



## Briefing on Draft Montgomery County Climate Action Plan

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### Description

The Planning Board will receive a briefing on Montgomery County's Draft Climate Action Plan by Adriana Hochberg, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and Climate Change Coordinator, Office of the County Executive. The [Draft Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP) is currently out for public review and comment until February 28<sup>th</sup>. Planning staff are reviewing the draft CAP and will provide written comments to the County Executive's Office.

Planning staff first will provide a short briefing to the Board on the Planning Department's role in the development of the draft CAP and then will introduce Ms. Hochberg, who will lead the CAP briefing along with other County government colleagues. This session will be the first of two discussions on February 4<sup>th</sup> for the Board related to the draft CAP. This session is an opportunity for the Board to discuss the draft CAP with County staff and provide their comments on this plan. The second discussion will take place during the Thrive Montgomery 2050 work session #6 which will include an in-depth discussion of the integration of the Thrive Montgomery Plan and the Climate Action Plan.

### Action Requested

Planning staff requests the Planning Board provide comments on the draft Climate Action Plan prior to the February 28<sup>th</sup> public comment deadline.

### Background/Overview

The Climate Action Plan is Montgomery County's strategic plan to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. The Climate Action Plan details the effects of a changing climate on Montgomery County and includes strategies to reduce GHG emissions and climate-related risks to the County's residents, businesses, and the built and natural environment. The County plans to finalize the Climate Action Plan in Spring 2021.

Multiple Planning Department staff have been involved in the development of the Climate Action Plan since this effort was launched. Deputy Director Tanya Stern is a member of the Inter-agency Climate Leadership Team which has met quarterly since September 2019. Additional Planning staff participated in four Technical Workgroups (see the list below) which met monthly between Summer and Fall 2019 and developed draft CAP recommendations that were released in early 2020.

- **Buildings Technical Workgroup:** Tina Schneider, Downcounty Planning

- **Transportation Technical Workgroup:** Lauren Pepe, Countywide Planning & Policy
- **Clean Energy Technical Workgroup:** Steve Findley, Midcounty Planning
- **Climate Adaptation and Sequestration Workgroup:** Katherine Nelson, Upcounty Planning

Planning staff who have participated in the CAP process are currently reviewing the draft Climate Action Plan and will provide written comments on behalf of the Department. These staff also have been part of the staff team that drafted the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan. Since the release of the draft CAP, Planning staff have been coordinating with Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Hochberg and other County staff to explore how the two draft plans are currently integrated and to identify additional ways to integrate the plans. In-depth discussion with the Planning Board of the integration of Thrive Montgomery 2050 and the Climate Action Plan will take place during the Thrive Montgomery 2050 work session #6.

**Attachments:**

- [Montgomery County Climate Action Plan homepage](#)
- [Draft Climate Action Plan document](#)