

Takoma Park Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

Strategy Prioritization Criteria

The following criteria have been identified to guide discussion of emission reduction strategies at the Takoma Park stakeholder workshop. 6-8 prioritized strategies from stakeholder feedback will be subject to a more in-depth analysis using the criteria below.

Category		Description	Key Questions
Feasibility	Community Interest	Level of support or opposition for the strategy, as well as anticipated utilization or uptake of associated programs offered by the City other entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are participants excited about this strategy? Are there any elements of the strategy that may face opposition?
	Technical Feasibility	Extent to which a strategy is feasible in an appropriate timeframe considering potential technical or policy barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this strategy employ tested and proven technologies currently available on the market?
	Timeline	Consideration of both the expedience of initial implementation (<6 months to multi-year effort) and potential for delay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What initial approvals are required and what parties need to be engaged? How long will implementation take? What is the preferred combination of near-term vs. longer-term strategies?
	Cost Effectiveness	Evaluation of both capital costs associated with the strategy, and potential for it to provide cost savings or introduce new revenue streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the associated costs, both upfront and ongoing, for the proposed project? Are there potential cost savings or revenue streams?
Impacts	Equity Impacts	Degree to which the benefits of any strategy are able to reach many segments of the Takoma Park community, and evaluating the degree to which any potential burdens can be minimized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What benefits are associated with this strategy, and will they be distributed equitably? What are the potential burdens of this strategy, and who would be most impacted?
	Emissions Impacts	Degree to which the proposed strategy is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Takoma Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the potential for emissions reduction from this strategy? Is it aligned with areas of high emissions within the City? Are there other positive environmental impacts from the policy (e.g. water conservation, air quality, etc.)?
	Climate Preparedness Benefits	Ability of the strategy to address climate change impacts specific to Takoma Park, including extreme heat, flooding, and severe storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this strategy responsive to existing climate preparedness concerns? Will this strategy be susceptible to challenges from the changing climate?

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Proposed Emissions Reduction Strategies

The initial list of strategies was compiled from a variety of sources, including feedback received during the Takoma Park GHG Inventory Webinar, and Cadmus' environmental actions database of strategies employed by other communities in the US. This database was filtered for communities with a similar regulatory context and governance structure to Takoma Park. The policies in this list focus on reducing natural gas consumption and promoting commercial building efficiency, as these address two main sources for GHG emissions in Takoma Park. This list was also cross-checked with a list of actions already implemented or considered by Takoma Park from the Sustainable Energy Action Plan, provided by Gina Mathias. Any redundant policies were removed, and additional strategies from the region were also incorporated.

Category	Short Name	Description	Action Level	Sector	Subsector
Maximize Efficiency	Promote EmPOWER Maryland Offerings	Promote commercial energy efficiency and gas programs available through the EmPOWER Maryland offerings with Pepco and Washington Gas	City	Stationary Energy	Commercial Buildings
Maximize Efficiency	Energy Disclosure Ordinance	Develop an energy use reporting requirement for commercial buildings in Takoma Park, using this information to establish performance requirements and target specific buildings for energy retrofits	City	Stationary Energy	Commercial Buildings
Maximize Efficiency	Residential Energy Assessment	Require energy efficiency assessments for residential buildings at periodically and/or at time of sale, coupled with minimum upgrade requirements	City	Stationary Energy	Residential Buildings
Maximize Efficiency	Promote Cogeneration	Encourage increased natural gas efficiency through use of cogeneration	City	Stationary Energy	Utility
Electrification Initiatives	Renewable Thermal Community Outreach Campaigns	Launch of a "solarize" style campaign (community-based outreach and education program) for heat pumps/renewable thermal technology by the City of Takoma Park	City	Stationary Energy	Residential and Commercial Buildings
Electrification Initiatives	Natural Gas Ban - New Residential Construction	Pass ordinance banning natural gas from being installed in new residential construction, with pathway for retrofitting existing housing stock	City	Stationary Energy	Residential Buildings

Electrification Initiatives	EV Charger-Ready Parking Requirements	Pass ordinance requiring new commercial and residential development to provide EV charger-ready street parking	City	Transportation	Transportation
Electrification Initiatives	EV Charging Station Expansion	Coordinate with the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) to create a bulk purchase of EV charging stations to encourage workforce charging	City	Transportation	Transportation
Electrification Initiatives	Montgomery County Green Bank Electrification Programs	Encourage Montgomery County Green Bank to create financing or incentive programs for key technologies, such as heat pumps and EV charging	Region	Stationary Energy, Transportation	Residential Buildings and Transportation
Utilize Renewables	Solar-Ready Construction Requirements	Require new commercial and multi-family construction in Takoma Park to be solar-ready or include renewable electricity generation as part of zoning ordinances	City	Stationary Energy	Residential and Commercial Buildings
Utilize Renewables	Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Opportunities	Explore virtual Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) opportunities for municipal and commercial buildings with other communities, similar to what the Virginia Energy Peer Network is exploring	Region	Stationary Energy	Municipal and Commercial Buildings
Utilize Renewables	Community Choice Aggregation	Encourage Montgomery County/Maryland to pursue community choice aggregation (CCAs), allowing the City to procure power on behalf of residents and businesses, increasing purchasing power for renewable options	Region	Stationary Energy	Residential and Commercial Buildings
Other Demand Reductions	Carbon Impact Statements	Adding "carbon impact statements" to all major city policy decisions and projects to incorporate GHG reductions in city planning	City	Stationary Energy	Municipal Buildings
Other Demand Reductions	Green Roof/Green Space Requirements	Require new commercial construction in Takoma Park to include "cool roof", green roof, or water quality facilities exceeding current stormwater requirements	City	Stationary Energy	Commercial Buildings
Other Demand Reductions	Install Protected Bike Lanes	Promote bicycling within Takoma Park by making the city easily navigable by bicycle via installation of protected bike lanes and/or cycletracks, and making whole areas only accessible by bike or foot	City	Transportation	Transportation