Attachment 2: Memorandum from Chief Administrative Officer Tara Jackson regarding the Climate Action Implementation Task Force (9/30/2022)

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 30, 2022

TO: Department/Agency Heads

FROM: Tara H. Jackson
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Prince George's County Climate Action Implementation Task Force

In Spring 2020, the Prince George's County Council unanimously passed a Council Resolution (CR-007-2020) mandating a Climate Action Commission to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP). In January 2022, the Department of the Environment, in its role as support staff to the Commission, submitted the official CAP with the Supplemental Public Comments Report to the County Council and County Executive. The CAP was subsequently adopted by the Council (CR-032-2022) and the County Executive issued Executive Order 05-2022 setting out an implantation plan affecting all County agencies and County-Funded Operations. The County Climate Action Plan is available at: https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3748/Climate-Change.

Executive Order 05-2022 established the Climate Action Implementation Task Force, which is charged with developing strategies and actions to prioritize Climate Solutions in County Government Operations and to incorporate environmental justice and climate equity policy into decision making across the County Government's portfolio. Further, the Task Force shall deliver a preliminary report to the County Executive before the development of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, recommending implementation strategies across the County Government.

The Task Force will include participation by the following Executive Branch and quasi-government agencies (in addition to other government partners and external entities):

- Department of the Environment (Chair)
- Office of Central Services (Vice-Chair)
- Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement
- Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Office of Emergency Management
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Housing Authority
- Redevelopment Authority
- Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development
- Economic Development Corporation
- Health Department
- FSC First
- Office of Management and Budget (*added after issuance of Executive Order)

The first full Task Force meeting will occur on **October 26, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** In advance of that meeting, the Department of the Environment will convene two preliminary meetings of the directors of the agencies listed above:

- **October 13, 2022 (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)** - Introduction to environmental justice and equity tools that can be utilized as you are looking at your portfolio and identifying opportunities to provide services to those most impacted by historical and contemporary inequities- this will be held on zoom from 12pm-1pm on October 13, 2022.
- **October 19, 2022 (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)** - Overview of the climate plan (particularly the "County Operations" and "Lead by Example" portions) to prepare agency leaders to participate in the planning discussion at the first Task Force meeting,

Invitations to each of these meetings will be sent directly by Director Andrea Crooms or her designee.

On behalf of the County Executive, I want to thank each of you and your agencies in advance for your thoughtful and meaningful participation in this important endeavor. Any questions about the CAP or the operation of the Task Force may be directed to Director Crooms (Chair) and Director Jonathan Butler (Vice-Chair).

cc: Joy A. Russell, Chief of Staff
Floyd E. Holt, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Infrastructure, Technology, Environment
Jared M. McCarthy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Operations
Angie Rodgers, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development
Barry L. Stanton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety & Homeland Security
John E. Erzen, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Jose C. Sousa, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development
Denise N. Robinson, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development

Attachments:
Executive Order 05-2022
County Council Resolution CR-032-2022 "Adoption of the Climate Action Plan"

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of the County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NO. 5 - 2022
May 6, 2022

IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE ACTION
URGENT ACTION
DIRECTIVE FOR ALL COUNTY AGENCIES AND COUNTY FUNDED OPERATIONS TO INITIATE AND SUPPORT IMMEDIATE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released February 22, 2022, through world-wide scientific observation and quantifications, states that climate change is escalating much faster than previous IPCC report climate models predicted; current global warming is human induced from the burning of fossil fuels and natural resource depletion; irreversible global warming of 1.2 Celsius above preindustrial has already occurred; surpassing 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) of global warming will catastrophically endanger the well-being of all people and the earth's ecosystems which humans rely for survival; and

WHEREAS, the scientific community warns of a closing window of opportunity to reduce the current trajectory of climate change and thereby avoid potentially catastrophic climate impacts, which would wreak havoc on human lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change impacts, if not addressed today, will be the greatest, not during our lifetimes, but in the lives of our children and grandchildren. As the stewards of our County for the next generations, we must act now to ensure the County and world they inherit is better than the one we have now, for if we do not, we are placing on their shoulders a burden that is ours to carry; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has signed an executive order that directs the federal government to leverage its scale and procurement power to reduce carbon emissions, invest in American clean energy industries and manufacturing and create, clean, healthy, and resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Climate Action Commission's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan provides a blueprint for the State's achievement of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 with significant positive job growth and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through regional interjurisdictional coordination of policies and programs affecting air quality, land use, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate and Energy Action Plan has a goal that COG member governments develop local climate action plans; and

WHERAS, CR-07-2020 the County Council of Prince George's County established the Climate Action Commission to urgently develop a community-wide Draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County that was completed and delivered to the Prince George's County Council by January 14, 2022, following a 30-day public comment period from October 1-December 1, 2021, for further action and consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Climate Action Plan transmitted to the County Council in January 2022 by that Commission recommends a County-wide emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and a County-wide goal of achieving carbon-neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the MWCOG, in board resolution R45-2020, adopted emissions reduction targets of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in 2021 adopted the goal, in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2030, to reduce GHG emissions state-wide by 50% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in April 2022 adopted the Climate Solutions Now Act, to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions state-wide by 2045; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 506 of the Charter for Prince George's County, Maryland, provides for the County Executive to appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall assist in the consideration of County policies and programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, on this 6th day of May 2022, that I, Angela D Alsobrooks, County Executive for Prince George's County Maryland, do hereby order the following:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that all Prince George's County Agencies and County Funded Operations shall adopt an emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and a County-wide goal of achieving carbon-neutrality by 2045; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that there shall be a commitment to prioritizing Residential and Community resilience to the unprecedented weather events caused by Climate Change, such as flooding, extreme heat, and drought; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Prince George's County Climate Action Implementation Task Force and Prince George's County Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice are hereby established for the purpose of developing strategies and actions to achieve these emissions and resilience goals guided by the Draft Climate Action Plan and Supplemental Public Comments, the Environmental Justice Commission Report of 2019, and the continuously evolving best practices across the State and region; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Climate Action Implementation Task Force shall develop strategies and actions to prioritize Climate Solutions in County Government Operations and to incorporate environmental justice and climate equity policy into decision making across the County Government's portfolio; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Climate Action Implementation Task Force shall deliver a preliminary report to the County Executive, before the development of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, recommending implementation strategies for Climate Action across the County Government that shall include a prioritization of these strategies as well as costs and proposed funding mechanisms; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Department of Environment shall incorporate the recommendations of the Draft Climate Action Plan and Supplemental Public Comments and these strategies and actions into a final Climate Action Implementation Plan for Prince George's County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Department of the Environment, with public input, will assess program efficacy and community needs and will update the County's Climate Action Implementation Plan at regular intervals; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Climate Action Implementation Task Force shall be composed of members as follows:

1. The Director of the Department of the Environment or their designee, who shall serve as Chair;
2. The Director of the Office of Central Services (OCS) or their designee, who shall serve as Vice-Chair;
3. The Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) or their designee;
4. The Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation or their designee;
5. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management or their designee;

6. The Director of Housing and Community Development or their designee;
7. The Director of the Housing Authority or their designee;
8. The Director of the Redevelopment Authority or their designee;
9. The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development or their designee;
10. The President of the Economic Development Corporation or their designee;
11. The Health Officer or their designee;
12. The Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission or their designee;
13. The Director of the Prince George's County Planning Department or their designee;
14. The Director Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation or their designee;
15. A representative designated by the Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools;
16. A representative designated by the County Council;
17. A representative designated by the Prince George's County Municipal Association;
18. A representative designated by the Resident Advisory Group; and
19. A representative from FSC First; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the that the Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice, shall be staffed by the Department of Environment and convene meetings at least quarterly to ensure public participation and engagement in the implementation of Climate Action Strategies; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice shall consist of at least twelve but no more than fifty residents, and will be comprised of a cross-section of Prince George's County community members that will be selected to represent the geographic, age, economic, gender and racial diversity of the County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Executive Order shall remain in effect from the date of issuance until May 5, 2023, unless amended, extended, superseded or terminated; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if any provisions of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2022 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-032-2022

Proposed by Council Members Dernoga, Burroughs, and Ivey

Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Burroughs, Ivey, Streeter, Harrison, Taveras

Co-Sponsors Council Members Hawkins, Medlock, Glaros, and Turner

Date of Introduction April 26, 2022

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Adoption of the Climate Action Plan

For the purpose of adopting the Prince George's County Climate Action Commission's (the "Commission") draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County and supplementary comments report; establishing a County-wide emissions reduction goal; acknowledging and supporting Executive Order No. 5-2022 creating an Executive Task Force to develop, execute, measure, and update the County's Climate Policy on an ongoing basis; providing for status briefings to the County Council on at least an annual basis[.]; providing for the termination of this Resolution; providing for the effective date of this Resolution; and generally regarding climate.

WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, have increased greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere which is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released February 22, 2022, through world-wide scientific observation and quantifications, states that climate change is escalating much faster than previous IPCC report climate models predicted; current global warming is human induced from the burning of fossil fuels and natural resource depletion; irreversible global warming of 1.2 C above preindustrial has already occurred; surpassing 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) of global warming will catastrophically endanger the well-being of all people and the earth's ecosystems which humans rely for survival; and

WHEREAS, the scientific community warns of a closing window of opportunity to reduce the current trajectory of climate change and thereby avoid potentially catastrophic climate impacts

which would wreak havoc on human lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, and threats to global food production, water supplies and human health, all of which have an adverse economic impact on our communities and local government, with a disproportionate impact on population at risk; and

WHEREAS, a majority of our County's current residents, at some point in their lifetime, will most likely experience a life altering climate change event from unprecedented weather patterns and storms, and a significant portion of current residents will be severely impacted by global warming and will endure unparalleled social unrest, famine, wars, mass extinction, food and water wars, massive economic and government failures, with some parts of the world rendered uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, state, regional, and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emissions reduction targets and programs for adaptation and resiliency to changing climate conditions; and

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through regional interjurisdictional coordination of policies and programs affecting air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, Prince George's County and the Washington DC region face a future with increased frequency of high-heat days, extreme precipitation events, and severe storms; and

WHEREAS, structural inequities in our society have contributed to disparities in health outcomes and economic status and adverse impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect populations that are already disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, transitioning away from the use of fossil fuels will decrease exposure to air pollutants that contribute to health disparities; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to renewable energy, building retrofits, electrification of vehicles, modernization of the electrical grid, and other new technologies and practices to address climate change will provide economic opportunities for Prince George's County residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the County Council adopted Resolution No. CR-24-2008 establishing

emissions reduction targets to reduce County geographical emissions to 80% below 2008 levels by 2050, develop a greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions inventory, and participate in the MWCOG's Regional Climate Change Program in creating a regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, resolving to take immediate steps to identify regional climate change impacts, and to draft and implement a County Climate Action Plan to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, in Board Resolution R45-2020, the MWCOG adopted emissions reduction targets of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Climate Action Commission's 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan provides a blueprint for the State's achievement of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 with significant positive job growth and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the County Council established in CR-07-2020 a Climate Action Commission ("Commission"), staffed by the Department of Environment to develop a [Draft] draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County, updating the County's greenhouse gas emission inventory, and establishing targets for future reductions, and identifying a plan of action for adoption and implementation of climate adaptation and resiliency measures; and

WHEREAS, over the course of preparing the draft Climate Action Plan, the Commission engaged over 4,500 residents to develop actionable strategies to prepare for and mitigate the effects of Climate Change, including holding a thirty (30) day public comment period on a draft Climate Action Plan; and

WHERAS, the Climate Action Commission transmitted to the Council its draft Climate Action Plan and a Supplementary Comments Report by January 14, 2022, for further action and consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Public School System Climate Change Action Plan was approved by the Board of Education on April 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's draft Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County presents 26 priority recommendations [and details strategies] to reduce emissions and prepare the County for a climate resilient future; and[.]

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council recognizes that the draft Climate Action Plan (including the Supplementary Comments Report) is a dynamic plan the policies and recommendations of which will be revised to stay current with rapidly changing events, and certain

policies of which will have to be implemented by legislation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in April 2022 adopted the Climate Solutions Now Act, to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions state-wide by 2045.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Prince George's County hereby adopts the Commission's draft Climate Action Plan, and directs the Department of Environment to be the lead in the implementation of the twenty-six (26) priority recommendations in conjunction with other County agencies, the County Council and other government entities as well as additional non-government stakeholders for inclusion in the final Climate Action Implementation Plan[:]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports the actions of the County Executive, who by Executive Order No.5-2022 has established a Climate Action Implementation Task Force and Resident Advisory Group to develop strategies and actions to prioritize Climate Solutions in County Government Operations and to incorporate environmental justice and climate equity policy into decision making across the County Government's portfolio; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports the actions of the County Executive who by Executive Order No. 5-2022 directed the Department if the Environment to develop a final Climate Action Implementation Plan for Prince George's County recommending implementation strategies for Climate Action across the County Government that shall include a prioritization of these strategies as well as costs and proposed funding mechanisms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prince George's County hereby adopts a County-wide emissions reduction goal of 50% below 2005 levels by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prince George's County hereby adopts a County-wide goal of achieving carbon-neutrality by 2045[50]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Climate Action Plan is part of an ongoing process of change and that the Department of the Environment, with public input, will assess program efficacy and community needs and will [regularly] update the County's Climate Action Plan at regular intervals, and provide status briefings and report to the County Council on at least an annual basis[.]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prince George's County Council expresses its appreciation to the members of the Climate Action Commission, to the staff and consultants that assisted, and to the members of the public that participated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the date it becomes law and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2023, and with no other action required by the County Council, this Resolution shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Adopted this 12th day of July, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive