

CAC Priority Recommendations as of May 21, 2021

The Prince George’s County Climate Action Commission (CAC) was presented with (5) Operational Recommendations and (22) Mitigation/Adaptation Recommendations (CAC Priority Recommendations as listed below during the May 21, 2021 CAC Meeting. The (22) CAC Priority Mitigation/Adaptation Recommendations originated from feedback from Community Meeting #1 (March 4, 2021) and through the ongoing review and evaluation of additional climate action ideas as discussed via multiple CAC Work Groups meetings (Mitigation Work Group, Adaptation and Resiliency Work Group, and Outreach and Education Work Group meetings convened January-May of 2021).

As part of the May 21, 2021 CAC meeting, (5) Operational Recommendations were also proposed by the CAC Chair to help build consensus. The (5) Operational Recommendations were created in direct response to multiple Commissioners voicing concerns that the County’s climate action plan must also prioritize and address multi-faceted operational and systemic changes within County government for a climate action plan to be successful. By consensus vote during the May 21, 2021 CAC meeting, the (5) Operational Recommendations and (22) Mitigation/Adaptation Recommendations were subsequently approved to become CAC Priority Recommendations to move forward in the climate action planning process for greater detail and the “Blueprint Process. The CAC Priority Recommendations were approved with the following conditions: County staff must clearly articulate the Operational Recommendations and differentiate what other Recommendations might also be grouped or consolidated under Operational Recommendations.

As noted during the May 21, 2021 meeting, the CAC Priority Recommendations language, as approved and shown below, is considered draft language. Language of the CAC Priority Recommendations will evolve to become more technically focused and tailored as part of the “Blueprint Process”.

CAC Priority Recommendations

#	Action Area	Priority Recommendation ¹	Work Group Facilitation Notes
1	Operational ²	Commitment to Renewable Energy: How community, businesses, and local government, must transition away from fossil fuel and towards renewable.	
2	Operational ²	Outreach and Education: Provide accessible and meaningful engagement opportunities for underserved communities and develop a shared understanding of community needs and provide data, information, and resources to underserved communities and engage community members in citizen science so they are a part of developing relevant data for their community	Merged with Adaptation recommendation
3	Operational ²	Land Use: Strengthen the regulation of land use related to Smart Growth, Natural Resource Conservation, and Green Infrastructure.	
4	Operational ²	Lead by Example: Transparency by tracking and measuring Climate Action Impacts to establish indicators and systems of accountability to monitor progress on the recommendations of the CAP. Update the Budget, Procurement, and Capital Improvement Plan Process to	

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#	Action Area	Priority Recommendation ¹	Work Group Facilitation Notes
		reflect climate mitigation and adaptation goals.	
5	Operational ²	Building for Climate Action Planning Capacity: Climate staff and agency capacity to implement the CAP and continue the plan as a living document.	
6	Electricity Generation	Continue to install renewable energy systems on new and existing county-owned buildings and facilities, including schools.	Link to “Lead by Example”
7	Electricity Generation	Provide and promote innovative partnerships, incentives, and financing solutions for solar PV and other RE solutions on residential and commercial properties . This includes continuing to promote solar cooperatives, building on the commercial property improvement program, promoting state and utility incentives and financial assistance, promoting financing available through C-PACE and the green loan program.	
8	Electricity Generation	Promote and support development of resilient energy systems , including energy storage paired with solar PV and deployment of microgrids to support critical infrastructure.	Merge with Adaptation Recommendation- Microgrids to be focused on resilient energy infrastructure.
9	Waste Management	Enhance County Waste reduction and diversion efforts. Prioritize the strategic expansion of the food scraps curbside collection program so more households and high use/waste generating businesses have access to composting. Support plastic bag ban and bottle deposit efforts. ³	
10	Residential & Commercial Buildings	Establish building benchmarking requirements and standards across the County for both the public and private sector. Within County government, adopt a consistent approach to building benchmarking across all county-owned buildings that creates a common baseline and enables tracking and identification of building retrofit opportunities.	Note link to measurement & tracking
11	Residential & Commercial Buildings	Accelerate the number of homes and businesses implementing deep energy retrofits. Offer financing solutions, incentives, and technical assistance (and	

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		connect more people to existing programs) for residential and commercial buildings to improve energy efficiency through deep energy retrofits. Prioritize assistance to seniors, low-income, and other vulnerable communities to retrofit homes or provide energy efficiency upgrades to homes. Consider opportunities to streamline permitting to support and incentivize deep energy retrofits.	
12	Carbon Sequestration	Establish a County no net loss policy. Strengthen Woodland Conservation Act. Create or expand existing incentives for residents and local businesses to plant trees that expand urban tree canopy.	Merged with Adaptation recommendation
13	Transportation	Support EV charging infrastructure deployment on county properties	Link to “Lead by Example”
14	Transportation	Support EV charging infrastructure deployment on multi-family housing and commercial properties (new and existing)	
15	Transportation	Support accelerated deployment of EV vehicles for the community, while also leading by example by transitioning the county fleet, buses, etc.	Link to “Lead by example”
16	Transportation	Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through support for teleworking and virtual convenings ; County to lead by example through its telecommute policies	Link to “Lead by example”
17	Transportation	Increase support for Activity Centers by focusing capital investments, supporting transit, enhancing walkability and bikability, adopting strategies that bring housing and jobs to these centers in order to reduce VMT and stimulate economic development	Link to overarching goal re Plan 2035 Key step to include tracking VMT
18	Adaptation & Resilience-Planning	Update and adopt zoning codes, building codes, ordinances, the development review process, and associated planning documents to support climate ready buildings. This includes adoption of a Green Building standard , establishing a resiliency checklist and updated ordinances to prevent new construction or substantial retrofits in high risk areas which flood repeatedly.	
19	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Communities	Support and engage the public regarding the impacts of climate risks by providing direct assistance (technical and financial) to potentially vulnerable populations.	
20	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient	Maximize the County's flood resilience and reduce flood risk by re-evaluating stormwater standards and by implementing both the County's Mid-Term and Long-	

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	Communities	term Recommendations (DPIE / DPW&T / DOE) and improve access to information on County's flood risk / mitigation programs.	
21	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Communities	Preserve the flood retention capacity of existing floodplains. Preserve and increase, if possible, the capacity of natural areas to manage additional flooding per future climate projections.	For discussion: could this be merged with Plan 2035 recommendation and/or green infrastructure recommendation?
22	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Communities	Assess climate impacts on all high-hazard dams , including those currently deployed for flood control.	
23	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Communities	Provide funding to County departments to incorporate climate resilience criteria into long-range County plans (including transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater, waste management, emergency management and health).	
24	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Communities	Perform thermal mapping to identify urban heat island hot spots, including impacted vulnerable populations, areas for greatest potential for cooling, and potential areas for mitigation strategies and use to develop a County comprehensive extreme heat strategy . Use to inform selection of Resilience Hubs.	
25	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Communities	Assess the potential to establish Resilience Hubs in those communities within a 10-minute walking radius. Prioritize County-owned properties such as adult daycare centers, recreation centers, and other existing community focal buildings.	
26	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Infrastructure	Integrate green infrastructure (GI) projects into County capital improvement budgets, including the prioritization of creating additional publicly accessible open, green spaces with potential for carbon sequestration on County properties. Prioritize nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration, flood prevention, and extreme heat mitigation by adopting and enforcing codes to require green infrastructure (GI) practices for new and existing properties.	

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27	Adaptation & Resilience-Resilient Infrastructure	Promote a healthy food system supported by low-carbon, conservationist agricultural practices.	

¹ CAP Consolidated Recommendation for CAC.pdf sent to CAC Work Groups on May 20, 2021 incorrectly refers to the CAC Recommendations as Actions. In keeping with Maryland’s Climate Action Plan terminology and to avoid future confusion, the term Recommendations is the correct terminology to use when referring to CAC’s proposed climate actions which will move forward in the draft CAP process.

² CAP Consolidated Recommendation for CAC.pdf” was sent to the CAC Work Groups on May 20, 2021 for review prior to the May 21, 2021 CAC Meeting. The document incorrectly referred to the Operational Recommendations as Overarching and did not include broader language as previously intended by the CAC Chair and County staff. The slide presentation used for the CAC May 21, 2021 (the basis used to vote for CAC consensus approval), correctly reflects the term Operational Recommendations and provides additional draft language to express the overall intent of each Operational Recommendation as originally envisioned by the CAC Chair and County staff.

³ The CAC slide deck as presented by Cadmus on May 21, 2021 omitted in error the following draft language to Priority Recommendation #9: “*Support plastic bag ban and bottle deposit efforts.*” The CAC Priority Recommendations as shown per the above table correctly reflects the draft language as proposed and approved for by the Mitigation Work Group for CAC consideration during the May 21, 2021 CAC meeting.