

**Climate Change Non-Departmental Account**  
**Monthly Reporting**

In May 2020, County Council approved reporting language in its Operating Budget miscellaneous provisions of Resolution 19-472 with regards to the Climate Change NDA:

*This resolution appropriates \$400,000 to the Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account (NDA). Funds in this NDA must be used for the prioritization of greenhouse gas reduction strategies, developing an implementation plan to meet the County’s goal of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and a 100 percent reduction by 2035, and to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Only after the previously described work is completed may funds be used for other climate change-related initiatives. The Executive must transmit within 15 days after the end of a month a report on the previous month’s expenditures from this account.*

In accordance with the resolution, the Executive hereby transmits the monthly report for June 2021.

**FY21 Climate Change NDA expenditures reporting:**

(includes expenditures incurred or committed through 6/30/21):

<b>Expenditure Description</b>	<b>Amount Expended or Committed</b>
Resilience Ambassador pilot and listening sessions (resilience surveys to inform the climate plan and operating expenses)	\$5,798.26
Climate planning outreach and communications	\$58,966.60
Building Energy Performance Standard planning	\$144,663.00
Building codes planning	\$1,000.00
Fleet transition planning	\$127,302.00
Sustainable economic development report	\$10,760.00
Temporary clerical services	\$35,000.00
Electric vehicle charger wayfinding	\$4,937.50
Agrivoltaic project	\$1,715.64
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$390,143</b>

**June 2021 highlights:**

- Climate Planning update: On June 23, County Executive Marc Elrich unveiled the Climate Action Plan that will guide the County toward its goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and by 100 percent by 2035 compared to 2005 levels. The Montgomery climate action plan, which will increase resilience in the

face of climate hazards, is one of the most ambitious climate plans in the nation for a local government.

The actions and technical analyses presented in the plan build upon the work of more than 200 volunteer members of the Climate Technical Workgroups formed by the County Executive, County employees and technical consultants. The plan reflects input from a wide variety of community groups and the general public.

The County Executive also released the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Climate Work Plan. The Climate Work Plan describes actions the County plans to make progress on during FY22. The County anticipates action on 75 of 86 recommendations in the Climate Action Plan in FY22.

The main elements of the Climate Action Plan include:

- Reduce Emissions in the Energy, Buildings and Transportation sectors. The plan recommends actions that include increasing the use of and investment in clean, reliable and affordable energy; implementing code requirements related to energy efficiency, solar installations and net-zero standards and building energy performance standards for existing buildings; expanding public transit service, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and a shared micro-mobility network; and supporting community-wide adoption of electric vehicles.
- Center Racial Equity and Social Justice. The plan considers the racial equity and social justice implications of each climate action through the identification of equity-enhancing measures. The plan also assesses impacts on communities most vulnerable to climate hazards.
- Address Residual Emissions and Carbon Sequestration. The plan identifies nature-based carbon sequestration actions including retaining, managing and expanding forests, wetlands, grasslands and urban tree canopy. It also seeks to increase carbon in soils through improved agricultural practices.
- Reduce Climate Risk. This will be achieved through actions that enhance the resilience of the community and infrastructure assets, including repairing and upgrading stormwater drainage and management systems; updating green streetscape and green infrastructure standards; hardening emergency shelters and installing resilience hubs; and updating floodplain maps.
- Identify Ways to Pay for Climate Action. Implementing the actions in the plan calls for commitment from the public and private sectors while leveraging local, State and Federal government resources. It will be critical to mitigate the cost impacts to low- and moderate-income residents in particular to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are not adversely impacted.
- Enhance Climate Governance. This will be accomplished through actions that institutionalize climate change considerations within Montgomery County

- Government processes and decision making; measure and report on progress; and foster creativity, collaboration and innovation to implement climate solutions.
- Engage the Community as Partners in Climate Action. Residents will be involved in the implementation of the plan through a climate communications coalition; a Community Justice Academy in which community ambassadors work with neighbors and the County to co-create community-based solutions; and enhanced partnerships with municipalities. The plan increases opportunities for climate change education in the public school system and calls for a statewide coalition of local governments and youth groups focused on advancing ambitious State climate policy.

The details of the plan can be found at [www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/climate](http://www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/climate).

- Commercial solar market survey issued: The Department of Environmental Protection issued a survey to seek feedback from solar developers and commercial property owners in the County to help DEP better understand the barriers, challenges and opportunities for installing solar on commercial properties. While there has been impressive adoption of solar on residential properties, barriers remain for installing solar on commercial properties.

DEP asked commercial property owners, tenants and solar installers to fill out the Commercial Solar Market Survey and share experiences, opinions and concerns. The survey closed on June 30. DEP hopes the survey responses will help to better understand the business community's concerns about solar. Generally, there appears to be a lack of awareness of the benefits, confusion over how to find a qualified installer, questions about costs and concerns over long-term performance that may contribute to the underutilization of solar on commercial properties.

**For more information:**

- The Climate Action Plan and the FY22 Climate Work Plan are available on the climate webpage: [MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Climate](http://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Climate)