

FY27 Climate Action Program Funding, Objectives, and Funded Projects

FY27 Funding

The FY27 climate action funding includes \$300,000 of one-time FY27 special Board appropriated climate action funds. In addition, \$150,000 in Facilities & Environmental Services Department (FES) operational funding will also support climate action projects in FY27.

FY27 Climate Action Program Objectives

Climate Action Program Objectives:

1. Results Oriented – Implement projects that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy consumption, prioritizing efforts that deliver measurable, on-the-ground emissions reductions.
2. Lead by Example – Advance reductions in County operational GHG emissions by implementing projects that directly support achieving the County's 2030 operational emissions-reduction targets.
3. Build Momentum Through Strategic Pilots – Use Board funding to implement well-designed pilot projects that prove concepts, accelerate broader implementation, and strengthen the County's ability to secure future funding
4. Capture Savings to Support Additional Work – As Board funding is used for operational improvements that generate cost savings, seek to reinvest those savings as a long-term funding source for future climate action initiatives.
5. Improve Program Reporting – Strengthen evaluation and reporting by developing clear metrics, documenting measurable emissions-reduction outcomes, and assessing return on investment (ROI) for projects.
6. Improve Program Performance and Capacity – Leverage the full capabilities of the organization, especially FES project management and operational expertise, to build capacity and enhance the overall performance of the Climate Action Program.

FY27 Proposed Special Board Funded Climate Action Projects

The FY27 climate action projects funded by one-time special Board funding are listed in table 1 below. The program of projects has been designed to address the two largest sectors of emission producers: 1. Transportation emissions and 2. Stationary energy emissions (i.e. building emissions). Transportation emissions are reduced by developing projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled by changing mode of travel away from single occupancy autos and/or improving vehicle efficiency. Stationary energy emissions are reduced by developing projects that decrease energy usage, improve energy use efficiency, and/or transition energy sources.

Table 1: Proposed FY27 Special Board Funded Climate Action Projects

Project	FY27 Funding	Description	Potential Emissions Reduction
Transportation Sector Projects			
1. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Improvements	\$50,000	Support installation of public EV chargers through incentives or projects.	Assuming three chargers are installed through this program, annual emissions avoided would be ~290 MT of CO ₂ e annually.
2. Commuter Incentives to Promote Sustainable Transportation	\$5,000	Develop incentives for County employees to carpool, walk, cycle, or take transit to work, serving as a model for businesses in the community.	Assuming this project avoids 20 vehicles commuting to work each day with an average commute distance of 17 miles, this would avoid ~45 MT of CO ₂ e annually.
3. Transportation Infrastructure to Connect Neighborhoods	\$70,000	Support project(s) that provide community connectivity, e.g. a bridge over a creek to connect a residential area to a school or commercial area.	Assuming a project allows 20 families to replace one three-mile car trip per day, this would avoid ~9 MT of CO ₂ e annually.
Stationary Energy Sector Projects (i.e. Buildings Efficiency Projects)			
4. Residential and Commercial Energy Improvement Micro-grants	\$50,000	In partnership with LEAP and in coordination with existing City programs, offer incentives to County residents and businesses for a variety of building energy-saving improvements (i.e. heat pump installation, attic insulation, duct sealing)	Assuming this project supports County residents to replace 16 gas furnaces with a new heat pump, 8 gas water heaters with heat pump water heaters, and the implementation of 20 insulation and weatherization projects, this would avoid ~90 MT of CO ₂ e annually.
5. County Building Energy Efficiency Improvements	\$50,000	Continue investments in County facilities to reduce energy use and emissions reductions, serving as a model in the community.	Assuming energy efficiency investments in County facilities similar to FY26, this would avoid ~110 MT of CO ₂ e annually, with a 7-year payback.
6. LEAP – Energy Resource Hub	\$75,000	Continue to co-fund the Energy Resource Hub with the City, which connects Albemarle residents and business owners to federal, state, and local incentive programs and vendors/contractors through a website and an “energy navigator” (staff).	The Energy Resource Hub supported dozens of County residents and businesses to install energy-saving improvements last year. Assuming this project supports a similar number of projects in FY27, this would reduce emissions by ~20 MT of CO ₂ e annually.
Total	\$300,000		

Additional Coordinated FY27 Funded Climate Action Projects

In addition to the FY27 projects supported by one-time special Board funding, the Climate Action Program is planning to execute additional coordinated funded projects. See table 2.

Table 2: Additional FY27 Climate Action Projects to be Funded by Other Budgets (i.e. FES Operational Budget)

Project	FY27 Funding	Description	Anticipated Emissions Reduction
7. Organic Waste Feasibility Study	\$50,000	Analyze the feasibility of an organic waste program in the County's urban areas, i.e. compost, yard waste, and/or leaf pick-up.	If implemented, organic waste diversion programs can reduce 0.2–1.0 MT CO ₂ e per household per year, depending on participation and material volumes. Estimated potential countywide reduction if enacted: 2,000–10,000+ MT CO ₂ e annually, depending on scope and participation.
8. LEAP – Energy Smart Program	\$75,000	Continue annual funding to support subsidized home energy improvements for low-income homeowners and renters.	Assuming this project supports a similar number of projects as FY26 (home energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits), this would reduce emissions by ~96 MT of CO ₂ e annually.
9. Education and Outreach	\$25,000	Continued support for community education and outreach regarding climate action and adaptation including supporting ACPS's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, as well as ACPS's Climate Action Activity Kits.	Assuming 500 residents/students engaged through events, school programs, or digital outreach, and 2% to 5% of engaged individuals take at least one emissions-reducing action (e.g., home energy improvements, reduced driving, improved waste diversion) and an impact reduction of 0.05–0.25 MT CO ₂ e per person per year, this would reduce emissions by ~3 MT CO ₂ e annually.
Total	\$150,000		