

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Challenges and Opportunities

Kelsey Boatwright, DCSEU Extern

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Common Implementation Challenges

- Tunnel vision of current targets and planning
- Adaption and implementation integration
- Isolated methods of measurement
- Lack of governmental department coordination
- Absent project management and financial oversight
- Climate equity and community-driven policy
- Low leverage of high reduction measures
- Underutilized state and federal resources

Implementation Opportunity #1

"Failure-to-Launch"

- Planning cycle tunnel vision
- Multiple planning and goal updates pass without demonstrable greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction
- Inventories and reporting focus can misdirect resources
- **Recommendation**
 - Six recommended phases of climate action execution
 - *Discovery, planning, scoping, budgeting, procurement, and delivery**
 - Integrate decision support and planning skills
 - Project management and execution

Implementation Opportunity #2

Coordination and Project Management

- Resources, staffing, and priorities alignment
- Project management resources + planning
- Budgetary and staffing resources + policy tools integration

- **Recommendation**
 - “Whole of government” approach including cooperation between various departments and agencies
 - Foster formal collaboration across agencies through strategies such as:
 - Creating joint offices
 - Establishing lead agencies
 - Implementing overhead directives



Implementation Opportunity #3

Prioritize Heavy-Hitters

- Clean electric grid and low-carbon transportation prioritization
- Community-wide and transportation-specific clean energy goals
- Building and transportation electrification
 - *I.e. Heat pumps versus combustion furnace or boiler*
- **Recommendation**
 - Early focus on transportation **electrification**
 - Switching to lower-carbon fuels, improving vehicle efficiency, and improving system-wide efficiency
 - Implement utility or local **government incentive programs**
 - Adopt mandatory **policies to improve energy performance of existing buildings**



Implementation Opportunity #4

Climate Equity & Policy

- GHG emissions measurement alone can be limited
- Standalone climate plans can isolate climate
- Community members to co-design solutions

- **Recommendation**
 - Co-develop proposals with the community where possible
 - Use multi-level involvement of community groups
 - Prioritize energy equity and affordability
 - Interventions to lower energy burdens
 - Facilitate accessible financing
 - Data-driven community assessments
 - EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) resource



Implementation Opportunity #5

Utilize Funding & Resources

- Unprecedented federal investment
- Continuous state investment
- Opportunity for county and city

- **Recommendation**
 - Assess jurisdictions existing agency
 - Leverage existing resources
 - Database of [State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency](#) (DSIRE)
 - Maryland Energy Administration (MEA): [State and Local Incentives](#)
 - Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC): [Finance Resources List](#)
 - Virginia DEQ: [Programs and Financial Incentives](#)
 - DC Department of Energy and Environment: [Grants and Funding](#)
 - MWCOG: [EV Grants and Funding Opportunities](#)
 - Federal Funding [Opportunities for Local Decarbonization](#)



Building an Implementation Plan

- Does initial climate, energy, or transportation plan include details for implementation?
- Coordinate cross-agency communication, project development timelines, and prioritization
- Implementation report should outline exact actions identified in its strategy
- **Recommendation**
 - Integrate actions identified in the adaptation strategy into day-to-day operations and decision-making processes
 - Operationalize key areas;
 - Service delivery, asset management, infrastructure projects and community planning

Budgets and Capital Improvement Plans

- [Montgomery County](#): \$1.4 billion recommended for projects that advance Climate Change goals in FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program
- [Arlington County](#): \$649 million recommended in energy and environmental investments in FY23–32 Capital Improvement Program
- [City of Frederick](#): \$917,423 investment in Sustainability Initiatives Project in FY23-28 Capital Improvement Program
- [Fairfax County](#): \$1.85 million approved to begin implementation to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 in adopted FY23-27 Capital Improvement Program

Kelsey Boatwright

DCSEU Extern

kboatwright@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002