

September 28, 2016

To: Chatham County Board of Commissioners

From: Chatham County Climate Change Advisory Committee

Re: The Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Reduction Project

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A key component of the Committee's present program consists of (1) developing a current greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions inventory, (2) assessing the extent to which forestry and farmland in Chatham County is currently capturing or sequestering these emissions in forests and farmland and (3) developing recommendations regarding the reduction of these emissions.

The Committee is now working with two graduate students (Lauren Kelly Joca and Carl Kolosna) at the University of North Carolina who are undertaking some of this work as a part of their Fall semester studies this year. We are also consulting with two UNC professors (Anna Krome-Lukens and Lama BouFajreldin) each of whom has a "capstone" class of undergraduate students that could continue work on the project during the Spring 2017 semester. Prof. BouFajreldin's class might continue the work alone or her class might coordinate with Prof. Krome-Lukens' class.

Professor BouFajreldin's background is in meeting with government and community groups in the context of developing ways of implementing emission reduction recommendations. She is now planning a Spring semester program for her class that would focus on this method in Chatham County, identifying challenges and paths for execution of the recommendations that come out of the work done by Joca and Kolosna this Fall.

Part (1) of the project involves primarily the gathering of data on electricity consumption in the County by various categories (e.g., residential, industrial and commercial) and the development of vehicle-miles-traveled data for the transportation sector. This basic data would then be manipulated using the software that is supplied by ICLEI and that is now available to us since the County has re-joined this organization. The basic data and the software will enable the graduate students to report emission levels in terms of carbon dioxide-2 "equivalents."

Further development and refinement of emission reduction strategies through meetings with "stakeholder" groups in the community next Spring depends on a plan that will be developed by Prof. BouFajreldin in consultation with us. Although we do not now have the details of that plan, we will bring it to you well in advance. As some members of the Board of Commissioners have realized, working with community stakeholders on implementation will be a

critical part of the total project.

Our purpose with this presentation is to inform you about this project and to let you know that we will provide additional information about it as it becomes more completely developed. Our Committee would be delighted to receive either your formal or informal "approval" of this project for ourselves and also to provide comfort and reassurance to the UNC personnel who will be spending time and effort on the project.