



# 2043 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #7

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*Presented by*

## Comprehensive Planning Team

June 14, 2022  
In-person & Virtual



# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Meeting Minutes 5:30-5:35p
2. CEW#2 Updates 5:35-5:50p  
CEW#2 Poll and Engagement
3. Developing Fundamentals of Plan Framework 5:50-7:00p  
Full Group Discussion: Feedback on Draft Vision Themes and Goals
4. Next Steps 7:00-7:30p



# Logistics

- Parking passes to the College street parking deck (located next door) will be provided.
- Bathrooms



# 1: Welcome and Update



# Planning Process



# Launch of Phase 3: Develop Policies and Strategies

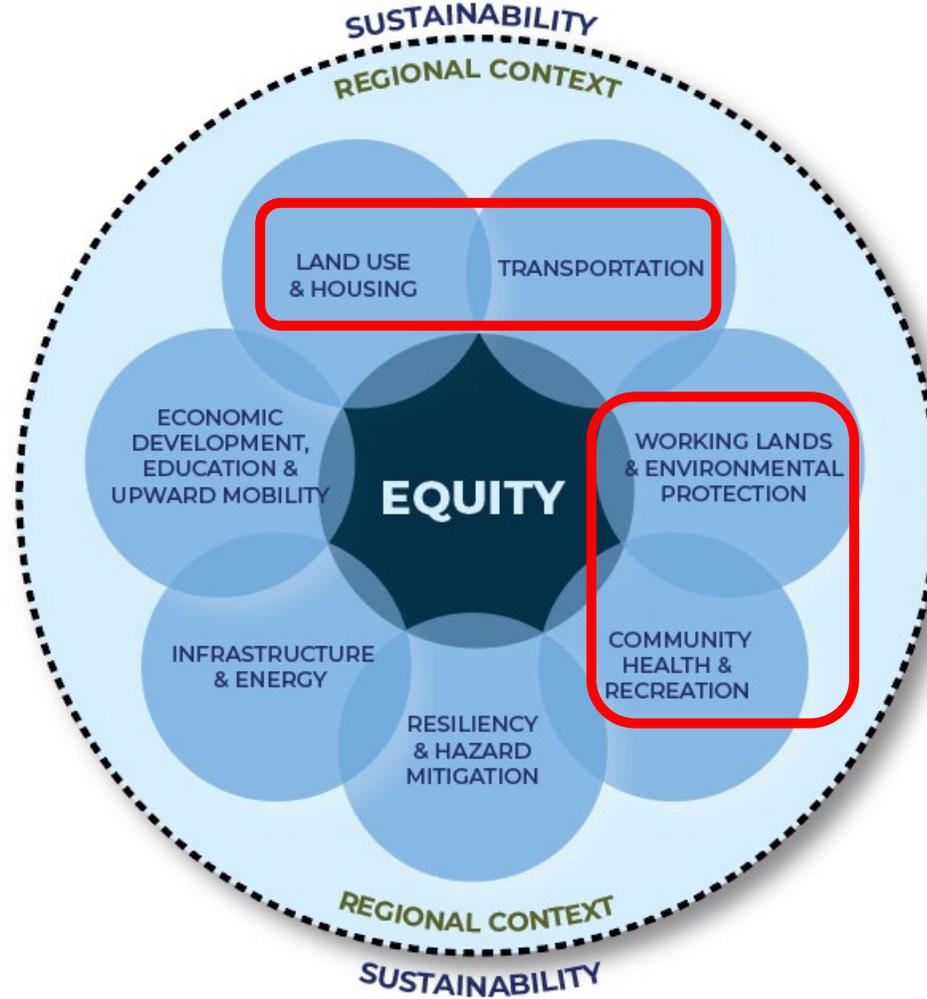
- Community Engagement Window #2: Develop Policy Direction and Priorities
- Development of Vision Themes and Goals
- Project Team Work Session – Growth and Conservation Framework
- Development of Plan Policies, Strategies, and Actions



# 2: CEW#2 Polls



# Planning Topics (Revised)



# CEW#2 Poll Launch

- Approach
  - Focus on public intercept events
  - Other engagement events:
    - 2 drop-in events (East Asheville Library and Enka Library)
    - 2 virtual meetings (scheduled, not yet on PublicInput.com)
  - Paper surveys in English and Spanish
  - Online: <https://engage.buncombecounty.org/Y4853>
- Launched Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at Hola Asheville event



# Structure of CEW#2 Polls

## LAND USE AND HOUSING POLL

1. Most people who responded to the first poll said that future development should be located in areas that are served by infrastructure (public water, sewer, and broadband) and away from environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains and steep slopes. Do you support the county taking steps to concentrate development in areas served by infrastructure and away from environmentally sensitive areas?

- Yes  
 No  
 Maybe, I need to know more

2. In the first poll, most people said they were concerned about the rising cost of living, particularly housing affordability for residents and workers. Which of the following directions should the county take to provide affordable housing? (Select all that apply.)

- Protect neighborhoods that currently have affordable housing from redevelopment.  
 Allow more housing development in specific growth areas where roads and utilities are available and outside of environmentally sensitive areas.  
 Encourage development of more housing options (townhomes, duplexes, etc.) in locations that are served by public utilities and roads and are located adjacent to existing development.  
 Use public resources (funding or land) to support development of housing affordable to local workers.  
 Other:

Please flip this page to answer the About the Respondent questions on the back!



- Land Use and Housing
- Transportation
- Economic Development, Education, and Upward Mobility
- Working Lands and Environmental Protection
- Community Health and Recreation
- Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation
- Infrastructure and Energy
- Sociodemographic questions are presented before all of the policy topics to ensure the capture of sociodemographic information.



# Phase 3 POLL - Policies and Strategies

Translate

This site contains the Phase 3 Comprehensive Plan poll for people who live, work, own property, or go to school in Buncombe County.

Introduction

Land Use & Housing

Transportation

Economics, Education, Upward Mob.

World

## ABOUT THIS POLL

This site contains the Phase 3 Buncombe County Comprehensive Plan poll for people who live, work, own property, or go to school in Buncombe County. The information collected will help Buncombe County prioritize the issues, develop land use and character frameworks, and draft The Plan recommendations. For more information about the Comprehensive Plan and what we've done so far visit [buncombecounty.org/plan2043](https://buncombecounty.org/plan2043).

## INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please start by completing the demographic section on this page, then click continue, or use the navigation tabs at the top of the website.
- You can complete the questions for all of the focus areas, or choose to answer questions for only the topics that interest you.



See more photos from the planning process in our [Flickr Gallery](#).

What is your age?

Under 18

18-25

26-35

36-45

46-55

56-65

What is your race/ethnicity?

White

Black or African-American

Hispanic, Latinx or

Asian

Do you live, work, own property, or go to school in Buncombe County? (Select all that apply.)

I live in Buncombe County

I work in Buncombe County



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



# 3: Developing Fundamentals of Plan Framework

Full Group Discussion: Draft Vision Themes and Goals



# Plan Framework

## Vision Themes

**Vision Themes** – The highest level of the Plan Framework intended to express the ideal aspirations of the plan. These should articulate the priorities for the county and the critical outcomes the county is striving to achieve. The vision themes will be amended, as necessary, through plan drafting in Phase 3.

## Goals

## Policies

## Actions

**Goals** – Express the outcome to achieve related to each planning topic included in the comprehensive plan. These should be guided by the Vision Themes and can articulate a more specific desired result to be achieved. This can include a performance metric, if applicable (e.g., 20% of county protected as permanent open space). Policies and actions will be organized under these goals. The intention is to create one overarching goal for each planning topic to create a concise document.



# Draft Vision Themes

Our Buncombe County 2043 community vision is...

- **Guided by Equity**
- Focused on Conservation
- Committed to Sustainability
- Rooted in Community

**Guided by Equity:** Buncombe County will illuminate and dismantle historic inequities<sup>1</sup> so that all residents may lead happy and healthy lives that allow them to reach their full potential.

1. For a definition of “equity” please refer to the Buncombe County Strategic Plan (page 31):

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/commissioners/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-2025.pdf>



# Draft Vision Themes

Our Buncombe County 2043 community vision is...

- Guided by Equity
- **Focused on Conservation**
- Committed to Sustainability
- Rooted in Community

**Focused on Conservation:** Natural resources, farms, and rural lands will continue to provide picturesque landscapes, healthy ecological systems, and opportunities for nature and recreation-based economic development. Renewable energy sources and energy conservation measures will reduce the county's carbon footprint.



# Draft Vision Themes

Our Buncombe County 2043 community vision is...

- Guided by Equity
- Focused on Conservation
- **Committed to Sustainability**
- Rooted in Community

**Committed to Sustainability:** Livable neighborhoods and employment centers will use sustainable designs that are adequately served by efficient infrastructure, connected and walkable, resilient to natural hazards, support the health of residents, and accommodate the diverse affordability needs of the community.



# Draft Vision Themes

Our Buncombe County 2043 community vision is...

- Guided by Equity
- Focused on Conservation
- Committed to Sustainability
- **Rooted in Community**

**Rooted in Community:** County governance will engage residents, landowners, and business owners in decision-making and with full transparency will steward public resources in a fiscally-efficient manner.



# Draft Goals

## Growth and Conservation Goal

Growth will be directed to targeted areas using sustainable growth patterns that expand affordable housing options for residents, job opportunities for the local workforce, and create centers for shopping, dining, and recreating. New development will maximize developable lands through mixed-use and clustered development designs that lessen climate impacts and are more resilient to hazards. Growth will be directed away from priority conservation areas using a variety of public and private tools.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- Options for affordable housing (range of price points and types of housing)
- Developments that use best practice planning principles to locate residences proximate to employment and services
- Targeted dense development in appropriate areas to reduce pressure to develop environmentally sensitive lands
- Leverage tools and incentives to create more affordable and workforce housing and protect naturally occurring affordable housing from becoming out of reach
- Improve development processes to support the type of development the plan is trying to achieve
- Support use of green building and more resilient designs for new development



# Draft Goals

## Transportation and Mobility Goal

Sustainable growth patterns will be supported through expansion of transportation choices (walking, biking, taking transit, and driving) that prioritize safety for users, reduce climate impacts, and provide more accessible and affordable ways to travel between live, work and play destinations. Buncombe County will leverage regional partnerships to improve the transportation system through enhanced transit service, provide greater connectivity between current and future destinations, and expand infrastructure for electric vehicles.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- More options for traveling around the county (greenways, transit, bike) to reduce cost of living
- Expand public transit service in county through partnerships with municipalities and greater region
- Support development of electric-vehicle infrastructure for both private and public vehicles
- Improve safety for all modes of travel
- Consider ways to retrofit existing roads to support active transportation modes (walking, biking)



# Draft Goals

## Farms and Environmental Lands Goal

A minimum of 20% of the county's open lands will be protected from development. Priority natural environments that support clean water, provide habit for wildlife, offer nature-based recreation, and provide picturesque rural views will be conserved. Priority farms, forests, and other working lands will be maintained for the benefit of future generations. New community gardens will be created for residents.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- Protect rural and natural lands for scenic beauty, climate resilience, and water protection
- Support development of community gardens
- Expand or enhance tools to protect farms, forests, and environmental lands)



# Draft Goals

## Education and Jobs Goal

Public education will be improved and training programs for workers will be enhanced to prepare the next generation of workers for viable job opportunities in Buncombe County. New opportunities for lower wage workers will be provided to improve their skills, job options, and increase their wages. Working households will be supported through quality childcare options, increasing wages, more affordable transportation choices, and job training options. Local entrepreneurs and homegrown businesses will be encouraged and supported. The county will be home to a diversity of industries. Tourism and related businesses in unincorporated Buncombe County will be designed to fit the culture and character of surrounding areas and will support quality of life needs of residents.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- Enhance public education to improve grade level proficiency and prepare the next generation of workers for viable job opportunities
- Increase financial support of public education to enhance teacher pay, research, and workforce/skills development for students
- Focus economic development efforts on elevating the skillsets and wages of service sector and other low-wage workers (apprenticeships, mentoring, workforce development, living wage)
- Provide comprehensive support for families through workforce development, increasing wages, and quality childcare options
- Provide support for local, homegrown businesses and entrepreneurial efforts
- Support the use of tools that result in wealth creation for workers (ESOPs, BCorps, profit sharing options, etc.)



# Draft Goals

## Health and Recreation Goal

All residents will have access to mental health, substance abuse, and general healthcare services resulting in equitable health outcomes across the county. Buncombe residents will be known for high levels of participation in outdoor recreation activities and will have equitable access to parks and open spaces to support healthy behaviors of residents.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- Expand recreational offerings to be accessible to all communities in county, particularly vulnerable populations
- Increase access to mental health, substance abuse, and general healthcare services to all residents
- Support equitable health outcomes for all communities across the county
- County is known for population that participate in outdoor, active recreation and have access to parks and open spaces
- Educate residents on available current health resources



# Draft Goals

## Hazards and Resiliency Goal

In partnership with private landowners, Buncombe will protect important resources and assets (food, housing, businesses, energy systems) from the impacts of natural and manmade hazards. Development will be limited in high hazard areas prone to floods, wildfires, and landslides. The county will be ready to respond to future events through enhanced emergency preparedness efforts and reduced response times of first responders.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- Enhance emergency preparedness, response times, and consolidate responders for efficiency
- Educate landowners on mitigation efforts to reduce risk of hazards
- Protect local food supplies, housing, jobs, and energy systems from the impacts of hazards
- Limit development in high hazard areas prone to floods, wildfires, and landslides (e.g., enhance steep slope and floodplain regulations)



# Draft Goals

## Infrastructure and Energy Goal

The county will achieve carbon neutrality by converting Buncombe County's operations (by 2030) and energy use of the larger Buncombe community (by 2042) to 100% renewable energy. Infrastructure will be expanded across the county to support electric vehicles, broadband access, and renewable energy use. Rebuilding of aging infrastructure to support these renewable energy targets will be prioritized. The county will coordinate with utilities to encourage development in targeted growth areas and away from priority conservation areas and important water resources.

*Key ideas from Steering Committee goals exercise:*

- Expand electric vehicle, broadband, and renewable energy infrastructure
- Rebuild aging infrastructure
- Increase renewable energy generation
- Support water resource protection
- Achieve carbon neutrality



# 4: Next Steps



# Next Steps and Questions

- CEW#2 Launch – please share the poll!

<https://engage.buncombecounty.org/Y4853>

- Next Steering Committee Meeting (2 hours, July 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Focus on policy direction
- Planning a future work session with the Commissioners to review Phase 2 Updates – including public engagement inputs and Vision Themes and Goals

