

Montgomery Planning

CLIMATE ASSESSMENT FOR

[ZTA ##-##, NAME OF ZTA]

Template Revised: June 2025

[Note: This template is a basic framework for the content and structure of a climate assessment. The assessor, however, can supplement the assessment as appropriate with additional information and graphics.]

PURPOSE OF CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the Climate Assessments is to evaluate the anticipated impact of master plans and zoning text amendments (ZTAs) on the county's contribution to addressing climate change. These assessments will provide the County Council with a better understanding of the potential climate impacts and implications of proposed master plans and ZTAs, at the county level. The scope of the Climate Assessments is limited to addressing climate change, specifically the effect of land use recommendations in master plans and ZTAs on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, sequestration, community resilience and adaptive capacity, and the county's Climate Action Plan (CAP) actions.

While co-benefits such as health and cost savings may be discussed, the focus is on how proposed master plans and ZTAs may impact the climate-related considerations mentioned above.

SUMMARY

[For example: The Montgomery County Planning Board anticipates that [ZTA ##-## will have no, indeterminate, minor, moderate, major, a combination, or a range of positive or negative] impacts on the county's goals of addressing greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration, and ensuring resilience and adaptive capacity of our communities.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ZTA ##-##

[Discussion of what this ZTA does, why it was introduced, what issues are being addressed, what geographies are covered, etc.... --- should be provided by the lead ZTA review coordinator]

VARIABLES THAT COULD AFFECT THE ASSESSMENT

[List the climate-related and non-climate related variables that were considered in the assessment. Climate related variables include the various GHG reduction, sequestration, resilience, and adaptive

capacity activities in the March 2025 updated climate assessment checklists (updates of Tables 1 and 8 contained in the *Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County, or other variables identified in the assessment*).]

Climate-Related Variables

[For example: greenhouse gas, sequestration, resilience-related, and adaptive capacity-related variables.]

Other Variables

[For example: non-climate related variables pertaining to the ZTA.]

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

[High level summary of what is anticipated based on the checklists (see the March 2025 updated GHG and Sequestration, and the Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity checklists) and additional guidance found in *Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County*. [No, indeterminate, minor, moderate, major, a combination, or a range of positive or negative] impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, sequestration, community resilience, and adaptive capacity as described in more detail below. Note if any of the activities or variables involved are quantifiable or indeterminate] *If there are no anticipated impacts, it may be feasible to delete the two sub-sections below and just do 1-2 sentences here summarizing no impacts to some or all areas of assessment.*

Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Carbon Sequestration, and Drawdown

[For example: The [ZTA ##-##] is anticipated to have [no, indeterminate, minor, moderate, major, a combination, or a range of positive or negative] impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration. Note: The *Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County* indicates that carbon sequestration, drawdown, and reduction are generally used interchangeably. The *Recommendations* document uses the term sequestration.]

[Provide an explanation for the assessment. For example: Were any activities in the greenhouse gas and sequestration checklist (see March 2025 updated GHG Emissions and Sequestration checklist guidance) identified as having a positive or negative impact? What are the associated uncertainties? Is there an anticipated timeline of impacts – does this involve a change in policy or practice that would have immediate impacts or does this change requirements only for future/new things which would lengthen the impacts? Was any other literature review done as a result of the initial checklist analysis that provides reference points on the subject? Does the ZTA relate to the county’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) GHG goals and reduction strategies, and Thrive Montgomery 2050 recommendations? Are there any options to reduce potential GHG emissions or increase sequestration? If modeling (GHG Quant

Tool as described in the *Recommendations* and Quant Tool documentation) was involved in the assessment include appropriate summaries of the results and how they affect the assessment.]

Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity

[For example: The [ZTA ##-##] is anticipated to have [no, indeterminate, minor, moderate, major, a combination, or a range of positive or negative] impacts community resilience and adaptive capacity].

[Provide an explanation for the assessment. For example, were any activities in the resilience and adaptive capacity checklist (see March 2025 updated Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity checklist guidance) identified as having a positive or negative or other type of impact? What are the associated uncertainties? Is there an anticipated timeline of impacts – does this involve a change in policy or practice that would have immediate impacts or does this change requirements only for future/new things which would lengthen the impacts? Was any other literature review done as a result of the initial checklist that provides reference points on the subject? Is there a tie to CAP or Thrive recommendations? Are there any options to reduce potential negative impacts?]

RELATIONSHIP TO GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION, SEQUESTRATION, AND OTHER RELEVANT ACTIONS CONTAINED IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

[Assess whether each applicable activity factor for the ZTA relates to a core greenhouse gas emission, sequestration, or other relevant action within the most recent version of the county’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). If so, note if that action will have no, indeterminate, minor, moderate, major, a combination, or a range of positive or negative impacts on implementing the action, also noting any CAP actions that are relevant to but not addressed in the ZTA that could inform any recommended amendments to the ZTA (see the March 2025 updated *Determining Relationships to County Climate Priorities* guidance sheet and guidance in preparing a narrative assessment on page 17 in the *Final Report: Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County, ICF, December 1, 2022*. For more information regarding the Climate Action Plan actions not covered in the *Determining CAP Relationships* guidance sheet, see the *Montgomery County Climate Action Plan, June 2021*.)]

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires the Planning Board to offer appropriate recommendations such as amendments to the proposed [ZTA ##-##], or other mitigating measures that could help counter any identified negative impacts through this Climate Assessment.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, ASSUMPTIONS, AND METHODOLOGIES USED

[The climate assessment for [ZTA ##-##] was prepared using the methodology for ZTAs contained within the *Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County, December 1, 2022.*]

[Did the checklist process prompt additional literature review? If so, cite the relevant literature. If modeling was involved (GHG Quant Tool) provide model citation. Were any assumptions made that are not covered by the *Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County, December 1, 2022*? If so, summarize them and how they relate to the climate assessment.]