March 9, 2024

City Council
95 West Main Street
Brevard, NC 28712

Re: Resilience Action Plan

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

We, the members of the Brevard Planning Board, hereby request the Brevard City Council formally adopt a municipal resolution stating the intent to create a Resilience Action Plan (RAP) for the City of Brevard.

A RAP is a document listing measurable and achievable goals to reduce the city's carbon emissions by a specific timeline. It will complement the NC Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan as directed by Executive Order 80 AND help balance values of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic vitality without compromising the needs of future generations.

By creating and adopting a RAP, the City of Brevard gains many benefits, including:

- Access to two of three new (but time-limited) federal grant programs, called Formula and Competitive grants, established by the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as State funding, to help fund resilience efforts.

- Substantial energy and waste savings that can be funneled into further transition efforts or other town projects.

- Demonstrating to voters that leaders are taking concrete action to address climate threats.

- Educating and encouraging the public about both city affairs and environmental action.

- Creating an umbrella under which to fold myriad future grassroots proposals, like recent citizen suggestions for an effort to promote shade trees, pollinator health, and improve streambank protections, for example.

A RAP need not be an onerous project. The City can fold in many existing functions and recent accomplishments, like bike lane construction, current building electrification, EV efforts with Land of Sky, the CLUP's stated goals of conservation, and more. This would lower the bar to entry and hasten creation of a RAP for federal grant-seeking purposes.

The Planning Board also recommends that Brevard join either ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability https://iclei.org/, Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN) https://www.southeastsdn.org/, or both, in order to get access to their expertise, grant recommendations, resources including a carbon measurement tool, and collaborative networks with other cities who are doing the same work across the Southeast. Their membership fees are affordable ($345-$1,200/year), would help the staff or board to create and implement the plan, and connect us with other towns in our region that already joined, like Hendersonville, Waynesville, Asheville, Boone, and more.

Time is of the essence, as climate breakdown has already begun. It is the duty of governments at every level to take the concrete steps to safeguard their citizens and future generations to come. A Resilience Action Plan is how Brevard, NC, can demonstrate it is meeting its duty.

Sincerely,
The Members of the City of Brevard Planning Board

Greg Hunter, Chair	Reid Wood, Vice Chair
Peter Chaveas, Member	James Carli, Member
John Schommer, Member	Alan Mercaldo, Member
Molly Jenkins, Member	