



# *Chatham County Climate Retreat Report*

Alana Keegan, Central Pines Regional Council

# Structure and Goals

*A two-Day Retreat with Chatham County Commissioners, Climate Advisory Committee, and County staff*

## *Shared Retreat Goals*

- Build a shared understanding of climate science
- Establish a common framework for a county climate action process
- Create clarity around roles, timelines, and expectations

# Hearing from the Experts

- *Jared Bowen, NC Climate Office on The Urgency of Climate Change and the Effects We Can Expect to See in Chatham County*
- *Susie Crate, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology on Climate Adaptation, Community Impact, and Education and Engagement*
- *Michelle Schroeder Moreno, Center for Environmental Farming Systems & Agroecology Professor at NC State University on Agriculture*
- *Josh Brooks, NC Sustainable Energy Association on Energy Sector Impacts and Energy Burden*
- *Nick Gower, HIP Investor on Funding Climate Action Plans*
- *Shuchi Gupta, Central Pines Regional Council on Meaningful Community Engagement and Climate Action Plans*
- *Kevin Lindley, Chatham County on Solid Waste Work Underway in the County*

# Understanding Climate Action Plans

*Climate Action Plans are voluntary non-regulatory action for local governments, often designed based on community needs.*

***General elements can include:***

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory\*\*
- Community Engagement
- Development of Reduction Tactics by Sector
- Implementation
- Monitoring

## ***Thinking Through Vision***

It's 2045 and Chatham County is a Climate Action Leader. What Has Been Accomplished?

- Climate-Friendly Land Use
- Sustainable Development
- Transportation
- Equity and Inclusion
- Outreach and Education
- Renewable Energy Infrastructure
- Zero Emissions
- Waste Management
- Water Management
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Building Resilient Communities
- Food Production and Soil Health
- Ecological Health
- Green Economics



# ***Prioritizing Long-Term Impact and Short-Term Opportunity***

***“Which themes feel most essential to our long-term vision?”***

Land Use  
Sustainable Development  
Transportation  
Equity and Inclusion  
Renewable Energy Infrastructure  
Zero Emissions

***Which areas can the County make the most near-term progress?***

Land Use  
Sustainable Development  
Outreach and Education  
Waste Management

# ***Defining Immediate Next Steps***

## **Roles, Responsibilities, and Timeline**

***November 20*** – Climate Advisory Committee reviews outputs of retreat, inventory existing work by the county related to climate, and identify recommended sectors based on other county plans and priorities. *This will be used to outline a proposed scope of focus for the county's RFP for a Climate Action Plan.*

***December 15*** – Central Pines present to County Commissioners on the retreat, discussion, and next steps.

***January 2026*** – The Climate Advisory Committee will present an updated inventory and recommended RFP scope to the Board.

***Winter 2026*** – County Commissioners Budget Retreat to consider RFP and Climate Action Plan funding

***Questions?***

***Contact***

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