

TO: The Town Council, Town Management, and Sustainability Manager
FROM: Ed Harrison – for your April 17, 2019 public hearing

These are initial comments on the **Framework for the Draft Climate Action Plan** coming to you this evening. It's likely that I won't be present to give them because I will be introducing the speaker at this month's Sierra Club meeting (6 PM at our library) and would like to hear him speak. I hope you have time to look at them.

I am the Chapel Hill point person for the National Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign, and my comments are informed by the Club's energy positions. You received an initial petition from Kim Piracci of Orange County at your last meeting. It was informative on the Big Picture, but had only our Town name with no specific recommendations. It strongly resembled a 2018 petition to Orange County. Ms Piracci did advise you to expect a more specific petition later, and I will be one of those writing it on behalf of the Sierra Club and others.

First, I'm grateful to the Mayor for keeping this process on track, and getting this in front of the public before budget season takes up so much of your time. It would help to hear from you on how you see public participation happening in the development of this plan over the next year, and of course any reactions to the proposed Framework.

My comments are personal right now, but I expect that other activists will concur with them to some degree.

By topic:

1. Renewable Energy:

b. Increase use of solar energy...

i. solar panel installation.

I hope, along with others, that the most prominent solar panel installation will be at the Transit Operation Center, where it's already been tentatively proposed in the past.

There's a very obvious location – over our many dozens of parking buses.

The adjoining Public Works operations center would also be a great location.

5. Transportation Infrastructure:

a. Electrification of fleet.

Personally, this is the topic on which I will put the most effort, especially in terms of our large transit bus fleet. Secondly, I will put effort into electrifying our public works fleet.

From belonging to and chairing our Transit Partners Committee, I know the most about the first – and have had detailed discussions with current chair Michael Parker and with Brian Litchfield.

b. Increase multi-modal connections and opportunities – This was my priority as a

Council Member, was a priority before that and continues to be one. The Town has made much progress on this. We can't afford to let ****opportunities**** be lost!

7. Education and Advocacy

Am glad to see the Sierra Club's Orange-Chatham Group included as a potential partner. The term "other advocacy groups" should include the entire Orange County Climate Action Coalition, formed a month ago. It has multiple Sierra Club members and NC WARN members (including one staff) and folks from other groups. Some members are on the Orange County Commission for the Environment, another is a liaison to our Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board from our Planning Commission. Some will probably turn up on the County's Climate Action Committee to which you appointed Council Member Gu earlier this month.

All of the other topics for action are important. We have lots of experience in this community and nearby on **Tree Replenishment and Natural Area Protection** and **Water Conservation and Management** – both topics I've worked on for decades. Orange County leads the state in **Waste Reduction** and our local governments are ahead of others on **Building Efficiency**.

So I write to support of the **Draft Framework**, and to support one addition, which any Sierra Club Group would support in an urban-suburban area: **Land Use Planning**. We've got a year to figure out how to fit that in.