

CLEARING THE AIR

EXPLORING CHARLOTTESVILLE'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Our goal

Charlottesville is looking at ways to use less fossil fuel, like natural gas, and move to cleaner, reliable energy.

This project will help the City understand:

- What different options could mean for residents and businesses
- Possible cost for different options
- How the City can help people make the move
- How to make sure the transition is fair, especially for people with low and middle incomes

What we heard from you

This summer, people told us that energy decisions should make everyday life better.

Community members centered:

- Keeping energy bills affordable
- Healthy homes
- Safe neighborhoods
- Better housing
- Clear and honest information
- Listening to young people
- Giving everyone a chance to participate



The study is using these ideas to compare different options.

Why this work matters:

Saving money



- Natural **gas prices** are expected to **keep rising**.
- **Energy efficiency** paired with **clean energy** can **reduce bills**.
- **Everyone** needs access to affordable and reliable energy.

Better health



- **Burning gas** creates **air pollution** inside and outside homes.
- **Cleaner energy** can **help** people **breathe** easier, especially children, the elderly, and people with asthma or other breathing related conditions

Protecting our climate



- Burning fossil fuels like oil and gas causes climate change.
- **Climate change** can mean hotter summers, stronger storms, flooding, drought, and other **extreme weather**.
- **Clean energy protects** our community **now** and in the **future**.

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COMMUNITY CLIMATE
COLLABORATIVE



What does the study ask? For each option the study looks at:

- What are the costs?
- Does it reduce pollution?
- Does it improve quality of life?
- Can the City realistically do it?
- Does it protect people who need the most help?



Facts

- The City's budget and legal authority impact what it can do.
- Most new multifamily buildings in Charlottesville are all-electric.
- From April 2025 to March 2026 more air source heat pumps than gas furnaces were sold.

What else could affect Charlottesville's energy future?

- Gas prices may keep going up.
- Lower pollution energy technology may continue becoming cheaper.
- More people are likely to switch from natural gas to electric.



How the City might help the energy transition

Some ideas being studied include:

- Help paying for home upgrades like heat pumps and insulation.
- Protect gas customers from unfair cost increases as fewer people use the gas system.
- Support renters and landlords while helping keep housing affordable.
- Focus on families with the highest energy bills or the greatest health and safety needs.
- Provide easy-to-understand information and one-on-one help.
- Offer low-interest loans or payment plans for home improvements.
- Support workforce development for current and future energy jobs.

LEARN MORE

Visit theclimaticollaborative.org/clearingtheair and take our energy pathway survey to add your voice:



Center for Community Partnerships