



City of Wilmington Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force

Summary | Meeting 4
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Wilmington, NC
August 25, 2020 | 6-7:30 PM

The City of Wilmington held the fifth meeting for the Wilmington Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force (Task Force) on August 25, 2020. All Task Force meetings continue to be conducted in accordance with North Carolina public meeting statutes. The meeting was held virtually over Zoom. The meeting objectives were to hear updates from each subcommittee, establish guidance on formatting for each subcommittees' recommendations, present results from the public survey, and learn how the city's communications team can support the work of the Task Force. The July meeting had 30 participants.



Opening Remarks

Warren Miller of Fountainworks began meeting by reviewing the agenda. The evening's topics included a report from subcommittees, introductory remarks from co-chairs, updates from subcommittees, a discussion of the formatting/structure of reports, a presentation of public survey results, and learn how the communications office can support the work of the Task Force.



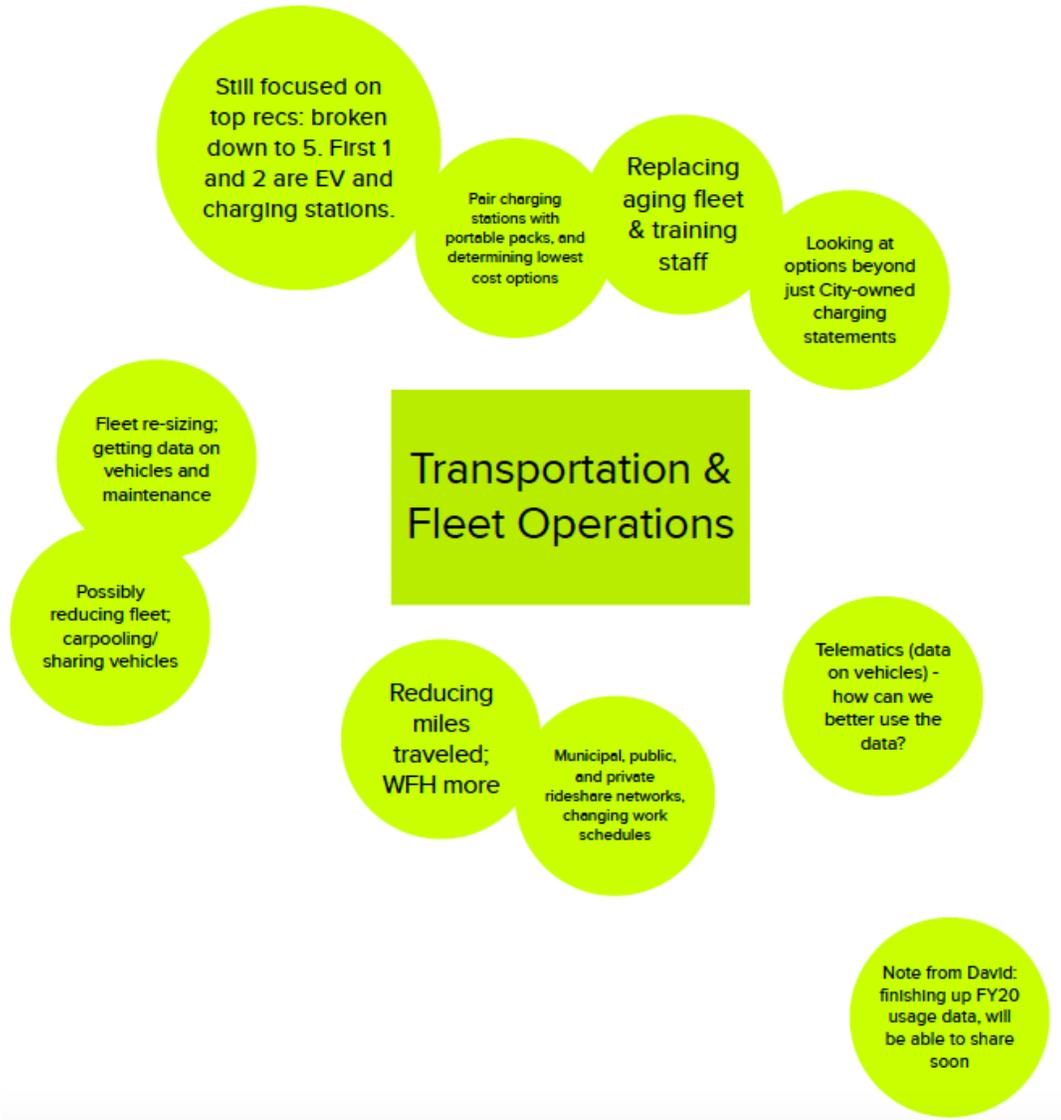
Next, co-chair Ron Sparks thanked the group for their work and noted he joined the Task Force as a way of giving back the community he grew up in. He then asked the subcommittee co-chairs to provide updates.

Report from Subcommittees

The co-chairs of each subcommittee provided updates on what their groups have been working on since the last full Task Force meeting.

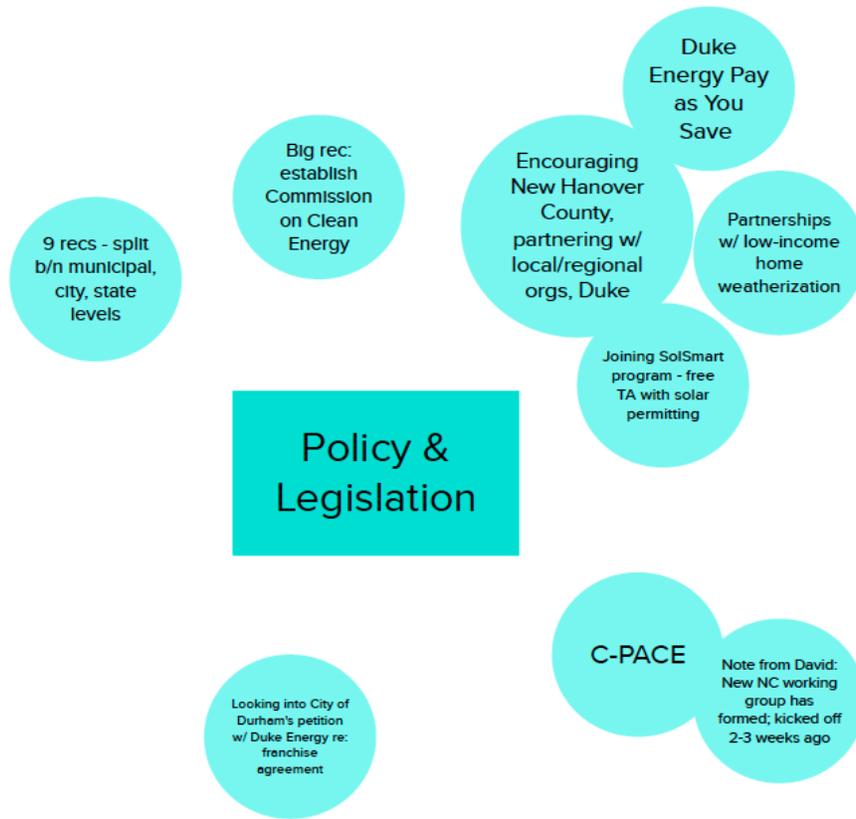
Each group’s discussion points are illustrated below. The Mural board, used for note-taking, can be found [here](#).

Transportation & Fleet Operations





Policy & Legislation



Clean Energy Technology





Social Equity & Community-Wide Adoption



Discussion of Formatting/Structure

Julie Brenman of Fountainworks noted that several subcommittees have been asking for more guidance regarding what their deliverables should look like. Thom Moton had shared a number of example reports from other cities across the Southeast. The planning subcommittee used these reports, along with work already done by two subcommittees, to create some general guidance for reports.

- The Social Equity and Community-Wide Adoption Subcommittee has included a list of opportunities, and under each opportunity they describe the issue and what the city's role can be.
- The Clean Energy Technology Subcommittee has an outline that covers definitions, measures, what the recommended technologies are, as well as technologies they do not endorse. They also include long-term recommendations.

Since each subcommittee has a different charge, there is an understanding that their reports should not have to look identical. Additionally, there will be need for City staff and the co-chairs to weave all the reports together.



Some of the features from other cities include clear definitions, and having a “strategy filter” – some way to categorize what actions are easier, what have the most impact, what is considered “low-hanging fruit,” etc.

Some Task Force members noted they would prefer to have a template to follow. David Ingram noted that while subcommittees do not have to go into too much technical detail with their reports, it may be helpful to have recommendations categorized into what the city can do (versus action items that may require working with the state legislature). Dave Mayes added that in general, the city likes to conduct pilot programs that can be evaluated and then made full-scale as needed. As an additional note, Ed Ablard added that Lindsey Lake had shared this action plan from [UNCW's website](#). It follows a standard format used by universities across the country called STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System). It appears in a grid format.

The sample reports were sent to the Task Force members after the meeting and each sub-committee will provide feedback or ask questions on the final format for the reports.

Presentation of Survey Results

Next Ron Sparks noted that the results from the public survey were ready to share. David Ingram, Sustainability Program Manager for the City of Wilmington, presented results. The raw data from the survey is available in the [Dropbox folder](#).

Highlights:

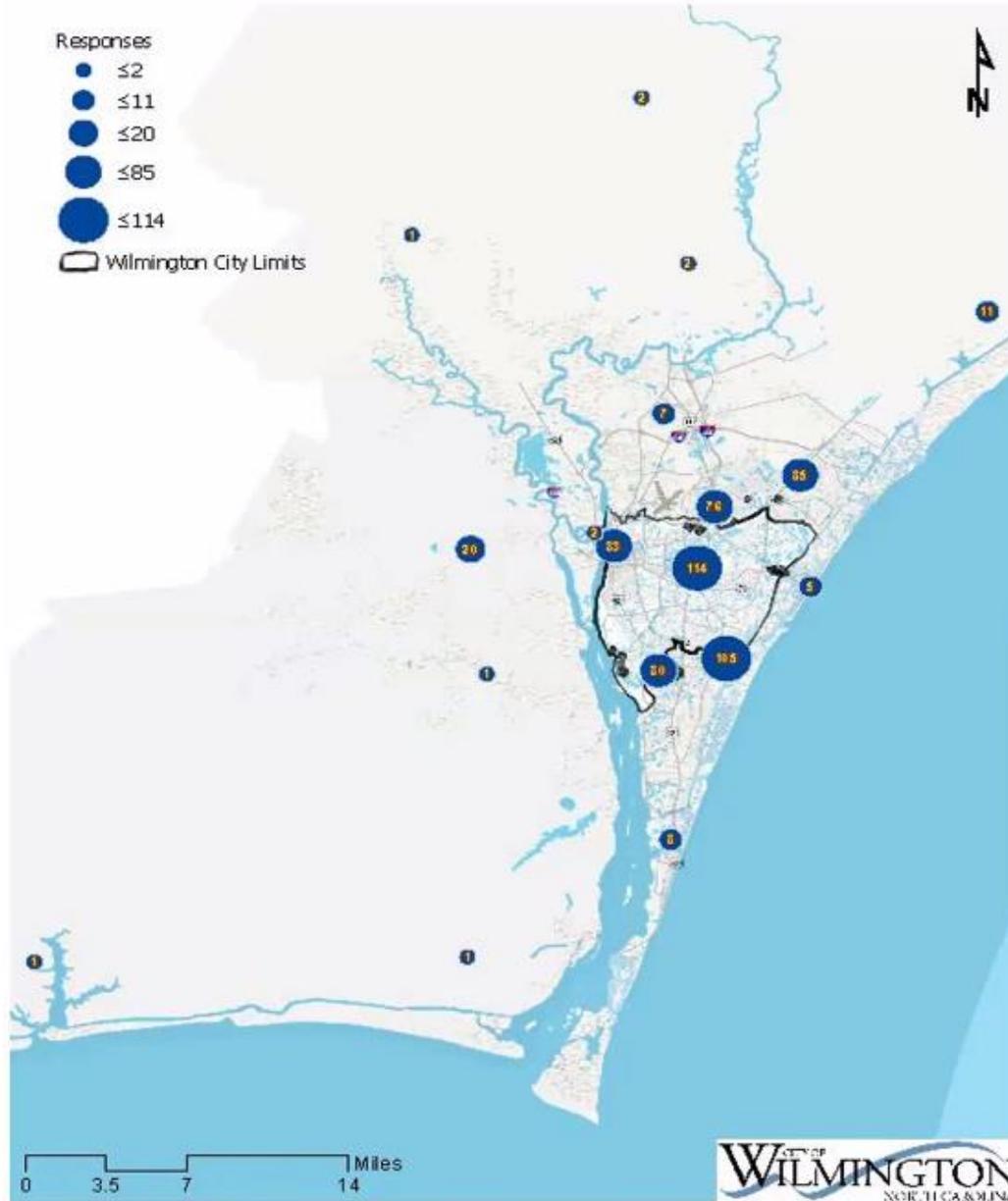
- 621 online responses
- 2,826 views
- Open July 2-July 24
- Linked and shared on social media; supported by Communication department

Overall Comments:

- “Thank you for doing this survey and all your efforts in this regard.”
- “Make it happen! Our lives depend on your decisions!”
- “I just want to say thank you for your commitment to this and to our community!”
- “I am so thrilled to see that the City of Wilmington is dedicated to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel usage.”
- “I love this initiative and I am grateful that we are working toward a cleaner future together!”

Where people are from:

- 77% of respondents were City residents



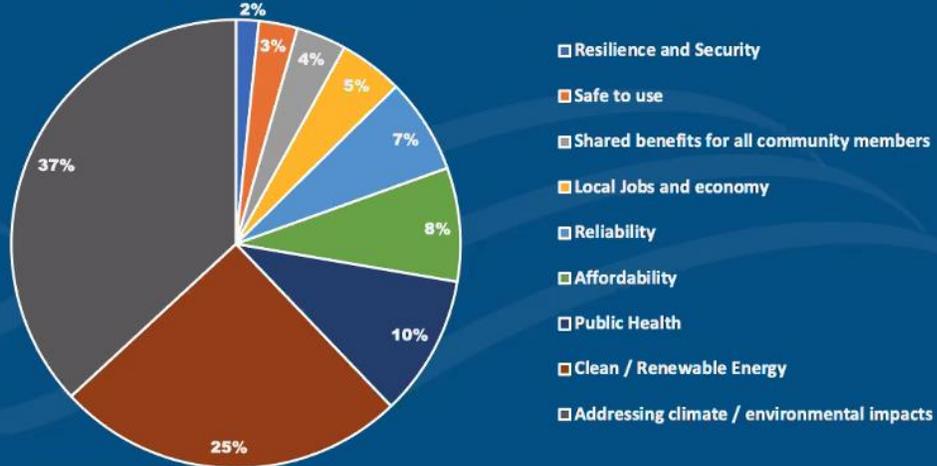
Ranking Priorities:

One question asked respondents to rank their top three priorities as the City of Wilmington plans a clean/renewable future responses. The top #1 responses were 1.) addressing climate & environmental impacts, 2.) implementing clean and renewable energy, and 3.) public health.



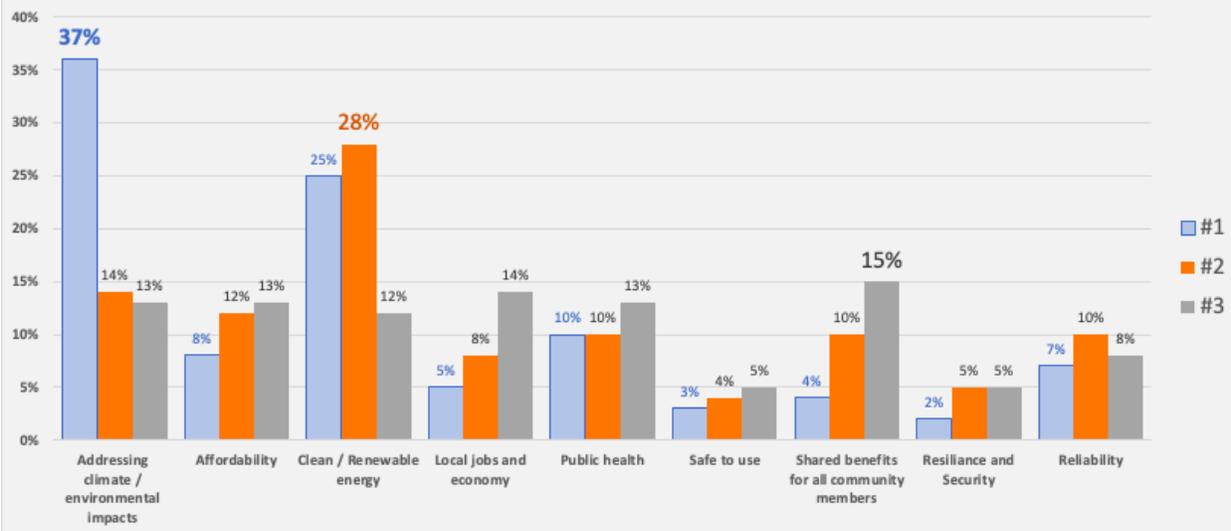
Q7: As the City of Wilmington plans a clean/renewable future, which priorities should be considered? **Please rank your top 3.**

Question 7: Which priorities should be considered?
(Percentage of respondents ranking issue as #1 priority)



Looking at #2 and #3 choices showed that other priorities included shared benefits for all community members, as well as local jobs and the economy.

Q7: Additional data...% choice for each rank (#1-3)





Other notes:

- There was a fairly even spread of responses among age groups
- 81% strongly agree, 12% somewhat agree with the City's commitment of 58% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050
 - Some said 58% was not aggressive enough
- Broad themes that appeared in the open-ended comments included water quality, social equity, air quality

Communications Support

Thom Moton introduced Communications Director Jerod Patterson. Both Jerod and his colleague Jennifer Dandron from the city's Communications office attended last month's meeting. Jerod then provided a brief presentation on how their office can support the work of the Task Force.

1. Assisting Task Force in ongoing work
 - Ex: the Communications office helped with the digital deployment of the public survey
 - If there are future opportunities where the Task Force wants citizen input
 - They can help draw attention to the Task Force through media releases
2. Sharing the Task Force's work with public
 - Storytelling through the city's tools:
 - Video projects (see [Rise Together](#))
 - Graphics, infographics, timelines of future goals
 - Facebook Live events
 - Educational and informational
 - They can act as an advocacy extension
3. Weave this work into web of City
 - They can make critical points of connection throughout City's departments

Closing Announcements

Julie Brenman closed the meeting and reminded members to look for further communications from David Ingram.

Next Steps & Other Announcements

Upcoming meetings:

Subcommittee meetings in August:

- **Clean Energy Technology:** Wednesday, September 9 from 6-7:30 PM
- **Transportation and Fleet Operations:** Tuesday, September 8th from 7-8:30 PM
- **Social Equity & Community-Wide Adoption:** Tuesday, September 8th from 6-7:30 PM
- **NC Clean Energy Policy & Legislation:** Tuesday, September 8th from 6-7:30 PM

Full meetings:

- **September 22** 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting
 - (Subcommittees meet)



- **October 27** 6-7:30 pm: Full Task Force Meeting

May be extended 3 months due to COVID-19

Task Force Initiative Dropbox Folder where we will be sharing documents and other updates throughout the process: [Dropbox](#)

- Consolidated Agendas and PowerPoints
- Consolidated Summary Reports

Preparation for next meeting: If participants have suggested ideas or background information in preparation for our next meeting, feel to contact:

- David Ingram, Wilmington Sustainability Manager (also a voting member of Task Force) david.ingram@wilmingtonnc.gov/910-341-1602
- Fountainworks, meeting facilitators (Warren Miller, Julie Brenman, or Maddie Shea) warren@fountainworks.com, julie@fountainworks.com, or maddie@fountainworks.com

The next full Task Force meeting is September 22nd. Meeting materials will continue to be shared and posted in the [Dropbox folder](#).