

CCAC MEETING MINUTES- October 23, 2025

7:00pm Welcome from Chair: Robbie Cox

Chair, Robbie Cox, robbiecox@mindspring.com; 919-619-1632 (cell)

Vice Chair: Vickie Atkinson vickie.l.atkinson@gmail.com; 919-824-0974 (cell)

7:05 pm Attendees Roll Call

MEMBERS AND OTHERS	ROLE	PRESENT ON 8/28/2025
Robbie Cox	Chair	x
Charlie Cooper	Member, Past Co-Chair	x
Nita Dukes	Member, Past Co-Chair	x
John Graybeal	Member, Past Chair	x
Keith McLaurin	Member, Past Vice Chair	
Mike Petruska	Member, Past Chair	x
Alicia Koblansky	Member	
John Bonitz	Member, Pittsboro Rep.	
Vickie Atkinson	Member, Vice-Chair	x
Pam Hawe	Member, Siler City Rep.	x
Sharon Garbutt	Member	x
11 Voting Members	Need 6 Members for Quorum	
Kevin Lindley	Director Chatham County DEQ	x
Guest: Deb Gallagher		x

7:00 Certification of Quorum - 8 members present

7:05 Approval of Minutes: September 25, 2025: <https://bit.ly/4ngKAFo>

Quick recap

The meeting addressed technical difficulties before gaining a quorum to discuss the success of a recent climate retreat and the development of a community-focused climate action plan. The group reviewed updates on various initiatives including agricultural goals, waste reduction programs, and a new state program for commercial property owners to access low-interest loans for renewable energy projects. The committee concluded by planning upcoming meetings and events, including a potential discussion of the climate retreat's implications and a ChathamCAN - NC WARN community conversation about Duke Energy's climate practices.

Next steps

- Robbie to send out his draft of key agricultural goals from Dr. Schroeder Moreno's presentation to committee members for review
- Committee members with agricultural expertise to review Robbie's draft and provide feedback within a few days
- Vickie to send her three agricultural goal recommendations to Robbie
- Robbie to compile all feedback and submit agricultural goals to Kevin for Alana by next week
- Kevin to discuss with Alana Keegan the need for dedicated time in the second retreat day to focus on the roadmap for the climate action plan
- Kevin to mention to Alana the importance of including a public engagement process after the retreat
- Kevin to send the CPACE program website link to committee members
- Kevin to forward the committee the PDF document about the CPACE program history and implementation
- Committee to hold November 20th as a potential meeting date pending the outcome of the climate retreat
- Committee to plan for an in-person December meeting to welcome new members and celebrate the year's work

Summary

Climate Retreat Day One Review

The meeting began with discussions about attendance issues and technical difficulties, with Robbie acknowledging that some members had trouble accessing the meeting link. The group gained a quorum and approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Climate Action Plan Strategy Meeting

The meeting focused on the success of the recent retreat and the need for community engagement as the climate action plan is developed. Kevin highlighted insights shared by Emily on baseline data collection already available and the importance of community engagement. Robbie noted the commissioners' support for the discussions and praised Dr. Schroeder Moreno's comprehensive presentation on agriculture, which provided key data for the climate action plan. Vickie praised Dr. Bowden's presentation, highlighting urgency and tailoring

information to Chatham County. Charles inquired about the availability of the presentations, and Robbie confirmed that the slides were shared as an attachment to the agenda. Kevin updated the group on Alana Keegan's new role as the key contact at Central Pines, replacing Emily Barrett, who resigned. The team discussed the need for a roadmap for the process of developing the Climate Action Plan and public input, with Kevin emphasizing the importance of determining whether to pursue an RFP for a consultant or handle some tasks in-house.

Community Engagement for Climate Action

The group discussed the importance of public input and community engagement during development of the Climate Action Plan. They agreed that mission, purpose, and vision be part of the process and the importance of communicating the plan's goals to the public. Robbie suggested that a roadmap developed from the recent retreat could serve as a framework for public feedback. Nita emphasized the need to reach out to various community organizations and individuals, while Vickie proposed having a "point person" who is accountable for the process of developing the plan.

Agricultural Goals for Climate Action

Robbie led a discussion on developing goals for the agricultural sector of the Climate Action Plan, following Dr. Schroeder Moreno's retreat presentation. The committee agreed to review and provide input on Robbie's draft bullet points, which will be compiled and submitted to Kevin for Alana and Central Pines. Vickie suggested 3 possible goals: 1) Preserve farmland - prevent sprawl, 2) Support local food system planning for resilience, and 3) Support farmers with sustainable and climate smart practices

County Energy Efficiency Loan Program

Kevin announced that the board had approved joining the CPACE program. The new state program allows counties to opt in for commercial property owners to access low-interest loans for renewable energy, energy efficiency, water conservation, and property resiliency projects through property liens. He noted that New Hanover County has passed the resolution to join, while Durham County is still in the process. Kevin also shared that the county was awarded a \$350,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to conduct energy audits at 13 facilities, including two county buildings in Siler City, with the goal of implementing recommendations by the end of 2026.

Waste Reduction Grant and Pilot

The group discussed a waste reduction grant that requires board approval due to its value exceeding \$100,000, with Kevin explaining that any grant also necessitates a budget

amendment. Robbie recommended Waste Reduction Partners, who will assist with two of the thirteen facilities for free, while Kevin noted they would need to hire consultants for the remaining eleven sites. The team also confirmed that the compost pilot program's new structures had passed inspections, with plans for a soft opening next week and a public announcement in early November at four collection centers.

Compost and Climate Initiatives Update

The group discussed updates on the compost pilot, with Kevin explaining that food waste is being sent to Brooks, a commercial composting facility, via Compost Now for pickup. They reviewed the status of the Electrify the Triangle program, which is moving forward with Lindsey Whitson taking over from Emily Barrett, and discussed plans for a public kickoff in the spring once a consultant is hired. The committee agreed to hold a tentative date for meeting on November 20th if needed to discuss implications from the upcoming climate retreat.

Vickie announced a ChathamCAN community conversation in partnership with NC WARN on November 6th immediately following the 2nd day of the climate retreat (light dinner served) also at the Ag Center. The program will feature a new film and NC WARN initiative focused on Duke Energy's climate deception. CCAC also discussed challenges with hearing and AV equipment during meetings at the Ag Center.

The CCAC December meeting will be in person to celebrate the year's accomplishments and welcome new members.

2025 Meeting Dates:

January 23	July 24
February 27	August 28
March 27	September 18
April 24	October 23
May 22	November (Tentative) 20
June 26	December TBA

Click to see [APPENDIX and REFERENCE MATERIAL FROM PAST MEETINGS](#)