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TO: City Climate Action Team & Charlottesville City Council

FROM: Cultivate Charlottesville Food Justice Network & C3 (Community Climate Collaborative)

RE: Community Recommendations at the Intersection of Climate Justice & Food Justice

DATE: September 6, 2022

Food Justice is a key part of climate action. The protection of climate is fundamental to sustaining the health and validity of our community. The effects of climate change are proven to have a direct impact on not only the environment but also on the Charlottesville community, with emphasis on underrepresented and historically excluded communities. These effects further add to the already placed barriers these communities face, specifically with food equity.

Cultivate Charlottesville partnered with C3 to highlight the intersection of Climate Justice and Food Justice along with some key strategies and recommendations. We hope that with this letter, these efforts will be prioritized and included in the city's current Climate Action Plan.

- **Urban Agriculture:** Increase local urban agriculture to reduce upstream emissions from food travel distances and increase carbon capture measures locally.
- **Composting:** Increase city-wide residential, institutional, and business composting facilities and offerings.
- **Transportation:** Advance transportation food pathways to make healthy, affordable food markets more accessible.
- **Green Space:** Increase overall green space and trees, eliminating the burden on low-wealth communities.

Following are our specific recommendations to the current draft Climate Action Plan.



Sincerely,
Jeanette Abi-Nader & Richard Morris, Co-Executive Directors



Recommendations for the Intersection of Climate Justice & Food Justice

*Items in blue are recommended additions to the current language.

1. Buildings and Energy

- 1.1. Strategy: Move new construction closer to Net-Zero through increased levels of energy efficiency, incorporation of onsite renewable energy and solar-ready building standards.
 - 1.1.a. Prioritize green space/living pathway additions to new construction
- 1.2. Strategy: Increase energy efficiency and onsite renewable energy use in existing buildings.
 - 1.2.a. Increase energy efficiency, onsite renewable energy, and use of passive energy reduction strategies such as tree shade and water collection.

2. Transportation

- 2.1. Strategy: Increase Travel by *Walking, Biking, Transit*
 - 2.1.a. Leverage interconnections of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, parking, commuter networks, and pathways.
 - 2.1.b. Continue planning and investment in well-connected network of trails, shared use paths, sidewalks, bike lanes and community gardens.
 - 2.1.c. Advance transportation food pathways to make food markets more accessible to residents with a specific focus in neighborhoods with limited access to healthy food options.
- 2.2. Strategy: Encourage alternative travel behaviors
 - 2.2.a. Expand availability and access to regional trails and shared use paths for recreation, community, and food pathways.

3. Waste

- 3.1. Strategy: Divert Organics from the Landfill
 - 3.1.a. Organics within the City-provided comprehensive curbside services for residents, businesses, and institutions.
 - 3.1.b. Organics for non-City-Curbside clients.
 - 3.1.c. Organics from Municipal Facilities (government, schools, and community and school gardens).
- 3.2. Strategy: Reduce Amount of Food and other Organics-based material waste
 - 3.2a. Diversion to glean/donation (add emphasis on areas of focus to include municipal facilities, businesses, and restaurants, etc.)

4. Natural Resources

- 4.1. Strategy: Maintain a Robust Urban Forest on City-owned Lands
 - 4.1a A robust Urban Forest Management Plan
 - 4.1b Integrate shade to increase comfort of high priority walkable, bikeable, and transit corridors [with specific focus on heat-island areas.](#)
 - 4.1c [A robust Urban Agriculture Management Plan with dedicated lands.](#)
 - 4.1d [Research and analyze land trust potentials for preserving land and community-based urban agriculture.](#)

- 4.2 Strategy: Encourage Healthy and Increased Tree Canopy on Privately Owned Properties
 - 4.2a Education/Engagement on tree maintenance and care, selection and Placement.
 - 4.2b Consideration of code standards for new developments
 - 4.2c [Special consideration for tree canopy additions in neighborhoods with lower to moderate incomes.](#)

- 4.3 Strategy: Encourage Healthy and Increased Tree Canopy and Urban Agriculture on Public and Subsidized Housing Sites.
 - 4.3a [Consideration of housing rules that limit garden and growing space for residents.](#)

- 4.4 Strategy: Non-Tree Canopy Actions
 - 4.4a Soil Amendments (biochar)
 - 4.4b [Consider reduction in parking minimums to decrease impact on non-permeable surfaces and transition to more permeable parking options.](#)
 - 4.4c [Implement incentives to transition high maintenance green space such as lawns to productive urban agriculture or food forests.](#)

5. Guidelines for Implementation:

- 5.1 Prioritize financial incentives and assistance to support low-income and mid-income households.
- 5.2 Direct resources and programs to address racial inequities and drive outcomes.
- 5.3 [Advance transportation food pathways to make food markets more accessible to residents with a specific focus in neighborhoods with limited access to healthy food options.](#)