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| <b>Name of Committee:</b>   | Climate Change Advisory Committee   |  |
| <b>Date of Presentation:</b>  | TBD   |  |
| <b>Time Period Covered:</b>   | July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017  |  |
| <b># of Meetings Held During Period</b><br>(including any special meeting or community input)   | 12 Committee Meetings and innumerable meetings of subcommittees or smaller groups |  |
| <b>MISSION &amp; GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You may also attach as a separate document, but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.</b>  |   |  |
| <p><b>Mission:</b><br/> The purpose of the Committee will be to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and others regarding likely climate change impacts in Chatham County and ways to adapt to and mitigate these impacts, including: (a) reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (primarily CO2) with related improvements in air quality, (b) promoting the use of renewable energy, (c) promoting carbon neutral/green building standards for new and existing buildings both public and private and (d) encouraging resilient conservation-oriented land uses and both residential and commercial land development standards that foster climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Initial Activities:</b><br/> A key focus of the Committee will be to make recommendations to the County about ways to: (1) reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (primarily CO2), (2) adapt to climate changes and (3) promote educational activities that support both. Initial Committee projects and activities that have been identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study carbon-neutral policies that have been considered and/or adopted by other local jurisdictions and businesses;</li> <li>• Identify the sources of energy that are now used in Chatham County;</li> <li>• Make recommendations to the County regarding use of the LEED building standards;</li> </ul> |   |  |

- Make recommendations to the County regarding the sources of renewable energy that could be used to support County and other buildings;
- Make recommendations to the County regarding energy efficiency of County-owned and other buildings and vehicles;
- Make recommendations to the County regarding possible amendments to the zoning and subdivision ordinances and building codes to improve the efficiency of residential buildings and the conservation qualities of housing developments;
- Make recommendations to the County regarding ordinance and regulatory amendments to encourage maintenance of timberland generally, greater use of trees in commercial and residential developments and discouragement of deforestation practices;
- Make recommendations to foster agricultural practices that avoid unnecessary contributions to climate change;
- Make recommendations to the County regarding education of the public on issues relating to climate change.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES – Summarize concisely below the committee’s major accomplishments and activities of the past year. This should include reports, research, projects, public input, etc. Be sure to identify how they relate to specific goals, objectives or measures. You also may attach as a separate document but limit to no more than one page single-spaced.**

- The Committee has participated actively in making suggestions to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.
- Made presentations to the Board of Commissioners on natural capital and its importance in land use planning and conservation. That presentation was also made to the Steering Committee.
- Chatham County re-joined the ICLEI organization (thereby enabling us to access ICLEI software for purposes of preparing an emissions inventory for the County) and Triangle Clean Cities, which focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Triangle area.
- Recommended on October 17, 2016 and January 17, 2017 that the County re-adopt the LEED policy for County buildings. The Commissioners adopted a “Sustainable Facilities Policy” on February 20, 2017.
- Worked with the Abundance Foundation to present a climate

conference called “Climate Carnival” on May 12 and 13, 2017.

- The “2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Chatham County, North Carolina” was presented to the Commissioners on March 20, 2017.
- Worked closely with UNC Prof. Lama BouFajreldin to assist and encourage her undergraduate class at UNC to study attitudes in Chatham County about climate change and greenhouse gas reduction methods.
- The “Forestland and Farmlands Subcommittee Recommendations and Report June 1, 2017” was presented to the Commissioners.

**BARRIERS & CHALLENGES – Identify any barriers or challenges that make it difficult for the committee to achieve goals or objectives. Limit to the space provided below**

The major challenge faced by the Committee in achieving its goals and objectives is financial. So far the Committee has proceeded on the basis of the assumption that the County would not wish to spend substantial sums to hire consultants to prepare greenhouse gas emissions reports and mitigation or action plans designed to reduce such emissions and encourage carbon sequestration. Its reliance on student assistance and/or its own resources has demonstrated that these approaches have produced viable and useful products but ones that suffer from certain data and other inadequacies.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES: Please list any recommendations to the Board of Commissioners related to the changes in the advisory committee’s membership, mission, goals, objectives or other related issues.**

The Committee believes and will soon recommend that the County adopt a vigorous action plan to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration. It will also recommend that the County hire a “sustainability director” or otherwise arrange for County staff to obtain periodic GHG emission reports and implement a comprehensive climate action plan.