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May Climate Action Commission Meeting

Prince George's County Climate Action Plan

May 21, 2021

Agenda

- Approval of February 19 and April 30 Meeting Minutes

- Update From Commission Chair & Meeting Goals

- Project Timeline & Review of Evaluation Process

- Review and Walk-Through Work Groups' Priority "Recommendations"

- CAP Outline Revisions

- Work Group Chair Updates

- Community Outreach Update

- Next Steps

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Update From Commission Chair

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon - DoE

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Today's Goals

- Vote to have plan commit to a GHG Emissions Reduction of 50% reduction by 2030 (consistent with MWCOG Climate and Energy Action Plan)

- Consider voting on priority Recommendations that Cadmus will develop into blueprints to include in the CAP

- Consider revisions to the CAP Outline that address Commissioner concerns:
  - A clear vision statement- Prince George's County should lead the way and embrace the opportunities of the green economy.
  - Recommendations related to County operations & policies- clear recognition the County must make some systemic changes in order to meet our climate goals.
  - Clarify that while the CAP Recommendations will provide the greatest specificity on the near-term actions (3-5 years) it will be clear about the longer-term actions and how these steps (phase 1) lead to the next set of actions (phase 2).
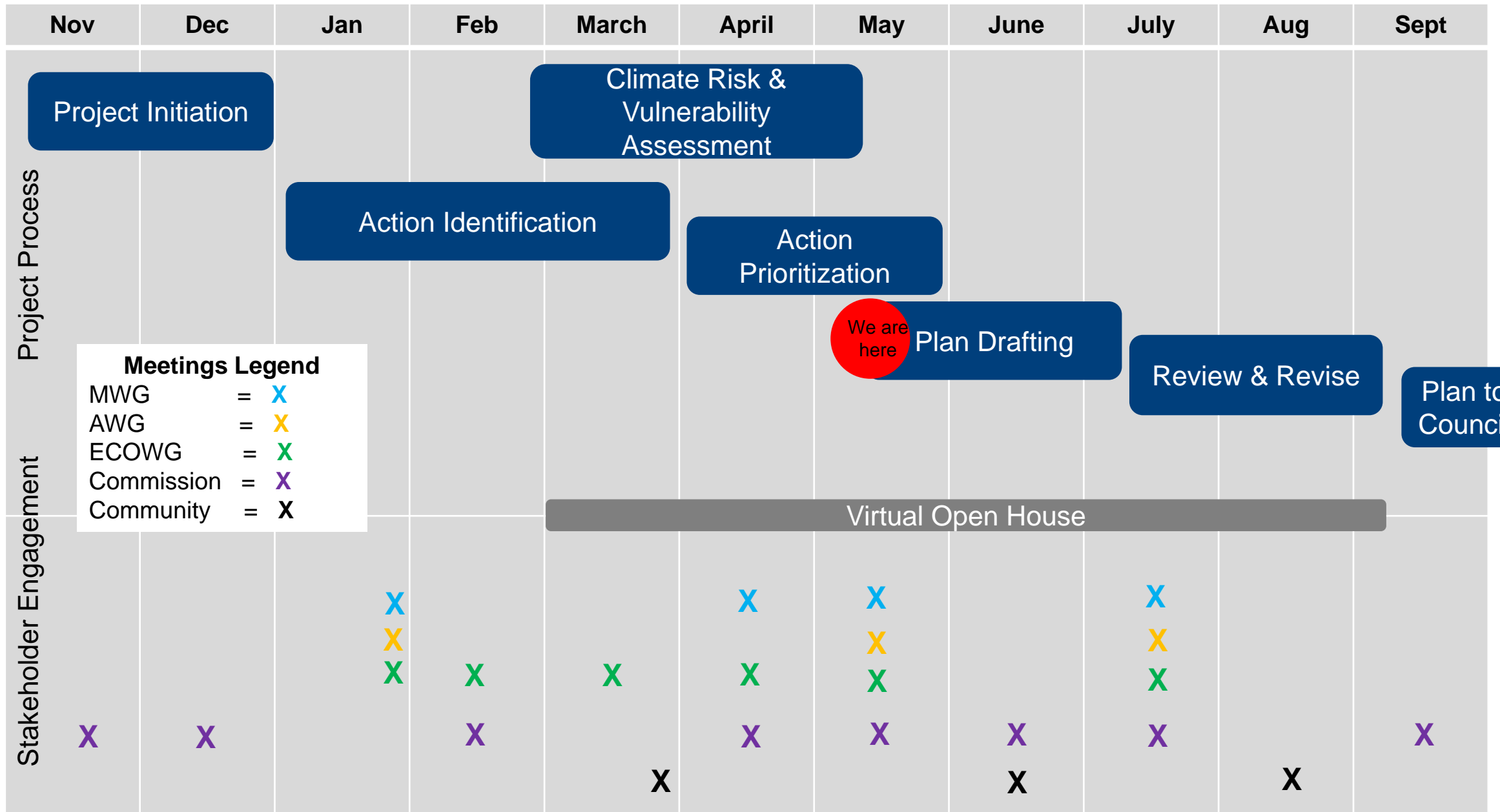
Why we need priority recommendations

- County recognizes that to achieve climate goals requires deep and systematic changes

- Plans that list 100+ priorities to occur over 10-20 years often aren't clear about how and where to start- we need a "Work Plan"

- Creating blueprints helps us to clearly identify the set of steps, the responsible entities and the milestones

- **Next step will add specificity-** refine and focus, set target dates, etc.
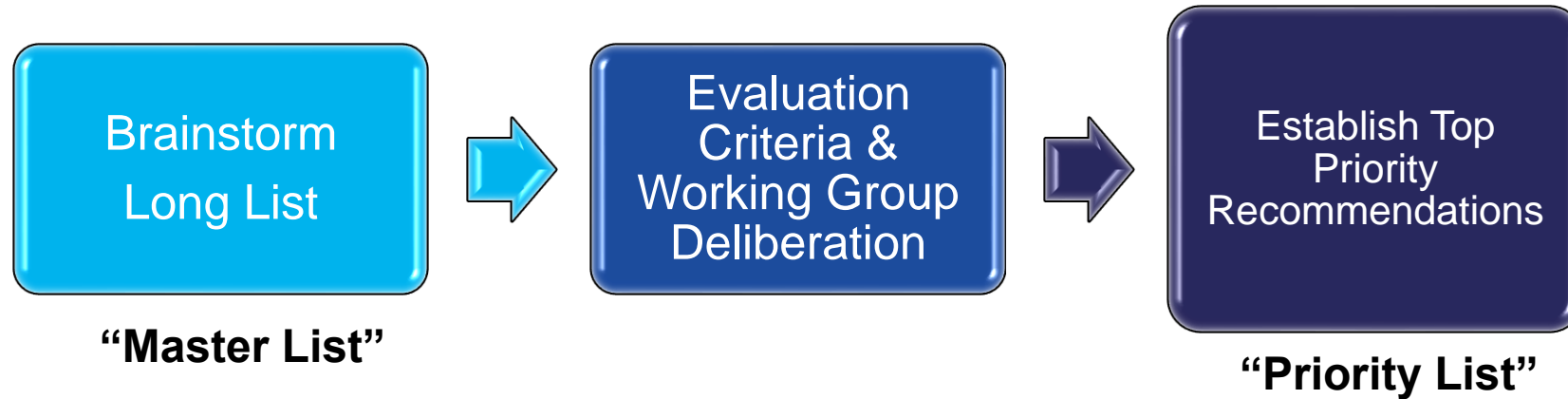
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Priority Recommendations

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, DoE & Deb Perry, Cadmus

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	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept

Project Process

- Project Initiation
- Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment
- Action Identification
- Action Prioritization
- We are here — Plan Drafting
- Review & Revise
- Plan to Council

Meetings Legend

MWG	=	X
AWG	=	X
ECOWG	=	X
Commission	=	X
Community	=	X

Stakeholder Engagement

Virtual Open House

Action Prioritization: How we got here

Brainstorm Long List	→	Evaluation Criteria & Working Group Deliberation	→	Establish Top Priority Recommendations
"Master List"				**"Priority List"**

Master List

- Provides a record of the complete list of actions brainstormed by Commissioners and community members

Evaluation Criteria & Working Group Deliberation

- Consultant scoring and Working Group deliberation narrowed the list

Priority List

- Recommendations on this list will be "blueprinted" in the final plan- **providing the County with clear next steps to be implemented in 3-5 years**

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1.1 RECOMMENDATION NAME

Description: Brief 2-3 sentence description of what is recommended

Criteria	Ranking	Description
Impact	MEDIUM	Insert description (GHG or adaptation impact)
Technical feasibility	HIGH	Insert description
Alignment with existing initiatives	MEDIUM	Insert description
Cost Effectiveness	LOW	Insert description

Within County Control

Low	Medium	High

Timeline:

0-3 years	3-8 years	8+ years

Does this action have any of the following co-benefits:

- **Climate resilience?**
- **Community Health?**
- **Quality of Life?**
- **Job Creation or other economic benefit?**

How can we measure the impact of this action?

What capacity and funding is necessary to enact this recommendation?
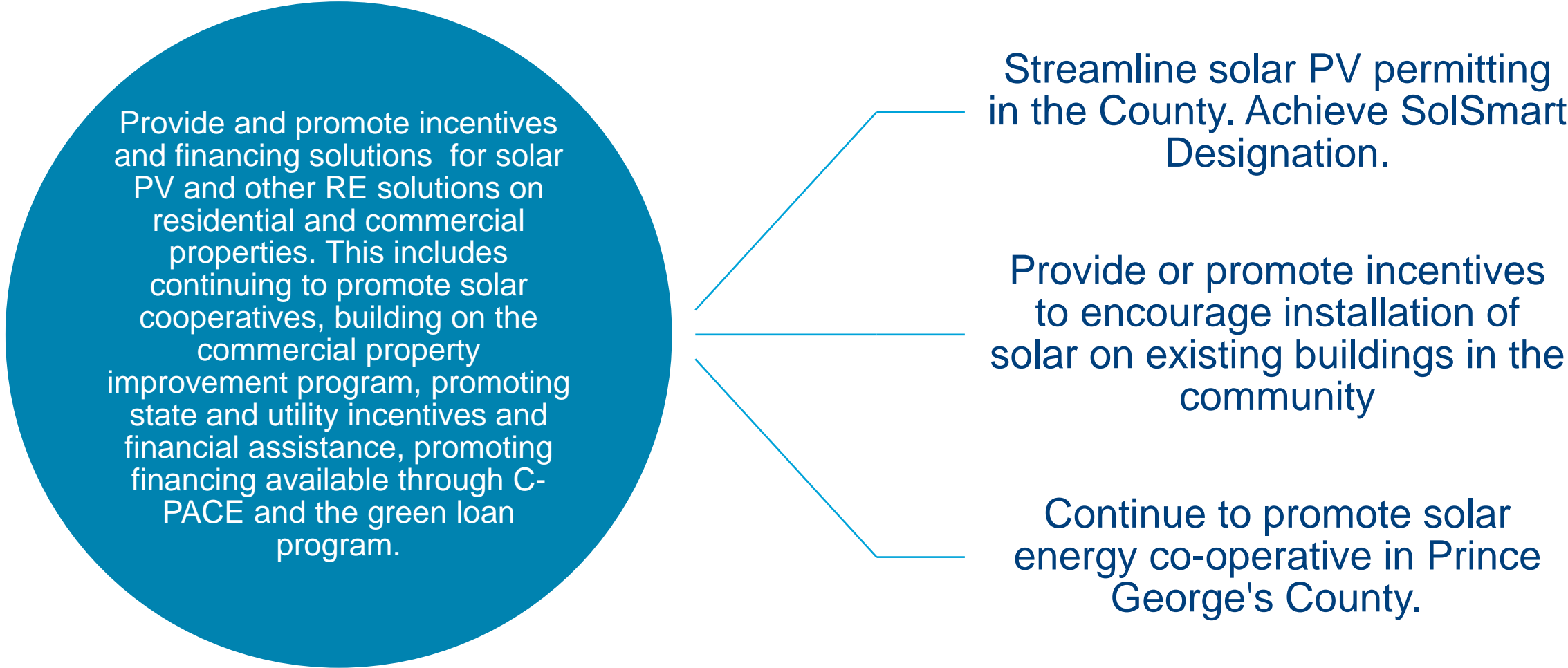
Implementation Steps:

Equity Considerations:

Name potential equity concerns; Name specific ways this Recommendations can be implemented to lead to equitable outcomes.

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Recommendations Have Been Consolidated

Working Groups have worked diligently to narrow down action lists, For example:

Provide and promote 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.

Streamline solar PV permitting in the County. Achieve SolSmart Designation.

Provide or promote incentives to encourage installation of solar on existing buildings in the community

Continue to promote solar energy co-operative in Prince George's County.

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Reminder: This is only Draft Language

During the blueprinting process, Action Recommendations will be tailored and targeted

Offer financing solutions for residential and commercial buildings to improve energy efficiency and facilitate clean energy purchases. Includes building on the commercial property improvement program, promoting state and utility incentives and financial assistance, and offering green bank or C-PACE programs.

Create a residential energy efficiency program **by 20XX** that provides and promotes affordable green financing solutions to **XXX** homeowners to improve energy efficiency and retrofit their homes **by 20XX year.**

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What DOES Technically Focusing & Targeting Recommendations MEAN?

- **Milestones**
- **Benchmarks**
- **Defining ownership and responsibility**
- **Technically identify the what and scope**

Some recommendation that did not make the Priority List , may be incorporated into a Priority Recommendation's "Blueprint" as a logical sub-action.

This will all happen <u>after</u> the CAC has supported a set of   priority Recommendations

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With greater technical focus, each Recommendations wording will also evolve to be more targeted and direct. For example:

Provide <u>may become</u> *Require.*

Establish <u>may become</u> *Establish and Implement By 2025.*
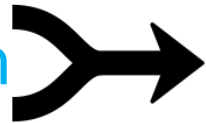
Revise code <u>may become</u> *Require revision to Prince George's County Code of Ordinance under Subtitle 32*

Promote a healthy food system supported by <u>may become</u> *Create a county-wide healthy food management program implementing a systemic and sustainable approach to the entire life cycle of food …*

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WORK GROUP PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

NOTE:

Mergers are indicated with

Links across adaptation & mitigation are indicated with

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THE OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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Changing <u>HOW</u> We Do Business

For our Climate Action Plan to have any chance for success, WE must fundamentally change how we do business.

"WE" means

GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY

- Operational Recommendations will not immediately have direct and measurable emission reduction and climate resiliency results but are necessary for CAP success.

- Operational changes must occur in tandem with implementing Adaption, Resiliency, and Mitigation measures.

- Systemic changes for long term implementation of Climate Action Plan

Changing <u>HOW</u> We Do Business

.

Operational Recommendation #1 : Commitment to Renewable Energy

Operational Recommendation #2 : Outreach and Education

Operational Recommendation #3: Land Use

Operational Recommendation #4: Lead By Example

Operational Recommendation #5: Building for Climate Action Planning Capacity

Operational Recommendation #1: Commitment to Renewable Energy:
Blueprint for how community, local government, must transition away from fossil fuel and towards renewable.

Operational Recommendation #2: Outreach and Education
Blueprint 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.

Operational Recommendation #3: Land Use
Strengthen the regulation of land use related to Smart Growth, Natural Resource Conservation, and Green Infrastructure.

Operational Recommendation #4: Lead by Example
Blueprint for transparency by track and measure Climate Action Impact 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 reflect climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

Operational Recommendation #5: Building for Climate Action Planning Capacity
Blueprint for climate staff and agency capacity to implement the CAP and continue the plan as a living document.

Electricity Generation

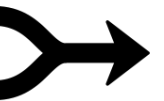**CAP will describe that to meet County's goals will require:**

- Transitioning the electricity sector to 100% renewable sources

- Accelerating the deployment of renewable energy

- Accelerating deployment of energy storage and microgrids (particularly for critical infrastructure)

Electricity Generation: Priority Recommendations for County

6. Continue to **install renewable energy systems on new and existing county-owned** buildings and facilities, including schools.

7. **Provide and promote 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. Promote and support development of **resilient energy systems**, including energy storage paired with solar PV and deployment of microgrids to support critical infrastructure.

Waste Management

CAP will describe that to meet County's goals will require:

- Reducing the amount of solid waste generated

- Expanding recycling & composting

- Mitigating the GHG emissions from existing landfill

Waste Management:
Priority Recommendations for County

9. Prioritize the strategic expansion of the food scraps curbside collection program so more households and high-use/waste generating businesses **have access to composting**.

Commercial and Residential Buildings

CAP will describe that to meet County's goals will require:

- Accelerating energy efficiency retrofits

- Electrification (reducing use of fossil fuels for heating)

- Adopting green building codes and moving toward net zero building construction

- Benchmarking: tracking building performance

Commercial and Residential Buildings: Priority Recommendations for County

10. 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.

11. Accelerate the number of homes and businesses implementing deep energy retrofits. Offer financing solutions, incentives and technical assistance (and 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.
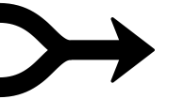
Carbon Sequestration

CAP will describe that to meet County's goals will require:

- Protecting forests and natural landscapes
- Expanding the tree canopy, including planting trees on public and private land

Carbon Sequestration
Priority Recommendations for County

12. 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. This action has both carbon sequestration and adaptation benefits.

Transportation

CAP will describe that to meet County's goals will require:

- Accelerated transition to electric vehicles which requires more charging infrastructure and deployment of EVs

- Focused work to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) including increasing transit ridership, walking, biking and carpooling and more transit-oriented development (TOD)

Transportation:
Priority Recommendations for County

13. Accelerate deployment of EV charging infrastructure on County properties

14. Support **EV charging infrastructure deployment on multifamily & commercial properties** (new and existing)

15. Support accelerated **deployment of EV vehicles** for the community, while also leading by example transitioning the county fleet, buses, etc.

16. **Reduce VMT through support for teleworking** & virtual convenings: County to lead by example through its telecommute policies

17. **Increase support for Activity Centers** by focusing capital investments, supporting transit, enhancing walkability and bikability, adopting strategies that bring housing and jobs to those centers in order to reduce VMT and stimulate economic development.
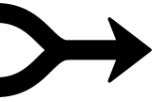
Adaptation & Resilience

CAP will describe that to meet County's goals will require:

- Support Capacity Building for Climate Resilience Planning
- Develop integrated approach to climate resilience planning
- Update plans to address climate risks
- Support public engagement, particularly vulnerable communities
- Support equitable secure energy access
- Establish resilience hubs
- Improve the resilience of critical infrastructure
- Implement measures to equitably address urban heat islands
- Enhance green infrastructure networks
- Implement measures to reduce flood risk

Adaptation & Resilience- Planning
Priority Recommendations for County

18. 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.

Adaptation & Resilience- Resilient Communities Priority Recommendations for County

19. Support and engage the public regarding the impacts of climate risks **by providing direct assistance (technical and financial) to potentially vulnerable populations.**

20. 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-term Recommendations (DPIE / DPW&T / DOE) and **improve access to information on County's flood risk / mitigation programs.**

21. **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.

22. Assess climate impacts on all **high-hazard dams**, including those currently deployed for flood control.

Adaptation & Resilience- Resilient Communities Priority Recommendations for County

23. 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. 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. 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.

Adaptation & Resilience- Resilient Infrastructure Priority Recommendations for County

26. **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.

27. **Promote a healthy food system** supported by low-carbon, conservationist agricultural practices.

Next step – **specificity**!

Create and implement an EV infrastructure Plan by 20XX ,to include _____ requirements for all commercial, government, and residential new construction projects and major renovations projects. EV Infrastructure permit requirements shall be in place no later than **Month Day, 20XX** and without grandfather provisions.

Create a county-wide healthy food management program implementing a systemic and sustainable approach to the entire life cycle of food from supporting local production, reducing wasted food, organic diversion, preservation of agricultural land, job creation, and combatting food insecurity.

Revised CAP Outline

Deb Perry – Cadmus Group

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Outline Revisions

- Vision statement
- County operations & policy recommendations

Outline Revisions

- Plan will start with a Vision section
  - Recognition that systemic change is underway as the world turns to building a green economy – cite increasing commitments and investments to a low carbon future.
  - Prince George's County should lead, shape and embrace this transition and be positioned to take full advantage of the economic opportunity of this transition.
  - Building infrastructure that doesn't prepare for this future (including fossil fuel infrastructure, inefficient buildings, building in floodprone areas, etc) creates future liabilities.
  - It is a top priority to make this transition in an equitable and inclusive way that provides all residents with the opportunities to shape and benefit from the green economy.

Outline revisions, contd

New Section - County Policy & Operational Changes:

To achieve the systemic impact that climate change requires will require the County change the way we do business. This includes:

- Land use policy
- How the county engages with fossil fuel infrastructure & investment
- Capital improvement/investment
- Lead by example
- Capacity Building

Work Group Chair Updates

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Community Outreach Update

Deb Perry – Cadmus Group
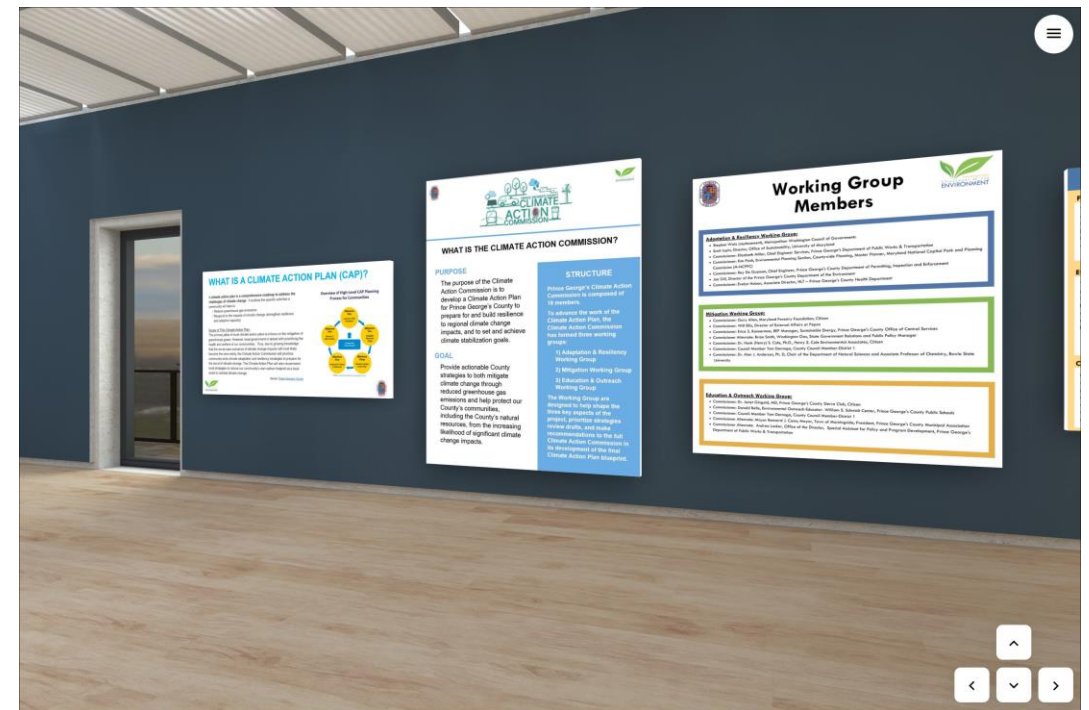
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Community Meeting #2: June 24 @ 6:30

- Goal: To engage with the community on the Recommendations – to get their ideas about how to successfully implement, who to engage, etc.

- Proposed Format:
  - Briefly share status of CAP Planning Process
  - Introduce the Recommendations and use break out format to have community engage in discussion on each Recommendation (likely 2 rounds)
  - Use polling to get feedback on gaps, concerns and priorities

Please Help Spread the Word!

- Use social media to share event flyer
  - Your organization and networks
  - Newsletters
  - Friends & Neighbors

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Virtual Open House

- The Virtual Open House will be update in the last week of May in preparation for the Community Meeting

- Please help encourage your friends, neighbors and networks to visit the Open House!

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Next Steps

- **Community Meeting** June 24th at 6:30 PM – Please save the date and share the invitation!

- **Sub-committees** forming to work on blueprints- stay tuned!

- **Next Commission Meeting:** July 23

Thank You!

Extra Slides

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Format for Recommendations

- Previously called "Blueprints" – these are the detailed descriptions of the 15-20 priority recommendations for the County

- Each Recommendation will be mapped against the evaluation criteria, will name specific next steps, identify a leader and key stakeholders, and discuss equity implications.

1.1 RECOMMENDATION NAME

Description: Brief 2-3 sentence description of what is recommended

Criteria	Ranking	Description
Impact	MEDIUM	Insert description
Technical feasibility	HIGH	Insert description
Alignment with existing initiatives	MEDIUM	Insert description
Cost Effectiveness	LOW	Insert description

Within County Control

Low	Medium	High

Timeline:

0-3 years	3-8 years	8+ years

Implementation Steps:
1. Name step 1
2. Name step 2
3. Name step 3

Key Stakeholders:
This Recommendation will be led by:
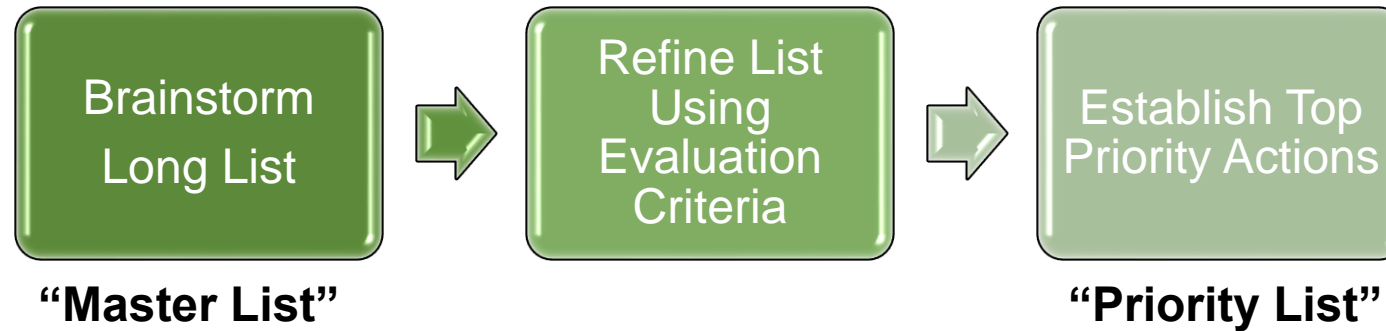
Implementation of this Recommendation should include:

Helpful Resources:

Equity Considerations:

Name potential equity concerns;
Name specific ways this
Recommendations can be
implemented to lead to equitable
outcomes.

Resource	Organization	Description

Using Evaluation Criteria to Establish Priority Actions

Brainstorm Long List	→	Refine List Using Evaluation Criteria	→	Establish Top Priority Actions
"Master List"				**"Priority List"**

Master List

- Provides a record of the complete list of actions brainstormed by Commissioners and community members

Refine Using Evaluation Criteria

- Use Evaluation Criteria scoring (see following slides) to refine Master List

Priority List

- Provides a manageable number of actions that have a direct and feasible path towards implementation

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Initial List of Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Assessment Context
Sphere of Control	*Is implementation of the action directly in the sphere of control of the County and its constituents or does it rely on regional/state/federal implementation?*
Capacity/Funding to enact	*Does an internal or external champion have the capacity to adequately implement and maintain the action? Are financial resources existing or readily available to support the implementation of the action by the County, residents, and businesses?*
Alignment with Existing Initiatives	*Does the action align with existing or ongoing initiatives, plans, strategies, or programs at the County/regional/State level?*
Cost-Effectiveness	*Does implementation of the action pay for itself and offer a positive return on investment for the County, residents, and businesses?*

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Initial List of Evaluation Criteria cont.

Criteria	Assessment Context
Timeframe	*Is the action implementable within the next 10 years?*
Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Impact	*Does the action have potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the County?*
Adaptation Impact	*What is the severity, immediacy, and current exposure to the hazards addressed by the action?*
Emissions Mitigation and Resiliency Synergies	*Does this action advance both emissions mitigation and climate resiliency goals?*

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Initial List of Evaluation Criteria cont.

Criteria	Assessment Context
Currently Available Technology/ "Feasible"	*Does the action rely on technologies that are currently available and cost competitive with conventional technologies?*
Economic Development and Job Creation Impact	*Does the action have potential to stimulate economic growth and create local jobs?*
Community Health and Quality of Life	*Does the action have the potential to improve community health (air quality, water quality, etc.) and overall quality of life (public transit, open space, walkability, etc.) for residents, particularly those in vulnerable communities?*
Ability to Measure Progress Using Defined Metrics	*Is it possible to accurately track implementation progress of the action using defined tracking metrics?*

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