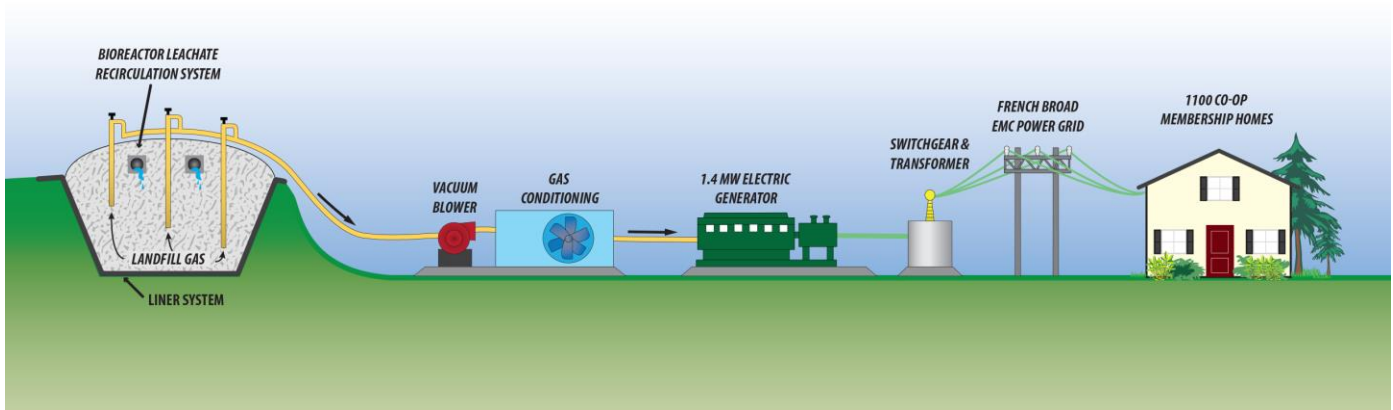




BUNCOMBE COUNTY STRATEGIC PRIORITY: **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

DRAFT 12/1/17



PRIORITY: Implement the best fiscally and environmentally responsible energy solutions to reach the goal of 100% renewable energy sources for Buncombe County's operations while helping to educate, equip and move our community toward practical renewable energy solutions

BACKGROUND: Buncombe County controls 86 facilities, comprising more than 2 million square feet, and annual utilities cost approximately \$1.87 million. In addition, the County maintains a fleet of more than 450 vehicles with approximately \$550,000 a year in fuel costs. In 2013, Buncombe County established a goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 80% to be achieved at a rate of 2% a year. A 2014 energy audit identified 26 energy reduction measures that when fully implemented can create both energy cost savings and reduction in emissions. Greater utilization of renewable energy improves air quality and water quality, reduces emissions that harm public health, reduces dependence on foreign sources of energy and creates jobs.

GOALS:

- Reduce cost and lower emissions by improving the energy efficiency of Buncombe County facilities and fleet
- Promote renewable energy projects and utilize renewable energy sources such as solar and wind where feasible for Buncombe County facilities and fleet
- Foster environmental sustainability within the community through education, resources and programs for the public and community partners

LEAD DEPARTMENTS: General Services; Office of Sustainability; Strategic Partnerships,

ACTIONS: The following is a summary of activities and investments by Buncombe County Government in support of the goals listed above.





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	<i>Completed/Ongoing</i>	<i>Proposed/Upcoming</i>
<i>Increase Efficiency of Facilities & Fleet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Buncombe County Office of Sustainability • Board of Commissioners work session focused on energy initiatives • Implement energy reduction measures identified in 2014 energy audit - including installing efficient HVAC (heating, ventilating & air conditioning) units, roofing and lighting updates • Manage a diverse portfolio of fleet vehicles, including multiple fuel sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue strategic, routine maintenance with regard to efficiency through available technologies including scheduled replacements of florescent lighting fixtures with LED, HVAC equipment replacements, building automation initiatives, etc.
<i>Promote Renewable Energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership in the Energy Innovation Task Force collaboration with the City of Asheville and Duke Energy Progress to research and recommend energy efficiency and demand-side management programs in Buncombe County • Approval to build a solar farm on the site of Buncombe County’s former landfill • Landfill methane gas to electricity system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options to source renewable energy for utilities for Buncombe County facilities
<i>Foster Energy Sustainability in the Community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy audits for public/community facilities • Education for county employees to promote programs such as EnergyWise Home and Home Energy House Call • Buncombe County Schools energy conservation awareness activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Energy Savers Network for low-income residential weatherization and energy efficiency • SE Sustainable Community Fund Grant to fund creation of a one-stop for weatherization assistance with a focus on equity and inclusion • Community forums targeting area business sectors to promote energy efficiency

