



Green Cincinnati Plan



2025

PROGRESS REPORT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mayor Aftab, Cincinnati City Council, the City Administration and Departments, Green Cincinnati Plan Partners, the Environmental Advisory Board, OES Staff, and residents from across the City — all are responsible for the progress shared in this report.

### Designer:

Anna Diederichs Design, LLC

Thank you to all who contributed images to bring this report to life.

### Cover Image:

Cincinnati Parks volunteers plant trees in Evanston.



OES Team visits the Cincinnati Recycle & Reuse Hub to learn from a GCP Partner.



Wasson Way Phase 6B opens with a celebration in Evanston



Mayor Aftab, former Mayor John Cranley, and Councilmember Owens visit the City's 100MW New Market Solar Array.

Friends,

Nobody said this work would be easy. When we set bold goals in the Green Cincinnati Plan, we knew there would be challenges along the way. Transformational change requires deep work and perseverance.

There have been some bumps in the road for climate work in 2025 - funding cuts and rule changes, paired with record setting heat and storms. We learn a lot about ourselves when things get hard.

As I reflect on the past year, I like what I have seen from our team, our partners, and our Cincinnati community. Unrattled, I see a steady focus on people-first solutions. I see resilience and adaptability to find a way forward. I see individual actions coming together into a collective story of determination and hope. I am deeply grateful for your commitment and inspired by the leadership emerging across our city.

Thank you for walking this path with us—through the challenges, the breakthroughs, and the ongoing learning. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Gratefully,



Oliver Kroner  
*Director, Office of Environment & Sustainability*



Ollie motivates the audience gathered at the Green Cincinnati Forward event in October.



OES supports Carbon Harvest and Parks leaders in piloting biochar use in tree planting.



Electeds gather at the Cincinnati Sustainability Tour hosted by OES & PCFO in November.

**The Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP)**

has been the City's sustainability plan since 2008. Updated every five years (2013, 2018, and 2023), the GCP has helped Cincinnati earn a reputation as an international leader in climate action. It is a Plan made by the People, for the People. Since 2008, the actions outlined in the GCP have galvanized thousands of residents to build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient city... together.



39.6%

reduction in GHG emissions from 2006 baseline on our way to 50% by 2030.



85%

of GCP actions are completed or in progress from the 2023 plan.



\$712,452

in City and private funds granted to date to bring the GCP to life through the GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program.



102.86MW

of renewable energy produced by the city for city facilities and residential aggregation program use.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Winter

- OES begins installing composting infrastructure at community gardens
- Youth engagement in the Cincinnati Comprehensive Climate Action Plan takes place over 8 workshops
- The City's Environmental Advisory Board provides two comments to Council on pending legislation - infrastructure improvements and impervious surface fees
- Funding secured for Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to install a new greenspace in the West End at the corner of Linn & Livingston Streets

Spring

- Green Workforce Landscape Report released
- Avondale Resilience Hub plan complete
- GCP Seeds of Change awards Open Call recipients
- Energy efficiency and energy budget reduction educational outreach takes place
- OES launches the first of four neighborhood food scrap drop off sites to divert organic waste into compost
- Climate Safe Neighborhoods in Winton Hills takes place





543

families and counting experience reduced energy burden due to engagement with WarmUp Cincy.



\$54.35M

awarded in grants with OES support —\$18.91M still active after the changes in federal law.



199

EV and Hybrid vehicles in the city fleet.



64%

of Cincinnati households are active recyclers and growing.



500+

households participate in composting through 36 neighborhood food scrap drop off sites.



40

Purple Air quality monitors installed in 34 neighborhoods



## Summer

- Cincinnati Region Climate Migration Outlook Report released and Resilient and Welcoming Region Workshop held
  - Youth Climate Action Fund grantees bring their projects to life
- Building Performance Standards engagement sessions held for the early stage of policy formation
- Climate Safe Neighborhoods takes place in the West End
- BREATHE Summit held
- West Fork Incinerator Asbestos Abatement begins

## Fall

- Green Cincinnati Forward event held galvanizing 225+ attendees to continue to build momentum in our efforts to reach GCP goals
- GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program awards green workforce training and urban agriculture grants
- Contractors receive upskilling in building science in anticipation of state rebates
- OES launches social media
- “Wild About Saving Food” Prevention Campaign launches with partner organizations
- The newest air monitors installed in the West end to measure air quality for MadTree’s Let’s Grow Local

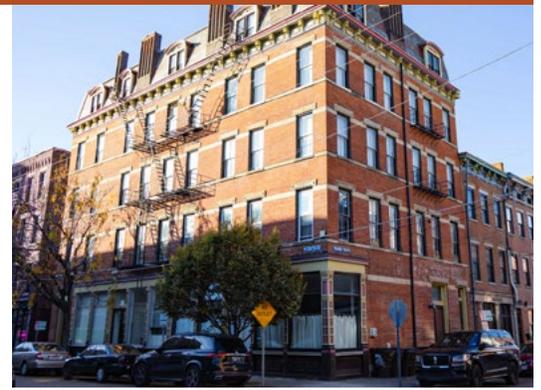


## FOCUS AREA

# Buildings/Energy

**VISION:** Ensuring energy efficient buildings and clean energy for a healthy, equitable, and resilient city

- 543 households supported to reduce the burden of energy bills through WarmUp Cincy
- 100 MW New Market Solar array fully online
- Achieved SolSmart Silver by working with the Buildings & Inspections Department to train 29 inspectors and plans reviewers in solar
- Broke ground on a new 10 MW solar array on the Center Hill Landfill
- Received \$250,000 grant award to support clean energy market-building activities



One out of every four Cincinnati households struggle to pay energy bills or maintain adequate temperatures in their home. As part of the City's commitment to ensure that energy is affordable for all residents, OES and partners facilitate WarmUp Cincy. One program of WarmUp Cincy is called the Whole Building Retrofit Pilot. Partnering with **Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH)**, **Green Umbrella**, and multiple research institutions, this project is completing energy efficiency upgrades in 14 multifamily buildings within OTRCH's affordable housing portfolio. This initiative will reduce energy costs, improve comfort and stability, and reduce carbon emissions. Read more about it [here](#).



## FOCUS AREA

# City Operations

**VISION:** Leading by example and centering community voice in the design and implementation of programs and policies.

- 84 EVs are part of the active city fleet and 17 city mechanics upskilled to service EVs
- 31 City facilities generating solar energy
- Energy audits of 65 city facilities completed and a decarbonization report kicked off
- A new streamlined process for City Departments to remove e-waste was launched in late October 2025
- Employee Red Bike membership incentive program tops 200 enrollees



Despite federal grant cancellations over the past year, the Center Hill Landfill Solar Project continues to find a way — recently earning public support from the Mayor at the State of the City address. The City is working with a developer to finalize a creative mix of financing that will allow this 10MW solar project to rejuvenate a closed city-owned landfill before the federal incentives run out, supplying consistent, renewable power to the local grid. Initial construction is already underway at the site in Winton Hills!



## FOCUS AREA

# Community Activation

**VISION:** Empowering residents to play a central role in creating climate solutions

- 125 confirmed GCP Partner organizations and counting
- GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program awarded \$438,462 to 89 projects including \$87,500 specifically for youth led climate action projects in 2025
- 29 contractors trained in Building Science Principles in preparation for the Ohio Home Energy Savings Program roll out
- Groundwork ORV, Green Umbrella, & OES engaged 26 residents in Climate Safe Neighborhoods Programs in Winton Hills and West End



OES was thrilled to announce the release of the *Cincinnati Green Workforce Landscape Analysis* in May. It is the culmination of almost two years of work as OES and partners respond to the largest cross-cutting theme of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan engagement process – our residents’ interest in being an active part of the emerging green economy. Here, community members gathered at City Hall to celebrate this milestone and hear an overview of the report. Special thanks to the *Cincinnati Regional Chamber* and *Co-op Cincy* for their leadership and collaboration on this report and for advancing green workforce development in our region.



## FOCUS AREA

# Food

**VISION:** Creating an equitable food system and economy that serves all of Cincinnati.

- \$379,084 invested by the City in support of urban agriculture & local food
- 2,898,124 meals created by La Soupe from rescued food to serve 180+ community Share Partners
- 49 communities saw investment in local-led food efforts
- \$850,000 City Impact Award focused on food security as a gun violence reduction effort
- Last Mile Food Rescue collected and redistributed 5.4 million pounds of food, supporting 169 nonprofit partners, thanks to 605 food donors and 909 volunteers.



OES facilitated positive growth in food waste diversion over the past year — addressing prevention, reuse, and composting through partnerships. Thanks to a federal grant, *Society of St. Andrew* and *La Soupe* are able to glean, rescue, transform and share even more food with those who need it most. At the same time, more residents are stepping up to turn fruit and vegetable scraps into compost through food scrap drop-off locations facilitated by *Queen City Commons* and at 28 bioreactors installed just this year in community gardens. The opportunity to reduce your carbon footprint by keeping your food scraps out of the landfill has never been easier!



**FOCUS AREA**  
Mobility

**VISION:** Prioritize people by building sustainable, safe, and accessible mobility options

- 21.7 miles of the CROWN completed out of 34 planned miles
- 240,000+ Rider trips on Red Bike from 79 stations since relaunch in May 2024
- 1,549 traffic calming and safety improvements installed since 2024



**Red Bike**, the region’s non-profit bikeshare system, came through a rough patch to announce their new three-year “Strengthen and Sustain” funding plan, strategy, and governing restructure. One year after a “Coalition of the Willing” came together to provide temporary bridge funds to keep Cincinnati Red Bike’s operations up and running, this plan puts the bike share on positive footing moving forward. Red Bike operates over 70 stations and maintains a fleet composed of 75% e-bikes, enabling members and users to travel throughout the community close to carbon-free for work, health, recreation, and more.



**FOCUS AREA**  
Natural Environment

**VISION:** Investing in natural resources, greenspaces, and ecosystems to improve the health and well-being of our Cincinnati communities

- Over 6,000 trees planted & provided by Cincinnati Parks and partners
- 40 air monitors across 34 neighborhoods installed by OES & Cincinnati Health Department, connecting residents to local air quality and how it affects their health
- Pocket Park Playbook published – from funding to permitting, a guide to establishing greenspaces in Cincinnati



OES co-hosted the first BREATHE Summit with partners. In this inaugural local convening, attendees explored connections between the Green Cincinnati Plan and local air quality initiatives, examining how air pollution impacts health, and how strategic tree planting and greenspace development can create cleaner air. The Summit also highlighted the powerful work of residents fighting for better conditions. With attendees including researchers, community groups, public services, and Cincinnatians – all working to make air quality improvements - this group is committed to working more closely together moving forward. Check out the [OES Air Quality page](#) to learn more.



## FOCUS AREA

# Resilience & Climate Adaptation

**VISION: Anticipating, preparing, and responding to the challenges of changing conditions**

- Over \$34.5 million in brownfield assessment and remediation grants awarded to 22 projects within the City since the passage of the GCP
- Hosted Climate Migration Workshop gathering 60 local stakeholders to plan for a ready and welcoming Cincinnati
- Released a Climate Migration Report
- 501 residents of priority communities engaged through programs like Climate Safe Neighborhoods and Resilience Hubs



In partnership with the **Urban League**, **Groundwork Ohio River Valley**, and Avondale residents, OES spent early 2025 planning to establish a Resilience Hub. A Resilience Hub is a community-serving facility that offers programming and resources to help people meet their daily needs and respond to emergencies in their neighborhood, like a flood or power outage. With strong community input, the Urban League created a strategic plan to improve their facilities and operations to serve as a Resilience Hub. We look forward to expanding to a network of Resilience Hubs in 2026!



## FOCUS AREA

# Zero Waste

**VISION: Protecting human health and the environment by diverting waste from landfills.**

- Since 2023, 50 composters have been built diverting 50 tons of organic material at 39 sites on track to produce 30 tons of finished compost annually
- \$280,000 awarded to improve recycling participation at 11 large multifamily properties with 947 households enrolled so far
- 182 public recycling cans placed in 10 neighborhood business districts to reduce litter & divert 6 tons of waste monthly
- Campaign mailers reached nearly 14,000 households in 2025, boosting participation and helping residents recycle correctly
- Managed compliance of 25 commercial waste franchisees doing business within the city limits



Thanks to a grant from **The Recycling Partnership**, OES has expanded recycling access to eleven large multi-family properties, working in partnership with Rumpke, property managers, and residents. These efforts have already diverted 10 tons of material since September and we are just getting started. Several residents in each building have even volunteered as Recycling Ambassadors—a role designed to help track recycling participation and contamination levels to ensure the program's success. By the end of summer 2026, OES is committed to onboarding 3,000 new recycling households across the City.



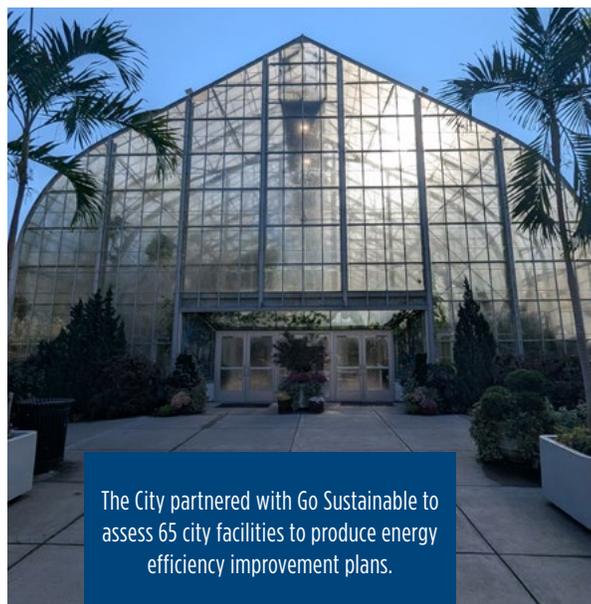
Lunkenheimer Valve in South Fairmount is one of 22 brownfields receiving clean-up grant funding.



42 city and county officials and key stakeholders visited 8 sites during an OES & PCFO hosted tour to build an understanding of GCP accomplishments and possibilities.



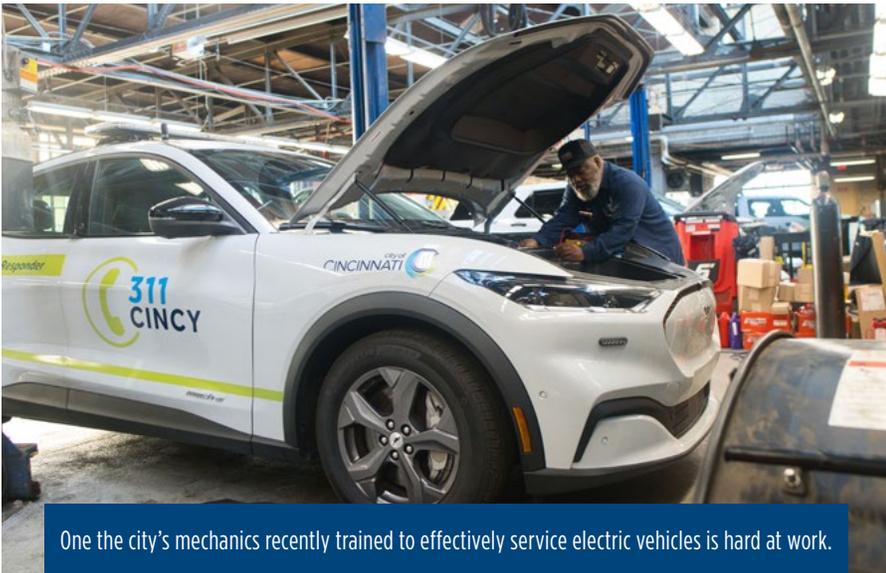
Building sector stakeholders gather to begin to shape a Building Performance Standards policy for the city.



The City partnered with Go Sustainable to assess 65 city facilities to produce energy efficiency improvement plans.

## COMMITTING TO THE WORK AHEAD... TOGETHER

Our carbon emissions trends are on track for our 2030 and 2050 goals and the City is more committed than ever to leading the way on bold climate action. Together, we are building a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Cincinnati. The winds of change are strong and we are stronger for 2026 and beyond. Our plan is to forge ahead with creativity and persistence. How about you? **How will you join us in the work ahead as we continue to build momentum for the GCP together?**



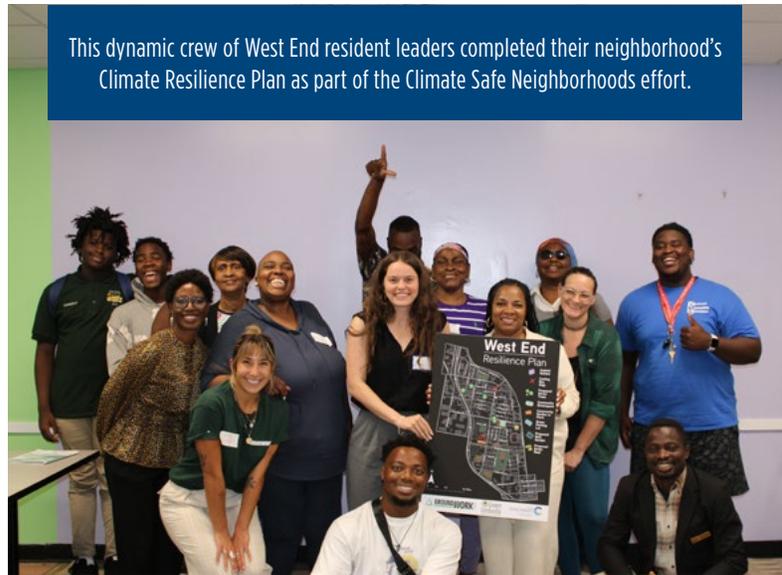
One the city's mechanics recently trained to effectively service electric vehicles is hard at work.



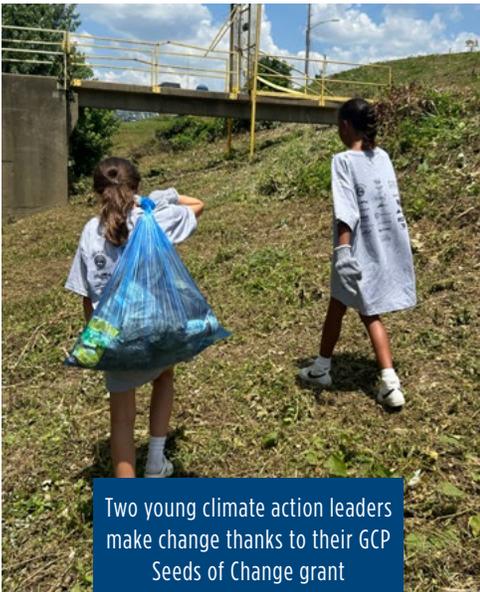
Contractors attend a multi-day Building Performance Institute training to prepare for the Ohio Home Energy Savers Program.



MLK Community Garden enjoyed using their Johnson-Su Bioreactor, supported by OES' USDA grant, to make compost for their garden.



This dynamic crew of West End resident leaders completed their neighborhood's Climate Resilience Plan as part of the Climate Safe Neighborhoods effort.



Two young climate action leaders make change thanks to their GCP Seeds of Change grant



Naomi Goldman speaks with a resident needing a replacement cart – one of 6,491 service requests this year!



One of 42 projects supported by the Urban Agriculture Mini-Grant program hard at work.



“The City cannot accomplish the work of the Green Cincinnati Plan alone. It takes many partners and I want to recognize the incredible work being done by so many of you — community leaders, advocates, businesses, nonprofit organizations, residents, and city staff. Your ideas, energy, and collaboration are essential. Real change happens when government and community come together. Thank you for everything you’re doing. Together, we are building a greener, stronger future.”

— Mayor Aftab Pureval, October 14, 2025

# Green Cincinnati Plan

## OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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