

Edgefield



County



Vision 2023
“Looking to the
Horizon”

Edgefield County

In the fall of 2016, Edgefield County Council began a plan to develop a Strategic Plan to go to 2023 and beyond. This plan started with a strategic planning session by County Council in September 2016 to identify issues facing County government. There were also joint meetings between County Council and the Edgefield County School Board, the County Planning Commission, the County Transportation Committee, Edgefield County Hospital Board and the Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority. These meetings allowed Council to learn the future challenges these groups will face, their vision for the future and how these should be integrated into a Strategic Plan for Edgefield County.

County Council also held five "Listening Tour" meetings at various locations in the county to get citizen input during the spring of 2017 and two public input for input on the Strategic Plan in the fall of 2017.

While much progress has been achieved, additional, continuing, work remains to be done. In addition to ongoing work to be done, these action items also include new directions in our Plan's path.

Short term action items listed in this Plan are those that were seen as most immediately important by our citizens. Long term goals continue our past approach of phasing in larger projects over multiple budget years, as funding allows, preventing unnecessarily incurring debt, accommodating anticipated future growth, and assessing how the finished product will need to appear based on information obtained from work done in initial project phases.

Edgefield County proud of its past but focused on the future.

Economic Development

Goal #1 Support Business and Industrial Retention and Growth

Short Term

- Establish meetings with Edgefield County industries to determine ways to support and expand their industries and businesses
- Survey existing businesses to determine ways the county can assist them
- Implementation of recommendations received from the Palmetto Assessment Competitiveness Evaluation
- Development of a “brand” for Edgefield County, including logo



and

Long Term

- Based on information gathered by industrial visits review and revise development standards regulations
- From the results of the business survey develop strategies to become more “business friendly”
- Development and enhancement of Heritage Tourism and Agritourism
- Find ways to include Towns in Economic Development



Goal #2 Increase Number of Jobs through New and Existing Businesses and Industries

Short Term

- Determine if purchasing additional property in the Industrial Park will benefit Edgefield County
- Ensure all due diligence is up to date on the Industrial Park
- Increase funding for county industrial development
- Partner with other regulating entities to increase communication with applicants and reduce permitting time
- Enhance the appearance of the Industrial Park
- Develop plan to recruit business and industry associated with cyber industry
- Meet with Cyber Security representatives to determine best path forward for Edgefield County involvement in jobs, business, education, housing, etc.



Long Term

- Develop plans for necessary infrastructure at various industrial sites
- Review Comprehensive Plan to consider additional locations for industrial and business development
- Create development policies for infrastructure improvements and incentives for new locations and expansions
- Implement plan to recruit business and industry associated with cyber industry



Goal #3 Encourage Quality Residential Growth

Short Term

- Review Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations and revise as necessary to encourage private investment and reduce barriers
- Market Edgefield County for residential development
- Work with local municipalities within the County to ensure quality development
- Develop a policy with Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority for infrastructure improvements for residential growth
- Provide protection to residential districts from commercial activities



Long Term

- Develop inventory of potential residential areas
- Consideration of additional zoning districts that will promote quality growth





Enhance Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire and Medical Services (Public Safety)



Goal 1 Improve Services and Facilities

Short Term

- Determine ways to reduce response times for all public safety
- Replacement of ambulances exceeding 200,000 miles
- Investigate ways to improve radio communication for EMS and Fire
- Provide grant writing assistance to help prepare grants
- Study ways to retain public safety employees



Long Term

- Develop plans for construction for Law Enforcement Center containing Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, and Magistrate's Office
- Based on need, response time, etc., determine location for new EMS station
- Develop funding sources for capital improvements
- Based on study, implement changes to retain public safety employees



Goal 2 Maintain a Viable Hospital along with local Medical Services

Short Term

- Work with Edgefield County Hospital Board to recruit and retain new medical providers with exposure to community and lifestyle of area
- Continued financial assistance to Edgefield County Hospital
- County Council participation with joint meetings with local Hospital Board and Operating Board at least annually
- Provide input to ECH Board concerning community perception
- Expand partnership with Self Regional Healthcare if beneficial to Edgefield County



Strengthen and Improve Recreation Program

Goal 1 Upgrade and Expand Recreation Programs and Services

Short Term

- Strengthen youth sports partnership with municipalities
- Promote public awareness of recreation activities offered by the National Forest Service
- Determine ways to better communicate to the community concerning recreational programs and registration
- Provide training to all coaches concerning the Code of Conduct and expectations
- Determine site for development of recreational facilities in the Merriwether area
- Increase funding for recreation
- Investigate creation of a 501(c)3 to enhance recreational activities
- Support of the ARTS, Senior Citizen Programs, and enhancement of Quality of Life projects using indirect support.

Long Term

- Develop plans for a recreational park in the Merriwether area
- Consider expanding staff for the Recreation Department
- Review possibilities for construction of a recreational activities building



Upgrade and Expand County Infrastructure

Goal 1 Partner with public and private sector to improve and expand existing infrastructure

Short Term

- Continue developing MOUs with the ECWSA and developers to extend water and/or sewer to new developments and recover costs by impact fees
- Continue partnership with ECWSA to place additional fire hydrants in County
- Identify areas where expansion of water and sewer is feasible
- Support applications for grant funding to expand additional water, sewer, broadband, cell service, and other infrastructure.

Long Term

- Develop plans to develop infrastructure in areas identified as being feasible
- Increase residential density to support additional broadband and cell phone service



Goal 2 Improve County Road system

Short Term

- Continued partnership with the County Transportation Committee with maintenance of County owned road
- Support the County Transportation Committee's Roadway Improvements Prioritization Program of 2016
- Work with the SC Department of Transportation, the Upper Savannah Council of Governments, the Area Regional Transportation Study (ARTS), to improve the state owned roads
- Study ways to recruit and retain employees for Road Maintenance Department
- Increased funding for Road Maintenance Department
- Pursue installation of a traffic signal at Hwy 25 and Bettis Academy



Long Term

- Work with SCDOT to develop plans to widen Bettis Academy road to 4-lanes from Hwy 25 to I-20.
- Increase staffing of Road Maintenance Department

