

November 11, 2021

## **SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES THAT ARE NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED IN THE UDO**

Sustainable Saratoga remains committed to following up on the sustainability and environmental protection issues that are not adequately addressed by the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). For example, while the UDO does not weaken the protections for streams and wetlands, the document does not go far enough to protect these vital resources that we will increasingly depend on to mitigate the impacts of climate change and maintain water quality. Similarly, the requirements for green building standards and building decarbonization fall far short of where we need to be in reducing our contributions to the climate crisis.

It was decided early on in the process that affordable housing would not be considered within the scope of this UDO. However, the lack of affordable housing plagues the city and has consequences for the diversity and vibrancy of our city, as well as development and environmental impacts well beyond our city's boundaries. This issue must be addressed by the next City Council.

**Below are key sustainability issues that need to be addressed in the near future if the UDO is passed on November 16:**

- Reexamine all uses and their definitions that are included within the Greenbelt (including the RR and GC-R zoning districts).
- Increase stream corridor protections for all streams
- Protect water body shorelines from erosion
- Increase wetland buffer protection for all wetlands
- Expand incentives for building decarbonization and require new buildings to consider green building practices such as onsite solar, green roofs, geothermal, solar hot water, air source heat pumps, and system electrification as part of the site plan application
- Add realistic, achievable zoning amendments to obtain more housing diversity and affordability
- Enact greater protections for the public right-of-way for pedestrian safety and tree belt vegetation
- Expand exterior lighting controls to reduce light pollution
- Restore regulations to promote more walkable commercial areas in the urban core
- Improve stormwater management regulations
- Add greater specificity to ensure clear and uniform criteria for making land use decisions

