

Big Moves

of the Charleston County's CAP

April 2024

Draft



Big Move

N°

Action

1

Affordable and Resilient Buildings



- 1 All new municipal buildings are net zero.
- 2 Develop a high-performance building performance standard (BPS) for new residential and commercial buildings.
- 3 Apply zoning incentives for any housing type that is net zero emissions, with additional bonuses for net-zero, affordable housing projects.
- 4 Incorporate low-carbon considerations into planning approvals.
- 5 Incentivize developers to prioritize heat pumps, heat pump hot water tanks, and induction cooking for new developments.
- 6 Advocate for the State to update its building code to enhance energy performance and ensure safe buildings.
- 7 Offer educational sessions to builders on net-zero design principles and funding opportunities.
- 8 All existing municipal buildings to undergo energy audit and deep retrofits.
- 9 Initiate voluntary energy use disclosure and benchmarking for large non-residential and multi-family buildings.
- 10 Initiate a Home Energy Score program.
- 11 Scale-up the Sustainability Institute's weatherization project for low-income households.
- 12 Coordinate incentives and provide technical support that focus on low-income households to purchase and install heat pumps and highly efficient appliances.
- 13 Identify systemic barriers and opportunities to scale-up rooftop solar photovoltaic installations in Charleston County.
- 14 Advocate for the State to enable and activate residential and commercial PACE programs in South Carolina.
- 15 Create a pre-approved contractors program, include training and a public registry.
- 16 Deliver a program for business owners to retrofit older commercial buildings.
- 17 Develop a concierge service for IRA funding with the objective to maximize IRA investments in Charleston County.
- 18 Offer energy savings workshops for residents and businesses.

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2

Sustainable and Inclusive Transportation



19

Revise zoning codes to promote mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented development.

20

Limit new developments outside Urban Growth Boundary to affordable housing and net zero emissions projects.

21

Apply Complete Communities policies for priority low-income, disadvantaged communities (LIDC) neighborhoods.

22

Expand and improve active transportation infrastructure. Focus investments in LIDC neighborhoods and major activity centers.

23

Collaborate with BCDCOG and local municipalities to expand the regional public transit networks.

24

Develop a Multi-Modal, Safe Streets for All Transportation Plan.

25

Launch outreach and education campaigns to encourage walking, bicycling, and riding transit.

26

Develop a last-mile delivery task force to identify innovative transportation solutions for businesses.

27

Expand e-bike/bike share programs in LIDC neighborhoods.

28

Right-size and fully decarbonize the municipal fleet and equipment.

29

Provide Cars 4 All incentives to help lower-income consumers replace their old higher-polluting vehicles with newer and cleaner transportation.

30

Increase DC Fast Charging stations in LIDC neighborhoods.

31

Incorporate standards in land development regulations to include Climate Positive Design solutions for parking lots and major developments.

32

Expand on existing smart commute programs.

33

Coordinate with BCDCOG on strategies to electrify the transit fleet.

34

Develop a green fleets coalition for businesses.

35

Develop a system of electric ferries between the islands in the lowlands.

36

Advocate for Port of Charleston to provide renewable shore power services.

37

Ensure the airport can support electric and low-carbon fuel options for clean aviation.

38

Advocate for rail companies to switch to battery-electric or other clean fuel-powered locomotives.

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3

Clean Energy for All



- 39 Continue to deploy solar PV projects for municipal facilities.
- 40 Partner with utilities serving the Charleston County area on green energy options.
- 41 Engage in the Public Service Commission hearings to request more renewables, storage, and clean electricity on the grid.
- 42 Develop group buy programs for solar and energy storage systems.
- 43 Develop community solar garden programs for LIDC neighborhoods.
- 44 Participate in the effort to develop a business hub for offshore wind as part of the economic development strategy in Charleston County.
- 45 Support an energy storage program including vehicle to grid for residential and commercial vehicles, and energy.
- 46 Create a workforce development program to build local capacity and expertise for renewable energy installations.

4

Innovative Industrial and Agricultural Sectors



- 47 Create a sustainable agriculture task force to identify actions to support local farms and reduce GHG emissions.
- 48 Expand the Greenbelt Program to include the benefits of carbon sequestration in natural spaces.
- 49 Provide incentives and technical assistance to local landowners and organizations to undertake ecological restoration projects, supporting carbon sequestration.
- 50 Incorporate decarbonisation of industry as a key strategy for regional economic development.

5

Circular Economy



- 51 Conduct a waste audit every five years to identify trends in waste generation.
- 52 Identify and close gaps in the current composting programs and evaluate the opportunity for a biodigester as an alternative to compost.
- 53 Develop a circular economy strategy that focuses on the ideas of zero landfill waste and using waste as a resource.