



To: Mayor and City Council Members  
From: Environmental Advisory Board Members  
Date: 03/11/2021  
Re: FY20 Environmental Advisory Board Annual Report

It is with great pleasure that we submit this summary of the work that the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) has accomplished over the past year. While the past year has been unusual, we have been able to accomplish several of the items on our work plan. We look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead.

Our FY2020 work plan included five overarching objectives that have guided our monthly discussions and actions. The following report provides a summary of our work in these areas.

#### **Highlights:**

1. Presented the Solid Waste and Recycling Report to the Growth and Natural Resources Committee of the City Council in February 2020.
2. Selected and prepared for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Awards Celebration. The in-person event was cancelled due to COVID, but the winners were honored in partnership with a City virtual Earth Day celebration and outreach.
3. Reviewed and evaluated programs, conducted additional research, and prepared a report on Food Procurement and Waste/Material Choices for Raleigh (see attached report).
4. Continued to support pollinator habitat through our Raleigh Bee City USA membership.
5. Continued to learn about Raleigh's Greenhouse Gas emissions and the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

#### **1. Presented the Solid Waste and Recycling Report to the Growth and Natural Resources Committee of the City Council in February 2020.**

**FY 19 Work Plan Item #1:** Review and evaluate recycling programs with a focus on organics recycling and the specific challenges related to other recycling streams.

The Growth & Natural Resources Committee of the City Council requested a presentation report of the Solid Waste and Recycling Report after the Annual Report was presented to the City Council last year. The report was presented in February with no additional action taken.

Highlights of the report included the five major challenges identified associated with the recycling program(s) are;

- a. Contamination,

- b. Recycling markets,
- c. Storage space for yard waste,
- d. Appropriate City approach to food waste, and
- e. Future operational considerations.

2. **2020 Environmental Award Winners and Earth Day Celebration**

**FY 20 Work Plan Item #1:** Continue to host Raleigh’s Environmental Awards Celebration with awards and recognition. The Raleigh Environmental Awards celebrate innovation and leadership in environmental stewardship, community engagement, business practices, and climate action. The individuals and organizations recognized have made incredible contributions to preserve and enhance Raleigh’s natural environment. We are pleased to honor their commitments to environmentalism!

A large celebration was planned for the [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day](#) and to celebrate the Environmental Award Winners for 2020 at Dorothea Dix Park. While the large public event had to be cancelled due to COVID and it was transitioned to an accessible and exciting virtual event. A [resource page](#) to virtually CELEBRATE, LEARN, and TAKE ACTION for the planet was created for the community to celebrate the 50th anniversary while safe at home! There were also webinars for the community on Practicing Sus-STAY IN-ability. In addition to announcing the Environmental Award Winners on the city website, a social media campaign highlighted the winners individually and collectively. See the following [link](#) and **attached report** to this document for a list of all winners and more detailed description of their activism and projects. Below are a list of the categories and winners:

**2020 Raleigh Environmental Award Winners**

- a. **Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award-** Julian Prosser, retired Assistant City Manager, for his work to establish the Environmental Advisory Board.
- b. **Climate Action Awards** - There were three Climate Action Awards in 2020 in the areas of Transportation, Waste, and Energy.

**Transportation: Oaks and Spokes** - Oaks and Spokes.

**Waste: Every Tray Counts** - Every Tray Counts.

**Energy:** Trophy Brewing and Pizza.

- c. **Business Innovation for Environmental Stewardship** - North Carolina State University Housekeeping Department NC State University Housekeeping Department
- d. **Community Action Awards** - In addition to the Climate Action Awards, there were also two Community Action Awards given in 2020.

**Community Action Volunteer Award** - Joshua Pil.

**Community Action Stormwater Award** - The St. Ambrose Memorial Garden at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church.

- e. **Drinking Watershed Protection Award Presented by Raleigh Water** -The Durham Soil & Water Conservation District and their Stormwater BMP and Stream Restoration project at Southern High School of Energy and Sustainability.
- f. **Capture it! Stormwater Arts Contest** - Each year, an award is given for artwork and videos promoting reductions of stormwater pollution and protection of streams and lakes.

**Artwork:** “Nature Depends on the Neuse” David Manyak.

**Video:** “Stormwater, What Should We Do?” Joshua Crockett & George Li.

- g. **Solid Waste Services - Trashion Competition**

**Adult Division**

**First Place:** Carly Palmer for Net Worth.

**Honorable Mention:** Stan Joseph for The Tin Man.

**High School Division**

**First Place:** Margaret Ann Andrews Geometric Galore.

**Second Place:** Isabel McInnis for Cardboard Miniskirt

**Honorable Mention:** Ava Norris and Alice Nguyen for Midnight Masterpiece.

**3. Reviewed and evaluated programs, conducted additional research, and prepared a report on Food Procurement and Waste Report.**

**FY 20 Work Plan Item #3:** Review and evaluate strategies to reduce Raleigh’s Greenhouse Gas emissions as listed below, including consideration of environmental justice and social equity issues: *Discuss food waste/material choices along with the city purchasing process and approach.*

This work plan item is in alignment with the City’s goal of greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 80% by 2050. The research and evaluation for this item included Kerry Painter, Executive Director of the Raleigh Convention Center Complex and Lanaee Gilmore, Procurement Manager for the City of Raleigh providing information for the board to understand the city policies for procurement and food purchasing at the Convention Center complex.

Highlights of the Convention Center presentation included:

Sustainable food/cooking practices;

- a. Sustainable food choices;
- b. 40% average waste diversion rate from the landfill;
- c. Composting through CompostNow;
- d. A “ share a meal” program”;
- e. Business Standards to use reusable dishes and silverware;
- f. When requested- single-use products are provided that are 100% biodegradable and that biodegrade in under 180 days;
- g. Supporting pollinator habitats with the hives in front of the Convention Center and in front of the Performing Arts Center; and
- h. Water- efficient practices.

The Convention Center staff also provided information on other important greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies implemented at the Center:

- a. LEED Silver-certified Convention Center;
- b. Solar array on the roof;
- c. LED lighting; and
- d. Efficient HVAC system to offset energy use.

Highlights of the Procurement presentation included:

- a. An understanding of the decentralized city purchasing approach – delegating much of the purchasing ‘control’ to each department;
- b. An understanding of overall City Policies, State Statutes (Fiscal Control Act) and Federal Regulations that must be complied with for purchasing items;
- c. An understanding of the new e-procurement system;
- d. A brief overview of the Sustainable Purchasing Policy; and
- e. A brief overview of the surplus disposal program.

The Environmental Advisory Board provided five specific recommendations related to food waste/material choices along with the city purchasing process and approach (**see attached report**).

- a. City staff continue preparing a sustainable events guide and to create opportunities to educate users on best practices.
- b. Conduct a specific consultant-led or internally driven review of overall food purchasing and waste management opportunities inside the Convention Center Complex (and its affiliated facilities).
- c. Conduct a specific consultant-led or internally driven review of food purchasing and waste management for all city events and activities.
- d. Continue to look for ways to support healthy food choices and food access in the community.
- e. Continue to build on the partnership with the Food Bank to address food insecurity.

#### **4. Continued to support the pollinator habitat in our area as a BeeCity USA community.**

**FY 20 Work Plan Item # 3:** Review and evaluate strategies to reduce Raleigh’s Greenhouse Gas emissions as listed below, including consideration of environmental justice and social equity issues: *Review the prior EAB initiatives of the LEED building policy, the US Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement and BeeCity USA*

The Environmental Advisory Board continues to support this initiative in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board.

The 2020 pollinator activities were virtual with a number of resources provided on the city website. Pollinator Week was celebrated June 22-28, and numerous community groups hosted pollinator friendly events or virtual events. Some of the activities occurred through [Raleigh City Farm](#), the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](#), and through updated information on the city website, such as the [Wildlife and Pollinator](#) page. The Parks and Recreation department has created [a coloring book](#) that is available to download off the city website. The hives continue

buzzing at the [Convention Center](#). The Convention Center is also incorporating more local food into their operation, which supports the work of all of our local pollinator habitats in our local food system.

The Housing and Neighborhoods Department, through their Neighborhood Improvement Funds, will continue to offer funding for small grants, which may be used for community gardens, urban agriculture and pollinator habitats. The Office of Sustainability partnered with Housing & Neighborhoods to put together educational materials to help guide potential applicants on pollinator and urban agriculture friendly projects.

#### **5. Participated in activities and learned about Raleigh's Greenhouse Gas emissions and plans for the upcoming Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)**

**Work Plan Item #3:** Review and evaluate strategies to reduce Raleigh's Greenhouse Gas emissions as listed below, including consideration of environmental justice and social equity issues:

- *The Climate Energy Action Plan (CEAP), the Community-wide Climate Action Plan (CCAP) project and the Regional Resilience Assessment;*  
*Discuss food waste/material choices along with the city purchasing process and approach*
- *Review transportation initiatives and linkages to greenhouse gases, social equity, and overall environment, including plans for bus rapid transit, mass transit, goals to reduce vehicle miles travelled and greenhouse gases, and public education; and*
- *Review fossil fuel use in the city fleet, including the replacement policy for mowers and other equipment with electric.*

The EAB focused on many initiatives relating to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in Raleigh through their annual work plan. The Board received information about Raleigh's GHG emissions, the Transportation Electrification Plan, and the Community-wide Climate Action Plan (CCAP) project. Members of the EAB participated on the Technical Advisory team, and with the Equity Advisors. In addition, as the Board reviews areas of greenhouse gas emissions, we received information on and were provided a report on the Procurement of Food and Food waste/materials as a work plan item, which resulted in a separate report for the City Council on Food and Food Waste that is attached to this Annual Report.

The EAB is reviewing CCAP and the largest areas of greenhouse gas emissions of Buildings & Energy and Transportation & Land Use, as well as the Resilience & Cross Cutting area. The climate equity and building community resilience considerations from CCAP are part of the ongoing work of the board and their work plan. The EAB is currently learning about energy use in buildings and the transportation system. The Board will continue work on climate action and CCAP in FY21.

The EAB is regularly looking for ways to improve the environmental health of Raleigh and we hope to continue to advise the Council in its efforts to make Raleigh a leader in environmental stewardship. We hope that the Council will continue to consider the EAB's input and abilities and we welcome hearing from the Council, should there be opportunities for our input in the future.

Lastly, we sincerely appreciate the leadership and support of the City Council and look forward to serving the City of Raleigh in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Coleen Sullins, Chair  
Ben Bobay, Vice-Chair  
Graham Smith  
Jess Anastes  
Lisa Angel  
Aranzazu Lascurain  
Kevin Hernandez  
Mary Black  
Liz Bowen

Attachment A: Detailed description of the 2020 Raleigh Environmental Award Winners

Attachment B: Food Procurement and Waste Report and Recommendations of the  
Environmental Advisory Board

3/10/2021

**2020 Environmental Award Winners and Earth Day Celebration**

**FY 20 Work Plan Item #1:** Continue to host Raleigh’s Environmental Awards Celebration with awards and recognition.

A large celebration was planned for the [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day](#) and to celebrate the Environmental Award Winners for 2020 at Dorothea Dix Park. The large public event had to be cancelled due to COVID and was transitioned to a virtual event. A [resource page](#) to virtually CELEBRATE, LEARN, and TAKE ACTION for the planet was created for the community to celebrate the 50th anniversary while safe at home! There were webinars for the community on Practicing Sus-STAY IN-ability. In addition to announcing the Environmental Award Winners on the city website, a social media campaign highlighted the winners individually and collectively. The winner’s work to support environmental and climate related actions in Raleigh were celebrated as best practices in the community.

See the following [link](#) for a list of all winners and their projects. Below are a list of the categories and winners:

**2020 Raleigh Environmental Award Winners**

The Raleigh Environmental Awards celebrate innovation and leadership in environmental stewardship, community engagement, business practices, and climate action. The individuals and organizations recognized have made incredible contributions to preserve and enhance Raleigh’s natural environment. We are pleased to honor their commitments to environmentalism!

**Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award**

The Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award recognizes an individual or organization that has shown environmental leadership and recognizes the relationship and continuity of the environment, economics, and equity or social justice aspects of human society.

Julian Prosser, retired Assistant City Manager, was Raleigh's father of sustainability. He worked with Mayor Charles Meeker to establish the Environmental Advisory Board which helped lead to the City of Raleigh signing on to the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection agreement, developing the LEED Silver building policy for new City buildings over 10,000 square feet, and recommending a goal to reduce fossil fuel use by the City fleet.

**Climate Action Awards**

Raleigh’s Community Climate Action Plan outlines key areas of impacts for greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Action Awards recognize projects and organizations working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout our community. There were three Climate Action Awards in 2020 in the areas of Transportation, Waste, and Energy.

**Transportation: Oaks and Spokes**

Oaks and Spokes is a non-profit advocacy organization focused on creating a transportation system safe for all ages and abilities. Since 2016, Oaks and Spokes has led on advocacy efforts for a protected bike facility to connect residents into our downtown core. A protected and connected bike network that is safe for everyone will get more

people out of cars, reducing carbon emissions from Transportation, one of the City's largest category of emissions.

**Waste: Every Tray Counts**

Every Tray Counts is a NC based nonprofit dedicated to creating sustainable lunchrooms in schools across the state. They work with public schools and community members to develop sustainable practices in lunchrooms, educating students about sustainability, purchasing compostable trays and developing a compostable waste diversion program.

**Energy: Trophy Brewing and Pizza**

Trophy Brewing Company has made a bold move towards meeting net zero carbon emissions goals. Trophy has decided to lead by example in the service and private sectors to embolden others to make similar carbon mitigation commitments. The company has made a considerable financial investment in solar energy, and a green roof for its Trophy Brewing and Pizza restaurant on Morgan Street and is planning to install a bicycle parking facility.

**Business Innovation for Environmental Stewardship.** This award is presented for practices which demonstrate the business case for environmental stewardship. Businesses can make important contributions to our environment by purchasing green products, managing supply chains, reusing materials, increasing and improving recycling and waste management, and communication strategies.

North Carolina State University Housekeeping Department NC State University Housekeeping Department has received the rigorous Green Seal certification for implementing safe and environmentally friendly cleaning services. Green Seal is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that verifies the sustainability of products and services. NC State is the first university in North Carolina and only the sixth in the U.S. to earn this certification! Green cleaning has a number of benefits to the NC State Community, including better indoor air quality and less human exposure to harsh chemicals. Plus, University Housekeeping has experienced reductions in operational costs, water use and landfill waste.

**Community Action Awards**

In addition to the Climate Action Awards, there were also two Community Action Awards given in 2020. The Community Action Awards recognize volunteers, individuals or non-profit organizations working in Raleigh on the stewardship of natural resources, community-building, environmental justice or conservation.

**Community Action Volunteer Award: Joshua Pil**

Joshua Pil is an Environmental Technology major at NC State University and a volunteer at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center. He is passionate about not only protecting the park but sharing its natural beauty with fellow students. He has organized at least half a dozen stream cleanups in just over a year, bringing his fellow students along with him.

**Community Action Stormwater Award: St. Ambrose Episcopal Church**

The St. Ambrose Memorial Garden at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church provides the



community with a beautiful and functional example of environmentally responsible land use. It sits along one side of the church building in an area bordering the parking lot. This area consisted of overgrown foundation shrubs and a large grassy strip that was maintained with lawn mowers. The Garden serves the local ecosystem in a number of ways. Rainwater flowing off of the church roof now flows into two large cisterns, with the overflow spilling into two rain gardens. This system reduces runoff from the church's impervious surfaces and stores water for irrigation. This reduces the church's use of the city's water supply and the negative impacts of runoff into our adjacent Walnut Creek wetlands. The St. Ambrose Memorial Garden is a beautiful, respectful, and accessible place for the interment of loved ones and a functional example of the use of environmentally responsible low impact development techniques.

### **Drinking Watershed Protection Award Presented by Raleigh Water.**

Raleigh's drinking water comes from two sources, Lake Benson and Falls Lake, both of which are largely outside of the City of Raleigh's jurisdiction. This award is a way to recognize some of the great things our upstream neighbors are doing to help protect one of our critical resources – our drinking water.

The Durham Soil & Water Conservation District and their Stormwater BMP and Stream Restoration project at Southern High School of Energy and Sustainability was the winner of the Watershed Protection Award. This project truly represents incredible environmental stewardship and sustainability. This project was a two-phase effort which included the creation of stormwater wetlands and retention ponds, as well as a stream buffer restoration including the establishment of a 2.23-acre permanent conservation easement along Chunky Pipe Creek directly upstream from Falls Lake.

### **Capture it! Stormwater Arts Contest**

The Capture it! Stormwater Arts Contest engages students to demonstrate the environmental importance of stormwater runoff. Each year, an award is given for artwork and videos promoting reductions of stormwater pollution and protection of streams and lakes.

**Artwork:** "Nature Depends on the Neuse" David Manyak. David's storm drain cover art features a leaf and water revolving around each other, symbolizing that nature depends on the Neuse River.

**Video:** "Stormwater, What Should We Do?" Joshua Crockett & George Li. The illustrated video created by Joshua and George shows what happens when stormwater picks up litter and other pollutants as it flows off impervious surfaces, like driveways and buildings.

### **Solid Waste Services - Trashion Competition**

The Trashion Competition highlights garments and accessories made from upcycled and recycled materials created by high school and college students, as well as aspiring professional designers in the Raleigh area. The competition provides an opportunity to showcase unique and recycled-inspired garments created from items that would otherwise be disposed of in the trash.

### **Adult Division**

**First Place:** Carly Palmer for Net Worth. This entire collection is made from fruit and vegetable net bags, their packaging/labels, and other sources of plastic packaging.

**Honorable Mention:** Stan Joseph for The Tin Man

The Tin Man costume is made primarily of recycled materials. The hat was made using a plastic funnel, the sleeves made of aluminum dryer ducts, buttons are made of Coke can tops, nuts and washers, the heart is made of cotton material, nose is made of plastic rubber, and the pants are made of textile materials that were spray painted silver.

### **High School Division**

**First Place:** Margaret Ann Andrews Geometric Galore

Margaret Ann Andrews created a piece, drawing materials from several different waste streams. The poncho base is an old baby blanket and the geometric triangle pattern was constructed out of plastic grocery bags. The skirt is fabricated from a pair of jeans, and ruffle detail also originated from a pair of old jeans. The necktie is one that the designer's father no longer wears, and the broach belongs to the designer's grandmother.

**Second Place:** Isabel McInnis for Cardboard Miniskirt

Isabell has created wearable skirt made from cardboard triangles from used cereal boxes, sewn with fishing line, and closed with Velcro. This design is an innovation on the traditional mini skirt. Isabell has used the fishing line as an ode to our oceans, aiming to keep them safe and free of clutter.

**Honorable Mention:** Ava Norris and Alice Nguyen for Midnight Masterpiece Ava and Alice have created a dress from an old tattered choir dress, some trash bags, a plain black headband, and previously used fabric.

Sincerely,  
Coleen Sullins, Chair  
Ben Bobay, Vice-Chair  
Graham Smith  
Jess Anastes  
Lisa Angel  
Aranzazu Lascurain  
Kevin Hernandez  
Mary Black  
Liz Bowen



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Megan Anderson, Office of Sustainability  
Graham Smith, Chair, Environmental Advisory Board

CC: Ruffin Hall, City Manager  
Tansy Hayward, Assistant City Manager

DATE: November 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Environmental Advisory Board Annual Work Plan Item #3:  
Procurement and Food Waste/Material Choices Report

The City Council approved the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) Work Plan for FY20 on November 14, 2019. The EAB Work Plan Item #3 is to:

*Review and evaluate strategies to reduce Raleigh’s Greenhouse Gas emissions, including consideration of environmental justice and social equity as listed below:*

- *Discuss food waste/material choices along with the city purchasing process and approach.*

This is in alignment with the Raleigh City Council adopting a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 80% in emissions by 2050 (off of the base year of 2007) on May 21 2019, the EAB’s work plan explores topics related to this goal.

**Issue**

The EAB members included this item on the FY20 Work Plan as a follow-up to both the Recycling report last year and as part of ongoing work to reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions. There are notable emissions associated with food items that are consumed in the Raleigh area as well as those food items purchased by the City, as often, the food is grown or raised outside of the Triangle region. Both the food products the City provides and how the food waste products are handled were discussed.

EAB members approach each work plan item with a set process of **Educate, Discuss, and provide Recommended Actions**. For each of the work plan items, the board members receive educational information and appreciate the opportunity to discuss these topics with other Board members and with City staff.

**Educate and Discuss**

The Environmental Advisory Board members received and subsequently discussed information from city staff working in the relevant topical areas. Kerry Painter, Executive Director of the Raleigh Convention Center Complex and Lanaee Gilmore, Procurement Manager for the City of Raleigh provided information for the board to understand the city policies for procurement and

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food purchasing at the Convention Center complex. Highlights of the Convention Center presentation included:

- Sustainable food/cooking practices;
- Sustainable food choices;
- 40% average waste diversion rate from the landfill;
- Composting through CompostNow;
- A “share a meal” program”;
- Business Standards to use reusable dishes and silverware;
- When requested- single use products are provided that are 100% biodegradable and that biodegrade in under 180 days; and
- Supporting pollinator habitats with the hives in front of the Convention Center and in front of the Performing Arts Center.
- Water efficient practices;

The Convention Center staff also provided information on other important greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies implemented at the Center:

- LEED Silver-certified Convention Center;
- Solar array on the roof;
- LED lighting;
- Efficient HVAC system to offset energy use

Highlights of the Procurement presentation included:

- An understanding of the decentralized city purchasing approach – delegating much of the purchasing ‘control’ to each department;
- An understanding of overall City Policies, State Statutes (Fiscal Control Act) and Federal Regulations that must be complied with for purchasing items;
- An understanding of the new e-procurement system;
- A brief overview of the Sustainable Purchasing Policy;
- A brief overview of the surplus disposal program.

As a direct example of the City’s efforts to support and promote sustainable purchasing and food choices, the EAB learned about efforts city staff took to incorporate sustainable event planning into the Annual Environmental Awards Celebration that was to be held in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day Event at Dix Park (since cancelled due to Covid-19). With this collaboration the Office of Sustainability and the interdepartmental planning team developed sustainable event guidelines as well as sustainable guidelines for all vendors. This has become a new standard for all future events at Dix Park. In addition, the Office of Sustainability and other city departments are working on a sustainable events and meetings guide.

### Related Education Topics

The Environmental Advisory Board members also learned about the Raleigh freeFill program that partners with over 40+ Raleigh businesses, city facilities and organizations to promote the reduction of single use plastic water bottles.

During the course of the past two years, the EAB has received several presentations on and discussed the Community-wide Climate Action Plan (CCAP) project that includes efforts to address community resiliency and equity as work is being done to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy areas of Community Resiliency and the Preservation of Green Space both address the aspects of natural environment and resiliency. Actions that address natural lands, connectivity, carbon sequestration, mitigating urban heat and flooding/rainwater are part of the plan. Example actions in this part of the plan include food access, community gardens and urban agriculture, tree planting, pollinator habitats, reduction in urban heat islands, and greenway development. In the coming months, the Office of Sustainability will be taking the draft strategies and actions back to the

CCAP stakeholder teams (Interdepartmental, Technical, Community and Equity teams) and out to other stakeholders in the community to get buy in and call for collective action. Two members of the Environmental Advisory Board provided insight into the areas of climate change, equity and climate justice, [Aranzazu Lascuarain](#), Assistant University Director, Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center and [Jaime Cole](#), formerly of the North Carolina Conservation Network and currently, Program Director, Southeast Campaigns at Energy Foundation. These board members participated on the Technical, Community and Equity stakeholder teams. In addition, the EAB has also received information as an entire board and will continue to receive updates on how CCAP strategies relate to EAB work plan items. With this community-wide plan, it is anticipated that both the city and various community organizations and individuals will need to take action in order to reach our shared goals.

During FY 2019, the EAB also received information about ongoing efforts through the city Strategic Plan in the Safe, Vibrant, Healthy Community focus area that address food security. An interdepartmental team of city staff have been working on implementing strategies from the Wake County Food Security Plan in partnership with the staff at Wake County through the summer feeding program at park sites, nutrition education at the summer feeding sites and a program called GardenCorps. GardenCorps is a collaborative project with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, the Wake County Master Gardeners, Wake County Extension Office, and a number of city departments to partner young people in our area with active adults to learn and apply a gardening curriculum as an after school activity.

In addition to these efforts, there have been a few COVID-19 related efforts for food security including the Convention Center giving away over 1000 meals. The city also added information to the COVID-19 website from our partners at Wake County about a [food locator map](#). The map provides locations of all of the summer feeding locations in the County.

We mention all of these activities because healthy food and access to food are important equity and resilience considerations for our community and also influence greenhouse gas emissions within our City. As well-meaning and influential as these programs are, they are small steps forward and may not collectively push the City towards assertively achieving large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. And as evidenced by our learnings in last-year's Recycling Report, the market evolves or pivots quickly. Therefore, we would like to position the City in a sustainably advantageous spot with food and purchasing operations.

The Environmental Advisory Board is very supportive of the work of the Office of Sustainability, as well as other departments mentioned above, relative to recommended actions identified here.

### Recommended Actions

The Environmental Advisory Board recommends the following, as it relates to *food waste/material choices along with the city purchasing process and approach*.

1. City staff continue preparing a sustainable events guide and to create opportunities to educate users on best practices.
2. Conduct a specific consultant-led or internally driven review of overall food purchasing and waste management opportunities inside the Convention Center Complex (and its affiliated facilities).
3. Conduct a specific consultant-led or internally driven review of food purchasing and waste management for all city events and activities.
4. Continue to look for ways to support healthy food choices and food access in the community.
5. Continue to build on the partnership with the Food Bank to address food insecurity.