

Climate Council Meeting Summary Notes – May 15, 2025

Attending:

Climate Council Members	Role	Organization
Sally Greene	Commissioner	BOCC
Kristie Mather	Board Member	Commission for the Environment
Robb English	Town Commissioner	Hillsborough Board of Commissioners
Wendy Kuhn	PRB Member	Hillsborough Parks and Recreation Board Representative
Greg Randolph	CAT Team Member	Carrboro Climate Action Team
Melissa McCullough	Town Council	Chapel Hill Town Council
Tom Henkel	Chair	Chapel Hill Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board
Riza Jenkins	School Board Vice Chair	CHCCS Board Member
Sarah Smylie	Board Member	Orange County School Board
Patrick Florence	Director of Construction	Orange County Schools
Melanie Elliott	UNC Sustainability	UNC Sustainability Lead
Ian Scott	Vice President of Advocacy	The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill Carrboro
Staff	Role	Organization
John Richardson	Community and Sustainability Resilience Manager	Town of Chapel Hill
Brennan Bouma	Sustainability Program Analyst	Town of Chapel Hill
Stephanie Trueblood	Public Space and Sustainability Manager	Town of Hillsborough
Amy Armbruster	Chief Sustainability Officer	Town of Carrboro
Amy Eckberg	Sustainability Programs Manager	Orange County
Mel Gilles	Sustainability Projects Analyst	Orange County

- The group reviewed the agenda and, due to a scheduling conflict with a school board meeting, decided to reschedule the November meeting. The meeting will now be held the second week of November, on **November 13, 2025** (same time, same location), instead of the third week of the month.
- We received a [presentation](#) from two UNC-Chapel Hill students, **Dheri Brown** and **Serena Sherwood**, who shared their *Electrify* research and campaign developed as part of a class project with the Hussman School of Journalism. Their work provides valuable insights and campaign materials that will inform our efforts to launch an *Electrify* campaign in 2026.
- **John Richardson**, **Amy Armbruster**, and **Mel Gilles** presented on this year’s heat resilience efforts. The [presentation](#) covered the *Beat the Heat* campaign, the *Heat Cohort*, the *Heat Action Plan*, and a call to form a dedicated **Heat Task Force**. Council

members were encouraged to amplify heat posts and spread the word about joining the heat taskforce within their networks.

- **Amy Armbruster** also shared an [overview of the C-PACE program](#) (Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure). C-PACE offers long-term, fixed-rate financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades to commercial properties. Repayment occurs through a special assessment on the property tax bill, aligning with the useful life of the improvements—often up to 20 or 30 years. The program is financed by private capital providers, with no use of taxpayer funds. Key borrower protections include:
 - No acceleration of repayment by the lender
 - Prepayment flexibility
- The meeting concluded with a brief round of good news shared by attendees.