Community Quarterly
CITY OF BEACON · COUNCIL

BALLOT of IDEAS

GUIDELINES
- This Ballot and voting process is open to any and all Residents of Beacon
- **Ballots must be submitted by Wednesday, APRIL 12 @4PM**
  to Ben Swanson at Beacon City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
  OR online via the Form: https://bit.ly/BCQ1Ballot

BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS:
- **READ** each of the ideas and descriptions
- **VOTE** by indicating your priority level for each idea, or leaving it blank. Note that the order of the ballot is randomized.
- Optional: for each idea, the ballot asks if you have time/capacity to volunteer and help the City execute any of these ideas. This question is entirely optional and does not affect how your votes are counted.

WHAT is the COMMUNITY QUARTERLY?
The City Council of Beacon believes our city government is made stronger through an engaged and active public. While there are already several ways for those who live and work in Beacon to provide feedback, input and inspiration for City Council, we believe that Council has a proactive role to play in making our government more accessible and participatory.

To that end, we are hosting a series of Community Quarterlies to give a platform for Beaconites to share ideas with each other and vote through a set of priorities for your City Council to address moving forward.

Each CQ will center on a question articulated by Council and have three phases:
- Part 1: Survey for Solutions - completed March 13
- Part 2: Public Forum - completed March 18
- Part 3: Community Vote - this form, happening NOW through April 10

Community Quarterly #1 Central Question: What is a Community Climate Initiative that the City should support?

RESIDENCY INFO:

YOUR NAME: _____

WARD or ADDRESS:_____

CONTACT INFO* *(phone or email)* _____

*contact info is only necessary if you signify you would like to volunteer for any ideas below

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IDEA: Expand and Modify the Free Loop Shuttle Bus
The free loop should have increased range and frequency. If we could all count on the bus to sync up with trains reliably, ridership would increase dramatically, thus reducing overall emissions. In addition, if the bus was a smaller-capacity vehicle, it would get much better gas mileage, especially per rider mile. Ideally, this vehicle would be electric, when feasible. The Main Street Access Committee supports these recommendations, and the US DoT has many statistics on the benefits of buses found here:
https://bit.ly/BCQ1BusesDOT

View Section 4 on public transportation of the Main Street Access Committee's report for additional recommendations: https://bit.ly/BCQ1MainSt

Questions about this idea: Martin Fowler at martindfowler@gmail.com

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:
Low Priority → → → High Priority
❑ 1 ❑ 2 ❑ 3 ❑ 4 ❑ 5 ❑ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?

END OF BALLOT

QUESTIONS about this process are welcome and should be directed to your City Councilmembers

Ward 1, Molly Rhodes | mrhodes@beaconny.gov
Ward 2, Justice McCray | jmccray@beaconny.gov
Ward 3, Wren Longno | wlongno@beaconny.gov
Ward 4, Dan Aymar-Blair | daymarblair@beaconny.gov
At-Large, George Mansfield | gmansfield@beaconn.gov
At-Large, Paloma Wake | pwake@beaconny.gov
Mayor, Lee Kyriacou | mayor@beaconny.gov

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AT
www.beaconny/gov

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CHECK ONE BOX FOR EACH IDEA:

IDEA: Commit to a timeline for a Citywide Bike Plan that includes immediate pilot bike lanes & boulevards

Description: A key part of addressing Beacon's Climate Goals includes improving transportation options outside of personal vehicles. Half of all trips taken in the U.S. are less than 3 miles and choosing to replace driving a car with riding a bike just once per day can reduce personal transportation-related carbon emissions by 67% (via PeopleforBikes.org). However, to make these rides safe for cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians alike, the City needs to implement bike lanes and boulevards.

View Section 3: Bicycle Network of the Main Street Access Committee's report for additional recommendations: https://bit.ly/BCO1MainSt

Questions about this idea: Meg Lazaros at megan.lazaros@gmail.com

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:

Low Priority → → → High Priority

❏ 1 ❏ 2 ❏ 3 ❏ 4 ❏ 5 ❏ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?

IDEA: Residential Rain Barrels: Reduce Your Water Bill, Combat Climate Change, Help Beacon's Water Supply

Rain barrels conserve water, ease demand on Beacon's water system and reduce your water bill. Last summer's drought forced Beacon to restrict water use. With climate change, droughts will be more common. Rain barrels capture water from roofs so you can water for free lawns, gardens or wash cars. Vote for Beacon to offer rain barrels "at-cost" to residents which would be a discount from retail price at no cost to the City/taxpayers.

Presentation Slides found here: https://bit.ly/BCO1RainBarrels

Questions about this idea: Elise LaRocco, laroccoelise@gmail.com

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:

Low Priority → → → High Priority

❏ 1 ❏ 2 ❏ 3 ❏ 4 ❏ 5 ❏ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?

IDEA: Create an incentive program for residents to plant and maintain pollinator pathways

Replacing grass lawns with native plant meadows helps create habitats for local pollinators while cutting back on our use of outdoor watering, gas-powered mowers, and pesticides. To incentivize residents to participate in creating pollinator pathways, Beacon can work with local businesses to offer free bulbs, plants, and gardening supplies to help participants get started, plus perks like discounts at local events, restaurants, and coffee shops. This can be a fun family and community project.

Questions about this idea: Meg Lazaros at megan.lazaros@gmail.com

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:

Low Priority → → → High Priority

❏ 1 ❏ 2 ❏ 3 ❏ 4 ❏ 5 ❏ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?

IDEA: Info sessions for homeowners on accessing programs to transition off fossil fuels affordably.

One of the largest contributors to climate change is emissions from buildings. We have passed a bill that prevents gas hookups in new construction but what about the challenge of energy sources in our existing homes and buildings? There are programs now that provide affordability to homeowners to make important retrofits to their homes through the IRA and through NYSERDA's EmPower and NYS Clean Heat program. We just need to get the information out to our community.

Video presentation hosted by Climate Reality with reps from ReWiring America and New Yorkers for Clean Power that outlines programs and their incentives and rebates: http://bit.ly/3Z7u3aw

Questions about this idea: Eve Morgenstern evemorgenstern@gmail.com
Co-Chair, Climate Reality Hudson Valley & Catskills chapter

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:

Low Priority → → → High Priority

❏ 1 ❏ 2 ❏ 3 ❏ 4 ❏ 5 ❏ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?

IDEA: Stream/Riparian Buffer restoration with plantings along Fishkill Creek banks and other streams.

Riparian buffers are strips of vegetation (trees, shrubs or grass) planted next to streams or other waterbodies. By planting vegetation along streams, space is created between the water and upland land uses, which helps protect the water quality and stream habitat. Healthy buffer benefits: Streambank stabilization, Erosion and sediment control, Filtration of nutrients and other pollutants, Reduced impact from floods, Habitat and food for wildlife and pollinators, Shade for streams.

Presentation Slides found here: https://bit.ly/BCO1Riparian

Questions about this idea: Sergei Krasikov, kinoserge@gmail.com

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:

Low Priority → → → High Priority

❏ 1 ❏ 2 ❏ 3 ❏ 4 ❏ 5 ❏ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?

IDEA: Oppose dumping of radioactive wastewater from Indian Point into the Hudson River.

Holtec Industries is planning to discharge millions of gallons of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River from Indian Point in August or earlier. Tritium, one of the radioactive elements to be discharged, poses a severe danger to human health and the environment and cannot be filtered out of water. Pregnant people and children are at high risk for adverse effects as are fish and wildlife. A City resolution would also support two bills in the NYS legislature: S5181/A5338 banning this action on the State level.

Questions about this idea can be directed through pwake@beaconny.gov

CHECK ONE BOX for the above idea:

Low Priority → → → High Priority

❏ 1 ❏ 2 ❏ 3 ❏ 4 ❏ 5 ❏ no opinion

Optional write-in: would you like to help the City execute this idea?