



June 2026

Hello ChathamCAN Community,

We're now in what the Union of Concerned Scientists calls "Danger Season," the months of May through October "when extreme weather in North America becomes most intense, with heat, flooding, wildfires, drought, and hurricanes posing the highest risks." ChathamCAN and our partners are taking extreme heat and its impacts very seriously. Read on and join us at the *Stay Safe and Save Money* resource fair. Please attend, help spread the word and volunteer.

CALLS FOR ACTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Saturday, June 27, 10am-2pm

Stay Safe and Save Money: Community Resource Fair on Extreme Heat & Rising Energy

Costs! Sponsored by ChathamCAN in collaboration with our members in Siler City and the western part of the county. The resource fair will be held at Holy Trinity Church Fellowship Hall. Rising temperatures and energy costs are putting real strain on our community. Join us for a free, in-person resource fair with practical tools to stay safe in the heat and manage rising electricity bills — including information on assistance programs that may help. Free lunch and prizes! Angella Dunston, who was one of the children protesting the PCB landfill site in Warren County in 1982, will be co-moderator. Warren County is the birthplace of the Environmental Justice movement in the US. Angella will be joined by Aylin Sotelo from The Hispanic Liaison.

Let us know if you can volunteer. And please help us spread the word (flier attached-post if you can). See more at www.chathamclimateaction.org/resource-fair

Energy Saver NC [featured at the resource fair!] is now available in Chatham County and across the state. The program offers residents rebates on household upgrades that reduce monthly utility bills. Applicants may receive up to \$16,000 toward new appliances, better insulation, or other purchases that help a home consume electricity more efficiently. That might include: heat pumps, energy-efficient HVAC units, electric stoves and air sealing. Renters and

multifamily building owners can apply, though renters require approval from their landlord. The program is targeted toward low-income families. Please share this information with people who might benefit.

WREP Applications for the next Waste Reduction Enthusiast Program cohort are open now until August 1st! You can apply for the program [here](#). Or you can learn more about the program at chathamcountync.gov/wrep.

Juneteenth Stop by the ChathamCAN tent when you come to CORE's annual [Juneteenth](#) celebration on Saturday, June 20 2-6pm at the Chatham County Fairgrounds.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

CERT

www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-pr-emergency-management/cert

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs educate about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and train them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. What is learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT volunteers can put into action when their families and neighbors following a disaster until professional responders arrive. CERT volunteers are also encouraged to support emergency agencies by taking an active role in emergency preparedness.



UPDATES and FOLLOW UP

Chatham Transit

Chatham County is on the move—literally. As part of the “Move Chatham, Phase One” initiative, residents from every corner of the county shared their ideas, concerns, and hopes for the future of transportation. This effort looked far beyond buses alone, examining how people walk, bike, and travel throughout the community. “We reached out across the county to identify the thoughts and recommendations of our citizens,” said Thanh Schado, Transportation Planner for Chatham County. That input is shaping a vision for a transportation system that works for everyone.

Note: Chatham Transit is offering free rides to the closest cooling center (Library) until the end of August - regardless of the temperature. Call 919-542-5136 to make arrangements for your ride.

Climate Solutions Fair and Community Bike Ride

ChathamCAN co-hosted the 2nd annual Climate Solutions Fair and added a Community Bike Ride this year. Activities included a solar village for kids; baking cookies, preparing s'mores and melting cheese for crackers in solar ovens; and popping corn using a solar battery. Visitors to the display shared their opinions and their climate actions through dot-voting and did what climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe says is the most important solution, they “talked about it.” A

resounding majority said (with their dots) that they or people they care about have been personally affected by climate change. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with this event!



LONGER TERM

We're talking with teachers, group leaders, young people and others. We're listening to learn how we can involve youth in ChathamCAN and climate solutions and support them in their climate goals. **Do you know of people we should be talking with? Are you interested in helping with this project?** Reply to this email to let us know. And look forward to more in the fall.

WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO (send us your favorites!)

Listen

On Air Today: Heat Awareness Week with Chatham County Environmental Health Director James Tiger [podcast](#) (7 minutes) on [Chapelboro.com](#)

Read

Union of Concerned Scientists [Danger Season Is Here Again. with Triple the Danger for 2026](#)

Watch

Documentary on Warren County and birth of environmental justice movement - [Our Movement Starts Here](#)

If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to watch NC Warn's short documentary about Duke Energy: [The True Cost of Power](#). Or come to The Plant for the Climate Solutions Fair on May 30 and watch it there with others!

With hope and in community,

Betsy, Lenore, Maura, Meredith and Vickie - organizing for ChathamCAN

P.S. Please forward this email to others who might be interested in being a part of ChathamCAN. Let us know if you'd like for us to remove you from our mailing list.