

ADDENDUM A

I. CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mission:

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.

Initial Activities:

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:

- Study carbon-neutral policies that have been considered and/or adopted by other local jurisdictions and businesses;
- Identify the sources of energy that are now used in Chatham County;
- Make recommendations to the County regarding use of the LEED building standards;
- 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.

Membership:

The Climate Change Advisory Committee will have up to 13 members, with one member each representing the towns of Siler City and Pittsboro which will determine their representatives. The Committee should consist primarily of members who are dedicated to its mission and who have time and resources available to devote to the work and research that will be necessary to accomplish its objectives. It would be useful if Committee membership also included persons with knowledge relating to:

- Renewable energy systems
- Building efficiency
- Green building standards

- Conservation standards applicable in both residential and commercial settings
- Transportation efficiency standards and fuel options
- Forestry and agricultural practices and management
- Ecology and environmental science
- Literature relating to the science of climate change

Committee Support:

The Committee may seek either as “ex officio” members or otherwise help and advice of staff from county government and other local governments, who are knowledgeable about the matters it wishes to consider. It may also look to the local universities, community colleges and other experts for assistance.

Meetings: The committee is expected to meet monthly in the Pittsboro area.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT - 2019

NOTE: Attach current list of members and identify officers.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Name of Committee: | CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE | |
| Date of Presentation: | August 19, 2019 | |
| Time Period Covered: | July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 | |
| # of Meetings Held During Period: | 13 meetings held, 11 with a quorum. Additional sub-committees held. | |
| MISSION & GOALS – Summarize concisely the committee’s mission (charge), key goals, objectives and measures below. You also may attach as a separate document, but limit to no more than one page single-spaced. | | |
| <p>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> | | |
| 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. | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided guidance and input for NC State University senior class in Environmental Sciences, who used Chatham County documents and data in their coursework. ○ Met with groups and agencies in the County including Triangle J, Agriculture Extension agents, NC-Warn, Haw River Assembly. ○ Received presentations from County officials including recycling and emergency management in the County ○ Developed and shared proposals on topics such as climate impacts in Rocky River, and Rural Dialogue, provided information on tree cover in the County and neighboring jurisdictions | | |

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.

1) The Committee previously prepared a greenhouse gas inventory for Chatham County, a major accomplishment. The County should update the data and analysis in the inventory periodically. The County will benefit from an updated inventory as the Comprehensive Plan contains a goal that Chatham become and remain a “carbon negative” county. It’s necessary to update the inventory in order to gauge progress towards that goal. The County purchased the generally accepted software with the understanding that the County would make updates to the Inventory. The CC Committee can provide advice and input on the next iteration. The County may want to consider hiring a consultant to actually do the next version of the Inventory, using the software and other information.

2) While the County is making more progress towards climate goals than many jurisdictions around the country, Committee members are also aware of a growing body of evidence showing that climate changes are already occurring. As such, Committee will be focusing on adaptation strategies as well as mitigation and preventive measures.

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 County’s Comprehensive Plan presents ambitious goals, including the goal of that Chatham County become a “carbon negative” County (p. 111), and that the County “permanently protect an additional 20,000 acres of additional land by 2040” (p.103). The County should consider establishing an annual report (such as Earth Day or Arbor Day) to report out on progress in meeting these goals, and the BOC should call on the relevant advisory committees including the Climate Change Advisory Committee to provide advice and input on meeting such goals.

OTHER INFORMATION: Provide any other information or observations that the Board of Commissioners should know about. Provide in the space below.

The Town of Goldston position remains vacant.

Attached: List of Members and Officers

| Members | Role |
|-----------------|----------------|
| John Bonitz | Pittsboro Rep |
| Sara Collier | Member |
| Ron Dameron | Siler City Rep |
| Jeff Gannon | Member |
| Martha Girolami | Member |
| John Graybeal | Member |
| Sonny Keisler | Member |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Keith McLaurin | Vice Chair |
| Becky Peer | Member |
| Mike Petruska | Chair |
| Sarah Justice | Member |
| Town of Goldston Rep TBD VACANT | Goldston Rep |
| Billy Cummings | Member |
| Diana Hales | Commissioner |
| Dan LaMontagne | County Manager |
| Kevin Lindley | Director DEQ |
| Others as appropriate | County staff |

