



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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To: Ande Banks, Interim City Manager  
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works  
Date: June 14, 2022  
Re: Environmental Action Plan Amendment – Focus Area 4 Sustainable Transportation

### **Summary:**

Consider adopting an amendment to the City's Environmental Action Plan (EAP), which focuses on Focus Area 4 Sustainable Transportation.

### **Background:**

City staff and Environmental Performance Standards Advisory Committee (EPSAC) have worked to further the EAP as originally planned. The current EAP is a phase 1 document, which outlines focus areas, goals, and strategies that the City should consider in furthering our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increase overall sustainability. Phase 2 of the document is planned to develop measurable metrics by which the City could gauge overall improvement in the respective focus area, as well as it would develop a baseline for each focus area. Phase 3 of the document is planned to establish targets for improvement in order to meet the overall goals of the EAP to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase overall sustainability.

Focus Area 4 Sustainable Transportation was chosen as the first focus area for this group to develop phase 2 and phase 3. This amendment as presented established measurable metrics within the Sustainable Transportation focus area, as well as establishes improvement targets for 2025, 2030, 2035, and 2040. These targets were established in coordination with EPSAC, and subject matter experts located in the Public Works Department and the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation. These targets are considered stretching goals, as they will require increased City resources in order to achieve, but through our development of these targets, the group feels these increases are necessary in order to achieve the overall goals of the EAP.

The attached summary table details the nine (9) goal areas that were measured, baselined, and had targets set. However, some goals did not have targets established as they are operational in nature and a viable measurable metric was not determined. For these goals staff will continue to operate these areas as we currently do and we feel that improvements will be seen. As detailed the goals list 2016 measurement, which is being used as the baseline year for the EAP, the 2019 measurement, anticipated responsible sector, and the improvement targets.

Upon acceptance of this first amendment to the EAP, City Staff and EPSAC will work to develop similar measurements and targets for the five (5) remaining focus areas. It is currently planned that Focus Area 5 Waste Reduction and Recycling.

**Key Issues:**

N/A

**Environmental Impact:**

The presented goals, measurements, and targets will provide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and improve the City's sustainability.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There are anticipated fiscal impacts from the adoption of these targets, however, specific details will be developed following adoption and is planned to be incorporated into future departmental budget requests.

**Prior Actions:**

In January of 2021 City Council adopted Phase 1 of the Environmental Action Plan.

**Alternatives:**

City Staff and EPSAC will endeavor to make adjustments based on City Council feedback.

**Community Engagement:**

The EAP was presented publicly and had a public comment period. The measurements and targets presented were shared with EPSAC their most recent public meeting.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends City Council adopting this proposed amendment to the Environmental Action Plan.

**Attachments:**

1. Presentation
2. Amended Focus Area 4
3. Measurement and Target Summary

**Review:**