

Description of Breathing Room Strategies and Associated Actions

Airport Shuttle Electrification

- Identify and secure grant funding to defray the cost of new electric shuttles and charging infrastructure.
- Work with local airports to assist them with creating a shuttle replacement schedule that prioritizes the highest emission shuttle(s) for replacement first.

Community Solar

Community Solar is local solar facilities shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

- Advocate for electrical utilities, like Duke Energy, to site their planned community solar projects in the Charlotte region.
- Research what policy changes are needed to allow non-utilities (like nonprofits or neighborhood associations) to pursue community solar projects in North Carolina.

Complete Streets Policies

Complete streets are designed to be safe and comfortable for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and individuals of all ages and capabilities. These streets generally include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, transit stops, appropriate street widths and speeds, and are well-integrated with surrounding land uses.

- Promote and support adoption of complete streets policies by local municipalities that do not already have a policy.
- Advocate for pedestrian and bike accommodations on roadway projects.

Energy Audits

An energy audit is a thorough accounting of the energy use of a building. Also known as energy assessments, audits are a way to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of a home, business, or industrial plant.

- Research commercial, industrial, and residential energy audit opportunities and prioritize sectors.
- Identify a service provider to conduct energy audits and provide recommendations that will reduce energy consumption within prioritized sector(s).
- Incentivize action by property owners. For example, audit fees could be charged and then refunded when audit recommendations of equal or greater value are implemented. Audit fees would be waived for low-income households.

Greenway Expansion Advocacy

- Advocate for using and continuing to develop greenways throughout the Charlotte Region.
- Promote construction of greenways that connect people with activity centers.
- Quantify and actively communicate the air quality benefits of greenway use as an alternative to driving.

Ground-support Equipment Electrification (GSE)

GSE is the equipment at an airport that is used to perform activities such as moving baggage, cargo loading, towing/tugging planes etc.

- Identify new funding for AeroGRADE, Mecklenburg County Air Quality's "Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines" program targeting airport equipment.
- Work with local airports to fund the installation of required charging infrastructure for electric GSE.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs allow local governments to help property owners finance renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements on residential and commercial properties.

- Research the legal requirements for a PACE program.
- Partner with local municipalities to develop and implement PACE programs in the region.

School Bus Electrification

- Identify and secure grant funds to defray the cost of new electric school buses and charging infrastructure.
- Work with local school systems to develop a bus replacement schedule that prioritizes the highest emitting buses for replacement first.

Transit Expansion Advocacy

- Support efforts to develop an interconnected mass transit system throughout the Charlotte Region
- Quantify the air quality benefits of Mass Transit as an alternative to driving.

Zoning Advocacy- EV Charging Infrastructure

EV Charging Infrastructure supplies electricity for the recharging of plug-in vehicles.

- Promote EV charging stations in new parking lots and decks in the region