

TO: Montgomery County Council President Tom Hucker

FROM: Adam M. Roberts, Bethesda Green
Karl Held, The Climate Mobilization
On Behalf of the Montgomery County Climate Action Coalition*

DATE: October 15, 2021

RE: Climate Action Plan Implementing Legislation

Dear Council President Hucker:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Climate Action Coalition, please accept our thanks for your ongoing commitment to ensure action is being taken to implement the County's new *Climate Action Plan*, conduct briefings to provide the community with updates on progress toward greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals, and introduce additional legislation to help the County lead the fight to address climate change.

At the request of your staff, we have worked collaboratively to create the attached document of climate action requests, which we hope will form the basis for a significant legislative package for you to champion during this Council legislative session. Our goal is to help you create a package of actions that are comprehensive, consequential, and equitable.

While we hope this will advance our collective work on climate significantly, we also recognize it represents just a start. Much more will need to be done.

The attached document contains not only a list of priorities that we encourage you to champion in the County Council legislatively, but also proposes critically important climate actions for which the Council can request sufficient budget outlays in the FY23 budget to achieve vital climate objectives. We also recommend several initiatives where the Council can take a leadership role in pushing for climate action at the State level that is greatly needed to assist the County in achieving its GHG emission reduction targets.

We also plan to provide you with our thoughts on support for two existing endeavors before the Council: Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) proposed legislation and Thrive 2050.

We encourage you to champion actions that will have the greatest impact on helping the County achieve its GHG emission reduction goals, and that you ensure the Department of Environmental Protection gives clear information about the impact of each action you ultimately propose. Similarly, as action happens on the state or federal level, we urge you to lead in leveraging potential external support to helping us achieve these significant goals.

Based on the December 5, 2017 passage of the Emergency Climate Mobilization resolution, and the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027, we should be roughly one-third of the way there by the end of this fiscal year. We fear this will not be the case; thus, urgent action is required.

There is widespread agreement that our warming climate represents an emergency. Therefore, urgent and robust action is needed. Montgomery County has an historic opportunity to lead the

country in achieving its climate goals and we urge you to do all you can to lead the Council in advancing legislative action for climate protection.

We look forward to working with your team in the coming weeks and stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

*Official members of the Coalition currently include:

- 350 MoCo
- Bethesda Green
- Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)
- Cedar Lane UU, EJM
- Friends of Sligo Creek
- Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
- Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MCFACS)
- Safe Healthy Playing Fields
- Sugarloaf Citizens Association
- Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended (TAME Coalition)
- The Climate Mobilization (TCM)