

# Environmental Justice & Equity

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COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



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## REGIONAL OBJECTIVES AND COALITIONS

# The Greenest Region Compact

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*Consensus Sustainability Goals in 10 Categories*



Climate



Economic Development



Energy



Land



Leadership



Mobility



Municipal Operations



Sustainable Communities



Water



Waste

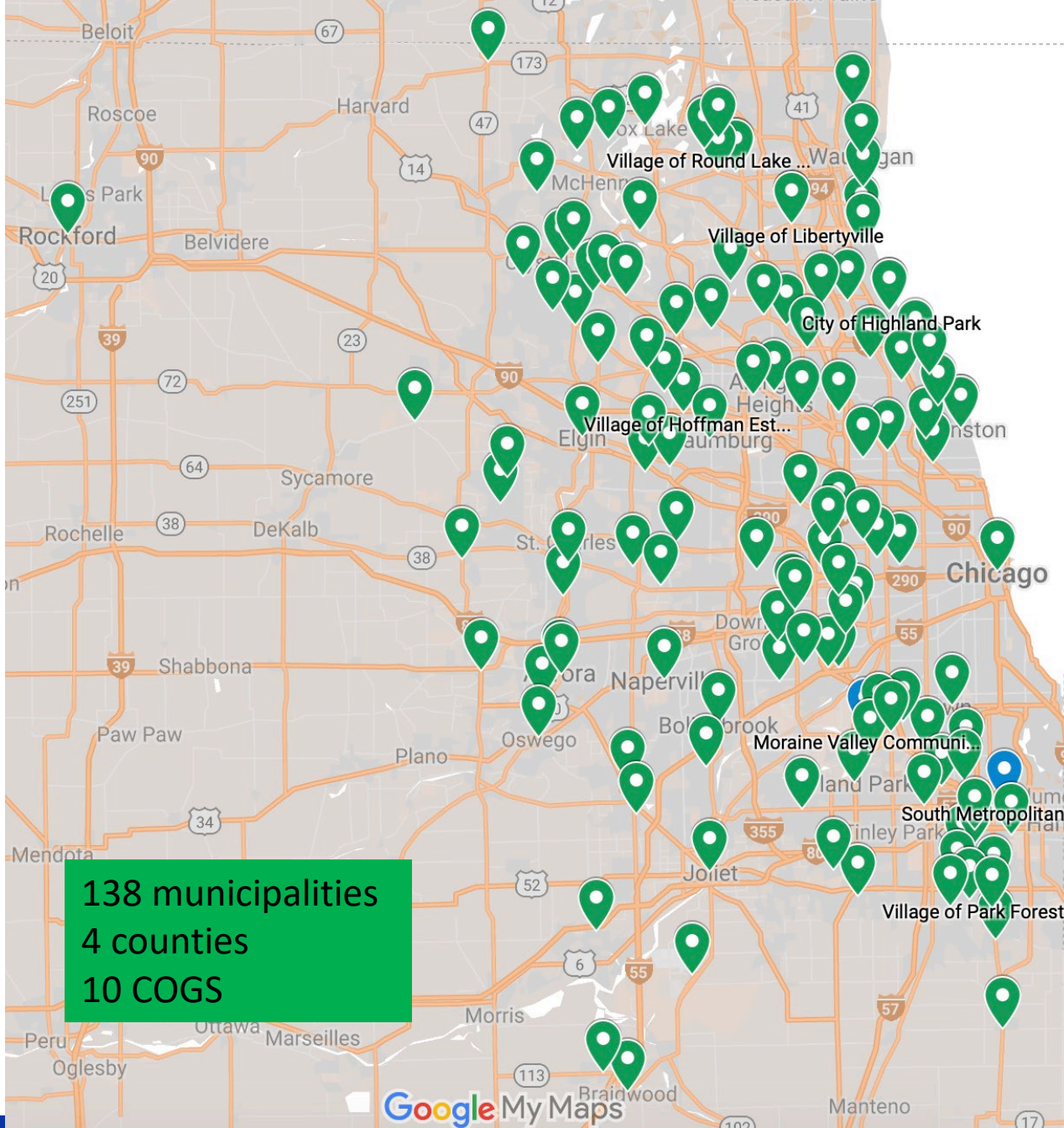


**Greenest  
Region  
Compact**



## **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



1. Compact – consensus goals
2. GRC Framework – for municipal sustainability planning
3. Collaboration - to achieve goals



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## GOAL

GRC objectives/strategies

## OBJECTIVE

> STRATEGY

+ ADVANCED STRATEGY

Your plans

Already achieved

In Progress

Planned for next 6 months

Planned for next 12-18 months

Interested in pursuing

Not planned

*Foster a culture of health, safety and wellness*

SC7

Protect all residents from the effects of pollution

X

SC8

Create a community that is resilient and well-prepared for disaster

X

SC9

Connect community members to existing services that support health and wellness

X

SC12

Collaborate to offer active and healthy lifestyle programs to residents

X

SC+15

+ Integrate planning, policies and programs to accommodate residents of all ages and abilities

X



# GRC Goal: *Dedicate staff to sustainability initiatives*

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*GRCorps provides talent*



- 30 AmeriCorps “volunteers” work for 11 months each
- Greatly accelerated sustainability for host municipalities
- Served 7 EJ communities

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# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CHICAGO REGION

# 2021

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*Metropolitan Mayors Caucus | NOAA*



**MITIGATION**

**ADAPTATION**

**EQUITY**









## **CLIMATE ADAPTATION GOAL**

Persistent, equitable climate adaptation



## **CLIMATE MITIGATION GOAL**

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

## IMPLEMENT CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES

Strategy	Municipal Role	Cost	Achieve Equity
Support robust building energy conservation codes, benchmarking, and building performance standards to optimize energy efficiency for retrofit projects.		\$	Reduce long-term energy burden. Support retrofits and code compliance for low-income property owners.
Require high performance, all-electric, and net zero new building construction.	 	\$\$\$	
Modernize municipal franchise agreements to leverage investment in clean energy and reduce costs to residents.		\$\$\$	Eliminate franchise cost to residents.
Adapt zoning codes and streamline development processes to accelerate investment in solar and other renewable energy systems.		\$	Make rooftop solar more accessible by reducing soft costs.
Support state policies to advance clean energy.		¢	Assure clean energy investments benefit vulnerable communities

## ADAPTATION OBJECTIVES

-  **Engage & educate** the community about climate resilience & adaptation.
-  **Incorporate equity & inclusion** into climate adaptation efforts.
-  Collaborate & build capacity for a more resilient community.
-  Enact plans & policies focused on adaptation & resilience.
-  Adapt operations and investments for future climate conditions.

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# Opportunities for EJ Action



# Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

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- “Environmental justice community” used 94 times in the 900+ page bill

“Environmental justice communities”, as ***defined by the Illinois Power Agency*** ...but excluding racial and ethnic indicators, where residents have historically been subject to disproportionate burdens of pollution...

- Invests \$580 million/ year in renewable energy
- \$115 million/year in EJ communities for jobs training
- Many provisions available only to EJ communities

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## Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill

- Largest investment in environmental justice in history

## Justice40 Initiative

- Aims to direct 40% of overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantage communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution

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Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region <https://mayorscaucus.org/climate-change/>

Greenest Region Compact <https://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/rec/>

