



February 2025

Hello ChathamCAN Community,

Showing up and standing together. Please join us for a Community Conversation on **Risk and Resilience: Weathering the Climate Crisis in Chatham County** on **Thursday, February 20, 2024 Holmes Family Meeting Room - Chatham Community Library 6:00 -8:00 pm**. The urgency of the climate crisis affects us all. Building a resilient local community is more important than ever. (See below for more details about our next Community Conversation.)

February is Black History Month and an appropriate time to recall the birth of the environmental justice movement in the US. Did you know it began in North Carolina? The environmental justice movement is widely considered to have begun in 1982 in Warren County. The movement gained national attention after a community protest against the construction of a hazardous waste landfill in this poor, predominantly Black community. Climate justice grew out of the environmental movement and connects the climate crisis to the social, racial and environmental issues in which it is deeply entangled. It recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income and BIPOC communities around the world, the people and places least responsible for the problem. These communities also have fewer resources for recovery and adaptation. The Justice40 initiative promises to direct benefits - specifically, at least 40% of the overall benefits from certain federal investments - towards disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change.

UPDATES AND FOLLOW UP

See the **ChathamCAN website** for updated information on food waste diversion—click on the [Community Conversations](#) tab. Give us feedback and suggestions about our website by replying to this email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALLS FOR ACTION AND RESOURCES

Pipelines

- Request for action from a Network member (click for more information or reply to email): [Stop the Southeast Supply Enhancement Project from building another gas pipeline in NC](#)

- See also [Appalachian Voices doorknocking events around new pipeline projects](#).

North Carolina's energy efficiency rebate program, [Energy Saver North Carolina](#), provides rebates (for low and moderate income) for home energy assessments, HVAC, energy efficient home appliances and more. The program has launched in two counties (Halifax and Cleveland), will spread to western NC and then be available statewide.

Earth Day at The Plant 2025 - Saturday, April 26, sponsored by the Haw River Assembly
ChathamCAN will have a table. Nita Dukes will be demonstrating how to make kids' gardens out of small cardboard boxes and holding a workshop to make seed orbs with flowers or vegetables. If you can help with preparations, contact Nita at ms88fruit@gmail.com or reply to this email if you'd like to help in some way. See you there!

NEXT QUARTERLY GATHERING

Risk and Resilience: Weathering the Climate Crisis in Chatham County

Thursday, February 20, 2024 Holmes Family Room - Chatham Community Library 6-8pm.

Panelists: Robbie Cox, Chair, Climate Change Advisory Committee; Anayancy Estacio, Education Program Coordinator, Environmental Quality Department; Anne Lowry, Director, Environmental Health; Tandy Jones, Chatham County Farmer. Commissioner Amanda Robertson will announce an opportunity for input into Chatham's planning for climate solutions. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. (See attachment for more)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Chatham Environmental Health Division - Anne Lowry, Director

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/environmental-health>

Consistent with historical trends, North Carolina, including Chatham County, is projected to experience warming temperatures, especially at nighttime. The likelihood of extreme heat events is also projected to increase in the state, making extreme heat an important hazard for North Carolinians to be prepared for now and into the future. Chatham County developed the first [Heat Action Plan](#) in the state. The plan provides a county-level response for extreme heat events, as well as longer-term strategies for coping with heat. Emergency Management and the Public Health Department are the lead agencies.



January 24, 2024

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

- Learn about what we can do at the local level with the [North Carolina Resilient Communities Planning Guide](#)
- NC Black Alliance seeks to aid Black communities as they prepare for and address the disproportionate effects of climate change. They are also committed to furthering energy justice and advocating for equitable access to energy-efficient housing, transportation, and clean energy infrastructure. <https://ncblackalliance.org/environmental-justice/>
- Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) Broken Ground [podcasts](#)

These are very difficult times. Being in community is important personally and collectively. We're grateful to be in community with you.

Betsy, Carmen, 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.