

## CCAC MEETING MINUTES- August 28, 2025

7:00pm Welcome from Vice Chair: Vickie Atkinson

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

Vice Chair: Vickie Atkinson [vickie.l.atkinson@gmail.com](mailto: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	
Charlie Cooper	Member, Past Co-Chair	x
Nita Dukes	Member, Past Co-Chair	
John Graybeal	Member, Past Chair	x
Keith McLaurin	Member, Past Vice Chair	x
Mike Petruska	Member, Past Chair	x
Alicia Koblansky	Member	
John Bonitz	Member, Pittsboro Rep.	x
Vickie Atkinson	Member, Vice-Chair	x
Pam Hawe	Member, Siler City Rep.	x
VACANT		
<b>11 Voting Members</b>	<b>Need 6 Members for Quorum</b>	
Kevin Lindley	Director Chatham County DEQ	x
Guests: Candace Hunziker, Craig Kinsey and Sharon Garbutt		x

7:00 Certification of Quorum - 7 present

7:05 Approval of Minutes: July 31, 2025: <http://bit.ly/3HyKEBn>

## Quick recap

The meeting focused on planning a two-day climate retreat and discussing the county's climate action roadmap, with commissioners expressing strong support for Chatham County to serve as a model for climate action and emphasizing the need for community input. The group previewed applications for new members of the County Climate Action Advisory Committee and discussed changes to the selection process, while also addressing some concerns about the new approach. The conversation ended with discussions about waste management initiatives, including a new food waste collection pilot program, and updates on vehicle electrification efforts and environmental policy matters.

## Next steps

- Kevin: Obtain final proposal from Central Pines Regional Council for the two-day climate retreat, incorporating the additional day and requested topics.
- Kevin: Confirm Central Pines' availability for the tentative dates.
- Kevin: Forward the gaps document to Central Pines.
- Vickie: Email the committee with links to climate action plans and elements for review.
- CCAC members: Review climate action plans from other counties and municipalities.
- CCAC members: Identify important elements for Chatham County's climate action plan.
- Kevin: Coordinate with speakers for the climate retreat once the proposal is finalized.
- Vickie and Robbie: Coordinate via email regarding CCAC's involvement in planning and roles at the retreat.
- CCAC: Prepare for formal participation at the Commissioners' retreat.
- Kevin: Incorporate CCAC members in formal roles during the retreat.
- Kevin: Organize a follow-up meeting to continue planning the retreat.
- Kevin: Coordinate with Lindsey regarding meeting reporting requirements and logistics.
- Kevin: Arrange for educational content about climate action plans to bring Commissioners up to speed.
- Kevin: Gather ballpark cost estimates for climate action plans from Orange County and other municipalities.

## Summary

### Climate Retreat Planning Approved

The meeting focused on discussing the presentation made by Kevin to the Board of Commissioners regarding the climate retreat. The board approved a two-day retreat format, with the first day covering climate change effects and a local climate action plan, and the second day focusing on mitigation and resilience strategies. The commissioners requested a more active role for the Climate Change Advisory Committee in both planning and participating in the retreat, acknowledging the committee's expertise and the valuable contributions of its members since its inception.

### Chatham Climate Action Retreat Planning

The group discussed a climate action planning retreat, with Kevin summarizing that the first day would serve as a "level set" to explain the planning process and models, while the second day would focus on technical content. The Commissioners showed strong support for Chatham County becoming a statewide model for climate action, with Amanda, Franklin and others expressing interest in making Chatham a leader in this effort. Kevin reported that Central Pines had been approached to lead the retreat, with proposed dates of October 17th and November 6th, though the second date might need to be adjusted.

### Climate Action Roadmap Planning

The group discussed plans for a climate action roadmap, with Vickie noting she would share links to other climate action plans for review. Kevin reported that commissioners want community input on the plan and mentioned Central Pines could be engaged without needing an RFP since they are a council of government. The group agreed to focus on conservation and preservation goals that align with the county's rural nature, while also addressing energy efficiency, increasing energy burden, rising vehicle miles traveled and resilience concerns. Commissioners want to see a dashboard to track progress.

### CCAC Membership Selection Process

The meeting focused on the process of selecting new members for the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC). Kevin shared a list of applicants, including Holli Kearns, Leslie Pasman, Robert Maag, Deb Gallagher, Aaron Varner, and Clarenda Stanley, who will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners at their September meeting. The group discussed the change in process from previous years, where committee members would review applications and provide recommendations, to the current system where Commissioners will make the final decision without input from the CCAC. John and Michael expressed concerns about this new process,

and John B shared an analogous experience from the Pittsboro Planning Board. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about the newly formed Chatham Coalition, which John agreed to brief the CCAC about.

### Chatham Coalition Growth Planning Discussion

John B discussed the Chatham Coalition, a relatively large organization of local residents studying growth, climate, and development policies, particularly focusing on the town of Pittsboro's planning for the Chatham Park South Village small area plan. He emphasized the importance of careful planning and the potential impact of the proposed 5,000-acre development on the community. Kevin reported on the successful Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference, which John organized, and mentioned that he had 10 pages of notes from the event.

### Fleet EV Transition Strategies

Kevin reported on the successful Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference, which John organized, and mentioned that he had 10 pages of notes from the event.

Kevin shared insights from his discussions with various fleet managers, emphasizing the importance of having a climate action plan or goals to guide fleet operations. He noted that while not all actions can be taken at once, gradual progress is beneficial. Kevin also highlighted the value of conducting detailed fleet studies, such as analyzing vehicles on an individual basis to plan transitions effectively. He mentioned some issues with the lack of comprehensive EV transition policies in his organization due to decentralized fleet management and the need for management buy-in. Despite this, Kevin identified potential strategies to advance EV adoption in upcoming budget cycles and mentioned learning about innovative technologies, such as telematics and AI, from other fleet managers.

### Food Waste Collection Pilot Launch

Kevin announced a new food waste collection pilot program starting in mid to late September at four collection centers, with the collected waste being transported to Brooks at the Goldston commercial composting facility. The program, funded by a grant, will be evaluated with a report due in February, and Kevin clarified that all types of food waste, including meat and dairy, can be included, though pet waste and fireplace ashes are prohibited. Kevin also mentioned that while the EEBCG Grant contracts are under review, the Electrify Chatham campaign is proceeding with Lindsey from Central Pines coordinating the first meeting in September.

## Chatham County Sustainability Updates

The group discussed waste management and recycling operations in Chatham County, with Kevin explaining that while they pay for compost collection, the service is not profitable but is environmentally beneficial. John shared insights about composting economics, noting that feedstock costs typically exceed compost revenue, and Michael confirmed that most recycling operations require subsidies. The conversation concluded with John introducing a vehicle electrification tool and Kevin sharing that the county is developing telematics policies for their fleet, including camera monitoring systems, with potential for broader implementation across the county.

## EPA Plan and Legal Challenges

The group discussed the importance of having written plans for projects, with Kevin emphasizing the need to measure success. John G shared updates on submitting comments to the EPA regarding their plan to repeal the endangerment finding of 2009, and mentioned he was working on a draft document for others to review and adapt. The group also discussed the legal aspects of the EPA's proposal, with Michael explaining that the main fight would be over the Administrative Procedures Act.

## 2025 Meeting Dates:

<b>January 23</b>	<b>July 24</b>
<b>February 27</b>	<b>August 28</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>September 18</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>October 23</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>November (No Meeting)</b>
<b>June 26</b>	<b>December TBA</b>

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