

City of Wilmington – Clean Energy Advisory Committee

Monday, March 10, 2025

Conference Rm 291, Skyline Center, 929 N Front St, Wilmington, NC 28401

1:00 pm-2:30 pm

We encourage Committee members to arrive/join 5-10 minutes early



A G E N D A

Topic
Call to Order / Roll Call
Approval of February Minutes – Committee Action
Item #1: Clean Energy Advisory Committee Annual Report ○ Presented to Council on March 4th
Item #2: DEQ Public Engagement on NC Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) ● In-Person Wilmington Session
Item #3: Charging Smart Program – Committee Action ● Item 3A – Charging Smart One Pager ● Item 3B – Commitment Letter
Item #3: Duke Energy Topics ● PowerPair Program – City staff Interview with Duke Energy on the PP program ● Discuss next topics ○ Offshore Wind ○ EV Transition / Infrastructure
Item #4: Other Updates ● C-PACE formal adoption ● EV Fleet Transition Strategy Contract Award
Adjourn Meeting

Meeting Info:

The meeting attendance options will be as follows:

- **Preferred:** In-person at the address above
- Accessible virtually on Zoom:
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85862278919?pwd=YWRibmk5QW1EUFRhMWsZeUtXeWJkQT09>
Meeting ID: 858 6227 8919
Passcode: 353664

While the meeting can be viewed live at the link provided above, the City will also record and archive the meeting which can be viewed on the City's website

at: <https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/departments/public-services/sustainability/clean-energy-task-force>

2024

Clean Energy Advisory Committee Annual Report



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ATTACHMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City Council

Bill Saffo – Mayor
Clifford D. Barnett, Sr. – Mayor Pro Tem
Kevin Spears –City Councilmember
Charles H. Rivenbark- City Councilmember
Salette Andrews – City Councilmember
Luke Waddell, Sr. – City Councilmember
David Joyner – City Councilmember

Clean Energy Advisory Committee

Richard Smith – Committee Chair
Sean Sullivan – Committee Vice-Chair
Andrea Bennett – Committee Member
Jessica Cannon – Committee Member
PJ Klein – Committee Member
Valjeanne Estes – Committee Member
Phyllis Goodson – Committee Member
Vacant Seats (2)

City Staff Support

Dave Mayes – Ex-Officio Representative
David Ingram – Committee Secretary

Special Thanks

Thom Moton – Deputy City Manager
Penny Spicer-Sidbury – City Clerk
City Attorney’s Office

BACKGROUND & GOALS

On April 20, 2021, the Mayor and City Council passed a Resolution (Attachment 1) that:

- (1) Adopted 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy and Fleet EV Transition Goals (Table 1)
- (2) Established the Clean Energy Advisory Committee

Table 1: City of Wilmington Clean Energy Goals

	2035	2050
City of Wilmington	By 2035 transition from fossil fuel powered municipal operations to 50% clean energy, and electrify 50% of the city's vehicle fleet.	By 2050 transition from fossil fuel powered municipal operations to 100% clean energy, and electrify 100% of the city's vehicle fleet**
Community Wide	The City of Wilmington will collaborate with other governments, the private sector, and residents in achieving aligned clean energy and equity goals as well as advocating for programs and policies at the state, regional, and/or federal level that aid in achieving the transition to clean energy.	

**As future technology allows

The purpose of the Clean Energy Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations to City staff towards achieving the 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy goals.

The Clean Energy Advisory Committee currently consists of seven (7) members:

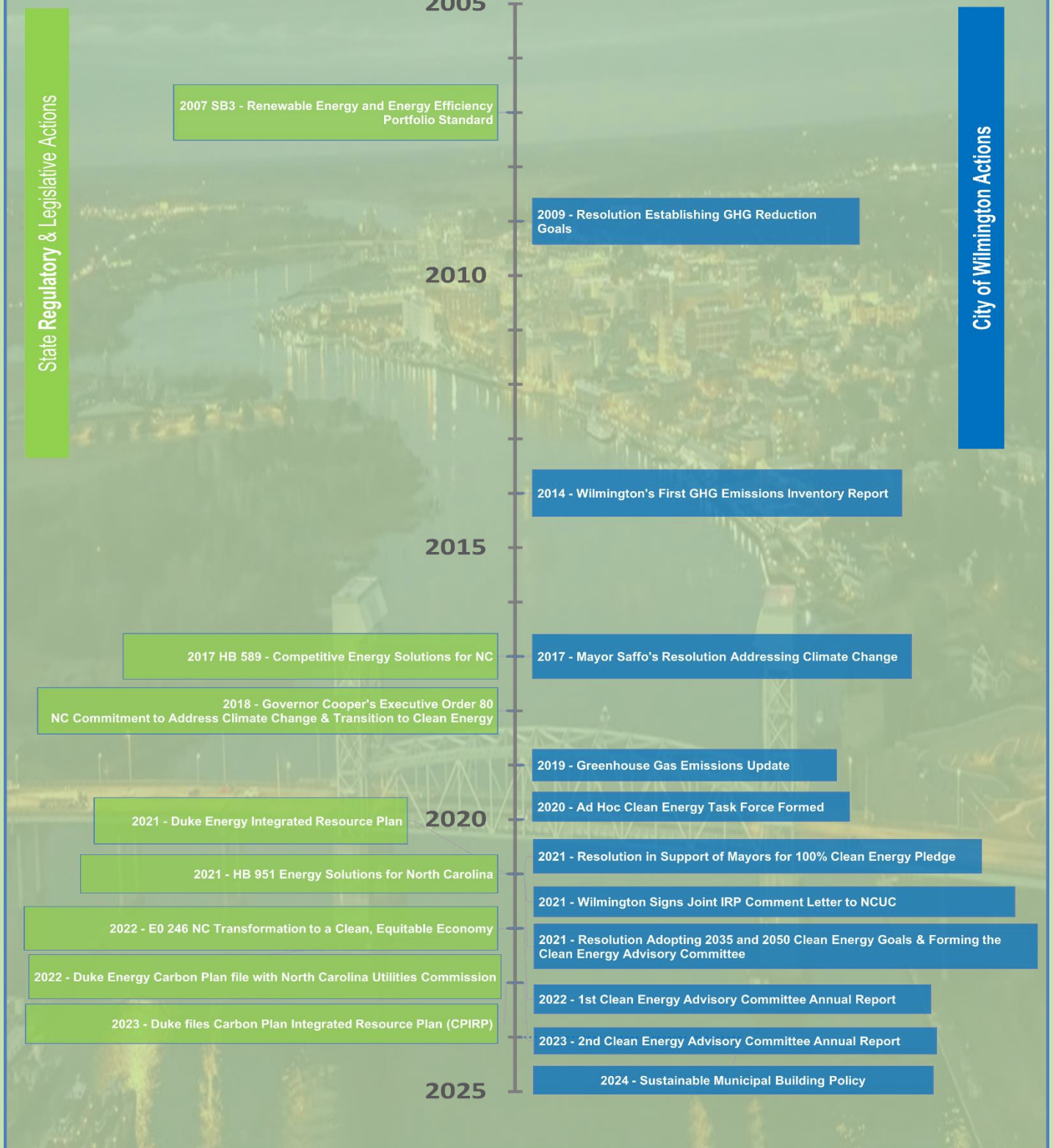
Voting Members

- Richard Smith, CEM (Committee Chair) – Energy Engineer, Resolute Building Intelligence
- Sean Sullivan (Committee Vice-Chair) – Wind Energy Consultant
- Andrea Bennett – Manager, Amplify
- Jessica Cannon – CFPUA Board Member
- PJ Klein – Business Continuity Program Manager and Assistant Division Energy Manager, Corning
- Valjeanne Estes – Energy Manager, New Hanover County Schools
- Phyllis Goodson – Senior Manager, Accenture
- Vacant Seats (2)

City Support Staff

- Dave Mayes – Director of Public Services, Ex-Officio
- David Ingram – Sustainability Project Manager, Secretary

Figure1: Clean Energy Timeline

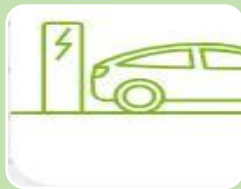


2024 FOCUS AREAS

In 2024 the Clean Energy Advisory Committee prioritized a list of focus areas that would have the greatest impact towards achieving Wilmington’s clean energy goals. The focus areas guided the Committee efforts in 2024 including development of agendas, research efforts, information sharing, presentations from outside speakers / technical experts, and items that were brought up for Committee votes. The focus areas included the following:



**Energy
Efficiency**



**Fleet EV
Transition**



**Sustainable
Building
Policy**



**Clean
Energy
Policy &
Legislation**



**EV
Charging**

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2024 the Clean Energy Advisory Committee made significant accomplishments towards the prioritized focus areas, including:

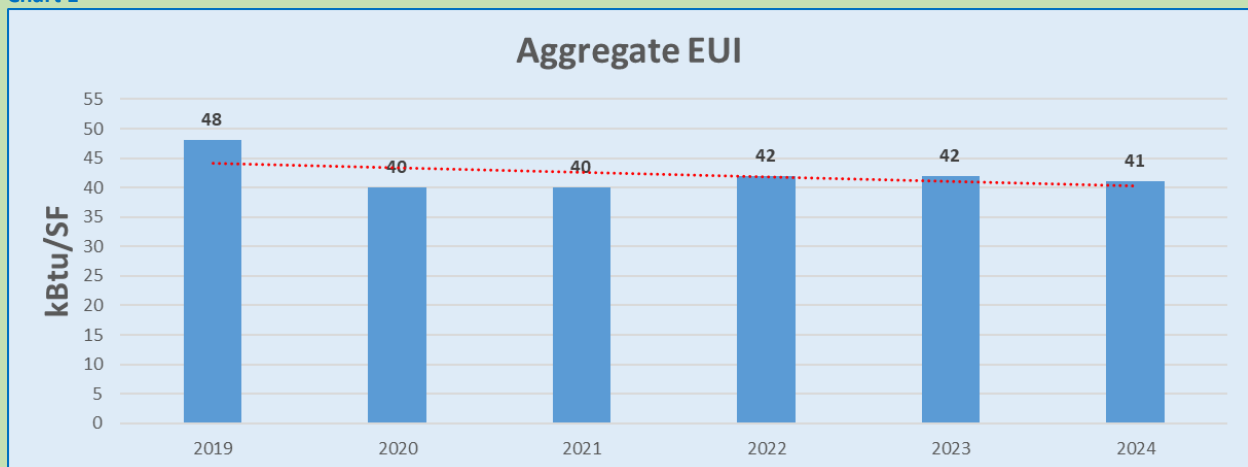
Energy Efficiency - Optimizing Municipal Building Operations

Energy efficiency of City's buildings and facilities is foundational to achieving the City's clean energy goals. The more efficiently city buildings operate, the less clean energy will need to be generated on-site or obtained from the electricity grid.

"The cleanest energy is the energy never used..."

The Committee supported actions and initiatives such as optimizing building operations via building management system (BMS) adjustments, LED lighting and equipment retrofits, energy use benchmarking, and building equipment repairs. Results of these actions contributed to a reduction in the aggregate energy use intensity (EUI) in 2024 and a continued downward EUI trend across the portfolio of city facilities (Chart 1). The impact of these effort will support reducing City utility costs and reducing GHG emissions.

Chart 1



Examples of these energy efficiency actions in 2024 include:

Police HQ – with a very high EUI, Police HQ was a priority for energy efficiency measures. City staff identified needed repairs and/or replacements of mechanical systems to improve the performance of the facility. Actions that were implemented include:

- Replacement of outside air actuators & dampers
- Replacement of return air actuators & dampers
- Replacement of variable air volume (VAV) coils
- Repair of energy recovery units (ERU's)

Fire HQ – another facility with a high EUI the Fire HQ was also targeted for energy efficiency measures. Staff identified aged and inefficient air-handling units (AHUs) that could be replaced with modern units with higher Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ratings. SEER is representative of how much energy and money the unit requires to operate effectively over a single year. Actions implemented include:

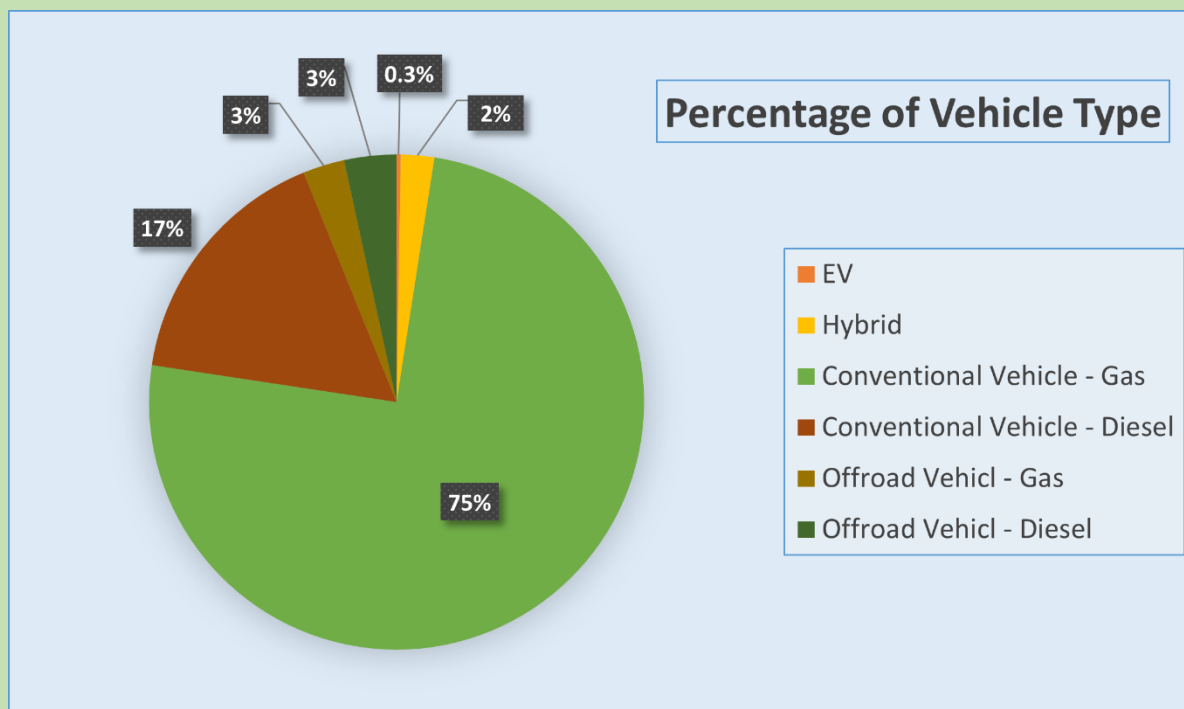
- AHU replacement – a total of eleven AHUs were replaced throughout the Fire HQ facility with new energy-efficient units.

The energy use of both Police & Fire HQ is being closely monitored following the repair and replacement projects to monitor energy reduction and to determine any follow-up actions that may be needed.

Fleet EV Transition

The City's clean energy goals include transitioning 50% of fleet vehicles to EV by 2035 and 100% of fleet vehicles by 2050. Currently, out of a total fleet of approximately 735 vehicles there are 18 vehicles(2.3%) that are either EV or hybrid (Chart 2).

Chart 2



With achieving the City's Fleet EV Transition goal in mind, the Clean Energy Advisory Committee recommended the following actions in 2024:

- **Implement an EV pilot project.** To support this recommendation, the Public Works Department purchased two Nissan LEAFs, the first **100% EVs** in the City's fleet! The project also included the installation of a Level-2 EV charging station with two ports which is capable of charging both EVs simultaneously.
- **Contract a vendor to conduct a Fleet EV Transition Strategy.** The strategy would look into fleet right-sizing, EV charger electrical infrastructure needs, developing a vehicle replacement schedule, and make recommendations on a ZEV/hybrid purchasing policy. To fund this recommendation a portion of the funds from the Department of Energy's (DOE) **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant** (\$100,000 of the \$172,690 total available) will be utilized. An RFP for the Fleet EV Transition



Strategy was issued in 2024 and a vendor contract is planned to be awarded in early 2025.

- Participation in the North Carolina Clean Fuels Coalition and the effort to form a fourth coalition in NC to support the eastern portions of the state. In support of the Committee recommendation, the City's Sustainability Project Manager has been participating in the effort which has been led by the NC Clean Energy Technology Center. The effort has led to the fourth coalition recently being formed as the **Piedmont and Coastal NC Clean Communities**. The goals of the coalition are:
 - Reduce statewide GHG emissions to at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible, no later than 2050
 - Increase the total number of registered ZEVs to at least 1,250,000 statewide by 2030 and increase the sale of ZEVs so that 50% of in-state sales of new vehicles are zero emission by 2030.
 - Educate the broader community about the coalition's work and build the coalition's capacity to deliver impact to coastal North Carolina.

Sustainable Municipal Building Policy

In 2024 the Committee recommended adopting a **Sustainable Municipal Building Policy**. The benefits of implementing the policy include:

- Optimized economic performance over the **life-cycle of the building**:
 - Less energy & water consumption
 - Lower utility costs
 - Reduced operation & maintenance costs
- Conservation of natural resources
- Improved health, comfort, and productivity for city staff & visitors
- Wise use of taxpayer dollars
- Setting a positive example for the community



The policy, developed by City staff, was adopted by City Council at their December 3, 2024 meeting (Attachment 2) and will apply to all municipal new construction projects and major renovations that are owned and operated by the city. The policy will require:

- LEED Silver certification for projects over 10,000 SF
- LEED Certified for projects under 10,000 SF
- *Note: City Manager may grant a **waiver** if compliance is uniquely cost prohibitive by being greater than **14%** cost premium.*

Clean Energy Policy & Legislation

In 2024 the Committee recommended opportunities to advocate for policy and legislation at the Federal, State, and local level that would support achieving the City's 2035 and 2050 clean energy goals. These opportunities included:

- At their March 2024 meeting, the Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the city of Wilmington's **2024 State and Federal Legislative Agenda**. The Committee recommended minor edits to the agenda, including:
 - Creating a sustainable community that is environmentally healthy, socially responsible, and financially secure.
 - Support efforts to provide clean, reliable, affordable, and equitable energy in North Carolina to achieve statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
 - Support additional funding for infrastructure, local transportation priorities, federal transportation grants and programs, and public transportation programs that emphasize greenhouse gas reduction, resiliency, and equity.
 - Support increased federal resources and programs that incorporate climate resilience measures, have a greater focus on pre-disaster mitigation and flood ready infrastructure, and that optimize disaster recovery efforts.
- The Committee was briefed by Planning and Development Department staff on amendments to the City's Land Development Code regarding **EV parking requirements**. The committee recognized the opportunity to encourage the increased adoption of EVs within our community and provided comments and recommendations to staff. The EV parking amendments were presented to City Council and approved at the May 21, 2024 council meeting.
- At their September 2024 meeting, the Committee hosted Pam Hardy from Duke Energy to learn about Duke Progress Energy programs and state-level legislation regarding energy efficiency and clean energy. Programs discussed and topics of interest included:
 - **Green Source Advantaged Choice Program** which supports renewable energy development by providing local governments the opportunity to offset their power purchases by securing renewable energy from new projects connected to the local Duke Energy grid.
 - Energy efficiency programs such as the Duke's **SmartSaver Program**
 - Offshore wind from both renewable energy and economic development perspectives
 - Demand-side management and load shedding opportunities
 - EV charging & Infrastructure
- At the October 2024 meeting, the Committee was briefed on the **Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure (C-PACE) Program** by Larry Price of the Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC). C-PACE is a state supported financing mechanism for commercial property owners to install energy efficiency equipment on their facilities through low-cost, long-term financing terms. At their December 2024 meeting the Committee voted to recommend the City adopt the required Resolution to participate in the C-PACE program.
- Additionally, the Committee supported City staff participation in meetings and calls on North Carolina focused clean energy legislation topics with organizations / groups
 - **Southeast Sustainability Directors Network – SSDN** hosts a monthly call for all NC sustainability managers/directors. The monthly call allows NC members to share ideas,

explore opportunities, cultivate relationships, and collaborate on efforts to make larger systemic changes needed to move sustainability priorities forward. The monthly call focuses on initiating policy shifts, capacity building on state policy and energy, and utility relationship building.

- **NC Cities Initiative** - a collaborative effort among North Carolina local governments that are working to support clean energy and reduce their GHG emissions. Staff from the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) support the effort by organizing the meetings and bringing in subject matter experts.
- **NC Sustainable Energy Association - NCSEA** hosts a bi-weekly member call to provide members information related to clean energy regulation, policies, news, and events. The call is hosted by NCSEA's policy team and provides an opportunity for members to ask questions and provide feedback on North Carolina policy work.
- **NC State Energy Conference** – City staff attended the annual conference to stay informed of the latest advancements, trends and innovations in clean energy technologies and policies.

EV Charging Infrastructure

In 2024 the Clean Energy Advisory Committee recommended and supported the expansion of EV charging infrastructure at City owned facilities. The expansion of EV charging infrastructure will foster growth in the EV sector throughout the Wilmington community and provide numerous benefits, including: attracting visitors to the central business district, provide convenient EV charging options to reduce range anxiety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality. Actions to implement this focus area included:

- The installation of two Level-2 EV charging stations with two (2) ports each in the Convention Center Parking deck which were purchased with funds from the VW Settlement Grant. The VW grant reimbursed the City 100% for the purchase and installation of the charging infrastructure. The two EvoCharge stations utilize four (4) parking spaces and are available for public use. Each of the stations offers two standard SAE J1772 charging ports, each port supplying up to 7.2 kW. The charging stations are not proprietary and will be able to charge any EV. The completion of this project provides a total of eight (8) publicly available EV charging stations to Wilmington's central business district. Note that any increased electricity costs to City parking facilities from the installation of the EV charging stations is offset by the Council approved EV charger fee schedule.



- The Public Works Department installed one (1) Level-2 EV charging station at the Operations Center on River Road. As mentioned previously, the charger will be utilized to service the two Nissan LEAFs....the first **100% EVs** in the City fleet.



2025 FOCUS AREAS

In 2025, the Clean Energy Advisory Committee will continue to prioritize advancements in much of the same focus areas.

- **Energy Efficiency**

- Continuing to implement targeted **energy efficiency projects** on existing city facilities.
 - The **Skyline Center** will be a primary target for energy efficiency projects. Potential opportunities include LED lighting retrofits, occupancy sensors, and building management system updates.
- Continuing to pursue **federal and state grant opportunities** to fund additional energy efficiency and clean energy installation projects.
- **Installing solar photovoltaics** (PV) system on the upcoming Parks Maintenance facility to offset the facilities electricity usage and reduce utility costs. A portion of the costs for this installation will also be covered by funds from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

- **Fleet Electrification:**

- Awarding the contract for the **Fleet EV Transition Study** using a portion of the funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.
- Expanding the **EV pilot project** targeting sedan / passenger vehicles that are well-utilized, high-mileage, and due for replacement in FY25 / 26.
- Attending the bi-monthly **Piedmont and Coastal NC Clean Communities** meetings to support the coalition's efforts reduce transportation related emissions and learn of funding opportunities to help Wilmington meet its fleet electrification goals.

- **Clean Energy Policy & Legislation**

- Continuing the support for **clean energy policy and legislation** efforts at the federal, state, and local level.
- Collaborating with New Hanover County sustainability staff to achieve **SOLSMART** Silver designation. The City of Wilmington has previously achieved SOLSMART Bronze designation and the Committee previously recommended pursuit of Silver (or greater) designation. SOLSMART is a U.S. Department of Energy program that streamlines the solar permitting & inspection process, reduces the soft costs of solar projects, and ensures clear planning & zoning regulation language to facilitate expansion of solar energy within the community. Note the City of Wilmington has already achieved SOLSMART Bronze designation in May 2022.

- **Communications**

- Collaborating with the Communications Department to regularly inform internal and external stakeholders of the city's clean energy goals, actions of the Clean Energy Advisory Committee, and highlight the everyday efforts staff take to improve energy efficiency.
- Utilizing the quarterly **Wilmington Current newsletter** to inform and educate residents of actions the city is taking towards clean energy.

THANK YOU

for more information contact

City of Wilmington

Public Works Department – Sustainability Office

David Ingram – Sustainability Manager

David.ingram@wilmingtonnc.gov

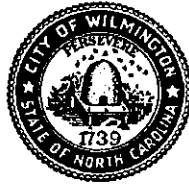
910-341-1602

www.wilmingtonnc.gov/sustainability

ATTACHMENT 1

Resolution Adopting 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy Goals

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina
R-2021-02

Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager

Date: 4/20/2021

Resolution to Adopt 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy Goals, Establish Clean Energy Advisory Committee and Approve Staff Prioritized and Recommended Actions from the Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force Report

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

A resolution to adopt 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy goals, establish a Clean Energy Advisory Committee, and approve staff prioritized and recommended actions from the Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force.

Purpose

The purpose of the resolution is to:

- Adopt the 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy goals as recommended in the Ad Hoc Clean Energy Task Force report, as follows:
 - By 2035 transition from fossil fuel powered municipal operations to 50% clean energy, and electrify 50% of the city's vehicle fleet.
 - By 2050 transition from fossil fuel powered municipal operations to 100% clean energy, and electrify 100% of the city's vehicle fleet (as future technology allows).
 - Collaborate with other governments, the private sector, and residents in achieving aligned clean energy and equity goals as well as advocating for programs and policies at the state, regional, and/or federal level that aid in achieving the transition to clean energy.
- Establish a Clean Energy Advisory Committee to advise City Council and staff regarding clean energy best practices and make strategy recommendations to transition municipal operations to clean energy sources.
- Approve the staff prioritized and recommended actions from the Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force report to begin the City's transition to a clean energy future.

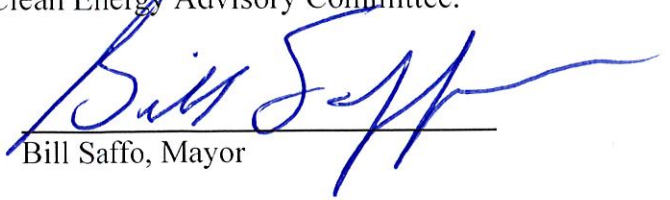
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the City of Wilmington City Council approves the adoption of the 2035 and 2050 Clean Energy goals; and

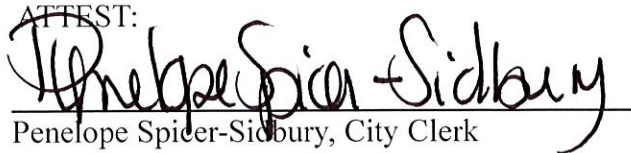
THAT, the staff prioritized and recommended actions for the Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force, as set forth in **Exhibit A** are hereby adopted; and

THAT, the Wilmington City Council Governance Committee is hereby directed to review, consider, and make recommendation to City Council regarding the appropriate structure, organization and rules of procedure for the proposed Clean Energy Advisory Committee.

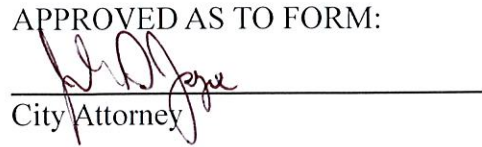
Adopted at a regular meeting
on April 20, 2021



Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:


Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


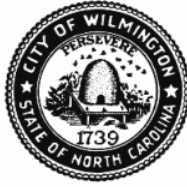
City Attorney



ATTACHMENT 2

Sustainable Municipal Building Policy

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Anthony N. Caudle, City Manager

Date: 12/3/2024

Resolution Adopting a Sustainable Municipal Building Policy

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington desires to adopt a Sustainable Municipal Building Policy pertaining to the new construction or major renovation of municipal buildings; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the policy is to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste, conserve water, improve indoor air quality, and be good stewards of taxpayer dollars; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington has committed to reducing the greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions from municipal operations by 58% by 2050, from a 2007 baseline; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington has committed to transitioning municipal operations to 50% clean energy by 2035, and 100% clean energy by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, municipal buildings and facilities represent a significant portion (~41%) of the City’s GHG emissions; and,

WHEREAS, studies show that the economic, social, and environmental benefits of implementing sustainable design, such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (“LEED”) guidelines, will result in improved building life-cycle performance, including: reduced utility cost, reduced operations and maintenance costs, optimized life-cycle economic performance, conservation of natural resources, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and improved health, comfort, and productivity of City staff and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, adopting a Sustainable Municipal Building Policy was one of the First-Step recommendations from the Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force; and,

WHEREAS, the policy was reviewed and approved for recommendation by the Clean Energy Advisory Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Municipal Building Policy is consistent with numerous recommendations within the Create Wilmington Comprehensive Plan (2016).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Wilmington City Council hereby adopts a Sustainable Municipal Building Policy pertaining to the new construction or major renovation of municipal buildings.

Adopted at a _____ meeting
on _____ 2024

Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

City Attorney



February 26, 2025

DEQ to Hold Additional Public Engagement Sessions on the Development of Federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State Energy Office is holding additional engagement sessions as part of a series of public engagement opportunities in February and March to provide information and gather feedback on the Department's initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant's (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

As a part of the federal Inflation Reduction Act, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program provides states, local governments, territories and tribes with funds to develop and implement plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants. The North Carolina CPRG planning project is an interagency effort with the Department of Transportation, Department of Commerce, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and DEQ serving as lead.

North Carolina was awarded \$3 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the planning phase of the CPRG. As part of the program requirements, North Carolina developed and submitted a [Priority Climate Action Plan](#) (PCAP) in 2024. North Carolina is now developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which is due to the EPA in 2025. The PCAP identified North Carolina's highest priority greenhouse gas reduction measures and determined the methods for ensuring equitable implementation of these measures for the benefit of all North Carolinians. The CCAP will build upon the PCAP and will update and

expand upon North Carolina's existing climate strategies, ensuring that these policies align with the latest available science, modeling and best practices.

DEQ is conducting public engagement and accepting input on how to include any existing community climate strategies or ideas that can further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and can be reflected in the existing measures prioritized in the PCAP. The measures identified in the PCAP will be used as a foundation for discussion. People are also invited to discuss new initiatives, strategies, projects or project ideas related to greenhouse gas reduction developed since the PCAP was published. Public feedback will help DEQ determine the program's direction, priorities, and future projects. North Carolina residents can participate in engagement sessions either virtually or in-person.

Information about other engagement sessions can be found [here](#). Register for the sessions using this [form](#).

The second round of sessions is planned for the following dates and times:

Public Engagement Session #5: In-Person Meeting in Roanoke Rapids

Purpose: Provide input on existing community climate strategies. Discuss new initiatives strategies, projects, or project ideas related to greenhouse gas reduction developed since the PCAP.

When: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2025

Where: Center for Energy Education, 460 Airport Road, Roanoke Rapids, 27870

Public Engagement Session #6: In-Person Meeting in Wilmington

Purpose: Provide input on existing community climate strategies. Discuss new initiatives strategies, projects, or project ideas related to greenhouse gas reduction developed since the PCAP.

When: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 27, 2025

Where: New Hanover County Arboretum, 6206 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403

A formal public comment period regarding the draft CCAP will open in August 2025.

Members of the public may also send input via email to cprg@deq.nc.gov with "CPRG Comment" in the subject line, or via voicemail by calling **(919) 707-8757**.

To learn more about the CPRG program and view past public information sessions, visit the [CPRG webpage](#).

Information on how DEQ developed the CPRG priority measures can be found [here](#).

Charging Smart: Helping Local Governments Advance Electric Mobility

WHAT Is Charging Smart?

Charging Smart is a free technical assistance and designation program that works with U.S. local governments, providing tools to speed deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) and unlock benefits including economic development and recognition as an EV leader.

WHY Join Charging Smart?

When you join Charging Smart, you will be connected to free technical assistance (TA) to help you adopt and implement nationally-recognized best practices that remove barriers to the development of EV charging infrastructure. The Charging Smart program draws from a team that includes over two dozen national and regional organizations with expertise in EVs and EV charging deployment. This team works with local jurisdictions on topics such as planning, zoning, permitting, utility engagement, incentives, fleet operations, and shared mobility.

Charging Smart supports local governments that achieve Charging Smart designation in promoting their accomplishments to the public. A Charging Smart designation sends a signal that a municipality is prepared for EV investment.

Benefits include cleaner air and economic development. By increasing EV infrastructure, local governments take measures that make their communities healthier, cleaner, and more attractive to businesses and business growth.



WHO Is Eligible to Join the Charging Smart Program?

All local governments within the United States, including towns, cities, and counties, are eligible for participation in the Charging Smart program. Regional organizations are also encouraged to participate; a regional designation pathway is forthcoming.

Join Charging Smart Today!

Want to learn more about Charging Smart?

Visit ChargingSmart.org or follow the QR code to our website to get started.

Want to go the extra mile?

Consider exploring the other Energy Ready programs, which deal with solar and wind energy. Reach out to our team to learn more.



Benefits of Charging Smart

The Charging Smart program offers numerous benefits for participating communities. These include:

1. Establishing your municipal reputation in transportation electrification, setting an example and opening up opportunities for the growth of EVs.
2. Increasing the number of EVs in the community, which brings numerous other economic and health benefits, including lower emissions, improved air quality, and reduced noise pollution.
3. Reducing soft costs and unintentional barriers to the deployment of EV infrastructure, saving staff time and supporting local economic development.



Designation Levels



Bronze designees have successfully standardized EV charging infrastructure permitting, identified zoning restrictions, and discussed collaboration with utility providers.



In addition to completing all criteria for Bronze designation, Silver designees have revised their zoning to allow the easier and lower cost deployment of EV chargers.



In addition to completing all criteria for Bronze and Silver designation, Gold designees have purchased EVs for use in their municipal fleet, adopted standard approval and review timelines, installed a public charger, adopted relevant ordinances for new construction, and updated their comprehensive plan.

There is no one path to achieving Charging Smart designation. Each local government works with technical advisors to choose from a menu of options that fits the community's needs and goals. Learn more by exploring the Charging Smart program guide.

About Charging Smart

Charging Smart is led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), with Great Plains Institute (GPI) serving as lead partner on the project. Other partners include the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Forth, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), EV Noire, RMI, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC), Clean Transportation Communities of Southern Connecticut, Connecticut Southwestern Area Clean Cities Coalition, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC), Drive Clean Colorado, Drive Electric Tennessee, Long Beach Clean Cities, Louisiana Clean Fuels, North Central Texas Council of Governments, and Virginia Clean Cities.

Ready to become a Charging Smart-designated community?



Scan this QR code to complete our intake form and get connected with a technical assistance provider.

{Wednesday, February 21}, 2024

Interstate Renewable Energy Council

125 Wolf Road

Suite 100

Albany, NY 12205

Dear Ed Gilliland,

On behalf of {Community name}, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a Charging Smart designated community. In partnership with the Charging Smart team, {Community name}'s dedicated staff members will work to accelerate local adoption of EVs and EV charging. {Community name} will work with the Charging Smart program to develop best practices to equitably serve their community EV charging needs.

OPTIONAL: Charging Smart builds upon our community's participation in {relevant program(s) participation}, which resulted in {relevant outcomes}.

{Community name} will leverage Charging Smart to achieve the following goals:

- {Enter Goal.}
- {Enter Goal.}
- {Enter Goal.}

These efforts demonstrate that our community is committed to driving continual improvement in our community's EV readiness, and in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as community priorities in our {relevant plans or initiatives}.

In order to measure progress along the way, {Community name} will track key metrics related to EV and infrastructure deployment.

Inquiries related to {Community name}'s Charging Smart participation can be directed to {POC} at {E-mail} or {Phone Number}.

Sincerely,

{Signed name}
{Printed name}
{Title}