



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Board of Commissioners

FROM: Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Climate Change Advisory Committee - Town of Pittsboro Representation

DATE: November 23, 2015

Background: The Chatham County Board of Commissioners has formed a Climate Change Advisory Committee. They have also requested that the Town of Pittsboro appoint a representative. This representative could be a Board Member or, alternatively, you could allow the Town Manager to appoint a relevant Staff person.

Renee Paschal, Chatham County Manager, forwarded to me the mission and duties of the new committee:

Mission of the Climate Change Committee:

The purpose of the Committee will be to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners and others regarding likely climate change impacts in Chatham County and ways to adapt to and mitigate these impacts, including (a) reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (primarily CO₂) with related improvements in air quality, (b) promoting the use of renewable energy, (c) promoting carbon neutral/green building standards for new and existing buildings both public and private and (d) encouraging resilient conservation-oriented land uses and both residential and commercial land development standards that foster climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Initial Committee Activities:

A key focus of the Committee will be to make recommendations to the County about ways to: (1) reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (primarily CO₂), (2) adapt to climate changes and (3) promote educational activities that support both. Initial Committee projects and activities that have been identified include:

- Study carbon-neutral policies that have been considered and/or adopted by other local jurisdictions and businesses; --Identify the sources of energy that are now used in Chatham County; --Make recommendations to the County regarding use of the LEED building standards; --Make recommendations to the County regarding the sources of renewable energy that could be used to support County and other buildings; --Make

recommendations to the County regarding energy efficiency of County-owned and other buildings and vehicles;

- Make recommendations to the County regarding possible amendments to the zoning and subdivision ordinances and building codes to improve the efficiency of residential buildings and the conservation qualities of housing developments;
- Make recommendations to the County regarding ordinance and regulatory amendments to encourage maintenance of timberland generally, greater use of trees in commercial and residential developments and discouragement of deforestation practices; --Make recommendations to foster agricultural practices that avoid unnecessary contributions to climate change; --Make recommendations to the County regarding education of the public on issues related to climate change.

There will be a total of eleven (11) members, including two (2) members that will represent Siler City and Pittsboro. The County will advertise for the other nine (9) members and will likely begin making appointments in December. Once the committee is in place, meetings are anticipated to occur on a monthly basis.

Action Requested: Discuss and appoint a Town of Pittsboro representative to the Climate Change Advisory Committee.