

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	March 4, 2025
Action Required:	No Council Action Required
Presenter:	Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Utilities
Staff Contacts:	Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Utilities
Title:	Natural Gas Decarbonization Next Steps

Background

The City of Charlottesville, Virginia's ("City"), natural gas utility is one (1) of three (3) municipally owned gas utilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The City has provided reliable natural gas to the residents and businesses of the City and Albemarle County, including the University of Virginia, for over 150 years. Currently, the City operates and maintains a natural gas distribution system comprised of 340 miles of natural gas main lines and serves over 21,500 customers.

The City, Albemarle County, and other local municipalities have made commitments to community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. On July 1, 2019, City Council adopted the goal of a forty-five percent (45%) reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050; both reduction measures will be based on the 2011 inventory year. Albemarle County has made the same level of emissions reduction commitments, measured from its 2008 inventory year.

As a result of the City owning, operating, and maintaining a natural gas utility, the utility's role and responsibilities regarding community-wide greenhouse gas reductions must be thoroughly evaluated. The City's Department of Utilities solicited the expertise of a consulting firm to responsibly and accurately determine how the gas utility can be a part of the solution in achieving and aligning itself with the community's greenhouse gas reduction goals ("Study").

Discussion

The Study modeled various scenarios for which the gas system can achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, including cost impacts and resiliency implications to customers by looking at technology and energy efficiency improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impact to existing and future customers and the City was evaluated. In addition, the Study evaluated and made recommendations to improve the Charlottesville Gas Energy Efficiency Program and the operations and maintenance of the natural gas system.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This Project contributes to the Council's Strategic Outcome Area – Climate Action.

Community Engagement

The City's Department of Utilities gathered input from the community and updated City Council and the community on the results of the Study.

Budgetary Impact

The Study was paid by natural gas enterprise operating funds.

Recommendation

The presentation is intended to update City Council on the Study's Next Steps.

Alternatives

Attachments

1. Gas Decarbonization Study - Next Steps_20250304