



August 2026

Si prefiere leer este boletín informativo en español, por favor responde a este correo electrónico.

Hello ChathamCAN Community,

Coming through the hottest July on record, we are deeply grateful for this community's focus on climate solutions in Chatham County. As the indomitable Bill McKibben says, let us "just say what a fierce joy it is to be fighting this fight alongside you. There are days when I'm despairing and there are nights when I can't sleep, but there's never a moment when I'm tempted to walk away. I'm glad to be here with you."

We're excited that Chatham County is taking a major step forward in the development of our Climate Action Plan! See more below.

CALLS FOR ACTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to:

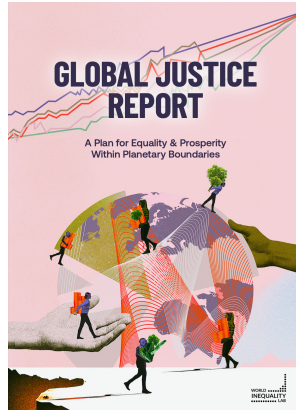
Spread the word that **FREE RIDES** are available to anyone (no age limit or disability requirement) to the cooling centers (Chatham Community Library, Pittsboro; Wren Memorial Library, Siler City; and Goldston Public Library. Call (919) 542-5136 and ask for a ride to a cooling center. This free service with **Chatham Transit** is provided through the **Chatham Health Department** and ***must be used to continue future availability***.

Chatham has a new **navigator!** **Text Malinda Marsh at 984-484-8496 for help with an application.** She can help some homeowners and renters reduce utility bills by applying for rebates! 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 (renters require approval from their landlord). The program, energysavernc.org/ is targeted toward low-income families. Please share with people who might benefit.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Coming to Chatham County!!

Blue Strike, a company that has worked with several local governments in NC, including Orange County, Wake Forest, and the Town of Davidson, was selected to lead the effort. See [Blue Strike CAP Proposal.pdf](#) to view their proposal. There will be many opportunities for community participation in developing the CAP. We'll keep you informed so that you can participate.

Interested in a discussion group?



Since we focus on climate solutions for Chatham County, we haven't talked about what other countries are doing. But zoom out for the global picture with [The Global Justice Report](#). In this report, the World Inequality Lab presents their "vision for global progress in the 21st century; grounding human development and equality in planetary habitability." They evaluate the conditions under which the world could manage climatic impacts and present "an economically and ecologically consistent transition path from 2026 to 2100." Check it out and if you're interested in a discussion group, let us know. Send an email to chathamclimateaction@gmail.com

Join or keep up with the **Fight Against the Enbridge Pipeline** with Haw River Assembly [here](#), on Facebook at [Fight Enbridge Pipeline Chatham County](#), or sign the petition in opposition [here](#). **NC Climate Week** is coming up September 28th through October 2nd, 2026. "The science is clear. The solutions exist. The momentum is building. Now is the time to meet the moment." Free sessions cover everything from reducing food and plastic waste, to AI, to tree programs, to gardening for wildlife and much more! See descriptions and register at <https://ncclimateweek.org/>.

MINI REPAIR WORKSHOP: SEWING STUFFED ANIMALS - FREE - Monday, 9/14/26
3:00-5:00 p.m.

A family-friendly repair workshop where participants of all ages will learn basic hand-sewing techniques and simple repair skills to mend well-loved plush toys. This workshop is presented in collaboration with Chatham County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling, and the Waste & Recycling Enthusiast Program (WREP). Volunteers will have sewing machines, hand-sewing supplies, stuffing, and basic repair materials, but participants are also welcome to bring along with their stuffed animals any fabrics, embellishments, or other materials for personal customization. Light snacks, coffee, and tea will be available for participants to enjoy during the workshop. Sewing supplies included. One-class session. Registration available through 9/7/26. Location: Arts Center (964 East Street, Pittsboro). Details and registration link [here](#).

UPDATES and FOLLOW UP

PBO board meeting and ChathamCAN public statement

ChathamCAN organizers made a public statement about the unresolved issues and lawsuit concerning the Chatham Park South Village Small Area Plan (SAP) at the August 10th meeting of the Pittsboro Town Board.

Some history: Last December, the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners approved Chatham Park's very large "small area plan" with the understanding that changes to the plan would ensure legislative control and public engagement for the duration of the development. A closer read of the approved plan, however, did not reflect the language set forth by Town staff prior to its approval. Megan Kimbrall of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) immediately wrote to the Board and suggested changes in language to the approved SAP that would ensure the SAP's language was consistent with planning staff assertions that the Town would retain legislative discretion over Section Design Plans, and that those plans would contain the level of detail the governing documents require at the SAP stage; and also add language defining the Section Design Plan process to the related governing documents to make the whole thing procedurally valid and legally sound. When Megan received no response from the Board, we joined with the Haw River Assembly and 7 Directions of Service in January of this year, to file a complaint against the Town of Pittsboro for failing to specify the Town Board's legislative role and oversight in the South Village SAP. Our intent from the beginning was to negotiate a settlement with the Town, as we believe our goals to be the same: not to stop the development, but to ensure it moves forward with the transparency, public engagement, and Board oversight it requires.

Since then, we have been extremely disappointed that the Board has largely turned over its authority to remedy this situation to Chatham Park Investors, who refuse to negotiate with us and are instead pursuing unconstitutional demands that we disclose our entire membership lists - including names, home addresses, and property ownership - as well as internal organizational and funding information. With the help of SELC, we continue to respond through normal legal channels, but on August 10 we appealed to the Pittsboro Board to use their advocacy and leadership toward a negotiated settlement that would be in the best interest of the Town. We encourage you to contact the Board and encourage them to work toward this end. See the attached pdf of our letter or watch [here](#) (see public comment chapter).

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL

Climate and democracy are on the line and on the ballot. Let's all work to get out the vote for this critical election. If you're interested in helping fund pro-climate candidates in high impact races, see climatecabinet.org/

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.

The Hispanic Heritage Fiesta is back and ChathamCAN will have a table there. Come by and see us at this wonderful event or if you're able come volunteer at our table. For more information, email: chathamclimateaction@gmail.com. **Saturday, September 12, 2026 - 12~5 PM** at Shakori Hills - 1439 Henderson Tanyard Rd, Pittsboro, NC.

WHAT WE'RE READING/WATCHING/LISTENING TO

(send us your favorites!)

Listen

Outrage + Optimism Five years ago, a 21-year-old activist stood on a TED stage next to the CEO of Shell and accused him of making 'evil decisions' wreaking 'devastation on communities around the world'. And then walked off. [Listen](#) to what happened next.

Read

Rebecca Solnit Meditations in an Emergency: [Cynicism and Naïveté in the Summer of a Thousand Fires](#)

Kate Marvel Project Drawdown [Is climate change unfolding faster and fiercer than scientists expected?](#)

Bill McKibben (or watch him - see below) The Crucial Years - [Take Five](#)

The Guardian [July was hottest month ever recorded in US as heatwaves scorched country](#)

Watch

[Our Last Best Chance to](#) Cool the Earth Bill McKibben TED Talk

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.