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Q1. According to Harrisonburg's 2022 Community inventory report, the three biggest sources of community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the city are: commercial (30.8%), transportation (27.5%), and residential (12.7%). How will you approach lowering GHG emissions in each of those sectors?

To lower GHG emissions in Harrisonburg, I would focus on the following strategies:
1. Commercial Sector (30.8%):
Promote energy efficiency upgrades in commercial buildings by offering incentives for installing energy-efficient systems and using renewable energy sources like solar. Encourage green building standards for new developments. 2. Transportation Sector (27.5%):
Expand public transit options, enhance biking and walking infrastructure, and increase the availability of electric vehicle charging stations. Promote the use of electric vehicles, including electric bikes, through incentives and partnerships with local businesses.
3. Residential Sector (12.7%):
Implement programs to assist homeowners with energy efficiency improvements, such as weatherization and energy efficient heat pumps. Promote residential solar programs and provide education on energy-saving practices. Encourage missing middle housing and mixed-use developments. These targeted actions will help reduce Harrisonburg's GHG emissions across key sectors.

Q2. One of the community goals of Harrisonburg's Environmental Action Plan is to "ensure that the transition to a low carbon future is effective, affordable, equitable and inclusive." How will you work to ensure that the environmental benefits are equitable?

To ensure the environmental benefits of Harrisonburg's transition to a low-carbon future are equitable, I will:
1. Prioritize Vulnerable Communities:
Focus resources and initiatives, such as energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy programs, in low-income and historically underserved neighborhoods to ensure they benefit first.
2. Inclusive Engagement:
Actively involve residents from diverse backgrounds in decision-making processes through outreach, public meetings, and partnerships with community organizations, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met. 3. Access to Green Jobs:
Promote training and employment opportunities in the green economy, targeting marginalized communities to provide economic benefits and ensure everyone can participate in the transition.
4. Affordable Access to Programs:
Implement subsidies and incentives to make green technologies, like solar panels and electric vehicles, accessible and affordable for all residents, regardless of income. These steps will help ensure that our low-carbon transition is just, inclusive, and beneficial for the entire community.

Q3. 37% of community GHG emissions in Harrisonburg are from electricity. If Dominion Energy doesn't meet its VCEA renewable energy commitments sufficient for the City to attain its emissions goals, what actions will you take specific to our municipal utility, Harrisonburg Electric Commission, to reduce those emissions?

If Dominion Energy falls short of its Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) renewable energy commitments, I will focus on empowering the Harrisonburg Electric Commission (HEC) to reduce electricity-related GHG emissions by:

1. Expanding Local Renewable Energy Generation: Encourage HEC to invest in and develop more local renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, which can supply clean energy directly to the city. This will reduce reliance on Dominion Energy and decrease overall emissions.
2. Promoting Community Solar Programs:
Support the implementation of community solar initiatives that allow residents and businesses to purchase or lease solar power from shared solar installations, making renewable energy more accessible and affordable. 3. Enhancing Energy Efficiency Programs:
Advocate for HEC to increase energy efficiency efforts, such as offering rebates for energy-efficient appliances, home energy audits, and smart grid technologies. This will help reduce overall electricity demand and emissions. 4. Partnering

for Renewable Energy Purchases:

Work with HEC to explore partnerships and agreements that allow the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs) or directly source renewable energy from other providers to meet the city's emissions reduction targets. By taking these actions, we can proactively reduce Harrisonburg's electricity-related GHG emissions and move closer to achieving our environmental goals.

Q4. The city has started the process of revising its zoning ordinances. Sustainability and urban planning experts have noted that mixed-use and higher density development are ways that zoning rules can help address climate change. What opportunities do you believe this process presents? What needs to happen to ensure that revising our zoning ordinances will produce equitable outcomes and promote the City's GHG emission reduction goals?

The revision of Harrisonburg's zoning ordinances presents a significant opportunity to promote sustainable, mixed-use, and higher-density development, which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by minimizing sprawl and promoting walkability, cycling, and public transit.

Opportunities:

1. Encouraging Mixed-Use Development:

By allowing residential, commercial, and recreational spaces to coexist, we can reduce the need for long commutes, leading to lower vehicle emissions and creating vibrant, walkable neighborhoods.

2. Promoting Higher-Density Housing:

Higher density in appropriate areas can make public transportation more viable, reduce land use, and decrease per capita energy consumption.

Ensuring Equitable Outcomes:

1. Inclusive Planning Process:

Engage a diverse range of community members, especially those from historically underserved neighborhoods, in the planning process to ensure that the benefits of zoning changes are widely shared.

2. Affordable Housing Provisions:

Include affordable housing requirements in zoning changes to prevent displacement and ensure that low-income residents benefit from the developments.

3. Infrastructure Investment:

Ensure that investments in green infrastructure, public transit, and amenities accompany higher-density developments to support sustainable living for all residents. By focusing on these strategies, we can ensure that revising our zoning ordinances promotes sustainability and equity while supporting Harrisonburg's GHG emission reduction goals.

Q.5 What other environmental issues do you see in the city, and how would you address them?

In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, Harrisonburg faces several other environmental challenges:

1. Stormwater Management:

Increasing development has led to more runoff, contributing to flooding and water pollution. I would support green infrastructure solutions like rain gardens, permeable pavements, and enhanced tree canopies to absorb and filter stormwater.

2. Waste Management and Recycling:

There is a need to improve waste diversion rates and recycling. I would advocate for expanding recycling programs, implementing composting initiatives, and increasing public education on waste reduction.

3. Air Quality:

Traffic and industrial emissions can impact air quality. I would promote clean transportation options, like expanding public transit and bike lanes, and advocate for stricter emission standards for local industries.

4. Urban Green Spaces:

Protecting and expanding green spaces is essential for biodiversity and community health. I would work to create more parks and community gardens and enhance existing natural areas to support wildlife and provide recreational opportunities. By addressing these issues, we can create a healthier, more sustainable Harrisonburg for all residents.