



Why are we recommending a reduction target that looks to limit global warming to 1.5°C?

Recognizing climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, the Board of supervisors chose to become a signatory of "We Are Still In" a declaration committing to the continued support of climate action to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement.

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to provide a Special Report in 2018 on 'the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions pathways. Some of the key findings of this report include:

- Climate models project significant differences in mean temperature in most land and ocean regions, hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitation in several regions, and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions when comparing a difference in warming between 1.5°C and 2°C.
- On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C.
- **In climate model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero around 2050.**

Therefore, the adoption of a goal in alignment with the aforementioned IPCC key findings would reaffirm the County's commitment to addressing climate change.

Furthermore, the adoption of the IPCC recommended target would put us in alignment with the City of Charlottesville's recently adopted greenhouse gas reduction goal.