



Sustainability Planning for Local Governments

Part of



**Chicago
Climate Week**

July 18-25, 2026



INTRODUCTIONS

AIPreneurship Today
BVRE Consulting and Advisory
Confluence Climate Consulting
Chicago Donut Economics
Coalition
City of Batavia
City of Chicago
City of Elgin
City of Geneva
City of Rolling Meadows
Climate Cabinet
Community Solar Illinois
Cook County
Curmudgeon Group
EcoHealth Strategies
Estado de Sonora
Greenlight Nature Lab for
People & Places

WELCOME!

Greenlit Consulting
HR Green, Inc.
Institute of Cultural Affairs
Kane County
Loyola University Chicago
Lakeshore Recycling Systems
McBride Management LLC
Metropolitan Planning Council
Midwest Energy Efficiency
Alliance (MEEA)
MK Corona LLC
Northern Illinois University
Nutter Consulting LLC
Presto Product Partners
Resource Innovations
Run On Climate
Sustain Rockford
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency

University of Chicago
Village of Schaumburg
Village of Brookfield
Village of Homer Glen
Village of Maywood
Village of Montgomery
Village of Mount Prospect
Village of Palos Park
Village of River Forest
Village of Vernon Hills
Village of Westchester
Village of Winnetka
Village of Woodridge
Walking Chicago
WasteNot
Westmont Environmental
Improvement Committee

GLAD YOU ARE
HERE!

[illegible]

Agenda

Part 1 Aligning & Empowering Municipal Sustainability

Greenest Region Compact

1. Compact
2. GRC Framework
3. Collaborative Action to Achieve GRC Goals

Climate Action Planning

Updating the GRC

Reporting and Tracking

Part 2 GRC Workshop



GRC Goal

To align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve greater environmental sustainability.



COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

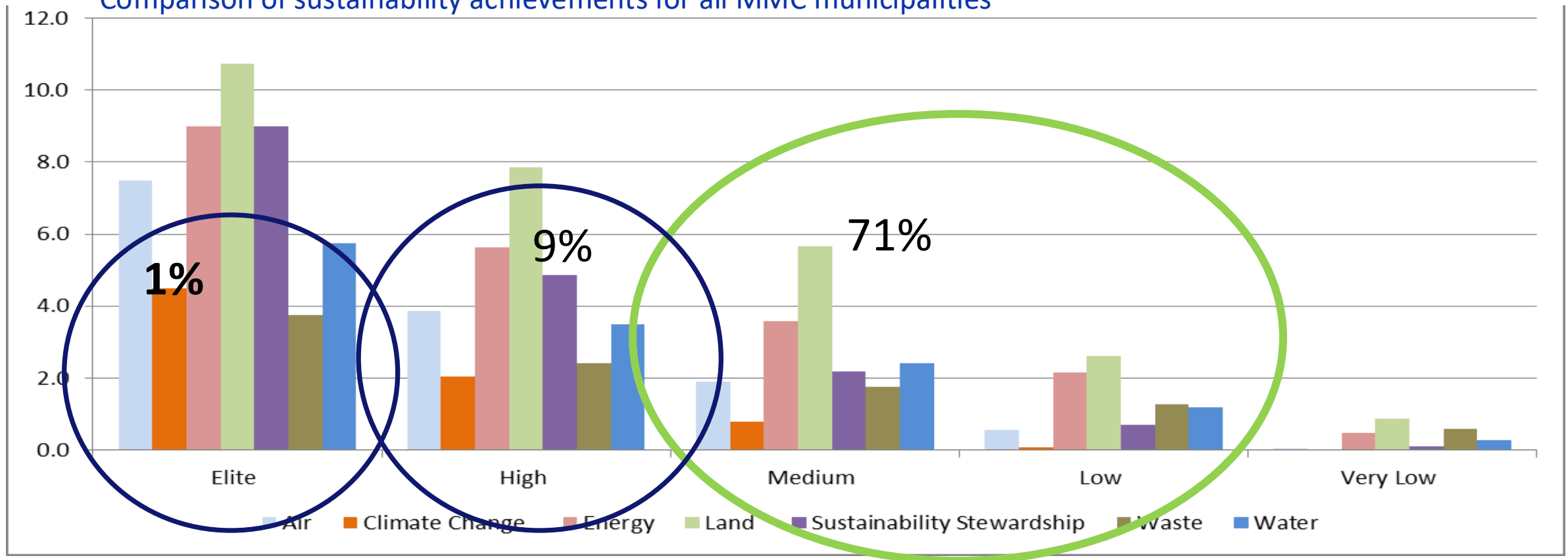
Building the GRC



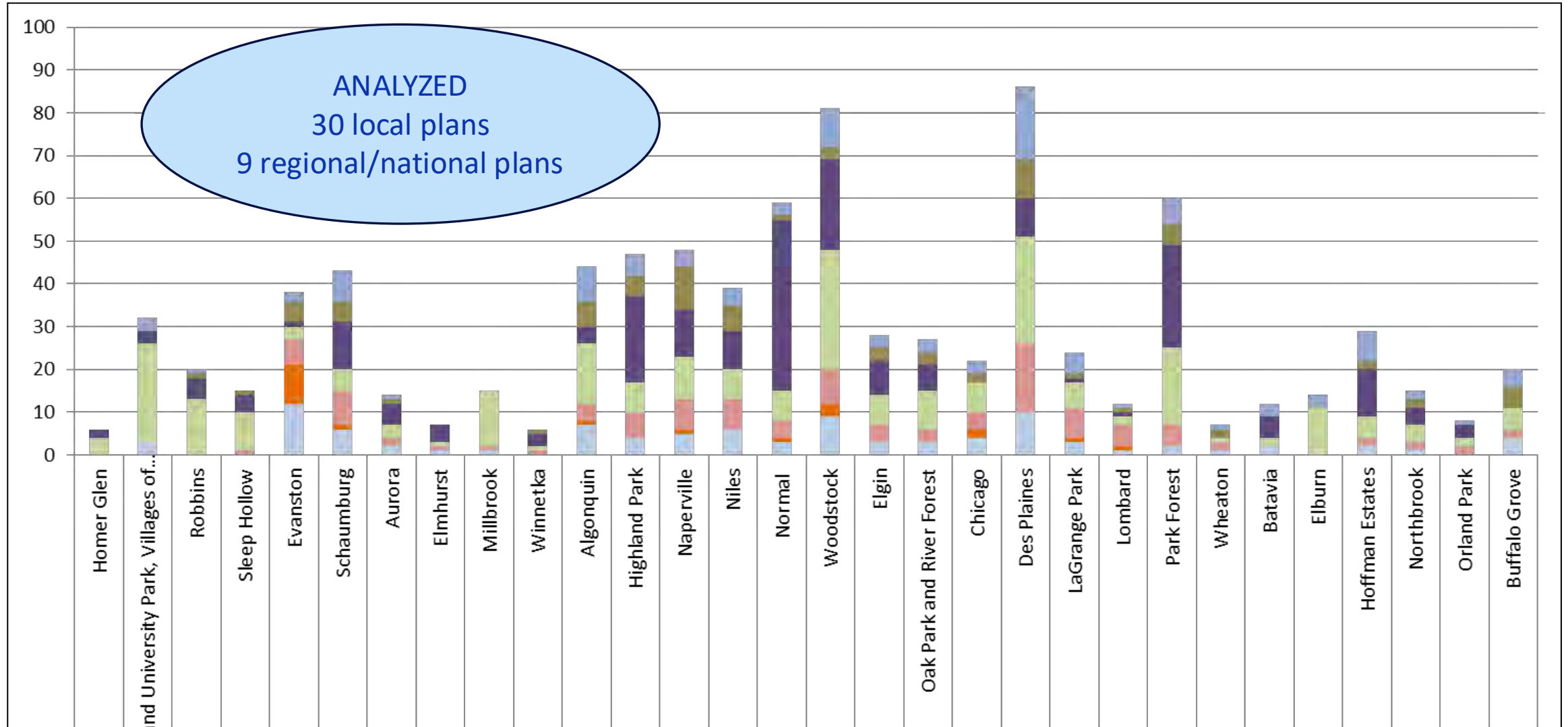
COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Where are efforts already underway?

Comparison of sustainability achievements for all MMC municipalities

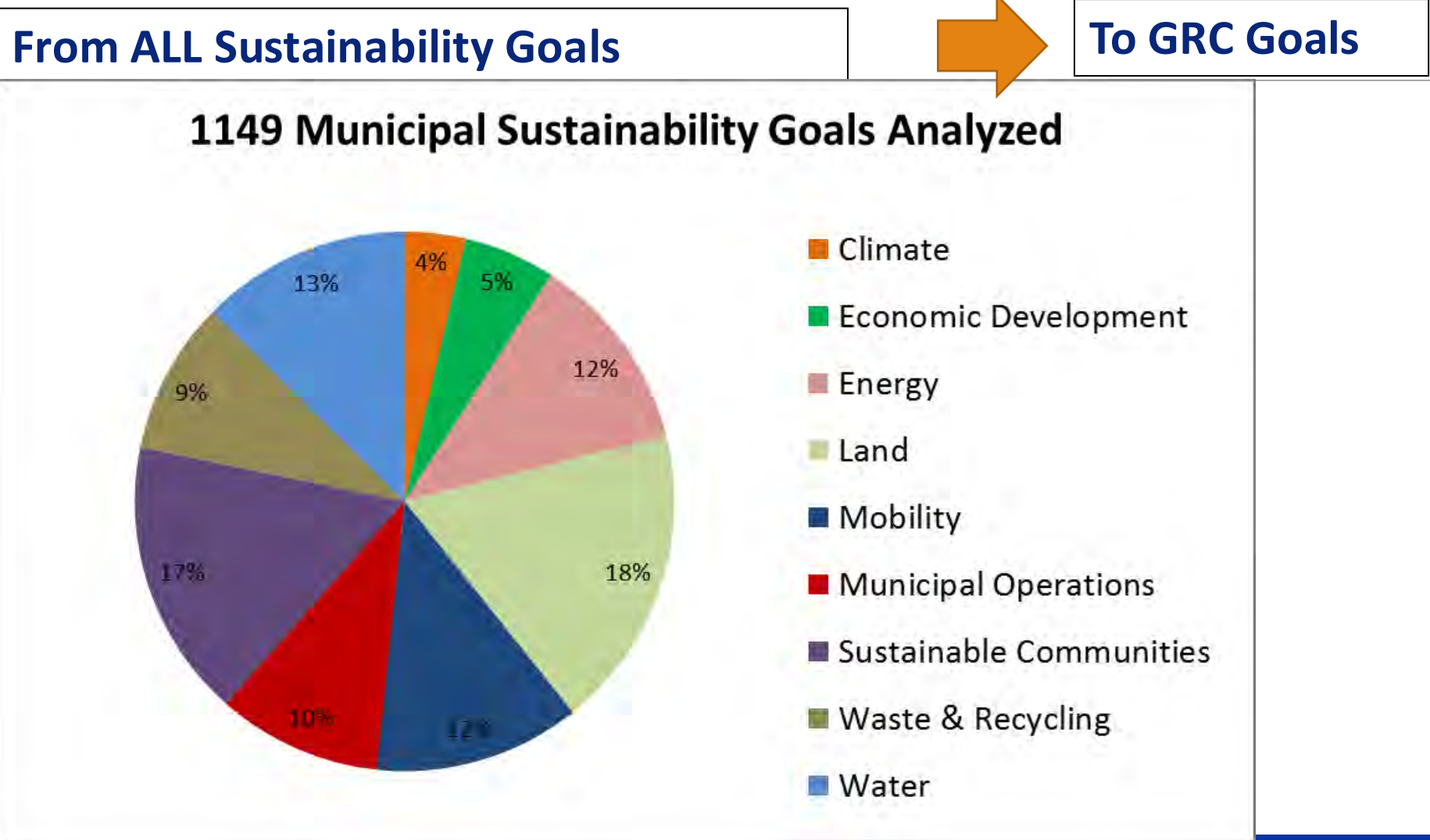


WHAT IS ALREADY PLANNED? WHAT ARE COMMON GOALS?



*based on GRC+2 categories

Consensus GRC Goals



Greenest Region Compact

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN COMMUNITIES AND THE REGION

IN THREE PARTS



The Greenest Region Compact



Climate



Economic Development



Energy



Land



Leadership



Mobility



Municipal Operations



Sustainable Communities



Water



Waste



**Greenest
Region
Compact**

The Compact – Just Goals



COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The member municipalities of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus seek a vibrant, sustainable future for their communities and the greater Chicago region. The consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact aim for enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

To become the most sustainable and successful region in the United States, they, therefore, support the following consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact and agree to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region:



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



Land

- ☐ Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- ☐ Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- ☐ Support networks of accessible, well-used, and enjoyable parks
- ☐ Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- ☐ Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- ☐ Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- ☐ Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community



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



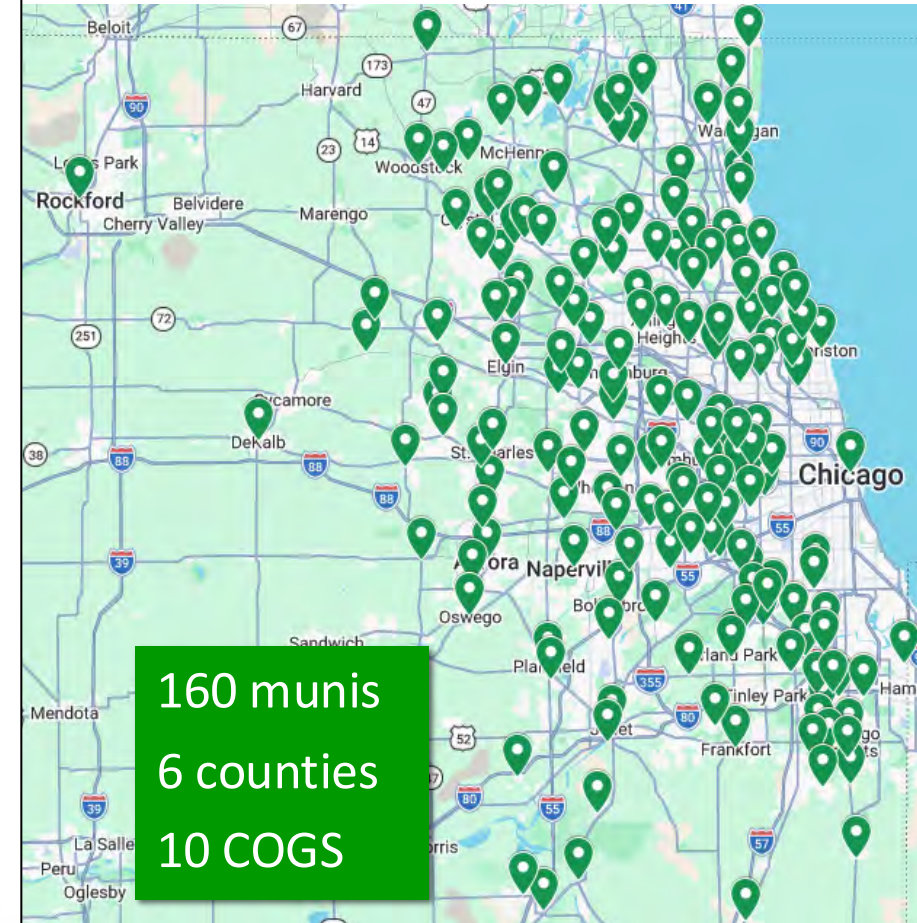
Waste & Recycling

- 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



[illegible]

Collaborative Action to Achieve GRC Goals

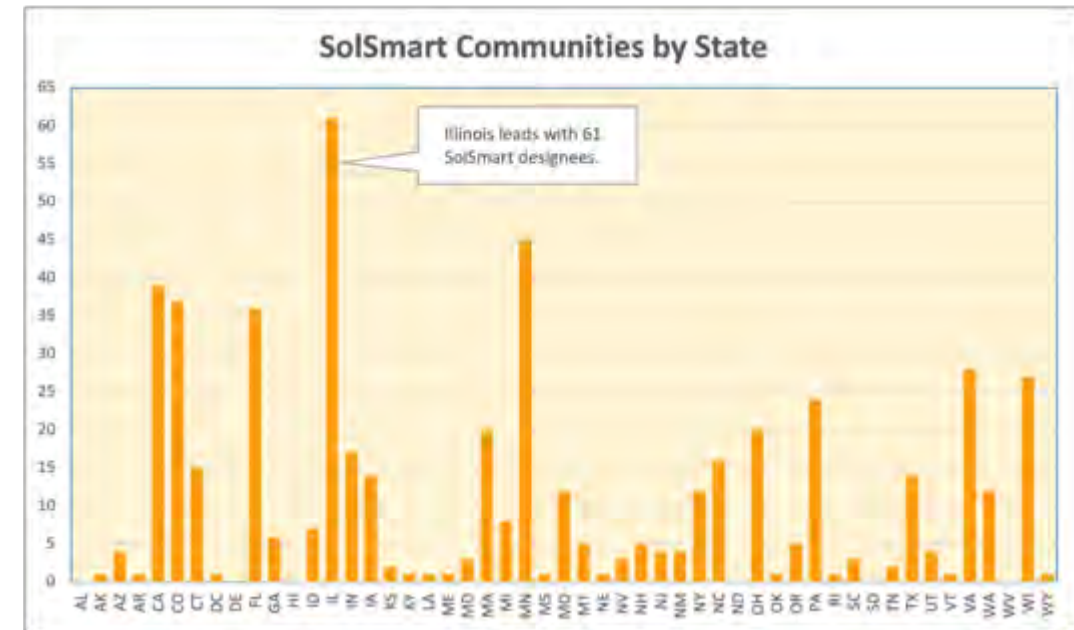


Part 3

GRC Goal: *Enact policies that support clean energy*



- 61 local gov's streamlined solar codes & policies
- Schaumburg saw 21,433% growth in rooftop solar in 8 yrs



Environment & Energy Committee

Monthly discussion and presentations on topics related to the GRC

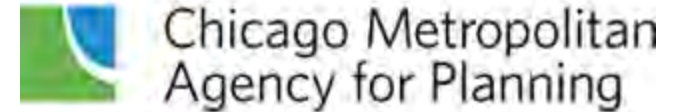
Dark Skies Meeting

- GRC strategies: *Enact policies to preserve dark skies. Reduce energy consumption. Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently.*
- Resources provided:
 - Model ordinance from Homer Glen,
 - Innovative program from Westmont
 - Becoming an International Dark Sky Community
- + policy guide (from U of I law students)



Climate Action Planning (CAP)

IN THE CHICAGO REGION



2008
Chicago & Local



2021
CAP for the
Chicago Region
+adaptation



2024
Priority CAP
(PCAP)



2016



+ More local
CAPs



2026
Comprehensive
CAP for Greater
Chicago

Climate Action Planning Basics

Mitigation

Reduce emissions to slow impacts of climate change

GOAL: Net zero GHG emissions

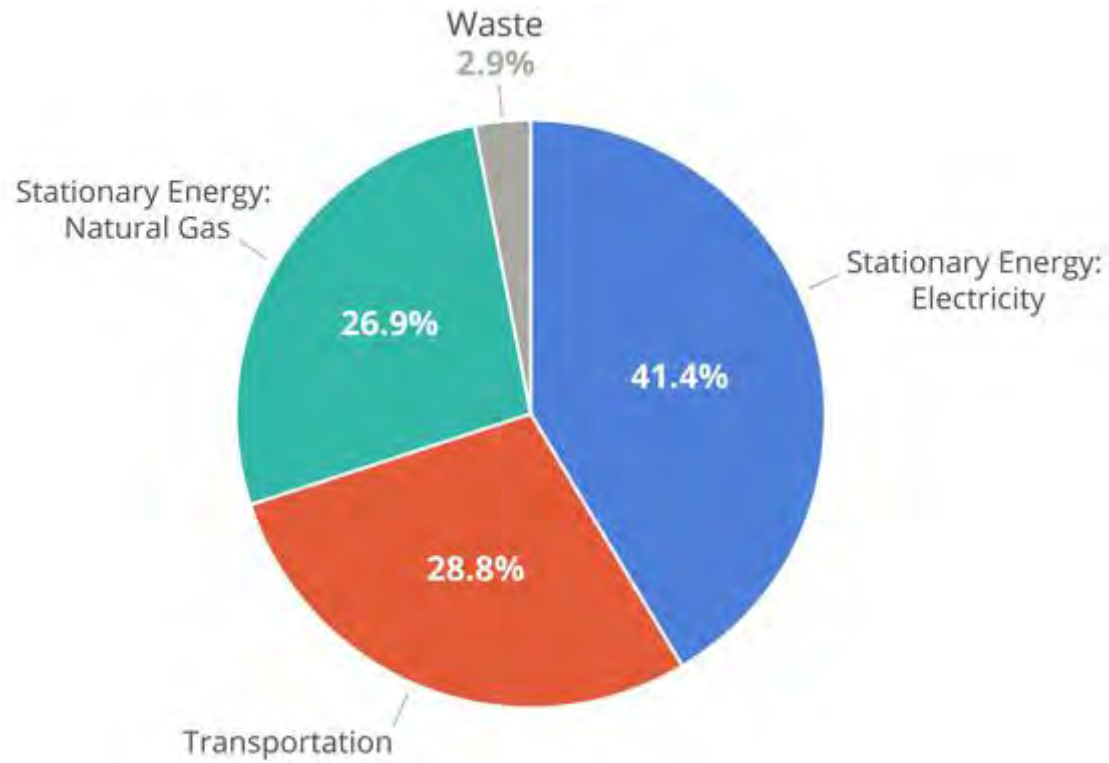


Adaptation

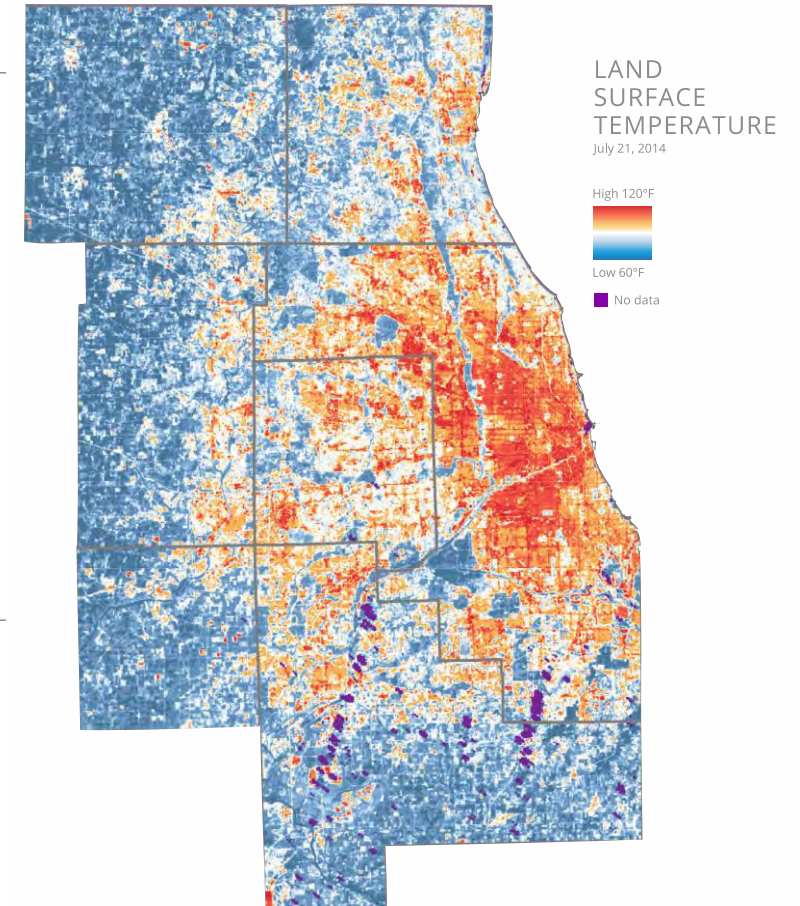
Adapt policies, investments & actions to build resilience to impacts of climate changes

GOAL: Persistent, equitable climate adaptation

CAP – MEASURE BASELINE



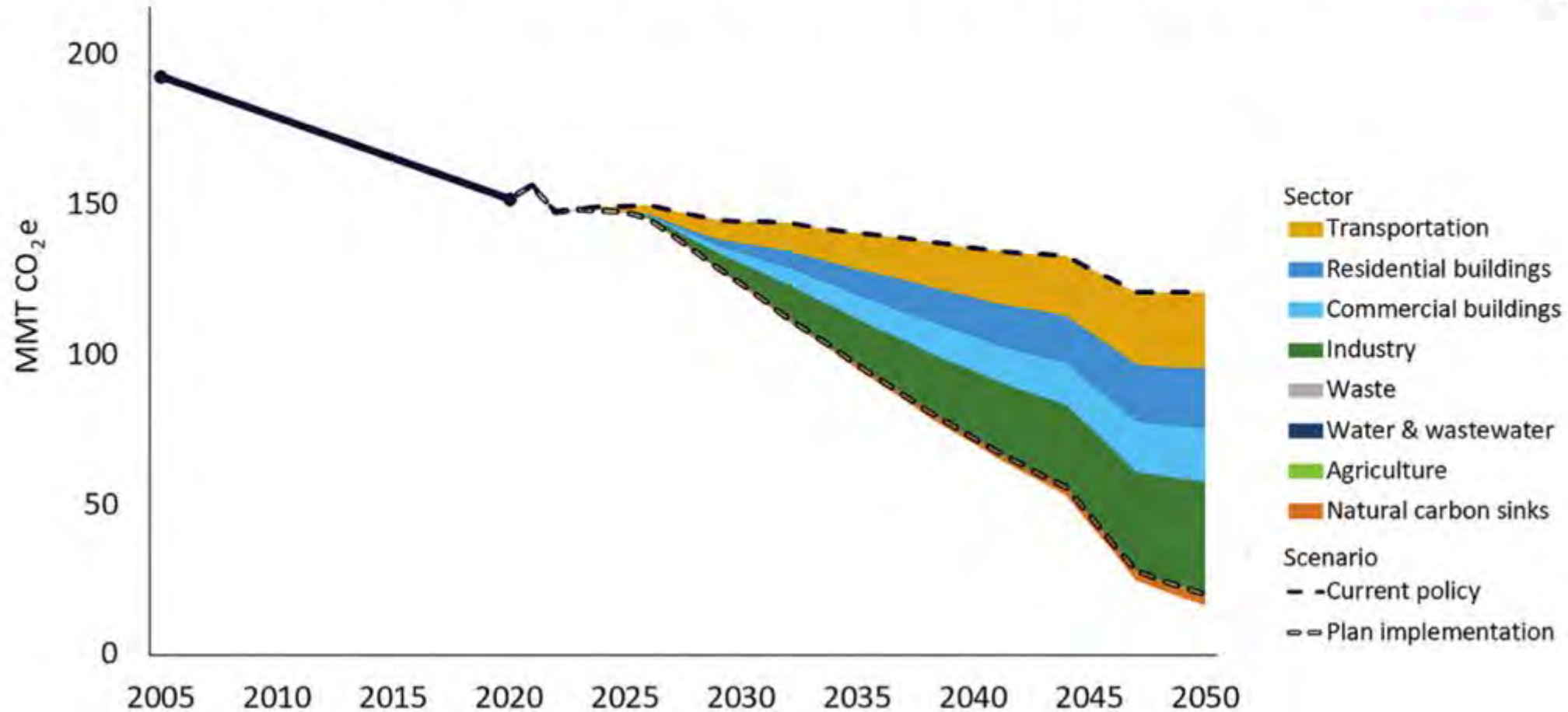
GHG emissions



Risk and Vulnerability

SET SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS

Figure 2. Plan implementation scenario emissions reductions by sector (2020-2050)



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

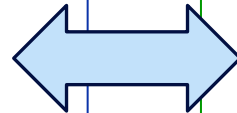
Focused strategies

- Mitigation (GHG reduction)
 - Energy & transportation
- Adaptation (sometimes)

Based on GHG Inventory

Science-based targets

Quantitative metrics (GHG)



SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Broad & diverse strategies

- Quality of life
- Conservation
- Energy & transportation

Use regional GHG for guidance

Community goals

Qualitative & quantitative metrics

USE THE GRC FRAMEWORK

TO BUILD YOUR SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



MOBILITY	Category	GOAL	OBJECTIVE	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	
			> STRATEGY								
			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY								
	Policy	Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations	M23	Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles							
			M24	Designate no idling zones at schools, transit stations etc.							
			M26	Adapt building codes to accommodate and encourage alternate fuel infrastructure							
M27			Adopt a Complete Streets policy to benefit all road users								
		M28	Revise subdivision code to promote active transportation, i.e., street sanctions that require bicycle facilities and sidewalks								

MOBILITY	Category				OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY							Yay you!						
	GOAL				Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant							
	Policy	Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations	M23	Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles	X													
			M24	Designate no idling zones at schools, transit stations etc.														
			M26	Adapt building codes to accommodate and encourage alternate fuel infrastructure														
			M27	Adopt a Complete Streets policy to benefit all road users	X													
			M28	Revise subdivision code to promote active transportation, i.e., street sanctions that require bicycle facilities and sidewalks														

MOBILITY	Category	GOAL	OBJECTIVE	> STRATEGY	+ ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant
Policy	Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations	M23	Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles					X				
		M24	Designate no idling zones at schools, transit stations etc.							X		
		M26	Adapt building codes to accommodate and encourage alternate fuel infrastructure							X		
		M27	Adopt a Complete Streets policy to benefit all road users			X						
		M28	Revise subdivision code to promote active transportation, i.e., street sanctions that require bicycle facilities and sidewalks									X

Timeframe & priorities

Goal Category	GOAL	OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY Schaumburg Initiative(s)	Department	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned next 6 mos.	Planned next 12-18 mos.	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	Arts and Culture <i>Promote cultural vibrancy in the community</i>	SC1 Preserve and maintain the community's historic assets								
		Purchase and maintenance of the Schweikher House; creation of the Schweikher House Foundation	CDD	X						
		Purchase of the Turret House which is used for Community Services Department.	CSD	X						
		The Olde Schaumburg Centre District protects historical buildings	CDD	X						
		SC2 Integrate historical and cultural assets through community programming								
		Guided tours of the Schweikher house, studio and grounds are offered throughout the year.	CDD	X						
		Oral History Series: Three, 30-minute video programs highlighting the 100+ year history of the area and featuring interviews with long-time residents and local historians 2001/2	CART	X						
		SC3 Formalize support for culture and the arts								
		Creation of the Department of Cultural Services, dedicated to bringing performing arts to the community	CART	X						
		Construction and operation of a performing arts center, the Prairie Center for the Arts	CART	X						
		The village formed the 1% for Art program in 2000.	CART	X						
		SC4 Engage community volunteers through an arts/culture-oriented citizen advisory group.								
		Schaumburg Cultural Commission comprised of staff and community members, to foster and develop arts & culture programming	CART	X						
		Schaumburg Sister Cities Commission represents different cultures that comprise Schaumburg's population	CART	X						
		SC5 Foster understanding of diverse cultural traditions								
		Promote arts programming at the Prairie Center in cooperation with diverse cultural organizations within the community	CART	X						
		Support the opening of the Trickster Gallery which promotes Native American art and culture	CART	X						
		KEY Foster more culturally diverse programming to engage the growing ethnic sectors of the population. Could be in the form of small individual events or a larger festival.	CART					X		

Category	GOAL	OBJECTIVE > STRATEGY + ADVANCED STRATEGY	Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 mos	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Link to Resource
Bike and Pedestrian	Support safe and effective active transportation	M1 Identify gaps in pedestrian and the bicycle networks and barriers to active modes of travel <i>Camp plan</i>	✓							Y
		M2 Create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to improve connectivity in the community and beyond <i>Camp plan</i>	✓							Y
		M3 Implement recommendations from the bicycle and pedestrian plan	✓							Y
		M3a > Earn Bicycle Friendly Community designation	✓							Y
		M3b > Earn Walk Friendly Community designation	✓							Y
		M4 Collaborate with regional partners to connect on-and off-road bicycle facilities with existing and planned regional trail networks	✓							Y
Transportation Infrastructure	Maintain a diverse, safe and efficient transportation network	M5 Provide bicycle parking at municipal facilities, business districts and transit stations and in neighborhoods	✓							Y
		M6 Maintain streets and sidewalks for efficiency and safety without harming natural resources	✓							Y
		M7 Maintain efficient traffic flow within and around the community	✓							Y
		M8 Synchronize traffic signals to reduce vehicle idling	✓							Y
		Incorporate sustainable roadways into capital improvement planning, proactively plan for major transportation infrastructure improvements <i>East + 47th</i>	✓							Y
		M10 Collaborate to develop transportation infrastructure with context sensitivity	✓							Y
		Coordinate with regional transportation agencies to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular transit, and rail connectivity and mobility	✓							Y
		M12 Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites	?							Y
		M13 Incorporate trees and other green infrastructure elements into roadway design and maintenance for functionality and aesthetics	✓							Y
		M14 Use the Envision checklist and infrastructure sustainability rating system to guide project development								Y

Village of Arlington Heights Sustainability Plan

THE GRC2 FRAMEWORK

The Greenest Region Compact (GRC) Framework was utilized as a pathway for sharing and refining sustainability goals with the Working Group. The framework draws from the GRC developed through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC). The MMC is a membership organization of the Chicago region's 275 cities, towns, and villages, providing a forum for local partners to work cooperatively and share information on issues that impact the quality of life of local residents.

The GRC leveraged these partnerships into 49 goals supported in sustainability plans across the region. The Village of Arlington Heights is one of 164 communities that have endorsed the GRC through a Village Board resolution in 2007 as well as the

update to the framework, the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2), in 2016. Village staff utilized the GRC Framework tool to communicate potential goals and strategies with the Working Group. The tool helped identify strategies and create a method to inventory accomplishments since the EECS was adopted. The final set of sustainability categories were reduced from the ten outlined in the GRC2 framework into seven categories that best fit the operational structure and local goals of Arlington Heights. The framework was consolidated into 37 goals and over 200 strategies by the Working Group. The strategies identify implementation status and relevant departments for implementation.

The GRC2 makes the following pledge:

"The member municipalities of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus seek a vibrant, sustainable future for their communities and the greater Chicago region. The consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact aim for enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality."



THE NCS AND PCAP

The update to the EECS also draws from The National Community Survey (NCS) which reports on the "livability" of Arlington Heights based on the responses of a sample of residents in the Village. The NCS, developed with the National Research Center at Polco, was conducted by the Village in 2025 and captured residents' opinions on various focus areas. The responses are measured against national averages and previous survey results to determine if there are trends and areas of emphasis for the future. The topics of the NCS that related most to the Sustainability Plan included Mobility, Community Design, Utilities, Natural Environment, and Inclusivity and Engagement.

Finally, this plan references the 2024 Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for

the Chicago Region. The PCAP, led by the MMC and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), outlines a plan for climate action that reduces emissions, supports economic development, and improves quality of life. It also aids local governments in the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area qualify for federal funding for climate action strategies. The PCAP was funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and provides a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory, GHG emissions projections, GHG reduction strategies, and tools on how to calculate the impacts of local strategies and their intersection with funding availability. References to the PCAP in each of the Sustainability Categories provide context on how strategies impact activities which can lead to GHG emission reductions.





Wilmette, News

Sustainability Plan ready to take root in Wilmette

By Joe Coughlin | 11:59 p.m. September 16, 2021

“The Village Board got its first look Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the final draft of a Sustainability Plan meant to guide Wilmette’s conservation efforts for the foreseeable future.

...the plan was born in 2018 **after the Village Board endorsed a regional initiative — the Greenest Region Compact** — that encourages local governments to support a set of 49 environment-forward goals across 10 topics....

With the endorsement, the village tasked its Environment and Energy Commission to draft a sustainability plan that suits Wilmette.”

THANK YOU, NIU
*Students - Institute for
Study of Environment,
Sustainability, and
Energy*

UPDATING THE GRC

INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION & MORE



EFFORT REQUIRED

IMPACT – GHG, \$, Equity

GRC FRAMEWORK UPDATES

*Support
efficient
transportation
that uses
resources
wisely*

Encourage private and public fleet electrification by supporting EV charging infrastructure for medium and heavy duty vehicles
Support coordinated investment to improve efficiency in passenger and freight railroads
Support strong national fuel efficiency standards
Seek public and private partnership to finance transportation system improvements
Utilize warm mix asphalt for paving projects
Utilize efficient, Dark Sky compliant lighting fixtures in roadway and parking projects
Recycle roadway materials and specify recycled paving materials in transportation projects



Lead	Encourage	Enact	Impact	Effort Required	Easy Win
X	X			M	
	X				
	X				
	X		-		
X			-		
X				M	
X					

Refresh strategies - streamline - leave goals unchanged

Model tracking & reporting



www.sustainablejersey.com



Bronze certification requires:

- Establishment of **mandatory green team**
- Implement 2 of 12 priority actions
- Complete actions in 6 of 18 categories
- Total of at least 150 points



Silver certification requires:

- Establishment of **mandatory green team**
- Implement 3 of 12 priority actions
- Complete actions in 8 of 18 categories
- Total of at least 350 points

Island Heights Boro (Ocean) Profile

Registration Date	08/11/2009
Current Certification	bronze
Certified On	December 12, 2017
Approved Action Points	205
Certification Reports	Island Heights Boro - Dec 2017 Certification
Primary Contact	Jeffrey Silver 1 Wanamaker Complex Island Heights, NJ 08732 732-245-5149 (cell)
Secondary Contact	Ellie Rogalski 732-270-6415
Resolution	Download Resolution

ACTIONS & CERTIFICATION

[Why Get Certified?](#)

[Register](#)

[Certification Overview](#)

[Program Updates](#)

[Actions](#)

[Gold Star Standards](#)

[Green Team Resources](#)

Participating Communities

[Gold Star Award Report](#)

[Annual Awards](#)

Questions?



Discussion

What is your experience with municipal sustainability planning in your community?



GRC WORKSHOP

- Municipalities starting a plan, pair up with an experienced one
- Friends, consultants pitch in to help a municipality
- Focus on one or more GRC categories:
 - Climate, Energy, Mobility, Municipal Operations, Waste & Recycling
- Assess your community
- Choose strategies
- 30 minutes



MOBILITY	Category	GOAL	OBJECTIVE		Your plans					
			> STRATEGY							
			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned
	Policy	Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations	M23	Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles						
			M24	Designate no idling zones at schools, transit stations etc.						
			M26	Adapt building codes to accommodate and encourage alternate fuel infrastructure						
M27			Adopt a Complete Streets policy to benefit all road users							
	M28	Revise subdivision code to promote active transportation, i.e., street sanctions that require bicycle facilities and sidewalks								

Group Share

How do I get from the GRC Framework to a sustainability plan that serves my community?



Next Steps

- MMC to finish updating the GRC Framework - Input welcome!
- MMC to develop a GRC Tracking and Reporting tool for municipalities
- Stay engaged!
 - Join our **Environment & Energy Committee (7/21)** →
 - **EV Readiness Program 5th Cohort** now forming, **virtual info session 7/22** →
 - Advanced Building Energy Efficiency Policies (**ABEEP**) Task Force
 - Engage with MMC's outreach team:
 - Feed the Cart
 - Low-income energy efficiency and home electrification

