



Environmental Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda

June 26, 2024 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II HR Conference Room B
805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

Order of Business

- I. Public Comment**
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Administrative Action***
 - Approval of May 29, 2024 – Meeting minutes

- IV. Information/Updates**
 - FY 25 Budget passed by Council
 - Connected Communities – public comment document

- V. Open Discussion**
 - GCP Tracking – document to share with policy items highlighted
 - Next steps for Connected Communities – additional policy items & council update

- VI. Action Items***

- VII. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
 - *RFP063_2024: Clean Energy Solutions for the City's Electricity Load* released
 - Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Grant
 - Seeds of Change Updates

- VIII. Next Meeting**
 - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 3:00 PM.
- IX. Adjournment**

**Board Action Requested*

Agenda Packet Materials:

- Draft meeting minutes from 5/29/24
- Public Comment on Connected Communities
- GCP Tracking dashboard



Environmental Advisory Board

June 26, 2024





Environmental Advisory Board

Agenda

1. Public Comment

2. Call to Order

3. Administrative Action

- Approval of May 29, 2024 – Meeting Minutes

4. Information/Updates

- FY 25 Budget passed by Council
- Connected Communities – public comment document

5. Open Discussion

- GCP Tracking – document to share with policy items highlighted
- Next steps for Connected Communities – additional policy items & council update

6. Action Items

7. Office of Environment and Sustainability Updates

- RFP063_2024: Clean Energy Solutions for the City's Electricity Load released
- Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Grant
- Seeds of Change Updates

8. Adjournment



Public Comment

- Members of the public may provide comments to the Board or its committees in writing to OES staff or in person at a public meeting.
- Written comments shall be submitted to OES no later than 4:00p.m. on the business day before the meeting, and shall be distributed by OES to all Board or committee members.
- Comments made during a public meeting are referred to as “Public Comment”. A person providing Public Comment is limited to **two minutes**.
- Public Comment shall be limited to items of interest before the Board, and shall only be permitted prior to the commencement of the business portion of the meeting.

Public Comment Open:

- In-person Attendees
- Online Attendees



Administrative Action

- Approval of May 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes



FY 25 Budget Update

Changes from FY24-25 budget:

- Includes 12 FTE – increase of 1.25
- \$5 million capital for Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives

Leveraged Support investments:

- Green Umbrella
- La Soupe
- Produce Perks Midwest
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful



city of
CINCINNATI
CINCINNATI, OHIO

FY 2025
**RECOMMENDED
ALL FUNDS
BUDGET UPDATE**



Connected Communities Update

Ordinance 202401146 with proposed zoning changes for the project termed “Connected Communities” was passed by City Council on Wednesday 6/4/24.

A public comment was provided to Council by the EAB (see agenda packet)



Open Discussion

- Green Cincinnati Plan – Goal/Strategy/Action tracking
- Connected Communities – additional policy items & council update



OES Comments

- Clean Energy RFP has been released: RFP063_2024: Clean Energy Solutions for the City's Electricity Load
 - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/noncms/cmgr/business-opportunities/>
 - Proposals due 7/18/24
- Seeds of Change
- Youth Climate Action Fund



GREEN CINCINNATI PLAN
Seeds of Change
Grant Program

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies



The Youth Climate Action Fund will support Cincinnati youth, ages 15 to 24, in designing, producing, and overseeing urgent climate solutions.

- The Youth Climate Action Fund spans 100 cities, 38 countries, 6 continents, and represents over 62 million residents.
- Cincinnati will receive \$50,000 to distribute as microgrants through the Seeds of Change Grant Program this summer to youth led and youth serving initiatives.
- After distributing initial funds, Cincinnati will be eligible to receive an additional \$100,000 to grant out.
- Application available at:
 - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/green-cincinnati-plan/seeds-of-change-grant-program/>

**Applications
due 7/15**



GREEN CINCINNATI PLAN

Seeds of Change

Grant Program



Purpose:

To encourage residents and partners to initiate community-led projects that bring the Green Cincinnati Plan to life.

Priority:

To support resident-driven solutions that focus in large part on impacting those communities most affected by climate change.

Inaugural Round:

- 19 proposals recommended for funding totaling \$196,769 (\$100k city funds; \$96,769 in GCF donor funds)
- Decision Making Criteria (reflected in RFP)
 - Eligibility: complete, submitted by deadline, impact within city limits, non-profit or with fiscal sponsor, organization budget below \$500k, actionable w/in 6 months
 - Priorities: clear ask, GCP alignment, feasibility, benefits most impacted, resident-led, few other funding options
- Funding decisions communicated 6/15; made public in early July



48% of proposals received were recommended for funding

Funds available grew by **97%** due to co-funding with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

22 Cincinnati neighborhoods to be impacted, **77%** of which are designated by the federal government as “disadvantaged communities” or DACs



GREEN CINCINNATI PLAN **Seeds of Change** Grant Program

7 of 8 GCP Focus Areas activated with Food and Natural Environment projects receiving the most investment

37% of funded proposals led by a person of color

10 review committee members self-identified via broad call – 5 with lived experience in a DAC and 5 with deep expertise in environmental justice work – 2 with both backgrounds!

JUNE 2024 AWARDEES



Organization Name	Project Title	Award Amount
B the Keeper	Powerful Pollinators	\$20,000
Beekman Community Market	Increase Food Production Capacity in the Beekman Corridor	\$2,440
Black Power Initiative	Creating an Agricultural Production Site in the West End for CCPA/Cincy Rec Kids	\$8,802
Brick Gardens	Brick Gardens Campus Composting – Phase One	\$20,000
Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation	Camp Washington LED Initiative	\$20,000
Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (NEST)	Preserving Affordable + Diverse Homeownership: Energy Efficient Expansion	\$20,000
Cincinnati Permaculture Institute	Growing Food Producers	\$7,500
East End Area Council	Canopy Plan for CRC’s Schmidt Fields, Park, and Boat Ramp	\$2,500
Isaiah 55, Inc.	Feed the Block	\$10,500
Mt. Airy Community Urban Redevelopment Enterprise (CURE)	Mt. Airy Community Garden High Tunnel	\$8,958
Mt. Washington Community Council	Green Mt. Washington – Activating and Educating Our Residents Where They Are	\$2,920
Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation	Improving Access to Green Transportation, Increasing Safety, and Promoting Zero Waste	\$15,613
Mt. Auburn Garden Initiative Corporation	Pocket Prairie – Phase 1	\$2,418
<u>MyWhy</u>	Grow Where You Are Planted & the Power of Produce – Taking It <u>To</u> The Parks Program	\$17,855
Northside Farmers Market	Northside Farmer’s Market’s <u>For</u> Everybody!	\$4,013
Pleasant Street North Community Garden	Living Shade Structure	\$2,000
Roselawn Community Council	School Community Garden	\$8,000
<u>SonLight</u> Power, Inc.	Horses on the Hill Solar Installation	\$15,000
The Being Project	Rees E. Price Outdoor Learning	\$8,250



Next Meeting

- 3PM July 31, 2024
 - **In person:** Centennial II, HR Conference Room A,
 - 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45202
 - **Virtually:** Microsoft Teams

Environmental Advisory Board

Minutes of May 29, 2024

Members Present:

- **In person:** Dave Schmitt; Savannah Sullivan; Rico Blackman; Tanner Yess
- **Virtual:** Andrew Musgrave; Ashlee Young; Ericka Copeland; Kylie Johnson; Nathan Alley; Susan Sprigg

Members Absent: Chad Day; Diana Hodge; Julie Shifman

Staff Present: Amanda Testerman; Indira Thompson; Rachel Bickett

Meeting: A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on May 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room B, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Meeting Agenda:

I. Public Comment

II. Call to Order at 3:07 PM

III. Administrative Action*

- Approval of April 24, 2024 – Meeting minutes

IV. Information/Updates

- Ashlee Dinger has provided her resignation from the EAB. The EAB is City Manager appointed. The vacancy for this 3-year term will be discussed with the City Manager for re-appointment.
- Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund Grant – Presentation from Rachel Bickett & Indira Thompson
- Seeds of Change Updates
- Green Cincinnati Plan Tracking Dashboard – Climateview & Internal tracking dashboard

V. Open Discussion

- Connected Communities – board members discussed the proposed Connected Communities legislation (ordinance 202401146) as a follow-up to the discussion with CM Harris' office in the April 24, 2024 EAB meeting.
- Board members discussed the alignment of the proposed ordinance to the Green Cincinnati Plan, and potential policy needs that are not addressed in the proposed ordinance. Topics of discussion included stormwater, affordable housing, and green gentrification.

VI. Action Items*

- Motion: A mini-team of EAB members to draft and submit a statement on “Connected Communities” and recommended companion policies to share with Council. Mini-team to consist of Savannah Sullivan, Rico Blackman, Kylie Johnson, Nathan Alley, Andrew Musgrave.
 - Yes – 8 votes; no – 0 votes; abstentions – 0 [PASSES]
 - Members not present for vote: Chad Day; Diana Hodge; Julie Shifman; Ericka Copeland; Susan Sprigg

VII. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments

VIII. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 3:00 PM

IX. Adjournment at 4:38 PM

Statement from City of Cincinnati Environmental Advisory Board:

Cities have a huge role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change, particularly since they consume over two-thirds of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global CO2 emissions. "Cities are where climate battles will be won or lost. They have the potential to cut their emissions by 90% by 2050 using technically feasible measures." One way they can do that most effectively is by concentrating population in well-designed, dense urban areas that are well served by transit. People who live in communities with convenient access to the essentials of daily life are less likely to drive to all of their destinations, they spend less money on transportation and they have a reduced need to own a car. That means less air pollution. Increased density in livable urban communities also means we are better able to protect undeveloped natural areas that are key to our environmental resiliency.

Part of what is fueling Greater Cincinnati's population growth is our status as a relative climate haven. Climate migrants look to our region as a place of refuge from wildfires, hurricanes, drought, and sea level rise. They are attracted to our ample freshwater and our abundant greenspace. Zoning reforms like this one will help us prepare now to sustainably accommodate this anticipated growth. We need to maintain the lungs and sponges of our region – the forests, urban trees, wetlands, farms, and waterways that are such an important part of our climate resiliency. That means increasing density in areas that are already developed rather than developing our way further and further into our suburban and rural landscape. The Connected Communities reform is a targeted and long-overdue proposal to allow for increased density where it is needed most, along transit corridors and neighborhood business districts.

The City of Cincinnati's Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) concurs with the May 17, 2024 assessment prepared for the City Planning Commission when it identified that the proposed policies in Connected Communities are consistent with three specific strategies in the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan: (1) "Modify land use regulations to support development along transit corridors" (pg. 120); (2) "Promote "15 Minute Neighborhoods" with mixed residential (including multi-family) and commercial zoning to increase transit connectivity as well as density and affordability" (pg. 121); and (3) Embrace zoning reform that increases density near transit, reduces or eliminates parking requirements across the City, and minimizes the use of surface parking lots" (pg. 121).

However, we have identified opportunities where the City can align more strongly with other goals and strategies of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan. For example, the proposed Connected Communities actions without needed companion policies does not fully address the core tenets of the equity pillar of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan. We must recognize how zoning and other policy decisions and practices of the past have caused harms like highly segregated housing and concentrations of poverty in neighborhoods with high levels of pollution and exposure to climate impacts, and how decisions of the future can perpetuate these harms. Zoning reforms and climate action without comprehensive attention to the history of injustice, present inequitable outlays of burdens, and the complexity of climate's impact on our systems can

actually result in further injustice. If we are not careful with development decisions in the pursuit of density, we will pave the way for climate gentrification – the displacement of low-income residents from their homes because of an increase in the cost of living driven by climate resilience investments.

We encourage the city to proactively address the potential of these updates to further harm low income and BIPOC residents. We believe Connected Communities can be paired with strategies and investments in anti-displacement, truly affordable housing, and neighborhood resilience to be a win for sustainability, climate adaptation, and equity. To this end, the Environmental Advisory Board has identified three areas with the most opportunity for the City to curtail potentially unjust outcomes: Housing, Stormwater, and Community Engagement.

Housing

Connected Communities states “the goal isn’t just to build more housing, but to also house more people.” With people in mind, the EAB wants to draw attention to the fact that we must avoid maladaptive housing decisions that can provide short-term relief but worsen the problem in the long-run (for example, housing that has highly inefficient air conditioners that increase electricity demand and exacerbate Cincinnati’s already significant energy burden issue). Unintended consequences that can ensue from the complex relationship between climate and housing can further entrench a range of problems including increased rates of household displacement, harmful environmental impacts, and gentrification within primarily Black communities (which have borne the most significant burden of maladaptive development practices).

The Green Cincinnati Plan highlights [a study done in 2020](#) that documented the Urban Heat Island Effect in several of Cincinnati’s neighborhoods of color that were historically redlined (Page 20-21). The areas that would be affected the most through Connected Communities are many of the same neighborhoods with higher average temperatures – Carthage, Roselawn, Walnut Hills, Millvale, Over the Rhine, and Avondale to name a few. Increased development without specific urban heat mitigation and adaptation efforts will continue to burden residents living in these neighborhoods with warmer temperatures. Some of the design approaches that should be encouraged for housing development include minimizing heat gain to dwellings, provision of emergency cooling, and requirements for backup power systems that can supply emergency cooling for at least a few days. To further address urban heat resilience, the EAB also recommends other [urban design strategies](#) such as built shade structures, cool pavements, and building/street orientation land use considerations such as ventilation corridors, building massing/shape/size, urban geometry.

Importantly, in order to mitigate climate gentrification displacement, the EAB also encourages the City to meaningfully integrate recommendations like the following (and more – see [this Urban Land Institute report](#)) into future planning, policy, and programmatic efforts.

- Community Benefits Agreements support in Connected Communities corridors, which can ensure residents’ interests are considered as development progresses
- Resilience Hubs, which can ensure support and resource distribution before, during, and after a natural hazard event (as committed to in the Green Cincinnati Plan, “increase

access, stability, and security of mixed-income housing and resilience hubs for local residents and anticipated climate migrants” (pg. 143)).

- Resilient Zoning Policy, which can ensure new construction and redevelopment are designed to withstand anticipated climate impacts
- Community Stabilization through strategies ensuring sufficient affordable housing units are available at or below specific AMI (ex. 4% units affordable at 30% AMI for a period of at least 20 years as was done in Minneapolis in 2020).

As the City considers future strategies, the EAB also generally recommends consideration of resources such as [Sustainable Development Code](#), which provides good-better-best climate practices for community development.

Stormwater

The 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan highlights “Stormwater & Heat Adaptation” on page 141 and lists seven (7) Priority Actions, including: (1) Incentivize green infrastructure projects in communities with extreme heat and flood vulnerabilities; (2) 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; and (3) Continue to decrease sewer backups, sewer overflows, and overland flooding (flash flooding) by supporting sewer infrastructure improvements in priority communities.

These three (3) Priority Actions are supported by the Connected Communities strategy of reducing surface parking lots in the City; surface parking lots are generally impervious and exacerbate stormwater runoff and its effects. However, the Connected Communities plan does not include other incentives or strategies specifically designed to alleviate the negative impacts of unmanaged stormwater. In particular, the City should ensure that “densification” does not lead to a greater proportion of impervious surfaces. To that end, during the planning process, some stakeholders suggested that Connected Communities should include specific limits on impervious surfaces, and/or incentives for permeable surfaces that can adequately absorb stormwater. In parallel, the City should be encouraging the proliferation of green spaces and other heat adaptation strategies. In general, the EAB also recommends that Connected Communities and all future city planning be better integrated with a comprehensive regional stormwater management plan.

Community Engagement

The EAB acknowledges the unprecedented level of community engagement that took place to create Connected Communities, and at the same time heeds the input from the community at large that has called for more equitable, inclusive, and robust engagement on significant planning efforts.

To this end, the EAB provides the following recommendations for future engagement:

- Host an Equity Advisory Committee composed of internal staff and external partners, especially individuals who represent frontline communities. Structure opportunities to financially compensate Equity Liaisons on key initiatives to ensure that frontline

community expertise and experience are incorporated into engagement and outcomes at every stage of planning processes.

- Construct engagement opportunities to leverage the [Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#) to acknowledge marginalization as the status quo practice of current systems, assert a clear vision for rebuilding, articulate a developmental process that requires significant investment in community capacity, and assess community participation efforts
- Ensure deep and meaningful alignment on climate planning by formalizing coordination between between the Department of Planning and Office of Environment and Sustainability and the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership
- Create systems for continuous engagement with communities that allow for participatory governance, transparency, answerability, and accountability. [Meaningful accountability](#) includes acknowledging harm, establishing a set of anti-racist norms for engagement, skilled facilitation, racial affinity groups, creating feedback loops, and practicing generative conflict.

As the Green Cincinnati Plan states, “The choice is ours: as a city we can do the hard work now or we can suffer the consequences of having the same patterns repeated later, causing further harm to our communities.” We see Connected Communities as just one piece of the puzzle towards a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable Cincinnati and will be strongest if paired with companion policies and practices such as those listed above and more.

GCP Actions with Policy Aspects					
Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Buildings & Energy	B&E.1	Improve building performance by implementing policies like benchmarking, building performance standards, or other relevant energy standards	In progress	The City is working with UC professor Amanda Webb and other Ohio cities on a BPS focused grant that started in January 2024. The grant is currently in the research phase and will begin outreach later this year. The City submitted a grant application with the same partners to fund implementation of BPS. Benchmarking report provided to council.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.3	Recognize the role embodied carbon plays in the built environment and align incentive programs to encourage the reuse of existing buildings	Suggested	No action to date.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.5	Create incentives to encourage developers to electrify new buildings or install infrastructure so buildings can easily convert to all-electric in the future	Suggested	No action to date. Federal incentives will help. Attempted to get it included in the Residential Tax Abatement Program. Commercial Tax Abatement will be up for review this year, so opportunity is on the horizon.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.9	Create policies that will increase the energy efficiency of residential single and multi-family buildings in order to decrease energy poverty	In progress	The BPS grant with UC professor Amanda Webb will look at standards for multifamily housing. There are no discussions surrounding single family homes.	Yes
City Operations	CO.6	Create policy for the procurement of sustainable goods for internal City supplies and materials informed by a city audit to develop strategic priorities	Suggested	Sustainable Fleet Policy is a working model with many challenges. Conversations happening around similar approach for Facilities.	Yes
City Operations	CO.18	Organize facility managers to create a sustainable facility policy for new city buildings	Suggested	Discussions with Facilities about approach. Revolving Loan Fund + IRA could be great impetus for formalized policy.	Yes
Community Activation	CA.2	Build and present a case for long-term funding mechanisms that drive emissions reductions. Reallocate the resources generated to reduce disparate impacts.	Suggested	Offered to UC environmental capstone students as a thesis option; revolving loan fund and greenbank efforts could help influence; potential Charter amendment for waste fees; Councilmembers discussing climate fee; EAB could play role	Yes
Community Activation	CA.3	Support codification of climate justice and racial equity in City decision-making mechanisms	In progress	EAB could play a role; Rail sale Rising 15 request for report; Council recommendation was made around using the GCP like Plan Cincinnati as policies, programs, and purchases are screened - no known formal action on this to date - talks underway with Budget, Law, etc. but skepticism; GARE core team starting to build momentum	Yes
Food	F.9	Implement the <u>Milan Urban Food Policy Pact</u> related to good governance, sustainable diets & nutrition, social & economic equity, food production, food supply & distribution and food waste	In progress	Brick Gardens is laying in all spaces; sustainable diets and nutrition and social & economic equity are probably focus; Food Waste Piece: CO- composting program at Camp Washington and beyond; Collaboration model? Interstate with Rust Belt; Continuing to look at network and what work is being done; developing network of FW reclamation; Support compost Production across many sites; continue making compost at Camp; Bioreactors; Hamilton County working related to Food Waste; NRDC suggesting potential policy changes	Yes
Mobility	M.7	Develop policies to ensure that vehicle charging infrastructure is available to all residents including those who live in multi-family buildings and in homes without driveways	In progress	Worked with Planning and one of their interns to evaluate updates to City code that will reflect need for EV charging. Zoning administrator was in the conversations and it has traction.	Yes
Mobility	M.9	Develop policies and incentives to ensure new construction is prepared for EV charging	In progress	Worked with Planning and one of their interns to evaluate updates to City code that will reflect need for EV charging. Zoning administrator was in the conversations and it has traction.	Yes
Mobility	M.10	Continue to invest in complete streets to improve connectivity between neighborhoods	In progress	City passed a Complete Streets ordinance in November 2022. DOTE currently examining using Complete Streets principles to transform Central Parkway.	Yes
Mobility	M.16	Embrace zoning reform that increases density near transit, reduces or eliminates parking requirements across the city, and minimizes the use of surface parking lots	Completed	Connected Communities passed in June of 2024. Council addressed surface parking lots in CBD.	Yes
Natural Environment	NE.4	Implement policies that protect existing trees during development efforts	Suggested	Report by Xavier Intern on options from other municipalities, example ordinances complete. Potential option for EAB to provide suggestions to committee. Motion #202302795 passed by Council in December requesting: "the Administration supplement its process for granting easements to third parties. This supplement should include (but not limited to): detailed guidelines for community engagement and communication for easements authorizing large-scale construction or earth movement with the potential to impact neighbors, and restoration and replacement of removal of trees and vegetation."	Yes
Natural Environment	NE.8	Strengthen air emissions regulations	Suggested	XU intern project focused on study of municipal air regulations. Comparison to see what action municipalities have taken.	Yes
Natural Environment	NE.13	Implement policies which promote and protect public greenspaces in new developments	Suggested		Yes
Natural Environment	NE.15	Implement policies that restrict development in forested and/or biodiverse areas	Suggested	Report by Xavier intern on options from other municipalities, example ordinances complete. Potential option for EAB to provide suggestions to committee.	Yes
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.1	Incentivize green infrastructure projects in communities with extreme heat and flood vulnerabilities	In progress	KCB includes green infrastructure elements in all of their greenspaces OES created 1-pager and infographic on updated website. FUSE climate resilience project includes aspects of this action including listening tour, landscape analysis, and grant support. Relationship building: MSD, SMU, MCA, Parks, OKI, Hamilton County Conservation District, and many others highlighted in FUSE listening tour report.	Yes

GCP Actions with Policy Aspects					
Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.8	Continue to implement affordable and mixed-income housing strategies to stabilize communities	In progress	Connected Communities Zoning Reform Ordinance Passed 6/5/2024. Continue supporting repurposing of industrial and commercial office space to residential land use including through brownfield redevelopment. This is being funded in part through state and federal brownfield grants, tax credits, tax incentive financing, opportunity zones. Action item look to build champion relationship with orgs including CMHA, the Port, and DCED among others. Studies recently completed applicable to this action include the City's Financial Blueprint and the City's Futures Commission Report, both of which include more detailed recommended actions. Cincinnati formally awarded Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities initiative funding in March 2024 to support a three member I-team to work with the mayor's office to address financial and climate racial inequities including a focus on affordable housing.	Yes
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.14	Protect landslide-prone hillsides and overland flood risk zones through land development policies, such as Low Impact Development	In progress	FEMA BRIC PROTECT Grant for \$10 Million - awarded to DOTE. Grant project includes stabilization of 10 landslide prone areas in the City. Action item landscape analysis of existing city land development policies as administered by DOTE and B&I. City council report from DOTE & B&I on landslide in progress work (assessing, investigating, remediating, started, progress, completed).	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.1	Increase the number of multi-family dwellings with recycling infrastructure	In progress	Multi-family recycling pilot started at Tudor Court. Application for funding through The Recycling Partnership (TRP) was submitted 2/28/24 and revised 3/13/24. Researching other leads for multi-family pilots	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.3	Require permitted public events and events held on City property use best available recycling practices and include recycling service costs in the permit fee	In progress	Special event mapping technology from the Recycle Hack-a-thon is being explored by OPDA; Hamilton County provides infrastructure (bins) and the Chamber is in support of this; Special event recycling was included as a component of the recycling services RFP.	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.8	Incentivize recycling and diversion innovation by increasing the cost of waste generation and disposal	In progress	Imposing a fee for trash is currently prohibited by the Cincinnati Garbage Fee Charter Amendment passed in 2011. Policy changes would be needed to implement Pay as You Throw (PAYT) or volume-based waste fees. PAYT report developed by OES Intern. NRDC may be able to provide technical assistance for policy language and development. Administration is exploring options to create a revenue stream within the bounds of the charter amendment.	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.14	Support funding, siting, and development of a local, large-scale Class II compost facility	In progress	The Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy committee approved a \$150,000 study to determine a location and best type of facility that will be needed; CO looking to expand compost program to 1000sq ft as a Class II; CPRG Grant submission with OKI included funding for multi-scale compost facilities	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.17	Utilize policy and fees to discourage the use of single-use plastics including plastic bags	In progress	Ohio House Bill 242 prevents Cities from implementing fees for single-use plastics. OES intern prepared a report on actions other Ohio municipalities are taking	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.18	Reduce litter and illegal dumping through public communications strategy and stronger enforcement	In progress	OES purchased 48 recycling containers for DORA Districts to assist with litter reduction; Additional 25 containers in CBD installed to reduce litter; Council approved ordinance 729-31 on 11/15/23 allowing the city to impound a vehicle used to illegally dump trash. Two other ordinances aimed at reducing litter were also approved: Fencing vacant lots and AMENDING Section 729-7, "Setting Out Containers," to ensure the clean and safe storage of garbage containers and dumpsters	Yes

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Buildings & Energy	B&E.1	Improve building performance by implementing policies like benchmarking, building performance standards, or other relevant energy standards	In progress	The City is working with UC professor Amanda Webb and other Ohio cities on a BPS focused grant that started in January 2024. The grant is currently in the research phase and will begin outreach later this year. The City submitted a grant application with the same partners to fund implementation of BPS. Benchmarking report provided to council.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.2	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	In progress	Several organizations in the city (Cincinnati Business Council & the Regional Business Council, CDF, The Port, Hamilton County) are exploring how to develop a local Green Bank; Phase 2 is about to begin, which will involve planning and operationalizing specific programs that can be launched in the region (Home Energy Rebates, Solar For All, etc.), particularly focusing on low-income and disadvantaged communities. C-PACE continues to serve as a funding mechanism for a few projects each year. Continued efforts are needed to expand C-PACE.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.3	Recognize the role embodied carbon plays in the built environment and align incentive programs to encourage the reuse of existing buildings	Suggested	No action to date.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.4	Reduce reliance on natural gas by developing programs to encourage the adoption of heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and induction stoves	In progress	OES is working to build out the Electrify Cincy Program. Website and videos launching in June. VISTA to focus here starting in September. New home energy rebate programs (focused on energy efficiency and electrification/appliances) should be released by ODOT in late 2024/early 2025. OTRCH EPA STAR grant will pilot these upgrades and promote learnings. Federal incentives will help.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.5	Create incentives to encourage developers to electrify new buildings or install infrastructure so buildings can easily convert to all-electric in the future	Suggested	No action to date. Federal incentives will help. Attempted to get it included in the Residential Tax Abatement Program. Commercial Tax Abatement will be up for review this year, so opportunity is on the horizon.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.6	Educate the community and corporate partners about tax credits and other programs available to assist with the transition to more energy efficient technologies	In progress	OES FUSE Fellow has started outreach efforts which will continue over the next several months. Electrify Cincy website will be launched in June and promoting that will help.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.7	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	In progress	GU through EPA STAR Grant. Starting upgrades to about 30 OTRCH households Fall 2024. RFP to get organization to take on landlord/tenant upgrades and education going public soon. Workshopping collaborative program with B&I providing funding to support EE on HARBOR/HRS projects. CPRG and Community Change proposals include this. Energy Futures will explore PIPP rethinking.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.8	Implement and fund programs to install solar on low-income housing	In progress	The City partnered on two different Solar for All applications that will assist with installing solar on low-income housing. Both projects were funded. Additional guidance from partners expected in the coming months. Energy Futures grant will help figure out implementation for the Heartland grant.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.9	Create policies that will increase the energy efficiency of residential single and multi-family buildings in order to decrease energy poverty	In progress	The BPS grant with UC professor Amanda Webb will look at standards for multifamily housing. There are no discussions surrounding single family homes.	Yes
Buildings & Energy	B&E.10	Support programs like Solarize that encourage adoption of rooftop solar	Suggested	City is working with EnergySage to provide services in the region. City would need to create a coordinated outreach campaign to drive residents to EnergySage platform.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.11	Partner with local organizations to offer financing tools such as a loan fund or Green Bank to support investment in renewable energy	In progress	Several organizations in the city (Cincinnati Business Council & the Regional Business Council, CDF, The Port, Hamilton County) are exploring how to develop a local Green Bank; Phase 2 is about to begin, which will involve planning and operationalizing specific programs that can be launched in the region (Home Energy Rebates, Solar For All, etc.), particularly focusing on low-income and disadvantaged communities.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.12	Continue to pursue wind and solar power purchase agreements (PPAs) to secure enough electricity to support City operations and the City's aggregation program	In progress	RFP released on June 12, 2024. Seeks responses for Center Hill solar, solar in or adjacent to city, and large scale clean energy solutions.	
Buildings & Energy	B&E.13	Identify energy storage options like batteries, pumped storage, or hydrogen storage to maximize utilization of clean energy and improve grid reliability	In progress	Analysis of clean energy options completed by Larry Falkin. Clean Energy RFP released and will also for storage solutions.	
City Operations	CO.1	Implement participatory and priority-based budgeting	In progress	GCP Seeds of Change grant recommendations provided by a mixed review committee with different types of expertise and backgrounds; City departments (OES, Budget, Procurement) are participating in PBB training with ICLEI and ResourceX. CMO push toward "Performance Based Budgeting." All departments are undergoing service cataloging and KPI setting.	
City Operations	CO.2	Develop annual funding for sustainability investments like a Municipal bond to capitalize on climate incentives of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	In progress	Exploring bond funding with Finance. Formalized and seed funded the Revolving Loan Fund with \$2M to operationalize IRA	
City Operations	CO.3	Streamline procurement to enhance the impact of federal funding by utilizing cooperative purchasing including Omnia, GSA, Sourcewell	Suggested	Monthly meetings with Procurement to develop strategy. Cooperative contracts currently allowed after testing local market. Hopeful that Fleet Consultant can help with breakthrough.	
City Operations	CO.4	Continue to develop a framework for supporting green jobs with a focus on youth	In progress	Current contract through Parks with Groundwork for youth workforce development. Fuse Fellow now on board to focus on this action. Bloomberg grant will support this work.	
City Operations	CO.5	Hire a grant writer to assist in pursuit of federal funding with focus on the Justice40 Initiative to address environmental justice issues	Completed	Nutter Consulting engaged, working toward a longer term contract; \$30 million dollars raised since launch of GCP - exceeding target of \$25 million by 2028	
City Operations	CO.6	Create policy for the procurement of sustainable goods for internal City supplies and materials informed by a city audit to develop strategic priorities	Suggested	Sustainable Fleet Policy is a working model with many challenges. Conversations happening around similar approach for Facilities.	Yes
City Operations	CO.7	Crowdsource climate solutions with programs like hackathons to tackle complex issues	In progress	Successful recycling Hackathon in April, additional sustainability hackathons to come; need new elected leadership to lead. Seeds of Change funds innovative community solutions.	
City Operations	CO.8	Improve communication and accessibility of sustainability programs and progress to the public	In progress	Launched ClimateView. Strategizing on social media. Quarterly presentations to council.	
City Operations	CO.9	Join and leverage Government Alliance on Race & Equity to advance climate equity programs	Completed	City has secured membership for 2 years. GARE membership provided through Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities grant.	

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
City Operations	CO.10	Update the Climate Equity Indicators report every 5 years to design programs to target benefits to priority communities	Suggested	Aim will be to publish in 2026, so initiate end of 2024. Bloomberg Fellow currently conducting foundational research.	
City Operations	CO.11	Conduct an electric vehicle (EV) charging needs assessment for city fleet & install necessary infrastructure at city facilities, partner with County at shared facilities	In progress	Scope of work kicked off with JLL December 2023; six month project timeline. Draft report received 6/1/24.	
City Operations	CO.12	Conduct a needs assessment to right-size the city fleet	In progress	Scope of work kicked off with JLL December 2023; six month project timeline. Draft report received 6/1/24.	
City Operations	CO.13	Continue to electrify the city fleet and equipment including lawn equipment	In progress	50 EVs in fleet. Pending orders for additional. Many procurement challenges.	
City Operations	CO.14	Offer remote work flexibility to reduce commuting	Completed	City piloting hybrid work policy. GU-Supported through 2030 District toolkit	
City Operations	CO.15	Develop HR incentives for employee use of public transit, biking, & walking	In progress	Red Bike incentive offered to City Employees	
City Operations	CO.16	Establish prioritized facilities as "Resilience Hubs" - centers for community gathering during emergency. Equip with solar and backup power to provide relief during emergencies	Suggested	EJG2G grant submitted, but not awarded. Battery backup for two recreation centers in FY24 budget. 2 Resilience hubs included in Community Change application.	
City Operations	CO.17	Pursue additional utility-scale clean energy with requests for proposal (RFP)	In progress	RFP released June 2024. Solar for All will potentially make significant additional dollars available.	
City Operations	CO.18	Organize facility managers to create a sustainable facility policy for new city buildings	Suggested	Discussions with Facilities about approach. Revolving Loan Fund + IRA could be great impetus for formalized policy.	Yes
City Operations	CO.19	Continue to strategically pursue energy efficiency for city facilities	In progress	EECBG funding will support this starting early 2024. GU- 2030 District supporting on data	
City Operations	CO.20	Convert streetlights to LED including electrifying gas lights	Suggested	Conversations with ACM and Council. DOTE in lead. Clifton Town Meeting may be formalizing a position to request action. Brightening Ohio grant for West End submitted.	
City Operations	CO.21	Publish energy benchmarking data for city facilities on Cincy Insights	Completed	Data published on Cincy Insights. Data being updated.	
Community Activation	CA.1	Advocate for the passage of a City Budget that supports GCP priorities with at least 40% benefiting priority communities	In progress	\$5 million allocated in FY25 for GCP priorities - division of these funds TBD; Rail Sale - Council request in process to allocate revenue to "Rising 15" communities; Of \$4 million allocated in early 2023 - \$2 million has been activated as part of the revolving loan fund, \$400k for EV charging; and \$100k of \$700k total is at GCF ready to be offered for equity focused community projects - aim to advertise and activate equity grants Jan-June 2024; FY24 capital request includes solar and battery backup for 7 rec centers in Disadvantaged Communities (\$5.5 million of \$14.75 million in total asks);	
Community Activation	CA.2	Build and present a case for long-term funding mechanisms that drive emissions reductions. Reallocate the resources generated to reduce disparate impacts.	Suggested	Offered to UC environmental capstone students as a thesis option; revolving loan fund and greenbank efforts could help influence; potential Charter amendment for waste fees; Councilmembers discussing climate fee; EAB could play role	Yes
Community Activation	CA.3	Support codification of climate justice and racial equity in City decision-making mechanisms	In progress	EAB could play a role; Rail sale Rising 15 request for report; Council recommendation was made around using the GCP like Plan Cincinnati as policies, programs, and purchases are screened - no known formal action on this to date - talks underway with Budget, Law, etc. but skepticism; GARE core team starting to build momentum	Yes
Community Activation	CA.4	Continue to strengthen regional partnerships - like OKI and the Regional Climate Collaborative - to better coordinate, share, and build strategic advantage	In progress	GU is now the regional climate collaborative; OKI / GU leading Climate Pollution Reduction planning effort with initial plan due 3/1/24 - OES in support, GHG inventory underway; OES (via Howard) provided implementation project guidance for regional application submitted for \$180M on 4/1/24 - notification to come late summer 2024; Thriving Communities Playbook accepted ideas and feedback via CitizenLab; OKI provided solar data for BlocMaps; higher education collaborative gaining legs; a few statewide or regional applications submitted for federal funding - some have already received awards	
Community Activation	CA.5	Increase investment in advocacy, lobbying, grantseeking, and partnership development to increase local receipt of federal / state resources	In progress	Nutter Consulting contract underway to support grant seeking; \$272 million in grant requests submitted by/with OES since start of 2023 including local, state, and regional collaborations; increased emphasis on state lobbying by Office of Grants Management; Fuse Exec Fellows expanding OES' ability to form and maintain partnership in new, important spaces; GU and OEC staffing up	
Community Activation	CA.6	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	In progress	3 schools in priority communities granted Seeds of Change funding; City leveraged funds in FY24 and FY25 support GU's Green Schoolyards Action Network; GSN going strong in 2024 - recent summit drew over 200 attendees; OES team members serve on fundraising and workforce committees to support 2024-25 school year; CPS superintendent shift could impact efforts	
Community Activation	CA.7	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	Suggested	CPS Facilities involved in Green Schoolyards Action Network and OES starting to make in-roads with renewable energy RFP; CPS/First Student interest in electrifying school buses, but hesitant - could use our guidance; schools can be a primary partner for the Clean Energy Fuse Fellow to engage; representative of Archdiocese on EAB; students and Citizens Climate Lobby passed a new policy on building electrification through CPS school board	
Community Activation	CA.8	Partner with the local Workforce Investment Board, educational institutions, employers, County, State and more to amplify equity-focused, green workforce training and career pathways	In progress	Green Workforce Fuse Fellow focusing here - exploring and building relationships phase; Coop Cincy's Green Jobs Collaborative well underway including many key partners, Chamber's Talent Collaborative also playing a role; Bloomberg ASC will lean in here; higher ed collaborative could weigh in here eventually	
Community Activation	CA.9	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	In progress	Federal Climate Corps formation underway - providing local input to the feds; GORV leveraged fund support in FY24 & FY25; Green Workforce Fuse Fellow focusing here; Supported GORV EPA Brownfields Training grant recently awarded; Green Schoolyards Action Network started a workforce focus in 2024; KCB launching their own green corps type program in 2024	
Community Activation	CA.10	Create and support more opportunities like Climate Safe Neighborhoods (CSN) for residents to identify local environmental issues; empower residents and partners to implement community-based solutions	In progress	GCP Seeds of Change grant program launched to support community-based action on GCP priorities - \$196k of awards in initial round; Lower Price Hill and Beekman Corridor CSN groups re-engaged for EPA Community Change grant ask of \$20M; 2 additional Cincinnati neighborhoods (Avondale and Norwood) in 2024; FY25 and FY24 Leveraged Funds with GU provided in support	
Community Activation	CA.11	Support the Youth Environmental Council to mobilize the next generation	In progress	New group formed each school year - mostly learning and personal project focused; still very small, informal, and influenceable	
Community Activation	CA.12	Support the launch of a one stop shop - physical and virtual - to support residents in making lifestyle changes through informing and incentivizing efforts	Suggested	Both the Hub and UC have expressed interest - no known movement to date; exploring the possibility in the residential space for a one stop like Elevate and Bloc with new Duke dollars; this idea included in regional CPRG submission	

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Community Activation	CA.13	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	In progress	BRITE Cincinnati Cleantech Hub roundtable upcoming; IRA education outreach has begun with nonprofits and building owners - open to more; Co-op Cincy's Green Jobs Coalition up and running with a subteam focused on employers; 513 Green continues; next Hackathon TBD	
Food	F.1	Increase funding for neighborhood gardens and urban agriculture managers	In progress	Additional \$25K funding secured through Greater Cincinnati Foundation for FY2024; Funding cannot be used for personnel per City Urban Ag Program Award criteria; only used for site improvements/supplies etc. Future opportunities with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to be explored.	
Food	F.2	Develop a network of neighborhood distribution sites for local food	In progress	Est sites in neighborhood already in. Mad Llama weekly farm stand in Madisonville & Madisonville Com Council; \$5 fill a bag; purchase also; EVANSTON rec center for Xavier Campus growing & adopt a CSA program(25 families) & St. Andrews Food Pantry; Bond Hill Church (2024 start) will be drop off site for BH and Roselawn; Northside Location(Distribution site) partner with Churches Active in Northside (CAIN) and Society of St Andrew packaged work with Xavier to prep for both Northside and Xavier Food Pantry. \$\$\$ needs: containers, kitchen (\$100K up to code and licensed) Heart of Northside (Florence); transportation for cool storage refig truck . Add in sites from Urban Ag program where food is being distributed. Also check with Black Power Initiative & Queen Mothers Market and CoOp Cincy	
Food	F.3	Restore & adapt underutilized spaces (vacant lots, indoor space & rooftops) for food production & ecological benefits and promote regenerative agriculture best practices	In progress	Camp Washington Urban Farm	
Food	F.4	Increase options for food access within food desert neighborhoods, including but not limited to farmers markets, food co-ops, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), corner stores, buying clubs, mobile markets, community gardens and food pantries	In progress	Green Umbrella through Green Space Alliance & Regional Food Systems Program grant to support Ohio Farmers Market Network, Produce Perks Midwest, Co-op Cincy, and Meiser's; Common Orchard installations (forestry grant with Ollie?); City's urban ag program (3 totally new sites FY204); Mad Llama coffee shopping Mville (Wed 5-7pm) & Mville Com Council interested in Farmers Market; Heart of Northside; working with food pantries (St Andrews, CAIN, Xavier Food Pantry); Working In Neighborhoods exploring development of farmers market; Green Umbrella providing TA at farmers markets SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)programs; OES partnering with City Health to place freezers in Rec Centers (Piloting at Millvale & Avondale); Seed of Change grants awarded to food efforts in neighborhoods	
Food	F.5	Provide city & regional funding for community-driven and innovative food initiatives	In progress	When paired with food diversion- can utilize Hamilton County Grants; City Leveraged Fund- La Soupe's work with food pantries; OES Submitted and received VISTA person to assist with all food efforts- starting fall 2024.	
Food	F.6	Increase utilization of locally-grown food at neighborhood food access points	In progress	GU: What Chef's Want part of OH CAN program, discussing with FPC Council Infrastructure committee; Farm to School work and Interact for Health Grant;	
Food	F.7	Engage community members on the impact of dietary choices on climate change, environment, & health - elevate the benefits of plant based options	In progress	In process of discussion- Milan UFPP; Northside kitchen cooking classes- mediterranean diet focus and product development of plant-based foods \$\$\$ promotional materials; reach out to Vegan Earth	
Food	F.8	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	In progress	Haven't done anything to date- talk with Food Policy Council	
Food	F.9	Implement the <u>Milan Urban Food Policy Pact</u> related to good governance, sustainable diets & nutrition, social & economic equity, food production, food supply & distribution and food waste	In progress	Brick Gardens is laying in all spaces; sustainable diets and nutrition and social & economic equity are probably focus; Food Waste Piece: CO- composting program at Camp Washington and beyond; Collaboration model? Interstate with Rust Belt; Continuing to look at network and what work is being done; developing network of FW reclamation; Support compost Production across many sites; continue making compost at Camp; Bioreactors; Hamilton County working related to Food Waste; NRDC suggesting potential policy changes	Yes
Food	F.10	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	In progress	FY2024 City Leveraged Fund support for La Soupe ; FY2025 City leveraged funds: La Soupe, Last Mile Food Rescue. Brick Gardens utilizing Last Mile volunteers to pick Orchards fruit trees at St. Aloysius to harvest & upcycle, LaSoupe cooking demos; Listermans Cider fund raiser; OES - led Higer Education Cohort- 7 universities and Last Mile- funding from USDN Grant to enhance food waste infrastructure at colleges/universities and created communication and sharing network ; OES partnering with City Health for freezers in Rec Centers- La Soupe also partner; Hamilton County providing funding related to diversion; USDA Grant #2 FY2023 funding included for La Soupe, Society of St. Andrew; Some communication with City-owned Duke Convention Center related to food rescue; Inclusion of infrastructure in CPRG (EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant) submission through OKI- award notification will be made in fall 2024.	
Food	F.11	Expand food waste prevention education and best practices for residential and business sectors	In progress	Hamilton County has campaign for this- Wasted Food Stops With Us but OES needs Social Media accounts to utilize this tool. This activity is included in OES USDA grant #2; Used OES newsletter to promote; Make Soil Partnership; 513 Green Certification (schools and Biz) with Hamilton County; Will be incorporated into USDA pilot compost program as well.	
Food	F.12	Grow food-related employment opportunities & training for youth, (i.e. food gleaning & redistribution, Climate Corps, AgriCorps, etc)	In progress	GU: What Chef's Want through CPS Outside and Farm 2 School; Brick Gardens: County Youth Employment Program. Thanapat exploring and meeting with numerous stakeholders.	
Food	F.13	Develop career pathways & higher education opportunities with links to create living-wage farmer & food sector jobs	In progress	Common Orchard-Orchard in Wilmington, Education work at Wilmington and UC, intending to grow more with CPS; Green Umbrella Cynthia's work; high schools with Ag Ed- Convening; Potential use of higher education sustainability cohort to assist; City's Urban Ag program role to play?; Collaboration between Druffel Gardens and Brick Gardens; Compost opportunities?	
Food	F.14	Train farmers and gardeners to increase success, including adaptation to a changing climate	In progress	Common Orchard-steward, extending to farmers interested in getting into fruit and Orchard Steward Training- caring for public trees (Urban Forestry?); Brick Gardens: Alt Ag organization-mushroom program; youth program helps create job force to do work in ag; Society of St Andrew for exposure of experience especially youth, Madisonville 500 gardens; 2024 explore ideas-compost structure. Need to outline pathways of education (ie STEM schools for Agriculture, Cincinnati State etc.)	
Mobility	M.1	Continue to design bus routes and bus stop shelters to ensure convenient and consistent service with reliable connections	In progress	Metro is the lead on this. It continues to review routes and provide amenities at bus stops.	

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Mobility	M.2	Develop regional bus rapid transit routes along key corridors	In progress	Metro released its plans for the first two BRT routes on Hamilton and Reading, as well as potential routes for future expansion.	
Mobility	M.3	Explore the use of HR incentives to encourage public transit use	In progress	This is a component of the 2030 District goals. The City through OES has implemented a pilot for discounted Red Bike passes for employees.	
Mobility	M.4	Create more neighborhood mobility networks and transit hubs where residents can connect by bike, walking, and bus	In progress	Xavier intern created a report of mobility hubs that OES will share with stakeholders.	
Mobility	M.5	Explore the expanded use of passenger rail for urban and regional transportation	In progress	Amtrak was provided funding to research increased passenger rail.	
Mobility	M.6	Install public, streetside electric vehicle (EV) charging stations	In progress	Contract process is moving along. Vendor has identified potential sites.	
Mobility	M.7	Develop policies to ensure that vehicle charging infrastructure is available to all residents including those who live in multi-family buildings and in homes without driveways	In progress	Worked with Planning and one of their interns to evaluate updates to City code that will reflect need for EV charging. Zoning administrator was in the conversations and it has traction.	Yes
Mobility	M.8	Continue to support Metro in its efforts to invest in carbon-free buses (electric/hydrogen)	In progress	OES has met with Metro to discuss its fleet. Metro continues to move forward with hybrid buses. It is conducting more research to determine if electric, hydrogen, or a fleet using both is the best solution.	
Mobility	M.9	Develop policies and incentives to ensure new construction is prepared for EV charging	In progress	Worked with Planning and one of their interns to evaluate updates to City code that will reflect need for EV charging. Zoning administrator was in the conversations and it has traction.	Yes
Mobility	M.10	Continue to invest in complete streets to improve connectivity between neighborhoods	In progress	City passed a Complete Streets ordinance in November 2022. DOTE currently examining using Complete Streets principles to transform Central Parkway.	Yes
Mobility	M.11	Continue to improve sidewalk connectivity and maintenance in neighborhoods where connectivity/walkability is lacking	Suggested		
Mobility	M.12	Complete the CROWN bike network and connect it to neighborhoods	In progress	New phase of Wasson Way completed. Continuing to work to connect trails and bike lanes. Connection of mill creek greenway included in Community Change Grant submission June 2024.	
Mobility	M.13	Expand access to Red Bike's traditional and electric bikes to more neighborhoods and increase participation in the Red Bike Go program	In progress	Red Bike restarted operations after a pause; Red Bike continued to expand access to more neighborhoods. It also announced plans to increase the number of electric bikes in its fleet.	
Mobility	M.14	Continue to leverage Vision Zero to install bike lanes and traffic calming measures to reduce speeds and improve safety	In progress	DOTE continues to push forward Vision Zero projects. Currently a list of projects submitted for FY23 and FY24 on DOTE website.	
Mobility	M.15	Promote "15 Minute Neighborhoods" with mixed residential (including multi-family) and commercial zoning to increase transit connectivity as well as density and affordability	In progress	Connected Communities policy passed June 2024.	
Mobility	M.16	Embrace zoning reform that increases density near transit, reduces or eliminates parking requirements across the city, and minimizes the use of surface parking lots	Completed	Connected Communities passed in June of 2024. Council addressed surface parking lots in CBD.	Yes
Natural Environment	NE.1	Focus city tree planting in neighborhoods with highest heat island effect as measured in the Climate Equity Indicators Report or most recent data	In progress	Parks using CEI Report and Tree Canopy Dashboard to target tree planting in low TC% neighborhoods. ReLeaf Trees prioritized for low canopy neighborhoods. Groundwork planting trees in Lower Price Hill; Cincinnati Zoo planted trees in Avondale KCB planting trees with "Tree the CRC" Park's Urban Forestry contributed to 1,423 trees planted city wide in 2023. Of those, 245 were installed through volunteer tree planting events in Roselawn and Bond Hill, Park's target low canopy neighborhoods for 2023.	
Natural Environment	NE.2	Provide incentives and support for the use of carbon crediting and/or carbon offset programs to fund tree planting, maintenance, land conservation, and forest rehabilitation	Suggested	Potential path forward using City Forest Credits (https://www.cityforestcredits.org/). The best fit here would be for newly planted trees, or perhaps hillsides with trees that need to be protected from development. Need to further explore this option.	
Natural Environment	NE.3	Plant more native tree species through education with non-profits, nurseries, and schools	In progress	Parks, Groundwork, KCB, Common Orchard work with students and schools to plant native trees	
Natural Environment	NE.4	Implement policies that protect existing trees during development efforts	Suggested	Report by Xavier Intern on options from other municipalities, example ordinances complete. Potential option for EAB to provide suggestions to committee. Motion #202302795 passed by Council in December requesting: "the Administration supplement its process for granting easements to third parties. This supplement should include (but not limited to): detailed guidelines for community engagement and communication for easements authorizing large-scale construction or earth movement with the potential to impact neighbors, and restoration and replacement of removal of trees and vegetation."	Yes
Natural Environment	NE.5	Expand monitoring of air quality and nuisance odors incorporating citizen science in priority neighborhoods	In progress	Study by UC DAAP will locate 15 PurpleAir monitors in OTR, West End, and Downtown neighborhoods at City facilities. Cincy Air Watch program (OES & CHD) will install ~24 PurpleAir monitors in neighborhoods around the City. Groundwork Ohio River Valley study with LPH and Avondale. Happen Inc. working with UC College of Environmental and Chemical Engineering to study air in Northside with students.	
Natural Environment	NE.6	Provide services, resources, and education for residents in priority neighborhoods on air quality alert system, sources of poor air quality, and air quality regulations	In progress	GWORV working in Avondale on air quality, with focus on indoor air and education for residents. Cincy Air Watch program can support outreach to residents on understanding AQL, air quality alerts, etc. Information will be posted on CincyInsights with brief developed by CHD.	
Natural Environment	NE.7	Support and fund the development of natural corridors and tree barriers along streams and rivers, interstates and highways	Suggested		
Natural Environment	NE.8	Strengthen air emissions regulations	Suggested	XU intern project focused on study of municipal air regulations. Comparison to see what action municipalities have taken.	Yes

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Natural Environment	NE.9	Create new greenspaces, including use of vacant properties and underused parking lots, ensuring that space will not be redeveloped	In progress	Common Orchard- greenspace as orchards & Urban Ag; The Trust for Public Land has report and map identifying areas with low greenspace/parks and tool to model greenspaces and connection to residents. KCB Spaces to Places provides services for residents to create greenspaces. Most recent project is in West End Vacant Lots along Linn Street. XU intern project started work to develop playbook for how to create greenspace within the City.	
Natural Environment	NE.10	Continue to improve infrastructure to increase walkability and access to greenspaces	In progress	The Trust for Public Land has report and map identifying areas with low greenspace/parks and tool to model trails to connect residents to greenspaces. CROWN bike-pedestrian trails will connect residents to greenspaces. Grants available through ODNR. Need to connect with Parks and CRC to determine if there are shovel-ready projects in priority sites.	
Natural Environment	NE.11	Grow greenspace workforce through youth and BIPOC involvement in natural area restoration and education	In progress	GWORV Green Team growing green workforce space; Brownfield Training Grant will help support this effort; KCB works with youth in natural area restoration and education; New KCB program Roots to Boots for workforce development; Brick Gardens works with youth in greenspace restoration	
Natural Environment	NE.12	Increase funding for maintenance of greenspaces	In progress	KCB Roots to Boots ~ work with Cincinnati State for Landscape Technician training to grow the green workforce. This effort indirectly increases funding for the maintenance of greenspaces by creating trained and knowledgeable volunteers to maintain greenspaces & Urban Coalition also coming together with KCB	
Natural Environment	NE.13	Implement policies which promote and protect public greenspaces in new developments	Suggested		Yes
Natural Environment	NE.14	Remove invasive species and restore, maintain, and preserve forests, wetlands, riparian areas, and natural corridors along waterways, hillsides, and low canopy neighborhoods	In progress	Multiple organizations participate in removal of invasive species from greenspaces - need to connect and quantify this. Civic Garden Center is taking the lead on building out and providing a series of training pathways for volunteers in Cincinnati Parks. In 2024, the Cincinnati Conservation Stewards program will offer classroom and hands-on training for members of six Cincinnati Parks Advisory Committees (CPACs) interested in stepping into the volunteer roles of Site Leader, Volunteer Group Leader or Invasive Removal Pro	
Natural Environment	NE.15	Implement policies that restrict development in forested and/or biodiverse areas	Suggested	Report by Xavier intern on options from other municipalities, example ordinances complete. Potential option for EAB to provide suggestions to committee.	Yes
Natural Environment	NE.16	Increase use of green infrastructure to mitigate the effects of stormwater, sewer overflows, overland flooding, and contaminated stormwater in waterways.	In progress	Many green infrastructure projects were funded through MSD; KCB includes green infrastructure elements in all of their greenspaces; need better understanding of current projects and pipeline; City applying for the Green Infrastructure Accelerator program through the Center for Regenerative solutions to provide access to resources, GI success stories from other cities, and policy info for City departments and CBOs.	
Natural Environment	NE.17	Complete Biodiversity Assessment for Cincinnati, incorporating citizen science	Suggested	Mill Creek Biodiversity Assessment completed for MSD in 2021. Teri Jacobs UC Professor includes biodiversity exercises in Resource Conservation Classes. A full biodiversity assessment will be difficult to complete for the entire City (complex, look at what scale of life). Need to identify funding opportunities. 2025: Center for Regenerative Solutions has accelerator focused on biodiversity	
Natural Environment	NE.18	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	In progress	KCB includes pollinator gardens, native plants, with low mow/no mow practices in greenspace design; Zoo has pollinator garden program and supportive of building habitats and educating on native species. City has code which allows "Natural Managed Landscapes" but residents have still been cited for "weeds". OES working to identify what is acceptable/citable and create visuals based on this for residents.	
Natural Environment	NE.19	Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use/over-use through education, regulation, and innovation	In progress	Parks works to utilize proper application of pesticide and fertilizer (not over use). KCB supports this effort by designing greenspaces which do not require pesticide/fertilizer use	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.1	Incentivize green infrastructure projects in communities with extreme heat and flood vulnerabilities	In progress	KCB includes green infrastructure elements in all of their greenspaces OES created 1-pager and infographic on updated website. FUSE climate resilience project includes aspects of this action including listening tour, landscape analysis, and grant support. Relationship building: MSD, SMU, MCA, Parks, OKI, Hamilton County Conservation District, and many others highlighted in FUSE listening tour report.	Yes
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.2	Equitably restructure sewer rates based on permeable land surface and other contributing factors	In progress	FUSE climate resilience project includes aspects of this action with landscape analysis.	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.3	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	In progress	OES completed some research around sponge cities while continuing and combining efforts with Natural Environment (GI/Greenspaces). FUSE climate resilience project includes aspects of this action with listening tour, landscape analysis and grant support.	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.4	Continue to decrease sewer backups, sewer overflows, and overland flooding (flash flooding) by supporting sewer infrastructure improvements in priority communities	In progress	FUSE climate resilience project includes aspects of this action with listening tour, landscape analysis, and grant support. CUFA completed US EPA Technical Assistance to further understand issues caused by overland flooding primarily in the Lower Mill Creek Valley. City applied for FEMA BRIC DTA to develop project scopes to mitigate stormwater using nature based solutions primarily in the Lower Mill Creek Valley. City Leadership Extreme Weather Town Halls.	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.5	Partner with priority communities to identify opportunities to address property damage caused by overland flooding and hillside instability	In progress	CUFA facilitated a stakeholder meeting as part of the US EPA Technical Assistance project for stormwater adaptation. CUFA followed this with a presentation report on the findings of the project. OES is continuing to foster relationship with CUFA and has been in routine communications and meetings with their leadership related this action.	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.6	Ensure all rental housing has at least one room with adequate air conditioning	Suggested	Action item to facilitate meeting with anticipated stakeholder such as CMHA to better understand the feasibility of the action and what expanding and focusing a program like WarmUp might look like. Could a cooling solution look more like a mini split heat pump? Which could also help lessen energy burden? Window install heat pumps that can reduce energy use. May be something renters can take advantage of. More affordable than mini-split.	

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.7	Use heat reflective materials when appropriate (roads, parking surfaces, roofs)	In progress	CoolSeal pilot started at CRC LeBlonde Rec Center. Action items: 1) further evaluate cooling potential this summer, and 2) inquire to see if CRC is interested in becoming champion and in doing so continue the CoolSeal program at additional Rec Centers. Engaging with CRRC's Cool Pavement Program to establish a rating system for heat reflective pavement surfaces. Engaging with Smart Surfaces Coalition to amplify understanding of programs and policies that pertain to heat reflective materials. <u>Engaged with New Buildings Institute's Extreme Heat & Urban Heat Island Code Program</u>	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.8	Continue to implement affordable and mixed-income housing strategies to stabilize communities	In progress	Connected Communities Zoning Reform Ordinance Passed 6/5/2024. Continue supporting repurposing of industrial and commercial office space to residential land use including through brownfield redevelopment. This is being funded in part through state and federal brownfield grants, tax credits, tax incentive financing, opportunity zones. Action item look to build champion relationship with orgs including CMHA, the Port, and DCED among others. Studies recently completed applicable to this action include the City's Financial Blueprint and the City's Futures Commission Report, both of which include more detailed recommended actions. Cincinnati formally awarded Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities initiative funding in March 2024 to support a three member I-team to work with the mayor's office to address financial and climate racial inequities including a focus on affordable housing.	Yes
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.9	Develop neighborhood resilience hubs to foster community connection and increase emergency preparedness	In progress	US EPA EJG2G resilience hub grant project application submitted to create 3 resilience hubs with \$1 million in funding - not awarded. City Budget allocated \$700,000 to support resilience hub creation anticipated at a rec center that already has or will have solar through other funding. City RLF supports resilience hubs. US EPA Community Change grant includes a resilience hub project. <u>US Congress Earmark request to Landsman includes budget for City resilience hubs.</u>	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.10	Fund and expand the Climate Safe Neighborhoods program to cultivate the social infrastructure for resilient communities and provide green workforce training	In progress	GU co-leads. Recently completed the Avondale CSN story mapping and climate resilience plan. Currently working on CSN for Norwood. Plan to expand to Northern Kentucky. City partnered with Groundwork ORV on U.S. EPA Brownfield Jobs Training Grant for \$500,000 - awarded.	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.11	Develop a climate migration response plan	In progress	OES intern working on a pilot Migration Haven Framework assessment tool. OES completed 1-pager and infographic posted on website. Relationship building: IJPC, PLACES Initiative, Congress of New Urbanism Anticipated: Urban Institute, Sierra Club	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.12	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	In progress	City brownfields map on website. US EPA Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant for \$500,000 - awarded. Grant project focuses on Lower Mill Creek Valley and includes community engagement and brownfield inventory starting early 2024 followed by assessments, cleanup planning, and reuse planning. US EPA Brownfield Multi-Purpose Grant for \$800,000 - awarded to the Port. Grant focuses on Camp Washington and includes community engagement, inventory, assessments, and cleanup. State brownfield remediation program funding \$16 million awarded for 10 sites in Round 1. Funding requests submitted for Round 2. Anticipate Round 2 awards late FY24 or early FY25.	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.13	Address emerging pollutants, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products, that are endocrine-disrupting chemicals, and microplastics	In progress	OES completed 1-pager and infographic on microplastics posted on website. OES led and MSD and Law supported Council report on PFAS pertaining to City Ops - completed. Relationship building: EPA, Bexley, MCA, MSD, OKI, ORF, Sierra Club and Cuyahoga, KCB	
Resilience & Climate Adaptation	R.14	Protect landslide-prone hillsides and overland flood risk zones through land development policies, such as Low Impact Development	In progress	FEMA BRIC PROTECT Grant for \$10 Million - awarded to DOTE. Grant project includes stabilization of 10 landslide prone areas in the City. Action item landscape analysis of existing city land development policies as administered by DOTE and B&I. City council report from DOTE & B&I on landslide in progress work (assessing, investigating, remediating, started progress, completed).	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.1	Increase the number of multi-family dwellings with recycling infrastructure	In progress	Multi-family recycling pilot started at Tudor Court. Application for funding through The Recycling Partnership (TRP) was submitted 2/28/24 and revised 3/13/24. <u>Researching other leads for multi-family pilots</u>	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.2	Minimize recycling contamination through culturally appropriate education, partnerships, workforce champions, and resident feedback	In progress	TRP held a focus group in January 2023 that will inform messaging this year and delivered white paper. Annual calendars going out for 2024 with recycling info; New recycling contract RFP requests additional funding for educational campaigns; Rumpke reports monthly on residual rates. Interior recycling bin campaign in process for frontline community. Approximately 400 out of 4000 have responded. Recycling team is tabling at events with recycling info.	
Zero Waste	ZW.3	Require permitted public events and events held on City property use best available recycling practices and include recycling service costs in the permit fee	In progress	Special event mapping technology from the Recycle Hack-a-thon is being explored by OPDA; Hamilton County provides infrastructure (bins) and the Chamber is in support of this; Special event recycling was included as a component of the recycling services RFP.	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.4	Provide alternatives to single-use plastic items at permitted public events and events held on City property	In progress	Exploring reusable cup options for DORA with 3CDC; Water Bottle refill station will be installed at City Hall; Parks is interested in participating but has capacity issues to address before implementation. Opportunity for City Policy implementation to support this.	
Zero Waste	ZW.5	Pair garbage cans with recycling containers in all Neighborhood Business Districts and DORA districts and provide necessary services including collection and monitoring	In progress	20 recycle containers were refurbished in CBD fall 2023, and 17 new CBD DORA, and 17 new recycle containers placed in Westwood DORA. Artwork utilized is also being utilized in Covington KY to reduce confusion with 'unified messaging'.	
Zero Waste	ZW.6	Support and expand neighborhood pick-up locations that connect commercial recyclers to dropped-off recyclable materials, like the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub	In progress	In discussion with the Cincinnati Reuse and Recycle Hub; Cincinnati Fire Dept developed 5 drop off locations for lithium batteries; Hub Ambassador Program under development for different communities- and OES promoting	
Zero Waste	ZW.7	Create a program that incentivizes commercial recyclers to collect household e-waste, textiles, and reusable items not otherwise collected curbside	Suggested	Not currently budgeted, identifying opportunities to fund through grants and partnerships.	
Zero Waste	ZW.8	Incentivize recycling and diversion innovation by increasing the cost of waste generation and disposal	In progress	Imposing a fee for trash is currently prohibited by the Cincinnati Garbage Fee Charter Amendment passed in 2011. Policy changes would be needed to implement Pay as You Throw (PAYT) or volume-based waste fees. PAYT report developed by OES Intern. NRDC may be able to provide technical assistance for policy language and development. Administration is exploring options to create a revenue stream within the bounds of the charter amendment.	Yes

Focus Area	Action #	Action	Status	Status Description	Policy Aspect
Zero Waste	ZW.9	Create "Recycling Valet" workforce and small business development to provide recycling collection, monitoring, and education to multifamily dwellings, special events, and business districts with an emphasis on employment of residents from priority neighborhoods	Suggested	Intend to include this in the multi-family recycling pilot if funded through TRP.	
Zero Waste	ZW.10	Conduct education and outreach to increase residential mulching (Just Mow it) to reduce grass clippings and source separation of yard trimmings for collection and composting	Suggested	A waste audit is needed before this can begin - still need to identify funding for this opportunity. Composting education and training is available through the Civic Garden Center and Hamilton County ReSource.	
Zero Waste	ZW.11	Support the development of local biochar processing, and the utilization of activated biochar for farming, tree plantings, storm water retention, etc.	In progress	Biochar development through Cincinnati Parks is underway. A location for the production of biochar has been selected, as well as the operator and pyrolysis unit. The process is in the design phase.	
Zero Waste	ZW.12	Pilot and support small-scale community composting under 500 square feet	In progress	Completion of first USDept of Agriculture Grant (\$90K) and successful application of second award (\$400K); Currently 2 medium and more than 20 small scale pilots were completed; Common Orchard- composting at Camp Washington & community gardens & orchards; Submission with OKI for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) to incorporate multi-scale composting in regions	
Zero Waste	ZW.13	Ensure all organic material collected including yard trimmings and food waste is composted in a sustainable manner	In progress	Council report completed on Yard Trimming collections; the recycling services RFP included yard waste, but a sustainable alternative was not identified. USDA FY2023 grant will allow neighborhood pilot program for food waste collection	
Zero Waste	ZW.14	Support funding, siting, and development of a local, large-scale Class II compost facility	In progress	The Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy committee approved a \$150,000 study to determine a location and best type of facility that will be needed; CO looking to expand compost program to 1000sq ft as a Class II; CPRG Grant submission with OKI included funding for multi-scale compost facilities	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.15	Support the development of anaerobic digesters to divert organics from the waste stream	In progress	A facility called Synthica Energy, LLC. is under construction in St. Bernard; Divert Inc exploring Harrison Township location	
Zero Waste	ZW.16	Support the creation of curbside food waste collection programs and/or establish food waste drop-off locations in city facilities, communities and schools	In progress	Recycling services RFP included organics collection as a service type. MakeSoil program started at College Hill Recreation Center; Camp Washington also has a drop-off site with MakeSoil. USDA FY2023 Composting Grant to assist with funds for conducting pilot program	
Zero Waste	ZW.17	Utilize policy and fees to discourage the use of single-use plastics including plastic bags	In progress	Ohio House Bill 242 prevents Cities from implementing fees for single-use plastics. OES intern prepared a report on actions other Ohio municipalities are taking	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.18	Reduce litter and illegal dumping through public communications strategy and stronger enforcement	In progress	OES purchased 48 recycling containers for DORA Districts to assist with litter reduction; Additional 25 containers in CBD installed to reduce litter; Council approved ordinance 729-31 on 11/15/23 allowing the city to impound a vehicle used to illegally dump trash. Two other ordinances aimed at reducing litter were also approved: Fencing vacant lots and AMENDING Section 729-7, "Setting Out Containers," to ensure the clean and safe storage of garbage containers and dumpsters	Yes
Zero Waste	ZW.19	Conduct routine neighborhood litter clean-ups, partnering with programs like Adopt A Spot	In progress	Litter clean-ups take place through Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. ORANSCO promotes Ohio River Clean-ups.	