



Prince George's County

7th GREEN SUMMIT

annual

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2021

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y

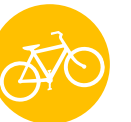


PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The collage includes images of a man cycling, a person on a bicycle, a Ferris wheel, a person on a blue chair, a person painting a mural, a person in a rainbow shirt, a building with solar panels, and a person in a yellow shirt.

I: VISION STATEMENT

Prince George's County Leads Transition to a
Low Carbon, Resilient Future



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To guide the planning effort and the strategies it puts forward,

the Climate Action Commission (CAC) adopted a set of guiding

principles below. These principles serve as guideposts, ensuring

the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan

are consistent with the goals and values of the community.



Feasible and Actionable: Prioritize actions that are specific and technologically, financially, and legislatively feasible. Prioritize actions for which the County can take specific steps toward implementation within five years.



Bold and Ambitious: Pursue an ambitious set of actions that establish the County as a regional leader and acknowledge that a 'business-as-usual' approach will not be adequate for addressing the challenges posed by climate change.



Evidence-based and Impactful: Use the best available data to guide the development and prioritization of actions. Prioritize actions that have the most significant impact on GHG emissions reduction, climate change preparedness, and associated co-benefits (economic development, public health, social equity).



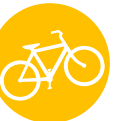
Equitable and Inclusive: Climate change will have its most significant impact on communities already overburdened with health disparities and economic challenges. The County will prioritize actions for equitable outcomes, identify strategies to ease adverse impacts of necessary change, and invest in communities with the greatest need.



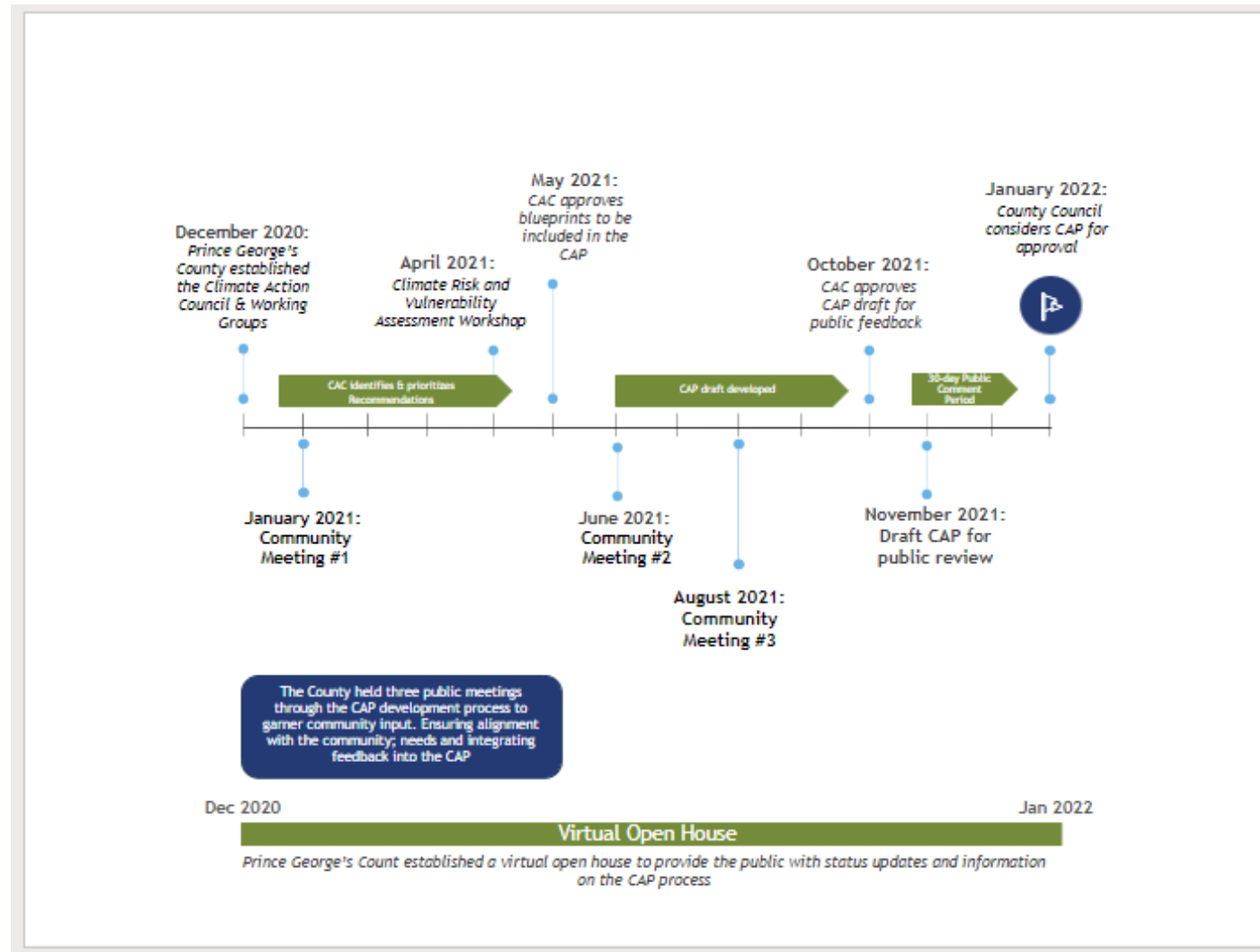
Transparent and Verifiable: Develop a plan that both follows an open decision-making process and ensures the ability to accurately track progress towards the goals identified in the Plan using specified metrics. This Climate Action Plan will be fact-based.



Comprehensive and Integrated: Pursue a set of actions that acknowledges and addresses interactive effects across sectors and will work across sectors to meet common goals and achieve efficiencies whenever possible.



I: INTRODUCTION - DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN



I: INTRODUCTION - SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The Prince George's County Climate Action Plan takes a comprehensive approach to the issues of climate change. It defines a strategy to reduce the County's contributions to climate change by reducing GHG emissions and also to help the County prepare and adapt for expected climate impacts that are to continue to worsen in the coming years.

STATE CLIMATE GOALS

Maryland Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction act established as law achieving 40% emissions reduction below 2006 by 2030.

Maryland's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act Plan calls for a stretch goal of achieving 50% emission reduction by 2030.

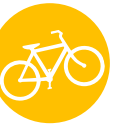
REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS

MWCOG Board Resolution R45-2020 established interim climate change goals including:

- The climate mitigation goal of 50% greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030;

- The climate resilience goal of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030; and

- The need to incorporate equity principles and expand education on climate change into MWCOG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and MWCOG members' actions to reach the climate mitigation and resiliency goals.



I: INTRODUCTION - ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

- Section III: Background
- Section IV: Prince George's County Climate Hazards and Trends
- Section V: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Prince George's County
- Section VI: Taking Action

Throughout the Plan, we utilize several graphics.



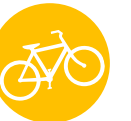
Opportunity for County to help speed the adoption and acceptance of new policies and practices



Opportunity to ensure inclusivity and equity in developing and implementing climate actions



Spotlights solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as increases our climate resilience



III: BACKGROUND

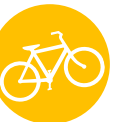
Prince George's County is a growing community with a rich history and a commitment to a strong and prosperous future.

Demographics: It is home to a large and diverse population of 909,327 residents (and counting) and is the second most populous County in Maryland.

Land Use and Development: Situated in the metropolitan Washington area, many regional forces are at play shaping development pressures, commuting patterns, and economic development in the County.

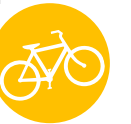
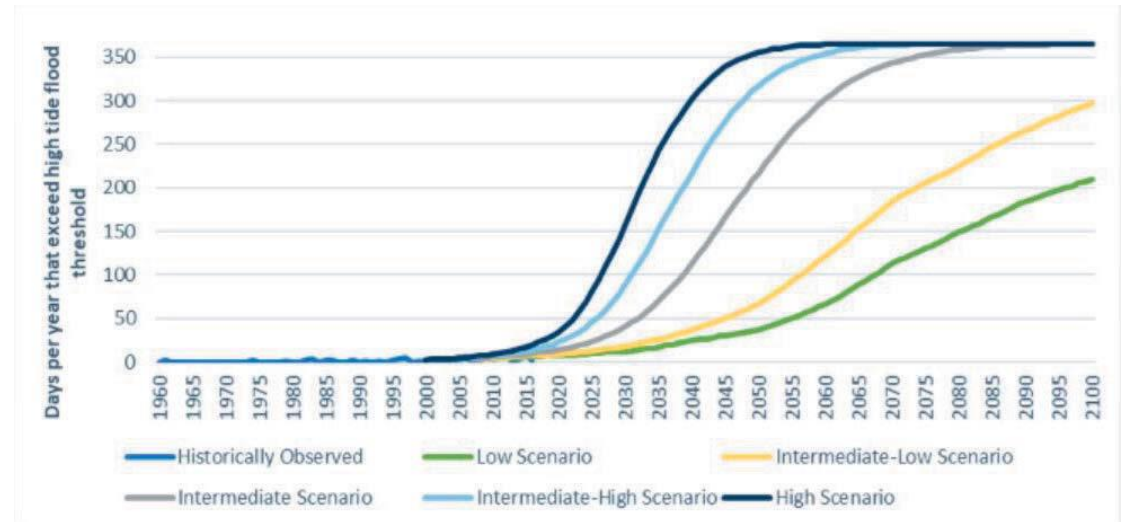
County Climate Progress: While the County has not previously had a Climate Action Plan, many programs and initiatives working to reduce GHG emissions and address climate hazards.

Coordinating with State and Regional Climate Action: To succeed in reaching our climate goals, Prince George's County will need to work in close cooperation with our state and regional partners as many of the sources of greenhouse gas and creating more resilient energy and transportation systems, require regional collaboration. Also, efforts to bolster our resilience will require regional coordination.



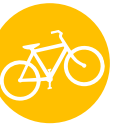
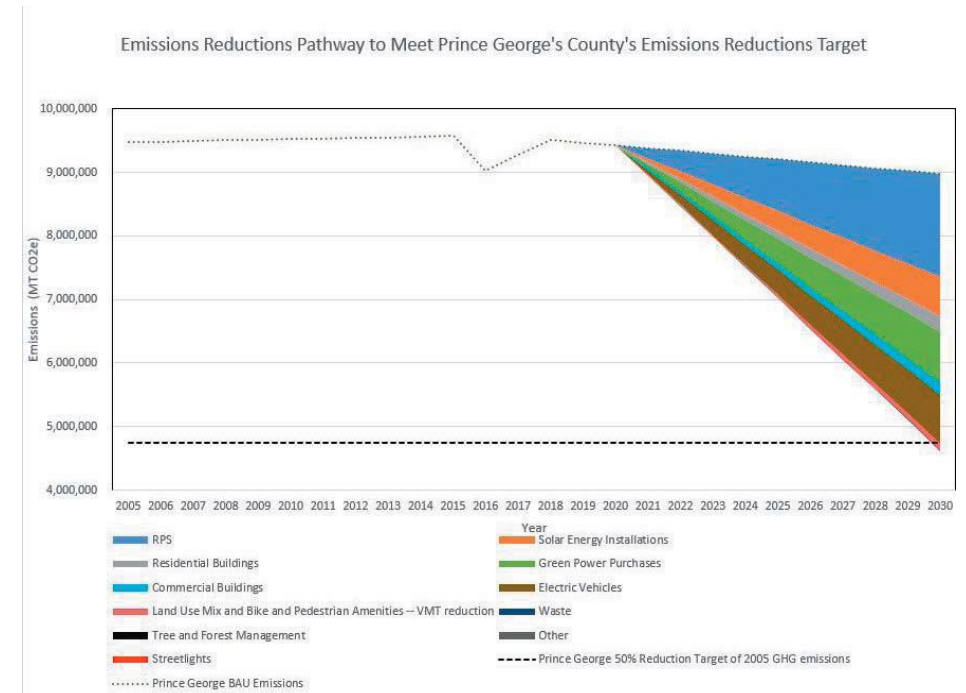
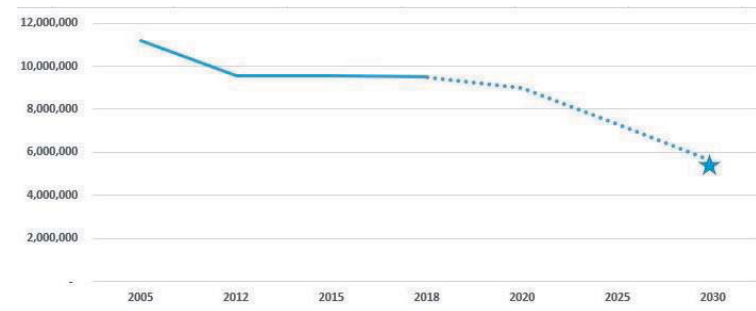
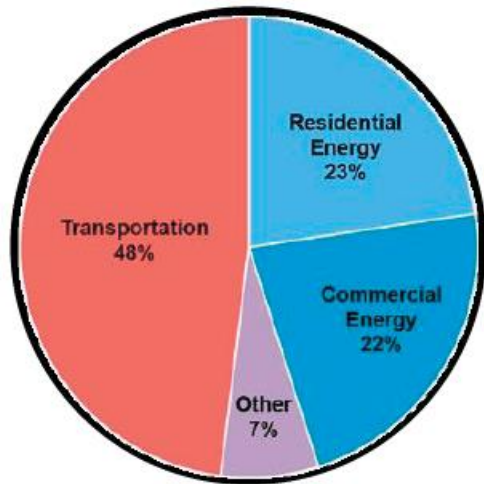
IV: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CLIMATE HAZARDS AND TRENDS

With a rapidly changing climate, historical patterns and past events are no longer effective proxies for predicting current and future climate conditions. Prince George's County is already facing climate change impacts through extreme weather events that stress the County's natural and built infrastructure, community resources and economic interests.



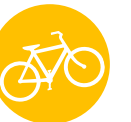
V: SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Fundamental to making strategic decisions about actions to reduce climate emissions and tracking progress is understanding the sources of these emissions.



VI: TAKING ACTION - MITIGATION

- The main driver of climate change in the United States is greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels related to transportation and energy. To curb emissions and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, local governments will have to commit to reducing their operational emissions, assisting residents in reducing their carbon footprint, and eliminating investments that support the traditional fossil fuel economy.
- *Taking Action to Decarbonize Electricity*
- *Transportation*
- *Commercial & Residential Buildings*
- *Waste Management*
- *Carbon Sequestration on Natural and Working Lands*

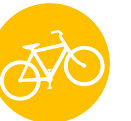


VI: TAKING ACTION - ADAPTATION

To become Climate Ready, the County must understand how climate change will impact our community infrastructure, people, economy, and natural and cultural resources. The County must immediately implement strategies to reduce community-wide exposure to these projected climate risks with this knowledge. With miles of streams and floodplains intertwined within our rural, urban, and suburban communities, we must embrace the concept of adaptation to thrive with climate change.

Community-wide Resilience and Climate Ready Strategies

- **Develop an Integrated and Approach to Planning a Climate Ready Future**
- **Prioritize Engagement of the Public on Climate Risks and Resilience**
- **Support Energy Resilience for Vulnerable Communities**
- **Establish Resilience Hubs in Vulnerable Communities**
- **Require the County's storm drain system and flood mitigation flood programs to integrate climate resilient measures.**
- **Implement measures to address urban heat islands equitably**
- **Utilize and Require Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management**



VII: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

The successful implementation of Prince George's County Climate Action Plan will require building community-wide support. The county government must lead by example and create systems, infrastructure, and technical resources to empower citizens to choose more sustainable everyday practices. However, climate action will ultimately require residents, businesses, and other community stakeholders to make climate-conscious decisions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase community resilience

Empower Residents to Take Climate Actions Through Outreach and Education

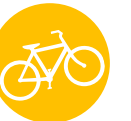
- **Build Climate Action Consensus Through Transparency, and Accountability**
- **Outreach with Focus on Climate Action Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities**
- **Require transparent CAP implementation through the development of a streamlined, public, easy-to-use “one-stop-shop” resource-share and climate action plan reporting platform.**
- **Develop and implement a comprehensive Climate Action and Resiliency Stakeholder Engagement Plan.**
- **Invest in cross sector public outreach and messaging to communicate possible climate risk impacts as well as opportunities from building climate resiliency and community-wide transition to renewable energy.**
- **Establish and formalize a CAP Resident Advisory Panel or Task Force to aid in the adoption and implementation of the CAP through the creation of a Resilience**



VIII: NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSIONS

The CAP's recommendations are only the start of what must become a living document. This document will serve as a blueprint for the actions we must all immediately incorporate into every facet of how we live if we are to achieve the long-term goal of a carbon-neutral future. We must stay focused and hold ourselves and our government accountable. Each recommendation must be tracked, evaluated, and measured to ensure the progress is achieved according to the timeframe and outline. As a living document, this CAP should be revisited and updated every 18 months, providing the public with an update on the progress with goals upwardly revised to face the increasing urgency of climate change.

We have a plan, we have clear steps, and now the work must begin.



BREAKOUT ROOMS SESSION 1

Discussion Topics:

1. Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy Storage
2. Transitioning to Electric Vehicles
3. Preparing Communities for Flooding
4. Reducing County Waste
5. Community Outreach and Engagement

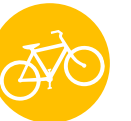
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #2
Thursday, June 24, 2021
Session 1: Breakout Room Topics



https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37922/CAP-Meeting-2_Handout-Session-1



BREAKOUT ROOMS SESSION 2

Discussion Topics:

1. Increasing Energy Efficiency
2. Enhancing Walkability and Bikeability
3. Developing Community Resilience Hubs
4. Sustainable Food Systems and Increasing Access to Healthy Foods
5. Implementing the CAP through County Planning & Operations

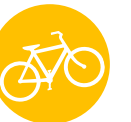
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CAP-Meeting-2_Handout-Session-2](https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37923/CAP-Meeting-2_Handout-Session-2)



Prince George's County Climate Action Commission

FACT BASED & ACTIONABLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PRIORITIZING STRATEGIES WITHIN OUR CONTROL



VISIT ClimatePartners.org & Our Virtual Open House at [CAP Virtual Open House](#)
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Mary Abe at mabe@co.pg.md.us or call 240-539-0511
mypgc.us/climateactionplan

