About the Palmetto Air Quality Collaborative

The Palmetto Air Quality Collaborative (PAQC) is a 4-year planning initiative to develop innovative strategies to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and air pollution in South Carolina. This initiative intends to lay the groundwork for lowering air emissions, engaging communities, and supporting workforce and economic development opportunities. The PAQC is co-led by the SC Office of Resilience (SCOR) and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) and is funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program.

The PAQC is working toward two 2024 deadlines:

- The **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)** is due to EPA on March 1, 2024. The PCAP will include a statewide greenhouse gas inventory and proposed measures to reduce emissions and air pollution. *The primary focus will be on identifying actions and strategies that are voluntary and incentive-based and that complement other initiatives and programs occurring in the state.*
- **Implementation Grant applications** are due on April 1, 2024. The EPA CPRG program is offering competitive grants for states, regional agencies, municipalities, and tribes to implement reduction measures and plans.

Visit the PAQC website for more information: https://scor.sc.gov/paqc

Action Teams

SCOR and SC DHEC are forming Action Teams to work on specific topics relevant to the PAQC. During the first phase of the program, Action Teams will assist SCOR and SC DHEC with identifying, assessing, and recommending GHG reduction measures to include in the PCAP. A publicly available survey developed by SCOR for the PAQC will be a key source of project ideas and measures to consider.

Action Team members should have expertise and/or experience with the topic(s) covered by that Action Team and be able to commit to 3 to 4 virtual or hybrid meetings as SCOR and SC DHEC develop the PCAP and a statewide Implementation Grant application. The frequency of subsequent meetings (likely once every 2 to 3 months) will be determined based on later program deadlines and the time-sensitivity of topics under consideration.

Proposed Action Teams are briefly described on the following page. Also included are examples of the types of measures that may be considered by the different Action Teams. Cross-cutting topics such as energy efficiency, workforce training opportunities, and methods for monitoring emissions may be addressed by multiple teams.

Individuals or organizations interested in participating in an Action Team should contact the PAQC at PAQC@scor.sc.gov.

Action Team and overview	Types of measures and strategies that may be considered
Greenhouse Gas Inventory	
SCOR and SC DHEC will use the EPA State Inventory and Project Tool (SIT) to develop the statewide GHG inventory for the PCAP. SIT is a streamlined, but top-down, approach to developing an inventory.	• The GHG Inventory Team will assist SCOR and SC DHEC with identifying and addressing data gaps, as well as pursuing opportunities to improve the measurement and monitoring of both sources and sinks of emissions after the PCAP phase.
Transportation	
GHG emissions from transportation primarily come from burning fossil fuel for cars, trucks, ships, trains, and planes.	• Incentives for electric vehicles (EVs) • Deployment of EV infrastructure (charging stations) • Conversion of vehicle fleets to EV • Reducing the carbon intensity of fuels used for ports, trucking, rail, and airports • Reducing vehicle miles traveled • Supporting alternative modes of transportation (walking, biking, public transit)
Residential & Commercial	
GHG emissions from the commercial and residential sector include fossil fuels burned for heating, air conditioning, lighting, and appliances; the use of gases for refrigeration and cooling in buildings; and the handling of waste that comes from commercial and residential activities.	• Programs to support increased energy efficiency and reduced energy demand • Weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits in existing buildings • Incentives for deploying efficient electric technologies in new buildings, adopting up-to-date energy codes, and adopting standards to enhance building performance
Industry	
GHG emissions from industry primarily come from burning fossil fuels for energy, as well as greenhouse gas emissions from certain chemical reactions necessary to produce goods from raw materials.	• Programs to support energy and material efficiency at industrial facilities or in industrial processes • Adoption of low/no carbon fuels, renewable energy, and electrification at facilities • Programs to develop, expand, and support markets for low carbon materials and sustainable products • Support for the development of clean industry hubs • Technical assistance and technologies to support carbon monitoring and management
Waste and Materials Management	
The production, packaging, transport, and disposal of material goods has a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Food waste in landfills is a significant source of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.	• Recycling and reducing waste • Preventing food waste • Adopting local composting programs • Reducing water consumption
Agriculture / Land Use and Forestry	
How land is used and managed affects greenhouse gas emissions. GHG emissions from agriculture come from crop and livestock production. Managed forests and other lands can act as a net sink and reduce overall emissions.	• Adjusting methods for managing lands, applying fertilizer, growing crops, and improving soil health • Adjusting feeding and manure management practices to reduce methane emissions • Increasing on-farm renewable energy and energy efficiency • Expanding use of biomass for energy • Adoption of sustainable forest management practices • Purchasing land to conserve natural environments • Implementing urban tree planting initiatives • Restoring wetlands and other ecosystems