

December 1, 2021
The Honorable Kevin Ward, Mayor, City of Hyattsville
Hyattsville City Council
4310 Gallatin Street
Hyattsville, MD 20781

Dear Mayor Kevin Ward,

On November 30, 2021, the Hyattsville Environmental Committee (HEC) unanimously recommended that the City Council pass a resolution at its next council meeting in support of the Prince George's County Draft Climate Action plan. Since Prince George's County has extended the deadline for municipalities to provide public comments through December 15, 2021, we have provided a more comprehensive assessment of the Plan's merits than our November 10th letter on this subject.

Mary Abe, the Chief of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment's Natural Resource Protection and Stewardship Section spoke with HEC at this November 30th meeting about the development of the plan generally and answered specific questions about some of the plan's recommendations. As a result of this conversation and our review of the plan itself, the HEC recommends supporting the Draft Climate Action Plan as currently written rather than providing specific areas of improvement.

This decision to support the plan as written is because of two main factors: Firstly, HEC members supported the high level goals of the plan, including reducing the county's carbon emissions 50% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, and wanted to put the County on record of supporting these goals as well. Secondly, Mary stressed that the plan is a living document and that the drafters of the plan recommend that the plan be "revisited and updated every 18 months," as referenced on page 108 of the plan.

Lastly, Mary stressed that the County was looking for the Draft Climate Plan to serve as a vehicle to partner with municipalities, city elected officials, and engaged community residents to help achieve meaningful environmental results. The plan was not designed for the County to work on in isolation or without constructive support and feedback from individuals in the community. We encourage the County to incorporate this feedback, including public comments received in the November comment period into future iterations of the plan and supplemental guidance documents.

With this background, the HEC recommends that the City Council support a resolution to support the County's Draft Climate Action Plan as currently written. We look forward to providing future recommendations to the City on how we can help this plan succeed and ensure a more environmentally sustainable future for all of our residents.

Hyattsville Environmental Committee