



**UPDATE ON NEXT STEPS FOR DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK AND COUNTY-WIDE COLLABORATION**

**STAFF REPORT**

John Richardson, Community Resilience Officer

<p><b>TOPIC</b> Climate Action Plan</p>		<p><b>MEETING DATE</b> April 17, 2019</p>
<p><b>STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION</b> That the Council provide feedback on the proposed approach, the draft climate action framework and opportunities for county-wide collaboration.</p>		
<p><b>PROPOSED APPROACH</b></p> <p>Two concurrent paths through June of 2020:</p> <p><i>Continue Local Action</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop initial climate action framework (draft attached)</li> <li>2. Collaborate at county level on Climate Committee</li> <li>3. Take local action within framework throughout FY20</li> </ol> <p><i>Adopt an Official Plan</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research best practices</li> <li>2. Incorporate county-level collaboration</li> <li>3. Develop draft Plan with community input</li> <li>4. Adopt Official Plan by June 2020</li> </ol>	<p><b>SAMPLE PLANS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Portland, OR</a><sup>1</sup></li> <li>• <a href="#">Minneapolis, MN</a><sup>2</sup></li> <li>• <a href="#">Boulder, CO</a><sup>3</sup></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ann Arbor, MI</a><sup>4</sup></li> <li>• <a href="#">Madison, WI</a><sup>5</sup></li> </ul> <p>What elements do you like?</p> <p>What other plans would you like staff to review?</p> <p>Note: The Madison example is a Sustainability Plan, which in some ways is broader than many Climate Action Plans because it addresses social and economic sustainability more directly.</p>	
<p><b>BACKGROUND</b></p> <p>At the Council's January 2019 retreat, the environment was identified as a high priority for the coming year. Specifically, the Council discussed the importance of developing a Climate Action Plan to reinforce its 2018 <a href="#">commitment</a><sup>6</sup> to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and reduce community emissions 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025.</p> <p>On January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Assembly of Governments meeting, the elected officials from the Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Hillsborough and Orange County agreed to move forward with a county-wide Climate Committee. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Council appointed Council Member Hongbin Gu was appointed to serve as the Council's representative to the Climate Committee.</p> <p>In February 2019, the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board acted on a petition from Ms. Donna Rubinoff advocating for Chapel Hill to develop a Climate Action Plan. On behalf of the Board, the Chair and Vice Chair wrote to the full Town Council expressing support for the petition and offering the Board's ongoing assistance, as needed.</p>	<p><b>CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>The attached framework builds upon some of the Town's climate action work to date and highlights new opportunities for carbon reduction that can continue in FY20.</p> <p>A key element to the climate action framework is community partnerships. If the Town is to meet the Council's climate commitments, it must continue to expand its efforts in the following action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable Energy</li> <li>• Building Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• Low-No Carbon Transportation Infrastructure</li> <li>• Protection of Trees and Natural Areas</li> <li>• Community Empowerment</li> </ul> <p>Because the emissions from Town operations are estimated to be only 2-3% of the community's total emissions, climate action must also include education, empowerment and partnerships that spur greater action across the entire Chapel Hill community.</p>	
<p><b>NEXT STEPS</b></p>	<p>Move forward with proposed approach in accordance with Council feedback.</p>	
<p><b>ATTACHMENTS</b></p>	<p>1. Draft Climate Action Planning Framework</p>	

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/531984>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113598.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>[https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/City\\_of\\_Boulder\\_Climate\\_Commitment\\_5.9.2017-1-201705091634.pdf?\\_ga=2.57081322.1700704109.1552322438-465590073.1548380647](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/City_of_Boulder_Climate_Commitment_5.9.2017-1-201705091634.pdf?_ga=2.57081322.1700704109.1552322438-465590073.1548380647)

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/energy/Documents/CityofAnnArborClimateActionPlan\\_low%20res\\_12\\_17\\_12.pdf](https://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/energy/Documents/CityofAnnArborClimateActionPlan_low%20res_12_17_12.pdf)

<sup>5</sup><https://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/documents/sustainplan2011.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>[http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=21&clip\\_id=3181&meta\\_id=168458](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=21&clip_id=3181&meta_id=168458)