



Charlottesville Sustainability

The C'ville community is full of nonprofits, projects, and initiatives regarding sustainability. There are many ways that students can get involved, whether it be through working for one of these organizations, volunteering, or attending a community climate strike!

City Government

- The Cville city government recently set the goal to reduce GHG emissions by 45% by 2030, and to reach carbon neutrality by 2050!

Resources

- [Better World Betty](#)
 - Better World Betty is an online resource for C'ville much like the EcoNetwork! You can find information on recycling specifics within the community, energy usage, events, local businesses, etc.
- Charlottesville Sustainability Facebook Group
 - This group provides more specific information and support as to Charlottesville's sustainability. For example, you can find a post here describing exactly what the recent changes to Charlottesville's recycling processes mean and what you should avoid buying in order to prevent polluting our planet.

Non-profits

Generation 180

- From their site: “Generation180 is a non-profit working to inspire and equip people to take action on clean energy.”
- Gen180 has hosted awesome events to showcase electric cars, as well as lead a great program to get schools to use solar.
- Gen180 hires students!

Community Climate Collaborative (C3)

- “C3 empowers local families, businesses, schools, and government to take meaningful steps that reduce climate pollution and make our homes healthier, our businesses more prosperous, and our community stronger. “
- Information from an interview with a volunteer for C3:
 - There are a lot of different groups within C3 that work on different projects. Each director has his or her own focus
 - C3 hosts the [Home Energy Challenge](#) every year, trying to get homeowners to use more sustainable practices
 - There is a climate policy task force with a mission to recommend policy that should be pushed in the country and city
 - Motions to go more regional with the group, as can be seen in the name change from the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative to the Community Climate Collaborative
 - Trying to create a section for city council that would push for and guide the council on sustainability matters
 - Advocating for more funding to make the city more sustainable, as well as more incentives for residential renewable energy projects
 - **Biggest challenge:** getting the funding for sustainability efforts. It is not because of a lack of interest in sustainability within the government, but rather an issue of getting attention amidst many different city goals/initiatives.
 - **Tip:** having force in numbers is sometimes more important. This can come through polls/petitions or people attending city hall meetings.

- The city has done a fairly good job of trying to support initiatives, though more power in numbers could help to show that this is a priority for the community

City Schoolyard Garden

- CSG manages educational schoolyard gardens at six elementary schools as well as the City Schoolyard Garden at Buford Middle School.

Local Initiatives

Youth Climate Strike Movement

- Headed by the amazing Gudrun Campbell, the Charlottesville Youth Climate Strike group hosts many climate strikes, including some along similar veins as the “Fridays for the Future” spearheaded by Greta Thurnberg.

Urban Farming

- There are lots of urban farms in the Charlottesville area. Examples are the Urban Agriculture Collective of Charlottesville, Casa Alma, the International Rescue Committee’s New Roots Garden at Fourth Street, the garden at Buford Middle School, and the Fifth Street Community Garden.

Green Grannies

- The Green Grannies “are a group of elder women that have major concerns about what is happening to our planet. We sing to Educate, Entertain and Energize our community to take action to protect our Earth and all the species on.”
- Generally perform at climate-related events

Sustainability-related Companies

In Charlottesville, there are a surprising number of sustainability-related companies. Ranging from solar to wind to energy storage, a lot is happening in our community!

Renewable Energy

- [Apex Clean Energy](#) (primarily wind)
 - Apex Clean Energy is a company based in Charlottesville that builds, owns, and operates utility-scale wind and solar power facilities across the United States. Apex's mission-driven team of more than 200 renewable energy experts uses a data-focused approach and an unrivaled portfolio of projects to create solutions for the world's most innovative and forward-thinking customers. Apex hires student interns and full-time staff. For more information on Apex, click [here](#). For more information on careers, click [here](#).
- [Hexagon Energy](#) (primarily solar)
 - “Hexagon Energy is an independent energy development firm. We believe that the path to a clean energy future requires a range of new sources and technologies. We develop projects across six diverse energy solutions with one common goal—powering a clean future.”
- [Sun Tribe Solar](#)
 - “At Sun Tribe, we provide comprehensive solutions that help our partners realize their clean energy future. That starts with our world-class team of engineers who work with you to design a modern, efficient system. It continues with an industry-leading, safety-focused construction team who are dedicated to bringing your project in on time and under budget.”
- [Sigora Solar](#)
 - “By providing cutting edge solar and energy efficiency technology, world-class service and competitive pricing, Sigora Solar is leading our community and the world to a brighter energy future one home, business, school, and farm at a time. The Sigora family is committed to creating a lasting, positive impact on every community we touch.”
- [East Point Energy](#) (energy storage)
 - “East Point Energy is a battery storage project development firm. We focus on standalone, front-of-the-meter battery energy storage systems. We partner with utilities, landowners, and communities to deploy grid-scale projects that make the electrical grid more reliable, resilient and affordable.”

- [GreenBlue](#) (sustainable packaging)
 - “GreenBlue is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to the sustainable use of materials in society. We bring together a diversity of stakeholders to encourage innovation and best practices to promote the creation of a more sustainable materials economy.”

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