

Harrisonburg Community Sustainability Town Hall

Goals and Vision

What is the goal of the project?

- a. *To raise awareness within the Harrisonburg community regarding the City of Harrisonburg's Environmental Action Plan and Community Goals, and to share how the City is working to meet that Plan and Goals.*
- b. *Engage the Harrisonburg community in sharing/learning about current and emerging climate resiliency challenges and the local actions already in process by local stakeholders to fit in with the Community Goals.*
- c. *To encourage and energize stakeholders toward improvement in their actions to address climate change, along with future on-going reporting of their measured improvements/success stories.*

What is the end product?

Outputs

- a. Small group responses- what each community goals means to them, community/group perspective (challenges, easy/medium/hard actions that could be taken, etc.), what does the city look like when these goals are achieved, climate resiliency challenges
- b. List of needs within the community to jump start their goals (not a list of needs from the City- even if the City can use this list for future programs/projects)
- c. Collection of community data and success stories around measured improvements

Outcomes

- a. New EPSAC members
- b. Connections/Partnerships between community groups
- c. Increased enthusiasm for action in our community
- d. Shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities for achieving the community goals in the current context of today
- e. To recognize/celebrate together how our local actions in Harrisonburg have improved environmental action

Who is the target audience?

The public includes, but is not limited to:

• Harrisonburg residents • Harrisonburg businesses • Civic and community organizations • Educational institutions • Faith organizations • Homeowners and renters • Property managers and landlords • Low-income households and public housing residents • Recent immigrant communities and non-English speakers • Harrisonburg customers, tourists, and visitors • HEC • Sustainability organizations and advocates

EPSAC members to be ambassadors to the community to use their relationships and connections to help convene for this meeting.

How does the town hall effort fit into or add to the current EAP and Community Goals?

*This is promotion in action/movement towards Community Goals. This effort specifically meets #5 of the community goals: **5. Promote public engagement in GHG reduction emission planning including increasing public education, awareness, and involvement.** The result should be awareness of the EAP and Community Goals and movement from stakeholders to demonstrate how they assist the City/Community in meeting these EAP Goals and Community Goals.*

Why is this more important for staff to work on than other tasks?

- a. This is equally important to many other tasks as this is one of the most direct methods available to-date for engaging the broader community in meeting the EAP and Community Goals. This has the potential for producing synergies in the community which may help the City meet its goals.*
- b. Opportunity to hear new/emerging ideas, challenges, and opportunities*

For the time and effort, what value are we adding to the EAP?

- a. Elevating the goals of the EAP beyond municipal endeavors to reach/engage/impact the community at large.*
- b. Community buy-in*