

Environmental Performance Standards Advisory Committee (EPSAC) Recommendations (Votes) and Comments on the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Phase 1

EPSAC Member	Recommendation to Adopt Phase 1 EAP	Additional Comments
Deirdre Longacher Smeltzer, Chair	Yes	None.
Doug Hendren, Vice Chair	No	<p>I cannot fully endorse the EAP at this time, for two reasons: It does not actively engage with electricity generation, the primary source of the City's carbon emissions. Second, the cautious language employed lacks the force and commitment required to succeed in our mission. I look at this as a doctor attending a critically ill patient. To survive what is coming, we must aim higher and with conviction.</p> <p>The EAP represents a great deal of thoughtful work. I am confident we can remedy these shortcomings as we move forward.</p>
Richard Baugh, Council Representative	Yes	None.
Deb Fitzgerald, School Board Representative	Yes	None.

Tom Benevento	Yes	<p>I vote "yes" to endorse the EAP as a first step in moving forward toward a more sustainable future for Harrisonburg.</p> <p>I appreciate everyone's hard work create this plan. However, because I believe the plan should reflect the scientifically endorsed urgency of climate change, I have three key concerns that I wish to record.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Of greatest concern, a Renewable Energy Focus Area is missing. The plan lacks recommendations for the rapid expansion of renewable energy into our grid. 2. Sustainable Transportation Focus Area 4 should more explicitly prioritize healthy, affordable, and nonpolluting transportation such as walking and bicycling. 3. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Focus Area 5 should prioritize zero-waste production as a long-term goal.
Daniel Downey	Yes	None.
Jeffrey Heie	Yes	<p>I endorse the Environmental Action Plan, recognizing that the plan has three phases and the current draft represents the first phase. Additionally, in my capacity as a member of EPSAC, I reserve the right and responsibility to advise the Harrisonburg City Council on essential issues that were omitted from the plan, in particular, electricity generation. Given that electricity generation is likely responsible for approximately half of the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the City, I feel that not addressing this issue makes the EAP incomplete. Harrisonburg benefits from a city-owned utility that operates according to city code. Therefore, electricity generation must be within the scope of topics that may be addressed by members of EPSAC. While I understand the reasons that electricity generation was excluded from the EAP, internal dynamics within City staff should not prevent citizen-members of EPSAC from doing our job which is "to provide guidance and recommendations to City Council in the establishment of environmental performance standards.</p>

Leons Kabongo	Yes	None.
Benjamin Meredith	Yes	None.
Emani Morse	Yes	None.
Mikaela Schmitt-Harsh	Yes	Yes, I endorse the plan. In many ways, I think the plan moves the city toward a more sustainable future. That said, I also support the concerns raised by others directed toward the absence of a renewable energy focus area. Efforts to improve energy efficiency and promote the expansion of renewable energy should be clearly supported in the EAP.
Bradley Striebig	Yes	None.
Johann Zimmerman	Yes	[However], I am unsatisfied with the word “consider” that was inserted into some of the titles of the strategies in the Building Section. The items that the members of EPSAC proposed are items to take action on, which were duly researched from national codes and the experience of other cities and institutions. For the city to just consider these items instead of taking action on them makes no environmental or economic sense.