



WAKE
FOREST

Sustainability Plan Draft Recommendations

August 4, 2026





Agenda

- Project overview
- Review completed components
- Draft recommendations
- Next steps



sustainability
[sus·tain·a·bil·i·ty]

[noun] the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Sustainability Plan



Baseline

Policy & Gap Analysis
Vulnerability Assessment
Greenhouse Gas
Inventory



Engagement

General Public
Targeted Stakeholders



Strategy

Goal, Strategy and
Action development
Prioritization &
Implementation

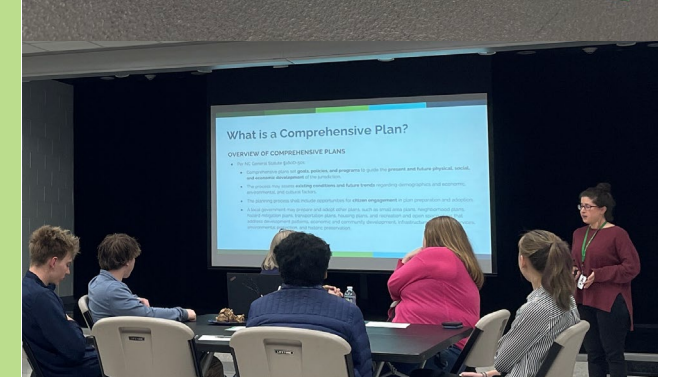
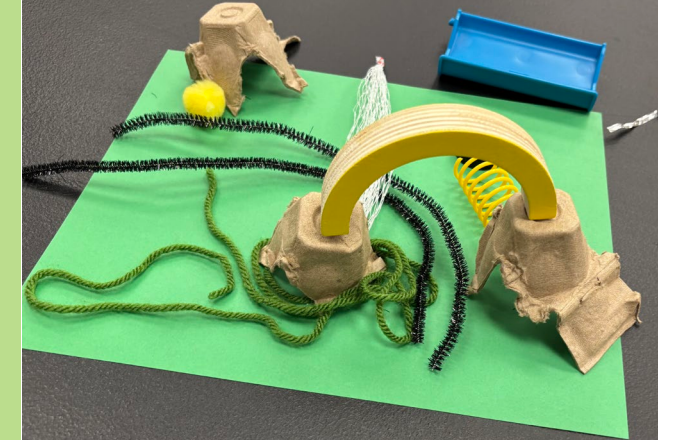
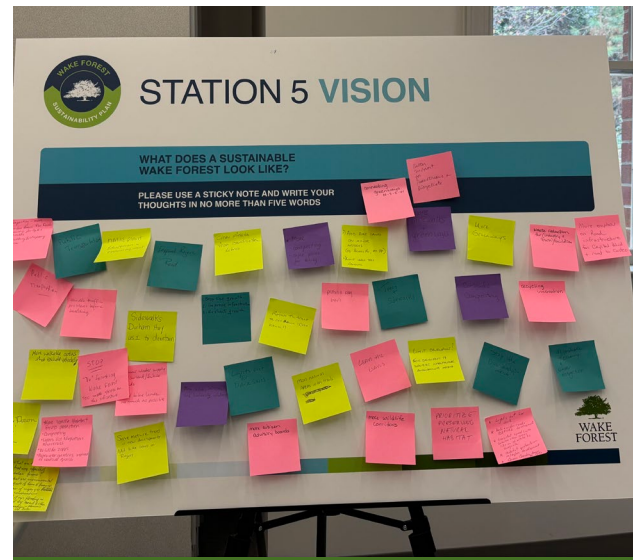
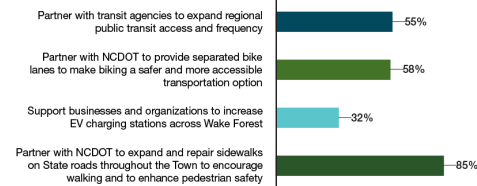
Sustainability Plan Engagement

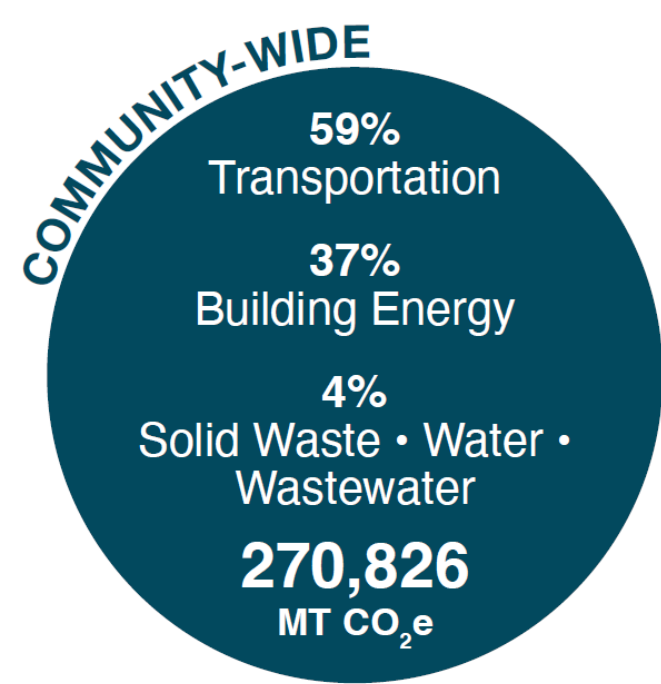
- Board of Commissioners and Planning Board meeting presentations
- Town staff focus groups
- Community focus groups with local businesses, community organizations, and high school students
- Steering committee
- In-person open house events
- Online survey
- Town event pop ups



Select the types of community-wide transportation strategies the Town should prioritize. Select up to three options.

210 Responses

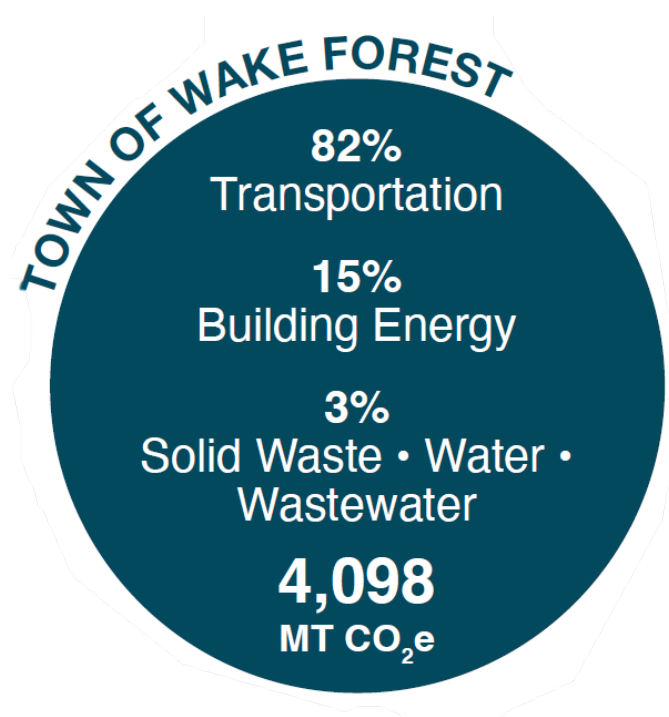




Sustainability Plan Baseline and Engagement Findings

Key themes

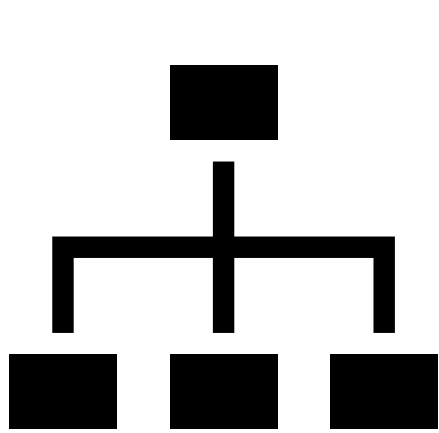
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Green stormwater infrastructure and compost
- Tree canopy and natural land conservation
- Walkability and connectivity



91%

of survey respondents are moderately or extremely concerned about current or future environmental challenges or conditions

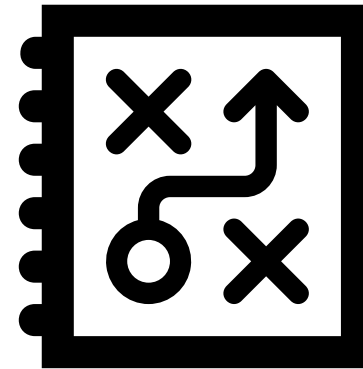
Sustainability Plan Strategy Development



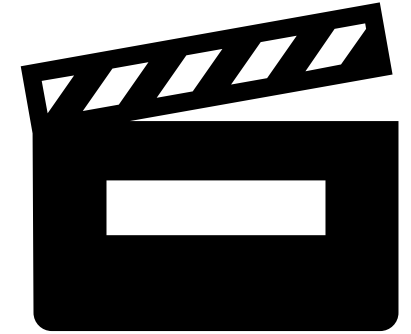
Framework



Goals



Strategies



Actions



Built Environment &
Energy

Resilient & Healthy
Community

Resource Conservation

Transportation &
Mobility

Built Environment & Energy (BEE)

Draft Goals and Strategies

BEE1: IMPROVE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS ACROSS WAKE FOREST

- BEE1.1 Improve energy efficiency community-wide, including Town operations, to reduce costs and emissions
- BEE1.2 Promote electrification of buildings, appliances, and equipment in Town operations and community-wide

BEE2: INCREASE THE USE OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY ACROSS WAKE FOREST

- BEE2.1 Increase the use of renewable energy in Town owned facilities
- BEE2.2 Expand Wake Forest's community access to clean, renewable energy



Built Environment & Energy (BEE)

Highlighted Actions

- **CONTINUED PRACTICES** Continue to utilize **smart building management** systems and advanced HVAC controls and occupancy sensors in Town facilities
- **FORMALIZE PRACTICES** Formalize an **energy efficiency policy** for new Town buildings and facilities
- **EXPANDED INITIATIVES** Expand funding for existing owner-occupied housing rehab program for **weatherization and efficiency upgrades**
- **REINFORCE EXISTING PLANS** Implement sustainable park operation recommendations from the **PRCR Master Plan** and sustainable development recommendations from the **Community Plan**



Town Hall, LEED Platinum Certified

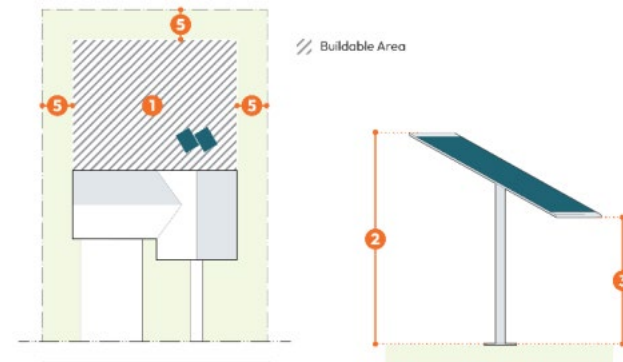
Built Environment & Energy (BEE)

Highlighted Actions

- **EVALUATION** Conduct a **renewable energy and battery storage feasibility assessment** for Town buildings
- **NEW** 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
- **EDUCATION** Partner with organizations to provide **solar resources** and information to the public and HOAs
- **PROMOTION** Support guidelines that reduce regulatory and procedural barriers to **solar implementation**



Town Hall rooftop solar



Solar zoning regulations

Resilient & Healthy Community (RHC)

Draft Goals and Strategies

RHC1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WAKE FOREST'S NATURAL SYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- RHC1.1 Protect environmentally sensitive and significant land that helps to reduce impacts of hazards, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and increase access to nature
- RHC1.2 Enhance ecological function and biodiversity on municipal properties through native landscaping and stewardship
- RHC1.3 Promote native landscaping, habitat restoration, and biodiversity across the community

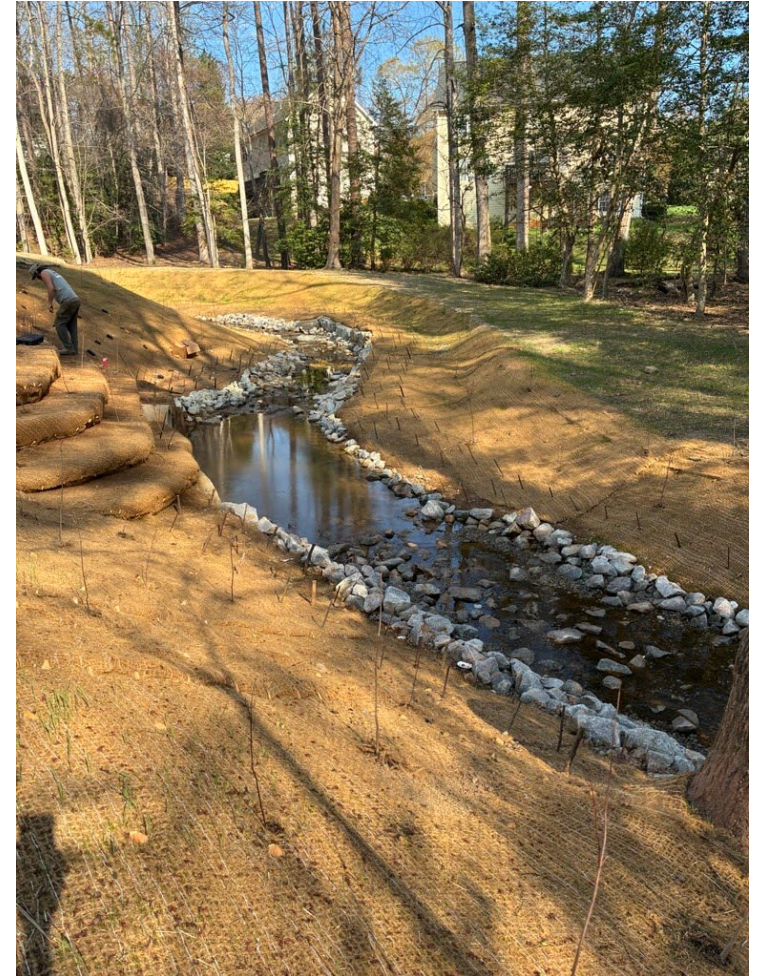
RHC2: INCREASE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE TO HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CONDITIONS

- RHC2.1 Reduce vulnerability to flooding and extreme weather through resilient stormwater management infrastructure investment
- RHC2.2 Strengthen community preparedness and response, and enhance the resilience of public facilities and critical infrastructure to support community safety during extreme events



Resilient & Healthy Community (RHC) Highlighted Actions

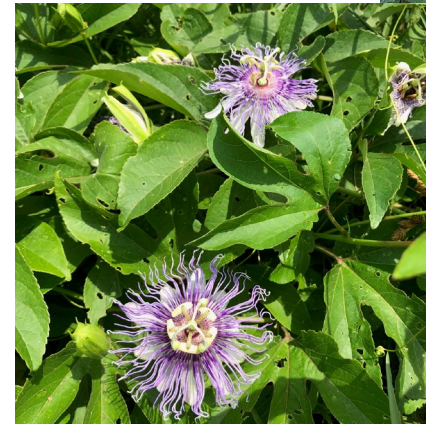
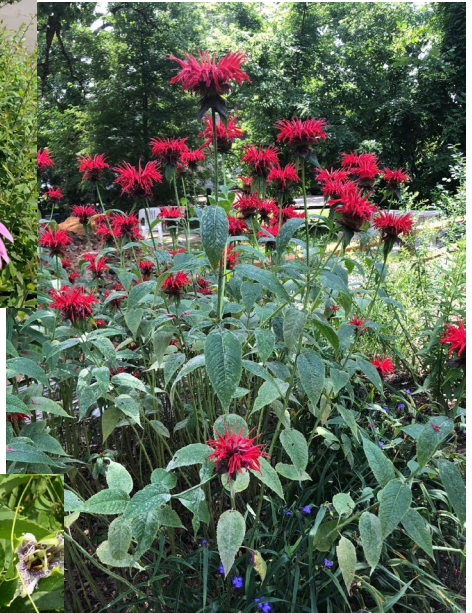
- **CONTINUED PRACTICES** Continue to support the **Urban Forestry Management program**
- **FORMALIZE PRACTICES** Formalize Town policies related to use of **drought tolerant and native landscaping** species on Town properties and projects whenever feasible
- **EXPANDED INITIATIVES** Expand **flood monitoring** pilot to increase the number of flood gauges, developing accurate localized data and improving timeliness of flooding alert notifications
- **REINFORCE EXISTING PLANS** Implement **stream restoration projects and programs** from the Watershed Studies and Downtown Stormwater Plan and **Conservation and Natural Resource Protection recommendations** from the PRCR Master Plan



Stream restoration project in Richland Creek watershed

Resilient & Healthy Community (RHC) Highlighted Actions

- **EVALUATION** 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
- **NEW** Develop a **Heat Action Plan** to anticipate and plan for extreme heat, prioritizing vulnerable populations
- **EDUCATION** Promote **native landscaping** practices on **private property** through education, events, and partnerships with HOAs, residents, and businesses
- **PROMOTION** Create pre-approved **rain barrel and rain garden design** templates for different yard sizes and soils



Resource Conservation (RC)

Draft Goals and Strategies

RC1: REDUCE WASTE GENERATION AND AMOUNT OF MATERIALS SENT TO LANDFILL

- RC1.1 Promote waste reduction and circular economy practices
- RC1.2 Expand food waste reduction and diversion programming community-wide
- RC1.3 Improve recycling participation and recovery community-wide

RC2: ENHANCE WATER CONSERVATION AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

- RC2.1 Improve water efficiency and reduce water consumption across municipal operations and facilities
- RC2.2 Promote water conservation and efficient water use across the community



Resource Conservation (RC)

Highlighted Actions

- **CONTINUED PRACTICES** Continue to standardize recycling bin colors and labeling across Town facilities
- **FORMALIZE PRACTICES** Formalize Town policies for efficient water fixture replacement and retrofitting during renovations and at the end of the natural equipment lifecycle
- **EXPANDED INITIATIVES** Expand number of hard-to-recycle-item events or drop off points and types of materials collected



Paper shredding and electronic waste recycling event

Resource Conservation (RC)

Highlighted Actions

- **EVALUATION** Evaluate feasibility of **curbside food waste** collection service
- **NEW** 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
- **EDUCATION** Increase **awareness** of **food waste drop off** site information for Town staff, downtown businesses, and Farmer's Market to promote usage of compostable items
- **PROMOTION** Create a **resource guide** of researched and vetted commonly bought items or supplies to inform purchasing decisions by Town staff



Food waste drop off station on Taylor Street behind Town Hall

Transportation & Mobility (TM)

Draft Goals and Strategies

TM1: EXPAND SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND CONVENIENT MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

- TM1.1 Improve infrastructure and services to support active transportation and connectivity
- TM1.2 Support awareness and building partnerships to promote active transportation choices and initiatives

TM2: ADVANCE CLEAN TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES ACROSS WAKE FOREST

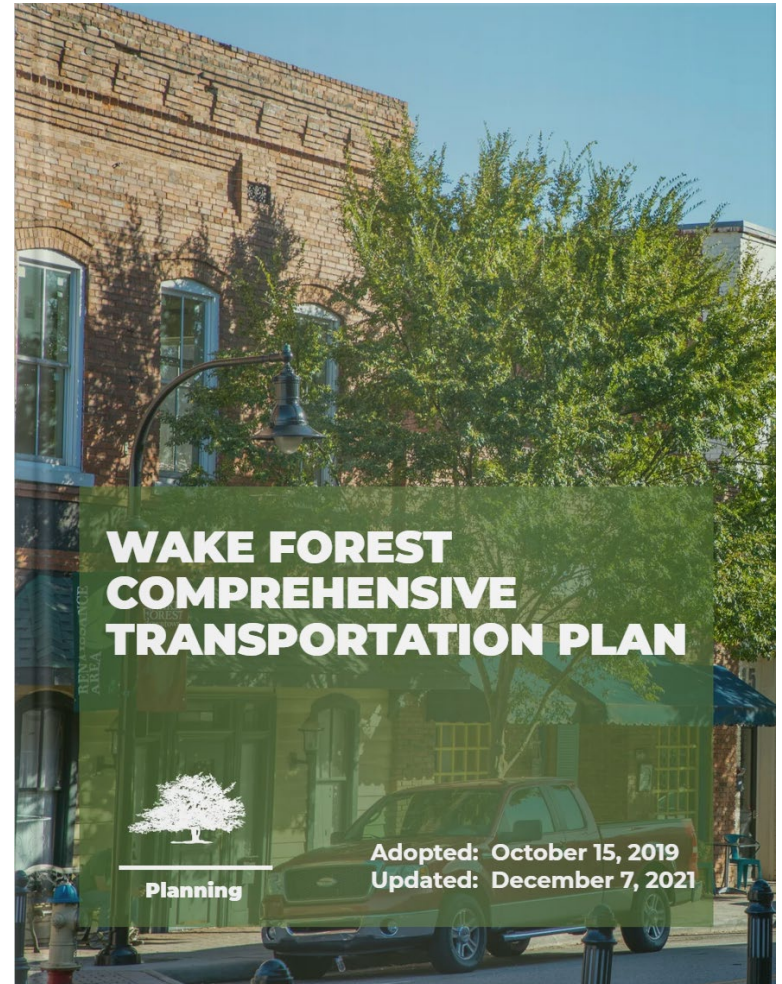
- TM2.1 Transition light- and medium-duty, non-emergency vehicles within the Town fleet to more efficient vehicles, including low and zero emission vehicles, as vehicles reach the end of their useful life or are added to the fleet
- TM2.2 Support the community-wide transition to zero and low emission vehicles and cleaner driving behavior through infrastructure improvements



Transportation & Mobility

Highlighted Actions

- **CONTINUED PRACTICES** Continue to work with regional transportation agencies and partners on **new bus (route 2L) and rail (S-line) service**
- **EXPANDED INITIATIVES** Expand the number of **publicly available electric vehicle chargers** at Town facilities
- **REINFORCE EXISTING PLANS** Continue to implement CTP action items, including South Main Street Study recommendations that will achieve a **multi-modal corridor**



Transportation & Mobility

Highlighted Actions

- **EVALUATION** Monitor capacity and demand for expanded Go Wake Forest microtransit **service hours**
- **NEW** Pilot a **bike lending library** that allows community members and Town staff to borrow bicycles for commuting around town while increasing comfort and visibility of bike riding
- **EDUCATION** Develop opportunities for Town employees to test electric vehicles (EVs) and employee education on EV usage
- **PROMOTION** Partner with schools and Safe Routes to School to **promote walk and bike to school events and carpooling**



Go Wake Forest microtransit vehicle

Sustainability Plan Next Steps

Drop-In Public Open House Sessions

Thursday, August 27

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Community House

6 to 8 p.m. at Center for Active Aging

Free Go Wake Forest rides and raffle for attendees walking, biking, and using transit





WAKE
FOREST

