



**Town of Davidson  
Sustainability Board Regular Meeting  
Community Room 120  
251 South Street  
Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Meeting Minutes**

**Summary:** Review meeting minutes from previous meeting for approval.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Town Staff Reports**

**Summary:** Town Staff liaison shares Town updates.

**b. Subcommittee Reports**

**Summary:** Sustainability Board Subcommittees report to the Sustainability Board.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Climate Action Plan 2024 Annual Report**

**Summary:** Consider approval of Climate Action Plan 2024 Annual Report.

**b. Planning Department Presentation**

**Summary:** Town of Davidson Principal Planner Trey Akers presents on his work and the planning department processes to the Sustainability Board.

**VII. ADJOURN**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Sustainability Board  
Town of Davidson, NC  
February 17, 2025

A meeting of the Davidson Sustainability Board was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Davidson Town Hall & Community Center at 251 South Street.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

- **Present Board Members:** Kasia Worsham, Matt Walt, Beth Wytiaz, Jenna Vujic, Teresa Isakson, Andre Philips (Davidson College liaison), Sandy LaCorte, Cathay Denham, Tim Belitz, Veronica Westendorff, Juliette Sponsel
- **Absent Board Members:** Anita Rajan
- **Tardy Board Members:** n/a
- **Town Representatives:** Kayla Kovach (Sustainability Manager), Andrew Sileo (Aborist), Andrew Gordon (Transportation Planner)

**III. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

- a. Motions to change the agenda: No motions to change agenda.
- b. Motion to adopt the agenda: Tim Belitz
- c. Second: Teresa Isakson
- d. Vote: unanimous (motion passed)

**IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

- a. Review/Approval of the January 13, 2025 meeting minutes:
  - i. Motion to recommend approval of the minutes:
    1. Motion: Tim Belitz
    2. Second: Veronica Westendorff
    3. Vote: unanimous (motion passed)

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Staff Updates:**

- i. Town Hall EV charger getting installed, delayed due to the weather.
- ii. NASA Develop project started last week.

- iii. Sustainability Quarterly Report will go out in March.
- iv. Park & Rec. Monthly Connection includes Town Sustainability information.
- v. New Red Recycle bins that were grant funded have been installed throughout town. Signage for them is still pending.
- vi. Ada Jenkins event this Saturday. Kayla Kovach will be there at a Town table to provide resources.

**b. Subcommittee Updates:**

**i. Energy & Climate Resilience subcommittee:**

1. Reviewing draft Annual CAP Report to submit notes to Town Staff by 2/28.
2. Discussed NASA DEVELOP program.
3. Discussed volunteer opportunities – Arbor Day and Earth Day.
4. Current objective of subcommittee is to develop a sustainability building policy for town owned properties, review policies, and create a future vision.

**ii. Trees, Natural Assets, & Resource Conservation subcommittee:**

1. Considering inviting Jeff Michael as a speaker (deputy of state for natural assets).
2. NASA DEVELOP Program was discussed - once we have the 1st subset of data for air quality, we would like to correlate the data with Purple Air and Clean Air NC.
3. Current objective being considered is to cross reference by laws of HOAs to create a sustainability friendly model for HOA by laws.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Presentation – Andrew Sileo, Town Arborist**

- i. Town Arborist Andrew Sileo presented on his work for the Town including planting trees, home visits for tree and landscaping health, works closely with Davidson Lands Conservancy, and does a lot of public outreach.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT: 7:14 pm**

- a. Motion: Kasia Worsham
- b. Second: Matt Walt
- c. Vote: unanimous (motion passed)

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



## 2024 Annual Report

**Prepared by**

KAYLA KOVACH  
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

**Published**

MARCH 2025



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Pictured: Pollinator garden at Beaty Park.





# Introduction

The Town of Davidson (referred to herein as "the Town") Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted on April 9, 2024. After adoption, the Board of Commissioners requested an Annual Report be presented each year showing CAP progress. This Annual Report for 2024 covers progress made since CAP adoption throughout the remainder of the year.



## Climate Action Plan Standings as of December 2024

No. of Awaiting Action Steps	No. of In Progress Action Steps	No. of Completed Action Steps
43	43 	2 

Pictured: Both photos were taken at the 2024 Earth Day Festival where the Town's CAP adoption and LEED Silver Certification were celebrated.

Note, throughout this Annual Report, some action steps were too long to include the full text from the CAP. In those instances, "..." has been included at the end of the text to indicate that the action step is longer than shown and the full text can be found in the CAP document. Additionally, nothing has been reported on items Awaiting Action, so they are not included throughout the report. The full list of action items can be found in the CAP document.



# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



## 2024 Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award

Award Category  
**Sustainability and Resilience | Small Community**

This certificate is awarded to  
**The Town of Davidson**

In recognition of the  
**The Town of Davidson Climate Action Plan**

Given this 16th day of October, 2024

*Johanna Fockburn*  
Johanna Fockburn, Chapter President

*Hannah Williams*      *Elizabeth Ferrigan*  
Hannah Williams, Awards Committee Co-Chair      Elizabeth Ferrigan, Awards Committee Co-Chair



American Planning Association  
**North Carolina Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*



## CAP received 2024 Marvin Collins Award

On Wednesday, October 16 the American Planning Association – North Carolina Chapter recognized the Town of Davidson Climate Action Plan as the recipient of the 2024 North Carolina Marvin Collins Award in the Sustainability and Resilience - Small Community category. Sustainability Manager Kayla Kovach attended the awards ceremony in Greenville, NC to receive the award on the Town's behalf.



## LEED for Cities Silver Certification

The Town of Davidson was recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. The goals within this certification will work in tandem with the CAP. For additional information about the LEED Silver certification, visit [The Town of Davidson - LEED for Cities webpage](#).





# NOTEWORTHY 2024 STATS

## CAP ACTION ITEMS

- 2%** COMPLETED ACTION STEPS
- 49%** IN PROGRESS ACTION STEPS
- 49%** NOT STARTED ACTION STEPS

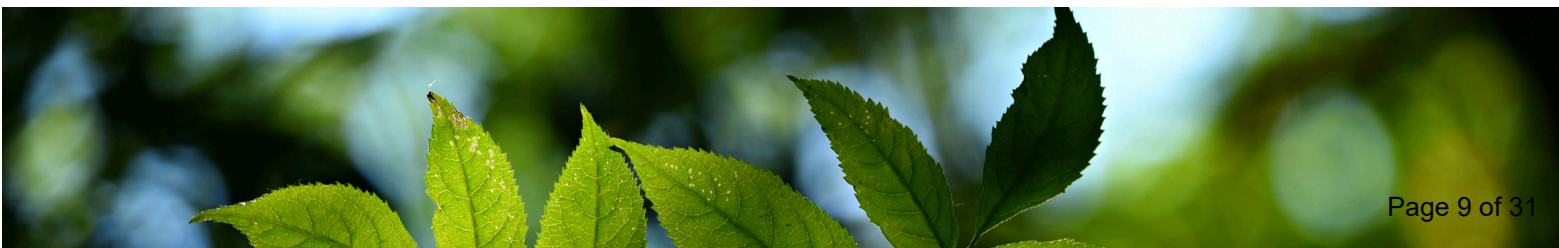
## GRANT FUNDING

- \$899,142** APPLIED FOR
- \$15,000** AWARDED
- \$884,142** WAITING TO HEAR BACK

## REBATES

- \$15,699** TOTAL REBATES RECEIVED

Energy efficiency rebates received for Public Safety Building window tinting, equipment upgrades, & Town Hall & Community Center cool roof.





# FOCUS AREAS

This Annual CAP Report is organized by focus areas which were identified in the Climate Action Plan.



Pictured: One of the tree value signs placed on a tree downtown by the Town Arborist to educate the community on tree benefits.



## Municipal Operations



## Transportation & Mobility



## Buildings & Energy



## Resource Conservation



## Green Community



## Climate Resilience



# Goal M1

## Reduce Mobile Source Emissions in Town Operations



**Strategy M1.1:** Convert 100% of the Town fleet to EVs, hybrids, or use clean fuels by 2037

Pictured: Community Engagement Electric Truck, placed in service in early 2024.

→ **Action Step M1.1.1:** Develop a ZEV Strategy for the Town fleet that evaluates fleet conversion to achieve 72.3% emissions reduction...



Pictured: Parks & Recreation Department celebrating the end of Bradley Passarella's internship at Summit Coffee during Plastic Free July.

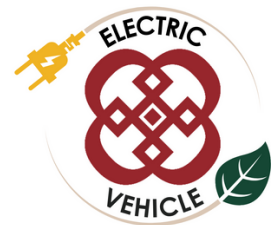
### Davidson College Sustainability Scholar

Over the summer, the Department of Parks and Recreation welcomed summer intern Bradley Passarella from June 3 through July 25. Bradley, a Davidson College Student, participated in the Davidson College Sustainability Scholars Program which matches student interns with sustainability professionals. The topic of Bradley's focus during the internship was the Town's vehicle fleet, including calculating current greenhouse gas emissions and evaluating how to reduce these emissions.

→ **Action Step M1.1.2:** Ensure all newly acquired vehicles for Town use are either EVs, hybrids, or use clean fuels...



The Town is continuing to explore options for transitioning vehicles. In 2024, a hybrid truck was purchased for the Public Works Department.



2024 Total Town Vehicle Purchases	2024 EV & Hybrid Town Vehicle Purchases	% EV/Hybrid to Total Purchased Vehicles in 2024
7	1	14%

The Town designed hybrid and electric vehicle decals for the Town fleet. These decals help highlight the Town's efforts working towards this CAP goal while also showcasing the Town's electric and hybrid vehicles to the community.



# Goal M1

## Reduce Mobile Source Emissions in Town Operations

**Strategy M1.2:** Reduce emissions from employee commuting by 30% by 2037

→ **Action Step M1.2.1:** Evaluate and monitor emissions from employee commute VMT. Develop and implement telecommuting policies for eligible municipal employees to reduce daily commutes...



The Town has a telecommuting policy in place for eligible municipal employees to reduce daily commutes. No new updates for this action step in 2024.

**Strategy M1.3:** Reduce off-road emissions in Town operations by 100% by 2037

→ **Action Step M1.3.1:** Replace gasoline or diesel-powered Town tools and machinery with electric or battery-powered alternatives by 100% by 2037.



The Public Works Department has made progress with converting Town tools to electric where feasible and possible. Currently, approximately 16% of the tools used by the Public Works Department are electric.

Pictured: Town Arborist Andrew Sileo with electric tools he uses to provide tree services to the community.





# Goal M2

## Operate Sustainable Buildings

Pictured: "Cool roof" installed at Town Hall to prevent heat absorption in an effort to improve building energy efficiency.

**Strategy M2.1:** Reduce municipal building energy use by 75% by 2037

→ **Action Step M2.1.1:** Conduct an energy audit on town buildings to identify savings opportunities and commit to implementing the highest-impact measures in the earliest feasible budget cycle. Formulate a detailed Energy Action Strategy outlining the steps, timeline, and methodology for implementation to ensure prompt action and accountability.



Waste Reduction Partners (WRP) completed an energy audit at two Town buildings: Town Hall and Fire Station 2. WRP technical assistance and consulting services are provided at no cost, funded by government-sponsored grants, utility contracts, and private contributions.

→ **Action Step M2.1.2:** Subscribe to and participate in a building performance-tracking platform for all municipal buildings to increase automation, smart controls, and real time adjustments (E2.2.3). Monitor through real-time, monthly/periodic data reports from the platform, and/or conducting annual assessments to ensure continuous data oversight to allow timely implementation of building improvements.



The Town began working with a utilities management service provider in 2024 to consolidate and track utility information for buildings and other Town facilities. This action step is considered complete but will be on-going as data is continued to be compiled and tracked each year.

→ **Action Step M2.1.3:** Install energy measures as outlined in the Energy Action Strategy (M2.1.1).



While a formal Energy Action Strategy has not yet been developed, the Town is still committed to installing energy measures to improve efficiency of Town buildings. In 2024, a "cool roof" was installed on Town Hall to prevent heat absorption and improve energy efficiency of the building. Photo is shown at the top of this page.



# Goal M2

## Operate Sustainable Buildings



**Strategy M2.2:** Obtain 80% of municipal energy from renewable energy sources by 2037

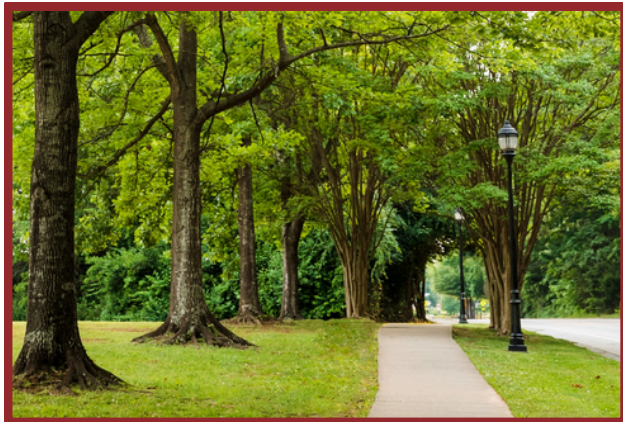
→ **Action Step M2.2.1:** Conduct a Solar Feasibility Study to evaluate the potential and practicality of installing solar panels on town-owned buildings, facilities, and other suitable properties.

Feasibility studies for three Municipal buildings were conducted in 2023. This included Town Hall and Community Center, Public Safety, and Fire Station 2. No new feasibility studies were conducted in 2024.



→ **Action Step M2.2.2:** Implement solar panel installations on town-owned buildings, facilities, and other suitable properties to generate renewable energy.

The Town is currently exploring the option of adding rooftop solar to the Town Hall and Community Center building.



# Goal M3

## Increase Efficiency in Public Street Lighting



**Strategy M3.1:** Decrease energy usage in street lighting by 50% by 2037

→ **Action Step M3.1.1:** Upgrade all street lights and traffic signals to LED or other more energy-efficient technology.

The conversion of streetlights to LED lighting continued in 2024.





# Goal T1

## Electrify Transportation



Pictured: Park & Plug EV charging station at Davidson Public Safety Building.

**Strategy T1.1:** Expand electric vehicle (EV) community-wide infrastructure

→ **Action Step T1.1.1:** Install 4 new Level 2 (or higher) EV charging stations throughout the town...

No new public charging stations were installed in 2024. One charging station was in progress. The charging station in progress is expected to be complete in early 2025. It will be located at the Davidson Town Hall and Community Center.



**Strategy T1.2:** Promote community-wide alternative vehicle awareness and adoption

→ **Action Step T1.2.1:** Facilitate collaborations with EV, hybrid, & other clean fuel vehicle owners and leverage testimonials from residents and government staff who use EVs to promote electric vehicle adoption and awareness...

Town Staff collaborated with community members and dealerships to show their electric vehicles and share information about being an EV owner with the community at two Town events (see photos on next page).



### Electric Vehicles (EVs) Showcased at Town Events in 2024

2024	No. of Dealership EVs Showcased	No. of Resident EVs Showcased	No. of Other EVs Showcased*
Earth Day Event	0	1	3
National Night Out	6	1	3

\*Other EVs include those showcased by people who reside outside of Davidson as well as businesses who showcased an electric vehicle.



# Goal T1

## Electrify Transportation

# MOMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT



**Strategy T1.2:** Promote community-wide alternative vehicle awareness and adoption

→ **Action Step T1.2.1:** Facilitate collaborations with EV, hybrid, & other clean fuel vehicle owners and leverage testimonials from residents and government staff who use EVs to promote electric vehicle adoption and awareness...



Earth Day Festival  
04.27.2024



National Night Out  
EV Village  
10.1.2024





# Goal T1

## Electrify Transportation



**Strategy T1.2:** Promote Community-wide Alternative Vehicle Awareness and Adoption

→ **Action Step T1.2.2:** Develop and promote a comprehensive information hub that outlines available federal tax credits and local incentives to support potential EV purchasers, incorporating specific incentives designed for disadvantaged groups.



A [Resident Resources page](#) for sustainability resources was developed on the Town website. This is serving as a hub for promoting sustainable programs offered by the Town as well as resources relating to tax credits and incentives. Throughout 2024, the webpage included information about rebates available through the IRS when purchasing an electric vehicle.

Pictured: On Wednesday, July 24, residents were invited to join Mayor Rusty Knox for a ride on the 77x bus into Charlotte followed by coffee and conversation at Waterbean Coffee in Uptown with the Mayor, Charlotte Area Transit System staff (CATS), and Sustain Charlotte staff (see T2.1.2).





Pictured: Mayor Rusty Knox and Davidson College student Andre Phillips on the 77x bus for Rise N' Ride with Rusty in July 2024.



# Goal T2

## Reduce City-Wide Vehicle Miles Traveled

**Strategy T2.1:** Create a walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly town

→ **Action Step T2.1.1:** Fully implement the 2019 Mobility Plan by 2027 and make adjustments as needed using up-to-date data to identify and address barriers to active transportation.



### Mobility Plan 2024 Progress

AWAITING ACTION	IN PROGRESS	COMPLETE
29%	53%	17%

A Mobility Plan update is presented to the Board of Commissioners each year. This table provides a summary of the Plan's progress in 2024.

→ **Action Step T2.1.2:** Develop regional education and outreach strategies and tools designed to increase demand for and utilization of public transit by increasing ease of public transit options.



Two Rise N' Ride with Rusty events were held to educate Davidson residents on how the bus system works and give them the opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor, Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) staff, and Sustain Charlotte staff about public transit. Additionally, Town staff attended a number of meetings with external entities regarding public transit access, demand, and utilization. The table below provides an overview of the number of meetings attended. Note, these do not include internal Town staff meetings.

### Number of Meetings Town Planning Department Staff Attended in 2024.

Better Bus / Microtransit / Bus Stop Improvements	Redline	CATS Transit System Plan
11	14	1



# Goal T2

## Reduce City-Wide Vehicle Miles Traveled

**Strategy T2.1:** Create a walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly town

→ **Action Step T2.1.3:** Develop and maintain a network of safe and well-lit pedestrian and bicycle pathways, focusing on tree-lined routes for climate resilience and comfort, in alignment with the 2019 Mobility Plan. Improve infrastructure, such as shade, shelters, restrooms, and seating areas along greenways and other transportation routes to enhance the comfort of pedestrians and cyclists.



2024 Infrastructure Improvements along Greenways and Parks	
Greenways Installed (miles)	0
Shelters Installed (no.)	3
Restrooms Installed (no.)	2
Benches Installed (no.)	10
Picnic Tables Installed (no.)	6
Bike Racks (no.)	1





# Goal E1

## Increase Renewable Energy Usage



**Strategy E1.1:** Promote and facilitate commercial & residential renewable energy adoption

→ **Action Step E1.1.1:** Advocate for utility policies and monitor utility programs to ensure accountability and fulfillment of their commitments.

Town Staff collaborated with the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN) and other North Carolina municipalities to submit a [joint Carbon Plan Integrated Resource Plan \(CPIRP\) comment letter](#) to the North Carolina Utilities Commission.



→ **Action Step E1.1.2:** Identify and eliminate barriers to small-scale distributed renewable energy production by exploring programs such as the DOE SolSmart Funding program for streamlined permitting.

A [Solar Panel Permit Guide](#) for Davidson residents interested in going solar was added to the Town sustainability webpage.



# Goal E2

## Improve Efficiency of New & Existing Buildings



**Strategy E2.1:** Encourage energy efficiency of residential homes

→ **Action Step E2.1.1:** Promote incentives and programs specifically designed for homeowners and renters to improve the energy efficiency of residential properties, including historic buildings.

Energy efficiency resources were shared via the Town website, social media, Department of Parks & Recreation Connection, and at Town events. These resources included information about tax credits and solar programs.





# Goal E2

## Improve Efficiency of New & Existing Buildings

**Strategy E2.2:** Encourage energy efficiency in commercial buildings

→ **Action Step E2.2.1:** Promote incentives for businesses, including but not limited to those in historic buildings, to adopt energy-efficient technologies and green building practices...



A resource providing free on-site assessments (energy, water, waste reduction, etc.) for businesses was shared via the Town website throughout 2024.

**Strategy E2.3:** Ensure new developments meet high energy-efficiency standard

→ **Action Step E2.3.1:** Apply the Utility Service Annexation Criteria (USAC) to direct developers towards energy-efficient building, encouraging electrification, and providing 'make-ready' infrastructure for solar and EV charging capabilities.



The USAC is continuing to be applied to developments through the Planning Department.



# Goal E2

## Improve Efficiency of New & Existing Buildings



**Strategy E2.4:** Improve energy efficiency in low-income households

→ **Action Step E2.4.1:** Promote programs such as the Weatherization Assistance program to promote access to energy audits, weatherization services for low-income households, and emerging NC Clean Energy Fund low cost financing options, with outreach and support services to guide them through the process of applying for and benefitting from these programs.



Weatherization was added as an accessory service to the [Town's Essential Home Improvement Program](#) and was promoted at community meetings in West Davidson as well as through the Town website, social media, and fliers.

→ **Action Step E2.4.2:** Advocate for and support the implementation of policies that protect low-income tenants from the impacts of energy inefficiency, such as high utility bills and poor indoor environmental quality.



In 2024, the Town's Essential Home Improvement Policy was updated to ensure appliances be replaced with Energy Star Certified appliances. Additionally, the Town Board of Commissioner's adopted the [Urgent Home Repair Program](#) which included mold, mildew, and environmental remediation for low-income homeowners.

→ **Action Step E2.4.3:** Encourage all new housing units to comply with Enterprise Community Partners Green Communities criteria or other green building program to ensure sustainability practices are considered and incorporated in affordable housing developments.



The Affordable Housing and Equity Department incorporated more sustainable practices within the [Town's Essential Home Improvement Program](#). The Essential Home Improvement Program seeks to proactively invest in homeownership, specifically for low-income individuals and families, while helping to thrive long-term in Davidson. Within this program, the following were implemented to advance sustainability efforts within Affordable Housing: (1) Appliances are being replaced with Energy Star certified appliances; (2) The use of the Enterprise Community Partners Green Communities criteria is being encouraged with Rebuilding Together; (3) Weatherization, energy audits, and sustainability improvements are now included.



# Goal R1

## Advance Sustainable Waste Management Practices in Davidson

**Strategy R1.1:** Reduce consumption & solid waste

→ **Action Step R1.1.3:** Continue, expand, and promote the Davidson Composts program with food waste hauler for residential participation...



**Number of Households Participating in the Davidson Composts Program by Year**

2022 (Sept. - Dec)	2023	2024
160	270	375

→ **Action Step R1.1.4:** Establish and promote commercial services for the Davidson Composts program...



Town staff have been exploring a business composting program. Baseline businesses are already composting on their own; Town Staff will continue exploring a business composting program in the future if additional businesses show interest.

→ **Action Step R1.1.5:** Assess and improve current yard waste management by promoting efficient and sustainable best practices like 'leave the leaves.'



Leave the Leaves initiative kicked off in 2024 with 75 residents participating!



Pictured: Leave the Leaves demonstration site at Town Hall.



# Goal R1

## Advance Sustainable Waste Management Practices in Davidson

Pictured: Sustainability Manager Kayla Kovach explaining the waste audit process to Davidson Green School students.

### Strategy R1.3: Education and community engagement

→ **Action Step R1.3.1:** Launch a comprehensive education and outreach campaign with specific goal(s), such as achieving zero waste by 2037...



The Town has multiple programs and initiatives to promote waste reduction and educate the community: The Davidson Composts Program, the Plastic Free Challenge, and Leave the Leaves.



→ **Action Step R1.3.2:** Develop waste audit (or waste assessment) education and outreach program targeting community sectors like commercial entities (businesses/restaurants/grocery), schools, multifamily facilities, and residents...



Biannual Downtown Waste Audits kicked off in 2024. In November, Davidson Green School students and community volunteers assisted Town staff with the first biannual waste audit in the downtown Main Street corridor of Davidson. Students and staff found the data collected to be very informative. The most common mistakes found were plastic, coffee, and styrofoam cups being placed in the recycling bins - none of which are recyclable in Mecklenburg County and should be placed in trash receptacles. The goal of these waste audits is to learn what contamination is occurring in the recycling bins and what recyclables are being placed in trash bins. This information helps Town staff to develop better educational tools for the community to improve recycling efforts in Davidson.



# Goal G1

## Preserve and Strategically Develop Landscapes

**Strategy G1.1:** Prioritize conservation and sustainable land practices

→ **Action Step G1.1.1:** Assess and prioritize areas for preservation by collaborating with experts...

The Department of Parks & Recreation has on-going, regular meetings with Davidson Lands Conservancy to assess and prioritize areas for preservation.

IP

→ **Action Step G1.1.2:** Explore funding opportunities to support land and wildlife conservation efforts...

The Town received funding from the County to restore Beaty Pond, add fish, and enhance the park - including adding informational signs about the pollinator gardens.

IP

→ **Action Step G1.1.3:** Promote and connect agricultural and open space landowners to incentives and resources for land conservation, carbon sequestration, and soil health...

The Town has been working with the County on farmland preservation initiatives. Efforts are underway with hopes to begin a Voluntary Agricultural District program in Mecklenburg County in mid-2025.

IP



# Goal G3

## Engage the Community in Green Initiatives

**Strategy G3.1:** Elevate awareness on green benefits and practices

→ **Action Step G3.1.3:** Continue Bee City affiliate status established in 2017 and actively promote the Bee City initiative within the community...



7 years as a Bee City

→ **Action Step G3.1.4:** Promote the Davidson Farmers Market's role in promoting locally sourced food and highlight any sustainable practices used to help educate the community.



The Farmer's Market is a producer-only market promoted by the Town via website and social media.

→ **Action Step G3.1.6:** Identify, prioritize, and designate park land as a demonstration site for sustainable practices and community engagement.



- ◆ New educational signage was added at the Beaty Park pollinator gardens.
- ◆ Controlled burn and monarch zones established at Fisher Farm Park.
- ◆ Honeybee hives installed at Fisher Farm Park.



Pictured: Honeybee hive installed at Fisher Farm Park in 2024.



# Goal G4

## Strengthen Ecosystem Health and Green Space Conservation

**Strategy G4.1:** Reinforce tree canopy management, sustainable landscaping, and land conservation

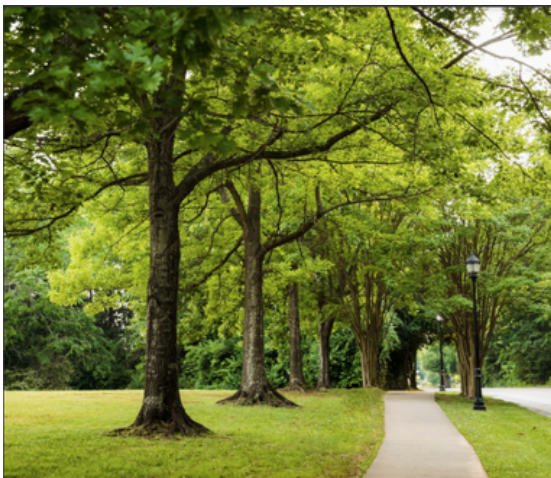
→ **Action Step G4.1.1:** Investigate incentives for encouraging the planting of shade trees and native plants on private property...



In 2024, approximately **860 tree saplings** and **45 native seed packets** were given away to community members at community events to encourage planting of trees and native plants on private property. While some of the tree saplings were purchased by the Town, the majority of the saplings and seed packets were donated for community giveaways.



Pictured: Town Arborist, Andrew Sileo educating community volunteers about how to properly plant a tree.



2024

### URBAN COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN



Authored by:  
Town Arborist, Andrew Sileo

→ **Action Step G4.1.2:** Develop a comprehensive Urban Community Forestry Plan...



The Urban Community Forestry Plan (UCFP) was finalized in May 2024, successfully completing CAP Action Step G4.1.2. This Action will be listed as complete, but it will continue as on-going since the UCFP will now be in the implementation phase. The goal of the UCFP is to inform the Town and its residents on the current status of the Town tree canopy and provide guidance to continue improving the tree canopy.



# Goal G4

## Strengthen Ecosystem Health and Green Space Conservation

**Strategy G4.1:** Reinforce tree canopy management, sustainable landscaping, and land conservation

→ **Action Step G4.1.3:** Continuously update the Tree Canopy inventory to ensure accurate and current data on Davidson's tree canopy coverage. Develop and promote incentives to maintain and increase tree canopy. Continue Tree City USA affiliate status.



- ◆ The Town Arborist is continuously updating the tree canopy inventory.
- ◆ Tree City USA Growth Award was submitted to the Arbor Day Foundation.
- ◆ 2023 Tree Canopy Enhancement Grant winners conducted their plantings in 2024.

→ **Action Step G4.1.4:** Utilize Town-owned or operated open spaces to demonstrate sustainable landscaping and low-impact design planting strategies, such as planting native trees and plants, community gardens, water management design, and educational natural areas.



- ◆ Approximately 35 trees were planted along the greenway behind the Pump House in collaboration with Davidson Lands Conservancy.
- ◆ The Public Works Department planted approximately 80 street trees in 2024.

Pictured: Tree planted by the Town's Public Works Department in 2024.



# Goal C1

## Enhance Community Resilience Against Extreme Climate Events



**Strategy C1.1:** Integrate adaptation into emergency preparedness and response

→ **Action Step C1.1.1:** Establish and equip designated municipal facilities...as climate resilience hubs...

Mecklenburg County operates and maintains these spaces through their Sheltering Plan. The Town of Davidson will continue to share resources and information provided by the county for how people can find and access these facilities.



→ **Action Step C1.1.2:** Launch community awareness campaigns on the dangers of heat-related illnesses and the locations of cooling centers.

Currently, the Town of Davidson shares the information provided by Mecklenburg County Emergency Management. The Town will continue to share the resources provided and will explore developing additional informational campaigns.



→ **Action Step C1.1.3:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment and upgrade of essential infrastructure... to prevent storm-related damage and ensure continuity during emergencies.

This action step has been started through the [Community Risk Assessment Report](#). Options are being explored for development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the Town.



→ **Action Step C1.1.4:** Strengthen early warning systems specifically for climate hazards and heat episodes.

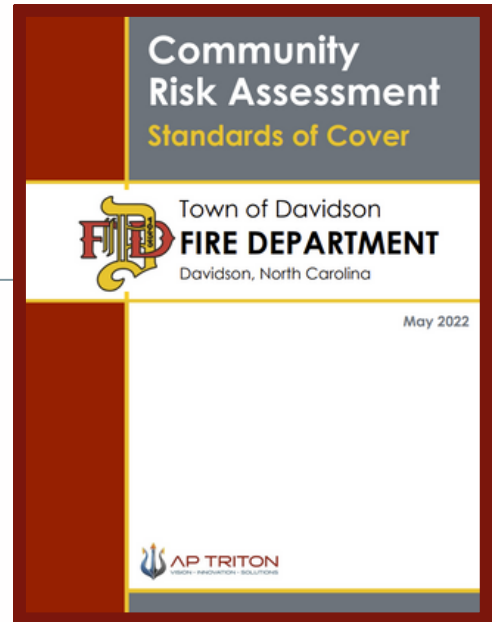
Implementation of Atlas One Community Notification System is in process. Additionally, the Town shares Char Meck Alerts sent out by the County via social media.





# Goal C1

## Enhance Community Resilience Against Extreme Climate Events



**Strategy C1.2:** Understand & reduce physical risk

→ **Action Step C1.2.1:** Participate in regional vulnerability assessments, emphasizing comprehensive recovery actions to help offset associated costs.



The Community Risk Assessment Standards of Cover completed by the Fire Department in 2022 addresses vulnerability at a local scale. Additionally, the County Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being updated and will address regional vulnerability.

**Strategy C1.3:** Educate and protect residents

→ **Action Step C1.3.1:** Establish a centralized communication platform detailing climate-related risks, including wildfire smoke, heat, drought, and flooding.



Implementation of Atlas One Community Notification System in process. Additionally, the Town shares Char Meck Alerts sent out by the County via social media.





Pictured: Community Engagement Electric Truck being showcased to the community at the Davidson Farmers Market.

# For More Information



<https://www.townofdavidson.org/Sustainability>



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