



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE  
BUSINESS PLAN

2023

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023  
TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL



# Letter from the Community Sustainability Manager



This past year marked several exciting milestones for the Office of Sustainability and Resilience. With full support from the Town Manager and Council, staff began implementing the Climate Action and Response Plan and celebrated the following accomplishments:

- Shared a detailed, 2-year climate action implementation plan with Council
- Hired Brennan Bouma as the new Sustainability Program Analyst
- Installed EV charging stations at Town Hall
- Converted all interior and exterior Library building lighting to LED
- Completed a fleet electrification analysis
- Completed an energy efficiency assessment of public housing
- Received over \$236k in grant funding for an EV refuse truck and EV charging stations
- Advanced 25 Council priority climate action projects

Our plan is ambitious, and much work remains. In FY 2023, we are prioritizing the following projects:

- Actively participate in Solarize the Triangle to increase rooftop solar installations
- Work with Duke Energy and other municipalities to identify opportunities for utility-scale solar
- Conduct an energy burden study and pilot a “gap funding weatherization program” for low-to-moderate income and historically marginalized community members
- Finish upgrading LED lighting at Cedar Falls turf fields
- Propose updates to the Council’s Green Building Policy
- Lead a joint project with UNC, Carrboro, Hillsborough, and Orange County to map the top locations for new public EV charging stations to maximize their use and equity
- Install public EV charging at the Eubanks Park & Ride lot and the Rosemary Parking Deck
- Develop a 5-year investment strategy for EV fleet electrification
- Begin piloting more electric vehicles at Public Works, Police and Town Hall
- Create a portfolio of model sustainability-based ordinances that can be considered for the LUMO update
- Expand smart city sensor technology within Chapel Hill
- Continue supporting the Leave the Leaves campaign
- Continue planting canopy trees
- Advance interactive web portal for climate action

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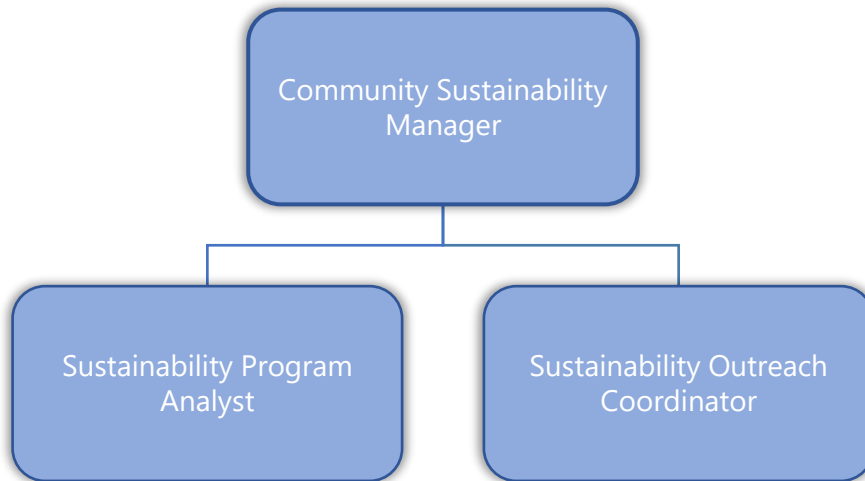
## Our office provides:

- Implementation of the Town’s Climate Action and Response Plan
  - Coordination across departments and within the community to advance organizational and Town-wide sustainability and resilience
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## Strategic Alignment

- The Office of Sustainability and Resilience addresses the [Environmental Stewardship](#) Strategic Goal of the Town of Chapel Hill.

## Our Office



DEPARTMENTAL  
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



## Business Alignment with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Framework

The table below identifies the key FY23 Initiatives, including a brief description and estimated deadline. For each initiative, we have also provided a description of how a DEI framework has or will be used.

Participate in Solarize the Triangle Program	Increase the number of solar installations on homes and businesses through the Solarize the Triangle program to lower carbon emissions and improve resiliency	Ongoing (2-year program)
DEI:	We have budgeted \$50k for FY23 to directly support historically marginalized and low-to-moderate income community members by creating cash-flow positive solar installations. We also see the opportunity to use a DEI lens within the workforce development subcommittee for this program.	
Develop Public EV Station Site Suitability Map	To lower carbon emissions and support a transition to EVs, create an interactive map that identifies areas of Chapel Hill that may be most suitable for public level 2 EV charging station installations	September 30, 2022
DEI:	The suitability analysis includes and is weighted towards black-owned and historically underutilized businesses—as well as subsidized housing and naturally occurring affordable housing—to encourage investment in new clean transportation resources in convenient locations near both historically marginalized and low-to-moderate income community members. We view this as part 1 of a two-step process, whereby conversations with property owners are needed to ultimately determine what locations are best for our community.	
Create Solar Investment Fact Sheet	Determine the size and scope of utility-scale solar investments to offset operational and community-level carbon emissions	September 30, 2022
DEI:	The fact sheet includes an estimate for the cost and land area that would be needed for a utility-scale solar installation to offset Town energy use. Should a project move forward, we will evaluate it using the racial equity policy/program scorecard.	
Install More Public EV Charging Stations	To lower carbon emissions and support a transition to EVs, install public EV charging at the Eubanks Park & Ride lot (2) and the Rosemary Parking Deck (20)	September 30, 2022 (Eubanks) June 30, 2023 (Rosemary)
DEI:	The EV charging spaces at the Eubanks Park and Ride lot will be dedicated to users of our Transit system and may one day support the Orange County Mobility on Demand Transportation Program by charging shuttle vehicles operating in our area. The EV charging spaces at the Rosemary Parking Deck will be available 24 hours a day. Both locations will offer ADA accessible charging spaces and routes.	

Conduct Energy Burden Study	Conduct an energy burden study to identify who in our community stands to gain the most from weatherization and solar programs	December 31, 2022
DEI:	The purpose of the study is to identify members of our community who are disproportionately impacted by their energy bills, where "energy burden" is defined as a household that spends more than 6% of their income on energy bills.	
Upgrade Lighting at Cedar Falls Park	Upgrade turf field lighting at Cedar Falls Park to LED to lower energy use and carbon emissions	December 31, 2022
DEI:	Staff gathered Census-based demographic data for park users, which provided an approximation of who may benefit from the project. Data: Black or African-American 522 (7%), American Indian or Alaska Native 11 (<1%), Asian 1,812 (24%), White 5,142 (67%), Two or more races 202 (3%), Some other race 16 (<1%), Total 7,705 (100%)	
Update Council's Green Building Framework	Propose updates to the Council's Green Building Framework to align with updated standards and to lower carbon emissions from new development	December 31, 2022
DEI:	The updates will prioritize energy performance standards and pathways that help to balance efficiency with affordability.	
Develop Options for Sustainable Land Development Code Elements	Create a portfolio of model sustainability-based ordinances that can be evaluated by staff and consultants as part of the LUMO update process	December 31, 2022
DEI:	We will evaluate each of the identified model ordinances using the racial equity policy/program scorecard to prioritize their importance and identify areas for improvement.	
Continue Promoting Leave the Leaves Program	Develop promotional materials and resources to increase awareness and participation in the Town's Leave the Leaves program	December 31, 2022
DEI:	We will explore new options for promoting the program beyond the Town's core communications channels.	
Continue Planting Canopy Trees	Plant 40+ canopy trees in areas that primarily benefit low-to-moderate income and historically marginalized community members	December 31, 2022
DEI:	We will attempt to work directly with low-to-moderate income and historically marginalized community members to identify tree planting locations that best serve these communities.	
Develop Fleet Electrification Plan	Develop a 5-year investment strategy for EV fleet electrification to lower carbon emissions	March 31, 2023



DEI:	We have not yet identified an opportunity and will continue working with the DEI Officer to see if one may exist	
Identify Utility-Scale Solar Investment Opportunities	Informed by the Solar Fact Sheet, work with utility and municipal partners to identify investment options in utility-scale solar that can lower operational and community-level carbon emissions.	June 30, 2023
DEI:	The fact sheet includes an estimate for the cost and land area that would be needed for a utility-scale solar installation to offset Town energy use. Should a project move forward, we will evaluate it using the racial equity policy/program scorecard.	
Pilot Gap Weatherization Program	Informed by the energy burden study and opportunities to expand existing weatherization programming in Orange County, pilot a program for low-to-moderate income and historically marginalized community members	June 30, 2023
DEI:	As supported by an energy burden study that identifies who in our community stands to gain the most from weatherization and solar programs, we will work with community housing and weatherization partners to offer energy efficiency and resiliency programming for low-to-moderate income and historically marginalized community members	
Continue Piloting Electric Vehicles	Begin piloting 4-8 more electric vehicles across Town departments and facility locations (e.g., Public Works, Parks & Rec, Police, Inspections)	June 30, 2023
DEI:	We have not yet identified an opportunity and will continue exploring with the DEI Officer	
Expand Early Warning System Sensor Technology	Install water sensors to begin piloting a new early warning system for flood events	June 30, 2023
DEI:	We will prioritize sensor locations that offer early warning system benefits to low-to-moderate income and historically marginalized community members, either directly or in connection to emergency services support	
Develop Interactive Web Portal for Climate Action	Develop new interactive web portal that communicates about and creates opportunities for climate action engagement	June 30, 2023
DEI:	We have not yet identified an opportunity and will continue exploring with the DEI Officer	