



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 18, 2019 Agenda Item 3

### **Presentation**

Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Recommendations Report

### **Recommended Council Action**

Receive presentation from City Staff and the Cadmus Group

### **Context with Key Issues**

The City contracted the Cadmus Group to update the 2014 Sustainable Energy Action Plan. The 2014 plan consisted of 17 key strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions city-wide, which have been successfully implemented. These actions included energy efficiency incentives, public education and outreach, multifamily energy efficiency programs, expanding bike share stations, and more.

Cadmus' final work product for Takoma Park consists of three parts:

1. Recommendations Report with an analysis of emissions trends and prioritized reduction strategies for the city to consider;
2. Climate resilience and adaptation memo;
3. Next Steps memo.

Cadmus was not contracted to complete a comprehensive sustainability plan with implementation steps to reach the City's 100% greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. Cadmus' work lays the foundation for a complete plan to reach the 100% reduction goal, which can be completed by staff utilizing regional climate planning efforts.

Cadmus initially proposed 15 strategies to reduce emissions. These strategies were assessed and, in consultation with city staff and stakeholder engagement, eight strategies were selected for further evaluation. The evaluation includes high and low mitigation potential, costs, equity considerations, co-benefits, and barriers to implementation. The 8 strategies analyzed are:

- Renewable Thermal Community Outreach Campaigns
- Transit Accessibility and Outreach
- Residential Energy Assessments
- Energy Disclosure Ordinance
- Building Performance Requirements
- Community Choice Aggregation
- Natural Gas Elimination in New Residential Construction
- Virtual PPA Opportunities to purchase renewable energy directly from a solar farm

A public engagement process was utilized to inform Cadmus' work. Key stakeholders including the Committee on the Environment, City Council, staff in several departments, and key experts were invited to participate in a webinar with Cadmus. Cadmus also conducted a public workshop that more than 50 people attended. The Sustainability Manager facilitated a series of six focus groups and four outreach events; tabling at the Sunday Farmer's Market, Street Festival, and Folk Festival; and the Sustainability Manager administered an online survey completed by 219 participants.

The stakeholder engagement events and survey revealed that there is a strong desire in the community for the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan to include components not typically part of greenhouse gas reduction plans. These topics include the urban tree canopy, zero waste, and consumer behavior.

Montgomery County's climate plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. The City plan will focus on actions that can:

- Leverage current and expected County resources
- Pilot new strategies the County can scale up
- Downscale current or future County policies, such as benchmarking and energy efficiency standards, to apply to smaller buildings

Next steps are for the Sustainability Manager to attend MWCOG's climate action planning two-day workshop November 20 – 21, and continue working with Montgomery County climate action planning workgroups to inform work on the City's plan. Implementation of new emissions reduction activities will continue. The next action being explored for feasibility is a change to the City's Right of Way permits to allow installation of curbside EV charging equipment for residences and businesses that do not have off street parking.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All; An Environmentally Sustainable Community

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

The recommended strategies and expected implementation plan will have actions in clean energy, transportation, energy efficiency, waste, and other areas of environmental sustainability.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

The cost of The Cadmus Group work was \$41,004. The annual sustainability budget is \$363,135 including personnel costs. Implementation of additional programs may require an increase.

### **Racial Equity Impact Statement**

The City asked that the consultant use an equity based foundation in the development of recommendations, as well as the Sustainability Manager's community engagement process, to ensure broad participation and a strategy list that will impact the community in a positive fashion.

### **Attachments and Links**

Sustainability and Climate Action Plan Recommendations Report  
Next Steps and Funding Memo  
Resilience and Adaptation Memo