How the Greenest Region Compact Engages Municipalities in Sustainability

By Cheryl Scott, Greenest Region Corps Member at the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
About the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

- Membership organization of 284 diverse communities in northern Illinois
- Takes regional approach to public policy issues to collaborate and improve the quality of life, including on these issues:
  - Environment
  - Housing
  - 2020 Census
  - Age-Friendly Collaborative
Greenest Region Compact

Consensus Sustainability Goals in 10 Categories

- Climate
- Economic Development
- Energy
- Land
- Leadership
- Mobility
- Municipal Operations
- Sustainable Communities
- Water
- Waste
Greenest Region Compact

49 High-Level Sustainability Goals in 10 Categories

**Climate**
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation

**Economic Development**
- Promote innovation and a competitive workforce
- Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses

**Energy**
- Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices

**Leadership**
- Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership
- Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2
- Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region

**Mobility**
- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices

**Municipal Operations**
- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability

**Sustainable Communities**
- Promote cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable
- Promote a sustainable identity for the community
- Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability

**Waste & Recycling**
- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling

**Water**
- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship
GRC Framework

- Hundreds of objectives in the GRC Framework document
- One of most popular objectives municipalities completed: energy efficiency
- 283 local governments took actions to avoid putting 76.5 million lbs of CO2 in atmosphere
Creating the GRC

What is already underway?
- Studied 290 municipalities
Creating the GRC

What is already planned?

• Synthesized 40 sustainability plans
GRC Communities

Formally adopted the GRC:

• 4 counties: Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will
• 10 COGs (councils of government, e.g., Lake County Municipal League)
• 126 municipalities

Some of the GRC municipalities include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algonquin</th>
<th>Blue Island</th>
<th>Chicago Heights</th>
<th>Elgin</th>
<th>Highland Park</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alsip</td>
<td>Bolingbrook</td>
<td>Crete</td>
<td>Evanston</td>
<td>Joliet</td>
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<td>Aurora</td>
<td>Brookfield</td>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Flossmoor</td>
<td>Lombard</td>
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<td>Bartlett</td>
<td>Carol Stream</td>
<td>Darien</td>
<td>Fox Lake</td>
<td>Naperville</td>
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<td>Batavia</td>
<td>Carpentersville</td>
<td>Elburn</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Oak Park</td>
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<td>Bensenville</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Evergreen Park</td>
<td>Hazel Crest</td>
<td>Rockford</td>
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To find out if your municipality is a GRC community, view the map at: https://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/rec/
Engaging Municipalities Through SolSmart

Advance renewable energy
35 local gov’s streamlined solar codes & policies
Illinois leads with 45 SolSmart designees.
Engaging Municipalities Through the GRCorps

Dedicate staff to sustainability initiatives

GRCorps provides talent to 12 municipalities and partner organizations throughout the region
### What You Can Do

#### 1. CLIMATE (GREENHOUSE GASES)

Measure your carbon footprint with an online calculator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Advanced Strategy</th>
<th>F</th>
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<td>House Gas Emissions</td>
<td>Establish a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction target:</td>
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Carbon Footprint Calculator

- Travel: Your vehicle’s miles per gallon, miles traveled/year, how much you take public transit or fly
- Home energy usage: electricity, natural gas, water usage
- Food: meat consumption
- Shopping: goods and services
What You Can Do

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Contribute to restaurants, agriculture, and businesses that produce and dispose of food products sustainably

3. ENERGY
Investigate how hourly energy pricing can save you money and energy usage

4. LAND
Online order native plant seed mixes for pollinator or rain gardens, or attractive landscaping

5. WASTE AND RECYCLING
Reduce food waste by buying only what you need, freezing what you can use later, and store leftovers for later

6. WATER
Identify what your water service pipes are made of

7. LEADERSHIP
Share with us how you’re celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth day - tag & like us on Facebook @GRCorps #earthday2020
Thank you!

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