



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER

NO. 5 - 2022

May 6, 2022

IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE ACTION URGENT ACTION

DIRECTIVE FOR ALL COUNTY AGENCIES AND COUNTY FUNDED OPERATIONS TO INITIATE AND SUPPORT IMMEDIATE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released February 22, 2022, through world-wide scientific observation and quantifications, states that climate change is escalating much faster than previous IPCC report climate models predicted; current global warming is human induced from the burning of fossil fuels and natural resource depletion; irreversible global warming of 1.2 Celsius above preindustrial has already occurred; surpassing 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) of global warming will catastrophically endanger the well-being of all people and the earth's ecosystems which humans rely for survival; and

WHEREAS, the scientific community warns of a closing window of opportunity to reduce the current trajectory of climate change and thereby avoid potentially catastrophic climate impacts, which would wreak havoc on human lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change impacts, if not addressed today, will be the greatest, not during our lifetimes, but in the lives of our children and grandchildren. As the stewards of our County for the next generations, we must act now to ensure the County and world they inherit is better than the one we have now, for if we do not, we are placing on their shoulders a burden that is ours to carry; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has signed an executive order that directs the federal government to leverage its scale and procurement power to reduce carbon emissions, invest in American clean energy industries and manufacturing and create, clean, healthy, and resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Climate Action Commission's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan provides a blueprint for the State's achievement of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 with significant positive job growth and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through regional interjurisdictional coordination of policies and programs affecting air quality, land use, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate and Energy Action Plan has a goal that COG member governments develop local climate action plans; and

WHEREAS, CR-07-2020 the County Council of Prince George's County established the Climate Action Commission to urgently develop a community-wide Draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County that was completed and delivered to the Prince George's County Council by January 14, 2022, following a 30-day public comment period from October 1-December 1, 2021, for further action and consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Climate Action Plan transmitted to the County Council in January 2022 by that Commission recommends a County-wide emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and a County-wide goal of achieving carbon-neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the MWCOG, in board resolution R45-2020, adopted emissions reduction targets of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in 2021 adopted the goal, in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2030, to reduce GHG emissions state-wide by 50% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in April 2022 adopted the Climate Solutions Now Act, to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions state-wide by 2045; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 506 of the Charter for Prince George's County, Maryland, provides for the County Executive to appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall assist in the consideration of County policies and programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, on this 6th day of May 2022, that I, Angela D Alsobrooks, County Executive for Prince George's County Maryland, do hereby order the following:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that all Prince George's County Agencies and County Funded Operations shall adopt an emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and a County-wide goal of achieving carbon-neutrality by 2045; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that there shall be a commitment to prioritizing Residential and Community resilience to the unprecedented weather events caused by Climate Change, such as flooding, extreme heat, and drought; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Prince George’s County Climate Action Implementation Task Force and Prince George’s County Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice are hereby established for the purpose of developing strategies and actions to achieve these emissions and resilience goals guided by the Draft Climate Action Plan and Supplemental Public Comments, the Environmental Justice Commission Report of 2019, and the continuously evolving best practices across the State and region; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Climate Action Implementation Task Force shall develop strategies and actions to prioritize Climate Solutions in County Government Operations and to incorporate environmental justice and climate equity policy into decision making across the County Government’s portfolio; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Climate Action Implementation Task Force shall deliver a preliminary report to the County Executive, before the development of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, recommending implementation strategies for Climate Action across the County Government that shall include a prioritization of these strategies as well as costs and proposed funding mechanisms; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Department of Environment shall incorporate the recommendations of the Draft Climate Action Plan and Supplemental Public Comments and these strategies and actions into a final Climate Action Implementation Plan for Prince George’s County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Department of the Environment, with public input, will assess program efficacy and community needs and will update the County’s Climate Action Implementation Plan at regular intervals; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Climate Action Implementation Task Force shall be composed of members as follows:

1. The Director of the Department of the Environment or their designee, who shall serve as Chair;
2. The Director of the Office of Central Services (OCS) or their designee, who shall serve as Vice-Chair;
3. The Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) or their designee;
4. The Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation or their designee;
5. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management or their designee;


6. The Director of Housing and Community Development or their designee;
7. The Director of the Housing Authority or their designee;
8. The Director of the Redevelopment Authority or their designee;
9. The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development or their designee;
10. The President of the Economic Development Corporation or their designee;
11. The Health Officer or their designee;
12. The Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission or their designee;
13. The Director of the Prince George's County Planning Department or their designee;
14. The Director Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation or their designee;
15. A representative designated by the Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools;
16. A representative designated by the County Council;
17. A representative designated by the Prince George's County Municipal Association;
18. A representative designated by the Resident Advisory Group; and
19. A representative from FSC First; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the that the Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice, shall be staffed by the Department of Environment and convene meetings at least quarterly to ensure public participation and engagement in the implementation of Climate Action Strategies; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice shall consist of at least twelve but no more than fifty residents, and will be comprised of a cross-section of Prince George's County community members that will be selected to represent the geographic, age, economic, gender and racial diversity of the County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Executive Order shall remain in effect from the date of issuance until May 5, 2023, unless amended, extended, superseded or terminated; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if any provisions of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.


Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive