

Information Item

Date: August 9, 2022

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

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

Subject:
Office of Sustainability Annual Report and City Operations Greenhouse Gas Update

Strategic Focus Area: Healthy Environment

Strategic Objective: Support Green Initiatives

Strategic Plan Action Item: Reinvigorate Sustainability Programs

Key Work Item: No



Attached is the annual Sustainability Report from 2021 which includes a summary of the operational greenhouse gas inventory and an overview of the work done by the Office of Sustainability during calendar year 2021.

In calendar year 2021, as a result of many city operations returning to pre-pandemic levels, total city emissions increased by 4%. The biggest change by usage sector was natural gas, which was 28.5% higher than in 2020. This increase was due to City/County Utilities operations, including the increased utilization of the combined heat and power generator.

Other notable sustainability program updates:

- Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful again had large Adopt-A-Street, Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Stream program sign ups in 2021, putting the total adopted locations at 189 by the end of 2021
- Total recycling tonnage was just under 11,000 tons. This is the equivalent of 94,000 mature trees saved, 27,672 metric tons of CO₂ avoided, and enough electricity saved to power 3,475 homes annually
- Food resilience became the newest division of the Office of Sustainability