

Evanston Climate Action Plan

Recommended Initiatives and Strategies

DRAFT

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- e) Where feasible, implement traffic-calming and speed reduction strategies that reduce unnecessary stops and starts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- f) Enforce the citywide Anti-Idling Ordinance and consider expanding it to apply to all vehicles.
- g) Connect residents and businesses to resources and information that increases awareness around the environmental effects and costs of idling.
- h) Encourage businesses and institutions to join Clean Air Counts.

Investigate the feasibility of an "EcoPass" for every Evanstonian, valid for no fare when boarding within Evanston any Pace or CTA train or bus. When boarding outside of Evanston, regular fares would apply.

Utilize the Evanston Multi-Modal Transportation Plan development process to recommend and support measures that reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

- a) Support efforts to improve bus connections with rail.
- b) Encourage walking and biking to school by designating routes.
- c) Facilitate sidewalk enhancements and maintenance.
- d) Facilitate the installation of sheltered, secure bike racks downtown and at transit stations.
- e) Facilitate the full implementation of the City Bicycle Plan, with promotion of viable bike routes, including designated lanes.
- f) Work with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), PACE, Northwestern University (NU) and Evanston Northwestern Healthcare (ENH) to better coordinate transit services, eliminate duplication, and expand services where feasible.
- g) Continue to evaluate the fee structure for public on-street and off-street parking in Evanston's commercial districts and support efforts to equitably account for and capture the true cost and market rate for parking.

Expand transit as a viable option for commuting to work, home and entertainment.

- a) Work with CTA, RTA and Metra to improve bus stops, concrete pads, benches, shelters and route and schedule information.
- a) Continue to support the development of an Evanston stop on the Yellow Line.

Increase affordable housing options and resources in Evanston as a mechanism to reducing vehicle travel.

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- a) Consider adopting a housing policy goal for Evanston's housing stock (measured in terms of affordability) to mirror the incomes paid by Evanston-based employers to their workforces.
- a) Consider strengthening Evanston's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) to insure that affordable housing is made available when new developments are built.
- a) Encourage landlords to accept Section 8 (Housing Choice) vouchers.

Collect and track data on Evanston travel trends, including vehicle miles traveled, transit boardings and the number of residents that commute via bike and foot.

- a) Consider collecting odometer readings on vehicle registration applications.
- b) Work with the City of Evanston Division of Transportation to obtain data collected through the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan development process.

Reduce City fleet vehicle emissions.

- a) Continue to replace higher emitting vehicles with vehicles that meet or exceed the most current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emission standards.
- b) Ensure that the vehicle purchased “fits” the size of the job that is intended.
- c) Where feasible, pool City vehicles as opposed to assigning vehicles to various Departments and Divisions to improve efficiency and reduce the size of the fleet.
- d) Investigate the feasibility of using car-share vehicles to reduce the size of the City's fleet.
- e) Offer bicycling and walking as an option, where feasible, within Police and Parking Enforcement operations to reduce fleet size.
- f) Consider revising the citywide Anti-Idling Ordinance to include City vehicles.
- g) Continue to retrofit all viable City vehicles with emission reduction technology.
- h) Continue to provide staff with resources and information to increase awareness around the environmental effects and costs of idling.
- i) Achieve Platinum level membership in Clean Air Counts.
- j) Investigate the feasibility of implementing planned routes that minimize the number of left hand turns as a method to reduce idling for City service vehicles.

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Energy Efficiency and Buildings

Emission Reduction Goal: 121,273 Metric Tons of CO₂ equivalent

Reduce emissions related to electric and gas use in commercial, institutional and industrial buildings.

- a) Encourage businesses to participate in programs that allow users to manage their energy use and take advantage of off-peak pricing, if feasible.
- b) Work with ComEd to increase awareness of and encourage businesses to participate in ComEd's commercial energy efficiency incentive programs (starting 6/2008). Achieve program participation from 10-15% of the businesses; request ComEd's assistance in tracking participants and energy savings.
- c) Launch a community awareness campaign to promote the installation and use of programmable thermostats as an energy saving mechanism to small businesses, non-profit organizations and public agencies.
- d) Reduce heating and cooling loads by promoting light-colored roofs and paving materials, planting trees and increasing vegetative cover (on roofs and walls).
- e) Help small businesses, non-profit organizations and public agencies access energy conservation services through the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center and the State of IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IL DCEO); track participants.
- f) Work with the 20 largest local businesses, industrial and institutional energy consumers to establish and meet energy-efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets; encourage businesses to benchmark emissions through membership in the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) (fee and binding) or the EPA Climate Leaders program (free and voluntary).
- g) Develop and maintain a community resource guide for energy efficiency, renewable energy and green building grants, tax incentives and technical resources.
- h) Facilitate the use of energy-service performance based contracts, where appropriate, by businesses, government and non-profit agencies.
- i) Support legislation or programs that require or provide incentives for existing commercial buildings that achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) Certification or an ENERGY STAR® qualified rating.
- j) Support legislation or programs that require or provide incentives for new construction that achieves, at a minimum, LEED Silver certification.

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- k) Advocate and support efforts to strengthen the Illinois state building code to include all cost-effective energy-efficiency measures.
- l) Investigate legislation to reduce outdoor light pollution.
- m) Work with the state to increase awareness of and encourage schools and affordable housing providers to participate in IL DCEO's energy efficiency incentive programs (starting 6/2008).
- n) Promote opportunities to improve operations and maintenance practices in local buildings, such as the Building Operator Certification (BOC) training.
- o) Update Evanston's Building Energy Code as the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is upgraded (every 3 years) to keep pace with improvements in building technology.
- p) Encourage developers to build projects that exceed the minimum requirements established by the IECC.

Reduce emissions related to electric and gas use in residential buildings.

- a) Launch a community awareness targeting front porch lights to promote the use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).
- b) Work with ComEd and the community to increase awareness of and encourage residents, multifamily dwelling owners and condo associations to participate in ComEd's residential energy efficiency programs.
- c) Support efforts to legislate utility sponsored natural gas efficiency programs.
- d) Promote shade trees and vegetative cover (walls and roofs) as an energy conservation technique.
- e) Work with the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) to increase awareness of and participation in CEDA's free weatherization program for income-qualified households.
- f) Consider requiring green building and energy-efficient measures, including ENERGY STAR or equivalent appliances, lighting and heating equipment in city-funded affordable housing development projects.
- g) Connect residents to free or low-cost energy audit resources; support efforts to expand these services.
- h) Distribute 18,550 CFLs to residents through existing City programs, partners and events.
- i) Encourage local retailers to stock and promote ENERGY STAR products.
- j) Increase awareness around the ENERGY STAR brand and products.
- k) Support the development of free workshops on reducing home energy use.
- l) Focus education and outreach efforts around the four measures with the most cost-effective energy savings; weatherization, CFLs, thermostat management and low-flow shower heads.

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- m) Connect residents to local, state and federal programs and resources that provide information on and financing for energy efficiency improvements.
- n) Work with local banks to develop loans and mortgages that support and encourage residential energy efficiency measures.
- o) Encourage and support neighborhood-based outreach efforts to promote energy conservation.
- p) Explore requiring weatherization of residential properties at time of sale.

Reduce emissions related to electric and gas use in City owned and operated buildings, parks, parking lots and garages and along City streets.

- a) Invest in all energy-efficient measures that have a simple payback of 10 years or less.
- b) Support legislation to require, at a minimum, LEED Silver certification for all City and City-funded new construction and major renovation projects.
- c) Support efforts to exceed energy code on new construction and renovation projects.
- d) Establish a City policy to purchase ENERGY STAR or equivalent products, when available, for any equipment that uses electricity, natural gas, or fuel oil.
- e) Where feasible, convert traffic signals to light-emitting diode (LED) technologies.
- f) Benchmark building energy use through ENERGY STAR's online system and improve energy efficiency in City facilities by 10%.
- g) Convert street lights and traffic signals to more efficient technologies as they become available.
- h) Leverage federal, state and private funding to finance energy efficiency measures.

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Renewable Energy

Reduce emissions related to motor fuel use in commercial and residential applications through the use of bio-fuels.

- a) Support efforts to make biodiesel commercially available to residents and businesses.
- b) Encourage residents to switch from regular gasoline and diesel fuels to bio-fuels if feasible.

Continue to reduce emissions related to motor fuel use by City fleet through the use of bio-fuels.

- a) Investigate the feasibility of retrofitting fleet vehicle fuel tanks and heating systems to run on waste vegetable oil (WVO).
- b) Investigate the feasibility of purchasing bio-diesel fuel for use in not only municipal vehicles, but also by Evanston residents and businesses as well.

Reduce emissions related to electric and gas use in buildings through the use of renewable energy.

- a) Investigate the feasibility of offshore wind power generation in Lake Michigan.
- b) Encourage residents to consider and install solar thermal panels for hot water heating at their homes.
- c) Investigate the feasibility of purchasing solar power through a solar energy service provider as a way to finance solar electricity generation at City facilities.
- d) Encourage businesses and institutions to install solar PV systems as feasible.
- e) Consider the installation of solar thermal panels at City facilities that use large quantities of hot water, such as fire stations.
- f) Address zoning and permitting barriers to the installation of renewable energy applications in the residential and commercial building sectors.

Reduce emissions related to electric and gas use in commercial and municipal buildings through the use of off-peak thermal storage.

- a) Support efforts to utilize peak thermal storage systems, which provide a means for storing thermal energy acquired from electricity purchased at off-peak demand times and from other fuel sources such as waste heat and solar energy, at commercial, institutional and municipal buildings.

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Reduce emissions related to electric and gas use in commercial and municipal buildings by converting waste to energy.

- a) Investigate the feasibility of utilizing a thermal-to-energy (plasma arc gasification) conversion system to provide electricity to multiple buildings in Evanston.
- b) Investigate the feasibility of utilizing a non-thermal (anaerobic digestion) conversion system to provide electricity to multiple buildings in Evanston.

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Waste Reduction and Recycling

Emission Reduction Goal: 3,633 Metric Tons of CO2 equivalent

Increase residential recycling participation and waste reduction efforts.

- a) Convert the current 18-gallon recycling containers to 65 and 95 gallon roll carts to increase collection capacity.
- b) Expand and support efforts to increase community awareness around recycling.
- c) Continue to work with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) to expand recyclable material collection programs for residents in Evanston, including electronic waste.
- d) Connect residents with resources for recycling materials not collected through Evanston's ongoing recycling programs.
- e) Encourage residents to compost at home.
- f) Continue to evaluate the residential charge for waste collection and support efforts that equitably account for and capture the true costs of waste disposal, retaining free recycling for residences.

Increase commercial recycling participation and waste reduction efforts.

- a) If a commercial franchise is adopted, ensure implementation includes a strong recycling component.
- b) Work with businesses to identify resources and strategies for reducing waste.
- c) Encourage businesses to begin or increase their recycling efforts.
- d) Identify barriers to recycling in the commercial sector and support efforts to overcome the barriers identified.
- e) Continue to support and encourage recycling efforts through District 65 and 202.
- f) Encourage retailers to offer incentives to customers that bring their own shopping bags.
- g) Investigate a tax or ban on single-use plastic bottles and plastic bags in order to discourage usage; support voluntary efforts to reduce use.
- h) Encourage the six largest institutions (NU, ENH, Resurrection, Dist.65, Dist. 202, and the City of Evanston) to set specific goals for reducing, recycling, and reusing materials.

Increase the recycling and reuse of construction and demolition waste.

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- a) Consider establishing a city-wide recycling rate for all construction and demolition projects.
- b) Encourage businesses and residents to utilize "deconstruction" services when undertaking demolition and renovation projects. "Deconstruction", as opposed to demolition, is the selective dismantlement of building components, specifically for re-use and recycling.

Keep clothing and fabric out of the landfill.

- a) Promote and support the efforts of local companies who have created a market for resale of used clothing.
- b) Encourage residents to "recycle" clothing and fabric through special events, clothing drop boxes, resale clothing shops and door-to-door charity clothing collection drives.

Increase recycling participation and waste reduction at City buildings, parks and events.

- a) Work with City departments to identify resources and strategies for reducing waste.
- b) Ensure all departments have the resources and information necessary to recycle.
- c) Provide purchasing specifications and guidelines on green products in the City's purchasing policies.
- d) Encourage City departments to purchase recycled-content and durable, long lasting products whenever feasible.
- e) Support efforts to increase recycling in public spaces and at events.
- f) Leverage state and federal funding to create programs that encourage Evanston to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- g) Increase community awareness around best practices and resources for waste reduction at events.
- h) Consider a recycling requirement as part of City permits for special use, festivals, picnics, block parties, etc.

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Food Production and Transportation

Reduce emissions related to the production and transportation of food.

- a) Support and encourage efforts to grow more food in Evanston.
- b) Promote and continue to expand the Evanston farmers markets.
- c) Work with the community to increase the amount of local and healthy food served in local institutions and food establishments.
- d) Promote and support educational programs that address food-related health and environmental issues.
- e) Complete a community food assessment, inventorying local food resources and community access.
- f) Regularly publish articles in the local papers on food related environmental and health issues.
- g) Encourage the establishment of a food co-op in Evanston.

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Forest, Prairie and Carbon Offsets

Create a local carbon offset program to complement Climate Action Plan emissions reduction strategies.

- a) Establish Evanston Climate Action Fund to support local offset projects and help Evanston meet its Evanston Climate Action Plan emissions-reduction goals.

Optimize tree planting and protect existing trees for maximum carbon storage/sequestration and energy savings.

- a) Develop planting and management guidelines based on an Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) analysis of Evanston's urban forest.
- b) Support policies, ordinances, and codes that incorporate the urban forest guidelines, including a comprehensive city tree ordinance to prevent unnecessary tree removal and building codes and zoning ordinances that include strong landscaping and green space standards for new construction and rehab of older buildings, including more shade trees and raised beds in parking lots to reduce heat island effects.
- c) Encourage tree planting, native landscaping and green roofs by private landowners, consistent with the UFORE analysis.

Optimize the use of native plants throughout Evanston.

- a) Support and encourage the use of native plants in all public park redevelopment projects.
- b) Where feasible, develop and implement plans for the restoration and management of native plants on City properties.
- c) Promote education and outreach programs that increase awareness around the benefits of native plants.
- d) Encourage use of native plants on private property.

Reduce amount of water used by 15% below 2000 water consumption levels by 2015. (Goal of Greenest Region Compact of Metro Chicago, approved by City Council, 1/28/08).

- a) Develop and implement a water conservation plan for City owned and operated buildings and property.
- b) Support policies, ordinances, and codes that promote water conservation.
- c) Investigate revising the water service fee structure to promote water conservation.
- d) Support regional efforts to conserve water.

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- e) Promote education and outreach programs to engage the community in water conservation practices.
- f) Assist residents in assessing ways in which they can save water.
- g) Identify grants and funding mechanisms for water conservation initiatives.

Implement policies and practices that treat rainwater as a precious resource and make use of it where it falls.

- a) Support policies, ordinances, and codes that promote green solutions to stormwater management.
- b) Encourage the community wide implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater management that use the power of plants and soil to absorb and clean rainfall runoff.
- c) Incorporate BMPs in capital improvement projects and ongoing infrastructure maintenance (e.g., green alleys, redesigned curbing; filter strips and bioswales; native vegetation; permeable materials for parking lots).
- d) Identify grants and funding mechanisms for green stormwater management initiatives.
- e) Promote education and outreach programs to engage community (residents, business owners, schools, institutions) in implementing BMPs for stormwater management.
- f) Connect residents and businesses to tools and resources that encourage BMPs.
- g) Support and recognize community projects that use BMPs.

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Policy and Research

Track and disseminate information on climate change trends, policies and best practices.

- a) Annually compile and update Evanston's greenhouse gas emissions inventory, tracking related waste, energy, economic and environmental data.
- b) Prepare a progress report on the Evanston Climate Action Plan every two years and propose and adopt modifications as needed.
- c) Provide Evanston residents and businesses with the resources, information and tools necessary to assess their greenhouse gas emissions and emission reductions.
- d) Track relevant regional, national and international best practices to ensure that the CAP is being implemented as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- e) Support and adopt a greenhouse gas reduction goal that extends beyond the timeline established by the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Ensure that policy decisions at all levels seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- a) Integrate the initiatives and strategies outlined in the Evanston Climate Action Plan into future policies as relevant.
- b) Review major policies and programs in the early stages of development to identify ways to reduce related greenhouse gas emissions.
- c) Develop and adopt procurement guidelines for City secured goods and services that contribute to a reduction of the community's greenhouse gas emissions.
- d) Review existing ordinances and policies to ensure support for the Evanston Climate Action Plan initiatives and strategies.

Secure and leverage funding for Evanston Climate Action Plan initiatives and strategies.

- a) Identify local, state and federal grants and resources to support and fund initiatives and strategies outlined in the Evanston Climate Action Plan.
- b) Identify and evaluate innovative and creative funding sources for implementing the initiatives and strategies outlined in the Evanston Climate Action Plan.

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- c) Encourage and support City and community partnerships that leverage existing funds and resources to implement the initiatives and strategies outlined in the Evanston Climate Action Plan.
- d) Acknowledge exemplary community efforts and initiatives that support the reduction of Evanston's greenhouse gas emissions.
- e) Assign and support a City liaison to coordinate the implementation of the Evanston Climate Action Plan.

Support local, state and national efforts to mitigate climate change.

- a) Participate in local, state and national initiatives and programs that provide information, tools and resources for the implementation of the Evanston Climate Action Plan.
- b) Encourage and support greenhouse gas reduction efforts at the regional, state and national level.
- c) Support the expansion of civic, educational, religious and neighborhood institutions that specifically address climate change.
- d) Share Evanston's successes and lessons learned with Chicago-area communities through regional meetings and conferences.

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Education and Engagement

Empower the community to take action around climate change.

- a) Support the formation of a community-based Evanston Climate Action Plan Implementation Committee.
- b) Encourage residents, businesses, churches, non-profits, block-clubs, etc., to convene working groups with the goal of helping to implement the strategies outlined in the Evanston Climate Action Plan.

Gain support from the six largest Evanston institutions and businesses for the implementation of the Evanston Climate Action Plan.

- a) Support efforts to convene a summit of the six largest Evanston institutions and businesses (including the City) to discuss and gain support for the Evanston Climate Action Plan.
- b) Encourage summit participants to assign representatives to a working group that will be tasked with sharing resources, information and strategies for implementing the Evanston Climate Action Plan.

Use festivals, markets and celebrations to promote and model "green practices".

- a) Support community-based outreach efforts to disseminate information and resources around Evanston Climate Action Plan recommendations at community and City-sponsored events.
- b) Continue to support the annual Evanston Green Living Festival.

Connect residents, businesses and City staff to workshops, training and lectures on green topics.

- a) Support the development of a "Speakers Bureau" and encourage community members and business to participate as speakers in their areas of expertise.
- b) Connect speakers in the Speakers Bureau with community audiences based on subject matter and interest.
- c) Encourage efforts to develop and implement a series of ongoing courses on carbon reduction strategies at public venues such as the libraries, Ecology Center and community centers.
- d) Develop and implement a "Green Training" initiative for City staff to ensure understanding of and support for the Evanston Climate Action Plan.

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Communications and PR

Disseminate information to the community around climate change and the Evanston Climate Action Plan and promote community and City efforts as pertinent.

- a) Support the development of a campaign slogan, along with a theme, graphics, and key messages.
- b) Consider developing an Evanston Climate Action Plan advertising campaign that includes billboard advertising; posters on "L" and Metra platforms; a poster campaign in downtown Evanston; point-of-action messages (stickers, signage) on recycling bins, bike lane signs, etc.
- c) Encourage residents, businesses, students and community groups to use the Evanston Zerofootprint online calculator.
- d) Support efforts to develop a campaign website that serves as an information resource; reflects the organizational structure of the campaign; and fosters connections and collaboration between local groups and individuals.
- e) Publish articles, both locally and regionally on strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and Evanston's efforts.
- f) Consider conducting a survey of Evanston residents to identify current knowledge, attitudes, and behavior related to climate change among Evanstonians.