

YPSILANTI CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

APPENDIX B: List of all collected strategies

Community Goals and Strategies

Ypsilanti is seen as a leader in small-city sustainability, attracting residents, businesses and visitors.

Specifically, the community aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (measured on a per capita basis) by 12.5% per decade, or 50% by 2050.

Categories

- Buildings
Commercial, Industrial, Residential and Government
- Culture Change
Education, Events, Celebration
- Infrastructure
Waste, Water, Energy Generation
- Land Use and Transportation
- Well-being
Health, Public Safety, Food

Buildings

Target GHG Reduction: 70%

Goals:

- Property owners are making buildings, including rental properties and historic homes, more energy efficient.
- Ypsilanti beats out Greensburg, Kansas for the greenest city.
- Ypsilanti is off the grid.

Strategies:

- Create a green rental certification program to encourage energy-efficient improvements.
- Incentive for landlords to do energy upgrades: require energy/heat cost disclosure
- Community awards program for energy efficiency, separated out by businesses and by neighborhoods
- Water efficiency: fix leaky faucets
- Hold an energy competition between the town and university, or between universities, or between student groups at EMU
- Install light sensors in buildings, especially at EMU
- LED lights (or best available option) for residential and business
- Require LEED for any building project receiving a tax abatement
- Make energy-saving technologies available to low-income families at reduced rates and better publicize existing opportunities such as energy audits
- Host neighborhood "parties" to educate about and do weatherization
- Make energy-saving technologies available to low-income families at reduced rates and better publicize existing opportunities such as energy audits; provide funding for low-income residents to install wind or solar energy in households
- Research funding for brownfields or lobby for return of credits
- Incentivize installation of solar PV at gas stations, carports and parking garages
- Explore the possibilities of wind energy
- Focus on businesses:

- Highlight savings from weatherization
- Shift costs from business owners to building owners
- Mitigate heat effects from south-facing windows
- Building audit information – energy audit before upgrade
- Cool roof installation
- Residential geothermal
- Florescent fixture upgrades
- Green roof installation
- HVAC upgrades: energy-efficient retrofit at time of sale
- Municipal solar thermal water heating
- Residential solar thermal water heating
- Residential weatherization

Culture Change

Target GHG Reduction: 5%

Goals:

- The community celebrates green efforts and circulates information about sustainability and reducing GHGs to residents and the region, and community members understand the importance of climate action and the ways they can make an impact individually and collectively.
- EMU and local schools have refocused education and outreach towards sustainability, in partnership with the community.
- Ypsilanti works in collaboration with surrounding communities to achieve broader changes.
- Residents have changed norms of consumption so that people expect to consume less.

Strategies:

- Get City leaders and employees visibly active on climate change issues
- Include stewardship, engagement and sustainability education in local schools
- Create a community energy “library” with information on how residents can make change, including the sustainability book list from Transition Ypsilanti
- Provide more visibility for alternative transit, including biking and walking paths and bus routes, or create a detailed database and a map for navigating routes
- Provide incentives to have biking/walking employees
 - Charge employers for parking spaces per amount of employees
 - Give credits or money to employers that have biking or walking employees
- Provide residents with information on their home’s carbon emissions and utility costs.
- Micro-grants or loans to promote individual change
- Create a folk school centered around skills-trading
- Regional carbon off-set fund

Infrastructure

Target GHG Reduction: 5%

Goals:

- Ypsilanti has a clean local water system.
- The city generates and distributes clean energy locally.
- The community has limited its contribution to light pollution.

Strategies:

- Community-wide recycling contest
- Closed-loop recycling system

- Place artful trash and recycling bins throughout community
- Financing: Worker-owned cooperatives
- Financing: micro-grants or –loans to individuals or groups
- Municipal operations: Use sheep and a moveable fence to mow city parks
- LED streetlights
- Become dark sky compliant, potentially in the course of lighting upgrades
- Cooperative funding or loans for improvements
- Geothermal energy installation under streets and parking lots
- Motion-sensor lights in public lots and near residential areas
- City-wide composting system (curb-side or drop-off) for waste disposal; explore composting pet waste and plants or weeds in neighborhoods
- Use the Ford dam for energy production; create hydroelectric power with Ypsilanti’s currently un- or under-used dams
- Increase gray water awareness and usage
- Impervious surface tax or “stormwater utility fee”
- Community-level alternative energy micro-grids
- Install a solar farm, possibly on brownfields
- Explore existing funding options, including the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office and the PACE program
- Waste disposal program: “pay as you throw”
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrade
- Wind power installation

Land Use and Transportation

Target GHG Reduction: 20%

Goals:

- Residents, commuters and students choose to bike, walk or bus rather than drive.
- Streets are safe for all, providing routes safe from both crime and cars.
- Land use patterns are coordinated at a high-level, integrating sustainability concerns.
- Vacant and underused properties are reclaimed as green, productive spaces.
- Make more goods and services available within neighborhoods, or make it possible for residents to walk to businesses.

Strategies:

- More bike lanes and bike-safe streets; create a network of bike facilities
- Create a pop-up bike shop
- Encourage pop-up businesses downtown
- Express bus service between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor oriented towards commuters
- Extend AATA bus service to include a route out to Ypsilanti Township, including Kroger and Whittaker Road Library
- Complete the Border to Border trail across Washtenaw County
- Extend the existing park system along river
- Create community orchards and gardening (zoning for food)
- Start a circulation bus or trolley
- Install plug-in EV charging stations in municipal and campus parking lots
- Have days free from car use
- Create car-free zones in the city
- Allow for live/work zoning on the first floor of buildings (frontage remains commercial) and expand ordinances to allow for businesses run from homes
- Complete Streets policies, focusing especially on Water Street, parks and the B2B Trail
- Regional tax sharing system that incentivizes reinvestment in city neighborhoods

- Regional commuter trains (or BRT)
- Help EMU increase walkability, including connections between city and campus and wayfinding
- Businesses encourage employees to live nearby and commute via bike, walk or bus; Charge employers for parking spaces per amount of employees; Give credits or money to employers that have biking or walking employees
- Parking cash-out for city, county, campus employees
- Reuse closed and vacant schools (especially the bus barn) to store and teach about salvaged materials
- Complete sidewalk gaps
- Hybrid transit
- Photovoltaic carport structures
- Ridership promotion
- Vanpooling promotion
- Increased residential density
- Infill development

Well-being

Target GHG Reduction: 0%

Goals:

- All residents have access to healthy, affordable food options.
- Community health is not significantly impacted by climate change or greenhouse gases.
- The community feels safe; residents are able to communicate with neighbors, and walk and bike.
- Financing options are made available to community members to implement climate change mitigation strategies.
- The benefits of living in a sustainable community are shared by all community members.
- The city has increased local self-reliance by creating a sustainable local economy.

Strategies:

- Find a 12-month location for the farmers market, put it indoors, and explore multiple locations or transportation options to ensure accessibility
- Encourage walking through city-sponsored events, benefit walks, and meetings
- Develop a co-op barter network as well as a coordinating co-op board
- Make ordinances more friendly to urban agriculture and other forms of local food production
- Locally source cafeterias and vending machines
- Modify and replicate Cleveland's Gardening for Greenbacks program, a small grant program for equipment/material costs related to market garden efforts
- Encourage community gardens, including training on growing, with demo sites, good food education, classes and skill sharing, land access, a city-wide seed and tool share, and a cooperative market stand
- Gardening education in schools
- Shade trees