



City of Columbia, SC Climate Action Plan

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Color Key:
Not Started
Started
Ongoing
Case by case as feasible
Complete



Action Items

Primary Depts Action

Secondary/Support Depts

Action Required

STATUS

Energy Efficiency						
1	Conduct an energy audit of municipal facilities and implement the recommendations.	General Services (Support Services)	All Depts	Obtain Approval to Proceed with Consultant, Execute Contract, Begin Work	Ongoing	Plans are underway for new energy audits of all occupied City buildings as part of the Ready for 100 campaign. An RFQ has been drafted, and should be on the street soon. An initial audit was completed in 2007. City Council decided against performance contract financing.
2	Implement an energy tracking and management system.	General Services (Support Services)	Finance (Accounting)		Jan '08; Mar-December '23	Tested local energy management tracking incentive program with Dominion Energy at the water plant; was not a good fit. Will be looking for these during 2024 and beyond energy audits.
3	Develop plan to install digital thermostats in city facilities. Adjust thermostats based on the industry standards to reduce consumption.	General Services (Support Services) / Finance (Purchasing)	All Depts		Jan '08 to present	Now installed in approximately 95% of City facilities.
4	Develop a plan to install energy efficient exit sign lightings in all city facilities over a defined period of time.	General Services (Support Services) / Finance (Purchasing)	All Depts	Develop Implementation Plan	Jan '08	Complete.
5	Develop a plan to perform energy-efficient lighting retrofits in all city facilities over a period of time.	General Services (Support Services) / Finance (Purchasing)	All Depts	Develop Policy and Implement Citywide	August '07	Complete.
6	Institute a lights out policy in all city facilities when not in use.	General Services (Support Services)	All Depts	Develop Policy and Communicate to all Dept / Employees	August '07	Complete.
7	Require city employees to turn off computer monitors each evening and turn off the computer over the weekend.	Information Technology	All Depts Abide by Policy	Develop Policy and Communicate to all Dept / Computer Users	August '07	Complete.
8	Install motion detectors and/or timers that will turn lights off if room is unoccupied for a certain length of time.	General Services (Support Services)	Depts help fund and implement plan as feasible	Develop Policy and Implementation Plan	Ongoing	Installed in some areas - focusing on conference rooms. Installed where possible during lighting upgrades.
9	Develop plan to perform heating, cooling and ventilation system retrofits (e.g., chillers, boilers, fans, pumps, belts) based on the energy audit. Consider alternative energy resources.	General Services (Support Services)	Depts help fund and implement plan	Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Ongoing	As replacements are made, energy efficient units will be used. Currently in use at 1225 Laurel, Washington Sq., Municipal Ct, Fleet Services, Eau Claire, Animal Shelter, West Beltline.
10	Develop a plan to install ENERGY STAR appliances in all city facilities as deemed appropriate and feasible.	General Services (Support Services) / Finance (Purchasing)	All Depts	Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Ongoing	Underway as appliances are replaced
11	Develop a plan to install green or reflective roofing on city facilities.	General Services (Support Services)	All Depts	Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Ongoing	Using reflective roofing as roofing is replaced. Currently City Hall, Washington Square, Station 12. (West Beltline has a green roof.)
12	Develop a plan to improve water pumping energy efficiency.	U&E Develop a Plan	U&E Implement Plan	Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible / Study Pumping Cycles	March '08	U&E constantly aware of need to operate system in most efficient manner possible due to meeting system demand (ongoing)
13	Replace hot water heater units with hot water on demand systems if they are more energy efficient.	General Services (Support Services) / Finance (Purchasing)	All Depts	Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Ongoing as Feasible	Unable to do on demand.
14	Encourage Commission of the Blind to install energy-efficient vending machines in all city facilities that currently utilize vending machines.	General Services (Support Services) / Finance (Purchasing)	All Depts		Ongoing	Exploring options as feasible.
15	Require that all new construction and renovations of municipal buildings follow LEED Certified guidelines.	General Services (Support Services)	All Depts	Develop Guidelines to Use for all Municipal Construction and Renovation Projects	Jan '08	Parks and Rec Building followed LEED guidelines, but was not certified. West Beltline Building is certified LEED Gold.



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Outdoor Lighting						
16	Continue to install energy-efficient traffic lights and replace all incandescent traffic signals with LED signals.	Public Works (Traffic)		Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Ongoing	95% of traffic signals have been converted.
17	Develop ordinance requiring all street lighting inside City limits to be energy-efficient street lights (e.g., high pressure sodium) – plan will accommodate normal replacement schedule of existing lights.	Public Works (Traffic)	Construction Management	Develop Lighting Ordinance	Not Started	Utility-owned streetlights are being switched out to LED. City-owned lights are being switched to LED with EECBG funds in 2024.
18	Evaluate street lighting to determine if the average daily time streetlights are on can be reduced without compromising public safety. City will work with SCE&G now Dominion Energy) on this initiative.	Public Works (Traffic)		Evaluate Lighting Usage and Identify Potential Changes to Improve Efficiency	Ongoing	Dominion is currently retrofitting all utility-owned streetlights with LEDs; City-owned lights are being switched to LED with EECBG funds in 2024.
19	Develop energy efficient lighting programs for city parks including the greenways, and city parking garages.	Public Works (Traffic), Parks and Rec, Parking Services		Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Complete	All parking garages have been up fitted to high efficiency linear fluorescent.
20	Develop and implement lighting standard to be used citywide to include specifications regarding spacing and lighting levels.	Public Works (Traffic)	U&E, Construction Management, Parks and Rec, Development Services	Develop Implementation Plan and Implement as Feasible	Complete	City has standards that are being followed.
Renewable Energy						
21	Encourage SCE&G to produce/provide Green Energy.	City Management / City Council		Initiate Conversations regarding Green Energy	Ongoing	Conversations have taken place with Dominion officials regarding energy efficiency.
22	Purchase green electricity from solar, geothermal, wind, landfill or hydroelectric sources if made available.	TBD			Ongoing	From 2015-17, the City purchased Green Power offsets for all City Council meetings, the first City in SC to do so. Purchase was made through PaCE, a non-profit that funded green power for the major utilities. PaCE ended in 2017; there is no replacement. we are investigating other options.
23	Purchase green tags / renewable energy certificates if made available.	TBD				No action to date.
24	Use alternative energy sources in municipal facilities when possible.	General Services (Support Services)	All Depts		Ongoing	Using fuel cell battery backup at multiple generator sites. Using solar flashers @ new pedestrian crossings. Looking at solar grant opportunities.
Transportation: Vehicle Fuel Efficiency						
25	Continue to monitor use of take home vehicles and ensure proper justification is in place for all approved.	General Services (Fleet), Public Works	All Depts	Enforce Existing Policy and Monitor Vehicle Usage	Ongoing	Ongoing
26	Enforce policy to trailer equipment to job sites.	General Services (Fleet), Public Works	Public Works, U&E, Park and Rec	Enforce Existing Fleet Policy	Oct '07	Policy written and communicated.
27	Retire old and under-used vehicles and equipment.	City Management, Finance, Budget, General Services (Fleet Services)	All Depts	Develop Plan and Update as Needed		Implementing as resources allow
28	Purchase fuel efficient or electric (e.g., hybrid) and/or smaller fleet vehicles.	General Services (Fleet), Public Works	All Depts	Evaluate Feasibility of Alternative Fuel/Fuel Efficient Vehicles for all Purchases		Departments are encouraged to budget for such; limited by funding availability. As of October 2019, the City had 1097 licensed vehicles: 56 hybrids (5%), no electric; 401 flex-fuel (36%) vehicles.
Alternative Fuels						
29	Evaluate option of using alternative fuel in City vehicles.	General Services (Fleet), Public Works	All Depts	Evaluate Benefits and Make Recommendation	Jan '08	Purchasing vehicles capable of using alternative fuels. Currently using B5 biofuel and E10 gasoline in entire fleet.
30	Evaluate option of running bio-diesel in municipal fleet.	General Services (Fleet), Public Works	All Depts	Evaluate Feasibility of Bio-Diesel based on '07 Emission Requirements	March '08	Complete. All diesel vehicles use biofuel.



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31	Utilize electric vehicles in municipal fleet.	General Services (Fleet)	All Depts	Evaluate Feasibility of Electric Vehicles and Utilize where feasible	Case by case as feasible.	Implementing as funding allows. CPD using electric golf carts, Segways. Ordered a Ford Lightning, but the manufacturer canceled the order.
32	Develop and place sticker on municipal vehicles that are using alternative fuels.	General Services (Fleet)	All Depts	Continue to Evaluate options Available, Purchase when Appropriate	Complete	Complete. All diesel vehicles use biofuel.
33	Educate employees regarding use of alternative fuels and encourage use in personal vehicles.	General Services, Public Works, Public Information	All Depts	Develop Education Program, Utilize Resources Available (newsletter, email, Channel 2, etc.)	Ongoing	Featuring information in Green@Works city employee newsletter.
<u>Trip Reduction / Transportation Demand Management</u>						
34	Encourage car-pooling or vanpooling by municipal employees.	City Management, General Services (Fleet), Public Works	All Depts	Develop Policy and Implement Citywide	Complete	Encouraging use of employee carpooling. Green Team piloted Take a Break from Exhaust online tracking. Waiting for program revision to implement further.
35	Evaluate option of telecommuting by municipal employee.	Public Works		Research other municipalities and determine feasibility of telecommunicating	Complete	City Telecommuting Policy Adopted March 20, 2020 (pandemic-related)
36	Evaluate use of alternate work schedules by municipal employees so arrival and departure times are staggered.	Public Works		Research other municipalities and determine feasibility of telecommunicating	Ongoing	Alternate Work Schedules implemented in Public Works and some other areas of the City.
37	Encourage use of mass-transit by municipal employees. Work with RTA to allow city employees to ride for free or reduced rate on mass transit.	City Management / Public Works		Develop Communication with RTA to	Started	City promotes The Comet and free Soda Cap Connector. Works w/The Comet on special events such as Dump the Pump Day.
38	Evaluate police use of motorcycles and bicycles to determine suitable locations and implement accordingly.	Police Dept	General Services (Fleet Services)	Evaluate Feasibility of Motorcycle and Bicycle use and Identify Parameters for such use		No action to date
39	Expand community bicycle infrastructure (e.g., dedicated bicycle lanes, additional bicycle parking spaces).	Staff of the Bicycle Friendly Community Committee	Public Works (Traffic Engineering)		Spring '08	City designated Bronze Level Bike and Walk Friendly Community. Complete Street resolution approved by City Council. Walk Bike Columbia Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan adopted. Bike corrals installed in business districts. Public-private partnership underway to install specially-designed bicycle racks. Bike Share program established 10/2018, growing as demand increases.
40	Institute a "safe routes to school" program.	Staff of the Safe routes to School Committee	Public Works (Traffic Engineering)		Ongoing	City has worked with Rosewood and Lyon Street Elementary Schools to secure funding for Safe Routes to School programs.
<u>Other Transportation-Related Measures</u>						
41	Develop and Enforce policy to limit idling of municipal vehicles. Explore anti-idling software for older vehicles.	General Service (Fleet Services), Public Works	All Depts	Develop Policy and Implement Citywide	August '07	Complete.
42	Continue studies to determine if further measures can be taken to improve traffic signal synchronization.	Public Works (Traffic Engineering)			Ongoing	Signals are synchronized. Staff evaluates frequently as requests are received.
43	Secure stable funding for Midlands-Regional-Transit-Authority The Comet.	City Management / City Council		Work with Counties on Issue	Ongoing	Complete with passage of Richland County penny sales tax referendum, November 2012; collection of which started May 2013.



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Recycling & Waste Reduction						
44	Enhance recycling programs in municipal facilities by offering incentives for departments/divisions and for solid waste customers.	Public Works (Solid Waste), General Services	All Depts	Identify locations and depts work together to implement	August '07 - Ongoing	Ongoing. Recycling bins placed in facilities as available. Employees educated via Green Team. Green@Work newsletter and other internal publications.
45	Conduct a public relations campaign to inform the public of the details of recycling programs and encourage recycling.	Public Works (Solid Waste), Public Information		Channel 2, newspaper	Ongoing	Ongoing. Extensive PR with launch of new recycling roll carts, summer 2015. Outreach includes app, website, social media, presentations and other forms of outreach. Also participate in partnerships as available.
46	Conduct a public relations campaign to inform citizens of the City's composting operation and encourage its use.	Public Works (Solid Waste), Public Information		Channel 2, newspaper	Ongoing	Included as part of CPAC initiatives and public outreach efforts
47	Utilize city compost material as much as possible.	Public Works (SW, Street, F&B) U&E (WM, WWM)	Parks and Rec	Channel 2, newspaper	Ongoing	Ongoing.
48	Evaluate use of compost material as stabilization material for embankments.	Public Works (Solid Waste and Street Div.)	Parks and Rec	Identify measures needed to make material more suitable for use by city staff	Complete	Not STA approved for this use. Other options being considered and evaluated for material use.
49	Establish internal system for reuse or recycling of construction and demolition materials.	Public Works (Solid Waste, Street), Utilities and Engineering	All Depts	Research Possibilities and Develop Plan	Ongoing	Options considered as feasible.
50	Implement solid waste reduction programs. Reduce use of paper through copying on both sides, minimize printing when information can be read on the Internet and require grant applicants to use both sides of the paper.	All Depts		Research Possibilities and Develop Plan	Oct '07 to present	Ongoing. Educating employees via Green Team, Green@Work newsletter and other internal communications.
51	Evaluate on-line grant applications for the city's grant programs (community promotions, accommodations, hospitality, community development block grant, etc.)	Community Development, OBO,	All Depts		Spring '08 - present	Underway. Also implemented online payment options for various City services.
52	Evaluate establishing methane recovery in local wastewater treatment plant and landfills.	Public Works, U&E		Ongoing		Project identified for recovery of Methane Gas generated at MWWTP
53	Implement Electronic Waste Recycling Program for Residential Customers (State Law limits the city's ability to provide electronic-waste services to commercial customers).	Public Works		Complete	Complete	Implemented. Collect and recycle approximately 85 tons of e-waste annually.
54	Utilize recycled items when possible.	All Depts / Finance (Purchasing)				Continuous Effort Citywide
55	Provide advice and information to commercial businesses and the public on recycling hazardous substances.	Public Works, Public Information		Develop Policy	Sept '08	Ongoing. The City also provides free (grant-funded containers) commercial recycling for 130 workplaces.
Added	Co-founded Lose the Baggage, an initiative that seeks to reduce the number of plastic bags used by Midlands residents by at least seven million bags a year.					Grant-based campaign completed.
56	Educate public about the requirements of the landscape ordinance	Development Services, Zoning, Public Works, Public Information			Ongoing	Ongoing
57	Modify landscape ordinance to allow planted green rooftops as an option to meet the landscape ordinance tree density factor requirement.	Development Services, Zoning, Public Works				Consideration of options being identified.
58	Review and modify planning and zoning codes to discourage sprawl and promote green space through such practices as infill development, traditional neighborhood development and mixed use neighborhood development	Development Services, Zoning				Consideration of options being identified.
59	Promote Forever Forest and Treasured Trees Programs	Public Works, Zoning, Development Services, Public Information				Included as part of CPAC initiatives and public outreach efforts
60	Perform Tree Survey and develop Five Year Plan for Maintenance and Replacements	Public Works				Got as far as preparing RFP; unable to go further due to funding limitations. Looking at internal resource options.
61	Institute programs to preserve open space	Development Services, Zoning	Public Works			Consideration given when applicable.
62	Continue to fund efforts to perform landscape maintenance and planting of shade trees	City Management, Public Works				Ongoing.
63	Encourage planting of new trees and shrubs strategically to shelter buildings and reduce fuel consumption needed to cool buildings.	Development Services, Zoning, Public Works (F&B)				Ongoing.



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64	Review existing parking lot ordinance and consider incentives for retrofitting existing parking lots. Encourage use of pervious paving and best practices to reduce runoff.	Development Services, Zoning, Public Works (F&B), U&E (Engr)	Staff evaluating possibilities, tied to Stormwater Permit.
65	Create a reward system for development projects that go beyond the tree protection requirements or in other ways demonstrate environmentally sensitive design.	Development Services, Zoning, Public Works (F&B)	Columbia Choice Awards currently available through City/Columbia Green partnership.
Additions			
NEW	Transition community power supply to 100% renewables by 2036, per Ready for 100.	Mayor's Office, CPAC, Public Works, Columbia Water	City Council set a goal to convert to 100% renewable power community-wide by 2036. CPAC reworked the resolution to create an action plan, and City Council passed it at the end of 2023.
NEW	Procurement of 25 MW of non-combustible renewable energy by 2025; an additional 25 MW by 2030 for a total of 50 KW; and 25 additional MW for a total of 75 MW by 2036.		In progress.
NEW	Evaluation and incorporation as appropriate of solar battery storage on any new, leased or retrofitted capital investment.		
NEW	Inclusion of 60-day multi-stakeholder public input a part of any new energy policy and/or investment with significant environmental impacts to adjacent properties and citizens.		
NEW	Creation of City staff cohort to coordinate all aspects of the Ready for 100 resolution and creation and maintenance of a public web-based dashboard which is updated at least monthly and production of an annual public report on the City's progress.		
NEW	Coordination of all city offices to develop, fund and implement a comprehensive plan for improving energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption.		
NEW	Completion of energy audits on 25% of city-owned investment and infrastructure by 2025; on 50% by 2028; and 100% by 2033 with recommended improvements and upgrades to be completed as soon as feasible after each audit is completed, but no later than 2036		