

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Geoffrey F. Green
Cc: Colleen Willger; Lance Norris; Chris Roberts; John Richardson; Adam Searing; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Andrew Creech; Camille Berry; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jeffrey Hoagland; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Robert Beasley; Tai Huynh; Vimala Rajendran; Zachary Boyce; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Comments on Climate Action Implementation Plan

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

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-----Original Message-----

From: Geoffrey F. Green [mailto:geoff@stuebegreen.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:17 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Comments on Climate Action Implementation Plan

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Mayors and members of Council

I am writing about the agenda item regarding the goals of the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Chapel Hill Climate Action Implementation Plan. Overall, it is an excellent plan and the list of proposed actions is strong. In the "Transportation and

Land Use” category, I’m excited to see so many key bicycle and walking transportation infrastructure projects have been identified as priorities, and hopefully that support will accelerate the development of this infrastructure over time.

However, there are also significant investments to support electric cars. For example, there is a proposal to add additional charging stations, including \$100,000 for EV stations at the new downtown parking deck. Electric cars are certainly better than internal combustion engines, but they are not a panacea. They are still energy intensive, with huge and heavy batteries, and they still take up too much valuable space in our urban areas. A traffic jam of electric cars is little different from a traffic jam of ICE cars. I suggest the town consider devoting resources towards supporting electric bikes. Electric bikes are far cheaper than cars, are vastly more energy efficient, can substitute for cars in many types of local trips, and take up significantly less space. They are much better at reducing transportation energy consumption than electric cars. Fortunately, all of the town’s actions to support standard bicycles also support electric bicycles. However, there is much that the Town can do such as investigating changes to bicycle parking standards to better support electric bikes (electric bikes and cargo bikes are often larger than normal bikes, and even some new bicycle racks or lockers, for example at Wegman’s, do not accommodate them well), considering subsidies to encourage local residents to purchase electric bicycles; and constructing secure bicycle parking facilities at key locations throughout Town, such as downtown and at park-and-ride lots. These investments are relatively small in price can make a big difference in how we get around.

Bicycling is popular in Chapel Hill and is a great way to get around, but one of the big disincentives to riding are Chapel Hill’s hills. Electric bikes make hills irrelevant. They can be a key contributor to helping reduce our Town’s energy consumption, and I hope support for electric bikes is part of the Town’s climate action plan in the future. (And if anyone would like to try an electric bike, you’re always welcome to borrow mine.)

- geoff