

Environmental Action Plan Phase 1



City Council Presentation

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Department of Public Works

Department of Community Development

EPSAC Members

- Deirdre Longacher Smeltzer, Chair
- Doug Hendren, Vice Chair
- Richard Baugh, City Council Representative
- Deb Fitzgerald, School Board Representative
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- Community Development
- Public Works
- Public Utilities
- Public Transportation
- Parks Recreation
- City Manager's Office
- Harrisonburg City Public Schools
- Harrisonburg Electric Commission

Background

- Late 2016 – EPSAC members appointed by City Council
- October 2018 – EPSAC presented outline of an EAP and requested City staff lead writing the EAP
 - The development the EAP Phase 1 has been a collaborative effort between members of EPSAC and City staff.

EAP Phases

- The development of the EAP will be completed in three phases:
 - Phase 1: describes goals, co-benefits, and strategies, and identifies tasks and responsible parties.
 - Phase 2: inventory (gather data and study) municipal and community activities to develop baselines.
 - Phase 3: consider baseline data and learned information to establish targets (ex. percentage reduction or increase by a specific year).

EAP Phase 1

- The EAP is a guide for city leaders, staff, and community members to implement sustainability visions and principles in Harrisonburg.
- 3 Guiding Goals
- 7 Focus Areas

Plan Layout

Focus Areas



- Goal Statements
+Where Are We Now?
- Strategies
- Tasks

Focus Area 2 - Land Use and Green Space

The City of Harrisonburg aims to regulate and guide the use of land and green spaces to, among other things, promote positive social and environmental outcomes and promote the mindful use of resources.

Co-Benefits

Sound land use and green space planning can reduce public service infrastructure and service costs, improve watershed integrity and carbon sequestration, reduce car dependency and transportation costs, support wildlife habitat and ecosystem health, preserve rural and scenic landscapes, and reduce electricity used from air conditioning through increased shade cover from tree canopy.

Goal 1 – Modernize and Establish Enduring Land Use and Development Patterns

The way a city plans for new development, redevelopment, and infill development including the location and distribution of different land uses, buildings, housing, transportation facilities, utilities, and green space resources can have a tremendous effect on the day-to-day quality of life of its community members.

Where Are We Now?

The City of Harrisonburg regulates land use and development patterns through its Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM).

Initiative	Summary	Status
Comprehensive Update of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances	This task has been initiated by the Department of Planning & Community Development. As of late-2019, city staff is preparing a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant support for this project. This project is anticipated to take 18-36 months to complete.	In-progress

Strategy 1.1 – Continue to Evaluate the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance and Make Updates as Needed

The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance regulate how land is used and how land is developed. These ordinances are the primary tools in implementing the vision, goals, and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and other city plans. Failure to keep the ordinances up to date and relevant can unintentionally prohibit the implementation of city plans.

Task	Responsible Party
Continue Comprehensive Update the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances project.	Community Development
Continue to Review the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances at least once annually and amend, as needed.	Community Development

Guiding Goals

Guiding Goal 1: Continue to Advance Sustainability Initiatives in the Community

Guiding Goal 2: Reduce Overall, Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Intensity of Greenhouse Gases from Different Activities

Guiding Goal 3: Continue to Grow and Deepen Local Partnerships in Order to Further the Implementation of the Environmental Action Plan

Focus Area 1

Buildings And Energy

Goal 1: Encourage Producers of Electricity Supplied to the City to Include More Carbon Free Sources

Goal 2: Understand the City's Energy Use

Goal 3: Decrease Energy Use Intensity of Municipal Buildings

Goal 4: Decrease Energy Use Intensity of City School Buildings

Goal 5: Optimize Energy Use of Water Operations

Goal 6: Encourage Efforts to Improve Energy Efficiency and Increase Renewable Energy and Sustainable Energy Sources

Focus Area 2

Land Use and Green Space

Goal 1: Modernize and Establish Enduring Land Use and Development Patterns

Goal 2: Maintain and Create a Well-Distributed and Accessible Parks and Recreation System

Goal 3: Maintain and Increase a Healthy Tree Canopy

Goal 4: Evaluate Opportunities for Underutilized Public and Private Lands and Consider Opportunities to Rehabilitate and Create New Natural Habitats

Focus Area 3

Regional Food Systems

Goal 1: Promote Accessibility to Local, Healthy, and Sustainably Produced Food

Goal 2: Support Sustainable Food Production, Selection, Distribution, and Disposal Practices

Focus Area 4

Sustainable Transportation

Goal 1: Develop an Alternative Fuel Fleet Program

Goal 2: Implement Sustainability Practices into Municipal Fleet Management

Goal 3: Increase Public Transit Ridership

Goal 4: Traffic Signal Optimization and Timing Improvements

Goal 5: Support Alternative and Low-Carbon Forms of Transportation and Improved Fuel Efficiency

Goal 6: Continue to Coordinate Land Use Planning and Regulations with Transportation Planning

Focus Area 5

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Goal 1: Support and Promote the Reduction of Refuse in Landfills

Goal 2: Encourage and Promote Zero Waste and the Reuse of Usable Items

Goal 3: Support and Promote Recycling

Goal 4: Support and Promote Healthy and Safe Solid Waste Disposal

Focus Area 6

Water Resources

Goal 1: Protect and Secure Drinking Water Sources

Goal 2: Implement the Water Use and Water Loss Management Plans

Goal 3: Protect Stream Health through Sanitary Sewer Management

Goal 4: Protect and Enhance Water Quality of Surface Water and Stormwater Runoff

Community Engagement

- June 5, 2019 – Draft EAP Open House
 - Approx. 50 community members attended
- June 5-26, 2019 – Public comment period. Over 40 community members and community groups submitted written comments



Next Steps

- EAP Phases
 - Phase 1: describes goals, co-benefits, and strategies, and identifies tasks and responsible parties.
 - Phase 2: inventory municipal and community activities to develop baselines.
 - Phase 3: consider baseline data and learned information to establish targets.
- Phase 2 and Phase 3 will likely occur at the same time as different baselines and targets may take longer than others to determine.
- Additional updates to the EAP may also occur.
- The updated EAP will be presented to City Council for consideration to adopt.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the EAP Phase 1

The EPSAC recommends approval of the EAP Phase 1 (12-1)