

Summary of Public Comments on Rockville Climate Action Plan (11/15/2021 draft)

#	Name	Address or Affiliation	Page	Topic	Comment	Staff Comments	Revision to 1/10/2022 Draft Climate Action Plan
Office Hours							
1	Shannon Shea	Bicycle committee member	p. 29	General	Don't rely as much on state and county actions and instead focus on actions controlled locally and aim to do more.	Areas of Figure 15 that are within the City's influence include electric vehicles, solar, building energy efficiency, land use and bike and pedestrian amenities, municipal actions, trees and forest management and waste. Levels of implementation for actions the city has authority over will be considered by the Mayor and Council and through the budget process.	Update Table 1 to identify leads for strategies. However, some areas are not controlled locally and will require state and county action.
2	Shannon Shea	Bicycle committee member	C-16 and C-15	Land Management and Transportation	Incorporate recommendations to ensure that plans for land use and transportation are more effectively followed through on the ground.	Making progress towards implementation is the main focus of the Bicycle Master Plan and Vision Zero (C-14), Pedestrian Master Plan (C15) and Comprehensive Plan (C-16) actions. The Departments of Planning and Development Services and Public Works are tracking and reporting progress on the Comprehensive Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. Support from the Mayor and Council, Boards and Commissions, and the public can assist with follow-through on these actions.	Add more emphasis on implementation to action C-16.
3	Shannon Shea	Bicycle committee member		Outreach	Use messaging about what the new bike lanes or land use plans will do for nearby residents and businesses, rather than speaking only to community or environmental benefits. Ex. you'll be able to bike anywhere, your kids will have transit access and you won't have to drive them, etc.	Thank you. This advice will be considered as the Comprehensive Plan and the Climate Action Plan are implemented and their public communications plans are developed.	No changes proposed.
Speaker by Phone (M&C November 15 meeting)							
4	Jonathan Ferguson	342 New Mark Esp. Rockville, MD 20850	C-17, M-09	Land management	Supports the CAP's actions relating to promoting tree canopy cover and native species; however, these actions will not be successful without addressing deer management. The City needs to better protect native species from deer predation.	Deer protection measures are included in the specifications for City restoration projects. Deer protection and management can be added to M-09.	Add deer protection and management to M-09.
5	Jonathan Ferguson	342 New Mark Esp. Rockville, MD 20850	C-19	Waste	The CAP's solid waste actions mainly focus on education and outreach. I would want to see the Refuse billing system adjusted from a flat fee to payment based on the amount of waste generated to encourage residents to produce less waste.	Rockville has implemented a straw ban and a Styrofoam ban for restaurants. Montgomery County charges 5 cents per retail plastic bag to fund Water Protection programs. Staff acknowledges the many co-benefits of broader societal waste reduction efforts aside from reducing greenhouse gases (since it is a minor source). The City monitors waste-reduction related Maryland legislation, such as a potential Producer Responsibility bill that would propose to make businesses that manufacture, import and sell plastic products or single-use paper products more responsible for their end of life environmental impact. Rockville's City Code does not currently allow variable pricing. The Mayor and Council discussed the topic in the last rate setting discussion and it was rejected. Staff will continue to monitor Montgomery County's solid waste plans and reduction strategies to incentivize waste reduction and recycling over disposal.	Add solid waste reduction to new "Actions to Monitor" in Appendix C.
Environment Commission							
6	Environment Commission			General	At their November meeting, the Environment Commission endorsed the plan as a whole with the following comments on implementation: Members recommended prioritizing measures that could achieve quick wins, embed climate in long-term policies, demonstrate City leadership, incorporating considerations into city budget decision making and procurement, address equity, are <u>cost-effective and engage the community in climate solutions</u> .	Agree, this feedback will be incorporated in CAP implementation plans.	No changes proposed.
7	Environment Commission		C-16 and M-09	Land Management	The Commission wants to emphasize how implementing land use and transportation actions and increasing density near transit can both reduce greenhouse gases and preserve green space and its capacity to maximize environmental services such as water quality and pollinator habitat.	Agree, land use and transportation and critical components. This is reflected in C-16: Implement the Comprehensive Plan and M-09: Develop a Green Space Management Plan.	No changes proposed.

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8	Clark Reed	Environment Commission Chair	C-26	Public Outreach and Oversight	Cities with climate action plans like Rockville are best served by publicly disclosing and tracking the progress of their climate commitments to ensure accountability, grow support, and show leadership. I recommend that the city join and achieve the Climate Disclosure Project's (CDP) 'A-list for Cities Addressing Climate.' CDP is a not-for-profit organization that runs the global disclosure system for companies, cities, states and others to manage their environmental impacts. It is considered to be the gold standard of environmental reporting with the most comprehensive dataset on city and corporate action. Many of the policies and practices that Rockville does are considered best practices by CDP like emissions inventories, target setting, and a published climate action plan (hopefully soon to be adopted). The city may benefit from knowing and replicating what other jurisdictions are doing to help ensure our plans become actual achievements in the months and years ahead. However, if Rockville is already doing a substantial amount of these best practices, that would be extremely helpful and reassuring to know as well. To score an A, among other actions, a city must disclose publicly and have a city-wide emissions inventory, have set an emissions reduction target and a renewable energy target for the future; and have published a climate action plan. An 'A List' city must also complete a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and have a climate adaptation plan to demonstrate how it will tackle climate hazards. And it must be making progress towards achieving its ambitious but realistic goals.	The City will develop data collection and reporting efforts as part of implementing C-26. The future deployment of the ERP CIP could help streamline internal tracking and reporting systems, as current systems are piecemeal and require manual reporting. COG reports to CDP on a regional level. According to COG, reporting to CDP is a 'heavy lift' and so it may not be right-sized for the City. However, C-26 can leverage Rockville's current tracking and reporting mechanisms and improve upon them for better transparency. For example, Rockville completed a Community Energy Scorecard with ACEEE in 2021 which focuses more on energy efficiency. Rockville also completes the Sustainable Maryland certification process every three years. Commercial buildings, including two City buildings are required to benchmark energy use for the County's Benchmarking law. COG conducts greenhouse gas inventories every few years for the City and publicizes the data. Data on green buildings, solar installations, recycling and waste, and rainscapes is regularly collected and monitored. The city tracks facility energy use through Energy CAP software and reports on progress to the Maryland Smart Energy Communities program. Fleet fuel use is tracked. COG also maintains a climate and energy dashboard on their webpage that may be considered as an option for transparent regional reporting.	Include examine options and feasibility to participate in public disclosure programs in C-26
9	Climate Action Committee		C-02	Energy Efficiency	Prioritize funding C-02. Expand low and moderate income (LMI) home repair and weatherization program to increase energy efficiency, resiliency and renewable energy opportunities - This will help achieve both the goals of environmental sustainability (climate change as well as other air and water quality issues from burning fossil fuels for electricity) as well as social and racial justice.	This is among priorities as the plan moves forward. This is one measure that is recognized as a priority and is in the preliminary planning stage. More time is required to work with regional energy and housing partners to evaluate current conditions and develop a proposal and scope before it's ready for funding requests. EMD is assisting HCD to understand program needs, barriers, opportunities, the clients' needs, and identify the best approaches. Staff is also following the County's actions, and researching Green Bank, RHE, and other partnerships or financing opportunities. Staff is aiming to develop a strategy over the next 6 to 12 months. This may be an action that could be involved when monitoring future federal funding opportunities.	No changes proposed.
10	Climate Action Committee		M-09	Land Management	Prioritize funding M-09 Green Space Management Plan as it fosters natural resilience which in turn fosters community resilience.	Staff will highlight this among REC priorities as the plan implementation moves forward.	No changes proposed.
11	Climate Action Committee		M-13	Resilience	Prioritize funding M-13: Flood Resilience Master Plan: Urgent need to update floodplain and flood mitigation plans and avoid future deaths from flooding of low lying apartment buildings. Consider converting from pavement to un-paved surfaces that can absorb the water instead of creating runoff.	Staff will highlight this among REC priorities as the plan implementation moves forward.	No changes proposed.
12	Climate Action Committee			Land Management	For future model runs, suggest attempting to incorporate an assumption of the number of mature trees that Weed Warriors clear of non-native invasive vines each year as another potential "Tree and Forest Management" action that can contribute to continued GHG emissions reductions. (Older trees sequester more carbon than younger trees and so protecting the older trees from stress/mortality caused by non-native invasive vines should also be factored into future modeling efforts, if feasible.)	The concept of protections needed for mature trees will be added to C-17, M-09.	Add mature tree values and protection to C-17 and M-09
13	Clark Reed	Environment Commission Chair	C-04	Energy Efficiency	Recommends using the home energy yardstick web scoring tool for homeowners as part of the point-of-sale energy disclosure action	Energy Star Yardstick was added to the resources that must be provided to homeowners in C-04. Add quick and easy Yardstick to the What You Can Do section.	Energy Star Yardstick was added to the resources that must be provided to homeowners in C-04. Add Yardstick to the What You Can Do section.
14	Monica Saavoss	Environment Commission Member		Waste	Find ways of incentivizing or encouraging more plant-based food sources in the community and through procurement, such as bonus points for vendors, or other means.	Include plant-based food activities in the "What You Can Do" section. Most government purchases of food for youth programs occur through Montgomery County Public Schools. However, this can be considered further in implementing action M-10, Sustainable Procurement policy.	Add to What You Can Do section.
15	Scott Fazekas	Environment Commission Member		Energy Efficiency	The City could take another look at utilizing EPA's 'energy treasure hunt' model to find ways to reduce energy consumption in City facilities.	Staff outreach and participation in energy efficiency is a good next step as M-01 is implemented. M-01 involves professional energy assessments to identify energy efficiency measures and a plan to install them.	No changes proposed.

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Human Rights Commission							
16	Human Rights Commission			General	The Plan could be further strengthened by including planned initiatives to combat equity issues in the City, as well as clear methods of equity monitoring and analysis of climate action activities. This could include utilizing the Human Rights Commission to review proposed actions or clearly stating the intent to conduct an equity impact assessment of proposed activities or projects.	The Climate Action Plan is written to include an introductory climate impacts, resilience, and equity analysis and include general equity impacts and considerations for each of the proposed actions. CAP implementation will need more defined methods for equity monitoring and analysis that fits within a Citywide framework. HRC's review and coordination during implementation is welcome. The City is in the process of a hiring a new Assistant City Manager on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that will be responsible for policy development, management, planning, coordination, and execution of the City's service-wide diversity, equity and inclusion programs. This position will collaborate with city departments, City boards and commissions such as the Human Rights Commission, and Community Policing Advisory Board, other cultural and social advisory taskforces, and the community. Staff suggests future coordination with the new Assistant City Manager on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on CAP implementation.	HRC is included on page 2 and in the CAP adoption resolution to coordinate implementation amongst Boards and Commissions. Add a reference to "equity impact assessment" as a term for the process used in developing the plan and action descriptions equity benefits and considerations. Revise M-15 title and second sentence last paragraph: "Climate mitigation, resiliency, and equity considerations" and future coordination with the City Manager's Office.
17	Human Rights Commission			Public Engagement and Oversight	Addressing Digital Poverty: The Plan could be strengthened by identifying and addressing data/digital poverty. This includes individuals who cannot afford mobile data or internet to meet their essential needs. This impacts equity because it significantly reduces the ability of these individuals to access important materials related to climate change decisions and to fully participate in publicly available government decision making processes.	Agree, the equity consideration in C-25 could be expanded to include this issue. The recent infrastructure bill may help with this. This issue could also be part of overall city equity actions coordinated through the new Assistant City Manager on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.	Add digital poverty the discussion in C-25.
18	Human Rights Commission			General	Green Gentrification: The Plan could be strengthened by including clear provisions to avoid green gentrification and ensuring that investments in sustainable infrastructure and initiatives do not push out and price out long-term and lower-income residents.	Include this concept in the Social Vulnerability and Racial Equity section.	Add green gentrification to the Social Vulnerability and Racial Equity section (page 49).
19	Human Rights Commission		C-25	Public Engagement and Oversight	Access Rights and Environmental Decision-Making: It is internationally accepted that access rights are necessary for effective environmental governance. Access to information, public participation, and access to justice are all vital components of a healthy democracy and sustainable development. Residents must be able to freely access information on environmental quality, issues, and decisions. They must also be able to participate meaningfully in decision making and have channels for access to justice. These three key components are reflected in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We have seen examples of public participation best practices across the globe. In 2018, 14 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean signed the Escazú Agreement guaranteeing access rights in environmental decision making. The Escazú negotiations were historic with regard to the high level of public participation from the beginning of the process. In negotiating the provisions of the Agreement, six individuals were elected to be representatives of the public. These representatives engaged in continuous dialogue with government officers and State delegates. It is recommended that in moving forward with the implementation of a climate plan, the public is incorporated into the decision making process in a more robust way. While the City has created excellent opportunities for public participation through traditional surveying and open forums, creating public representatives would ensure that diverse views are represented continuously throughout project implementation.	Action C-25 endeavors to accomplish deeper community participation and in decision-making processes. Montgomery County has formed an equity advisory panel with paid community representatives. Staff suggests future coordination with the new Assistant City Manager on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on CAP implementation.	No changes proposed.
20	Human Rights Commission			Resilience	Climate Refugees: One area that should be considered in long-term planning for climate action is the City's plan for incoming climate refugees. As climate change worsens internationally as well as in the U.S. and on the East Coast, there may be an increase in displaced persons. The City should create long-term plans to accommodate an influx in climate refugees and displaced persons.	Add climate refugee support needs to items to monitor for future action.	Add to new "Actions to Monitor" in Appendix C.
21	Human Rights Commission			Transportation	Transportation Accessibility Study: The Commission recommends conducting an accessibility study of Rockville's multimodal transportation system in order to analyze accessibility for vulnerable Rockville neighborhoods in the East and Southeast. This study should include travel times, frequency of transportation, and destination opportunities to amenities, services, facilities.	Other entities operate the multimodal transit services in Rockville and further coordination would be needed with WMATA, MARC, RideOn, etc. This concept can be added to new actions to monitor section.	Add to new "Actions to Monitor" in Appendix C.
22	Human Rights Commission			General	Conduct Equity Impact Assessment: Before implementation of the Plan, the Commission recommends conducting an equity impact assessment of environmental justice and equity in Rockville. This assessment should go beyond a traditional co-benefit and do no harm approach to planning and should clearly identify barriers to disadvantaged groups in Rockville.	The FY22 Budget includes Project Improvement Plan for a future Human Services Needs Assessment to hire a consultant to design, conduct, and analyze the results of a survey assessing the needs of the community. Explore if this assessment could also include an equity impact assessment that factors in climate mitigation and resiliency.	Add to new "Actions to Monitor" in Appendix C.

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23	Human Rights Commission			General	Collaborate with the Human Rights Commission: The Rockville Human Rights Commission is made up of a number of human rights practitioners, including lawyers, who regularly work on human rights, equity, inclusion, and environmental issues. Utilizing the Commission to conduct reviews or analyses is a cost-effective way to maintain accountability to equity promises made in the Climate Action Plan.	Environmental Management and the Environment Commission welcome the participation of HRC in reviewing relevant CAP implementation approaches. HRC is included in the CAP adoption resolution to coordinate implementation amongst Boards and Commissions.	No changes proposed.
Comments Submitted in Online Comment Form							
24	Andrew Luckman	38 Maryland Ave	C-10	Transportation	I recently sold my car in an effort to reduce my carbon footprint. Montgomery County, as with many suburban communities in America, can be challenging to navigate without a personal automobile. I have found are car-sharing services, like Zipcar, provide increased mobility when I absolutely need to use a car. However, I believe there is only one Zipcar currently located within Rockville city limits and no other car sharing services available. Could the city consider expanding car sharing, especially in the Town Square area, to provide residents with alternatives to private automobile ownership?	Car sharing services are provided by private companies. Zipcar provides a location in Town Center. Montgomery County Department of Transportation and Metrorail have also partnered to provide parking spaces for car sharing vehicles. For example, car sharing vehicles are available at Metrorail stations in Montgomery County including Bethesda, Grosvenor-Strathmore, Silver Spring, Shady Grove, and White Flint.	Add to new "Actions to Monitor" in Appendix C.
25	Johannes Heister	1811 Piccard Dr		General	This is a solid first CAP for Rockville. Congratulations. I miss specific mention of working with HOAs, which shape communities and home owners' behavior in significant ways. Example: The King Farm HOA recently forced all residents to reseed/paint their drive ways, because the naturally fading asphalt was no longer black enough (against CAP action C-24). The plan should also mention working with builders and developers, since much can be done cost-effectively at the planning and construction stage to avoid lock-in of future GHG emissions.	Agree, C-25 can include outreach and partnerships with HOAs. Action C-03 involves building codes and addressing opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy in new and re-development. The action on building codes (C-03) can be expanded to include working with developers, HOAs, Boards and Commissions, and the public.	Add working with developers and HOAs to outreach (C-25), building codes (C-03) to include working with developers, HOAs.
26	David Stinchcomb	1983 Lancashire Drive Rockville		Goal	Overall the plan is pretty good. It is just not ambitious enough. Rockville should aim to get to 85% reductions by 2027 and carbon neutral by 2030. Our goals should be better than Montgomery County as a whole. Missing action: encourage and support residents in establishing personal/household GHG goals. My goal for our household is to get to net zero by 2023. What's your goal?	The goal is modified to read 'at least' to respond to a similar Mayor and Council discussion. The "what you can do" section of the plan on p. 126 includes carbon footprint calculators. Public engagement in C-25 can include personal, household, business, or property owner goal setting on a variety of levels.	Modify goal to reach "at least" 50% by 2030. Revise the "what you can do" section and C-25 to encourage personal/household GHG goals.
27	David Stinchcomb		C-11, C-12, M-06	Transportation	The benefit assessment of the EV goals are inconsistent and generally too low. These are goals: C-11, C-12, C-13, M06, and M07. For these: GHG Benefit should be +++ or at least ++ Health Benefit should be +++ or at least ++ (exhaust from fossil fuel burning cars, buses, and trucks cause asthma and can cause cancer, particularly in children) Equity Benefit should be +++ or at least ++ (EVs are MUCH cheaper to own and operate than fossil fuel vehicles and this cost differential is growing. All Rockville residents should be able to own an EV)	Staff reviewed the cobenefits section and increased the health benefits for EV actions. GHG benefits reflect the consultant's modeling and potential impacts to total community total emissions. Given that some actions only impact municipal emissions (which are 1% of Rockville emissions), even high impact municipal action will not generate large GHG benefits. While EV operating costs may be lower, the equity benefits also considered upfront costs and barriers. Considerations for equity benefits included challenges with access to home charging, upfront costs of installing chargers, barriers for renters, and lack of access in general. For example, there may also be space constraints and financing needs that need to be overcome for low and moderate income EV ownership.	Increased health benefits for EV measures.
28	David Stinchcomb		C-12	Transportation	C-12 Require new developments and redevelopments to be electric vehicle-ready. This action needs to be expanded and strengthened to address EV charging infrastructure for existing apartment/condo buildings. All Rockville residents should be able to own an EV. Just because you cannot afford a single-family home and cannot install your own charger should not prevent you from driving an EV.	Yes, C-12 includes multi-family building provisions. The EV plan, C-11, would identify solutions for existing multi-family buildings and other public charging options.	No changes proposed.
29	Ryan Dirks	711 Roxboro Rd	C-03	Energy Efficiency	Overall it looks like a great start - I support moving towards Net Zero building codes. To allow for more flexibility in urban sites (like downtown), truly high performance building certification systems like Passive House should be allowed as an alternate compliance path, since it is very difficult to get Net Zero energy on buildings over 4-5 stories unless offsite PV can be included (speaking from personal experience as an architect on NZE projects)	This is an important point that can be considered in future code cycles.	Add a reference to other compliance pathways such as Passive House in C-03.
30	Ryan Dirks		C-03	Energy Efficiency	Page 61: I fully support the goals of a Net Zero Energy requirement for new construction (I am an architect currently working on net zero projects in the area). However accommodations should be made to allow high performing buildings in dense areas like downtown, since it is difficult / impossible to achieve net zero energy in buildings over 4-5 stories (unless offsite PV or offsets are allowed). One recommendation would be to allow passive house certification, which has a proven track record of delivering extremely energy efficient buildings - essentially net zero ready.	This is an important point that can be considered in future code cycles.	Add a reference to other compliance pathways such as Passive House in C-03.

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31	Jonathan Ferguson	342 New Mark Esplanade		Waste	I am following up to provide written comments to complement the oral statements I made during the 11/22 Mayor and Council Meeting's community forum. The City of Rockville must do more to reduce the amount of waste our residents and businesses generate. The current Climate Action Plan only calls for education and outreach as a means to accomplish this task. While such outreach is desirable, it will not do enough to accomplish the reductions necessary to solve our City's contributions to the massive waste in our country. The current Climate Action Plan also minimizes the City's contribution to climate change associated with waste. I was unsure what assumption underlie this conclusion but all of the waste that we generate in the City requires the components to be manufactured in other locations, which contributes to the overall climate change crisis. Therefore, the City should do more to reduce the amount of waste in the City to contribute to the overall global carbon and waste reductions. A 12/1/21 article in the Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/12/01/plastic-waste-ocean-us/) cited a recently published study indicating that our country is the world's leader in producing plastic waste, generating on average 298 pounds per person. The study indicates most of that was made with fossil fuels and about 8 million tons end up in the ocean each year. Moreover, most of the waste is not recyclable and ends up in landfills where it will take hundreds of years to decompose, if it ever does. The City should look to efforts such as the nominal charge for plastic grocery bags as an example of how to reduce the demand for this type of waste that must be disposed. The City charges a flat rate for waste disposal, providing no incentive for residents to reduce their waste. All other utilities are billed based on use, which provides an incentive for users to reduce waste. Developing a method to bill for refuse usage based on waste may require some innovation but should similarly help incentivize residents to think about their consumption habits and reduce the amount of trash they generate. The City could explore the use of bar code scanners or other technologies commonly used for delivery companies as a way to track daily usage. For example, the City could consider charging fees based on the number of trash receptacles collected or charge for each bulk waste pick-up. Alternatively, the City could develop a method to track and reward those residents who generate less waste than average. I recognize this model is one that is new for the City but one which is worth investment and consideration. Especially since the Climate Action Plan is a long-range document, it must do more to call for long-term plans like this to reduce resident's waste production.	Rockville has implemented a straw ban and a Styrofoam ban for restaurants. Montgomery County charges 5 cents per retail plastic bag to fund Water Protection programs. Staff acknowledges the many co-benefits of broader societal waste reduction efforts aside from reducing greenhouse gases (since it is a minor source). The City monitors waste-reduction related Maryland legislation, such as a potential Producer Responsibility bill that would propose to make businesses that manufacture, import and sell plastic products or single-use paper products more responsible for their end of life environmental impact. Rockville's City Code does not currently allow variable pricing. The Mayor and Council discussed the topic in the last rate setting discussion and it was rejected. Staff will continue to monitor Montgomery County's solid waste plans and reduction strategies to incentivize waste reduction and recycling over disposal.	Add solid waste reduction to new "Actions to Monitor" in Appendix C.
32	Olivia Bobrowsky	503 Broadwood Drive, Rockville, MD 20851	C-14	Transportation	Page 83: Instead of stating that the Bicycle Master Plan will simply be implemented in its current form, it would be more beneficial to state that the Bicycle Master Plan will be strengthened and improved upon. The current Bicycle Master Plan is not sufficient to support the emissions reduction goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan. We need to invest in even more bicycle infrastructure, including more protected bike lanes and more bikeshare stations throughout Rockville. I should be able to get from my home in Twinbrook to the metro station (a 2-mile distance) and run errands all over town in a low-stress manner without a car. Can we think more ambitiously about how to achieve this for all our residents?	C-14 description contains several other supportive actions that would go beyond the Bicycle Master Plan, including Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and other initiatives such as stress mapping and regional micro-mobility coordination.	No changes proposed.
33	Shannon Brescher Shea	70 Moore Dr., Rockville MD 20850		General	This Climate Action Plan is reasonably ambitious while offering solid actions to move towards its goals. There are some ways that it could be stronger though. While it's clear how Rockville established its goal in relationship to the IPCC, it would be helpful to explain why it doesn't match the County goal and why we didn't choose to be more ambitious, especially knowing that many other places will not have or meet similar goals. It seems risky to rely so heavily on the state meeting its standards. While Rockville has some advocacy influence here, it is highly vulnerable to future state politics and funding to meet the renewable portfolio standard (RPS). It would be better to rely on the RPS less heavily and compensate elsewhere to still meet the goals. In general, for the items that Rockville does not have control over, it needs to be clear what will happen if the advocacy efforts fail and what other actions will make up for them. It would be extremely helpful to rank which strategies Rockville has more control over that we will expand further if aspects like the RPS are not successful. It indicates which are more feasible than others later in the plan, but specifically saying which ones we could potentially go above and beyond what is laid out in the plan would be helpful. The summary of why and how the city chose to prioritize different actions, especially the qualitative benefits analysis, is excellent. However, land management (especially planning) seems low considering how important it is for reaching transportation goals. There are some areas that rely on cooperation of private businesses or citizens that may receive significant pushback, such as implementing the Comprehensive Plan or the Bikeway Master Plan. Taking action on them may require either overwhelming incentives or penalties for them to go through. As seen with the resident opposition to Thrive 2050 elsewhere in the county and the Rockville Pike Plan with developers, early opposition to plans can result in them not being implemented at all.	Without any federal or state requirements for local jurisdictions, communities can establish their own CAP goals. Some communities, like Montgomery County, set aspirational goals. During initial CAP discussions with the Mayor and Council, several members expressed the desire for the CAP to take an ambitious, yet reasonable/achievable approach. However, the Mayor and Council may provide more guidance on this goal setting approach. The City's stronger tools include building codes, land use planning, development review, property management code, tree protection ordinance, stormwater and flood regulations, as well as City transportation infrastructure. The City can monitor for future considerations the types of more advanced and creative actions that could be taken if the RPS did not get implemented. Currently a lot of actions depend on voluntary community participation.	No changes proposed.
34	Shannon Brescher Shea		C-13, C-14	Transportation	Action C-13 (pg. 82): The EV purchasing cooperative should also include charging infrastructure as part of the project. Many residents don't have garages that allow for easy installations of residential charging infrastructure. Action C-14 (pg. 83): The Bikeway Master Plan is an important, essential document and should be fully implemented. However, much of it is already in process and to reach our climate goals, we need to go above and beyond what is outlined in it. The action should be "implementing improvements and expanding or strengthening the Bicycle Master Plan." There should also be some consideration of incentives or regulations that may be needed to implement all parts of the plan and/or expansions of it.	The City promotes a solar co-op that includes a cooperative purchase of home charging and other state incentives are available. This information can also be provided in EV purchasing co-op outreach materials. Action C-11 can be modified to strengthen equity considerations for charging. The C-14 description contains several other supportive actions that would go beyond the Bicycle Master Plan.	Modify C-11 to strengthen equity considerations.
35	Shannon Brescher Shea		C-17	Land Management	Action C-17 (pg 96): The city should consider expanding refunds or compensation beyond the trees they currently offer to include food-bearing trees such as fruit and nut trees.	In general, staff tries to consider food-bearing tree options in the annual tree giveaways. M-09 includes a goal to include explore partnerships and opportunities to incorporate food forests and edible landscapes into public spaces to foster biodiverse, food-bearing trees, shrubs and perennial plants. C-17 can be modified to include this concept.	Modify C-17 to include this concept.
36	Shannon Brescher Shea		C-22	Resilience	Action C-22 (pg 108): As per the National Center on Disability and Journalism (https://ncdj.org/style-guide/) "differently-abled" (or as the wording in the Climate Action Plan says "persons with differing abilities") is not considered appropriate to refer to people who are disabled. It's also unclear what group it is referring to. I recommend changing it to "disabled people" or "people with disabilities."	Agree, Action C-22 will be revised.	Change wording to "persons with disabilities."

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37	Shannon Brescher Shea		C-25	Public Engagement and Oversight	Action C-25 (pg 120): The plan should list coordination with Montgomery College or other areas of higher education for community outreach opportunities. Students and classes may be especially helpful for marketing and leveraging social science of behavior change specific to climate goals.	The City will leverage Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan education initiatives, many of which involve the County partnering with Montgomery College, including P-3: Form a Climate Change Communication Coalition.	No changes proposed.
38	Sarah Salazar	5941 Lemay Rd		General	Thank you to the City staff and contractors for developing this Climate Action Plan (CAP)! It is very thoughtfully written and designed. If it is successfully implemented and adapted for changing circumstances, the CAP will put the city and it's residents on a path to more environmentally sustainable lifestyles and communities. I am very proud to live in a city that has recognized the need for this type of plan and invested the resources needed to develop it. The CAP will increase awareness of climate change and mitigation strategies and provide many opportunities for the community to become involved in its implementation. Community involvement is critical for achieving the City's 2030 and 2050 goals, as evidenced by the data provided in the City's CAP.	Thank you. Absolutely, community involvement is critical for achieving CAP goals.	No changes proposed.
39	Sarah Salazar			Energy Efficiency	For CAP actions that require state, federal, or other entities' leadership, perhaps as part of its education program, the City could develop simple and quick ways for City residents to show support for CAP-related initiatives/legislation etc. For example, the City could allow residents to electronically sign on to City/mayor & council's letters/statements to state & federal legislators supporting proposed bills that would help Rockville and the broader community reach CAP-related goals.	Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan includes actions for partnerships and coalition building that could support this concept. For example, (P-10): Establish a Statewide Coalition of Local Governments and Youth Groups Focused on Advancing Ambitious State Climate Policy by Collectively Advocating their Positions before the State Legislature, the Public Service Commission, and the Utility Companies.	No changes proposed.
40	Sarah Salazar			Energy Efficiency	The CAP should consider the potentially significant increases in energy use in the city associated with emerging industries/ technologies, such as the mining and maintenance of cryptocurrencies. Blockchain development and maintenance is extremely energy intensive and this energy use increases over time. Planning for this energy use has generally been overlooked in climate mitigation strategies. Whenever possible, the city should support state and federal regulation of cryptocurrency mining and transaction maintenance, including their energy sources and usage. The city should actively promote the development and enforcement of state and federal requirements that cryptocurrency activities use only sustainable or newly developed renewable energy sources and develop ways to reduce the energy usage of these activities over time.	Growing energy consumption and carbon emissions associated with cryptocurrency and blockchain technology is a climate concern. Cryptocurrency is an emerging and complex topic that requires global and federal policy and oversight, which is currently beyond the authority of local governments. This item could potentially be monitored by COG. COG appoints a Legislative Committee to work with COG staff to develop a set of legislative priorities. These priorities are then used as the official legislative, regulatory, and policy positions of COG for advocacy and educational efforts at the local, state, and federal level.	No changes proposed.
41	Sarah Salazar		C-02	Land Management	I support the investment of additional staff and funding resources into the City's Single-Family Rehabilitation Program to enable the City to tap into more outside funding sources and significantly increase the program budget and capacity. Private and commercial entities should be allowed and encouraged to make contributions to the the City's Single-Family Rehabilitation Program and associated non-profit organizations to increase the program budget as much as possible and allow more residents to benefit from it. Many of the single family homes in Rockville were built in the 1950s and have not been upgraded to increase energy efficiency. At the same time, costs of energy efficiency upgrades have increased substantially since the homes were built and even just within the last year due to inflation/shortages of materials. The current program budget of \$263,000 that serves about 7 houses per year could be increased through private and commercial donations to better meet the needs of low income city residents and the goals of the CAP. Perhaps there are also opportunities to provide tax incentives for contributions to the program.	Expanding the low and moderate income repair and weatherization has been highlighted among the priorities for future funding and implementation. This feedback will also be considered as Housing and Community Development and Environmental Management coordinate with community partners on the details of implementing action C-02.	No changes proposed.
42	Sarah Salazar			Land Management	I support all of the land management actions. I would also support efforts to reduce mowing and use of fossil-fuel powered landscaping equipment on City and private property. Does the CAP consider GHG emissions from fossil fuel-powered landscaping equipment that is used on City-maintained lands? Is there a goal to switch to electric-powered equipment for maintenance of City land? Could the CAP include incentives for private land owners to switch from fossil fuel-powered landscape equipment to electric-powered or manual equipment?	This has been a big source of complaints in Rockville and Montgomery County. The County plans to introduce a gas-powered leaf blower ban soon. Staff is tracking any proposed legislation to determine if it impacts Rockville or if Rockville has an option to opt in. However, there are several factors to consider, including the feasibility, impacts to both noise and sound pollution, performance, enforcement, and impacts to landscaping businesses. The Environment Commission is also researching options. For voluntary measures, the City includes environmental landscaping education in its current outreach and is partnering with the County on an electrification event in spring of 2022.	Add language on education about electrifying landscaping equipment to Action C-17, in the What You Can Do. Add action to new Appendix C: Actions for the City to Monitor for Future Consideration.
43	Luis	17720 Woodwards Store rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877		Land Management	The problem with this is how do the workers recharge their batteries which dies sooner than gas powered blowers. The only solution is to use a fuel consuming Engines such as the automobile or generators which causes more pollution. The solution would be to create legislation that requires manufacturers to lower the emissions of gas engines.	This has been a big source of complaints in Rockville and Montgomery County. Montgomery County is developing gas-powered leaf blower legislation. Staff will monitor any proposed legislation to determine if it impacts Rockville or if Rockville has an option to opt in. However, there are several factors to consider, including the feasibility, impacts to both noise and sound pollution, performance, enforcement, and impacts to landscaping businesses. The Environment Commission is also researching options. For voluntary measures, the City includes environmental landscaping education in its current outreach and is partnering with the County on an electrification event in spring of 2022.	Add language on education about electrifying landscaping equipment to Action C-17, in the What You Can Do. Add action to new Appendix C: Actions for the City to Monitor for Future Consideration.

#	Name	Address or Affiliation	Page	Topic	Comment	Staff Comments	Revision to 1/10/2022 Draft Climate Action Plan
44	Dominique Lorang	1104 Pipestem Place Rockville 20854		Land Management	Please ban all gas leaf blowers. I hear them all week long in my neighborhood. The noise pollution is a huge problem for residents and wildlife. They pollute our local environment and banning them is a simple fix. Please be proactive like so many other communities in the US who have already banned them. Thank you!	This has been a big source of complaints in Rockville and Montgomery County. Montgomery County is developing gas-powered leaf blower legislation. Staff will monitor any proposed legislation to determine if it impacts Rockville or if Rockville has an option to opt in. However, there are several factors to consider, including the feasibility, impacts to both noise and sound pollution, performance, enforcement, and impacts to landscaping businesses. The Environment Commission is also researching options. For voluntary measures, the City includes environmental landscaping education in its current outreach and is partnering with the County on an electrification event in spring of 2022.	Add language on education about electrifying landscaping equipment to Action C-17, in the What You Can Do. Add action to new Appendix C: Actions for the City to Monitor for Future Consideration.