

MILWAUKEE'S Climate and Equity Plan

milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan



Greenhouse gas emissions are changing the Earth's atmosphere and dangerously warming the planet. All Milwaukeean will be affected by climate change, and low-income communities face environmental hazards at a higher rate. These threats include extreme storms, flooding and excessive heat days.

In the face of these threats, **Milwaukee will support a new clean energy economy that provides opportunities for people of color** to more fully and equitably participate in the economic life of the city. The Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan is the result of over three years of planning and public input through the [City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity](#).

The Climate and Equity Plan supports Milwaukee's goals to:

1. Reduce community greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
2. Improve racial and economic equity by creating green jobs that pay at least \$40,000 and recruiting people from economically distressed neighborhoods.

To achieve these goals, this plan includes 10 Big Ideas for Action. These strategies can be achieved in collaboration among government agencies, businesses, community-based organizations and other partners. The plan will be financed primarily from new federal resources including the Inflation Reduction Act and is consistent with the federal Justice40 Initiative.



SUMMARY OF THE 10 BIG IDEAS



1

GREEN JOBS ACCELERATOR

Creating clear pathways to employ more people from economically distressed neighborhoods in family-supporting green jobs. This includes public outreach, coordination with existing training providers, clear career ladders from entry-level employment to progressively higher skills, and public benefits agreements on government-funded projects.



2

HEALTHY HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Making weatherization and renewable energy retrofits more affordable as part of holistic housing improvements that also address lead-based paint and other health hazards.



3

NEW NET-ZERO ENERGY HOMES

Building healthy, affordable, net-zero energy homes on Milwaukee's scattered vacant lots. The project envisions supporting a new factory in Milwaukee that constructs modular housing components year-round to both reduce the cost of new home construction and restore manufacturing job opportunities.



4

COMMERCIAL BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING + BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Requiring large commercial building owners to annually track and report on their energy use and develop longer-term building performance standards to gradually reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from commercial buildings.



5

PEOPLE CENTERED TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DESIGN

Helping people drive less by improving and expanding city-wide public and active transportation options and creating thriving communities where people live, work, and play through transit-oriented development.



6

ELECTRIFY TRANSPORTATION

Building a network of publicly-accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, increasing EV adoption rates through public outreach, and transitioning municipal fleets to EVs, hybrids, and other low-emissions vehicles.



7

GREENING THE ELECTRIC GRID

Transitioning the electric grid to carbon-free sources of energy through advocacy for better renewable energy policy with state utility regulators, direct purchase of renewable energy from new, utility-scale projects, and expansion of rooftop solar in the City.



8

PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE IN THE CITY

Protecting existing natural areas and increasing the amount of green space and trees on private and public property through the expansion of the Green and Healthy Schools Program and removal of excess asphalt in commercial parking lots that also contribute to urban heat islands.



9

WASTE REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

Redirecting surplus food to feed people and reduce waste through a new FEED partnership, as well as reducing plastic pollution and exploring lower-carbon cement.



10

RESILIENCE AMBASSADORS

Partnering with trusted neighborhood-based organizations to connect underserved communities with available tools and resources to make their homes and neighborhoods more resilient to climate change.