



Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

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Background

- ▶ In June 2019, Northumberland County Council committed to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 as compared to 2005 levels.
- ▶ In September 2023, Northumberland County adopted a Strategic Plan which set the goal to respond to the climate crisis through reducing the carbon footprint of County operations through the development of a Climate Action Plan.

Background Continued

- ▶ Northumberland County is developing a Climate Action Strategy
 - ▶ Phase One – Mitigation: Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan
 - ▶ Phase Two – Adaptation: Adaptation and Resiliency Plan
- ▶ On September 5, 2024, a draft of the Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan was presented to Public Works Committee.

GHG Emissions

- ▶ The purpose of the Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan is to reduce GHG emissions from County operations.
- ▶ Corporate emissions result from waste management (82%), fleet and staff commuting (13%) and buildings and facilities (5%).
- ▶ In 2023, emissions were 25% below 2005 baseline levels. Emissions in 2030 are projected to be 31% below the 2005 baseline.

The Plan

- ▶ The plan charts a path to reach a 65% reduction in corporate emissions by 2030 and lays the groundwork to reach net zero emissions by 2050.
- ▶ The plan outlines 21 actions across six focus areas:
 - ▶ Waste Management
 - ▶ County Fleet and Staff Commuting
 - ▶ County Buildings and Facilities
 - ▶ Building a Culture of Climate Action
 - ▶ The Natural Environment
 - ▶ Advocacy and Influence

Community Engagement

- ▶ The purpose of community engagement was to raise awareness of County leadership and to engage the public and environmental stakeholders for review and input into the draft plan.
- ▶ Engagement strategies:
 - ▶ Survey on Join In Northumberland – 45 responses
 - ▶ One-on-one discussions/discussion groups – 7 meetings

Engagement Themes

- ▶ Common themes from engagement include:
 - ▶ Polarization on the level of action the County should take, ranging from the County should not act to the County should increase ambition
 - ▶ Desire to see County support for assisting local municipalities
 - ▶ Emphasis on the importance of sharing information and resources across municipalities
 - ▶ Support for specific strategies outlined in the draft plan
 - ▶ Interest to see community education on climate action
 - ▶ Desire for the County to consider lifecycle environmental impacts and indirect emissions
 - ▶ Suggestions on measures more closely related to adaptation

Implementation and Monitoring

- ▶ An implementation schedule outlines each action with a particular initiative, department, timeline, and high-level cost estimate.
- ▶ Funding and partnership opportunities will be critical for implementing many of the actions outlined in the plan.
- ▶ Most actions recommended for the short term (next 1-2 years) are focused on building capacity across the organization and are low in cost.
- ▶ It is recommended that annual progress reports are created to monitor progress toward actions and targets and that the plan is updated after five years of implementation.