

Albemarle County Climate Action Plan “Climate Mondays”

All “Climate Monday” meetings begin at 5:30 PM in room 235 at the County Office Building, 401 McIntire Road.

May 6: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - Residential Buildings

Residential energy use represents approximately 27% of Albemarle County’s greenhouse gas emissions. This will be an open discussion of strategies to facilitate, incentivize, educate, and remove barriers to private investments in energy efficiency measures and on-site renewable energy integration for new and existing single-family homes and multi-family dwellings. (Note: Large and Utility-scale Renewable Energy will be discussed Monday May 13th, and Commercial Buildings on Monday June 10th.)

May 13: Utility and Community-Scale Renewable Energy

Broader renewable energy projects may be part of the Climate Action Plan – including medium-scale (or community-scale) and large-scale (or utility scale). We will discuss potential medium and large-scale renewable energy projects in Albemarle County. Suggestions and guidance regarding investment alternatives, business models, installation incentives/barriers, and enabling policy are welcome. (Note: Rooftop solar PV and small customer-owned renewable energy projects will be discussed with Residential Buildings on May 6 and Commercial Buildings on June 10)

May 20: Transportation Choices: Bike-Ped, Rideshare, and Public Transportation Alternatives

The choices we make related to personal transportation directly impact greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation-generated fuel consumption represents the largest single contributor to overall regional emissions. We will begin with a brief overview of public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian commuting in the region, and a short summary of reduction strategies identified to date. We seek public input regarding the means to build on these existing services and resources or better ways to promote them, existing data related to these resources, and what additional data may help to measure the emissions reduction progress.

May 27: No meeting

June 3: From Solid Waste Management to Sustainable Materials Management

Greenhouse gases are generated from the materials that we manufacture, the products that we consume, and the garbage that we dispose of. Recycling and composting can help reduce those emissions. Join us to talk about how sustainable materials management can help the community reach climate goals.

June 10: Energy Efficiency in Commercial and Industrial Buildings

Commercial and industrial energy use represents 13% of Albemarle County's greenhouse gas emissions. This will be an open discussion of strategies to facilitate, incentivize, educate and remove barriers to private investments in energy efficiency measures and on-site renewable energy integration for new and existing commercial/industrial buildings. (Note: Residential Buildings will be discussed May 6 and Large-scale and Utility Renewable Energy on May 13)

June 17: Landscape and Natural Resources

We will address possible approaches for capturing atmospheric carbon (known as "carbon sequestration") using reforestation and other revegetation techniques, soil protection, and other approaches in the county's rural and urban areas. Following a summary of the greenhouse gas offsetting potential in this community sector, there will be an open discussion seeking suggestions to refine, enhance, or develop policies and practices to protect and grow these precious resources.

June 24: Transportation Technologies: Vehicles, Infrastructure, Technologies

The choices we make related to personal transportation directly impact greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation-generated fuel consumption represents the largest single contributor to overall regional emissions. We will begin with a brief overview of existing and emerging automotive technologies and the infrastructure necessary to support them. We seek public input regarding the means to better promote and support existing technologies and to promote local investment in emerging technologies.

July 1: Community Outreach Efforts and Education

The Albemarle County government won't be able to tackle our climate goals alone! Join County staff and some of the County's partner organizations in a discussion about educating the community to take positive steps on climate action across all emissions sectors.

July 8: Commercial and Residential Building Redevelopment

We will begin with a brief overview of some examples of government policies promoting and enabling energy efficiency and renewable energy investments involving the reuse of existing buildings. Then we will have an open discussion of potential strategies to incentivize targeted investments to reduce the greenhouse gas footprint of redeveloped buildings and to facilitate associated emission-reduction strategies, such as public and private transportation alternatives.

July 15: Local Government Buildings and Fleet Vehicles

Unlike most of the other emission sectors, local government and schools has direct control over the emissions of its own fleet vehicles and buildings. Though this emission sector has a small impact relative to regional emissions, local government and schools are in a unique position to lead by example and to demonstrate what is possible. We will provide an overview of this sector and the current climate impact, present ongoing efforts to lower emissions, and the strategies identified to date. We seek community feedback on existing reduction strategies, suggestions for other future strategies, and priorities for investments and further community engagement.

July 22: Feedback Summary, Part One – Sustainable Materials Management and Natural Resources Emissions Sectors, Education/Outreach

Recap of greenhouse gas emissions impacts of the Sustainable Materials Management and Natural Resources sectors. An overview will be provided of challenges and opportunities, as identified by community input and the subsequent research and findings of climate action plan working teams. Discussion will focus on new or expanded programs and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a focus on expected strategy effectiveness, apparent obstacles, best practices, and prioritization.

July 29: Feedback Summary, Part Two – Buildings, Transportation and Renewable Energy

Recap of greenhouse gas emissions impacts of the Buildings, Transportation, and Renewable Energy sectors. An overview will be provided of challenges and opportunities, as identified by community input and the subsequent research and findings of climate action plan working teams. Discussion will focus on new or expanded programs and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with a focus on expected strategy effectiveness, apparent obstacles, best practices, and prioritization.