

# City of Wilmington

## Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force

Summary | Meeting 6  
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Wilmington, NC  
September 22, 2020 | 6-7:30 PM

The City of Wilmington held the sixth meeting for the Wilmington Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force (Task Force) on September 22, 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 and to begin developing a vision for what the impact of a successful Task Force will be on Wilmington as a clean energy city 30 years from now. The September meeting had 24 participants.

### Opening Remarks

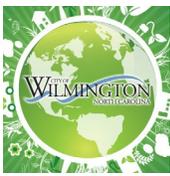
Julie Brenman of Fountainworks began the meeting by reviewing the agenda. The bulk of the evening's time was dedicated to a visioning exercise, and there were also updates from the subcommittee co-chairs.

Next, co-chair Ron Sparks thanked the group. Ron and co-chair Natalie English attended a City Council meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> to provide the Council with an update on the progress of the Task Force. They expressed their admiration for the hard work the Task Force has taken on so far. They also received City Council approval to extend the work of the Task Force through December. Ron then transitioned to hear updates from the subcommittees.

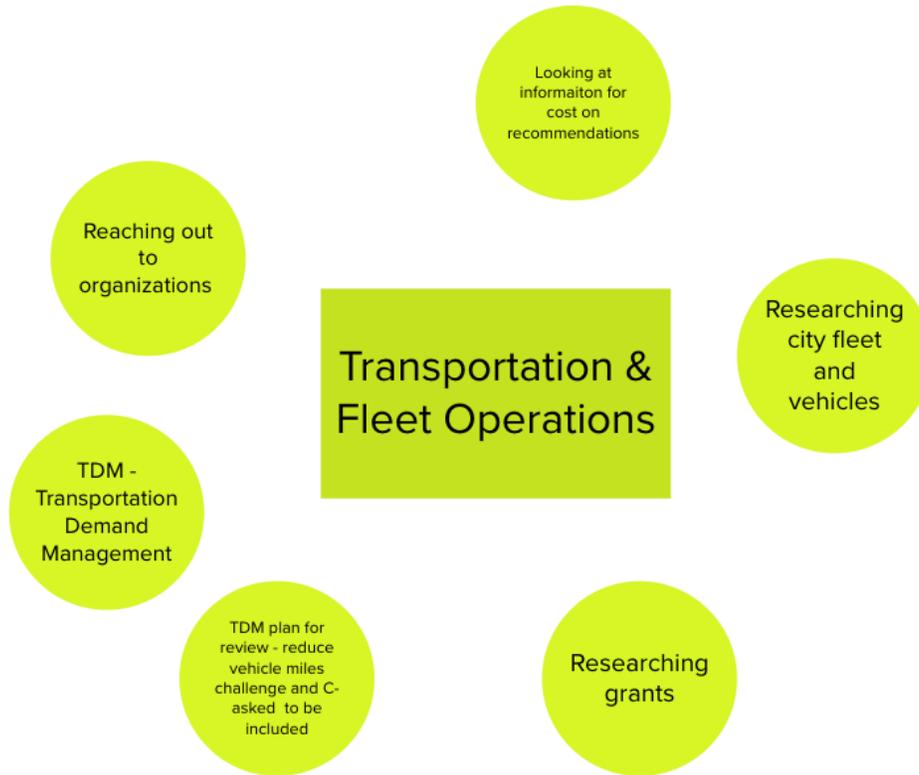
### Report from Subcommittees

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

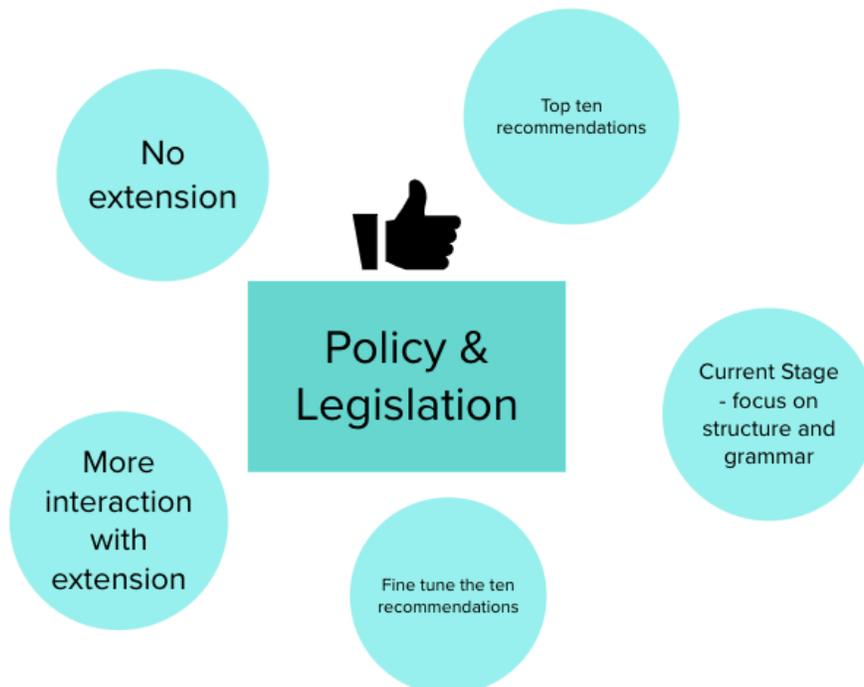
Each group's discussion points are illustrated below. The Mural board, used for note-taking, can be found [here](#).

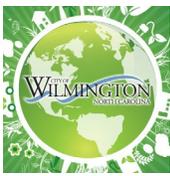


## Transportation & Fleet Operations

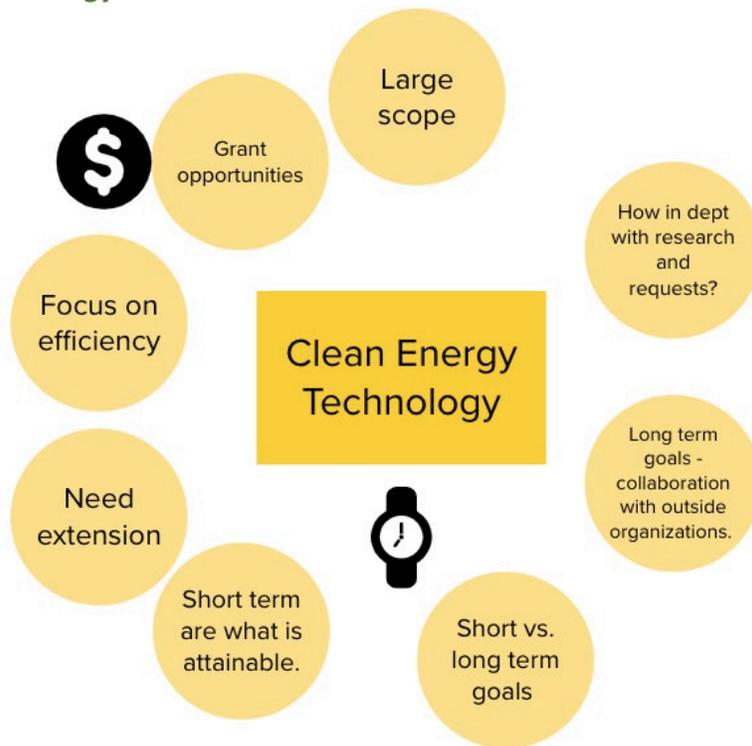


## Policy & Legislation

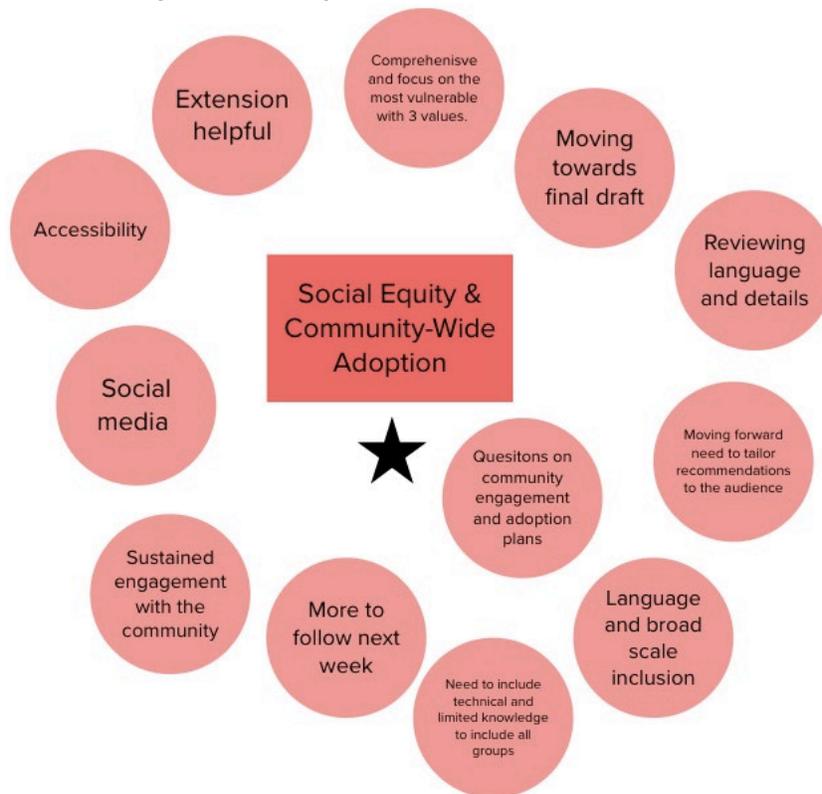


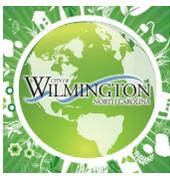


## Clean Energy Technology



## Social Equity & Community-Wide Adoption





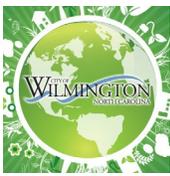
All people and communities benefit from Wilmington's initiative for clean energy and sustainability. Communities most impacted by environmental and economic injustice are engaged in setting environmental priorities, designing strategies and tracking progress. Black, Indigenous, and people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with low incomes, and disabled persons, have opportunities to be part of, and leaders in the clean energy and sustainability initiative.

## Visioning Exercise

The main objective for the September meeting was for the group to begin developing a vision for the City of Wilmington's clean energy efforts. Co-chair Natalie English introduced the visioning exercise. The group was asked to consider what headlines and stories they would write about Wilmington as a clean energy city if they were a magazine editor in 2050. Questions to consider included:

- If the task force's work is wildly successful, how would you describe Wilmington as a clean energy city in 2050?
- Are there interim milestones Wilmington accomplished in 2030 or 2040 that showed we were headed in the right direction?
- How do we know we are successful?
- What are people saying about Wilmington?

Julie Brenman then provided instructions and split the group into four random breakout groups. The group used a Google Slides template (available for viewing [here](#)) for the exercise, which allowed for live edits by multiple people at a time. A screenshot of each group's work is included below.



## COVER STORY VISION

Breakout Room #1

**QUOTES**

- What people are saying about Wilmington
- "We had a great weekend in Wilmington, as we have for 50 years!"
- "Wilmington is a great place to find sustainable and satisfying work, live and raise kids !"
- "Wilmington holds public trust - they are transparent with industries with zero impact on the environment for all in our community"

**BIG HEADLINES**

- 90% of citizens have adopted a backyard composting program in conjunction with their neighborhood community garden programs
- Public Transportation Reimagined: Electric and Hydrogen vehicles are now the norm in the City of Wilmington
- Energy No Longer a Burden for Wilmington Residents!
- Wilmington survives F5 Hurricane with 90% electric service intact due to self generations (solar, battery storage)

**OBSTACLES**

- Replanted trees lost to Hurricanes
- Underground and above ground fuel oil tanks have been removed
- Create partnership with other regions & industries (ie hog farms, Counties, to mitigate pollution risks)

**DATA OR STATISTICS**

- 90% of residences and 100% of commercial bldgs are net zero bldgs!
- Residents are paying less than 5% of their paychecks towards their energy bills
- Most tree-d city in the East Coast
- 10,000 new jobs with livable wages added to the workforce in the Clean Energy Sector each year
- High penetration of international business around existing ports -
- Tax base increases by 50%

**MILESTONES**

- 2030: 10K new jobs created in the Clean Energy sector
  - 50% of structures designated net zero !
- 2040: Infrastructure in place for electric/hydrogen transportation

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## COVER STORY VISION

Breakout Room #2

**QUOTES**

- Not only was the city of Wilmington successful but also New Hanover County
- City of Wilmington leads the region to 100% clean energy

**BIG HEADLINES**

- Clean Energy Technology helps the City of Wilmington become carbon neutral
- More liveable, resilience and healthy community due to clean energy
- City of Wilmington converts to green fleet

**OBSTACLES**

- Managing transportation needs to be less dependent of vehicles
- Cost / economics / politics, applies to all

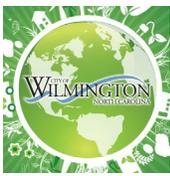
**DATA OR STATISTICS**

- City of Wilmington meets clean energy objective 5 years ahead of plan
- No energy burden households in the City of Wilmington
- City of Wilmington ranks #1 city due to clean energy goals

**MILESTONES**

- 2030: 25% Wilmington community, 75% clean energy for City
- 2040: 50% Wilmington community, 100% clean energy for City
- 2050: 100% Wilmington community

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## COVER STORY VISION

Breakout Room #3

**MILESTONES**

- 2030: Solar panels installed on all government and county buildings. 50% electric vehicle usage.
- 2040: 75% electric vehicle usage

**QUOTES**

- CEO of Duke Energy: Great to work with Wilmington to make it a clean energy hub
- Wilmington youth: What's a gas station?
- David Ingram: Wilmington has the lowest energy bills of any coastal city
- Mayor Saffo: The Wilm CETF started in 2020 has provided us with the necessary steps to reach our goals

**OBSTACLES**

- Funding
- Regulatory issues
- Technology advancement

**BIG HEADLINES**

- We did it! - GHG emissions reach net zero
- City of Wilmington - The future is now!
- Breath easy Wilmington
- We still love the beach and it hasn't moved!
- Mayor Saffo honored with distinguished presidential award for energy policies

**DATA OR STATISTICS**

- 100% clean energy
- Asthma cases down 20%
- GHG (CO2) emissions down 58%
- Renewable energy usage near 90%
- Wilmington gained 20,000 clean energy jobs
- Energy efficiency and clean energy usage reduces energy bills 50%

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## COVER STORY VISION

Breakout Room #4

**MILESTONES**

- 2030:
- 2040:

**QUOTES**

- My grandparents made my community cleaner decisions they made WAY BACK in 2020.
- "Because Wilmington paved the road, areas along the coast have transitioned to a low-carbon emission lifestyles"
- "I choose Cape Fear because the community committed over 30 years ago to clean energy policies"

**OBSTACLES**

- Budget/cost
- Effects of climate change - wildfires, hurricanes, pandemics,

**BIG HEADLINES**

- Affordable, Clean Energy Available to ALL Wilmington Citizens
- Citizens look to past generations with gratitude
- Clean Energy Capital - Wilmington, NC
- Wilmington Primarily Powered by the Sun during Hot Summer
- Clean Energy Companies CHOOSE CAPE FEAR in Record Numbers
- Wilmington Surpasses GHG Emissions Goal and Continues to Promote Clean Energy

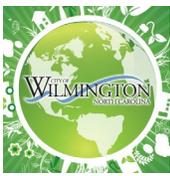
**DATA OR STATISTICS**

- Decreased health impacts from air quality
- Clean Energy Capital - Wilmington, NC
- No Power Outages after Cat 5 storm
- 100% Citizen Adoption of Clean Energy
- EV Charging Stations Located Every Five Miles in Wilmington Region

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### De-Brief & Themes

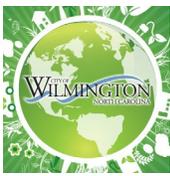
Once the full Task Force returned from the breakout rooms, Julie Brenman invited each group to share their vision. The group noted that if funding, technological capacity, and political will all come together, their vision can be realized. Next, the group discussed common themes.



Themes included:

- Removing energy burdens for everybody
- A healthier clean energy economy
- Increased living environment & quality of life
- Resilient infrastructure
- Fueling infrastructure (solar, EV)
- Community-wide goals (vs. just municipal operations)
- Preparation and recovery before/after climate events
  - Increasing Wilmington’s stability
- Counting on Wilmington to adopt new technology as it advances
- Ambition & optimism
- Achieving targets
- Wilmington can be a leader for North Carolina





The group also touched on some obstacles:



### Closing Announcements

Ron Sparks, Natalie English, and Julie Brenman closed the meeting. Ron noted that it was clear the group was moving toward a shared vision. Natalie also thanked the group for their creativity, and that they were close to creating goals to recommend to the Council.

### Next Steps & Other Announcements

Fountainworks will compile information from the visioning exercise and draft a vision statement based on the group's feedback. The Planning Subcommittee will clarify a schedule for deliverables.

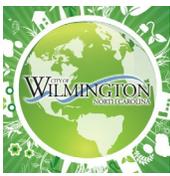
### Upcoming meetings:

#### Subcommittee meetings in October:

- **Clean Energy Technology:** Wednesday, October 14 from 6-7:30 PM
- **Transportation and Fleet Operations:** Tuesday, October 13th from 7-8:30 PM
- **Social Equity & Community-Wide Adoption:** Tuesday, October 13th from 6-7:30 PM
- **NC Clean Energy Policy & Legislation:** Wednesday, October 14th from 6-7:30 PM  
(*changed from Tuesday, October 13th*)

#### Full meetings:

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



*The deadline for the report has been extended to December 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](mailto:david.ingram@wilmingtonnc.gov)/910-341-1602
- Fountainworks, meeting facilitators (Warren Miller, Julie Brenman, or Maddie Shea) [warren@fountainworks.com](mailto:warren@fountainworks.com), [julie@fountainworks.com](mailto:julie@fountainworks.com), or [maddie@fountainworks.com](mailto:maddie@fountainworks.com)

**The next full Task Force meeting is October 27<sup>th</sup>. Meeting materials will continue to be shared and posted in the [Dropbox folder](#).**