

# Community Letter to the Charlottesville Climate Action Plan

Dear City Council, Deputy City Managers Sam Sanders and Ashley Marshall, Interim City Manager Michael Rogers, and City staff Kristel Riddervold, Susan Elliott, and Emily Irvine --

Thank you for your invaluable work [on Charlottesville's Climate Action Plan \(CAP\) draft](#). The draft CAP gives us a framework to shift away from fossil-fuel dependency, use climate action to promote social justice, and address the climate crisis here in Charlottesville.

While we are excited by the CAP draft that has been released, there are two motivations for us to send a letter recommending further action on the CAP before it is finalized:

1. The need for more substantial and relevant recommendations;
2. The need for clearly committing to equitable and inclusive community engagement.

## **#1 The Need for More Substantial and Relevant Recommendations**

As we celebrate the recent release of Charlottesville's CAP draft, there are relevant and substantial commitments established in the CAP that should be highlighted. Among them:

- Reach 100% carbon-neutral electricity in City-owned buildings & facilities by 2030<sup>i</sup>
- Reduce energy consumption by 10% across all [community] buildings by 2030;
- Aim for 10% of Charlottesville's rooftop solar potential to be installed by 2030.

These commitments are evidence of successful negotiations between the City's Climate team and other City departments. However, it's also important to observe that the Charlottesville CAP draft includes recommendations that are not relevant, which suggests that more and better coordination is still needed. For example, the CAP draft includes the following natural gas and public-transit recommendations that are redundant in practice:

- "Consider a commitment to make Charlottesville Gas fully carbon neutral (...) by 2050;"
- "Initiate a Transit Pathways to Carbon Neutrality by 2050 Assessment."

These recommendations are redundant (and lack ambition) because: both the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County — the region served by Charlottesville Gas and Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) — have already committed to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2050, which implies that both Charlottesville Gas and CAT's operations will have to be carbon-neutral by then.

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<sup>i</sup> We strongly applaud this goal, even though we recognize that it falls significantly short in committing the City to move away from its natural-gas dependency.

Other goals that lack clear direction and accountability should be reconsidered. When it comes to implementation, we are concerned that these recommendations will be easy to deprioritize in a crowded policy space. Even though we are certain that the current City staff is committed to advancing climate-friendly policies, the CAP recommendations should be clear enough to remain equally meaningful and relevant to whoever reads them.

To address the above-mentioned concerns, we recommend that the CAP offer clear guidance regarding **by which means** and **at what pace** sectors and/or agencies should decarbonize their operations. For example, the CAP should set a series of goals of the type "Sector A should reduce GHG emissions by X% by 20YY". Moreover, for each goal, the CAP should also suggest quantifiable metrics for tracking progress and practical strategies for achieving them.

Conclusion: The CAP should establish more SMARTIE (Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable) goals in all areas ("key actions") of the CAP.<sup>ii</sup>

## #2 The Need for Clearly Committing to Equitable and Inclusive Community Engagement

In addition to the well-outlined equity concern section of each topic, all sections of the CAP should provide actionable recommendations with more clear guidance as to:

- How the City will create mechanisms for equitable/inclusive community engagement (both in providing feedback for program design and also as beneficiaries of program implementation);
- How it will promote a just transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

## Final Recommendations to Charlottesville's Climate Action Plan:

After considering the existing CAP draft "key actions", we present the below list of recommendations that we hope the City can incorporate into the final CAP document. The recommendations are divided into the following five sections:<sup>iii</sup>

- Climate Justice Through Energy Equity;
- Equitable Decarbonization of Charlottesville Gas (at a Pace Aligned with the Climate Crisis);
- "Accessible, Clean Transit - ACT on Climate!";
- Boosting Climate Solutions Through Food Justice; and
- Climate-Smart and Equitable Zoning.

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<sup>ii</sup> Climate actions should: (i) prioritize financial incentives and assistance to support lower-income households; (ii) direct resources and programs to address racial inequities and drive outcomes; and (iii) advance transportation *food pathways* to make food markets more accessible to residents (with a specific focus in neighborhoods with limited healthy food options).

<sup>iii</sup> These sections were selected because: (i) they have the greatest potential to advance climate change mitigation in an equitable and effective way; (ii) they need focus to be placed on them right now in order to allow the City to be in a position to achieve its mid/long-term goals, and/or because (iii) they represent important climate justice ambitions from our community.

## Climate Justice Through Energy Equity

In Charlottesville, the biggest concentration of highly energy-burdened households (families paying more than 6% of their income in energy bills) occurs in the 10th & Page and Venable neighborhoods and among lower-income households, people of color, and renters. Energy equity demands that we address the energy needs of the most burdened households first, both to reduce their energy costs and mitigate their health hazards, but also to reduce GHG emissions more effectively.

We propose the following clean energy and energy efficiency recommendations:

- **Recommendation: Emphasize Residential Energy Incentives on Reaching Lower-income Households**
  - Strategies:
    - Address barriers to access of retrofits, weatherization, and home repairs;
    - Address barriers to low- to moderate-income solar installation;
    - Increase energy efficiency, onsite renewable energy, *and use of passive energy reduction strategies such as tree shade and water collection*;
    - Consider tree canopy additions/incentives in lower-income neighborhoods;
    - Encourage healthy and increased tree canopy and urban agriculture on public and subsidized housing sites and incentivize/require care for and replacement of existing and deceased trees;
    - Review housing rules that limit gardens and growing space for public housing residents;
    - Establish a tenant energy efficiency program offering energy assessments, upgrades, gas-to-electric conversions, and weatherization.
  
- **Recommendation: Establish a Whole-house Model that Combines Repairs such as Roofs, Ramps, and Electrical Upgrades with Efficiency Improvements Through Funding a Joint Program Between Organizations like AHIP and LEAP:**
  - Strategies:
    - Deploy energy efficiency improvements coupled with renewable energy solutions;
    - Pilot a program in targeted neighborhoods to weatherize, electrify, and add renewable energy home-by-home where the energy savings are split between the household and the City to create a continually funded program.

## Equitable Decarbonization of Charlottesville Gas (at a Pace Aligned with the Climate Crisis)

In recent years, Charlottesville's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings have decreased steadily, consistent with community-wide GHG reduction. However, natural gas GHG emissions are rising. As of 2019, GHG emissions from the community's natural gas use accounted for 19% of the city's GHG emissions, up from 16% in 2016.<sup>iv</sup> Charlottesville's ownership of its natural-gas utility provides the city with unique tools and pathways toward meeting its climate goals.

Decarbonizing gas infrastructure is a delicate endeavor and engenders four primary equity concerns:

1. Infrastructure costs are increasingly shared/divided between a shrinking customer base;
2. Electric upgrades might be cost-prohibitive for lower-income households;
3. The split-incentive problem between landlords and tenants might inhibit improvements from taking place;
4. The promotion of a just transition for the workforce employed by the local natural gas industry.

We urge the City to consider the recommendations below to center equity in the transition away from natural gas:

- **Recommendation: Create and Implement a Community Engagement Plan to Incorporate the Needs and Desires of Community Members, Leaders, and Workers in the transition:**
  - Strategies:
    - Conduct periodic meetings, focus groups, surveys, and public presentations/updates with comment opportunities;
    - Meet residents where they are comfortable (such as at concerts and community events);
    - Equitably compensate community input to favor diverse and inclusive participation;
    - Seek input and feedback from environmental and climate justice community experts;
    - Create a community committee, consisting of ratepayers, lower-income residents, and renters.
- **Recommendation: Center Equity and Justice in All Steps of the Decarbonization Process**
  - Strategies:
    - Choose options that avoid placing an unjust burden on low- to moderate-income community members who cannot easily afford fuel switching;
    - Promote climate justice in the "City as a Municipal Gas Utility," "Buildings and Energy," and "Financing and Funding" sections of the CAP;
    - Identify and prioritize effective implementation methods for residential electrification;

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<sup>iv</sup> When considering the methane leaked from the Charlottesville Gas distribution system, natural gas emissions is approximately 1/3 higher and accounts for nearly 25% of the community's total GHG emissions.

- Develop educational materials and outreach strategies to better inform community members of energy education and services available to them;
  - Consider pathways for workforce transition to other living wage jobs;
  - Publish regular reports that study the distribution, duration, and intensity of natural gas leaks throughout our community. Assess if the incidence of leaks, health, and safety hazards, and risks are higher in historically-underserved communities.
- **Recommendation: Pause New Gas Hookups and Projects until the Charlottesville Gas Decarbonization Study Concludes (2023) and the City has the Benefit of the Study's Recommendations**
    - Strategies:
      - Pause all new hookups/installations at new service locations;
      - Pause all non-residential new hookups/installations;
      - Pause all non-essential infrastructure projects;
      - Remove cost-free installation of new residential gas lines.
  - **Recommendation: Redirect Charlottesville Gas' Carbon Offsets to Local Mitigation Efforts:**
    - Focus on alleviating energy costs of highly energy-burdened households;
    - End rebates for utility consumer purchases of tankless water heaters;
    - Extend other energy-efficiency rebates to all City residents (not limiting them to Charlottesville Gas customers).

## “Accessible, Clean Transit - ACT on Climate!”<sup>∨</sup>

We urge the City to take advantage of this unique opportunity to address our transportation, climate, equity, and health goals simultaneously and with long-standing solutions that will move our city toward a cleaner and more just future.

- **Recommendation: Double Transit Ridership by 2024 (with respect to 2019)**
  - Strategies:
    - Set a verifiable target to increase bus occupancy levels considerably;
    - Favor expansions and improvements that benefit those that most rely on transit;
    - Have no route frequencies in excess of 30 minutes intervals;
    - Reassess rules around eating, drinking, or carrying bags and packages on board;
    - Complement main routes with on-demand micro-mobility services.
- **Recommendation: Increase Accessibility and Safety At and Around Bus Stops**
  - Strategies:
    - Enhance bus stops with benches, shelters, and inclusive/user-friendly signage;
    - Provide pedestrian and bike infrastructure along and near transit routes.
- **Recommendation: Provide Community Voices a Meaningful Role in Transit Planning**
  - Strategies:
    - Decisions should be co-created with the community, especially those who depend on transit;
    - Engagement strategies should meet people where they are and include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, and interviews.
- **Recommendation: Reduce Air and Climate Pollution from our Transit System**
  - Strategies:
    - Develop a pilot program to introduce battery-electric buses to CAT's system;
    - Reduce air pollution and climate emissions from CAT's fleet by 50% by 2030;
    - Work with JAUNT to pilot electrified vehicles for their urban routes.
- **Recommendation: Ensure a Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Transportation System**
  - Strategies:
    - Address bus driver shortage with better working conditions and compensation.

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<sup>∨</sup> Full “ACT on Climate!” letter, here: <https://c3climate.salsalabs.org/act-on-climate-letter/index.html>

## Boosting Climate Solutions Through Food Justice <sup>vi</sup>

Cultivate Charlottesville partnered with C3 to highlight the intersection of Climate Justice and Food Justice along with some key strategies and recommendations. We hope that with this letter, these efforts will be prioritized and included in the City's current Climate Action Plan.

- **Recommendation: Promote Food-Just & Climate-Friendly Transportation**
  - Strategies:
    - Leverage interconnections of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, parking, commuter networks, *and food pathways*;
    - Continue planning and investment in a well-connected network of trails, shared-use paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, *and community gardens*;
    - Advance transportation food pathways to make food markets more accessible to residents with a specific focus on neighborhoods with limited access to healthy food options;
    - Expand availability and access to regional trails and shared-use paths for recreation, community, *and food pathways*.
  
- **Recommendation: Divert Organics from the Landfill With a Food Justice Focus**
  - Strategies:
    - Provide organics material collection within the City-provided *comprehensive* curbside services for residents, businesses, and institutions;
    - Provide organics material collection for Municipal Facilities (government, schools, *and community or school gardens*);
    - Promote diversion to glean/donation (*add emphasis on areas of focus to include municipal facilities, businesses, restaurants, etc.*).
  
- **Recommendation: Promote Food-Just & Climate-Friendly Natural Resources**
  - Strategies:
    - Integrate shade to increase the comfort of high-priority walkable, bikeable, and transit corridors *with a specific focus on heat-island areas*;
    - Create a robust Urban Agriculture Management Plan with dedicated lands;
    - Analyze land trust potentials for preserving land and community-based urban agriculture;
    - Promote education/engagement on tree maintenance and care, selection, and placement;
    - Promote soil amendments (biochar).

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<sup>vi</sup> Based on the "Intersection of Food Justice & Climate Justice II" letter, available here: [https://cultivatecharlottesville.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Final-Climate-Action-Food-Justice-Recommendations\\_OCT22.pdf](https://cultivatecharlottesville.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Final-Climate-Action-Food-Justice-Recommendations_OCT22.pdf)

## Climate-Smart and Equitable Zoning

In Charlottesville, transportation and residential energy use account for about 60% of the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Zoning laws encouraging mixed-use neighborhoods, transit-oriented development, and multi-family units reduce reliance on motor vehicles and increase energy efficiency. We, therefore, urge the City of Charlottesville to follow the recommendations below:

- **Recommendation: Encourage Increased Housing Density and Mixed Use**
  - Strategies:
    - Set targets for the pace of infill development;
    - Encourage infill development in all districts;
    - Work toward a 15-minute-city model;
    - Expand proposed incentives for affordable housing.
  
- **Recommendation: Make Improvements to Walk- and Bikeability**
  - Strategies:
    - Shift away from single-occupancy car trips to more sustainable modes like walking, biking, transit, and ridesharing;
    - Support mixed-use development;
    - Revise the City's 2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, with new time-specific implementation goals;
    - Require that all streets integrate bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities as appropriate;
    - Prioritize safe routes to food, schools, and other essential services;
    - Improve crosswalks and remove sidewalk barriers and non-compliant crossings;
    - Designate car-free and go-slow zones;
    - Improve the integration of off-street trails as transportation and their connection to transit facilities;
    - Update drainage requirements to include green, carbon-sequestering infrastructure in response to increased flooding driven by climate change.
  
- **Recommendation: Align the City Code and Zoning Bylaws with Climate Goals**
  - Strategies:
    - Explore allowing by-right installation and operation of net-zero enabling technologies;<sup>vii</sup>
    - Utilize any municipal-owned/managed assets to generate solar energy;
    - Eliminate parking minimums to decrease the amount of non-permeable surfaces;
    - Increase tree cover requirements in parking lots and allow solar canopy coverage to partially (or fully substitute) them;
    - Require protected bike storage in multifamily buildings;

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<sup>vii</sup> Net-zero enabling technologies are those that either 1) increase energy efficiency, 2) allow for a structure to source renewable energy and avoid the combustion of fossil fuels, or 3) store energy generated from renewable resources, and also 4) exclude solutions that involve combusting biomass or fossil fuels. (definition adapted from [Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#))



- Implement incentives to transition high-maintenance lawns to productive urban agriculture, food forests, prairie/native grasses, and other productive landscapes;
  - Explore exempting net zero enabling technologies from height and setback requirements;
  - Offer expedited permitting and reduced permitting fees for net zero emissions buildings and net zero enabling technology;
  - Establish electric-vehicle (EV) parking guidelines that encourage charging in off-peak hours and energy buy-back in peak hours using vehicle-to-grid charging stations.
- **Recommendation: Promote Transit-oriented Development (TOD):**
    - Strategies:
      - Encourage biophilic building and landscape practices on onsite green infrastructure to improve livability as density increases;
      - Remove public incentives for parking;
      - Prioritize low-income residents' needs in bus route planning and transit infrastructure improvements;
      - Manage a parking supply through demand-responsive strategies, including setting a price for on-street parking, to keep spaces in circulation and enable more access to local businesses;
      - Assure that last-mile sidewalks are in place.
- **Recommendation: Streamline the Deployment of Residential Solar to Low-income Households**
    - Strategies:
      - Allow solar installation on new and existing buildings through actions such as zoning and building reforms, financial incentives, and community education;
      - Leverage city funds to pilot no-cost solar projects for income-qualifying residents;
      - Explore opportunities to install solar plus battery storage systems in single-family and multi-family housing.

## Conclusion

Mitigating climate change not only calls us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, but it also allows us to democratize our energy and transportation systems to address the roots of climate change.

We appreciate the opportunity to address these important issues and believe that our City has the creativity, leadership, and community resources that will allow us to address climate change urgently and equitably. We at C3 are here to offer support and look forward to collaborating to create the CAP that this community needs and deserves.

**Sincerely,**  
**Charlottesville area residents and non-profits for climate justice**

## Partnering Organizations





## Endorsements From Community Residents

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the petition letter was endorsed by 288 signatories.<sup>viii</sup> The written comments of 65 signatories can be found at the end of this document.<sup>ix</sup>

### List of Endorsements

First Name	Last Name	City	State
William <sup>1</sup>	Abrahamson	Charlottesville	VA
Claudia <sup>2</sup>	Aiken	Charlottesville	VA
Daniel	Alexander	Charlottesville	VA
Desi	Allevato	Charlottesville	VA
Rich	Allevi	Charlottesville	VA
Josephus	Allmond	Charlottesville	VA
Cynthia <sup>3</sup>	Allred-Jackson	Charlottesville	VA
Michelle	Amt	Charlottesville	VA
Mark <sup>4</sup>	Anderson	Charlottesville	VA
Samantha <sup>5</sup>	Baars	Charlottesville	VA
Deej	Baker	Charlottesville	VA
Shamera	Banks	Charlottesville	VA
Natalie	Batman	Charlottesville	VA
Lorenzo	Battistelli	Charlottesville	VA
Mary	Bauer	Charlottesville	VA
Elizabeth	Beaurais	Charlottesville	VA
Katrina <sup>6</sup>	Beitz	Charlottesville	VA
Kristin	Bell	Charlottesville	VA
Mark	Berrang	Charlottesville	VA
Kelly	Berrang	Charlottesville	VA
Kathryn <sup>7</sup>	Bertoni	Charlottesville	VA
Megan	Bleakley	Charlottesville	VA
Diana	Boeke	Troy	VA
Christine	Bostic	Charlottesville	VA
Rachael	Boston	Charlottesville	VA
Cara	Bottorff	Charlottesville	VA
Cathy	Boyd	Charlottesville	VA
Katie	Breckinridge	Charlottesville	VA
Andrew	Breen	Charlottesville	VA
Emma	Brodeur	Charlottesville	VA
Patrick	Brown	Charlottesville	VA

<sup>viii</sup> Of signatories, **91% live in Charlottesville** and 4% live in Albemarle County.

<sup>ix</sup> Comments may have been edited for punctuation, capitalization, formatting, etc.



Taylor	Brown	Charlottesville	VA
Wendy	Brown	Charlottesville	VA
Alaina	Brown	Charlottesville	VA
Barbara	Brown Wilson	Charlottesville	VA
Caitlin	Burchfield	Charlottesville	VA
Morgan	Butler	Charlottesville	VA
Patricia	Butler	Keswick	VA
Margaret Rose <sup>8</sup>	Byrne	North Garden	VA
Sarah	Caldwell	Charlottesville	VA
Brad <sup>9</sup>	Campbell	Charlottesville	VA
Ryan	Carbone	Charlottesville	VA
Jessica	Carter	Charlottesville	VA
Cathy	Cassety	Charlottesville	VA
Samuel <sup>10</sup>	Caughron	Charlottesville	VA
Joan <sup>11</sup>	Chapman	Charlottesville	VA
Martin	Chapman	Charlottesville	VA
Robert	Chapman	Charlottesville	VA
Aaliyah	Churchill	Crozet	VA
Anna	Chytla	Warwick	RI
Wes	Claffee	Charlottesville	VA
Jessica <sup>12</sup>	Clark	Charlottesville	VA
Avery	Clemens	Charlottesville	VA
Diane	Cluck	Charlottesville	VA
Brady <sup>13</sup>	Coleman	Charlottesville	VA
Jane <sup>14</sup>	Colony Mills	Charlottesville	VA
Nina	Comiskey	Charlottesville	VA
Christopher	Constant	Charlottesville	VA
Mary <sup>15</sup>	Cook	Charlottesville	VA
Rob	Cook	Charlottesville	VA
Cindy	Cooper	Charlottesville	VA
Judy	Curry	Charlottesville	VA
Nancy	Damon	Charlottesville	VA
Audrey	Dannenber	Charlottesville	VA
Nomi	Dave	Charlottesville	VA
Maggie	Davis	Charlottesville	VA
Caetano	de Campos Lopes	Charlottesville	VA
Austin	deButts	Charlottesville	VA
Lynne	DeCora	Charlottesville	VA
Sarah	Delgado	Charlottesville	VA
Anthony	DeMauro	Charlottesville	VA
Lindsay	Diamond	Charlottesville	VA
Benjamin	Dick	Charlottesville	VA
Nicholas	DiFerdinando	Charlottesville	VA



Kendall	Dix	Esmont	VA
Paul	Dobryden	Charlottesville	VA
Jen	Doo	Charlottesville	VA
Lisa <sup>16</sup>	Draine	Charlottesville	VA
Kate	Duvall	Charlottesville	VA
Meghan <sup>17</sup>	E Milo	Charlottesville	VA
Katie	Ebinger	Charlottesville	VA
Marcie	Eldridge	Charlottesville	VA
Logan	Ende	Charlottesville	VA
Carrington	Epperson	Charlottesville	VA
Michael	Epperson	Charlottesville	VA
Dell <sup>18</sup>	Erwin	Charlottesville	VA
Paula	Fallon	Charlottesville	VA
Jane	Fisher	Charlottesville	VA
Drew	Fleming	Charlottesville	VA
Anne	Flinn	Charlottesville	VA
Trevor	Francis	Charlottesville	VA
Rita	Fravel	Charlottesville	VA
Joanie <sup>19</sup>	Freeman	Charlottesville	VA
Erica	Gaines	Charlottesville	VA
Jeffrey	Gander	Charlottesville	VA
Erin	Garcia	Charlottesville	VA
Barbara	Gehrunge	Charlottesville	VA
Greg <sup>20</sup>	Gelburd	Charlottesville	VA
Marcia	Geyer	Charlottesville	VA
Christopher <sup>21</sup>	Gibson	Charlottesville	VA
Neil	Gluckin	Charlottesville	VA
Linda	Goldstein	Charlottesville	VA
Gareth	Gaston	Charlottesville	VA
Lauren	Grace	Piney River	VA
Allison	Gray	Charlottesville	VA
Diana <sup>22</sup>	Grigera Monteagudo	Charlottesville	VA
Max	Gruenig	Charlottesville	VA
Amanda	Guerra	Charlottesville	VA
Maggie	Guggenheimer	Charlottesville	VA
Christine <sup>23</sup>	Gyovai	Charlottesville	VA
Mark	Hahn	Charlottesville	VA
Matthew	Hantzmon	Charlottesville	VA
Zakia	Haque	Charlottesville	VA
Judy	Harmon	Charlottesville	VA
Ryan	Hathaway	Charlottesville	VA
Emili	Hays	Charlottesville	VA
Ethan	Heil	Charlottesville	VA



Ian	Helgerson	Charlottesville	VA
Hannah	Hellman	Charlottesville	VA
Anna	Henry	Charlottesville	VA
Clinton	Hensley	Charlottesville	VA
Seth <sup>24</sup>	Herman	Charlottesville	
Ronda	Hewitt	Charlottesville	VA
Guinevere	Higgins	Charlottesville	VA
Kellie	Hocking	Charlottesville	VA
Eric	Holmgren	Charlottesville	VA
Ted	Horn	Charlottesville	VA
Leslie	Hubbard	Charlottesville	VA
Anne	Hunter	Charlottesville	VA
Ngo	Huong	Charlottesville	VA
Ashley	Hurst	Charlottesville	VA
Charlie	Hurt	Charlottesville	VA
Elizabeth	Ike	Charlottesville	VA
Seth	Inman	Charlottesville	VA
Alexander	Jack	Charlottesville	VA
Freddy <sup>25</sup>	Jackson	Charlottesville	VA
Coles	Jennings	Charlottesville	VA
Heidi	Jensen	Charlottesville	VA
Pamela	Jiranek	Earlysville	VA
Steven	Johnson	Charlottesville	VA
Jordan	Johnson	Charlottesville	VA
Judy Marie <sup>26</sup>	Johnson	Charlottesville	VA
Greg	Kane	Charlottesville	VA
Kyaw	Khine	Charlottesville	VA
Karolyn <sup>27</sup>	Kinane	Charlottesville	VA
Ann	Kingston	Charlottesville	VA
Leigh	Kirchner	Greenwood	VA
John <sup>28</sup>	Kluge	Charlottesville	VA
Emily	Koester	Charlottesville	VA
Kate <sup>29</sup>	Kogge	Charlottesville	VA
John	Kortmulder	Charlottesville	VA
Josh	Krahn	Charlottesville	VA
Peter <sup>30</sup>	Krebs	Charlottesville	VA
Mike	Kruse	Charlottesville	VA
Evan	Kruse	Charlottesville	VA
Susan	Kruse	Charlottesville	VA
Sarah <sup>31</sup>	Lanzman	Dyke	VA
Cecilia <sup>32</sup>	Lapp Stoltzfus	Charlottesville	
Kathryn	Laughon	Charlottesville	VA
Emily	Lazaro	Charlottesville	VA



David <sup>33</sup>	Lerman	Charlottesville	VA
Amelia	Lewis	Charlottesville	VA
Emily <sup>34</sup>	Little	Charlottesville	VA
Rachel	Lloyd Miller	Charlottesville	VA
Annie	Lopez	Charlottesville	VA
Annie	Lorenzoni	Charlottesville	VA
Allison <sup>35</sup>	Love	Stanardsville	VA
Claire	Lyu	Crozet	VA
Eric	Magrum	Charlottesville	VA
Erin	Malec	Charlottesville	VA
John	Marier	Charlottesville	VA
Laura	Markey Monroe	Charlottesville	VA
Cliff	Maxwell	Charlottesville	VA
Susan <sup>36</sup>	McCulley	Charlottesville	VA
Michael	McGee	Charlottesville	VA
Shawn	McGowen	Charlottesville	VA
Rachael	McGowen	Charlottesville	VA
Grey	McLean	Charlottesville	VA
Austin	McNichols	Charlottesville	VA
Robin	McNulty	Charlottesville	VA
Patricia	Meece	Charlottesville	VA
Melissa <sup>37</sup>	Meece	Charlottesville	VA
David <sup>38</sup>	Mellor	Charlottesville	VA
Laurie	Miller	Charlottesville	VA
Jennie	Moody	Greenwood	VA
Peter <sup>39</sup>	Moore	Charlottesville	VA
Ralph	Morini	Earlysville	VA
Richard <sup>40</sup>	Morris	Charlottesville	VA
Joshua <sup>41</sup>	Morrison	Charlottesville	VA
Emily <sup>42</sup>	Mortimer	Charlottesville	VA
Mary	Mowrer	Afton	VA
Dena	Mohammad Ali	Charlottesville	VA
Cameron <sup>43</sup>	Mura	Charlottesville	VA
Nicholas	Myers	Charlottesville	VA
Brock <sup>44</sup>	Napierkowski	Charlottesville	VA
Kylah <sup>45</sup>	Navone	Charlottesville	VA
Adam	Navone	Charlottesville	VA
Cynthia	Neff	Charlottesville	VA
Amanda	Nelsen	Charlottesville	VA
Sarah	Nissen	Charlottesville	VA
Omwira	Nkere	Charlottesville	VA
Helen	O'Connell	Charlottesville	VA
Karen	Ogden	Charlottesville	VA



Amy	Ogden	Charlottesville	VA
Peter <sup>46</sup>	Ohlms	Charlottesville	VA
Michelle	Olivia	Charlottesville	VA
Andy	Orban	Charlottesville	VA
Arielle	O'Shea	Charlottesville	VA
Annette	Osso	Barboursville	VA
Hayley	Owens	Charlottesville	VA
Kaitlin	P ---	Pittsburgh	PA
Jeff	Pacelli	Charlottesville	VA
Matthew	Page	Earlsville	VA
Reilly	Park	Richmond	VA
James	Parrish	Zion Crossroads	VA
Heather	Pehne	Charlottesville	VA
Emily <sup>47</sup>	Pendergraft	Charlottesville	VA
Paige	Perriello	Charlottesville	VA
Susan	Perry	Charlottesville	VA
Spencer	Phillips	Charlottesville	VA
Samdup <sup>48</sup>	Pittard	Charlottesville	VA
Cindy	Poots Remington	Ruckersville	VA
Michael	Prichard	Charlottesville	VA
Julia	Prince	Charlottesville	VA
Christine <sup>49</sup>	Putnam	Charlottesville	VA
Alexa <sup>50</sup>	Quinn	Charlottesville	VA
Karl <sup>51</sup>	Quist	Charlottesville	VA
Eric	Ramirez-Weaver	Charlottesville	VA
Brooke	Ray	Charlottesville	VA
Harold	Redding	Charlottesville	VA
Kristina	Reid Black	Charlottesville	VA
Morgan	Reitz	Charlottesville	VA
Cyndi	Richardson	Charlottesville	VA
Anna	Riedesel	Charlottesville	VA
Evan	Riegle	Charlottesville	VA
David	Robinson	Charlottesville	VA
John <sup>52</sup>	Robinson	Charlottesville	VA
Jenni	Rogan	Charlottesville	VA
Diane	Sampson	Charlottesville	VA
Fred	Schneider	Charlottesville	VA
Carolyn	Schuyler	Charlottesville	VA
Greg	Self	Charlottesville	VA
John	Semmelhack	Charlottesville	VA
Donna <sup>53</sup>	Shaunesey	Charlottesville	VA
Kenneth	Shevlin	Charlottesville	VA
Rosanne <sup>54</sup>	Simon	Charlottesville	VA





Alan	Simpson	Charlottesville	VA
Christopher <sup>55</sup>	Sims	Charlottesville	VA
Brad <sup>56</sup>	Slocum	Charlottesville	VA
Emily	Smith	Keswick	VA
Ryan	Snow	Charlottesville	VA
Blair	St. Ledger-Olson	Charlottesville	VA
Sam	Stapleton	Charlottesville	VA
Teri <sup>57</sup>	Strother	Charlottesville	VA
Annie	Suttle	Charlottesville	VA
Tish	Tablan	Charlottesville	VA
Zach	Tam	Charlottesville	VA
Ethan <sup>58</sup>	Tate	Charlottesville	VA
Grant <sup>59</sup>	Tate	Charlottesville	VA
Peter <sup>60</sup>	Thompson	Charlottesville	VA
Garrett	Trent	Charlottesville	VA
Peggy	Van Yahres	Charlottesville	VA
Mila	Versteeg	Charlottesville	VA
Ashley	Viars	Charlottesville	VA
Christian	Wakeman	Charlottesville	VA
Jerry <sup>61</sup>	Waller	Charlottesville	VA
Bev	Wann	Charlottesville	VA
Lakeshia	Washington	Charlottesville	VA
Meghan	Watson	Charlottesville	VA
Greg	Weaver	Charlottesville	VA
Grey <sup>62</sup>	Webbert	Charlottesville	VA
Devin	Welch	Charlottesville	VA
Tonya	White	Charlottesville	VA
Abigail <sup>63</sup>	Wiebe	Charlottesville	VA
Greyson	Williams	Charlottesville	VA
Ariana	Williams	Charlottesville	VA
Elizabeth	Wittner	Charlottesville	VA
Mikayla	Woodley	Charlottesville	VA
Robin	Wrightson	Charlottesville	VA
Pete	Yadlowsky	Charlottesville	VA
Barbara <sup>64</sup>	Yager	Charlottesville	VA
Suzanne	Yeaman	Charlottesville	VA
Anna	Young	Crozet	VA
Megan	Young	Charlottesville	VA
Jeanette	Abi-Nader	NA	NA
Ellie	Cowan	NA	NA
Onawa <sup>65</sup>	Dufresne-Barger	NA	NA
Chris	Kozler	NA	NA

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<sup>1</sup> Dear City Council, Deputy City Managers Sam Sanders and Ashley Marshall, Interim City Manager Michael Rogers, and City staff Kristel Riddervold, Susan Elliott, and Emily Irvine--Thank you for your invaluable work on Charlottesville's Climate Action Plan (CAP) draft. The draft CAP gives us a framework to shift away from fossil-fuel dependency, use climate action to promote social justice, and address the climate crisis here in Charlottesville. While we are excited by the CAP draft that has been released, there are two motivations for us to send a letter recommending further action on the CAP before it is finalized: The need for more substantial and relevant recommendations; The need for clearly committing to equitable and inclusive community engagement.

<sup>2</sup> Charlottesville should be leading the state with measurable, actionable goals!

<sup>3</sup> Helping families get solar systems from reputable contractors and providing safe pedestrian crossings for the 29 shopping corridors can be key to incentivizing residents to participate in climate action.

<sup>4</sup> Please support the initiatives to help make a greener, and safer, city.

<sup>5</sup> How will the city ensure equitable/inclusive community engagement on the climate action plan? Often, the folks facing the worst consequences of climate change aren't the most responsible for causing it. We must confront climate change and transition to a carbon-neutral economy in a just and equitable way. Thank you.

<sup>6</sup> Strongly support this plan.

<sup>7</sup> A truly livable city is one where every citizen has access to safe, healthy food, housing, and transportation -specifically non-car transport. Investing in public transportation, pedestrian & bike infrastructure, and equitable food access will automatically make this city and better place to live and move us toward our climate goals.

<sup>8</sup> When we add crosswalks and other infrastructure designed to help people effectively access public transportation, let us ensure that this infrastructure is accessible to persons with disabilities. People with disabilities are disproportionate users and would-be users of public transportation, yet are often badly affected by the last mile problem. FHWA, for example, gives guidance for making such infrastructure accessible. Enhancing accessibility helps other members of the community as well. While ADA and ADA as amended are relatively recent, the idea that the community does and should include its most vulnerable members is ancient. See for instance Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 8.

<sup>9</sup> I support aiming as high as we can! There's no risk in 'overdoing' combating climate change.

<sup>10</sup> Let's do this together!

<sup>11</sup> I concur with Community Climate Collaborative's comments.

<sup>12</sup> A clear and defined commitment to reduce energy consumption is needed for a path to a resilient future!

<sup>13</sup> I feel that climate change is the most urgent threat facing humanity, and it is critical that we take action to combat it at all levels!

<sup>14</sup> On behalf of Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, I encourage the City to incorporate into Charlottesville's Climate Action Plan the goals of providing cleaner and more public transportation options that give under-resourced community members access to healthy food, and initiatives to rescue and redirect to those community members food that retail groceries otherwise would send to a landfill.

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- <sup>15</sup> I believe these are the #1 issues we should be focusing on right now. Please read and implement!
- <sup>16</sup> We must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels! Commitments to climate action/climate justice must start at the local level!
- <sup>17</sup> This plan is well thought-out and positions Charlottesville with measurable tools to make important changes for our community.
- <sup>18</sup> Let's believe the experts, that we are facing a climate crisis and commit to making drastic, immediate changes needed.
- <sup>19</sup> Life is precious and our actions to deal with our problematic climate are urgent. Please let's move quickly and smartly to do our part locally.
- <sup>20</sup> Mass transit from pan tops, ban gas leaf blowers/weed eaters by 2026.
- <sup>21</sup> Please implement these improvements to the Climate Action Plan.
- <sup>22</sup> These recommendations are very important for the future of our community's children!
- <sup>23</sup> We are glad for the City's leadership to build climate resilience and social justice.
- <sup>24</sup> I support C3's recommendations!
- <sup>25</sup> Thank you!
- <sup>26</sup> H-eal O-ur M-other E-arth
- <sup>27</sup> Thank you for your work on this draft! Please consider the enclosed recommendations as we consider this urgent work together. With much gratitude for your time and care!
- <sup>28</sup> Dear City Council, City Management, and Staff, We commend you on your progress to date with the city's CAP draft. This is an essential step forward in ensuring our city and community's future resilience, though, like many others co-signing this letter, we strongly believe we need to go a step further prior to finalizing the CAP. As you may have read in the most recent IPCC report, the clock is ticking and we need to hasten our pace and ambition of progress. The livelihoods of our community and the well-being of our families are very much at stake. It is for these reasons that we are building our company, piece by piece, from the ground up, as the first net-zero winery in the state, and the first net-zero meadery in the country. But we can only do so much as one company. We are counting on Charlottesville's government to curb municipal emissions & to take the urgent steps, as articulated in the C3 CAP community letter, that enable our community to follow suit. Sincerely, John Kluge
- <sup>29</sup> Public/pedestrian transportation is a big issue for me; we need safer and more accessible means of getting around Charlottesville. More frequent/reliable buses, more bike paths, and safer crossings would lead folks to cleaner means of getting in and around the city.
- <sup>30</sup> Signing on both as myself and on behalf of the Piedmont Environmental Council.
- <sup>31</sup> When will the City retirement fund be reinvested away from fossil fuels?
- <sup>32</sup> Thank you for your work and leadership around ensuring responsible Climate Action for the city of Charlottesville. I am in full support of these recommendations from C3.
- <sup>33</sup> I am with the PVCC Community Garden and I support this plan.

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<sup>34</sup> Thank you for releasing a CAP draft and for taking these thoughtful comments into consideration. We are so lucky to live in a place with so many community climate resources.

<sup>35</sup> I agree 100% that CAP should establish more SMARTIE (Strategic, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable) goals in all areas ("key actions") of the CAP!

<sup>36</sup> Climate action is the foundation for making our community and world better. Thank you for continuing to work for environmental health.

<sup>37</sup> I fully support the C3 recommendations for the climate in Cville.

<sup>38</sup> I strongly support the recommendations in this letter and hope that a dense, walkable, and sustainable city is in our future.

<sup>39</sup> Take action now!

<sup>40</sup> Our planet, our country, and our communities can't wait. Take climate action now!

<sup>41</sup> Climate change is going to be worse than we think. We must act now to help protect a habitable planet.

<sup>42</sup> I am signing in support of Charlottesville's Climate Action Plan draft. I feel that this is an urgent issue that all counties and municipalities need to address.

<sup>43</sup> As a scientist, I view the general issue of climate change as being beyond critical, in terms of its overall significance and time sensitivity/urgency.

<sup>44</sup> It is not too late, but we all must act. Everyone, everywhere together. I support this group of initiatives for the city of Charlottesville.

<sup>45</sup> Making these important climate actions now will hopefully assist in avoiding the worst of climate impact for our children and their children to come!

<sup>46</sup> Whatever the details of the recommendations, we need strong implementation tracking and ways to overcome barriers/choke points that have plagued past efforts.

<sup>47</sup> Please consider more direct and meaningful climate action- net zero by 2030 at minimum! Thank you!

<sup>48</sup> Please support it and make a difference, especially for our future generations. Thank you so much.

<sup>49</sup> The City should set up a green bank to make money available for energy efficiency upgrades for those with low and moderate incomes. The City should also stop subsidizing new natural gas hookups. Need more protection for canopy protections this needs to be added to the CAP. Need some action items to educate students in our schools and everyone else about why climate action is so important.

<sup>50</sup> We must act before it's too late.]

<sup>51</sup> Thank you for your continued focus on this most important issue.

<sup>52</sup> Please help make a dent in climate change. We can do real good even in this small town!

<sup>53</sup> We are running out of time to avoid climate chaos. Charlottesville should be leading the way in its commitment to carbon neutrality.

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<sup>54</sup> Start responding positively to planting more trees to combat heat islands. Must work needs to be done to redesign existing parking lots which create excessive heat.

<sup>55</sup> This comprehensive and thorough plan should increase healthier and cleaner living in Charlottesville and the surrounding area! As a group of concerned citizens and thoughtful people, let's make it happen together!

<sup>56</sup> Please heed these strong and clear recommendations from C3. The City desperately needs to be specific, measurable, and inclusive in how it implements its climate action plan. Incorporating these recommendations will help get us there and actually follow through on being a leading community during the climate transition.

<sup>57</sup> Please take these recommendations and include them in your Climate Action Plan! Would love to see a final version that is digestible for the public also, similar to the County's plan. Very readable and impressive.

<sup>58</sup> Transportation equity is a huge issue in our community. Reducing personal vehicle use in, through, and across the city has so many benefits, including w/ climate goals. Please prioritize and coordinate projects that reduce the need for personal motor vehicle trips (EVs are less bad, but not the magic bullet).

<sup>59</sup> The city can have a major impact on our climate. The city's leadership can help other organizations to step their efforts for the climate.

<sup>60</sup> Executive Director, The Center

<sup>61</sup> Let's reduce carbon emissions and taxes by creating separated bike lanes that reduce congestion and wear and tear on the roads.

<sup>62</sup> Cville needs to make commitments, not recommendations, and start treating this as what it is and will be - a climate crisis!!! I would also love to see more equity put in the CAP! We can't leave our most vulnerable behind.

<sup>63</sup> Please listen to what this city needs to fight the BIGGEST and most dangerous threat to us all. Please pay attention. Please do something.

<sup>64</sup> Please support these recommendations and preserve and improve the future.

<sup>65</sup> Food Justice is a key part of climate action. The protection of climate is fundamental to sustaining the health and validity of our community. The effects of climate change are proven to have a direct impact on not only the environment but also on the Charlottesville community, with emphasis on historically excluded communities and communities of color. These effects further add to the already placed barriers our communities face, specifically with food equity.