

Climate Action Plan Open House Summary

The City of Rockville conducted a Climate Open House on November 17, 2020 as part of its commitment to and process for developing the City's Climate Action Plan.

The Open House was coordinated and conducted by the City's Environment Management Division and leveraged additional support from the City's Green Team/Environment Commission, and Staff from the Transportation Department, the Planning Department, Compliance Inspection and Community Services to respond to resident questions during the Open House.

The Climate Open House was open to all residents of the City and was conducted through an online forum due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020. The goal of the Open House was to share information with residents about the climate action planning in Rockville and to solicit and gather input from residents on various strategies being considered by the City to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The Open House represented a form of public information dissemination and community engagement.

Sixty-Seven (67) participants registered and attended the Climate Open House which was held over a period of two (2) hours.

The Climate Open House was advertised on the City website, via the City's social media platforms, the Environment and Sustainability Newsletter distributed via email and the local City newspaper (Rockville Reports) for a period of three (3) months leading up to the event.

During the Open House the City's Sustainability Coordinator and the Chair of the City's Green Team/Environment Commission provided residents with overviews of the climate action planning process. In addition, representatives of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments shared regional perspectives of climate planning across the Washington area.

The Open House also organized participants in breakout sessions focused on six major topic areas of transportation, land use, building energy, waste reduction, equity, health and community resilience and climate resilience to gather resident input on City strategies around these issues including (1) level of community support for each strategy, (2) what residents liked about the strategies, (3) what concerns, considerations, and barriers they anticipated, (4) which elements were key to the success of the strategies (incentives, mandates, state/federal support, partnerships, education, simplicity), and (5) other ideas, suggestions or comments related to the strategy. The breakout sessions were facilitated by a two-person team of comprised of one City Staff member from a City government

department with authority over the topic area in question and one green team member. Participants provided brief oral reports to share highlights from each breakout session with the larger group upon completion of the breakout sessions.

Input from each breakout session was also recorded in a detailed spreadsheet and is being considered and incorporated in the Draft Climate Action Plan currently under development.

As a result of the Climate Open House, residents expressed strong appreciation for City efforts in sharing information about the climate planning process and soliciting community feedback. Also as a result of the Climate Open House, several residents expressed interest in volunteering on an ongoing basis with the City's Climate Action Committee (which operates under the aegis of the City's Environment Commission) leading to a doubling of membership in the Climate Action Committee by 2021.

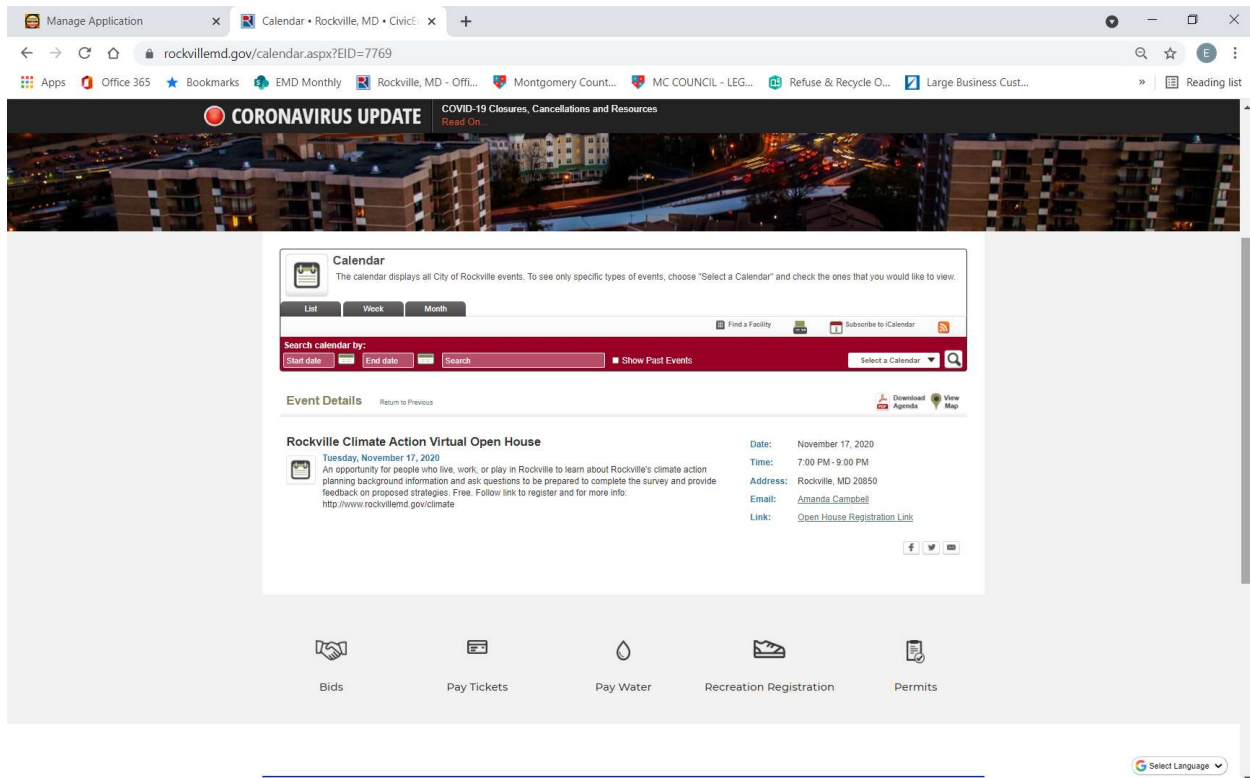
Lastly, due to the success of the first Climate Open House, the City plans to hold a second Climate Open House in the Summer of 2021 to share further updates on the development of the Climate Action plan and is in the process of conducting outreach for the event.

The Draft Climate Action Plan is expected to be released in late Fall of 2021 and will include resident input gathered through the Open House and other methods (surveys).

Supporting Materials

The open house was advertised on Rockville's website, calendar, social media, and the Montgomery County Show.

Rockville Calendar: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx?EID=7769>



<https://mocoshow.com/blog/rockville-to-host-climate-change-open-house/>