

Suggestion #1:

Query to Harrisonburg City Council: Given that the EAP states "Encourage producers of electricity supplied to the City to include more carbon free sources" (Goal 1 of Focus Area 1), City staff and members of EPSAC seek guidance from the City Council regarding the appropriate means and communication channels for pursuing this goal. Who should take the lead on this goal? Which mechanisms should be used to communicate with electricity producers? Should the communications that pursue this goal be vetted first by the City Council?

Suggestion #2:

FA1 Goal 1

I. Encourage HEC and its supplier Dominion Energy to find opportunities for including more carbon free sources of electricity. Responsible Parties = City Council, Community Organizations, Individuals

II. Partner with local government advocacy organizations (Virginia Municipal League, Virginia First Cities) and with other communities across Virginia to advocate for policies that expand on renewable energy generation and deployment of distributed energy infrastructure. Responsible Parties = City Council, Private Businesses, Community Organizations, Individuals.

EPSAC isn't listed as a Responsible Party for either task. Some EPSAC members belong to Community Organizations and can and do engage with them as individuals. Some organizations have explored how to "bring more carbon free sources of electricity" and have offered recommendations to both HEC and city officials. It is unclear (1) what role and actions, if any, City Council wants EPSAC to play with respect to this strategy and the associated tasks, (2) whether, how, and to what extent EPSAC should engage with the listed Responsible Parties, and (3) what advisory input to Council would be useful. EPSAC respectfully requests clarification and guidance from City Council.

Community Goals

The EAP's Guiding Goals are:

- 1. Continue to Advance Sustainability Initiatives in the Community*
- 2. Reduce Overall, Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Intensity of Greenhouse Gases Emitted from Different Activities*
- 3. Continue to Grow and Deepen Local Partnerships in Order to Further the Implementation of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP)*

The Community Goals are:

- Promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at a speed and scale consistent with current science.*
- Ensuring the transition to lower carbon emissions is effective, affordable, equitable, and inclusive and to prioritize actions that increase financial stability in Harrisonburg households and businesses.*
- Promoting adoption of clean, renewable energy.*
- Prioritizing actions that have intersectional benefits with other environmental and city priorities.*
- Promoting public engagement in greenhouse gas reduction emission planning, including increasing public education, awareness and involvement.*
- Promoting local climate resiliency and adaptation measures*

As Community Members committed to assisting city staff and City Council in implementing the EAP, EPSAC is well positioned to participate in helping to develop strategies, tasks, and responsible parties for these goals. It is unclear, however, whether and to what extent City Council wishes EPSAC to participate in furthering these goals in partnership with staff. Given the many challenges of implementing the EAP and the urgency of doing so, and with a desire to assist city staff in its EAP implementation efforts particularly those to engage and assist community members, EPSAC respectfully requests clarification and guidance from City Council.