



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

Focus Area Action Plans



Focus Area Action Plans

Nurturing aligned action through partnership and accountability

The 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) outlines 40 high-impact strategies to reduce our carbon emissions 50% by 2030 and achieve 100% carbon neutrality by 2050. In addition, the Plan identifies 30 measurable goals that will be used to report our progress towards a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Cincinnati. Building on the shoulders of Cincinnati's climate action planning efforts since 2008, these high-impact strategies arose as part of a community-wide, community-driven collaborative effort.

Focus Areas

Climate action happens at the intersection of many interconnected systems including people, nature, infrastructure, economics, and more. The 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan is organized around eight key Focus Areas that play a significant role in driving systems change:



- Buildings and Energy
- City Operations
- Community Activation
- Food
- Mobility
- Natural Resources
- Resilience & Climate Adaptation
- Zero Waste

The connection of the eight Focus Areas is symbolized through the flower motif, in which each Focus Area is its own petal of the flower and holds a unique chapter icon. The flower, like this climate action plan, leads us to think of our natural connections, which are diverse, beautiful, cross-pollinating, delicate, rooted, and dependent on the ecosystems of which they are a part.

Each Focus Area includes the following components:

Vision: A brief, aspirational statement that encapsulates the world we're trying to create within the Focus Area; perhaps not able to be accomplished within the 5-year GCP time frame yet well worth aiming for.

Goals: Measurable assertions that both stretch us toward the Vision and can be tracked over time to ensure accountability and progress in the appropriate direction.

Strategies: Phrases that subdivide the Focus Area and give guidance; allows for categorizing of Priority Actions and points us toward the corresponding Goal; formed from coalescing of input; intended to allow the flexibility to add other emergent Priority Actions later.

Priority Actions: Description of specific steps—gathered and prioritized through the engagement process—that will likely provide the most promising pathways to achieve stated Goals.

Action Alignment

To gauge how closely the Focus Area actions align to the Sustainability, Equity, and Resilience pillars—as well as to other priorities—a cross-section of stakeholders evaluated the actions, measuring them against these metrics. The resulting Action Alignment charts illustrate how closely a proposed action aligns with the pillars and other GCP priorities. These tables appear after each strategy in the Focus Areas, and they offer a way to understand the intersectional nature of the Priority Actions.

Action Alignment Legend

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Implementing Actions & Tracking Progress

The 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan is commitment to action. It articulates an ambitious vision for the City—one that activates our community, strategically invests resources for impact, and does our part to protect the natural environment. In order to realize this vision, the City and partners must take action. To this end, the City shares a four-pronged approach to GCP implementation:

Lead by Example: The City will continue to lead by example by greening government operations and looking for efficiency gains that save Cincinnati money. The City Operations section of the GCP references most of these efforts.

Partner with Champions: Cincinnati is home to businesses, nonprofits, and other institutions that will help move Cincinnati toward a sustainable, equitable, and resilient future. In fact, these organizations are often better positioned than the City to execute Strategies and Actions. The City commits to partnering with these “Champions” and supporting their GCP-related initiatives. The role of Champions in

helping to accomplish the Goals of the GCP cannot be overemphasized.

Equity in Implementation: Equity is foundational in both the development and implementation of the Plan. For our City to remain accountable to building a truly sustainable, equitable, and resilient city, disaggregated data and residents with lived experience of environmental injustice must influence implementation. The City is committed to an implementation approach that holds all involved accountable to the Equity Commitment made.

Track & Communicate Progress: Each GCP Focus Area identifies quantitative Goals in order to drive accountability, learning, and adaptation over time. Working with “Champion” community partners, the City will track progress on each Goal on an annual basis. All Goals within the GCP are intended to be completed in 5 years, unless otherwise stated. The City’s Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) will report progress quarterly to City Council’s Climate, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee. Council can intervene, if necessary, to keep efforts on track. Additionally, the City has partnered with ClimateView to provide an accessible, up-to-date dashboard of Cincinnati’s progress. Finally, the City is piloting a community engagement software called CitizenLab to remain connected to as many community members as possible throughout implementation.



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

Buildings & Energy





FOCUS AREA

Buildings & Energy

Ensuring energy efficient buildings and clean energy for a healthy, equitable, and resilient city.

Vision

Adoption of clean energy sources and energy efficiency measures by 2050 that result in net-zero emissions from buildings, contributing to a healthy, equitable, and resilient future for our City.

A Word from Sanyog Rathod, Buildings & Energy Focus Area Chair

It has been a distinct pleasure to lead the Buildings & Energy Committee, and work alongside City leadership and the Office of Environment & Sustainability (OES).

Cincinnati has embraced a vision for its future based on sustainability, equity, and resilience. That vision will play a central role in how the City works to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Through past efforts and the hard work of community partners, we have already begun to reduce the climate impacts of our buildings. However, Cincinnati's existing and historic building stock, combined with its reliance on fossil fuels as the primary source for heating and power, means that much work remains.



Cincinnati has an older building stock that can benefit from energy efficiency upgrades.

Deep energy retrofits, alternative and renewable sources of energy, and electrification are critical paths ahead of us. The recent influx of federal funding in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors has opened doors that previously did not exist. Tax credits are available to homeowners and businesses to reduce the costs associated with electrifying their buildings. Non-profits, religious institutions, and governments can access the benefits provided by tax credits through a system of direct payments that will make installing solar and energy efficiency more affordable.



This 1870 home in Over the Rhine achieved a LEED Platinum designation by making high performance upgrades that honored the home's historic character. Photo courtesy of Sol design + consulting.

As I engaged with stakeholders during the development of this Green Cincinnati Plan, I heard a desire to implement strategies that will result in buildings that contribute to a healthy, equitable, and resilient future. While our elected leaders will play an important role in developing these strategies, it will ultimately be up to community organizations, residents, and businesses to invest in their buildings and push for cleaner sources of energy. The Green Cincinnati Plan process has filled me with a sense of optimism about what the City can achieve. It won't be without challenges, but if we work together, we can begin to prepare Cincinnati's buildings and energy sector for a carbon-neutral future.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



**BUILDINGS & ENERGY
FOCUS AREA CHAIR**

Sanyog Rathod

ORGANIZATION
Sol consulting & design

EQUITY LIAISON



I hope that we leverage the transition to clean and sustainable energy sources to create family-sustaining jobs, especially in underserved communities.

EQUITY LIAISON
Flequer Vera

ORGANIZATION
CEO, Sustainergy Cooperative

NEIGHBORHOOD
Northside



Energy Efficiency

Goal

Reduce building emissions 30% from 2021 levels by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2021

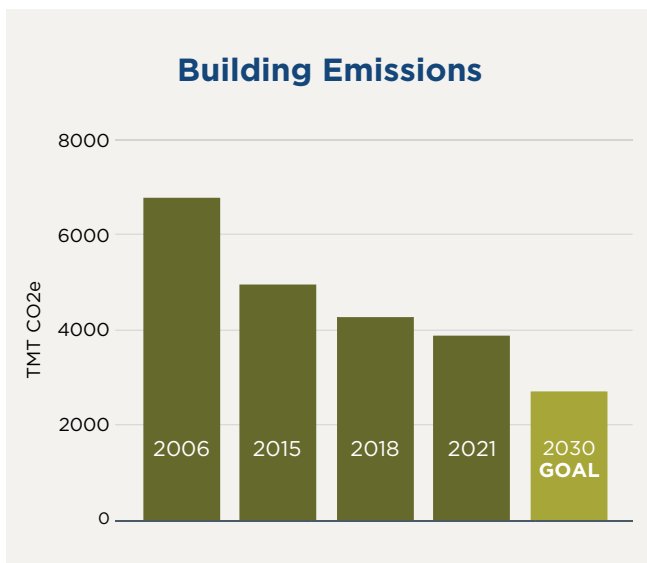
DATA SOURCE(S)

Duke Energy Ohio annual usage data by sector

Strategy

Decrease energy usage in new and existing buildings through adoption of energy efficiency and electrification technologies.

The City must reduce the amount of energy buildings use if we are to meet our carbon emissions goals. Achieving this reduction will require programs and policy tools to assist those who want to decrease energy use and programs to nudge building owners toward embracing energy efficiency. Providing building owners with tools and resources that make investing in energy efficiency more affordable will help decrease energy consumption. Lastly, shifting away from a reliance on natural gas through electrification will further reduce carbon emissions.



Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Improve building performance by implementing policies like benchmarking, building performance standards, or other relevant energy standards	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Partner with local organizations to offer financing tools such as a loan fund, Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE), or Green Bank to support investment in energy efficiency	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Recognize the role embodied carbon plays in the built environment and align incentive programs to encourage the reuse of existing buildings	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



The upgrades to this historic Northside home demonstrate how existing buildings can help address the climate crisis. Photo courtesy of Casey Moothart.



The 116 year-old Textile Building in downtown Cincinnati was transformed from office space to residential units.



Electrification

Goal

Electrify 20,000 households by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Shining A Light, Go Sustainable Energy

Strategy

Electrify buildings with carbon-free energy.

The City must reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, including natural gas for cooking and heating, if it is to meet its carbon emissions goals. One of the best ways to accomplish this is through building electrification. Building owners need to understand the diverse benefits that electrification can provide and the resources that are available to facilitate the transition. Programs that encourage the electrification of new construction will reduce the costs associated with shifting away from natural gas in the future. While electrified buildings may initially rely on electricity from coal or natural gas power plants, they allow for a shift to carbon-free sources of electricity to occur over time.



Heat pumps are an option to electrify buildings and reduce emissions. They provide an efficient way to heat and cool residential buildings without relying on natural gas.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Reduce reliance on natural gas by developing programs to encourage the adoption of heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and induction stoves	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Create incentives to encourage developers to electrify new buildings or install infrastructure so buildings can easily convert to all-electric in the future	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Educate the community and corporate partners about tax credits and other programs available to assist with the transition to more energy-efficient technologies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Energy Poverty

Goal

Reduce the number of households experiencing energy poverty 10% from 2022 levels by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2021

DATA SOURCE(S)

Duke Energy Ohio, US Census

Strategy

Reduce energy costs for tenants and homeowners experiencing energy poverty to improve housing affordability.

Many Cincinnati residents live in energy poverty. “Energy poverty” occurs when more than 6% of a household’s income is spent on utilities. To reduce energy poverty levels, the City must implement strategies to improve the energy efficiency of housing in its priority communities. This can take the form of programs to encourage the adoption of energy-efficiency technologies or policies that increase energy-efficiency requirements for multi-family units. The City must also explore ways to provide access to low-cost sources of electricity such as onsite or community solar.



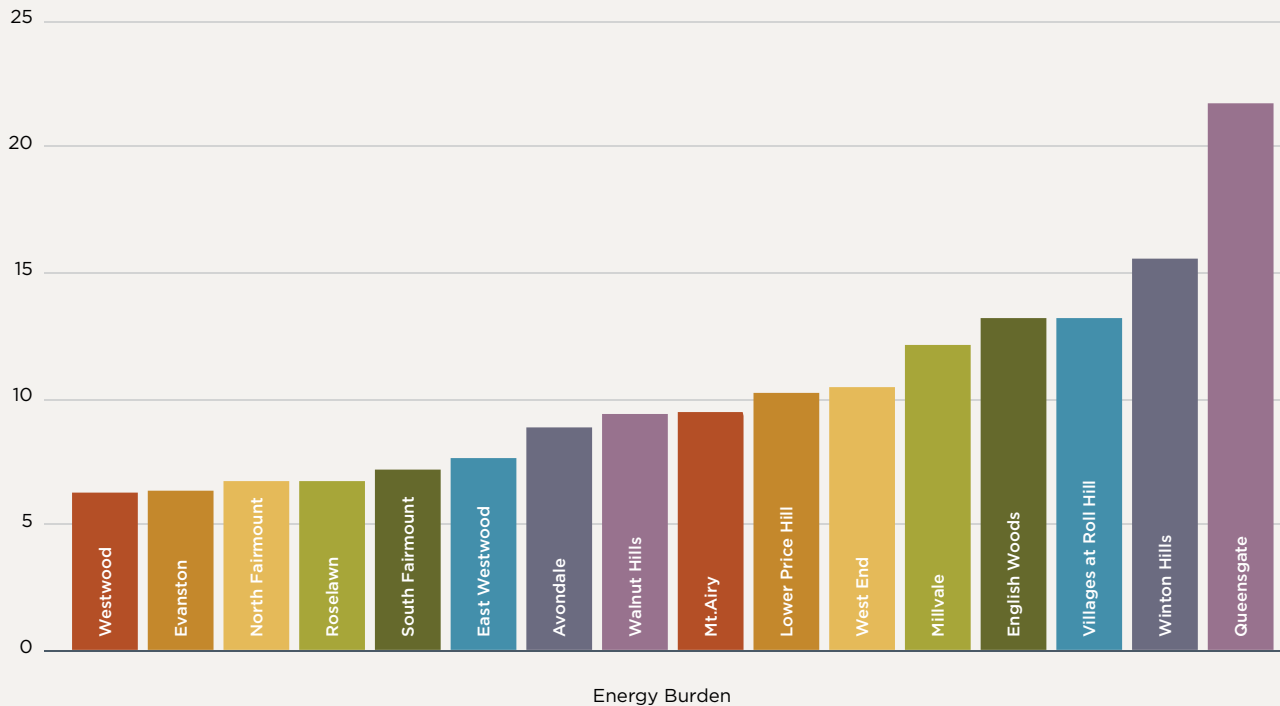
Multi-family buildings, like this 8-unit building, are often poorly insulated and energy inefficient, resulting in high energy rates and costs to residents.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Grow and expand programs such as WarmUp Cincy to support low-income renters, homeowners, and landlords of affordable housing with the installation of weatherization, energy efficiency, and healthy home upgrades	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implement and fund programs to install solar on low-income housing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Create programs and standards that will increase the energy efficiency of residential and multi-family buildings in order to decrease energy poverty	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

City of Cincinnati Neighborhoods with energy burden above 6%



Clean Energy

Goal

Obtain 40% of electricity load from clean energy sources by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2021

DATA SOURCE(S)

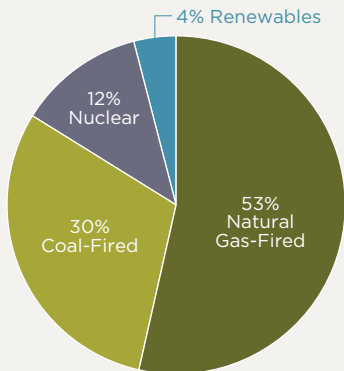
Duke Energy data on amount of solar installed and data on production from City-led PPA agreements

Strategy

Provide residents and businesses with continual access to power from clean energy sources.

In addition to reducing the amount of energy it uses, the City must shift to clean energy sources. Programs that encourage adoption of clean energy sources and make them affordable for residents and businesses will play an important role at the local level. However, to make the transition to clean energy, the City must look beyond its borders to find energy sources and storage options that can help meet its energy needs.

2022 Ohio Electricity Generation by Source



Solarize Cincy helps make the process of installing solar easier for Cincinnati residents. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Support programs like Solarize that encourage adoption of rooftop solar	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Partner with local organizations to offer financing tools such as a loan fund or Green Bank to support investment in renewable energy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to pursue wind and solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to secure enough electricity to support city operations and the Cincinnati aggregation program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Identify energy storage options like batteries, pumped storage, or hydrogen storage to maximize use of clean energy and improve grid reliability	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



The New Market Solar Array in Highland County provides electricity for City operations and the residential aggregation program. Photo courtesy of Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

City Operations





FOCUS AREA

City Operations

Designing city functions to operationalize sustainability and center climate equity.

Vision

A City that leads by example, centering community voice in the inter-departmental design and implementation of programs and policies.

A Word from Sarah Mostafa, City Operations Focus Area Chair

If the past several years have taught us anything about climate action, it's that cities are moving the needle on climate progress in a real and big way, even absent federal regulation. From tree planting, to building electrification, to investing in multi-modal transportation, cities are responding to the calls for action from their citizens. And while carbon neutrality can only be achieved through cross-sectoral collaboration, one of the most powerful ways cities can demonstrate their commitment to climate action is by investing in their own internal operations.



Mayor Aftab and Councilmember Owens arrive at Green Cincinnati Plan launch in a city electric vehicle. Photo courtesy of Casey Weldon/Spectrum.

This year is the first year that the Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) has featured a section just dedicated to the City's operations. The City's operational footprint is considerable, at over 6,000 employees utilizing 1,800 fleet vehicles that cover 14.9 million miles a year. By being included in the 2023 GCP, we have the opportunity to transform the City's footprint into a steady march toward climate justice.

The goals, strategies, and actions in the City Operations chapter are a culmination of feedback provided by city employees as well as enthusiastic discussion from department leaders. These measures are bold and ambitious, reflecting just how critical this issue is to the City's leadership.



Creating a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Cincinnati will require operationalizing these efforts in all City departments. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati.

From employee travel to LED streetlights, these measures are more than strategies to reduce carbon emissions; they're a way for the City to herald a new approach to operations, one that leads with employee engagement, equity, and operational resilience. This vision will chart the course for decision-making and planning in the years ahead.

I want to thank Mayor Aftab Pureval, Councilmember Meeka Owens—and all our councilmembers—our department and city leadership, and engaged city employees for their visionary support of an exciting new chapter. Together, we're putting sustainability at the forefront of the City's operations.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



**CITY OPERATIONS
FOCUS AREA CHAIR**

Sarah Mostafa

ORGANIZATION

Deputy Director,
City of Cincinnati Office of
Performance and Data Analytics

EQUITY LIAISON



I hope to see more city staff across departments incorporating sustainability, resilience, and equity into city plans, projects, and policies.

EQUITY LIAISON

Savannah Sullivan

ORGANIZATION

Climate Action Director
Green Umbrella

NEIGHBORHOOD

Walnut Hills



Climate Equity Budgeting

Goal

Center Justice40 in the City’s budget and program design, ensuring at least 40% of spending benefits priority communities.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

City of Cincinnati Biennial Budget

Strategy 1

Use a budget & procurement process that aligns and accelerates the City’s climate equity priorities.

The City’s budget is a reflection of its values and strategic priorities and sets the direction for policy and program development. To build a sustainable, equitable, and resilient city, Cincinnati will build a budget and procurement strategy that supports these priorities. New federal incentives and grants provide unprecedented opportunity for cities to invest in transformational climate action. To make the most of this funding, the City will add staff and contract support to enhance grant tracking, implementation, and management.



Community input received during planning process calls for adding new voices. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Implement participatory and priority-based budgeting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop annual funding for sustainability investments/municipal bond to capitalize on climate incentives of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Streamline procurement to enhance the impact of federal funding by using cooperative purchasing including Omnia, GSA, Sourcewell	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to develop a framework for supporting green jobs with a focus on youth	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hire a grant writer to assist with pursuing federal funding that focuses on the Justice40 initiative to address environmental justice issues.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Create policy for the procurement of sustainable goods for internal city supplies and materials, conduct a City-wide audit to develop strategic priorities.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Climate Equity Budgeting



West End residents indicate where climate solutions are needed in their community during the Climate Safe Neighborhoods meeting. Photo courtesy of Ollie Kroner.

Strategy 2

Center and activate community voice in designing climate and equity policies and programs.

The City will center community voice in developing policies, programs, and budgets to address climate equity issues. Recognizing government's historical role in creating and deepening the inequity we see in Cincinnati, the City will focus on procedural equity by inviting and elevating the voices of priority communities. The City will continue to include the lived experiences of community members in tracking and measuring climate equity indicators.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Crowdsource climate solutions with programs like hackathons to tackle complex issues	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Improve communication and accessibility of sustainability programs and progress to the public	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Join and leverage Government Alliance on Race & Equity to advance climate equity programs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Update the Climate Equity Indicators report every 5 years to design programs that target benefits to priority communities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Transportation

Goal

400 electric vehicles in the city fleet by 2028.

DATA SOURCE(S)

City Fleet Database

Strategy

Electrify and right-size the city fleet.

To achieve the decarbonization goals of the GCP, the City must reduce the emissions from its fleet. This involves analyzing the usage patterns of fleet vehicles and eliminating extra vehicles. In addition, the City must begin to electrify its fleet to reduce tailpipe emissions.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Conduct an electric vehicle (EV) charging needs assessment for city fleet & install necessary infrastructure at city facilities; partner with County at shared facilities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Conduct a needs assessment to right-size the city fleet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to electrify the city fleet and equipment, including lawn equipment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Transportation

Goal

100% of employees have access to sustainable transportation options.

DATA SOURCE(S)

City Fleet Database

Strategy

Enable green transportation.

The City should promote policies that reduce vehicle emissions from city employees commuting to work. This can be accomplished by reducing the number of single passenger trips through HR policies and incentives that encourage the use of public transit or other carbon-free sources of transportation.



Department of Transportation & Engineering staff member Brian Goubeaux bikes into work even on a wintry day. Photo courtesy Ollie Kroner.



Cincinnati's Vision Zero campaign works to make walking and biking to work safer.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Offer remote work flexibility to reduce commuting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop HR Incentives for employee use of public transit, biking, & walking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Goal

100% Renewable Energy for city operations by 2035.

30% energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Duke Energy, RMI LEAF Analysis

Strategy

Invest in high-performance and resilient city facilities.

The City is committed to moving to 100% clean energy sources by 2035. Focusing first on energy efficiency will reduce the total amount of clean energy that the City will need. To achieve this reduction, departments and facility managers will need to work together and pursue net-zero performance for all new city facilities. The City can opt for clean energy from the grid and can request proposals for utility-scale renewable energy and storage to help meet these goals. Federal incentives provide unique opportunity for major progress toward these energy goals.



The Cincinnati District 3 Police Headquarters is Net Zero—producing all of the energy it needs to operate. Photo courtesy of Pete Witte.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Establish prioritized facilities as “Resilience Hubs”—centers for community gathering during emergency; equip with solar and backup power to provide relief during emergencies	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pursue additional utility-scale clean energy with requests for proposal (RFP)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Organize facility managers to create a sustainable facility policy for new city buildings	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to strategically pursue energy efficiency for city facilities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Convert streetlights to LED, electrify gas lights	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Publish energy benchmarking data for city facilities on Cincy Insights	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

Community Activation





FOCUS AREA

Community Activation

Empowering residents to play a central role in creating climate solutions.

Vision

All residents know about and are empowered to take action to address the systemic issues underlying climate change and environmental injustice through individual and collective action.

A Word from Kylie Johnson, Community Activation Focus Area Chair

From conducting educational programs, to leading outreach efforts, to advocating for stronger policies, I've dedicated my life to securing a healthier environment for my community. The most important lesson I've learned along the way—this work takes all of us.

This chapter of the Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) was renamed “Community Activation” (from “Advocacy, Education & Outreach”) to better capture our need for collective action and engagement of all Cincinnati residents. It's going to take all of us to tackle the systemic issues of climate change and environmental injustice. Advocacy, education, and outreach serve as three foundational pillars to overall Community Activation, and you will find Goals for each in this chapter of the GCP.



Green Corps members working in Lower Price Hill. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley.

It was an honor to lead the Community Activation Subcommittee, and I'm grateful for the tremendous level of support from my internal team: Molly Robertshaw from the Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) and our Equity Liaison, Kelsey Hawkins-Johnson.

Together, we worked alongside community members and representatives from nonprofit organizations, businesses, faith communities, educational institutions, and advocacy groups to develop a framework for inspiring Cincinnati residents to take climate action. Our Subcommittee prioritized and refined more than 200 recommendations submitted by the community via written suggestions, online surveys, and three in-person meetings.

Together, we identified several promising pathways to drive the equitable and transformative change needed to address climate change and prioritize its disproportionate effects on marginalized communities. Strategies include:

- using advocacy as a lever to creatively and strategically solve problems
- strengthening school-based environmental education and experiences
- amplifying the workforce to meet the demands of the green economy
- increasing the capacity of residents to drive solutions to climate change.

These co-created Strategies build on the collaborative work so many have engaged in across the City. A new avenue for advocacy was created in early 2022 when Cincinnati established the Climate, Environment & Infrastructure Committee—making history as the first city council committee of its kind focused on climate action. Later that year, Mayor Pureval and City Council prioritized sustainability and education efforts in the city budget by investing \$4 million into the Green Cincinnati Plan implementation and expanding the youth employment budget by \$1 million. Cincinnati historically ranks as one of the best cities in the nation for a green career, and support for our next generation of leaders continues to grow through programs like Groundwork Ohio River Valley's Green Corps—the largest Green Youth Workforce Program in the nation.

The examples above demonstrate that our Mayor, City Council, City Administration, and community partners are aligned now more than ever to take bold action. Still, there is more work to do. The Green Cincinnati Plan's community-driven approach embodies our collective power, but it will take everyone activated and engaged to meet our aggressive carbon neutrality goals. I'm encouraged by our progress to date and hopeful—now more than ever—that we can build a sustainable, equitable, and resilient city. This work takes all of us, and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish next through Community Activation.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



**COMMUNITY ACTIVATION
FOCUS AREA CHAIR**

Kylie Johnson

ORGANIZATION

Southwest Ohio Regional Director
Ohio Environmental Council

EQUITY LIAISON



I have hope for the expansion of future, young, BIPOC changemakers in the green workforce and at City Hall.

EQUITY LIAISON

Kelsey Hawkins-Johnson

ORGANIZATION

Community & Climate
Resilience Program Director
Groundwork Ohio River Valley

NEIGHBORHOOD

Hartwell



Goal

Achieve \$25 million in resources toward GCP priorities by 2028 with at least 40% benefiting priority communities.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

CEFA report for City grants and public/private partnership contacts

Strategy

Increase use of advocacy as a lever to creatively and strategically solve problems.

Cincinnati has many strong individual and organizational advocates for environmental causes. Some are effective at rallying and equipping residents to speak up for individual policies, while others are trusted, expert sources that guide local leaders toward stronger and more just systems and structures. Greater coordination between advocacy groups could help Cincinnati solve pressing environmental challenges more quickly. Likewise, helping advocates align on priorities would ensure the right challenges are being tackled. With creative and persistent advocacy at the municipal level and beyond, the City has the opportunity to create broadscale change and attract significant resources.



Ohio Environmental Council team members share their new Advocacy Toolkit at Paddlefest 2022. Photo courtesy of Ohio Environmental Council.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Advocate for the passage of a city budget that supports GCP priorities with at least 40% benefiting priority communities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Build and present a case for long-term funding mechanisms that drive emissions reductions; reallocate the resources generated to reduce disparate impacts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support codification of climate justice and racial equity in city decision-making mechanisms	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to strengthen regional partnerships—like OKI and the Regional Climate Collaborative—to better coordinate, share, and build strategic advantage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Increase investment in advocacy, lobbying, grant seeking, and partnership development to increase local receipt of federal/state resources	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Local residents advocate at the Ohio Statehouse. Photo courtesy of Ohio Environmental Council.



Education

Goal

100% of public schools have safe and accessible outdoor learning spaces by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2020

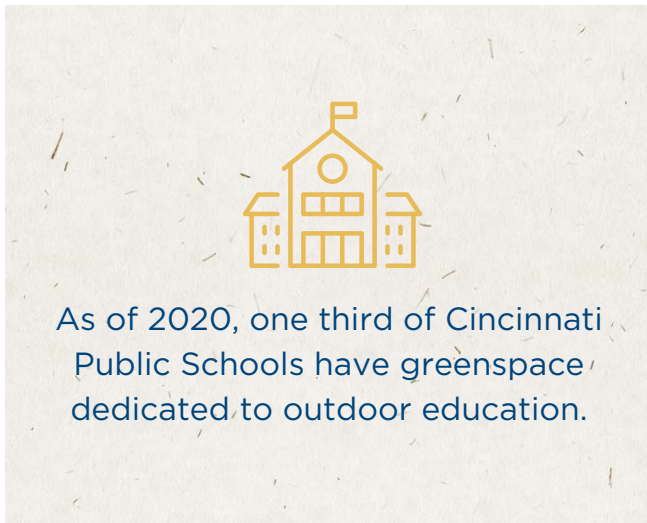
DATA SOURCE(S)

Green Umbrella’s CPS Outside Impact Team

Strategy

Strengthen the breadth and depth of school-based environmental opportunities.

Children and youth spend most of their time for most of the year attending one of the City’s many quality educational institutions. Schools are hubs for much of our community’s life, making them a logical place to implement sustainability efforts. Given the large demands placed on educational institutions, we need to leverage creative partnerships and passive learning opportunities to integrate sustainability more broadly and deeply in our schools. This degree of collaboration can have a transformative impact on our City’s next generation of leaders in a way that inspires them, challenges them, and invites them to find their own role in solutions.



Rockdale Elementary students take part in a garden workday. Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Public Schools.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Increase school/environmental org partnerships to grow environmental education and climate justice opportunities at schools, including hands-on outdoor learning spaces like Green Schoolyards, with priority given to schools in priority communities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support schools to increasingly model sustainable practices inclusive of operations, buildings, fleet, and grounds in alignment with the US Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools pillars or similar standards	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Education

Goal

4,000 individuals trained for green economy jobs by 2028 (800/year).

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System and local workforce training partners

Strategy

Amplify the workforce to meet the demands of the green economy.

In the U.S., “green jobs” are those that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, green economy jobs are growing faster than most other job sectors although the number of jobs is still much lower compared to other sectors. Most of the occupations in the “green” sector pay higher than the annual median wage in the U.S., providing greater opportunities for self-sufficiency. However, these jobs also require advanced education and training. With these realities in mind, training and re-training our workforce to meet the rising need for occupations like EV mechanics, solar panel installers, and weatherization technicians is a must.



Green Corps members take a break from invasive species removal. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Partner with the local Workforce Investment Board, educational institutions, employers, County, State and more to amplify equity-focused, green workforce training and career pathways	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to grow paid, hands-on learning opportunities and jobs in the green economy with an emphasis on preparing youth and the unemployed and/or difficult to employ for living wage jobs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Selected green occupations with projected employment growth, 2020–30

Occupation	Median annual wage, 2021 ¹	Employment, 2020	Employment, projected 2030	Typical entry-level education
Environmental engineers	\$96,820	52,300	54,300	Bachelor’s degree
Environmental scientists and specialists, including health	\$76,530	87,100	94,400	Bachelor’s degree
Conservation scientists	\$63,750	25,300	26,800	Bachelor’s degree
Wind turbine service technicians ²	\$56,260	6,900	11,700	Postsecondary nondegree award
Environmental engineering technologists and technicians	\$48,390	17,300	18,600	Associate’s degree
Solar photovoltaic installers ³	\$47,670	11,800	17,900	High school diploma or equivalent
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	\$47,370	34,200	37,800	Associate’s degree

Note: None of these occupations typically requires work experience in a related occupation for entry.

1 Wage data exclude self-employed workers.

2 This occupation typically requires long-term on-the-job training to attain competency.

3 This occupation typically requires moderate-term on-the-job training to attain competency.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections.



Goal

25 priority community members equipped to co-lead the 2028 GCP refresh.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Groundwork Ohio River Valley

Strategy

Increase the capacity of residents, communities, and businesses to drive solutions to climate change.

Residents are fully capable of driving solutions to localized impacts of climate change when provided opportunities to share and learn, prioritize and act. Building both awareness of pressing environmental issues and social cohesion within and across neighborhoods will equip people to create a better future. Residents of priority communities—those experiencing the greatest burdens of environmental injustice—are best positioned to both inform and drive equitable change. The vibrant start-up ecosystem also presents opportunity.



Beekman Corridor Climate Safe Neighborhoods residents meet to learn and share with one another. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley, 2022.



Fifth Third employees work to remove invasive honeysuckle during a volunteering event at Rapid Run Park. Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Parks.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Create and support more opportunities—like Climate Safe Neighborhoods (CSN)—to identify local environmental problems and enable climate ambassadors to implement sustainable solutions	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support the Youth Environmental Council to mobilize the next generation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support the launch of a one stop shop—physical and virtual—to support residents in making lifestyle changes through informing and incentivizing efforts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support business owners and the start-up community to build and enact market solutions to address environmental issues, with a focus on women and minority-owned enterprises	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA
Food





FOCUS AREA

Food

Growing an equitable food economy that serves all of Cincinnati.

Vision

The food system in Cincinnati will have equitable food access for everyone, a local (within 100 miles) agricultural production and distribution network, living wage jobs in the farming and food sectors, and will eliminate all food waste from the landfill. This circular food economy will disrupt and dismantle the long history of systemic racism, oppression, and inequity and environmental degradation in the food system.

A Word from Dom Peebles, Food Focus Area Chair

I was one of eight children, born and raised in a three-bedroom house in the suburbs of Louisville, KY. Living with eight siblings, I quickly found out the one thing we all have in common—the need for food and nourishment. In an effort to supplement our food, my father would gather my brothers and me on the last Saturday in April every year, and we would head out to the backyard to start the process of our yearly vegetable garden.

This tradition taught me a lot of things, but what sticks out the most is that we always grew more than we could use. With the extras we would reuse old Kroger bags and fill them with veggies and drop them off to everyone that lived in my neighborhood. When I finally got the nerve to ask my father why we did this each year, he only replied, “Because not everyone in our community gets to eat every night, but at least tonight I know they will.” I thought to myself, too bad we can’t do this all year. This inspired me to form Brick Gardens.

Brick Gardens (BG) is a social enterprise, addressing food insecurity in Cincinnati’s most marginalized neighborhoods. In May of 2016, BG was awarded a People’s Liberty Project Grant with the mission of converting vacant land and buildings into urban farms and vertical farms, providing fresh healthy produce to food deserts throughout Cincinnati. Brick Gardens has increased its food-growing locations to four sites now, serving six communities: Avondale, Bond Hill, Evanston, Madisonville, Norwood, and Roselawn.

Since the founding of Brick Gardens, I have been invited to participate in several panel discussions on food insecurity, serve on the Board of Trustees for the OTR Community Council and Hamilton County Solid Waste



Community members participate in a work day with Brick Gardens. Opportunities like this bring communities together to create local healthy food. Photo courtesy of Brick Gardens.

Committee, as well as work with the Regional Food Policy Council to help pass urban agriculture zoning laws.

As Chair of the Food Subcommittee, I was delighted to work with such passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds and various organizations all with the mission to create equitable change in our city's food, farm, and green job sector.

During these interactive discussions, we prioritized and revised the food-related recommendations submitted during the Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) public engagement process. Additionally, we worked together to provide solid goals, strategies, and actions to guide food-related sustainability efforts throughout the city in the coming years.

As you will see, our recommendations focus on:

- Food access
- Support and funding for agriculture (both urban and rural)
- Jobs.

We have a unique opportunity to feed our neighborhoods and provide jobs by working with county and regional farmers to create a system for employment and food distribution that benefits all of Cincinnati.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



FOOD FOCUS AREA CHAIR

Domonique Peebles

ORGANIZATION

CEO, Brick Gardens

EQUITY LIAISON



I am most excited to bring more resources for healthy foods and safer air for low-income neighborhoods

EQUITY LIAISON

Marisha Davis

ORGANIZATION

Meiser's Fresh Grocery & Deli

NEIGHBORHOOD

Lower Price Hill



Local Food

Goal

Increase local food consumption, distribution, and production by 100%.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Green Umbrella Food Metrics (tracking since 2010)



Winton Terrace Community Garden is one example of a community garden in the City which helps to increase local food production and access. Photo courtesy of Turner Farm Community Garden Program.

Strategy

Use regional (within 100 miles) ecological agriculture to increase food production, distribution, consumption, and climate adaptation.

Local food serves both as an economic engine for the City and region and as a source of food. Harvesting and distributing food locally can help stabilize the supply chain. Given its proximity to rural land, Cincinnati can use an expanded regional approach to increase local food production and distribution. In addition to stabilizing the supply chain, this approach provides better access to fresh fruits and vegetables for everyone. Focusing on local food will help inspire more sustainable agricultural practices. Cincinnati must use a variety of approaches and places for growing and distributing food and consider the climate impacts of food production and dietary choices. Lastly, the City must provide the necessary support to bolster a local food economy.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Increase funding for neighborhood gardens and urban agriculture managers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop a network of neighborhood distribution sites for local food	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Restore & adapt underutilized spaces (vacant lots, indoor space & rooftops) for food production & ecological benefits and promote regenerative agriculture best practices	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Indoor spaces can be adapted for food production, like this formerly underutilized space which was modified to grow hydroponic crops. Photo courtesy of Brick Gardens.



Farmers markets, like this one at the Northside Farmers Market, provide important distribution sites for local food. Photo courtesy of Northside Farmers Market.



Food Access

Goal

Eliminate food deserts in Cincinnati and create food sovereignty in all 52 neighborhoods.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Atlas

Strategy

Use a variety of systems to create equitable access to nutritious, affordable food in every neighborhood, prioritizing communities that need it most and creating food sovereignty.

Many Cincinnati residents live in food deserts with limited access to affordable healthy food and these food deserts most often occur in Black, Indigenous and other communities of color. The lack of access to nutrient-dense food leads to increased rates of chronic disease in these communities. A newer term, “food apartheid,” has emerged and refers to a system of segregation that divides those with access to an abundance of nutritious food from those who have been denied that access due to systemic injustice. Community members are interested in creating a more just and equitable food system, and Cincinnati must implement strategies to provide equitable food access in its priority communities. The City must re-imagine what food distribution and access points look like—by listening to unique community needs and interests. Additionally, the City needs to provide the necessary support to realize this new system and take climate impact into consideration when promoting healthy food choices.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Increase options for food access within food desert neighborhoods, including but not limited to farmers markets, food co-ops, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), corner stores, buying clubs, mobile markets, delivery services, community gardens, and food pantries	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Provide city & regional funding for community-driven and innovative food initiatives	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Increase use of locally grown food at neighborhood food access points	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Engage community members on the impact of dietary choices on climate change, environment, and health; elevate the benefits of plant-based options	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Residents shop for food at the Northside Farmers Market. Farmers markets are one way to increase options for healthy food access and eliminate food deserts. Photo courtesy of Northside Farmers Market.



In the neighborhood of Avondale, Rockdale Elementary students participate in a garden work day at the Rockdale Urban Learning Garden which engages and teaches students about growing food locally. Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Public Schools.



Food System

Goal

Implement 5 of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) Recommendations by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

City of Cincinnati Office of Environment & Sustainability and the MUFPP

Strategy

Use the MUFPP framework, working with public and private stakeholders, to develop a sustainable food system in Cincinnati that is inclusive, resilient, safe, diverse, and environmentally friendly.

Despite its long history with and deep connection to food, Cincinnati’s food system has never equally benefited everyone. More recently, Cincinnati has taken the path of many urban cities by:

- Outsourcing food production and the use of environmentally unsustainable growing techniques
- Transporting goods many miles
- Landfilling vast amounts of edible food
- Failing to meet the nutritional needs of all its citizenry with healthy, affordable food access (despite an abundance of grocery stores).

This is where The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) comes in. An international agreement among cities from all over the world, MUFPP works to “develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change.” MUFPP supports cities wishing to build more sustainable urban food systems by fostering city-to-city cooperation and best practices exchange. As a signatory city, Cincinnati must use the MUFPP framework. This framework, along with Cincinnati’s unique midwestern urban location with rural connection/access, can help the City implement a comprehensive 21st century food system that addresses the needs of both the planet and the people.



The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact provides a comprehensive approach to developing a sustainable food system. Photo courtesy of Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

Priority Actions

Develop a comprehensive Food System Plan for Cincinnati, taking into consideration its urban/rural connections and preparation for potential large-scale disruptions due to climate change

Implement the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact related to good governance, sustainable diets & nutrition, social & economic equity, food production, food supply & distribution, and food waste

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Develop a comprehensive Food System Plan for Cincinnati, taking into consideration its urban/rural connections and preparation for potential large-scale disruptions due to climate change	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implement the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact related to good governance, sustainable diets & nutrition, social & economic equity, food production, food supply & distribution, and food waste	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



The Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council a collaboration of organizations and individuals working together to develop a sustainable, equitable and resilient food system in Cincinnati. Photo courtesy Green Umbrella.



Community members discuss and prioritize actions and strategies during a Green Cincinnati Plan Food Focus Area Subcommittee session. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati.



Food Waste Prevention

Goal

Decrease food going to the landfill 50% by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2018

DATA SOURCE(S)

Hamilton County Waste Audit

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2021

DATA SOURCE(S)

Hamilton County Reporting on waste diverted

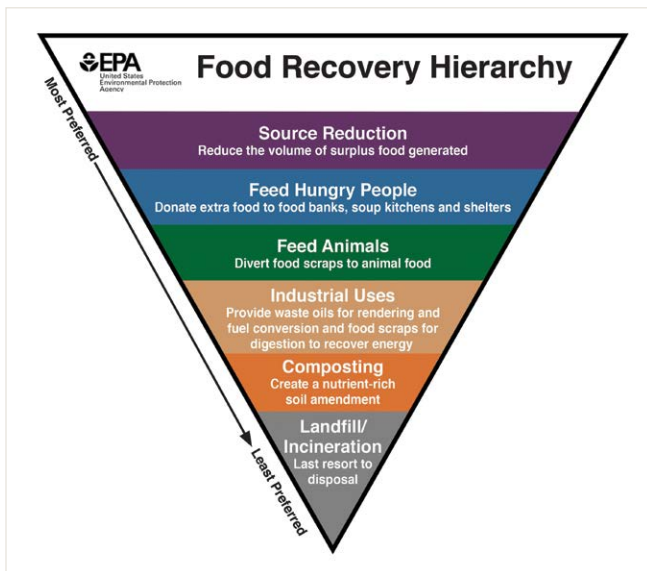
Strategy

Increase efficiency of the food system and minimize environmental impact through prevention, reuse/recovery, education, and best practices for surplus food.

In 2021, Cincinnati sent approximately 74,953 tons to the landfill, 31.1% (23,310 tons) of which was organic material (16.8% =12,592 tons of food waste; 14.3% =10,718 tons of yard trimmings). All of this organic waste contributes to methane, a powerful greenhouse gas which is harmful to the environment and drives climate change. Cincinnati needs to reduce the amount of organics residents and businesses are sending to the landfill. The two strategies that have the most positive environmental, social and health impacts are:

- Prevent throwing away perfectly good food
- Recover wasted food that can be transformed or repurposed.

The City needs to prioritize these surplus-food strategies in conjunction with leveraging public-private partnerships and city systems to minimize organics in our landfill. With a food insecurity rate of 33%, Cincinnati must become a better steward of our resources and each other. By taking robust action, we can support both the environment and our citizens.



Reducing food waste going to the landfill can be achieved by following the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy, and prioritizing prevention, recovery, recycling and composting in that order. Photo courtesy of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Priority Actions

Continue to support local food rescue, food security & food justice organizations through establishment & support of food access points and increased donation infrastructure for collection, transformation, & distribution of surplus food

Expand food waste prevention education and best practices for residential and business sectors

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Continue to support local food rescue, food security & food justice organizations through establishment & support of food access points and increased donation infrastructure for collection, transformation, & distribution of surplus food	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Expand food waste prevention education and best practices for residential and business sectors	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

See Zero Waste Focus Area for Goals, Strategies & Priority Actions related to Composting.



Examples of local meals created by La Soupe in their Rescue Transform Share Program utilizing surplus food. Pre-portioned meals can also help reduce consumer food waste. Photo courtesy of La Soupe.



La Soupe preps meals for their Nourish The 'Nati Program which is focused on portion-controlled, plant-forward, lean proteins, and whole grains and creates access to food options that encourage healthy eating and fights illness. Photo courtesy of La Soupe.



Goal

Increase quantity of jobs in food and agriculture sectors by 20% by 2028.

Strategy

Create pathways to growth and ownership for farmers and food entrepreneurs in city food and agriculture sectors.

In the Food Focus Area, the job discussion centered around training, employment, wages, and creating spaces designated for urban agriculture/gardening. The average age for U.S. farmers is 57.5 years old, highlighting the need for younger people to enter the food space from both the direct food production/growing side and the reuse/redistribution/value-added side. Making a living wage is key to farmer retention and a healthy livelihood. Moreover, farmers and food entrepreneurs need to understand how to best adapt to climate change across all aspects of food production if we are to ensure an everlasting food source.



The Price Hill Community Garden provides a space for local food production in the community, as well as an opportunity for entrepreneurs in the food and agricultural sector. Photo courtesy of Turner Farm Community Garden Program.



Rose Hill Farm in the neighborhood of Spring Grove Village is an example of a local farm providing jobs in the food and agriculture sector and fresh, locally grown food to area residents. Photo courtesy of Rose Hill Farm.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Grow employment opportunities & training for youth (e.g., food gleaning & redistribution in their neighborhoods, Climate Corps, AgriCorps, etc.)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop career pathways & higher education opportunities with links to create living-wage farmer & food sector jobs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Train farmers and gardeners to increase success, including adaptation to a changing climate	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Residents participate in Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation Garden Training. Programs like this one train gardeners to increase success. Photo courtesy of Civic Garden Center.



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

Mobility





FOCUS AREA

Mobility

Enabling accessible and sustainable transportation and mobility options.

Vision

Prioritize people by building sustainable, safe, and accessible mobility options that meet the needs of people who live, work, or visit Cincinnati.

A Word from Pete Metz, Mobility Focus Area Chair

Over the last decade, how we connect people across Cincinnati to jobs, education, health care, and all that our region has to offer has been one of the most important policy issues facing local leaders. We’ve made tremendous progress in that time—thanks in part to the guidance of the previous Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP)—but there is still so much work to do.

Partners in every corner of the community—local government and elected leaders, the business and civic community, and everyday Cincinnati-ans—have driven, and continue to drive, this work. And their efforts show:

- Massive new federal funding programs
- Passage of Issue 7 to expand public transit
- Rapidly growing CROWN bike trail network
- Groundswell of support for pedestrian safety initiatives.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



MOBILITY FOCUS AREA CHAIR
Pete Metz

ORGANIZATION
Director, The Connected Region
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber



Every Metro bus is equipped with a front-mounted bike rack. Passengers can combine transit and cycling to make the first and last mile of their commute easier. Photo courtesy of Metro.

With all this momentum, there is no better time to be doubling down on our work. Over the last year we've engaged transportation leaders and the community to shape the Mobility section of the updated GCP.



The Lick Run Greenway has walking and biking paths along a mile-long urban stream and pond. Photo courtesy of Tri-State Trails.

Across those conversations we heard a vision for making Cincinnati a place that prioritizes people by building sustainable, safe, and accessible mobility options that meet the needs of people who live, work, or visit Cincinnati.

Much of the work of building a transportation system to achieve this vision will happen outside of City Hall. This plan attests to the City's support for those initiatives and organizations, and challenges them to think boldly about the type of system we're building.

Leading this effort has affirmed for me how far we've come, and how far so many in our community are ready and willing to push us in the future. Their voices and their advocacy will be critical to the success of these Mobility goals, and I'm appreciative of their engagement in this process.

EQUITY LIAISON



My Equity Liaison experience was like a Tale of Two Cities. Trying to bring two worlds or cities together. Assisting those with no transportation to jobs and entertainment in an effort to bring people and services to those who need them.

EQUITY LIAISON

Derrick L. Feagin

ORGANIZATION

President, South Cumminsville
Community Council

NEIGHBORHOOD

South Cumminsville



Public Transit

Goal

Increase the number of passenger miles traveled using public transit 25% by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

SORTA passenger data

Strategy

Provide reliable public transportation options and an improved rider experience to connect residents to the places where they need to go.

Cincinnati will need its residents to transition away from single-passenger vehicles and shift to public transportation if the City is to achieve its carbon goals. This shift will only occur if residents view public transportation as a reliable and convenient alternative. Bus routes must connect people to the places that they need to go when they need to get there. Improving access to public transportation corridors, as well as the amenities public transportation offers, will drive increased ridership.



The Cincinnati Bell Connector Streetcar is one example of reliable public transportation for the Downtown and OTR neighborhoods, from The Banks to Findlay Market. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati DOTE.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Continue to design bus routes and bus stop shelters to ensure convenient and consistent service with reliable connections	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop regional bus rapid transit routes along key corridors	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Explore the use of HR incentives to encourage public transit use	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Create more neighborhood mobility networks and transit hubs where residents can connect by bike, walking, and bus	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Explore the expanded use of rail for regional transit	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



The Uptown Transit Center provides riders with a place to transfer from one route to another. Photo courtesy of Metro.



Zero-Emissions Vehicles

Goal

Increase the use of zero-emission vehicles in the City to 25% by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

SORTA fleet data, EV registrations (Drive Ohio), Red Bike

Strategy

Support the transition to zero-emission mobility options.

Zero-emissions mobility options will play an important role in helping the City achieve its carbon goals. To support that transition, the City must ensure that all who live, work, or visit have access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Providing access to infrastructure is especially important to residents in multi-family housing or who live in single family homes without driveways. In addition to private vehicles, it is important to support transportation providers and other businesses in their efforts to transition to zero-emissions mobility options.



The Northside Transit Center features electric vehicle chargers that are available to the public. Photo courtesy of Metro.



Public electric vehicle chargers are becoming more prevalent throughout Cincinnati such as this one at the Cincinnati Art Museum in Mt. Adams. Photo courtesy of Electrada.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Install public, streetside electric vehicle (EV) charging stations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop policies to ensure that vehicle charging infrastructure is available to all residents including those in multi-family buildings and in homes without driveways	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to support Metro in its efforts to invest in clean fuels buses (electric/hydrogen)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop policies and incentives to ensure new construction is prepared for EV charging	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Bicycling & Walking

Goal

Increase the number of residents within 0.25 mile of safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure 50% from 2022 levels by 2030.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Tri-State Trails

Strategy

Improve bike and pedestrian connectivity so that residents can safely access the places they need to go.

While the City has made substantial improvements to bike and pedestrian infrastructure over the past several years, significant work still needs to be done. Walking or biking between different neighborhoods remains unsafe in some parts of Cincinnati. The City should support public and private investments in trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks that create connectivity. Additionally, the City must ensure that people in all its neighborhoods have access to these resources. In doing so, Cincinnati can create a safe and accessible bike and pedestrian infrastructure that provides a viable alternative to driving.



The Red Bike Program provides a low-cost bike-share system to connect people to places. The program continues to expand to neighborhoods throughout Cincinnati. Photo Courtesy of Cincinnati Red Bike.



The bike lanes on Central Parkway separate cyclists from vehicles improving safety. Photo courtesy of Tri-state Trails.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Continue to invest in Complete Streets to improve connectivity between neighborhoods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to improve sidewalk connectivity and maintenance in neighborhoods where connectivity/walkability is lacking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Complete the CROWN bike network and connect it to neighborhoods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Expand access to Red Bike’s traditional and electric bikes to more neighborhoods and increase participation in the Red Bike Go Program	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to leverage Vision Zero to install bike lanes and traffic calming measures to reduce speeds and improve safety	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Connected Communities

Goal

Build a policy framework that supports the creation of connected communities.

Strategy

Modify land use regulations to support development along transit corridors.

Increasing housing density along transit corridors can expand public transportation use and reduce reliance on single-passenger vehicles. Single-family housing dominates many neighborhoods throughout the City. By modifying existing land-use regulations to allow for multi-family developments, the City can create vibrant residential and business areas. This approach makes it easier to design public transportation routes that encourage ridership by connecting people with the places where they need to go.



The HaNoBe in College Hill is an example of new multi-family housing along a transit corridor. Photo courtesy of College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Promote “15 Minute Neighborhoods” with mixed residential (including multi-family) and commercial zoning to increase transit connectivity as well as density and affordability	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Embrace zoning reform that increases density near transit, reduces or eliminates parking requirements across the City, and minimizes the use of surface parking lots	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

Natural Environment





FOCUS AREA

Natural Environment

Enhancing ecosystems and green infrastructure to improve health and well being.

Vision

Cincinnati will invest in the creation, preservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and green infrastructure through policy and resource allocation to improve and protect the health and well-being of our diverse residents and the natural environment. We will inspire people, government, and business to value the natural environment to drive transformation.

A Word from Dave Schmitt, Natural Environment Focus Area Chair

I was deeply honored to be asked to Chair the Natural Environment Subcommittee for the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP). I also want to recognize the immense contributions of my partners, Amanda Testerman of the Office of Environment and Sustainability, and Margaux Roberts, our Equity Committee liaison. The work of our subcommittee truly would not have been possible without them.



A team member with Cincinnati Parks prepares a tree for planting in Mt. Echo Park. Increasing the urban tree canopy is an important goal for Cincinnati Parks. Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Parks.

I also chaired this subcommittee for the 2018 GCP, and feel gratified by the amount of progress we've made over the last five years. However, with the growing impact of climate change—and the growing recognition of past inequities—we've got more work to do...and we will do it. Our

Mayor, Council, and city administration are united in their passion and energy to work, along with many willing partners, to make real and enduring progress.

Our subcommittee focused on all of the natural resources that make up Cincinnati's environment and the challenges they face: water quality, over-land flooding, greenspace access, tree canopy coverage, and air quality.

Through three public meetings we gathered knowledge and suggestions (in-person and online) from residents, organizations, local experts, and companies across Cincinnati. Both the GCP and our committee benefited from the tremendous interest shown by the public. There is simply no substitute for the lived experience of our residents and their knowledge of threats and opportunities.



The Mill Creek Alliance hosts paddling and fishing trips on the Mill Creek to engage the public in the resurgence of the watershed as a natural and community asset. Photo courtesy of Mill Creek Alliance.

Using this valuable input, our subcommittee developed aggressive Goals, Strategies, and Actions to protect and improve the health of our environment and residents. In particular, we focused on providing benefits to our priority communities which have suffered disproportionately in the past.

I work every day on the Mill Creek, which 25 years ago was declared “the most endangered urban stream in North America.” National experts said it would be impossible to restore it. Today, the stream is roaring back to life and is home to bald eagles, ospreys, game fish, beaver, and many others. We host hundreds of people every year on paddling, pedaling, and fishing trips along its shores. Because of this, I know firsthand that we CAN do this. We can restore and protect our natural environment and make its many benefits available to ALL of our residents. I look forward to working with you over the next five years to achieve—and surpass—these goals.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
FOCUS AREA CHAIR**

Dave Schmitt

ORGANIZATION
Executive Director
Mill Creek Alliance

EQUITY LIAISON



Most importantly, that the voice of the people isn't lost in the political interests but true equity is the overall goal to create communities that thrive.

EQUITY LIAISON
Margaux Roberts

ORGANIZATION
Climate Safe Neighborhood
Community Organizer,
Groundwork Ohio River Valley

NEIGHBORHOOD
Bond Hill



Tree Canopy

Goal

Maintain 40% urban tree canopy while expanding canopy to 40% residential, 25% mixed-use/industrial, and 10% Central Business District.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2020

DATA SOURCE(S)

Tree Canopy Assessment and Cincinnati Parks Urban Tree Canopy Dashboard

Strategy

Improve preservation, health, and maintenance of trees in existing urban canopy.

In 2020 the Cincinnati Park Board sponsored a study of urban tree canopy. The study showed the overall urban tree canopy of the City was 40%, but it also highlighted the inequity of urban tree canopy between neighborhoods. Areas with lower tree canopy experience increased heat island effect, have reduced stormwater retention, and increased areas of overland flooding. In addition to maintaining the existing tree canopy, the City must continue efforts to plant trees in neighborhoods with low tree canopy to reduce the heat island effect, increase native species, and offset carbon emissions.



Planting native tree species, like the Serviceberry, is important for supporting the health of native pollinators and animal species.

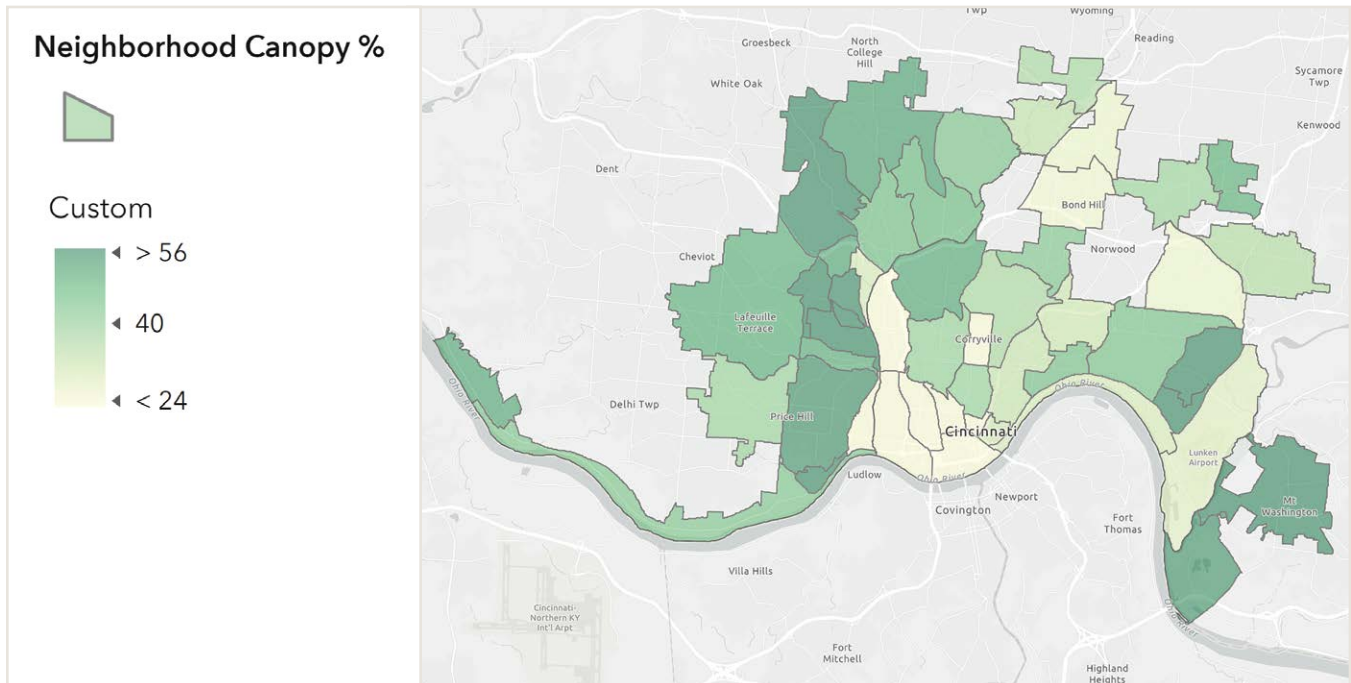


Students with Hayes Porter Elementary help plant new trees in the West End. Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Parks.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Focus city tree planting in neighborhoods with highest heat island effect as measured in the Climate Equity Indicators Report or most recent data	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Provide incentives and support for the use of carbon crediting and/or carbon offset program to fund tree planting, maintenance, land conservation, and forest rehabilitation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Plant more native tree species through education with non-profits, nurseries, and schools	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implement policies that protect existing trees during development efforts	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment





Air Quality

Goal

Improve air quality so that Air Quality Index “Healthy Days” are increased by 30% by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

5-year average 2018-2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

US EPA Air Quality Index Report



Natural corridors, like the trees and greenspace along the Ohio River, can reduce air pollution from between the source and nearby communities.

Strategy

Increase air quality studies and education and reduce pollution from air emissions.

Many Cincinnati residents experience poor outdoor air quality which contributes to adverse health conditions, including asthma and lung disease. In 2022, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered 181 days with “moderate,” “unhealthy for sensitive groups,” or “unhealthy” air quality index ratings in Cincinnati. Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 contribute significantly to these low ratings. Other factors include vehicle emissions and industrial emissions. High air temperatures and ultraviolet radiation further exacerbate poor air quality. The City can improve air quality for residents by:

- Reducing the emissions generated within the City from buildings and gas-powered equipment
- Increasing the tree canopies and natural corridors surrounding neighborhoods.

We need more data and further studies to fully quantify the extent of poor air quality in Cincinnati’s neighborhoods. To improve the health of residents, the City must engage and educate residents to understand and reduce sources of poor air quality.

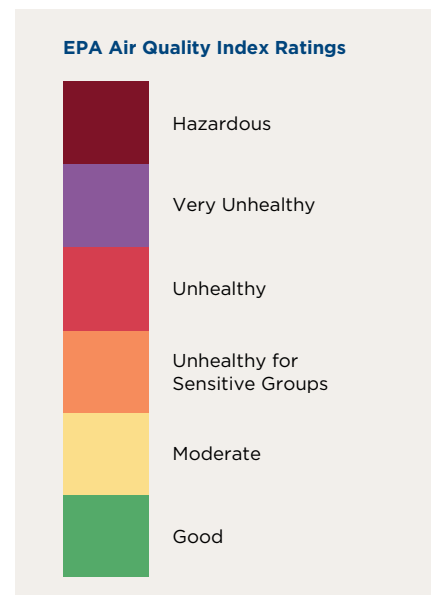
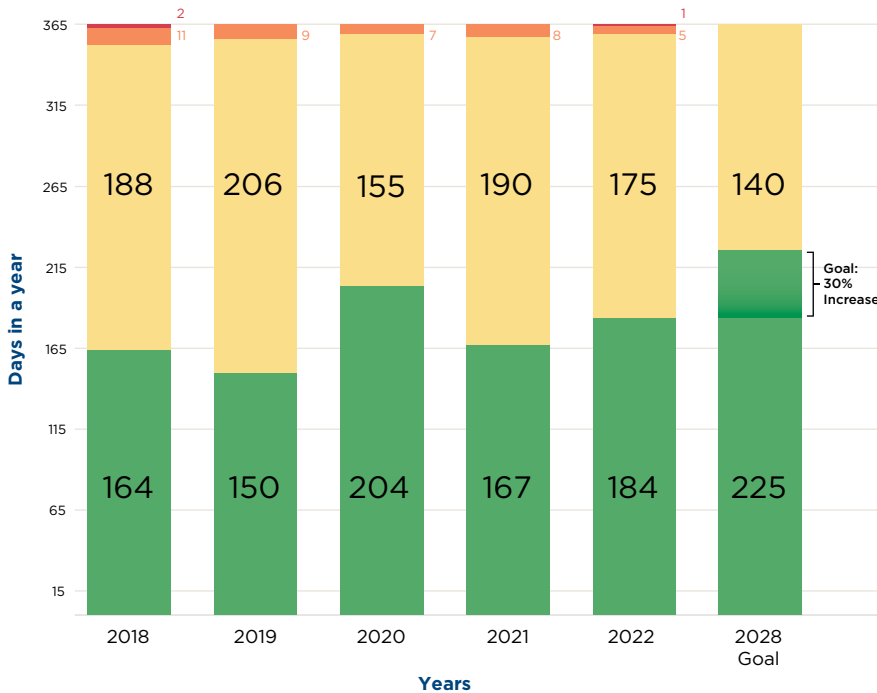
Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Expand monitoring of air quality and nuisance odors, incorporating citizen science in priority neighborhoods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Provide services, resources, and education for residents in priority neighborhoods on air quality alert systems, sources of poor air quality, and air quality regulations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support and fund the development of natural corridors and tree barriers along streams and rivers, interstates and highways	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Strengthen air emissions regulations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

See Mobility and Buildings & Energy Focus Areas for actions supporting the transition to clean technologies like electric vehicles and buildings, and renewable energy.

Air Quality Index Days Per Year in Cincinnati





Green Space

Goal

Increase access to greenspaces so that every resident has a greenspace within a .5 mile walk by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Trust for Public Land ParkScore Index

Strategy 1

Increase the quantity and quality of greenspaces in neighborhoods with low distribution of greenspaces.

Greenspaces in Cincinnati take various forms, including parks, outdoor recreation areas such as ball fields and playgrounds, and natural areas like forests and preserves. In 2022 the Trust for Public Land (TPL) ranked Cincinnati #4 in the nation on its ParkScore Index. The TPL determined the ranking by analyzing the City’s park systems for acreage, access, investment, amenities, and equity. While this ranking is encouraging, it also highlights the need to center equity in greenspace investment. Cincinnati can do this by:

- Providing access to greenspaces
- Increasing distribution in areas with low greenspaces
- Engaging youth and Black, indigenous, and people-of-color (BIPOC) communities in these spaces.

Greenspace access

Percentage of Cincinnati residents living within a 10-min walk of a park/greenspace.



Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Create new greenspaces, including use of vacant properties and underused parking lots, ensuring that space will not be redeveloped	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to improve infrastructure to increase walkability and access to greenspaces	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Grow greenspace workforce through youth and BIPOC involvement in natural area restoration and education	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Increase funding for maintenance of greenspaces	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implement policies which promote and protect public greenspaces in new developments	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Volunteers with Cincinnati Parks help to remove invasive honeysuckle and maintain parks and greenspaces. Photo courtesy of Cincinnati Parks



The Groundwork Youth Employment Green Team helps maintain the Rockdale Urban Learning Garden in Avondale. This urban garden was established through the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens in partnership with local organizations and includes vegetables, fruiting trees, herbs, flowers, and native plants to attract pollinators. Photo courtesy of MadTree Brewing.



Green Space



Restoring and maintaining watersheds, like the Mill Creek and Little Miami, are important to improving water quality and biodiversity in the region.



Green roofs, like this one at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, are examples of green infrastructure which can mitigate the effects of stormwater and help keep contaminants out of waterways.

Strategy 2

Increase preservation and restoration of aquatic ecosystems & urban forests.

In addition to its highly developed and industrial areas, Cincinnati also boasts a variety of natural ecosystems, including the Ohio River; the Mill Creek and Little Miami watersheds; urban forests such as Mt. Airy, Burnet Woods, California Nature Preserve; and unnamed forested areas. These ecosystems provide multiple benefits like stormwater retention, reduced heat island effect, and public enjoyment. However, development, invasive plant and animal species, and pollution from combined sewer overflows and contaminated stormwater runoff threaten the health of these vital ecosystems. These threats are expected to increase in the coming years due to the impacts of climate change. The City must take action to prioritize and support the preservation of these ecosystems through policy, green infrastructure, and restoration.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Remove invasive species and restore, maintain, and preserve forests, wetlands, riparian areas, and natural corridors along waterways, hillsides, and low-canopy neighborhoods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Implement policies that restrict development in forested and/or biodiverse areas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Increase use of green infrastructure to mitigate the effects of stormwater, sewer overflows, overland flooding, and contaminated stormwater in waterways	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Green Space



Eden Park is a greenspace which provides a variety of ecosystems, including pollinator-friendly perennials, forests, and open lawn for recreation.



Utilizing native pollinators and low/mow or no/mow techniques in place of grass along roadways or parking areas can support native species and reduces the pollution created through lawn maintenance.

Strategy 3

Increase biodiversity and health of native species in the City.

Hamilton County is home to five federally endangered plant and animal species and to more than 30 State-of-Ohio endangered species. But, we don't have enough data to know which species can be found—or can live—in Cincinnati. Therefore, the City must support the completion of a biodiversity assessment to understand the health of city ecosystems and prioritize conservation of vulnerable ecosystems. Engaging the public in native habitat building on private land can also support the health of plant, animal, and insect species throughout the City.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Complete Biodiversity Assessment for Cincinnati, incorporating citizen science	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support pollinator gardens, native plants, and education, including allowing the use of native grasses and pollinator plants in residential areas, and Low-Mow or No-Mow practices	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use/over-use through education, regulation, and innovation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Photo Courtesy of MSD



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

Resilience & Climate Adaptation





FOCUS AREA

Resilience & Climate Adaptation

Anticipating, preparing, and responding to the challenges of changing conditions.

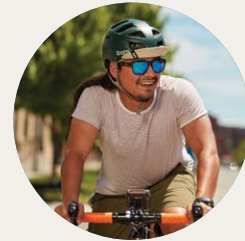
Vision

We are a city that will take bold action to heal past environmental, racial, and economic injustices, and that will continue to adapt, innovate, and respond to vulnerabilities to create a climate-ready, resilient, and socially cohesive community.

A Word from Tanner Yess, Resilience & Climate Adaptation Focus Area Chair

What is resilience? You can see it in the untapped potential of our young people; mothers who take multiple buses to buy groceries; residents that fight stormwater with guerrilla green infrastructure; and the urgency to build trust and partner with our frontline neighborhoods. This subcommittee started at the center, with equity, and with those most at risk from a changing climate—our low-income and/or communities of color. We are looking forward with ideas that could correct yesterday’s environmental and social injustices. We are making ourselves ready to adapt to a changing climate by bolstering our collective resilience. In the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP), we have made Resilience a dedicated pillar as well as a distinct Focus Area.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



RESILIENCE & CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOCUS AREA CHAIR

Tanner Yess

ORGANIZATION

Co-Executive Director
Groundwork Ohio River Valley



Stakeholders provide recommendations for Resilience and Climate Adaptation at the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan kick-off meeting. Photo courtesy of OES staff.

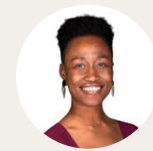
Climate Safe Neighborhoods, a program of Groundwork Ohio River Valley in partnership with Green Umbrella and the Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES), has been our North Star for outreach and engagement. Paid equity liaisons have ensured that our process reached those traditionally left out by the sustainability movement. Youth voices have been heard, languages translated, and hard topics discussed. Over seventy people provided input for the Resilience Subcommittee, and partner organizations worked with city government to distill feedback.



Cincinnati stakeholders prioritize actions and strategies at the Resilience and Climate Adaptation Focus Area Subcommittee meeting. Photo courtesy of OES staff.

Climate change is amplifying our ancestors' mistakes by doubling down on issues of infrastructure, public health, access to nature, and other problems perpetuated by racist and classist systems. Though ominous, we see opportunity—a chance to be proactive, prepare for the unexpected, and put resources into righting historical wrongs through green jobs, policy, and the equitable distribution of funding. This is the task we have chosen, and have been chosen for. Join us.

EQUITY LIAISON



I want these neighborhoods to truly become sponges, become teaching laboratories for community members.

EQUITY LIAISON

Tyeisha A. Cole

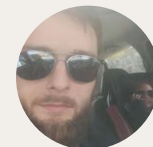
ORGANIZATION

Climate Action Coordinator
Green Umbrella

NEIGHBORHOOD

Millvale & West Price Hill

EQUITY LIAISON



I hope resiliency centers can come to fruition. Or we can add more funding to community/recreation centers.

EQUITY LIAISON

Phillip Marshall

NEIGHBORHOOD

South Cumminsville



Stormwater & Heat Adaptation

Goal

Complete 25 green infrastructure projects by 2028 in extreme heat and overland flood vulnerable communities.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

US EPA Office of Community Revitalization, US EPA Green Infrastructure Program, US EPA Smart Growth Program, US EPA Urban Heat Island Reduction Program, US EPA Environmental Justice Screening Tool; Climate and Economic Justice Screen; Climate Safe Neighborhoods; Climate Equity Indicators Report; Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; MSDGC Environmental Sustainability Report; Living With Landslides



The Lick Run Greenway, completed in 2021 by Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District, is an example of a large-scale green infrastructure project that reduces combined sewer overflows. Photo courtesy of MSD.

Strategy

Reduce extreme heat, overland flooding, landslides, and water-pollution vulnerabilities by incentivizing, improving, and increasing green infrastructure and other mitigating methods.

To be resilient against extreme heat, overland flooding, sewer backups/overflows, landslides, and water pollution, the City must increase green infrastructure.

“Green infrastructure” means using natural features or planned ecological systems to manage water by mimicking the natural water cycle. Examples of green infrastructure include:

- Green roofs
- Bioswales
- Green medians
- Wetlands
- Parks
- Permeable pavements
- Landscape gardens.

Green infrastructure not only manages storm water exceptionally well, but it is also excellent at mitigating extreme heat. Other methods to tackle extreme heat include, for example, equitable access to air conditioning and the use of heat reflective surfaces.

In contrast to green infrastructure, the urban built environment includes all the physical elements of the places people work and live, such as roads, buildings, houses, bridges, parks, open spaces, and infrastructure (sewer systems, water and power lines, etc.). This built environment sometimes removes or tries to control

many natural features, leading to unintended consequences for both people and the urban environment.

For example, hardscapes are large areas with impervious surfaces and gray infrastructure refers to the channelization of natural streams and runoff areas. Hardscapes and gray infrastructure with aging or limited capacity have amplified the effects of extreme storms. The excess water that runs off of hardscapes and gray infrastructure during heavy storms creates overland flooding, sewer backups, and sewer overflows.

These unmitigated storm water events pollute our recreational and potable water supplies, and they

have had a direct effect on hillside instability, resulting in more frequent landslides. Large areas with reduced vegetation have also exacerbated extreme heat, creating what is referred to as “the heat island effect.”

The City must recognize and adapt to these climate vulnerabilities now, especially because these vulnerabilities predominantly occur in sensitive land use areas and priority communities. Green infrastructure at multiple scales presents a resilient set of cross-cutting solutions that both promote the natural environment and allow for positive economic and social changes within the existing built environment.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Incentivize green infrastructure projects in communities with extreme heat and flood vulnerabilities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Equitably restructure sewer rates based on permeable land surface and other contributing factors	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Create a “sponge city” with more and diverse green infrastructure in public and residential places including green roofs, bioswales, green medians, wetlands, parks, permeable pavements, and landscape gardens	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Continue to decrease sewer backups, sewer overflows, and overland flooding (flash flooding) by supporting sewer infrastructure improvements in priority communities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Partner with communities to identify opportunities to address property damage caused by overland flooding and hillside instability	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ensure all rental housing has at least one room with adequate air conditioning	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Use heat reflective materials when appropriate (roads, parking surfaces, roofs, etc.)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

See Natural Environment Focus Areas for more green infrastructure actions

Community Planning & Social Cohesion

Goal

Complete five climate adaptation and resilience projects per year by 2028 that create 10 green jobs per project.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

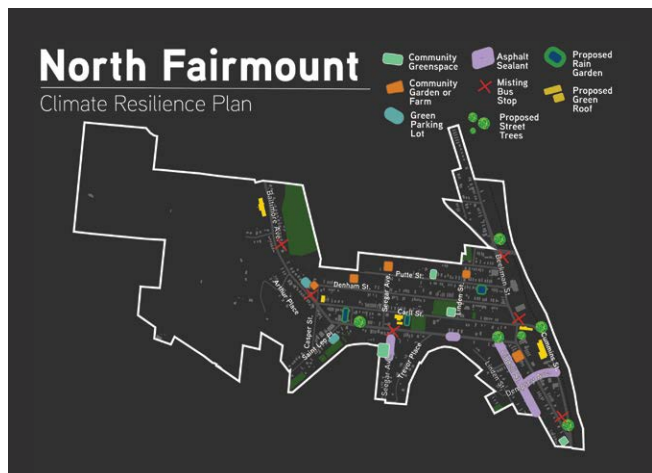
DATA SOURCE(S)

US EPA Office of Community Revitalization, US EPA Climate Change Adaptation Program, US EPA Environmental Justice Screening Tool; Climate and Economic Justice Screen; Climate Safe Neighborhoods; Climate Equity Indicators Report; Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; USDN Resilience Hubs Project; Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration

Strategy 1

Increase access, stability, and security of mixed-income housing and resilience hubs for local residents and anticipated climate migrants.

Social cohesion is the ability for community members to cooperate to achieve shared well-being. Strong social cohesion is one of the most important factors in successfully responding to climate change impacts. Yet, climate change can threaten social cohesion. Affordable housing—a cornerstone of social cohesion—is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Ensuring the accessibility, stability, and security of affordable housing must be considered in resilient community planning. Reducing poverty and increasing economic mobility can ease the burden climate change places on social cohesion. For these reasons, the need to increase affordable housing underpins much of the socially resilient movement.



The resilience maps developed through the Climate Safe Neighborhoods project, like this one for North Fairmount, are examples of community planning and social cohesion. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley.



Neighborhood children gather at the Millvale Recreation Center. Recreation Centers are places of community connection and present an opportunity for resilience hub development. Photo courtesy of Liz Dufour/Cincinnati Enquirer.

Resilience hubs promote social cohesion, public health, equity, and they can help save lives. Through community planning, these hubs can provide the necessary resources for communities to withstand climate challenges. Resilience hubs come in many forms:

- Community institutions enhanced to increase adaptive capacity
- Multi-faceted support centers for residents
- Educational spaces for emergency preparedness
- Place for coordinated resource distribution and other services in response to climate challenges.

The City and its neighborhoods can take advantage of existing institutions to create the necessary resilience hubs.

In addition to serving residents, Cincinnati must prepare for a possible influx of climate migrants. “Climate migrants” are people who leave their homes because of climate shocks and stressors. People in the most vulnerable situations (those who live in rural, tropical, or drought-stricken areas) will probably migrate first; however, no one can predict the exact origin, number, timing, or scale of climate migrants. Although Cincinnati has its own climate vulnerabilities, it will likely emerge as a climate haven. The City will need tools to adapt to the anticipated population increase.

Priority Actions

Continue to implement affordable and mixed-income housing strategies to stabilize communities

Develop neighborhood resilience hubs to foster community connection and increase emergency preparedness

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Continue to implement affordable and mixed-income housing strategies to stabilize communities	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop neighborhood resilience hubs to foster community connection and increase emergency preparedness	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Community Planning & Social Cohesion



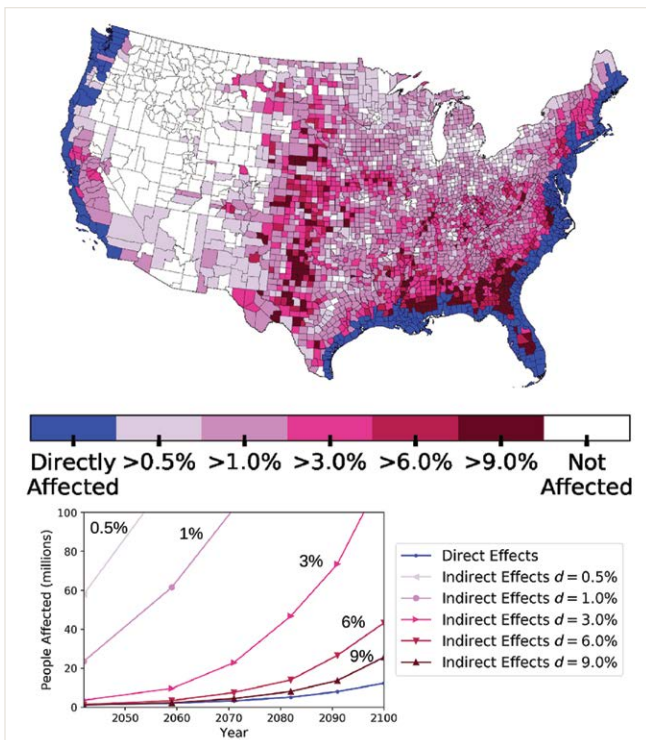
The Green team works on removing invasive species from the green roof at City Hall. Community-based programs like this provide green youth workforce training. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley and Cincinnati Parks.

Strategy 2

Use more community-based assessments, planning, programs, and training to reduce the social impacts of climate vulnerabilities.

Climate vulnerability describes the extent to which social systems are susceptible to climate change impacts. Priority communities, both within the City and across the country, have an increased sensitivity to climate change and a higher risk of impact. They are likely to have fewer resources to adapt and recover from climate events, but when informed and equipped, these residents can serve as a powerful force for change. The City needs to ensure that residents—both current and future—understand and are prepared for the social effects of climate change. Social impacts may include:

- Health effects and exposure to pollution
- Lack of fresh food access
- Limited availability and connectivity to jobs, education, entertainment, and recreation
- Migration and displacement of households
- Loss of community identity.



Prediction of climate migration within the United States from coastal displacement by 2100 due to sea level rise. Photo courtesy of PLOS One.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Fund and expand the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Program to cultivate the social infrastructure for resilient communities and provide green workforce training	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop a climate migration response plan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Pollution Reduction & Adaptive Land Use

Goal

Revitalize 25 contaminated, industrial properties in neighborhoods of the Lower Mill Creek Valley by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

US EPA Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program; Ohio EPA Brownfield Program; US EPA Environmental Justice Screening Tool; Climate and Economic Justice Screen; Climate Safe Neighborhoods; Climate Equity Indicators Report; Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; MSDGC Environmental Sustainability Report; Living With Landslides; Cincinnati Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan; The Lower Price Hill Resurgency Plan; Revive Cincinnati: Neighborhoods of the Lower Mill Creek Valley; Made in Camp; Cincinnati Strategic Plan; Community Improvements Study Spring Grove Avenue Corridor; Project Cool It; A Naturally Industrious Revitalization Guide: The Beekman Street & Queen City Avenue Strategic Development Guidebook

Strategy 1

Mitigate pollution and clean up additional legacy brownfield sites to revitalize neighborhoods and result in healthier communities.

Known pollutants as well as emerging pollutants of concern need to be reduced in the environment before our air, water, and land become prohibitively contaminated. Emerging pollutants are those chemicals that have been detected in environmental monitoring that may cause unexpected ecological or health impacts and typically are not regulated under current environmental laws. Significant emerging pollutants of concern include pharmaceuticals and personal care products as well as microplastics.

Due to previous industrial development patterns in Cincinnati, the City is home to numerous vacant and underutilized properties. These properties, referred to as “brownfields,” tend to be contaminated. The challenges of brownfields include:



The historic Crosley building is an example of a brownfield site in Camp Washington. Clean-up of brownfield sites can revitalize neighborhoods and build healthier communities. Photo courtesy of Maddy Schmidt/WCPO.

- Presence of asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint
- Lack of safety and increased vandalism
- Proximity to residential areas, parks, playgrounds, and flood zones
- Loss of tax revenue for the City.

The City has estimated that up to 500 potential brownfield properties may exist within priority communities of the Lower Mill Creek Valley alone.

Brownfield revitalization outcomes aligned with priority community needs and city planning can include stable, secure, and affordable living environments; energy-efficient, sustainable buildings that use renewable energy sources; economic investment; and job creation.

Benefits of brownfield revitalization for priority communities can include:

- Community pride and neighborhood anchors to strengthen place-making
- Increased economic value
- Better connectivity to fresh food, jobs, training, recreation, and green infrastructure
- Increased workforce capacity
- Creation of resilience hubs
- Climate adaptation to heat and flood vulnerabilities
- Healthier communities with reduced exposure to pollution.

Priority Actions

Conduct inventories, assessments, and clean-ups of contaminated industrial sites, referred to as brownfields, in alignment with both community revitalization priorities and city-planned reuse

Address emerging pollutants, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products, that are endocrine-disrupting chemicals and microplastics

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Conduct inventories, assessments, and clean-ups of contaminated industrial sites, referred to as brownfields, in alignment with both community revitalization priorities and city-planned reuse	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Address emerging pollutants, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products, that are endocrine-disrupting chemicals and microplastics	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Pollution Reduction & Adaptive Land Use



A resident of the East End experiences extreme flooding from the Ohio River on February 24, 2018. Flood zones are sensitive land use areas which require protection and adaptive land use. Photo courtesy of Liz Dufour/Cincinnati Enquirer.



Severe storms in 2016 resulted in landslides on Columbia Parkway. Hillsides are one type of sensitive land-use areas in Cincinnati. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati.

Strategy 2

Increase protection of vulnerable lands and infrastructure through policy development.

Urbanization has transformed land use in cities, and the degree of this transformation can impact how vulnerable communities and infrastructure are to climate change. Land use sensitivity is the main measurement of this vulnerability. Highly concentrated urban areas (e.g., heat islands and stormwater-impermeable hard-scapes), flood zones, and hillsides are examples of sensitive land use areas in Cincinnati.

Core infrastructure—including energy, water, transportation, and healthcare systems—is especially vulnerable to climate change in these sensitive land use areas due to the socio-economic impacts that an outage would have. This is particularly true in priority communities because residents need these services to survive.

For communities to be resilient to climate change, the City needs to develop policies, such as Low Impact Development, that protect vulnerable land use and core infrastructure without creating unsustainable consequences.

Priority Actions

Protect landslide-prone hillsides and overland flood risk zones through land development policies such as Low Impact Development

GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Green Cincinnati Plan
2023

FOCUS AREA

Zero Waste





FOCUS AREA

Zero Waste

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

Vision

Cincinnati will achieve 50% diversion city-wide by 2030, and city-wide zero waste (90% diversion) by 2040 through conservation of resources by responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of materials without threat to human health and the environment.

A Word from Michelle Balz, Zero Waste Focus Area Chair

The Zero Waste section focuses on materials we touch every day—your aluminum can, paper coffee cup, plastic water bottle, and even the leaves in your backyard. By reducing, reusing, and recycling these ordinary materials, we conserve the resources used to create and transport the products to us. These materials can become feedstock for regional industry or a valuable amendment to replenish depleted soils.



A typical curbside set-out in Cincinnati includes recycling carts, trash carts, and containers or bags for yard waste. Photo courtesy of OES.

Cincinnati residents currently divert 20% of our “waste” from the landfill. Recycling these materials into new products reduces greenhouse gases and conserves resources. It’s equivalent to removing 7,400 cars from the road per year and safeguarding 102,980 trees and 1,200 tons of

limestone, iron ore, and coal. Although current recycling and composting efforts have a major environmental impact, Cincinnati has the potential to double or even triple that impact with improved programs and participation.

Hundreds of Cincinnati residents provided input to create the goals and action steps outlined in this section. After multiple community input sessions as well as virtual engagement, the Zero Waste team narrowed down the focus and goals to those that would have the most impact in reducing climate change and improving equity and inclusion for all Cincinnati residents.

I am most excited about the potential to improve recycling accessibility for Cincinnati residents living in multi-family housing. This plan sets the impressive goal of increasing recycling by 50% among multi-family dwellings, public events, and emerging waste streams.



Organics, including food waste, can be used in neighborhood composting and are an important way to reduce waste going to the landfill, and building healthy soil. Photo courtesy of The Common Orchard Project.

The Zero Waste goals for Cincinnati align with the Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update 2024-2038 strategies of increasing outreach for residential recycling, expanding yard and food waste composting, and improving infrastructure for multi-family access.

This section presents ambitious goals and actions to reduce materials going to the landfill and use those resources to decrease our carbon footprint. However, achieving these goals will require all Cincinnati residents and businesses to engage and take action. We hope you will help us make the vision of a Zero Waste Cincinnati a reality.

FOCUS AREA CHAIR



**ZERO WASTE
FOCUS AREA CHAIR**

Michelle Balz

ORGANIZATION

Solid Waste Manager
Hamilton County R3Source

EQUITY LIAISON



My time with the GCP has been a unique and eye-opening experience. I have been allowed to peek into the machinations of administrative planning and I can assure you that we are in good hands.

EQUITY LIAISON

Darryl Franklin

NEIGHBORHOOD

North Fairmount



Recycling

Goal

Increase waste diversion
10% by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2023

DATA SOURCE(S)

Hamilton County Solid Waste District

Strategy 1

Increase access to recycling for
multi-family building residents.

Cincinnati has the oldest curbside recycling program in Ohio, established in 1989. Single family homes have fewer barriers to recycling, so the City has focused much of its efforts there. However, over 50% of Cincinnati residents live in multi-family dwellings. These individuals, typically in priority communities, do not have the same easy access to recycling. Instead, they need to own a car and transport recyclables to a drop-off location. The effort, time, and resources necessary to do this creates a significant barrier for most people. Furthermore, illegal dumping threatens the existence of these drop-offs. In this pilot we propose placing recycling dumpsters directly on site at multi-family residences—so residents have easy access—and piloting a valet and education service to help property managers control for contamination.



An example of a recycling container which could be utilized by multi-family building residents. Photo courtesy of City of Cincinnati.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Increase the number of multi-family dwellings with recycling infrastructure	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Minimize recycling contamination through culturally appropriate education, partnerships, workforce champions, and resident feedback	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Recycling



Community members participate in recycling at Avondale Day. Increasing participation at public events can help create positive recycling habits and improve the recycling culture. Photo courtesy of OES.

Strategy 2

Improve public event and neighborhood business district recycling infrastructure.

To create recycling habits, we need to provide easy access to recycling at home, work, and play via environmental design. A best practice is to provide paired recycling and garbage receptacles, clear simple signage as well as monitoring and collection. Recycling at public events—such as Taste of Cincinnati, Reds Opening Day, Blink, or watching the World Cup in the DORA District—signals to our residents and visitors that Cincinnati embodies a culture of sustainability. Workforce development is also essential so that event producers can hire skilled professionals to do this work.



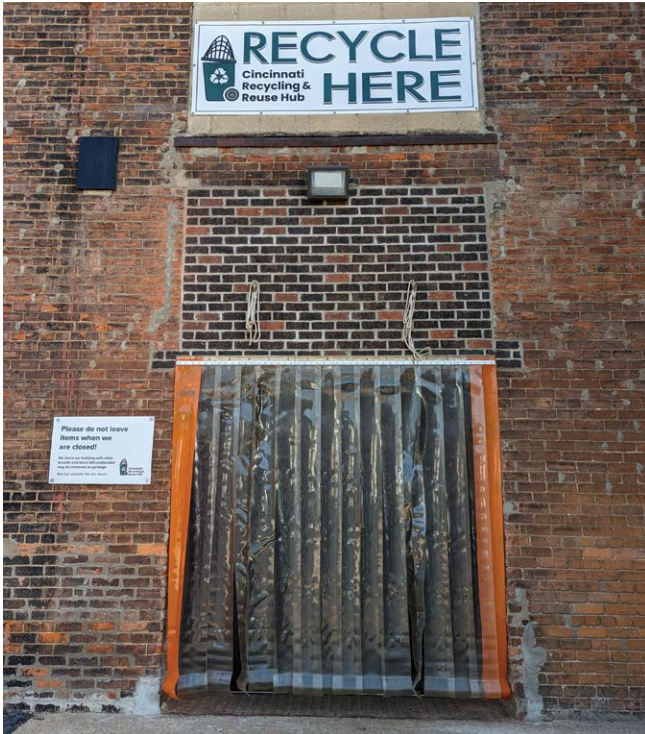
Some neighborhoods have paired recycling cans and garbage cans, like this one in Downtown. Increasing the availability of recycling containers in Neighborhood Business Districts supports landfill diversion and make it simple for people to easily dispose of their waste in the appropriate place. Photo courtesy of OES.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Require permitted public events and events held on city property to use best available recycling practices and include recycling service costs in the permit fee	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Provide alternatives to single-use plastic items at permitted public events and events held on city property	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pair garbage cans with recycling containers in all Neighborhood Business Districts and DORA districts and provide necessary services, including collection and monitoring	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Recycling



Alternative recycling and reuse outlets, like the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub, provide options by offering a one-stop drop-off for hard-to-recycle items and diverting them from the landfill. Photo courtesy of CRRH.



The Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub collects items traditionally difficult to recycle from businesses and residents. Connecting these materials to commercial recyclers creates new products. Photo courtesy of CRRH.

Strategy 3

Increase use of alternative recycling and reuse outlets for residential metals, textiles, e-waste, and other emerging recyclable waste streams.

Despite keeping waste out of the landfill, recycling does require the input of resources and energy. In contrast, waste reduction, reuse, and repair all conserve energy and save natural resources, making them, in many ways, better options than recycling in the waste hierarchy. Reusable take-out containers are preferable to single-use containers even if they do require washing. Similarly, donating or selling household items and furniture extends the “life” of these items, keeping them out of the landfill. Unfortunately, it’s usually easier and cheaper to buy new, rather than fix or find something a new home. This strategy aims to level the playing field so it’s just as easy to reuse as it is to replace.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Support and expand neighborhood pick-up locations that connect commercial recyclers to dropped-off recyclable materials, like the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Create a program that incentivizes commercial recyclers to collect household e-waste, textiles, and reusable items not otherwise collected curbside	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Incentivize recycling and diversion innovation by increasing the cost of waste generation and disposal	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

Recycling



Recycling Ambassadors engage with residents during educational campaigns to build knowledge for residents and capacity of the recycling and reuse workforce. Photo courtesy of Butch Gibson.

Strategy 4

Build capacity of the recycling and reuse workforce.

In addition to improving the recycling infrastructure at public events, the City must also build the appropriate workforce capacity. Currently, property managers and event producers are unable to hire skilled services, stalling any progress made in public-event recycling. We have also learned that we can increase the capacity of residents in priority communities to embrace recycling if we combine it with an employment opportunity. By training and employing residents in priority communities to provide these services, the City can both provide jobs and expand the reach of residential recycling.

Priority Actions

Create “Recycling Valets”: workforce and small business development to provide recycling collection, monitoring, and education to multi-family dwellings, special events, and business districts with an emphasis on employing residents from priority neighborhoods

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Create “Recycling Valets”: workforce and small business development to provide recycling collection, monitoring, and education to multi-family dwellings, special events, and business districts with an emphasis on employing residents from priority neighborhoods	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Organics

Goal

Sustainably divert 50% of organics (including yard trimmings and food waste) from the landfill by 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2018

DATA SOURCE(S)

Hamilton County Waste Characterization Study 2018



Allowing mown leaves or grass clippings to remain on the lawn is good for soil health and reduces the need to have separate collection.

Strategy 1

Improve current yard-trimmings collection program and use of biochar.

The City's yard trimmings program—designed to divert organics from the landfill—has sputtered over the years due to budget cuts. Therefore, compliance with the source-separated yard trimmings program has declined, and landfill diversion has stalled. Education and outreach will help the City get this vital program back on track. Additionally, we need to ensure each household has the appropriate carts for recycling, yard trimmings, and garbage. Lastly, the City will explore using biochar—a charcoal-like substance created from the burning of wood and similar biomass—as a kind of mulch and fertilizer for trees and gardens.



Biochar is a charcoal-like substance created from the burning of wood or similar biomass and can be used as a mulch or fertilizer for trees and gardens. It is a promising option for diverting organic materials from the landfill. Photo courtesy of Sam Dunlap.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Conduct education and outreach on residential mulching (Just Mow It) to reduce grass clippings and source-separated yard trimmings for collection and composting	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support the development of local biochar processing, and the use of activated biochar for farming, tree plantings, storm water retention, etc.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Organics



Homeadow Song Farm in Spring Grove Village utilizes small scale composting to recycle their organic material, minimizing transportation costs and helping to create quality soil amendments for backyard gardens. Photo courtesy of Homeadow Farm.



The Civic Garden Center hosts a Master Composting Class, teaching the ins and outs of composting and going beyond the basics. Photo courtesy of Civic Garden Center.

Strategy 2

Improve multi-scale composting infrastructure.

Composting is the process of recycling organic material—such as vegetative food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings—into soil amendment for plants and soil. One of the biggest challenges the City faces in implementing a large-scale composting operation is the high cost of transportation. To process organic material efficiently, the city’s composting infrastructure needs to have several tiers:

Tier 1

The best way to minimize transportation cost is to incentivize and encourage home composting of food waste and yard trimmings.

Tier 2

Transporting compostable organics to small-scale urban agriculture operations that grow food helps farmers and communities and lowers costs for the City.

Tier 3

This tier consists of large-scale, industrial Class II composting for organics that do not readily degrade in the first two tiers. In addition to food waste and yard trimmings, the Class II facility can process food waste and compostable paper and take-out containers not acceptable in the other tiers.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Pilot and support small-scale community composting under 500 square feet	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ensure all organic material collected, including yard trimmings and food waste, is composted in a sustainable manner	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support funding, siting, and development of a regional, large-scale Class II compost facility	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Organics



Diversion of organic materials like food waste can be completed through vegetative food waste drop off sites, like this one hosted by the Common Orchard Project in Camp Washington. Photo courtesy of The Common Orchard project.



The Common Orchard Project utilizes medium-scale (less than 500 sq. ft.) sites at a neighborhood level to divert organic waste from the landfill and create compost. Photo courtesy of The Common Orchard Project.

Strategy 3

Divert food waste through prevention, reuse/recovery, and composting.

In 2021 Cincinnati sent 74,953 tons of household waste to the landfill, approximately 16.8% (12,592 tons) of which was food waste. Food waste is the biggest contributor to methane, a greenhouse gas that is up to 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. In the United States up to 40% of food is never eaten, resulting in a massive resource drain from the growing, processing, transporting and eventual disposal of all that unused food. Nationwide, households lose approximately \$1800 per year in wasted groceries, while here in Cincinnati 33% of families are food insecure. This data speaks to an alarming gap between what is wasted and what is needed.

Cincinnati has worked to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Recovery Hierarchy, using prevention, reuse/recovery, and composting. However, to move forward, the City must more robustly use these tools to eliminate wasted food and divert food waste from the landfill. Additionally, the City needs to create pathways for the proper storage and timely transport of excess food for donation.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Support the development of anaerobic digesters to divert organics from the waste stream	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Support the creation of food waste collection programs and/or establish food waste drop-off locations in city facilities, communities, and schools	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment

See Food Focus Area for Goals, Strategies & Priority Actions related to Food Waste Prevention & Recovery.



Litter

Goal

Decrease litter and illegal dumping by 10% annually through 2028.

BASELINE YEAR(S)

2022

DATA SOURCE(S)

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Community Appearance Index

Strategy

Increase programming and outreach for litter and illegal dumping prevention.

Litter is a problem in Cincinnati. Seventy percent of the complaints the City receives deal with litter and illegal dumping, reflecting both quality of life and environmental issues. In addition to creating blight and pollution, illegal dumping can present a health and safety issue depending on the type of material being dumped. These activities often occur in many accessible but unsecured locations like vacant lots, wooded areas, drainageways, alleys, and roadways—areas often found in communities with fewer resources for tackling such challenges. Cincinnati needs to adopt a comprehensive strategy, one that takes an inter-departmental approach, leveraging community stakeholders, organizations, and volunteers to assist priority communities in putting a stop to this chronic problem. Single-use plastics add to the problem as they contribute to unsightly litter and wasted resources, clogging drainage and waterways, and ultimately breaking down into environmentally pervasive micro-plastics.



Children participate in a neighborhood clean-up in Northside to remove litter. Photo courtesy of OES.

Priority Actions

	GCP PILLARS			ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES			
	Sustainability	Equity	Resilience	Jobs	Investment	Health	Feasibility
Use policy and fees to discourage the use of single-use plastics, including plastic bags	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Reduce litter and illegal dumping through public communications strategy and stronger enforcement	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Conduct routine neighborhood litter clean-ups and partnering with programs like Adopt-A-Spot	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● strong alignment ● moderate alignment ● weak alignment



Reduction of single-use plastics like water bottles can have a large impact on neighborhood litter.



No Dumping signs are present throughout the city. 70% of complaints received by the City are related to litter and illegal dumping.