

Environment and Energy Committee
Updating the GRC
May 19, 2026, 9:30-11 a.m., Zoom

The [Greenest Region Compact](#) (GRC) turned 10 years old this year. It was created in 2016 to align municipal sustainability goals and support local governments in achieving sustainability. The Greenest Region Compact has now been adopted by 160 municipalities, six counties and all 10 subregional councils of governments. It is the largest regional sustainability collaborative for municipalities in the country.

The GRC Framework is a tool that enables local governments to assess their own progress on sustainability and build their own sustainability plans aligned with GRC goals. It has helped frame about 36 local sustainability plans like the Village of [Wilmette's Sustainable Communities Strategic Plan](#), the [City of Rolling Meadows Sustainability Plan](#), and the [City of Countryside Sustainability Plan](#). Find even more on the [GRC page](#).

The 2021 [Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region](#) is complementary to, but not yet integrated into the GRC. There is no tool yet to measure GRC results either locally or regionally. The GRC is due for an update.

Northern Illinois University's [Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability and Energy](#) students chose to partner with the Caucus to update the GRC for their Capstone project. Four teams of students analyzed the GRC in detail and interviewed seven municipalities and two additional GRC stakeholders to understand how the GRC works and how it can be improved to better support municipalities.

Join us for a presentation of recommendations to update and improve the GRC by NIU students and contribute your thoughts about the future of the Greenest Region Compact.

[GRC](#): Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC. Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region.

[Climate Action Plan](#): Demonstrate leadership to reduce emissions.