



# Strategic Energy Action Plan – SEAP+

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 12, 2025**



## SEAP+ Council Meeting - Purpose

### Council Priority Alignment

#### ◀ 2040 Plan and Unified Development Ordinance

- Includes **Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP+)**

#### ◀ Well-Managed Government

- Ensuring the city demonstrates inclusivity through a **commitment to and focusing on equity and safeguarding the environment** leadership in financial stewardship; reviewing best practices; and maintaining consistency in approach with an emphasis on effective and efficient services that are accountable, customer focused, and inclusive.

**Purpose:** Review the SEAP+ Update for potential adoption



## SEAP+ Key Takeaways

### 01

SEAP+ is an update to the 2018 Strategic Energy Action Plan, building on successes and striving to make additional progress toward updated ambitious, but realistic goals.

### 02

SEAP+ works in connection with other city initiatives, projects, programs and departments including Charlotte Water and Solid Waste Services.

### 03

SEAP+ has been developed through an engagement process receiving overall internal and public support.



## SEAP+ Council Communication

### Previous Council Communication

- ◀ **May, 2025:** TPD Council Committee
- ◀ **April, 2025:** TPD Council Committee
- ◀ **March, 2025:** TPD Council Committee
- ◀ **February, 2025:** TPD Council Committee
- ◀ **October, 2024:** TPD Council Committee
- ◀ **January, 2024:** TPD Council Committee

### Future Council Action

- ◀ **May 27, 2025: Full Council** – Proposed SEAP+ adoption





## Background



## Our Mission

Charlotte will **lead as a global city** by continuously improving, protecting, and preserving **the environment, its community, and economy**, while ensuring **equity and resilience** - for today's and future generations.





## Our Path

### 2018 - Foundation

- Resolution
- SEAP

### 2019-2023 - Implementation

- Policy
- Projects
- Programs

### 2024-2025 – Alignment + Update

- Latest Science
- New Citywide Plans
- Community priorities as reflected by City Council

## Lead by Example

- ✓ 30 on-site solar systems + secured an off-site 80MW solar project
- ✓ Only 19% to go to hit zero carbon building goal
- ✓ NAFA 6<sup>th</sup> greenest fleet with 330 city-owned EV charging ports
- ✓ Broke ground on All-Electric Fire House & Electric Fire Truck
- ✓ Sustainable Facilities Policy Update Won Local Gov Impact Award





## Focus on Equity & Engagement

GreenPrints: Blueprints for achieving environmental justice



High Energy Use Assistance Pilot  
With Duke Energy

AMP: Affordable Mobility Platform  
with Carolina Carshare



Renewable Energy Efficiency Workforce (RENEW)



**SEAP+**  
**Development**

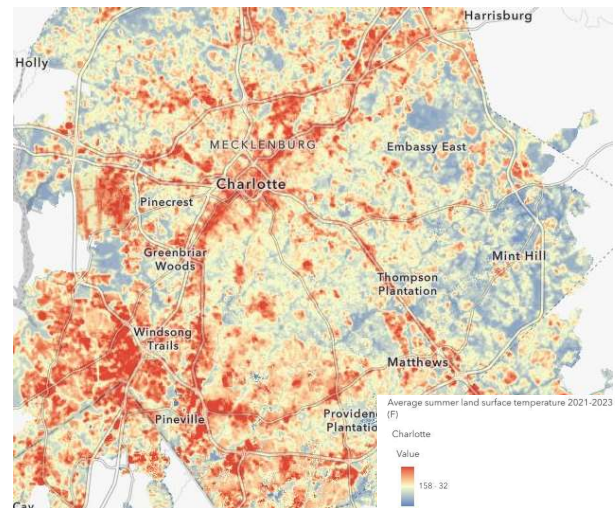




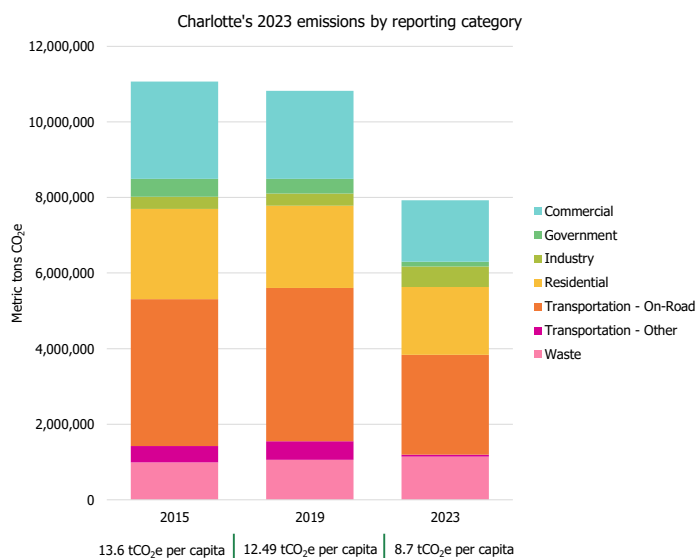
## Climate Risk Assessment

### Extreme Heat

- Rated the climate risk of the highest concern in the SEAP+ public survey.
- Charlotte has seen a **300% increase** in extreme heat days which poses health risks, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Low-income neighborhoods are hit hardest by extreme heat due to less greenery and more concrete



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory



### Key points:

- On a trajectory to meet the city's current low carbon city 2050 goal.
- Aligned to the Global Protocol for Community-Scale emissions.
- Per Capita GHG Emissions reduced by 30% 2019-2023.



## Charlotte's draft updated goals in the SEAP+

**Charlotte is proposing to update three of its goals and set one new goal.** These goals are either 'community-wide' and apply to the city as a whole, or 'municipal' and apply only to local government operations.

### Community-wide goals



Charlotte will reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 72% (to 3.56 mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per capita) by 2035 and reach net-zero by 2050.



600 MW of distributed renewable energy generation will be installed in Charlotte by 2035.

### Municipal goals



The city will source 100% of its electricity use in municipal buildings from zero carbon sources by 2030 and reach net zero emissions in municipal buildings by 2050.



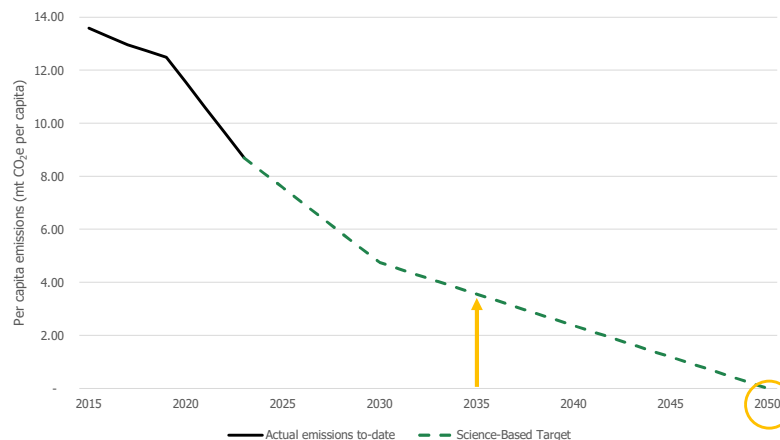
The city will reach net zero emissions in its light-duty fleet by 2035 and in its entire fleet by 2050.



## Charlotte's community-wide science-based target

**Revised Aspirational Goal:**  
Charlotte will reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 72% (to 3.56 mt CO<sub>2</sub>e per capita) by 2035 and reach net-zero by 2050.

Charlotte's community-wide science-based target pathway

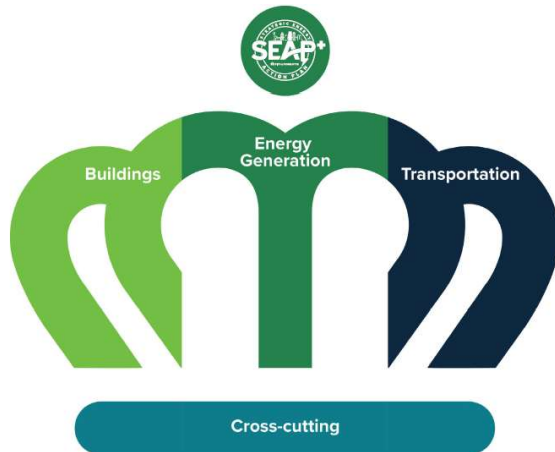


#### Key points

- Developed following leading guidance from CDP, GCOM and others; calculated using the recommended One Planet City Challenge methodology.
- Includes all city-wide emissions from stationary energy, transportation, and waste.
- 'Science-based' because it follows a trajectory to keep the world within 1.5°C (2.7°F) by 2050.
- Per-capita goal allows the city to expand and grow while still reducing per-capita emissions.
- \*New\* Interim goal – 72% reductions by 2035 – accounts for Charlotte's 'fair share'. This uses a 2018 baseline year.



## Focus Areas



### Focus Areas:

- **Buildings** – with a focus on what we can do to build and power our residential and commercial buildings,
- **Energy Generation** – with a focus on where our energy comes from,
- **Transportation** – with a focus on supporting the SMP's mode share goal and access to sustainable modes of transportation,

**\*New:** All three focus areas will have **workforce development** embedded

- **\*New: Cross-Cutting** – with a focus on strategies that are essential to achieving our goals, but do not fall directly within the other focus areas, such as **tree canopy support, waste diversion and reduction, climate resiliency**, etc.

## Buildings Draft Strategies & Actions

### Existing:

1.4 Continue to demonstrate leadership by seeking opportunities to innovate towards net zero buildings.



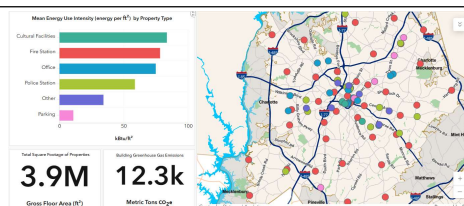
### New:

2.3 Expand weatherization and efficiency programs for residential buildings



### New:

3.3 Expand and incentivize the voluntary Power Down the Crown benchmarking program



## Expand and Incentivize the Voluntary Power Down the Crown Benchmarking Program

### The Sustainability Award is a new category for CBJ's 2025 Best Places to Work Program



**CHIEF REGINALD JOHNSON**  
Charlotte Fire Department

"Sustainability is an important part of how we serve and protect our community. Our newest all-electric fire station reflects that commitment, reducing emissions while maintaining operational excellence.

As part of the city's Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP), we're proud to support initiatives like Power Down the Crown, which helps city departments and businesses alike improve energy performance through data and benchmarking. These efforts not only reduce our environmental impact, but also make our operations more resilient, efficient, and cost-effective."

**-Chief Reginald Johnson**  
Charlotte Fire Department

"Grubb Properties is proud to be a founding member of the Power Down the Crown initiative. Greater transparency in energy benchmarking and collaboration with other industry leaders has been inspirational for us in our journey to build more sustainable essential housing spaces, one apartment at a time."

**-Andy Zou**  
Sustainability Associate, Grubb Properties

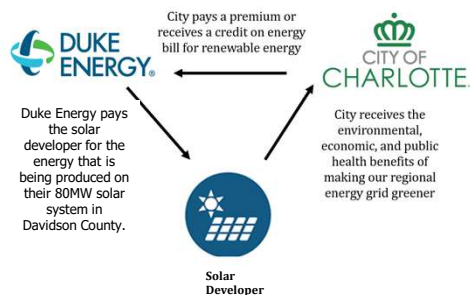
"Partnering with the City of Charlotte and SEAP through Power Down the Crown reflects Caldwell's commitment to environmental stewardship and justice. Our faith teaches that justice is what love looks like in public, and together, we're advancing a long-term vision for a more sustainable and equitable future."

**-Mark Logan**  
Earth Care Committee, Caldwell Presbyterian

## Energy Generation Draft Strategies & Actions

### Existing:

4.5 Continue working with Duke Energy, the NC Utilities Commission, and other regional partners to support, and advocate for, the timely transition to net-zero carbon electricity generation.



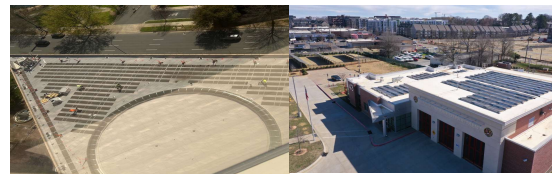
### New:

6.5 Provide and support training and events on alternative technologies.



### New:

5.1 Incentivize residential and commercial solar.



## Transportation Draft Strategies & Actions

### Existing:

9.2 Support development of a clean fueling plan for Charlotte, including different ways of fueling (e.g. EV charging, renewable fuel sources, etc.).



### New:

8.1 Support driving collaborative implementation of the SMP and the intersection, of sustainability, mobility, and other critical areas like affordable housing..

CHARLOTTE  
**STRATEGIC**  
**MOBILITY PLAN**

### New:

9.6 Expand efforts to provide car, scooter, and bike share options communitywide.




## Carolina Car Share

### Ribbon cutting at Peppertree Apartments

***"This project is a perfect example of what it looks like when we align our values with action,"***  
*said Mayor Vi Lyles.*

***"This is more than a transportation solution, it's a housing stability solution," said Rebecca Hefner, director of the Housing & Neighborhood Services Department. "When families have access to dependable, affordable mobility, they're better positioned to succeed, and our communities grow stronger."***  
*said Rebecca Hefner, Director, Housing and Neighborhood Services*

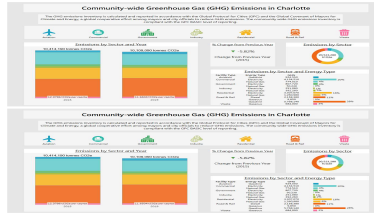




## Cross-Cutting Draft Strategies & Actions

### New:

10.2 Continue to build out SEAP Dashboards to measure and communicate progress of SEAP+



### New:

11.2 Reduce waste generation and increase waste diverted from landfills (e.g. recycling, composting, reusing etc.) across the community.



### New:

14.3 Develop a promotion and awareness campaign around the eco-benefits of planted areas to combat urban heat (e.g. urban meadows, pollinator gardens, trees, etc.).



### New:

11.3 Implement new technologies, as appropriate, to aid with education and waste diversion (e.g. cameras on collection vehicles to identify non-acceptable materials).



## Additional Considerations



## Engaging in Key Programs & Initiatives

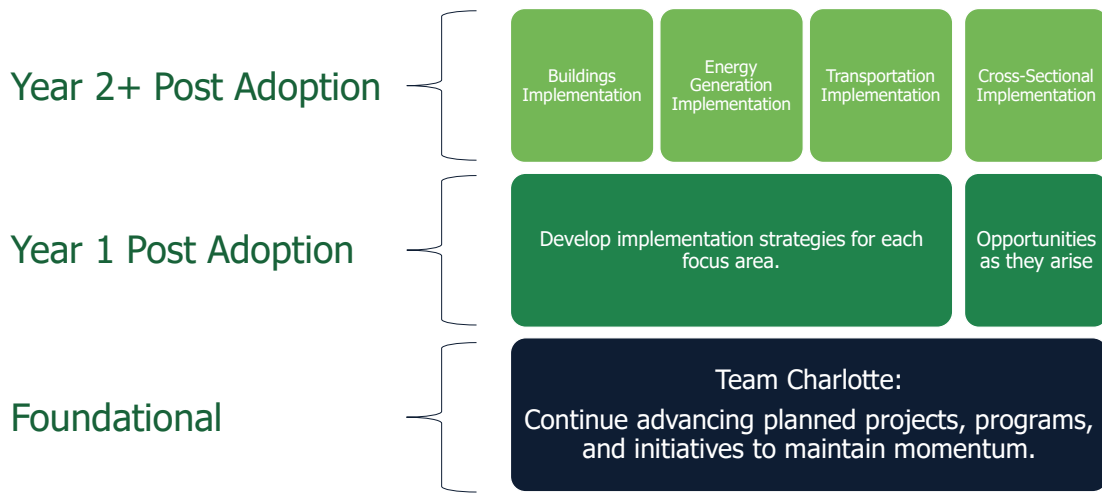
The **SEAP+** is a cross organizational plan connected to other strategies, plans, initiatives, and departmental work.

- Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan
  - *Community Area Plans*
  - *Tree Canopy Action Plan*
- Corridors of Opportunity
  - *GreenPrints*
- Workforce Development Strategic Plan
  - *Renewable Energy and Efficiency Workforce (RENEW)*



## Implementing the SEAP+

The **SEAP+** is a long-term plan connected to other strategies, plans, initiatives, and departmental work. Implementation is an on-going and iterative process.







## Feedback



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – PUBLIC FEEDBACK

**SEAP+ Question:**  
What is the single most impactful action you believe the City of Charlotte could take to accelerate progress towards its Municipal Goals?

**Public Responses:**

- Promoting the retrofitting of older homes to help reduce power bills
- Hybrid or battery vehicles should be the absolute priority for take home vehicles where the employee lives outside the city limits
- Make transportation system more pedestrian-friendly
- Protect green areas in Charlotte



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – PUBLIC FEEDBACK

**SEAP+ Question:**  
What actions can YOU take to accelerate progress towards the Community-wide Goals?

### Public Responses:

- Promote EVs to our community
- Ride the light rail
- Continue to plant trees in partnership with TCPP and CM Storm Water Services
- Share more education on benefits
- Reduce energy usage
- Understand recycling rules better
- More advocacy

City of Charlotte



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – PUBLIC FEEDBACK

**SEAP+ Public Review Feedback**

Public comments received support the overall intention of the SEAP+ and the strategies highlighted to reach the city's goals.

City of Charlotte

# Appreciation



## SEAP+ Appreciation

 **SEAP+ Technical Advisory Committee**

 **SEAP+ Ambassadors**

 **SEAP Operations Team**

 **Community Area Planning Team**



Transportation, Planning,  
and Development  
Council Committee



*The SEAP+ is also dedicated to the memory of our neighbor, friend, and advocate, John Holmes III, who was instrumental in developing the plan through amplifying and spotlighting the voices of Charlotte's residents. His passion for the city and his character inspire us to continue the work of making Charlotte a more sustainable city for all.*

## ▶▶ Next Steps



### Next Steps

---



#### May 2025

- Vote on SEAP+ Adoption May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



#### June 2025

- June 2025, begin action steps to develop implementation strategies and widely share information about SEAP+ throughout our community.





*Thank You!*