

Henrico County Climate Action & Adaptation Strategy (CAAS)

SRAC MEETING 2/04/26

Agenda



1. PROJECT
BACKGROUND



2. STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT PLAN



3. GHG MITIGATION
STRATEGY
DEVELOPMENT

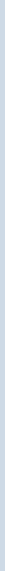


4. CLIMATE
ADAPTATION: EXTREME
HEAT ASSESSMENT

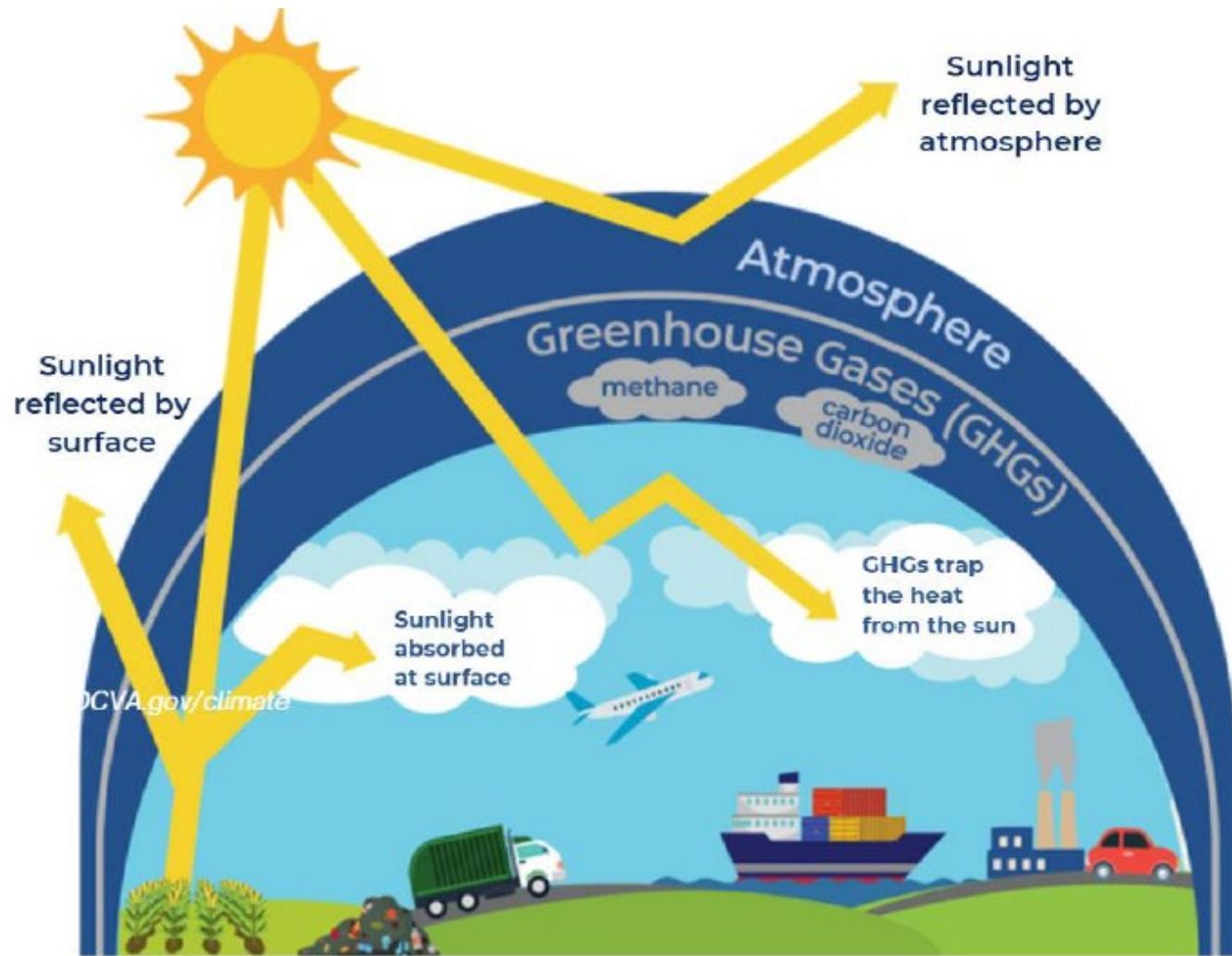
SRAC Role in CAAS Development

The Sustainability & Resilience Advisory Committee plays a critical advisory role in shaping Henrico County's Climate Action & Adaptation Strategy.

- 1. Outreach & Engagement:** Promote the community survey and open houses through personal and professional networks
- 2. April—Strategy Review:** Engagement takeaways, provide feedback on draft mitigation and adaptation strategies and actions, review potential goals
- 3. June—Final Review :** Review CAAS report sections and provide input prior to finalization

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Project Background



Gases are released through industrial and natural processes and when burning fossil fuels, such as from driving cars, heating buildings, producing electricity, and farming.

These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, causing climate change and an increase in the average global temperature.

This Strategy will help assess the County's vulnerability and develop adaptation strategies



Climate change mitigation involves actions that reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These actions, such as using clean energy sources, address the root causes of climate change and have co-benefits for public health, affordability, and more.



Climate change adaptation involves actions that enable individuals, communities, schools, businesses, and public agencies to withstand disruptions from climate hazards, like heatwaves and storms, as they increase in frequency and intensity.

Strategy Outcomes:

- ✓ Mitigate GHG emissions and build resilience to climate hazards, especially extreme heat across the county and for municipal operations
- ✓ Track progress towards implementing the identified strategies and actions
- ✓ Coordinate actions across government and school staff
- ✓ Build awareness and education across the community and County staff

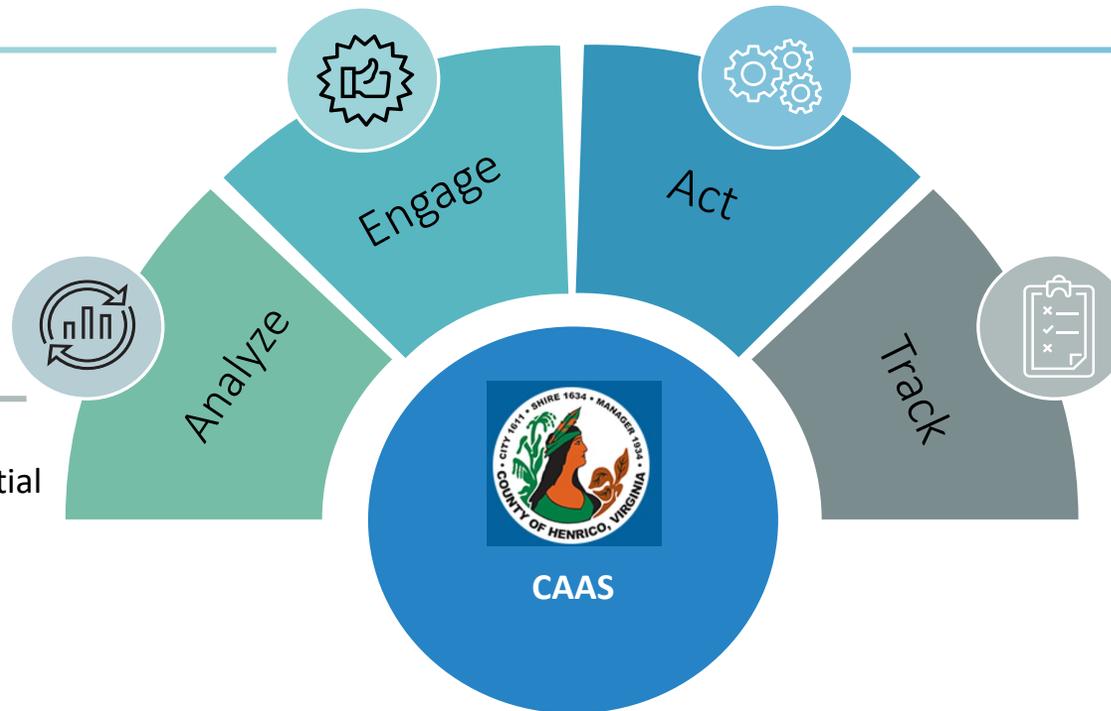
Scope

Engagement & Outreach

- County Department Interviews
- General Public Open Houses
- Public Survey
- Staff Survey & Focus Groups

Analyze

- GHG Inventory
- GHG Emission Reduction Potential
- Extreme Heat Vulnerability



Strategies & Actions

- Actionable & Achievable Implementation Strategies for County operations & the broader community
- Mitigation & Adaptation

Progress Tracking

- Identify Metrics
- Progress Reports

Timeline & Milestones

Fall 2025
(Analyze)



- ✓ Consultant onboarding
- Data collection, department interviews, preliminary analysis (ongoing)
- ✓ Develop outreach and engagement materials

Winter 2026
(Engage)

- Staff focus groups, survey (Feb - March)
- Community-wide survey (Feb - March)
- Public open houses (Feb - March)
- SRAC meetings (Feb, April, June)

Spring 2026
(Draft Report)

Draft CAAS

- Strategies & Actions reviewed by Departments and key stakeholders
- Public comment period

Summer 2026

Final CAAS

Henrico County
Department of Public Works

Local Resilience Plan

August 2021



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P.O. Box 90775
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(804) 501-4393
henrico.us/works

Building on the County's past and ongoing work: Adaptation

- Henrico County Department of Public Works (DPW) Local Resilience Plan (adopted August 2021)
 - DPW is currently developing an updated Resilience Plan focused on flooding and other hazard risks to County assets.
- PlanRVA extreme heat mapping for the region, including identifying priority census tracts for extreme heat mitigation (completed 2025)

The CAAS builds on these efforts, diving deeper into extreme heat vulnerabilities and strategies for both community and county assets.



Building on past and ongoing work: Mitigation

- In 2025, PlanRVA released the Pathways to the Future: Air Quality Plan
- **Stakeholders** from all localities in the Richmond MSA (including Henrico County staff and community members) provided input. PlanRVA received **1,760 survey responses**.
- This project developed a **GHG inventory for Henrico County** and GHG mitigation strategies for the region.

PlanRVA's engagement efforts, data, and strategy development serve as a starting point for the CAAS

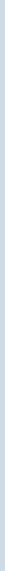
Discussion Questions

Priorities

1. What issues feel most urgent for Henrico to address in the near term (e.g., heat, flooding, transportation, buildings, energy, waste, natural lands)
2. Are there specific communities, needs, or factors you think should receive additional focus as this strategy is developed?

Feasibility

3. Are there actions that seem important in theory but may be difficult to implement locally? If so, what barriers stand out?
4. Are there opportunities or bright spots (e.g., existing programs) you think should be supported, highlighted, or leveraged?

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Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Engagement & Stakeholder Input

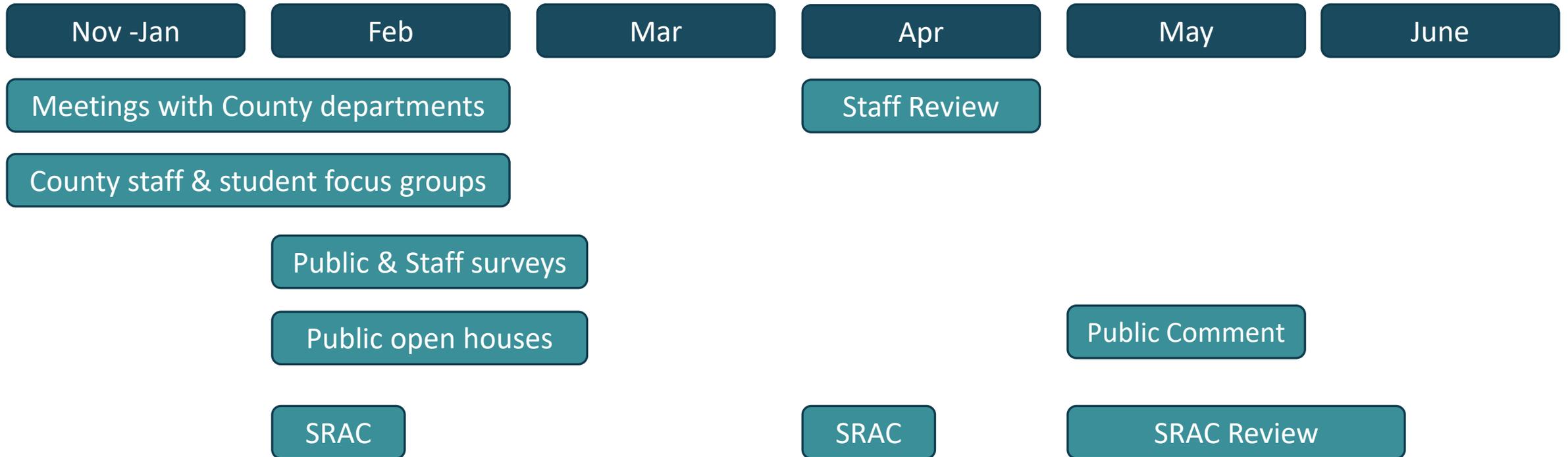
Primary stakeholders:

- Henrico County & Schools staff and students (DPW, Facilities/Fleet, DPU, EDA, Planning.)
- General public
- SRAC

Engagement modes:

- Surveys - promoted with flyers, social media posts, radio, newsletters, and emails
- Open house meetings with informational posters and activities
- Interviews with County departments
- Presentations to key stakeholders

Engagement Timeline



Surveys

PUBLIC SURVEY

- Gauge interest and current participation in climate action in daily life
- Identify barriers to climate action
- Describe climate impacts (esp. heat)
- Identify potential adaptation strategies

10-20 minutes to complete by March 16

STAFF SURVEY

- Gauge interest and current participation in climate action within the context County operations
- Identify barriers to climate action within the context of County operations
- Describe climate impacts to County employees
- Identify potential adaptation strategies within the context of County operations

8-10 minutes to complete by March 16

Promoting the Public Survey



QR code to public survey



Dear community members,

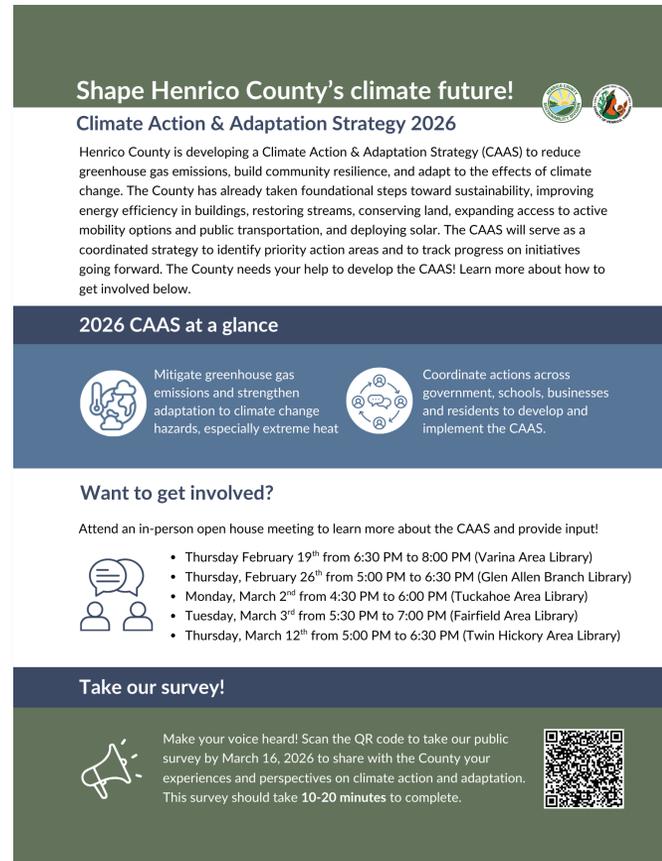
Henrico County is developing a Climate Action & Adaptation Strategy (CAAS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build community resilience, and adapt to the effects of climate change. The County has already taken foundational steps toward sustainability, improving energy efficiency in buildings, restoring streams, conserving land, expanding access to active mobility options and public transportation, and deploying solar. The CAAS will serve as a coordinated strategy to identify priority action areas and to track progress on initiatives going forward.

The County is working to develop a CAAS that reflects our communities' needs, and **we need your help**. Please take **10-20 minutes** to participate in our survey and share your experiences and perspectives on climate action and adaptation **by March 16**. If the button below doesn't work, you may type the following link into a browser:

<https://forms.office.com/r/CEHd4CLedT>

Take the CAAS public survey

Preview of email template



Shape Henrico County's climate future!
Climate Action & Adaptation Strategy 2026

Henrico County is developing a Climate Action & Adaptation Strategy (CAAS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build community resilience, and adapt to the effects of climate change. The County has already taken foundational steps toward sustainability, improving energy efficiency in buildings, restoring streams, conserving land, expanding access to active mobility options and public transportation, and deploying solar. The CAAS will serve as a coordinated strategy to identify priority action areas and to track progress on initiatives going forward. The County needs your help to develop the CAAS! Learn more about how to get involved below.

2026 CAAS at a glance

- Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen adaptation to climate change hazards, especially extreme heat
- Coordinate actions across government, schools, businesses and residents to develop and implement the CAAS.

Want to get involved?

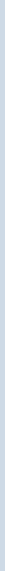
Attend an in-person open house meeting to learn more about the CAAS and provide input!

- Thursday February 19th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM (Varina Area Library)
- Thursday, February 26th from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM (Glen Allen Branch Library)
- Monday, March 2nd from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM (Tuckahoe Area Library)
- Tuesday, March 3rd from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM (Fairfield Area Library)
- Thursday, March 12th from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM (Twin Hickory Area Library)

Take our survey!

Make your voice heard! Scan the QR code to take our public survey by March 16, 2026 to share with the County your experiences and perspectives on climate action and adaptation. This survey should take 10-20 minutes to complete.

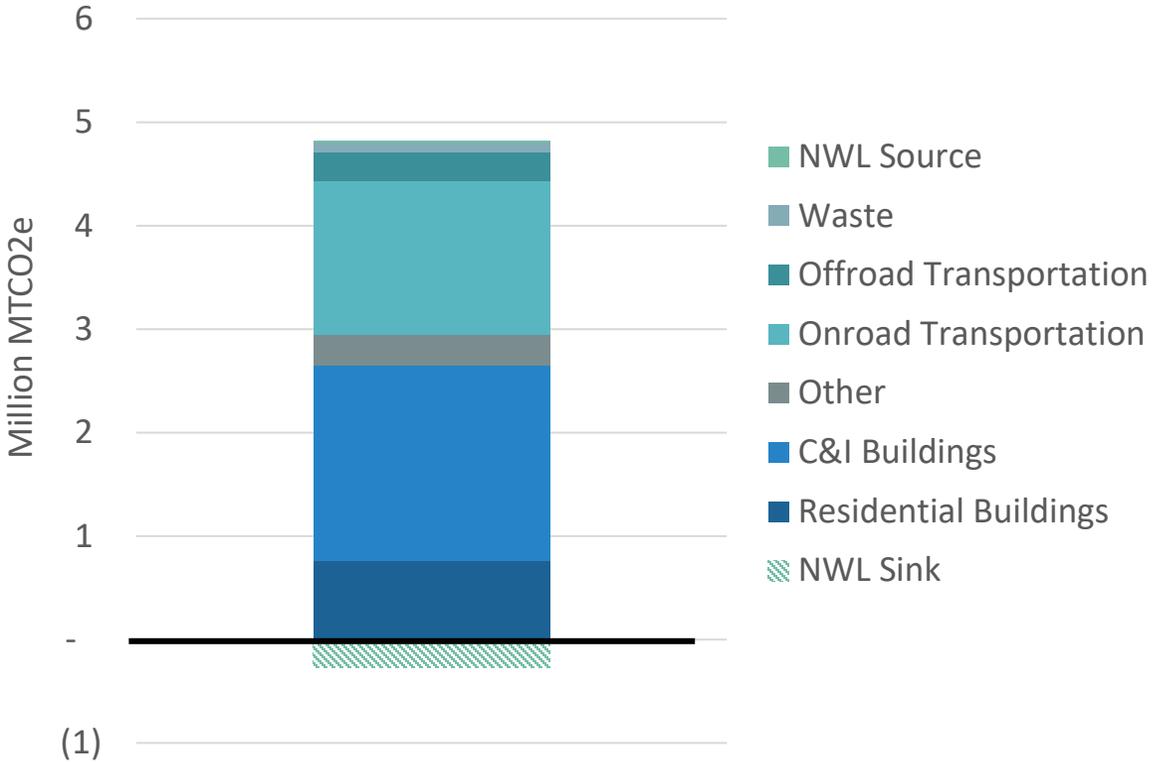
Public survey flyer



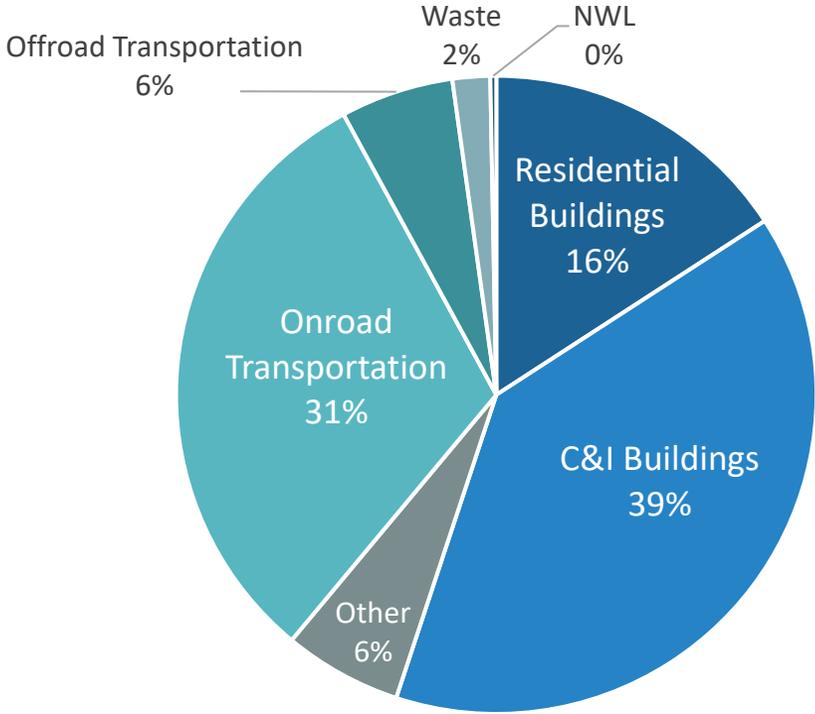
GHG Mitigation Strategies

Henrico County's GHG Emissions Today

2022 Net GHG Emissions: 4.5 MMTCO₂e



2022 Gross Emissions: 4.8 MMTCO₂e



1. PlanRVA strategies & actions

2. Stakeholder input to refine & prioritize for Henrico

3. Ensure near-term strategies are actionable

4. Metrics & progress tracking

Mitigation
Strategies
Development

PlanRVA's new regional Air Quality Plan includes over 20 mitigation strategies and will serve as the foundation for the CAAS



Efficient & Electric Buildings



Clean Transport



Local Clean Electricity



Waste Reduction and Diversion; WWTP efficiency



Protect & Restore Natural Lands

Leveraging the Air Quality Plan, the CAAS will:

- ✓ Tailor these solutions to Henrico County
- ✓ Include a robust municipal & school operations strategy
- ✓ Add adaptation strategies focused on extreme heat

Potential Near-Term Actions: Lead By Example

Fleet & Facilities Operations

- ✓ Energy efficiency upgrades
- ✓ Light-duty fleet electrification
- ✓ EV charging at County facilities with existing electrical capacity
- ✓ Anti-idling and route optimization for County vehicles

Waste & Utilities

- ✓ Expanded recycling education and signage
- ✓ Increased use of food-scrap compost drop-offs
- ✓ Ongoing landfill gas-to-energy and landfill solar projects
- ✓ Energy efficiency improvements at the Water Reclamation Facility

Natural Lands & Heat

- ✓ Implement the Parks & Open Space Master Plan (2024–2035)
- ✓ Target tree planting and shade in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods
- ✓ Protect wetlands and riparian buffers through existing regulations
- ✓ Advance land conservation partnerships as opportunities arise

Land Use & Development

- ✓ Integrate CAAS priorities into land development activities
- ✓ Encourage EV-ready, bike-ready, and walkable site design
- ✓ Reduce excess parking in mixed-use and transit-accessible areas
- ✓ Conduct a county-wide clean energy site assessment

Next Steps



Process public input throughout Feb/early March from survey & open houses



Wrap up focus groups & initial Department interviews & staff survey



Draft strategies & actions for review in April from SRAC and solicit feedback from Departments on relevant Actions



What resources would help SRAC members prepare for providing future feedback? (*e.g., deeper dives by sector, example Climate Action Plans, etc.*)

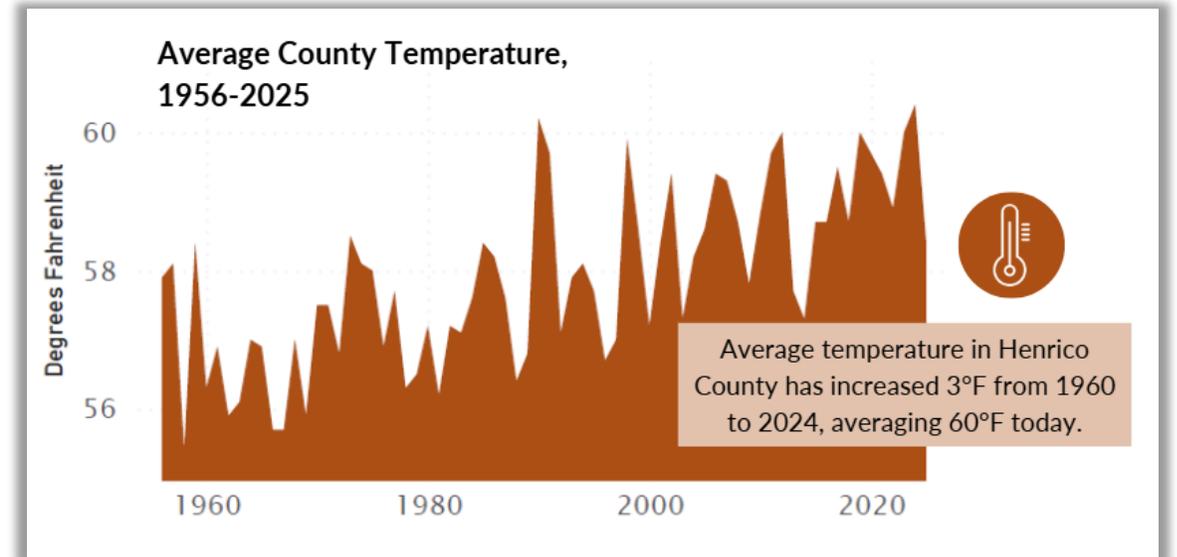
Climate Adaptation:
Extreme Heat
Assessment

Extreme Heat Vulnerability Assessment

- Extreme heat poses major impacts to both infrastructure and human health.
- Understanding where heat exposure and vulnerability are greatest helps the County target effective mitigation strategies.

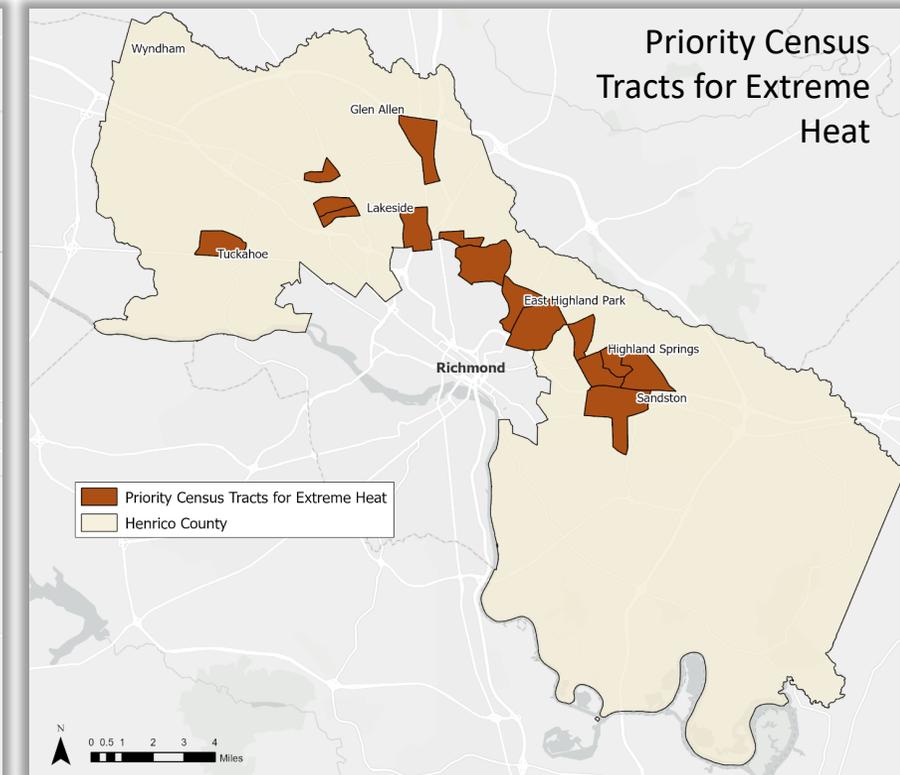
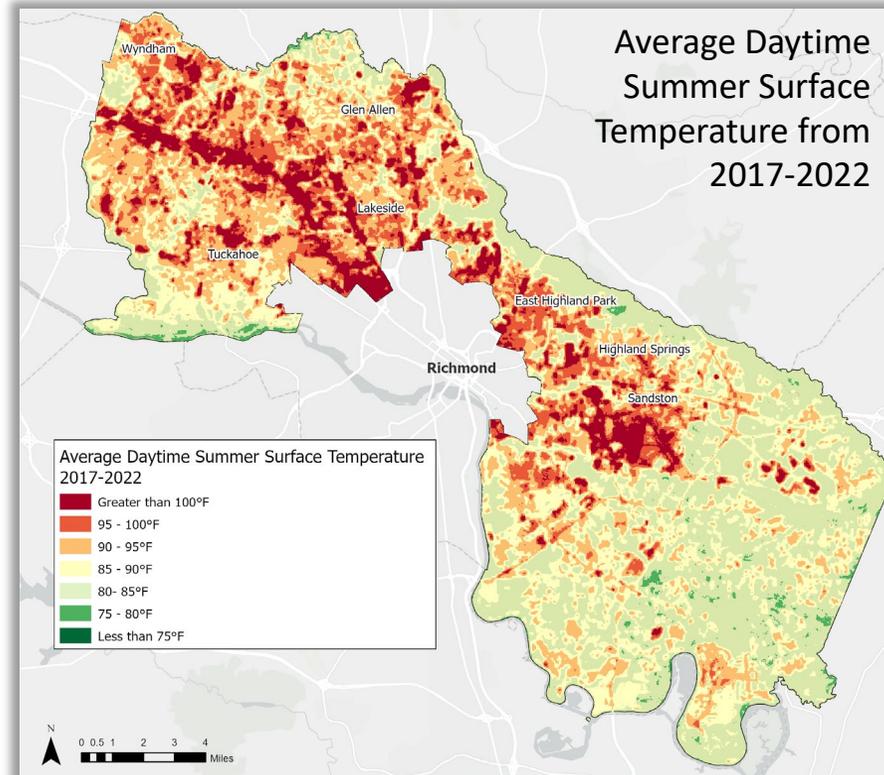
This assessment aims to answer three questions:

1. *What is the county's exposure to extreme heat?*
2. *Where are there opportunities to implement cooling strategies?*
3. *What areas can be prioritized for action?*



Extreme Heat Vulnerability Assessment Process

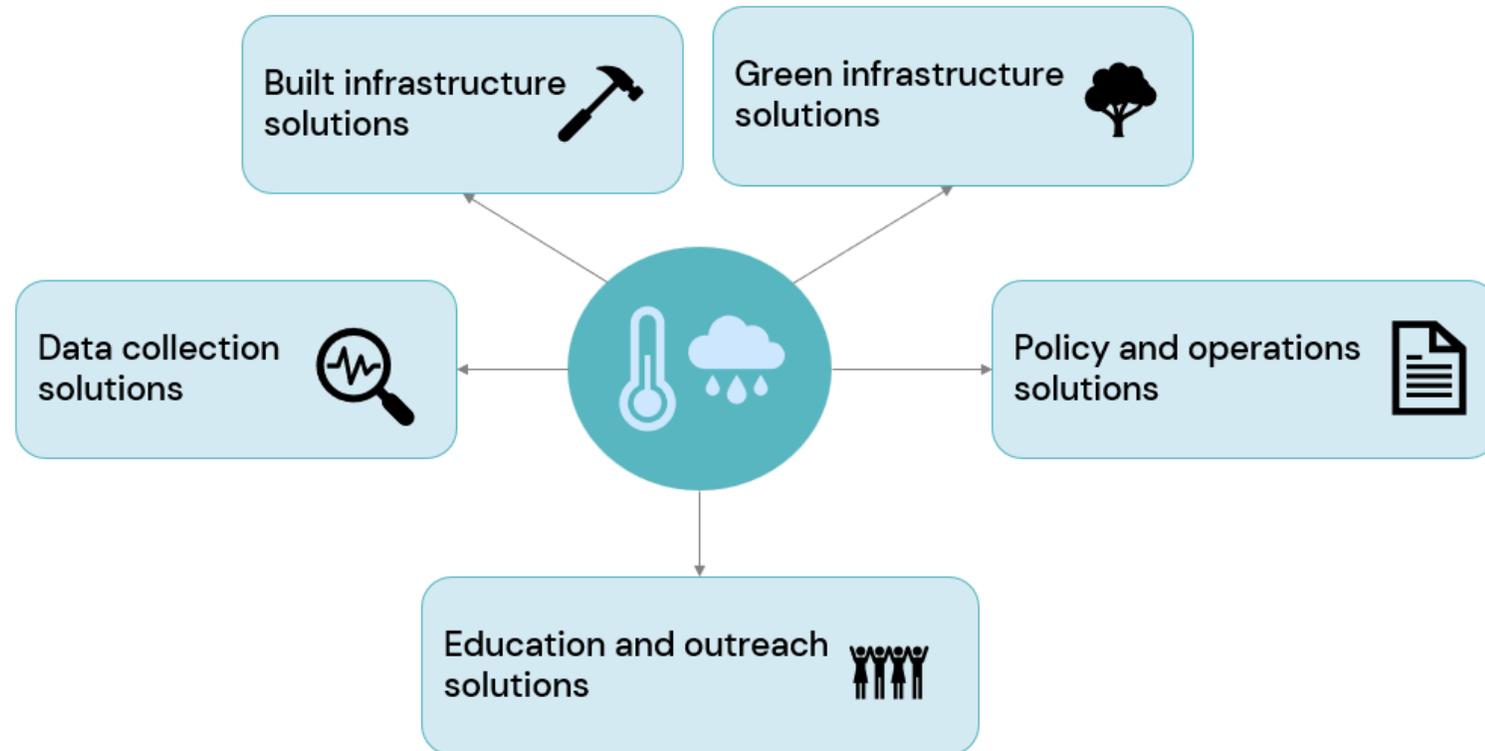
- **Screen heat exposure for bus stops, bike routes, and trails** and identify opportunity areas for heat mitigation
- **Assess tree canopy and cooling facilities** to identify opportunity areas for heat mitigation



Next Steps

- **Review draft heat assessment results** with County staff
- **Identify priorities** for heat mitigation
- **Develop toolbox of adaptation strategies** with a focus on heat
- **Review draft strategies and actions** with County staff, SRAC and public

Potential Adaptation Strategy Types:



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