraves, Community Center) through community engagement and a technical assessment of the facilities 	<i>(Project on hold due to federal funding cancellation)</i> Sustainability staff exploring new ways of continuing project without federal funding.
5. Evaluate Performance of Booker Creek Basin Park 	Provides operational insights about the effectiveness of this stormwater infrastructure project	Public Works has selected a vendor to provide performance data and plans to provide the results at a Council worksession this spring FY26, Q4 (orig. FY24, Q4)
6. Continue Expanding Flood Alert System Sensor Technology 	Enhances early warning flood alert system for low-lying areas of Town 	Sustainability, Public Works, Emergency Management, Technology Solutions staff working to install two additional sensors along Booker Creek FY26, Q4

Outside Funding Summary				
Project	Source	Amount	Match	Status
1. Install 20 EV Charging Stations at the Rosemary Parking Deck	Duke Energy Charger Prep Credit (utility incentive)	\$6,420	N/A	✓ Completed: June 11, 2025 (Sustainability)
2. EV Refuse Truck and Fast Charger	NCDEQ, Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grant Program (DERA)	\$297,400	\$313,498	Awarded and active (<i>vendor delay</i>) Estimated Completion: FY26, Q2(orig. Q1) Reporting: Quarterly
3. EV Refuse Truck and Fast Charger	Orange County Community Climate Action Grant Program	\$50,000	N/A	Awarded and active (<i>vendor delay</i>) Estimated Completion: FY26, Q2 (orig. Q1) Reporting: Quarterly
4. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Formula Allocation	US Department of Energy, EECBG Grant Program	\$129,010	N/A	Reimbursement filed June 2025 Estimated Completion: FY26 Reporting: TBD

Project	Grantor	Amount	Match	Status
5. Regional Resilience Hub Planning (Central Pines)	US Department of Energy, Energy Future Grants Program	\$88,235 (\$500k across 3 counties)	N/A	Project funding canceled by federal government
6. IRA Direct Pay Benefit for 2023 Vehicle Purchases (non-Transit)	Internal Revenue Service, Inflation Reduction Act Benefits	\$45,000*	N/A	Applied Nov. 2024 and awaiting refund
7. IRA Direct Pay Benefit for 2023 Transit Vehicle Purchases	Internal Revenue Service, Inflation Reduction Act Benefits	\$40,000*	N/A	Applied Nov. 2024 and awaiting refund
8. IRA Direct Pay Benefit for 2024 Vehicle Purchases (non-Transit)	Internal Revenue Service, Inflation Reduction Act Benefits	\$22,500	N/A	Applied Nov. 2025 and awaiting refund
9. IRA Direct Pay Benefit for 2024 Transit Purchases	Internal Revenue Service, Inflation Reduction Act Benefits	\$200,000	N/A	Applied Nov. 2025 and awaiting refund
		\$790,330	\$313,498	

* amount is an estimated benefit total subject to IRS review