

06-09-2021 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #13: Open a Legislative Hearing to Consider Incorporating the Climate Action and Response Plan as a Component of the Town's Comprehensive Plan

Council Question:

Does this mean that when the Town gets a development application and rezoning request that the developer would make a statement and showing as to whether and to what extent their proposal advances or is in alignment with the Climate Action and Response Plan, along with the Town's local land use goals and policies, pursuant to its 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan?

Staff Response:

Yes. If the change is made, it is likely that the development application would also be amended to request such a statement from the applicant.

Council Question:

Any potential consequences to including the Climate Action and Response Plan as a component within the Town's Comprehensive Plan that we should be aware of?

Staff Response:

Taking this step would change the process for amending the Climate Action and Response Plan. Specifically, any amendment to the Plan would need to go through a legislative process, i.e., the same steps that are outlined in the Staff Report for this item. This process is very similar to the one used for the adoption of the Plan itself and the Council can always adopt policy changes via resolutions that can then be folded into the Climate Action Plan at a later time. However, if a policy change relates to a possible voluntary condition of development, it will be best for the Council to simultaneously adopt the policy and also update the Comprehensive Plan (by way of the Climate Action Plan). This would enable the Town to cite the new policy and have the applicant voluntarily agree to it as part of a conditional zoning district.