Community Climate Action Toolkit

CITY OF CLEVELAND
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2025

CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

INTRODUCTION TO THE
Cleveland Community Climate Action Toolkit

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Thanks for helping to advance climate action in the City of Cleveland!

This toolkit provides a number of **resources** that you can use in your community engagement efforts. The toolkit shares **information on climate change in Cleveland** and identifies ways that residents, businesses, and community groups can help implement actions outlined in Cleveland's updated Climate Action Plan (CAP).

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

- **Email Template for Networks**
- **Climate Change 101**
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- **What We Can Do About Climate Change**
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- **Guide to Kickstarting Neighborhood Climate Action**
  - *Neighborhood Organization Climate Action Kickoff Meeting Agenda*
  - *Climate Action for Groups*
- **REALTALK guidelines**
- **Guide to Identifying Community Climate Priorities and Needs**
- **Cleveland Community Climate Action Planning Template**
- **Resources**

GUIDE TO TAILORING THE TOOLKIT

Before you embark on a climate community engagement, please take a moment to consider your audience and read through the **RealTalk guidelines** for talking about climate! Below are some scenarios created by the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to help you identify the best resources within the Community Climate Action Toolkit to support your engagement efforts.

Please reach out to the Mayor's Office of Sustainability by emailing **Sustainability@clevelandohio.gov** or calling 216-664-2455 if you have any specific questions or other resources and materials you would like included in this toolkit.

SCENARIO 1

You've been invited to present about the Climate Action Plan at a community or organization's meeting. The CAP is the main focus of this event, and you will have an hour to deep dive into climate action and implementation.

Step 1 Use the **facilitator guide.**

Step 2 Bring copies of the **Climate Action Plan Summary** and the following toolkit sections:

- **Climate Impacts**
- **Individual and Business Actions**
- **Neighborhood/Community Organization Actions**

Step 3 After the presentation, customize and send the **email template** out to the organizer or host and attach the PDF of the **full toolkit.**

Please be sure to add a 'thank you' in your email for inviting you to present!

SCENARIO 2

You are reaching out to organizations you've been working with or connected with in the past. You think they might be interested in the City's climate work.

Step 1 Send out the **email template** with the PDF of the **full toolkit.** Be sure to add a personalized note!

Step 2 Set yourself a reminder to include a follow up note about the CAP and toolkit in a future meeting or exchange with the organization.

SCENARIO 3

You have been invited to attend or table at a community event or meeting. You might have a brief 10-15 minutes to talk one-on-one with attendees about the City's Climate Action Plan.

Step 1 Use the *first half* of the **facilitator guide** to present on the CAP.

- Be sure to end by saying you have resources to share for folks who want to learn more or get involved.
- Ask interested folks to fill out the **sign in sheet.**

Step 2 Bring copies of the **Climate Action Plan Summary** and the following toolkit sections:

- **Climate Impacts**
- **Individual and Business Actions**

Step 3 After the event, follow up with the interested folks with a **customized email** using the template below.

- Attach a PDF of the **full toolkit.**

SCENARIO 4

A community group you have not worked with before reached out to you, asking to learn more about how they can support climate action.

Step 1 Send them the following **toolkit sections:**

- **Climate Impacts**
- **Individual and Business Actions**
- **Neighborhood/Community Organization Actions**
- **Agenda/Discussion + RealTalk Guidelines**

Email Template for Networks

Dear neighbor,

We are thrilled to share with you Cleveland's Climate Action Community Toolkit! The City of Cleveland is committed to climate action in order to protect the health, safety, and quality of life of all residents.

We made this toolkit to help Cleveland's residents, businesses, and community groups join us in tackling climate change right here in our community. You know best what will keep your neighborhood vibrant and your neighbors safe, healthy, and happy.

Inside the Community Climate Action Toolkit, you'll find:

- **Information** on climate change.
- **Concrete actions you can take** at home, work, and in your community to reduce your carbon footprint.
- **Activities** to jumpstart your community climate action project.

We get it. The climate crisis can make people feel small and helpless but you are not alone in worrying about extreme heat, floods, or pollution. In Cleveland, we know better than anyone that we can tackle any big challenge when we work together.

Please explore the toolkit and share it with your friends and family. We would love to see you getting involved in local climate action! Together, we can safeguard a healthier, brighter future for Cleveland.

We'd love to hear your feedback, comments, questions, or concerns! Please share your thoughts on the City's climate work or this toolkit by filling out **this survey (bit.ly/ClevelandCAP)**, or reach back out if you would like me to share more information about our climate work with your organization.

Thank you for being a part of the solution!

Sincerely,
The City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability and Climate Justice

Climate Change 101

What is climate change and how does it affect me?

CLIMATE IMPACTS

The City of Cleveland is committed to the well-being of all Clevelanders. Today, it is clearer than ever that we must protect communities from the impacts of pollution and extreme weather.

We all have a part to play in building a thriving City.

We developed a Climate Action Plan to ensure we are making responsible, science-backed choices towards a safer, healthier, more prosperous Cleveland.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate change refers to big shifts in temperature and weather patterns over long periods of time.

This process is currently happening at a much faster rate than at any time in the planet's history due to human pollution such as activities like driving cars, creating plastic waste, and burning oil and gas for energy.

By understanding these changes, we can take action to create a more healthier, sustainable, and thriving City.

Science Fact:
More than 99% of research has found that change is happening now and that it's mostly **caused by human activities.**

Sidebar: The Cleveland Action Plan

- Cleveland published the City's updated Climate Action Plan in Spring 2025!
- **Over 1,000 of your neighbors** made their voices heard in our process.
- Our plan will impact lots of aspects of the City, including:
  - *How Clevelanders get around.*
  - *How our homes and businesses use energy.*
  - *How we manage trash, recycling, and wastewater.*
  - *And much more!*
- **We are already making great progress!** For example, did you know that in 2024, Clevelanders **planted 1,225 new trees**? These trees will provide needed shade and cooling for hotter summers.

WHAT DOES CLIMATE CHANGE LOOK LIKE IN CLEVELAND?

Have you been impacted by extreme heat or heavy rain storms? **You may have already experienced the impacts of climate change in Cleveland.** Scientists agree that recent events like the wildfire smoke in 2023 and the 2024 tornadoes were more dangerous because of climate change. They also agree that these events are happening more often and hitting our most vulnerable residents the hardest. Think about your neighborhood's elders, young children, or folks with asthma.

Cleveland's biggest climate threats are:
- **Poor air quality**
- **Extreme heat**
- **Severe storms/flooding**

HOW CAN WE STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING?

If we replace fossil fuels like oil and gas with clean energy, we will reduce pollution and protect ourselves against extreme weather events.

Change won't happen overnight, but **if we work together, we can make a real difference in Cleveland.** With your help, we will move to clean energy, improve infrastructure (roads, bridges, public transit), and create good quality, green jobs for Clevelanders. This will help Cleveland become a healthier and more resilient city.

If you want to learn more, check out our resources: **bit.ly/m/ClevelandClimateAction**

What We Can Do About Climate Change

Individuals, businesses, and community groups can take action to reduce pollution in Cleveland.

We all have a role to play in reducing climate pollution and making sure all of us can thrive. Together, we can transform our neighborhoods and Cleveland for generations to come. The City of Cleveland appreciates your commitment to action, and remember, these checklists are just a starting point.

If you want to learn more, check out our resources: **bit.ly/m/ClevelandClimateAction**

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE: AT HOME AND AT WORK

BUILT ENVIRONMENT	
INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS	**BUSINESS ACTIONS**
Low Impact Low-income households can apply for the Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs. *Medium Impact* Schedule a home energy audit. An energy audit will evaluate your entire home, including the heating system, insulation levels, water heater, and even your windows and doors. *High Impact* Homeowners and developers may apply for the Residential Tax Abatement Program, which can be used for home renovation and construction projects.	*Low Impact* Small businesses can join the COSE Energy Program, and gain access to energy savings and perks. *Medium Impact* Join the Cleveland 2030 District to learn how your business can become a high-performance building. Commercial property owners can apply for financing through the NOPEC Step Program. *High Impact* Become LEED Certified, verififying that a newly constructed or renovated building has met specific environmental, energy, and human health standards.

CLEAN ENERGY

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Low Impact
Join the City of Cleveland's Community Choice Electric.

Medium Impact
Help expand access clean energy in your community by sending comments to the Ohio Power Siting Board and the Public Utilities Commission.

High Impact
Purchase solar power for your home through the Cuyahoga County Solar Co-op or Cleveland Low to Moderate Income Solar Program. These programs will assist homeowners in purchasing solar power while also creating jobs benefiting the community.

BUSINESS ACTIONS

Low Impact
Join EPA's Green Power Partnership - a voluntary program that encourages the use of clean power to reduce environmental impacts. Partners commit to using clean power for all, or a portion, of their annual electricity consumption.

Medium Impact
Small business customers of First Energy/Illuminating Company can enroll in the City's Community Choice Electric Aggregation Program to save money on utility bills.

High Impact
Install on-site solar to reduce energy costs. Look for small business grants, rebates, and low-interest loans at this guide to financing tools.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Low Impact
Take advantage of stormwater credits through the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District by installing a rain barrel, and save money on your water bill!

Medium Impact
Become a Master Rain Gardener to gain expert knowledge on designing and maintaining rain gardens.

BUSINESS ACTIONS

Low Impact
Organize a volunteer group for service projects throughout the Cleveland Metropark Reservations. Email: volgroups@clevelandmetroparks.com.

Medium Impact
Hire a certified arborist, or tree care specialist, for private property trees to receive comprehensive tree care and maintenance.

High Impact
Join the Tree Steward Training Program, hosted by the Western Land Reserve Conservancy to learn how to plant and care for trees in the city.

High Impact
Businesses and organizations can join the Cleveland Tree Coalition by appointing a representative to attend meetings and participate in working groups.

CIRCULAR INDUSTRY

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS	BUSINESS ACTIONS

Low Impact
Attend a Fix-In Clinic Repair Workshop! Bring your old clothes, broken gadgets, or everyday objects in need of a little TLC.

Medium Impact
Opt-in to receive curbside recycling services. To enroll, complete the online form at clerecycles.com or call 216-664-3000 to reach the Cleveland Division of Waste Collection and Disposal.

High Impact
Prevent food waste. Cleveland residents can sign up for the City's Food Scrap Drop-off Composting Program for $12/month or free for SNAP-eligible households.

Low Impact
Attend a business recycling seminar or request a personalized presentation for your business to learn about the proper recycling procedures.

Medium Impact
Conduct a waste audit to determine how your company's waste stream can be eliminated or reduced and the available options for successful implementation.

High Impact
Businesses can start a workplace recycling program by contacting a business recycling specialist to discuss waste options. Call 216-443-3732 to talk to Cuyahoga County's Recycling services.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS	BUSINESS ACTIONS

Low Impact
Save money on your commute! GOhio Commute offers carpool and vanpool matching services—sign up now and start sharing the ride.

Low Impact
Become a certified Bicycle Friendly Business. Through this program, employers are recognized for their efforts to successfully build a company bicycling culture for employees, customers, and the community.

Medium Impact
Take advantage of employer-sponsored public transit programs through RTA's Commuter Advantage Program, check with your Human Resources department for subsidies and discounts.

High Impact
Purchase an electric (EV) or hybrid vehicle to eliminate or lower fuel costs and reduce emissions.

Medium Impact
Start a commuter program for your organization such as the RTA Commuter Advantage Program. Contact NOACA at noaca@mpo.noaca.org for more personalized recommendations.

High Impact
Transition your business fleet from gas-powered vehicles to electric (EV) or hybrid vehicles, and install charging stations for employee use.

RESILIENT PEOPLE

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

BUSINESS ACTIONS

Low Impact
Students grades 8-12 are encouraged to participate in the annual Northeast Ohio Youth Climate Summit.

Medium Impact
Use your neighborhood recreation and resource center. You can go there to cool down on hot days or warm up on cold days. These centers also provide essential community services year-round.

High Impact
Attend your neighborhood ward meeting to learn, connect, and voice community needs. Talk about how climate change is impacting your neighborhood!

Low Impact
Host a 'Climate 101' workshop through Climate Fresk for your business and encourage employees to attend.

Medium Impact
Reach out to the Ohio Minority Business Development Agency for help in developing actionable and inclusive people-centered strategies.

High Impact
Hire professionals from local workforce development programs such as the Built Environment Collaborative, Cleveland Manufacturing Works, and The Greater Cleveland Partnership.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE IN THE COMMUNITY

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Low Impact
Share information about home energy audits and weatherization programs with your neighbors.

Medium Impact
Apply for <u>community development grant programs</u>, the public is open to attend public meetings and provide input.

High Impact
Community members can apply to lease vacant lots for community gardens or farming purposes through the City's <u>Land Bank program</u>.

CLEAN ENERGY

Low Impact
Collaborate with <u>Power a Clean Future Ohio</u> (PCFO) to advocate for clean power! PCFO is a coalition that works for cities and leaders across Ohio to build and develop climate solutions that reduce carbon emissions.

Medium Impact
Apply for grant opportunities that advance an equitable Clean Future for all. The <u>Ohio Climate Justice Fund</u> offers seasonal grants to projects that grow and support clean energy across Ohio.

High Impact
Write to and call local leaders to support clean energy. We have an opportunity to prioritize clean energy jobs and move Ohio towards a fairer, more prosperous clean energy future.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Low Impact
Bring nature to your neighborhood by requesting the Cleveland Metroparks <u>Mobile Outreach classroom</u>. This is a unique outreach experience that provides free environmental educational programs to the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County residents.

Medium Impact
Organize a group to attend community walking tours and site visits. <u>Cleveland Water</u> often hosts open houses of water treatment plants.

High Impact

Attend an Urban Forestry Commission public meeting to share concerns and input on policies and regulations that impact the City's tree canopy.

CIRCULAR INDUSTRY

Low Impact

Host and participate in zero waste community events by utilizing the Zero WasteNEO event planning guide.

Medium Impact

Organize a neighborhood clean up. The Cleanup Cuyahoga County program provides supplies for groups and organizations to use for little clean ups.

High Impact

Contact your neighborhood grocery store and other retailers to reduce or eliminate plastic bags. Encourage neighbors to "Bring Your Own Bag."

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Low Impact

Sign up for the Complete and Green Streets newsletter and receive project updates.

Medium Impact

Adopt-a-shelter with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA)! Community members and groups can help keep shelters attractive and well-maintained in their communities.

High Impact

Work with your neighborhood schools to reduce vehicle idling and organize walking school buses.

RESILIENT PEOPLE

Low Impact

Attend sustainability events throughout the community. Check out the SustainableCLE events calendar to see what's happening in Cleveland!

Medium Impact

Join or form a neighborhood community or social group such as hiking groups, book clubs, or sharing circles. Social groups provide opportunities to build new friendships, explore personal interests, and connect with your neighbors.

High Impact

Apply for community grants programs such as the Neighbor UP Action Grant to help fund projects that support neighborhoods in making the changes they want to see.

Guide to Kickstarting Neighborhood Climate Action

A guide to starting action-oriented climate conversations with neighbors, community partners, and friends.

Are you a community group or leader interested in climate action for your neighborhood? **Below is a sample agenda for a one-hour meeting to kick off your group's climate action work.** Feel free to change up the template to create an agenda that meets your needs!

Check out our additional resources: **bit.ly/m/ClevelandClimateAction**

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION CLIMATE ACTION KICKOFF MEETING AGENDA

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5 Minutes   **Welcome**

"We are here in part because the City is working on a new Climate Action Plan. I think about this plan as a roadmap to improving our City from the neighborhood level. This plan comes at a critical time, as we face increasingly severe impacts of climate change. It's also an opportunity to work with the City on projects we already care about and want."

- Share a little about **why you are passionate about climate change** and how you see climate action fitting into your life or your organization's mission.
    - **Note:** Come to the meeting ready with what you want to share with your neighbors or organization members. It's okay to not be an expert about climate change; just starting the conversation is important. We've provided some resources for your group to dive in deeper too!

10 Minutes   **Group Introductions**

If folks do not already know each other, make sure you do **introductions.**
Ask folks to share their:
- Name
- Neighborhood
- 5 words on why climate action is important to them

15 Minutes   ## Climate Change in Cleveland and the Climate Action Plan

Ask the room a quick question: *"How comfortable are you in explaining climate change to an 8th grader?"*
- Ask people to close their eyes and hold a:
  - thumbs up if they are comfortable,
  - thumbs sideways if they are not sure, and
  - thumbs down if they are uncomfortable.

Define climate change: *"When we burn fossil fuels for energy, we add carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This buildup acts like a blanket that traps heat around the world. As more heat is trapped, our average weather patterns are being disrupted."*
- Share some of the **human causes** of climate change.
  - Driving gas-powered cars.
  - Coal-powered electricity.
  - Plastics, which are made from oil products.

- Connect climate change with the **hazards that Clevelanders face** (reference **Climate Change 101,** if needed): *"We are absolutely facing the impacts of climate change today. Remember the storms in 2024? Even though Cleveland has always had storms, those were especially bad because of climate change."*

- Empathize! Let folks know it is totally okay to feel worried. We all want the same thing: a healthy, safe Cleveland.

Talk about ways to reduce climate impacts: *"Cleveland is encouraging everyone to be part of the solution. We need to move towards renewable energy and reduce use of fossil fuels."*
- You can find some examples in **What We Can Do About Climate Change** or in the Cleveland Climate Action Plan.

- *"Cleveland created a plan in April 2025 to reduce our impact on climate change. The plan is based on the best available science and has the steps we need to reduce our emissions."*
  - *"The planning process shows Cleveland wanted to take the time to make the right decisions for Clevelanders. The City talked to over 1,000 of our neighbors to make sure this roadmap serves the whole diverse Cleveland community."*
  - *"The plan will also help us adapt to climate change and prepare us for the impacts of extreme weather."*

Pause for questions.

25 Minutes   **Discussion**

Use the **REALTALK strategy** (see **REALTALK Strategy section handout** for details) to talk to your neighbors or organization members about what your group wants to do about climate change. Below are some example questions you can ask to get the conversation flowing. We always recommend following the flow of conversation!

- *"Are there any terms related to climate change or the Climate Action Plan that you want to understand better?"*
    - Note: if you do not know the answer, that is totally okay to tell folks! Reach out to **Sustainability@clevelandohio.gov** for guidance.
- *"What changes in the weather or environment have you noticed in Cleveland over the past few years?"*
- *"How do you think climate change affects people in your neighborhood or community?"*
- *"Who in Cleveland do you think climate change or climate action will affect the most? How can we protect these folks and make sure they benefit from climate action projects?"*
- *"What resources or skills do we have in Cleveland or in our community that could help us tackle climate change?"*
- *"What kind of future do you hope to create for our community?"*

10 Minutes   **Closing and Next Steps**

If folks are ready to act, **make a plan to start a project!**

Schedule another meeting to talk about climate action.
- Tell folks to come ready to talk about Cleveland's Climate Action Plan. Share the **CAP executive summary** and ask folks to think about how this group can support the City's work or what climate action projects the group might want to do.
- Encourage folks to **recruit interested friends** and neighbors to attend the next meeting.

Close by asking each person to share:
- For a larger group: *"What is one word or a phrase that describes how you feel about today's meeting?"*
- For a smaller group: *"What about climate action are you most excited about?"*

ACTIONS YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN TAKE NOW!

If you are inspired to do more now, **take a look at the "Actions You Can Take in the Community" page!** Pin the checklist up on a bulletin board and schedule some time every year to refresh what actions you want to focus on.

The City would love to **collaborate with you** on any actions from the Climate Action Plan that really inspire your organization. We suggest prioritizing actions that are most relevant to your organization's mission and emailing the Mayor's Office of Sustainability at **Sustainability@clevelandohio.gov** if you have questions.

REALTALK Strategy

How to have tough conversations about climate change.

We get it. It can be hard to talk about climate change! A group called **Climate Outreach (ClimateOutreach.org)** developed the tips below for having positive conversations about climate change. Read through these tips before hosting a climate action meeting.

Respect your neighbor and **find common ground.**
- Find out what you have in common and show them that you respect their concerns, priorities and values.
- Many people feel blamed or judged when they talk about climate change—these feelings could make them defensive or not want to have the conversation.

Enjoy the conversation.
- If you enjoy yourself, you will want to keep talking with your neighbor! They are more likely to feel positive about the conversation too.

Ask questions.
- Be curious. Ask **open-ended questions** which cannot be answered with a simple yes or no. Give the person space to reflect on what they think, what they are worried about, and what solutions they believe in.

Listen and show what you have heard.
- Concentrate on listening to what the other person is really trying to say. Then, **show them you care.** Ask questions that show you want to know if you understood them correctly.

Tell your stories.
- Be true to yourself and your experiences. Share a little about why you care about climate action with a real story from your life.

Action makes it easier.
- Share an **example of an easy climate action** you do in your life. Talking about actions can make conversations easier to start.
- Share how you **act on climate change.** People make decisions about their behavior partly based on what others are doing. **Your actions could influence others.**
- **Share that you still struggle** with how big the problem of climate change is—but that does not make you stop trying to do your part. Every little bit counts!

Learn from the conversation.
- See your conversation as a way to learn about climate change and how to have a good conversation. **Be curious about how others think about climate change.** Every climate conversation is a small experiment!

Keep going and keep connected.
- Every climate change conversation you have is valuable. Keep having climate conversations, and **seek community** with others to support you!

Guide to Identifying Community Climate Priorities and Needs

An activity to guide next steps after your successful climate action kickoff.

If you are inspired and want to work on a climate action project, we suggest starting here! Collect your team and dive into this asset mapping activity.

Asset mapping is an activity designed to help teams like yours identify strengths, challenges, and priorities within your neighborhood or community. There is power and clarity in putting all of this information you already know on paper together!

INSTRUCTIONS

As a team, **decide on a climate action project** or topic that you want to work on together. If you need help brainstorming, check out the **Cleveland Climate Action Plan** for ideas. The Plan includes everything the City wants to work on and collaborate with community groups like yourselves!

Then, work in small groups or individually to **complete the chart** on the next page. You can print this out or just pull out a piece of scratch paper.

STEP 1: Assets

Assets are people, things, values, places, or behaviors that people already do that could be helpful to climate action. **Note what assets your community has to help you with your project.**

- For example, if you want to install a couple of electric vehicle chargers in your neighborhood, an **asset** might be that one of your teammates is a neighborhood business owner who has a parking lot, or you know the local park or community center has a parking lot.

STEP 2: Needs or Concerns

Document the needs and concerns in your community. These are the challenges that your community or neighborhood, or people in your community, already face.

- For example, maybe you are just a volunteer and do not have a lot of spare resources, or you do not know much about the City's permitting process for electric vehicle chargers.

STEP 3: Priorities

Based on what assets and needs you came up with, have each teammate **silently rank your top five neighborhood priorities.** Think about how each priority may be addressed through climate action.

- For example, maybe your neighbors really want to walk and bike more but the traffic is just too fast to feel safe.

Finally, **take a look at your priorities.** Discuss with your team how you all think each priority may be improved through climate action in the **Cleveland Climate Action Plan!** If you need help at this step, feel free to reach out to the Mayor's Office of Sustainability at **Sustainability@clevelandohio.gov.**

STEP 1: Assets	STEP 2: Needs or Concerns	STEP 3: Priorities
Community Strengths:	Important issues:	Top Priorities: 1._____ 2._____ 3._____ 4._____ 5._____
Practices & Values:	Residents' concerns:	

Climate Action Possibilities

Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Planning Template

A planning activity to narrow down your list of project ideas and make sure your project can actually get done.

We suggest doing this planning activity your group has thought about your best climate action project ideas.

Remember, you can always reach out to the Mayor's Office of Sustainability at **Sustainability@clevelandohio.gov** for assistance in project planning!

The goal of the planning template is to map out the "if-then" scenarios in a project.

For example:
- **If** we have some amount of funding, **then** we can run this program;
- **If** we run this program, **then** we can achieve these outcomes.

This process helps us **stay focused** on our goals and makes sure we understand what we need to accomplish them.

STEP 1

Work through these questions with your team:
- **"Outputs" and outcomes:** What is your project trying to accomplish?
- **Activities:** How will your project accomplish these goals?
- **Resources:** *What does your project need to do these activities?*
- **Audience:** Who is the target audience for your project?

STEP 2

Fill out the template on the next page to map out your project!
After that, you'll have what you need to develop a project timeline too.
- **TIP:** Be sure to define what you mean by *short, medium,* and *long term* goals.

Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action **Planning Template**

Outcomes *What you want your project to accomplish.*

- **Short Term:**

- **Medium Term:**

- **Long Term:**

Activities *What you need to do to execute your project.*

Resources Needed *What you need to invest to do your project.*

Audience *Who you want to reach with your project.*

Cleveland Climate Action Plan Alignment

The Cleveland Climate Action Plan goal(s) and strategy your project supports.

Resources

The City of Cleveland wants to work with you to make sure our neighborhoods stay safe and healthy. If you want to learn more about teaming up with the City or just stay updated on what climate actions the City is working on, **you can find all of the following resources at bit.ly/m/ClevelandClimateAction**!

- **Office of Sustainability & Climate Justice website: bit.ly/OurClimateJustice**

- **Sustainable Cleveland website**: **SustainableCleveland.org**

- **Cleveland Clean and Equitable Energy Report: SustainableCleveland.org/Clevelands_Energy_Future**
  - The City studied how to make sure everyone in the City has access to affordable, clean energy.

- **Certified LEED Silver City: SustainableCleveland.org/Leed_for_Cities**
  - The City of Cleveland is certified LEED Silver! That means we are doing pretty well at being sustainable.

- **Circular Cleveland Roadmap: CircularCleveland.org/Focus-Areas**
  - The City created this plan to make sure everyone in the City

- **Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment: SustainableCleveland.org/CRVA**
  - The City hired a team of experts to look at the best available science and understand how climate change impacts Cleveland. The study allows us to make science-backed decisions about what we need to do for our neighborhoods.

- **City of Cleveland's Recycling Program: SustainableCleveland.org/Recycling**
  - Learn about what you can and cannot recycle in Cleveland!

- **City of Cleveland Community Choice Aggregation: SustainableCleveland.org/CommunityChoiceAggregation**
  - Community Choice Aggregation provides residents the opportunity to opt in to default the electricity supplier the utility company uses. If you are in FirstEnergy/Illuminating Company's area, you can choose to be powered by renewable energy at a competitive, fixed price.

- **City of Cleveland Urban Forestry Commission: SustainableCleveland.org/Urban_Forestry_Commission**
  - This group advises the Mayor and City Council on policies and regulations that will increase the tree canopy and vibrancy of Cleveland neighborhoods.

- **Sustainable Cleveland blog: SustainableCleveland.org/blog**
  - The blog shares updates about the City's climate action work.