



STATION 1

INSTRUCTIONS

→ PLACE a black pin where you live





STATION 2 INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN?

A **SUSTAINABILITY PLAN** is a roadmap that helps Wake Forest protect what we value today—our clean water, natural areas, safe neighborhoods, and vibrant community—while making sure future generations can enjoy those same benefits. It outlines practical steps the Town and its residents can take to use resources wisely, reduce risks, and support a healthy, thriving community for everyone.

The Plan engages key topics that affect daily life in Wake Forest, including energy use, transportation, land use, water quality, natural ecosystems, waste, and community resilience. It combines technical analysis with community input to understand where we are today, what challenges and opportunities lie ahead, and what actions make the biggest positive impact.

By setting a shared vision, clear goals, and actionable strategies, the Sustainability Plan will guide Town decisions, investments, and policies so Wake Forest can grow responsibly, strengthen its resilience to climate and weather impacts, and enhance quality of life for all residents—now and in the future.

TIMELINE AND STEPS

Fall 2025–WINTER

Fall 2025–SPRING 2026

SPRING 2026–Fall 2026

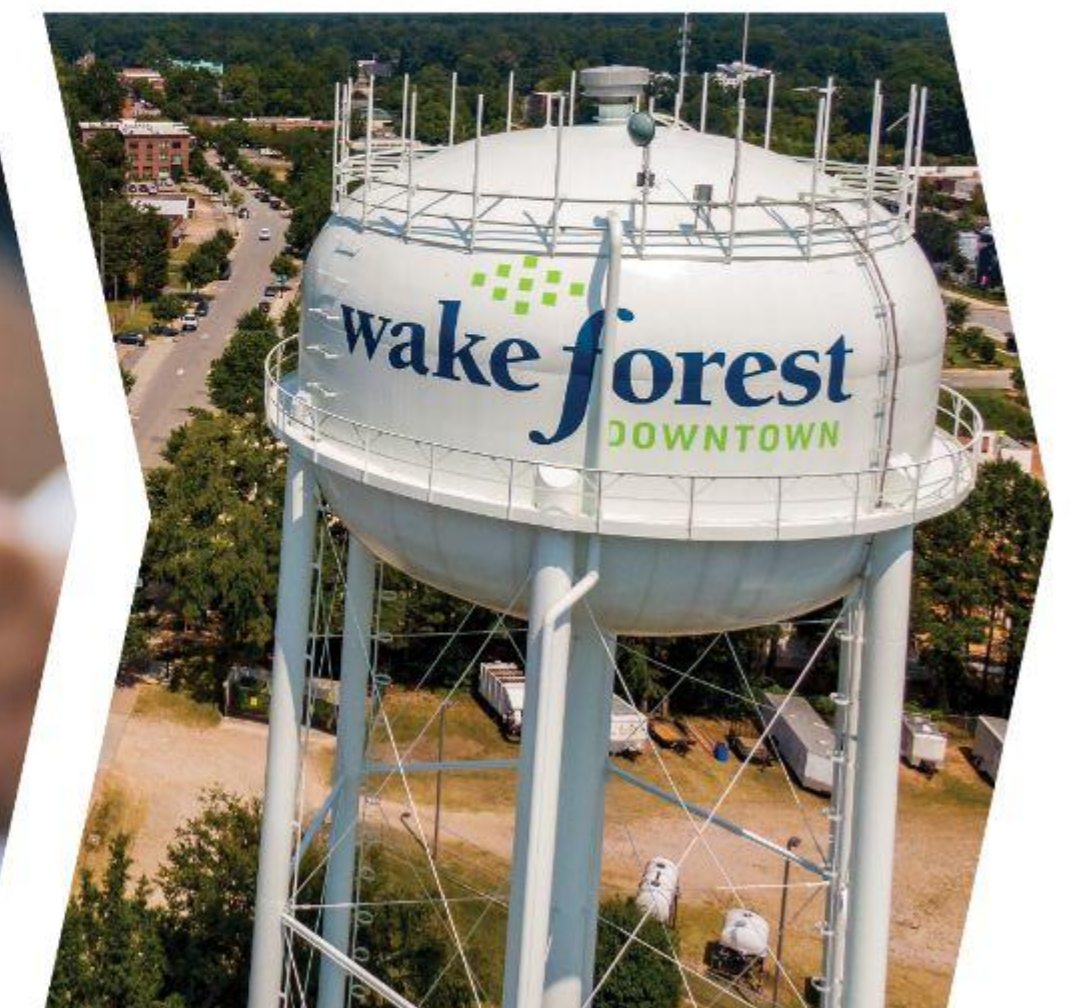
LATE 2026

BASELINE

ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGY

FINAL PLAN



- Existing Town, County, and State plan and policy review
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Peer Analysis

- Focus Groups
- Steering Committee
- Presentations
- Open Houses
- Survey

- Strategy Development
- Evaluation and Prioritization
- Implementation
- Plan Drafting

- Plan adoption





STATION 3 ONGOING EFFORTS

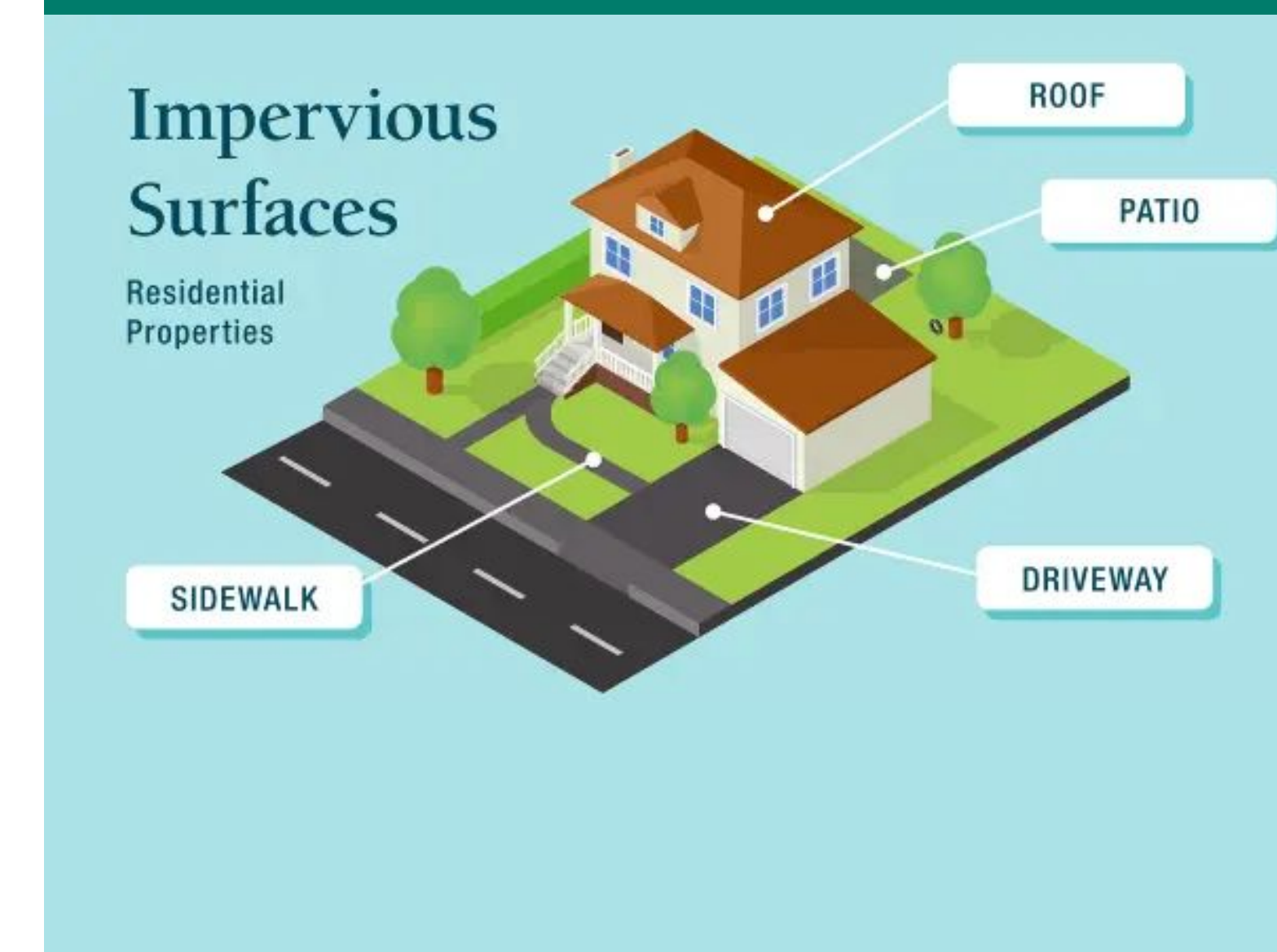
BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

- LEED certified Town Hall
- Wake Forest Power programs
- Land use plans
- Historic preservation plans and program



RESILIENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Urban Forestry program, Tree City USA, street tree requirements
- Stormwater program, plans and studies, projects
- Park system and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Master Plan



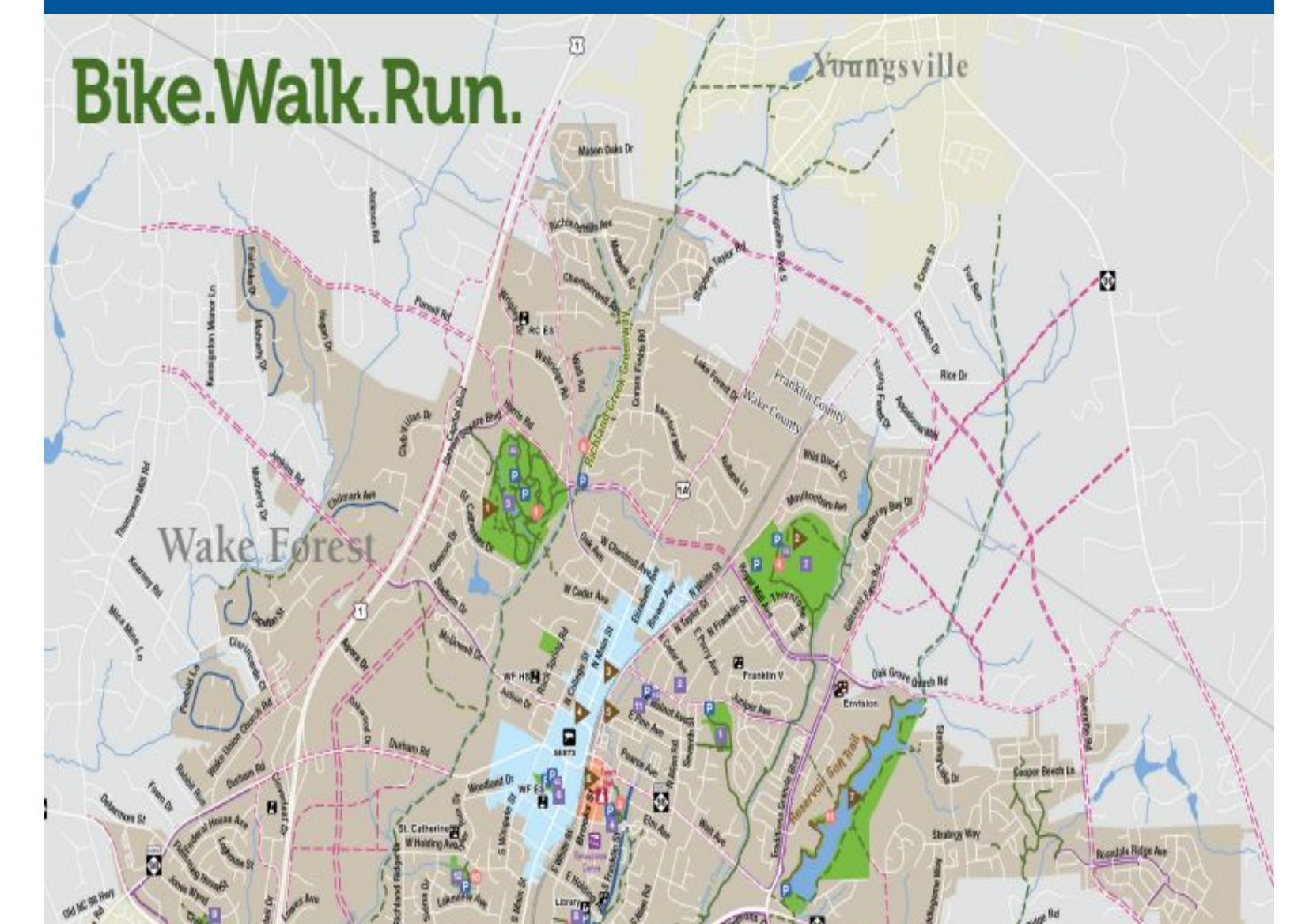
RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- Recycling service and education
- Paper shredding and electronic waste events
- Food waste drop off and education
- Keep Wake Forest Clean campaign



TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

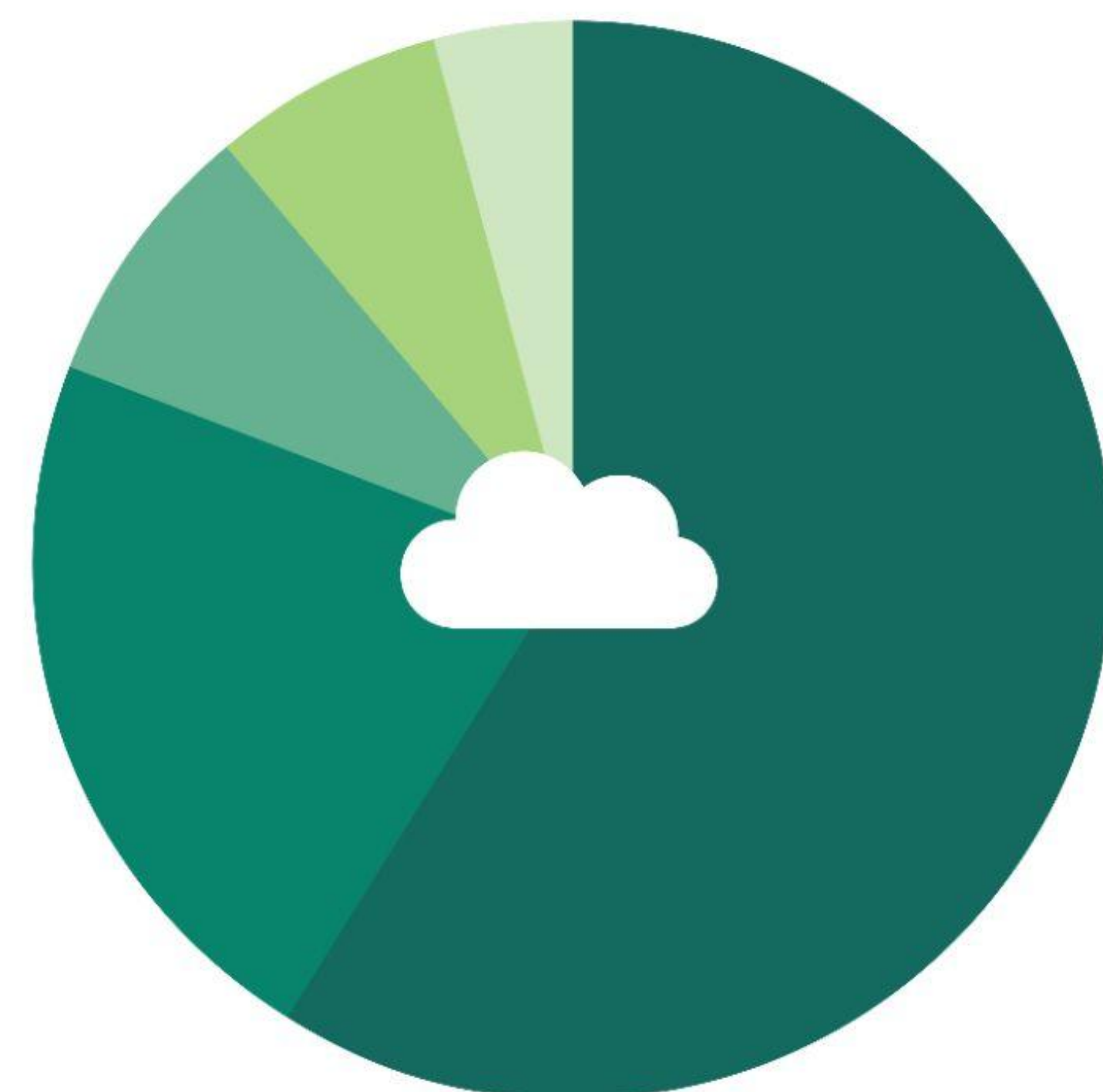
- Transit services, S-line rail support
- Greenway system
- Sidewalk regulations
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Regional transportation planning participation





STATION 4 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

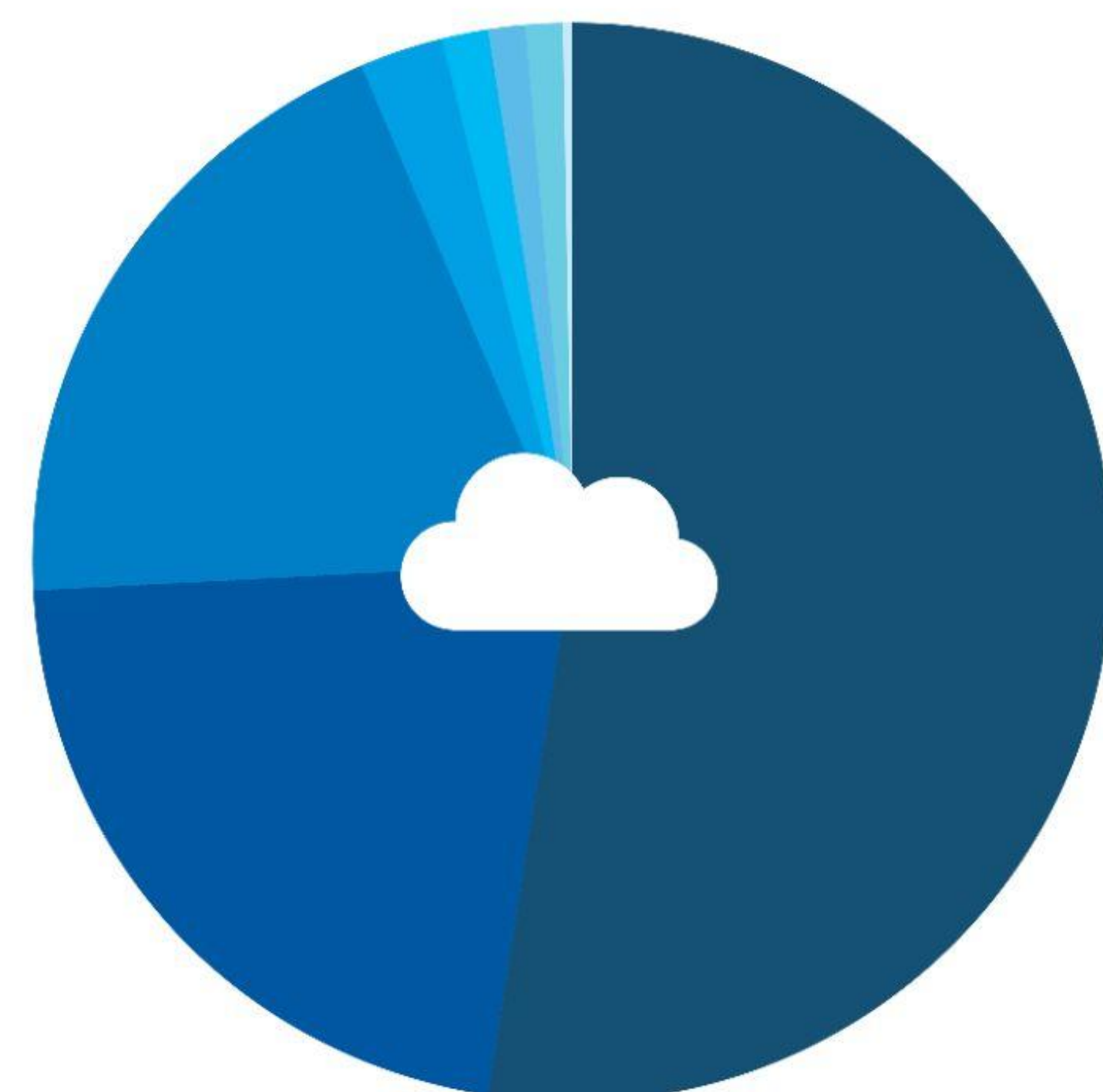
A **GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY** measures the emissions produced by a community over the course of a year. Wake Forest's 2024 inventory identifies sources of emissions in both the community and Town operations, helping prioritize actions that will have the greatest impact.



COMMUNITY-WIDE EMISSIONS

- 59% TRANSPORTATION
- 22% RESIDENTIAL ENERGY
- 8% NON-RESIDENTIAL ENERGY
- 7% INDUSTRIAL ENERGY
- 4% SOLID WASTE, WATER AND WASTEWATER

TOTAL EMISSIONS (MT CO₂e): 270,826



GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS EMISSIONS

- 52.6% VEHICLE FLEET
- 21.9% EMPLOYEE COMMUTE
- 19.3% PURCHASED GRID ELECTRICITY
- 2.5% TRANSIT FLEET
- 1.3% NATURAL GAS COMBUSTION
- 1.3% OFF ROAD FUEL
- 1.0% SOLID WASTE
- 0.2% WATER AND WASTEWATER

TOTAL EMISSIONS (MT CO₂e): 4,043.5





STATION 5 VULNERABILITY

ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Combined community and staff input with existing plans, historical climate data, and regional projections
- Assessed how often each hazard may occur, its potential severity, and Wake Forest's ability to adapt
- Considered how hazards interact and can worsen one another's impacts

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND HABITAT LOSS

can result from climate stress and continued development that degrade forests, wetlands, streams, and wildlife habitat. This can reduce biodiversity, tree canopy, recreation opportunities, water quality, and the natural protection that helps cool neighborhoods and absorb stormwater.



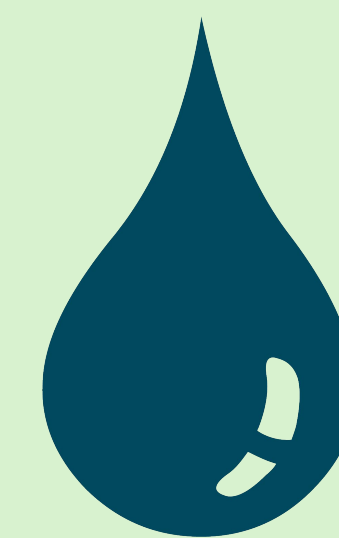
EXTREME HEAT

refers to unusually hot conditions lasting multiple days. These events are expected to become more frequent and can threaten public health, stress trees, raise cooling costs, and damage roads and sidewalks.



FLOODING

occurs when heavy rainfall overwhelms streams, drainage systems, and low-lying areas. More intense rainfall could damage homes and roads, disrupt travel and emergency access, increase erosion, and temporarily close parks or greenways.



DROUGHT

is an extended period of limited rainfall that reduces soil moisture, streamflow, and water availability. More severe drought could stress trees and wildlife, strain water supplies, increase wildfire risk, and contribute to soil movement beneath roads and buildings.



WAKE
FOREST



STATION 6

PLAN ORGANIZATION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ARE ORGANIZED INTO CATEGORIES AND ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS.

EACH MEASURE FALLS INTO ONE OF THE FOUR FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

EACH MEASURE IS ASSIGNED GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

CO-BENEFIT ICONS HIGHLIGHT STRENGTHS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION FOR EACH STRATEGY

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT
AND ENERGY
(BEE)**

**RESILIENT
AND HEALTHY
COMMUNITY
(RHC)**

**RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
(RC)**

**TRANSPORTATION
AND MOBILITY
(TM)**



GOALS

Each framework category sets overarching outcomes or goals



STRATEGIES

Each goal is supported by strategies that outline the approach to achieving the goal



ACTIONS

Strategies are implemented through action items



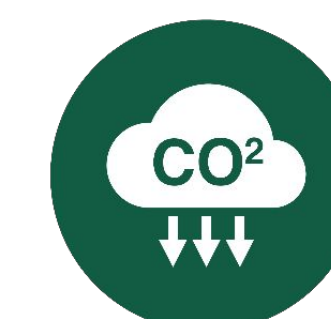
ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IMPACT

Degree to which the strategy enhances resilience or improves adaptive capacity to climate and weather-related hazards



COST

Forecasted cost to implement a strategy



GHG REDUCTION POTENTIAL

Potential to directly or indirectly reduce emissions community-wide or from government operations



RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Perceived support from the community as seen in results of the survey, open house, or other form of public input



STAFF CAPACITY

Ability and capacity for current staff to attend to the effort or initiative





STATION 7

GOAL BEE1

Improve energy performance of buildings and operations across Wake Forest

STRATEGY

BEE1.1

Improve energy efficiency community-wide, including Town operations to reduce costs and emissions

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

BEE1.1A

Continue to utilize smart building management systems and related practices to optimize current building energy use and support the assessment of future potential energy-related projects at Town facilities

BEE1.1B

Conduct energy audits of municipal buildings to identify short- and long-term improvements to equipment, utilities, and building envelopes (i.e. windows, doors, and roofs)

BEE1.1C

Implement the use of a utility tracking service to track energy usage and spending across municipal facilities

BEE1.1D

Continue to integrate advanced HVAC controls and occupancy sensors during upgrades and pair system replacements with envelope improvements (insulation, windows) to maximize efficiency at Town facilities

BEE1.1E

Continue use of photocells and efficient-technology for outdoor lighting and explore opportunities to further reduce light pollution at Town buildings and facilities and for Town maintained streetlights

BEE1.1F

Formalize an energy efficiency policy for new Town buildings and facilities

BEE1.1G

Expand promotion of existing energy saving programs by energy service providers

BEE1.1H

Expand funding for the existing owner-occupied housing rehab program to include weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades to promote reduced utility bills for increased housing affordability

BEE1.1I

Evaluate feasibility of a downtown vacant building and energy efficiency retrofit assistance program to facilitate adaptive reuse of existing structures and maintain historic character, which saves embodied building energy and reduces greenfield development

BEE1.1J

Continue to encourage the preservation of energy efficient features of historic buildings in Wake Forest while educating residents about weatherization efforts that maintain the historic character of buildings and districts





STATION 7

GOAL BEE1

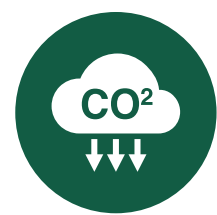
Improve energy performance of buildings and operations across Wake Forest

STRATEGY

BEE1.2

Promote electrification of buildings, appliances, and equipment in Town operations and community-wide

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

BEE1.2A

Develop a policy for new Town buildings to be designed with electric systems

BEE1.2B

Replace fossil fuel boilers and furnaces with electric alternatives in municipal properties when significant repairs are in order or when systems reach end of life where financially feasible

BEE1.2C

Expand use of electric yard equipment for grounds care for Town property

BEE1.2D

Explore adding electrical hook ups for food truck usage at Town facilities that host events to reduce use of diesel or gas generators

BEE1.2E

Evaluate participation in Central Pines Regional Council’s Electrify the Triangle program, which is a campaign to enhance weatherization, energy efficiency, and electrification of residential projects by reducing costs through coordinated bulk purchasing and service provision





STATION 8

GOAL BEE2

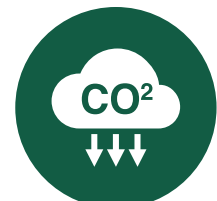
Increase the use of clean, renewable energy across Wake Forest

STRATEGY

BEE2.1

Increase the use of renewable energy in Town owned facilities

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

BEE2.1A

Conduct a renewable energy and battery storage feasibility assessment for municipal facilities, particularly critical operation sites, and identify feasible locations for municipal solar arrays, like parking lot canopies and rooftops

BEE2.1B

Work towards installation of solar and other renewable energy generation, as well as battery energy storage systems, based on feasibility assessment recommendations at Town facilities

BEE2.1C

Develop procurement policies guiding fossil-fuel-free, net-zero standards, and the decarbonization of existing and new municipal buildings

BEE2.1D

Explore opportunities for usage of outdoor solar lighting at Town facilities

STRATEGY

BEE2.2

Expand Wake Forest's community access to clean, renewable energy

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

BEE2.2A

Partner with organizations to provide solar resources and information to the public, particularly education to HOAs

BEE2.2B

Support a solar-friendly community by aligning with SolSmart guidelines that reduce regulatory and procedural barriers to solar implementation

BEE2.2C

Recognize households and businesses that purchase/use renewable electricity, encouraging visibility and peer-to-peer influence





STATION 9

GOAL RHC1

Protect and enhance Wake Forest’s natural systems and biodiversity to support long-term environmental health

STRATEGY	ACTION
RHC1.1 Protect environmentally sensitive and significant land that helps to reduce impacts of hazards, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and increase access to nature	RHC1.1A Identify and map environmentally sensitive and significant land, such as wetlands, streams, and tree canopy, that enhances flood storage, reduces urban heat, and buffers impacts of drought for greater climate resiliency
CO-BENEFITS:   	RHC1.1B Promote floodplain protection through continued improvement and implementation of flood-resilient design regulations and enforcement based on regular collection and updating of best available data
	RHC1.1C Continue to support the Urban Forestry Management program and maintain urban tree canopy goals established within the Urban Forest Management Plan
	RHC1.1D Implement the Conservation and Natural Resource Protection recommendations from the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Master Plan

STRATEGY	ACTION
RHC1.2 Enhance ecological function and biodiversity on municipal properties through native landscaping and stewardship	RHC1.2A Assess and update applicable Town policies and procedures to require the use of low impact designs, including bioswales, rain gardens, and suspended pavement tree trenches, on all municipal properties and projects whenever practical and feasible
CO-BENEFITS:  	RHC1.2B Expand training for Facilities, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, and Public Works staff on green stormwater infrastructure maintenance to facilitate feasibility of incorporating low impact design into Town properties and projects
	RHC1.2C Formalize Town policies related to use of drought tolerant and native landscaping species on Town properties and projects whenever feasible to promote pollinator and wildlife habitat, minimize irrigation needs, and provide educational opportunities
	RHC1.2D Formalize Town policies related to chemical herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer usage and continue to provide staff trainings on environmentally responsible practices
	RHC1.2E Evaluate Bee City USA recommendations for feasibility of additional best practice adoption





STATION 9

GOAL RHC1

Protect and enhance Wake Forest’s natural systems and biodiversity to support long-term environmental health

STRATEGY	ACTION
RHC1.3 Promote native landscaping, habitat restoration, and biodiversity across the community	RHC1.3A Promote native landscaping practices on private property through partnerships with HOAs, residents, and businesses, events, and educational resources
CO-BENEFITS: 	RHC1.3B Promote local food systems through edible garden, beekeeping etc. education
	RHC1.3C Update development regulations to require use of drought tolerant and native landscaping species
	RHC1.3D Recognize “Pollinator-Friendly Properties” with yard signs
	RHC1.3E Increase awareness and participation in programs promoting the removal of non-native species and the planting of native trees
	RHC1.3F Continue annual Arbor Day tree giveaway, prioritizing native and locally adapted species, and provide tree planting and care instructions and resources
	RHC1.3G Implement stream restoration projects and programs from the Watershed Studies and Downtown Stormwater Plan
	RHC1.3H Create a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) prioritization matrix that incorporates water quality enhancement and resiliency as scoring criteria for project evaluation





STATION 10

GOAL RHC2

Increase social and physical infrastructure resilience to hazards and climate conditions

STRATEGY	ACTION
RHC2.1 Reduce vulnerability to flooding and extreme weather through resilient stormwater management infrastructure investment	RHC2.1A Use future conditions and locally-derived floodplain data that identifies inundation areas not reflected on State and Federal regulation maps in enforcing regulations and evaluating infrastructure design, including for Town capital projects, to anticipate long range needs
CO-BENEFITS: 	RHC2.1B Analyze and prioritize areas where no stormwater management is occurring to identify and install regional stormwater control measures with an emphasis on green stormwater infrastructure
	RHC2.1C Implement infrastructure projects from the Watershed Studies and Downtown Stormwater Plan
	RHC2.1D Promote use of green stormwater infrastructure for residential lots through technical assistance and education, including resources available through Wake County
	RHC2.1E Create pre-approved rain barrel and rain garden design templates for different yard sizes and soils





STATION 10

GOAL RHC2

Increase social and physical infrastructure resilience to hazards and climate conditions

STRATEGY	ACTION
RHC2.2 Strengthen community preparedness and response, and enhance the resilience of public facilities and critical infrastructure to support community safety during extreme events CO-BENEFITS:	RHC2.2A Evaluate establishment of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or similar community network that educates and trains community volunteers about disaster response, developing a culture of preparedness, and strengthening multi-level governance RHC2.2B Expand flood monitoring pilot to increase the number of flood gauges, developing accurate localized data and improving timeliness of flooding alert notifications RHC2.2C Evaluate designation of priority public facilities to serve as resilience hubs, where residents can receive resources, services, or support to help prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme weather and other disruptions (e.g. reliable electricity to charge personal and medical devices and refrigerate medication, reliable heating and cooling to provide relief from extreme temperatures, use of shower facilities, and distribution of essential supplies) RHC2.2D Retrofit existing critical facilities, including resilience hubs, with back up power and evaluate feasibility of incorporating solar plus battery storage for added resiliency RHC2.2E Update Town Emergency Operations Plan, review the plan annually, and educate relevant staff and stakeholders about the plan RHC2.2F Develop a Heat Action Plan to anticipate and plan for extreme heat, prioritizing vulnerable populations



STATION 11

GOAL RC1

Reduce waste generation and amount of materials sent to landfill

STRATEGY

RC1.1
Promote waste reduction and circular economy practices

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

- RC1.1A**
Conduct waste audits of municipal facilities to understand the volume and makeup of waste
- RC1.1B**
Update procurement policy to prioritize purchase of items that can be recycled, composted, or reused and materials with minimal packaging, recycled content, ENERGY STAR rating, or low toxicity when the costs are equal or there is an opportunity for additional savings
- RC1.1C**
Create a resource guide of researched and vetted commonly bought items or supplies to inform purchasing decisions by Town staff
- RC1.1D**
Partner with community organizations to host repair cafes - events where community members share skills to fix household items to promote continued use instead of disposal
- RC1.1E**
Encourage use of reusable items in Town facilities, such as tableware sets for Town staff to borrow for meetings
- RC1.1F**
Install water bottle filling stations at future facilities and evaluate opportunities for additional stations to increase accessibility
- RC1.1G**
Develop a Zero Waste guide for residents and businesses
- RC1.1H**
Educate developers about building deconstruction and evaluate feasibility of creating incentives to encourage deconstruction or reusing construction and demolition materials to promote a circular economy
- RC1.1I**
Continue to encourage salvaging materials for local historic landmarks, properties in historic districts, and buildings constructed more than 50 years ago that are proposed for demolition
- RC1.1J**
Evaluate feasibility of establishing partnerships with architectural salvage nonprofits to reuse historic materials that would otherwise be sent to a landfill





STATION 11

GOAL RC1

Reduce waste generation and amount of materials sent to landfill

STRATEGY

RC1.2

Expand food waste reduction and diversion programming community-wide

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

RC1.2A

Offer countertop compost collection bins and how-to guides to encourage use of existing food waste drop off sites by Wake Forest residents and community members and Town staff

RC1.2B

Increase number of food waste drop off sites

RC1.2C

Continue to evaluate feasibility of curbside food waste collection service

RC1.2D

Continue food waste education to residents and community members to minimize the amount of discarded food

RC1.2E

Increase awareness of food waste drop off site information for Town staff, downtown businesses, and the Farmer’s Market to promote usage of compostable items

RC1.2F

Update special event policies for Town and community events to promote vendors and event organizers to use compostable items where practical

RC1.2G

Support backyard composting by continuing to host composting information sessions for residents, sharing promotional compost bin offers through Wake County, and providing education to HOAs





STATION 11

GOAL RC1

Reduce waste generation and amount of materials sent to landfill

STRATEGY

RC1.3
Improve recycling participation and recovery community-wide

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

- RC1.3A**
Continue recycling education for community members and Town staff
- RC1.3B**
Regularly monitor to ensure Town facilities and public areas, such as parks and downtown, have sufficient locations and quantities of recycling bins to expand community access and normalize recycling behavior
- RC1.3C**
Continue to standardize recycling bin colors and labeling across all Town facilities with visual guides on what can and cannot be recycled
- RC1.3D**
Update special event policies for Town and community events to require provision of recycling containers and explore establishing waste sorting volunteers to guide event attendees on proper waste disposal
- RC1.3E**
Ensure commercial and multifamily developments provide recycling containers and services
- RC1.3F**
Expand number of hard-to-recycle-item events or drop off collection points and types of materials collected





STATION 12

GOAL RC2

Enhance water conservation and improve efficiency

STRATEGY

RC2.1
Improve water efficiency and reduce water consumption across municipal operations and facilities

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

RC2.1A
Formalize Town policies related to replacement and retrofitting of fixtures, faucets, and toilets to efficient models during renovations and at the end of the natural equipment lifecycle

RC2.1B
Continue implementing smart irrigation practices through strategic schedules, settings, and locations and conducting irrigation audits

STRATEGY

RC2.2
Promote water conservation and efficient water use across the community

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

RC2.2A
Educate residents and HOAs on rain barrel sizing, installation, design, and use through class and demonstration offerings

RC2.2B
Host educational information sessions in partnerships with local environmental and gardening organizations to promote the benefits of native plants and other landscaping practices that minimize irrigation needs

RC2.2C
Promote education and programs on water conservation topics (i.e. smart irrigation, water reuse, etc.) available via City of Raleigh Water and Wake County through the Town's communication channels and at Town events





STATION 13

GOAL TM1

Expand safe, accessible, and convenient multimodal transportation options

STRATEGY

TM1.1

Improve infrastructure and services to support active transportation and connectivity

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

TM1.1A

Create a sidewalk gap prioritization tool to guide sidewalk installation projects, focusing on improving equitable access to parks, greenways, schools, and commercial centers

TM1.1B

Continue to implement Comprehensive Transportation Plan action items, including implementation of South Main Street Study recommendations that will achieve a multi-modal corridor

TM1.1C

Implement crosswalk and intersection safety improvements identified in the Comprehensive Plan, including the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Downtown Plan, to promote walkability and bikeability

TM1.1D

Monitor capacity and demand for expanded Go Wake Forest microtransit service hours

TM1.1E

Partner with regional transit service providers to coordinate fixed route bus stop improvements that provide weather protection for riders and safe street crossings

TM1.1F

Continue to work with regional transportation agencies and partners on new bus (route 2L) and rail (S-line) service

STRATEGY

TM1.2

Support awareness and build partnerships to promote active transportation choices and initiatives

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

TM1.2A

Partner with Safe Routes to School and schools to promote walk and bike to school events and carpooling

TM1.2B

Promote the greenway network as transportation through the Town of Wake Forest app, Wander Wake County map, interactive digital greenway map, continued installation of greenway wayfinding signage, and greenway events and programs

TM1.2C

Develop a bike library that allows community members and Town staff to borrow bicycles or electric assist bicycles for commuting around town while increasing comfort and visibility of bike riding

TM1.2D

Promote Go Triangle alternative commute program to Town employees, employers, and residents





STATION 14

GOAL TM2

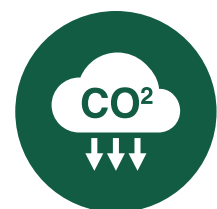
Advance clean transportation practices across Wake Forest

STRATEGY

TM2.1

Transition light- and medium-duty, non-emergency vehicles within the Town fleet to more efficient vehicles, including low and zero emission vehicles, as vehicles reach the end of their useful life or are added to the fleet

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

TM2.1A

Conduct a fleet audit, including evaluation of number of vehicles, size of vehicles, vehicle functions, and replacement criteria

TM2.1B

Create a vehicle guide that compares efficiency, sustainability, cost, and other factors for available vehicle models, including zero- and low-emission models, to inform vehicle purchasing requests

TM2.1C

Evaluate and plan for electric vehicle (EV) fleet charging infrastructure needs with facility planning

TM2.1D

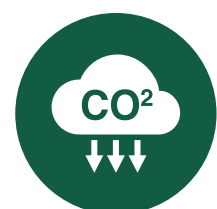
Develop a change management strategy, including opportunities for Town employees to test EVs and employee education on EV usage

STRATEGY

TM2.2

Support the community-wide transition to zero and low emission vehicles and cleaner driving behavior through infrastructure improvements

CO-BENEFITS:



ACTION

TM2.2A

Expand the number of publicly available EV chargers at Town facilities

TM2.2B

Update the public EV charging map and promote it at community events and through Town communication channels

TM2.2C

Continue to encourage installation of EV chargers in new development

TM2.2D

Identify intersections for roundabout conversion and prioritize roundabouts in new roadway design where possible to reduce emissions from vehicle idling





STATION 15

GENERAL COMMENTS

