

## Information Item

**Date:** April 10, 2023

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager  
Helen Peplowski, Office of Sustainability Director

**Subject:** North Carolina Sustainability Benchmark Report

**Strategic Focus Area:** Healthy Environment

**Strategic Objective:** Support Green Initiatives

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** Reinvigorate Sustainability Programs

**Key Work Item:** Yes



The Office of Sustainability has created a benchmarking report of sustainability work in municipalities across the state. This report informs of best practices, policies, and strategies for implementation across topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, public and internal electric vehicles and related infrastructure, and other certain unique projects or programs. Staff created a survey to act as the basis of the report which was sent to twenty-four municipalities with a 100% response rate.

After analysis of the responses, staff concludes that Winston-Salem's sustainability work aligns with the average of where most municipalities in the state are in their own work. While there are outliers that have made significant progress in different areas of work, they are leading the way for other municipalities to use their work as models for future progress. Winston-Salem is in a position to take advantage of some of these examples as appropriate, or as resources allow.