



**DETROIT  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ACTION AGENDA**

**2-YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE**

**2021**



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Original Report designed by SAGA Mktg

2-Year Progress Report designed by Good Done Daily

# INTRODUCTION



# Letter from the Mayor + Director

Two years ago, we came together to define our city’s priorities related to sustainability and build a strategy to achieve them. We worked together across neighborhoods and gained buy in from community organizations and partners across the City. We are thankful for the enthusiasm and energy that was put into creating the Sustainability Action Agenda in 2019 and proud of what we have accomplished since then.

In large initiatives like these, there are always challenges and roadblocks. We have seen our share in the last two years, from the ever-present COVID-19 pandemic to significant flooding across the city. However, we can continue to work together to overcome these challenges and keep moving forward.

We must also take time to celebrate the progress we have made despite these challenges—and here we celebrate the victories we have made working towards a more sustainable Detroit. We have come a long way in the two years since the Sustainability Action Agenda was developed, making tangible progress towards

each of the four outcomes, 10 goals, and 43 actions we defined alongside Detroit residents, through an extensive year-long community engagement process.

We are excited to share this progress update with you and look forward to sharing many more sustainability related successes for Detroiters in the years to come. We will continue to complement other City efforts to deliver our vision, and coordinate with community groups, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and residents to create a more sustainable Detroit where all Detroiters thrive and prosper.

**Together, we will build a more sustainable city for all Detroiters.**



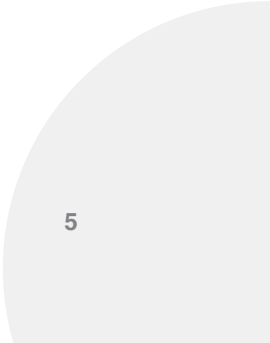
**Mike Duggan**

**Mayor, City of Detroit**



**Joel Howrani Heeres**

**Director, Office of Sustainability**



# DETROIT'S SUSTAINABILITY ACTION AGENDA

In June 2019, the City of Detroit's Office of Sustainability published the City's first Sustainability Action Agenda, a strategic roadmap to create a more sustainable city, built to realize our collective vision.

In order to develop the Agenda, we spent a year engaging with 6,800 Detroiters to understand their vision for a more equitable, prosperous, and environmentally sustainable city. We hired 14 Sustainability Ambassadors, created a Sustainability Advisory Commission, convened an Interdepartmental Working Group of 29 City departments, distributed online and in-person surveys in five languages, and used the coUrbanize digital platform to reach Detroiters online.

This engagement helped us define our vision of a city where all Detroiters thrive and prosper in an equitable, green city; have access to affordable, quality homes; live in clean, connected neighborhoods; and

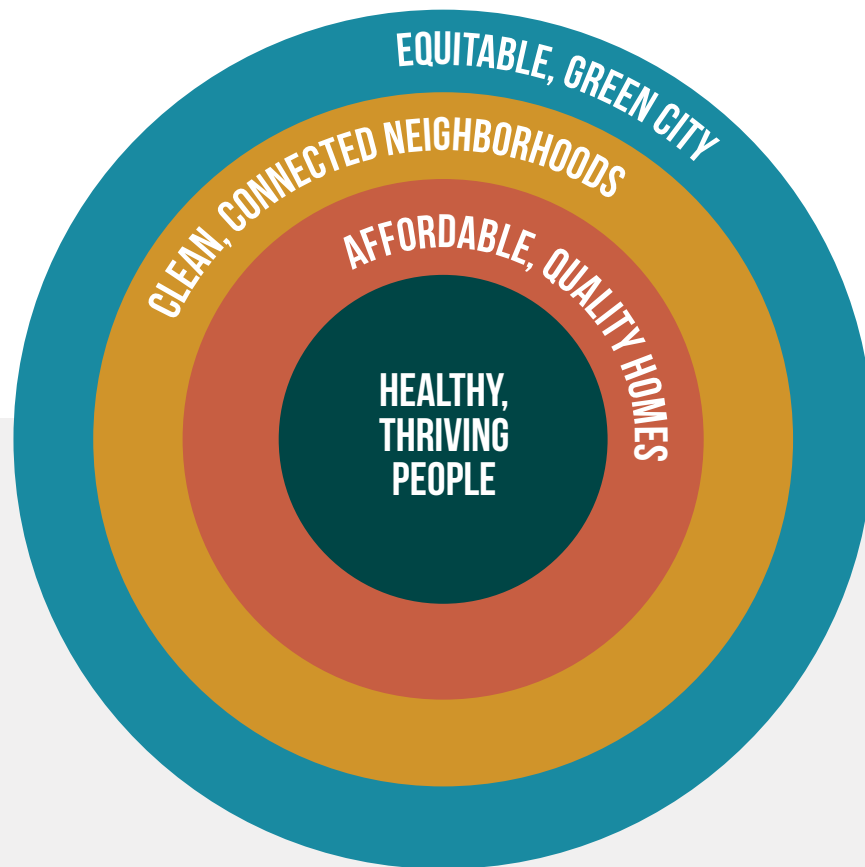
work together to steward resources. This year of engagement culminated in the City's first Sustainability Action Agenda in 2019. Across four outcomes, we are committed to achieving 10 goals and implementing 43 actions to address many of the most pressing challenges facing Detroiters today. You can see a high-level overview of the Agenda on the next three pages.

## This 2-Year Update

To continue our goal of transparency and engagement with the Detroit community for all things sustainability, we developed this 2-year progress update. Starting on page 10, this document shares progress the City has made on each of the four outcomes since the Sustainability Action Agenda was published. This update will serve as the foundation for regular reporting from the Office of Sustainability going forward.



# OUTCOMES



Together, we can achieve the following 10 goals:



## Healthy, Thriving People

- 1: Increase access to healthy food, green spaces, and recreation opportunities
- 2: Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution
- 3: Advance equity in access to economic opportunity



## Clean, Connected Neighborhoods

- 6: Transform vacant lots into safe, productive, sustainable spaces
- 7: Reduce waste sent to landfills
- 8: Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle



## Affordable, Quality Homes

- 4: Reduce the total cost of housing, including utilities
- 5: Improve the health and safety of existing and new housing



## Equitable, Green City

- 9: Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts
- 10: Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions

# Detroit's Sustainability Action Agenda Framework



**HEALTHY,  
THRIVING PEOPLE**

**GOALS**

- Increase access to healthy food, green spaces, and recreation opportunities
- Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution
- Advance equity in access to economic opportunity

**ACTIONS**



**AFFORDABLE,  
QUALITY HOMES**

- Reduce the total costs of housing, including utilities
- Improve the health and safety of existing and new housing



**CLEAN, CONNECTED  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

- Transform vacant lots and structures into safe, productive, sustainable spaces
- Reduce waste sent to landfills
- Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle



**EQUITABLE,  
GREEN CITY**

- Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts
- Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions



Our vision for a sustainable Detroit serves as the foundation for the four outcomes, 10 goals, and 43 actions for residents, businesses, the City, and community partners to implement. The actions build on existing efforts to enhance sustainability in Detroit.

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- **1** Provide nutrition and environmental education at recreation centers and parks
  - **2** Create local food purchasing guidelines for City-funded programs
  - **3** Improve access to high quality, healthy food at grocery stores
  - **4** Renovate existing and create new parks throughout the city
  - **5** Expand sports recreation opportunities for youth
  - **6** Expand local air quality monitoring system
  - **7** Create citywide truck routing network
  - **8** Increase tree plantings in vulnerable areas
  - **9** Reduce emissions from City vehicles
  - **10** Expand green jobs training and workforce development programs
  - **11** Prepare Detroit residents for City employment opportunities
  - **12** Launch a digital inclusion program
  - **13** Expand wireless internet access on City buses
  - **14** Launch a diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative
  - **15** Improve access to utility efficiency programs
  - **16** Expand home plumbing repair programs
  - **17** Implement and expand upon the Blue Ribbon Panel's water affordability recommendations
  - **18** Establish affordable housing preservation goals for building owners receiving City incentives
  - **19** Increase access to information on existing affordable housing
  - **20** Expand lead poisoning prevention initiatives across the city
  - **21** Create a residential lead abatement training pilot program
  - **22** Develop green building guidelines for new developments receiving City incentives
  - **23** Improve processes to purchase City owned vacant lots
  - **24** Support neighborhood-based efforts to care for vacant lots and structures
  - **25** Develop a fee structure and associated rules for irrigation only water accounts
  - **26** Launch a citywide recycling campaign
  - **27** Expand curbside recycling to multi-family buildings
  - **28** Expand recycling to public spaces and all City facilities
  - **29** Develop a best practices framework for commercial scale compost operations
  - **30** Launch residential composting pilot program
  - **31** Improve mobility connections between neighborhoods and job centers
  - **32** Implement safety measures to reduce crash severity
  - **33** Expand Detroit's protected bike lane network
  - **34** Create neighborhood scale, distributed green infrastructure projects
  - **35** Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure into street redesign and greenway projects
  - **36** Integrate climate change impacts into hazard mitigation planning
  - **37** Improve resident access to sustainability-related City services
  - **38** Expand emergency preparedness and communication tools
  - **39** Develop a greenhouse gas assessment and climate action strategy
  - **40** Increase the adoption of solar PV
  - **41** Enhance energy and water efficiency at City-owned facilities
  - **42** Launch Mayors' Challenge Program for Commercial Buildings
  - **43** Develop an electric vehicle infrastructure strategy



HEALTHY, THRIVING PEOPLE



# HEALTHY, THRIVING PEOPLE



A healthy, thriving city is only possible with healthy, thriving residents.

**City government, institutions, nonprofits, and community organizations must put the people of Detroit at the center of our strategy to create a more sustainable city. We must create equitable access to opportunities, services, and basic needs.**

This section covers initiatives and goals to improve air quality, health outcomes, and economic opportunities for Detroiters. Examples include initiatives to advance equity in City decision making, reduce the digital divide through improved internet access, better track and monitor air quality, and provide families with healthier food options.

## SECTION GOALS

1. Increase access to healthy food, green spaces, and recreation opportunities
2. Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution
3. Advance equity in access to economic opportunity

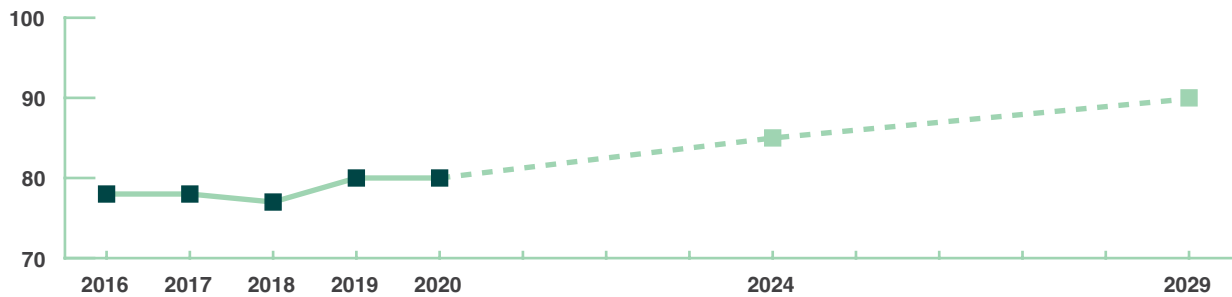
# 2022 Update

The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant challenges to making our City a place where Detroiters can be healthy, thriving people. However, we are proud of the initiatives we have pushed forward to combat the impacts of the pandemic and to work towards a more

sustainable future in Detroit. While we had to scale back on many in-person and education-related actions, we focused that energy on other innovative ways to serve Detroiters.

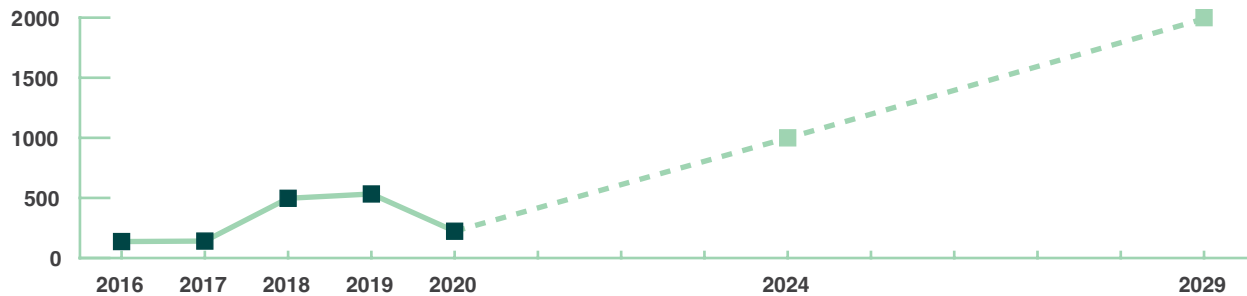
## PARK ACCESS

Increase percent of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park to 90 percent



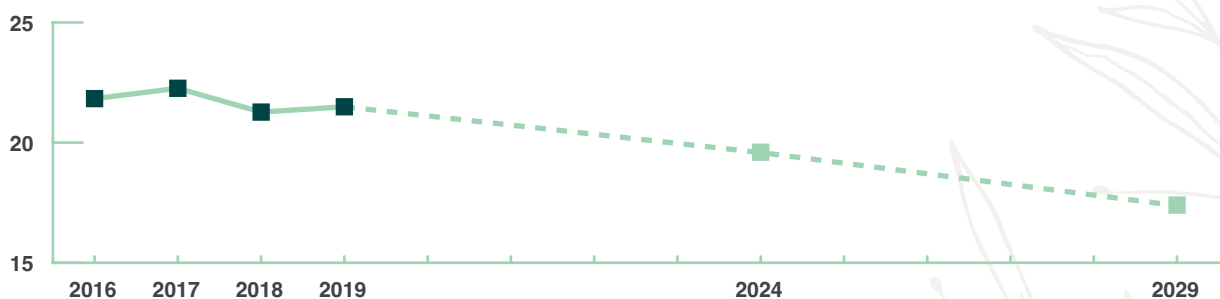
## TREE PLANTING

Increase tree plantings in the 20 most vulnerable census tracts to 20,000



## ASTHMA HOSPITALIZATION RATES

Reduce asthma hospitalization rates by 20 percent



# GOAL 1

## Increase access to healthy food, green spaces, and recreational opportunities

**“Having access to healthy food and exercise are essential to Detroiters’ ability to thrive in their communities and lead healthier lifestyles.”**

Having access to healthy food and exercise is essential to Detroiters’ ability to thrive in their communities and lead healthier lifestyles. Food distribution has been front and center during the pandemic, with the Parks and Rec team distributing more than 2 million meals in 2020, about 25 times more than the average 80 thousand meals annually pre-pandemic.

Within City parks, we piloted planting and maintenance strategies to provide habitat and tree canopy, while reducing maintenance barriers. The General Services Department (GSD), in partnership with DWSD and others, implemented green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) throughout the park system as part of regular compliance and to improve environmental outcomes, educate residents, and provide a natural park amenity. Sites include Rouge Park, O’Hair Park, Palmer Park, Chandler Park, and more.

Parks and Rec grew the City’s soccer program from 300 participants in 2019 to over 2,000 in 2021. Additionally, in 2019 the City launched a T-ball league with over 250 participants and ran 50+ sports clinics during the summer of 2021. \$30M was appropriated for new and expanded recreation centers.



# GOAL 2

## Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution

**“For Detroiters to live healthier lives, we must ensure they can breathe clean air.”**

Poor air quality and consistent exposure to pollution have negative impacts on health. For Detroiters to live healthier lives, we must ensure they can breathe clean air. There has been an increased focus on targeting communities within vulnerable census tracts for tree planting efforts to lower temperatures and mitigate pollution, with over \$1 million spent in 2021 in these areas.

In 2021, the Department of Public Works (DPW) completed a pilot truck routing study for the 360 miles of commercial streets in Southwest Detroit, recommending 60 miles of commercial truck routes. Municipal parking enforcement has begun a transition to 100% electric vehicles, hybrid SUVs will replace about 300 oversized pickup trucks used by field services crews, and 600 hybrid police pursuit vehicles were purchased. DDOT expanded its electric bus project to purchase four buses, which will reduce diesel emissions that Detroiters breathe on a day-to-day basis.

# GOAL 3

## Advance equity in access to economic opportunity

**“This helped set the course for the City to work with dozens of new employers to provide priority hiring for Detroiters going forward.”**

For Detroiters to thrive, they must have access to opportunities. However, economic opportunity is not equitably accessible by all Detroiters. In order to change this, the City developed hiring practices to enable more Detroiters to be at the top of the list for City roles and developed a leadership development program to promote diverse leaders. In 2018, the City of Detroit and Stellantis (formerly Fiat Chrysler Automotive (FCA)) entered into an agreement to ensure that Detroiters have priority access to 5,000 new jobs, which helped set the course for the City to work with dozens of new employers to provide priority hiring for Detroiters going forward. The City will soon launch the Skills for Life program which will provide paid work and training opportunities for 1,200 people over three years.

To prepare Detroiters for these jobs, through a partnership between Detroit Public Schools and Detroit at Work, the City began delivering free adult high school completion programs with a stipend for participants who complete the program. Additionally, DDOT has placed Wi-Fi on 120 DDOT buses to improve internet access for Detroiters. The Civil Rights, Inclusion, and Opportunity Department has established the Office of Disability Affairs and released a 3-year strategic plan.

# SUCCESS STORIES

## Emergency Food Distribution During COVID-19 Pandemic

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many Detroiters were suddenly faced with difficulty accessing food to feed themselves and their families. To support Detroiters' immediate needs, the Parks and Rec team partnered with the Innovation Team, LEAN Team, Housing and Revitalization, the Detroit Rescue Mission, and Gleaners to ramp up meal distribution from 80 thousand meals in 2019 to more than 2 million meals in 2020.

Collaboration across this network of partners allowed Parks and Rec to innovate and move beyond traditional meal distribution to City youth. To service households required to quarantine or without access to transportation, the COVID Food Delivery program was launched - delivering nearly 400,000 meals directly to more than 3,000 Detroiters' doorsteps every week. While the pandemic created unthinkable challenges, it also sparked a renewed dedication to external and internal partnership, allowing for expanded, equitable, and improved service delivery for residents.

## COVID-19 Grocery Store Safety

In 2020, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Office of Sustainability, and the Detroit Food Policy Council came together around grocery safety. The group provided support to 60 independently owned grocery stores by providing PPE for grocery store employees, helping to secure PPE donations, developing and disseminating safety guidelines, and providing safety signs and floor stickers to help grocery stores direct employees and customers.

The Americana Foundation and the United Way of Southeast Michigan provided funding to make this effort possible, and the effort was so successful that MDHHS funded on-going work to expand safety protocols to smaller stores.



# SUCCESS STORIES

## Electrification and Hybridization of City Vehicles

In 2021, the General Services Department bid out new light duty vehicle (sedans, vans, pickups and SUVs) contracts that will be used to replace the City's entire light vehicle fleet in 2022-2025. These contracts cover 1,700 vehicles, and include 100 electric vehicles (the City's first substantial electric vehicle investment), 300 hybrid mid-size SUVs (replacing traditional-gas pickup trucks) and 600 hybrid police pursuit vehicles. Additionally, the electrification of the Municipal Parking enforcement fleet (50 electric vehicles) will be complete by the end of 2022.

## Reducing Barriers to High School Completion

Most employers paying a livable wage require at least a high school education. Through a partnership between Detroit Public Schools and Detroit at Work, the City began to deliver free adult high school completion programs along with a stipend for participants who successfully meet program requirements. The program is available online and at select Detroit at Work Career Centers. Through this partnership between Detroit Public Schools and Detroit at Work, Detroiters will be able to complete the education required to move on to vocational training or college, and towards a stable career pathway.





# LOOKING FORWARD

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## Air Quality Monitoring

The Ecology Center and WSU's Detroit AirNet are working to establish an air quality technical support center. Through an Erb Foundation grant, they will audit all air quality sensors in Wayne County for historical and current data and make recommendations for future locations to track air quality at the neighborhood level. The Ecology Center has established a technical advisory group of air quality experts to support the project.

## Great Grocer Project

The Detroit Food Policy Council, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, Detroit Food Map Initiative, and Wayne State University kicked off the Great Grocer Project. This initiative received three years of funding from the USDA to increase the capacity of Detroit grocers to provide equitable access to healthy food and to foster collaborations between communities and grocery store operators. This project will develop a grocery store rating system based on healthy food availability, pricing, quality, community engagement, and food safety. It will also facilitate community connections with grocers through a toolkit and community fellowship program, and support grocers to improve availability, access, and promotion of healthy foods (signage, displays, marketing).

## Sustainable City Parks

Parks and Rec is piloting planting and maintenance strategies to reduce maintenance and provide habitat and tree canopy in City parks. Green stormwater infrastructure is a standard feature in all improved parks and parking lots. Splash pads are being built as recirculating systems and a new 8,000 square foot community center is being built with solar and battery back-up. A remnant forest and park "lake" will be cleaned and stewarded through educational, organizational, and recreational partnerships, including the City's Detroit Exploration and Nature Center.

## Improved Accessibility

The Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department and the Office of Disability Affairs partnered with all City departments to develop a [3-year strategic plan](#)<sup>1</sup> to improve accessibility in the city. Released in July of 2021, this plan outlines three phases; capacity building, city impact, and community impact to transform Detroit into a more welcoming, inclusive, and universally accessible city.

## Skills for Life

\$105 million has been appropriated from City Council to support employment and workforce development. This includes the Skills for Life program, which will provide work and training opportunities as a pathway to middle class careers for 1,200 Detroiters over the next three years.



# AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOMES



# AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOMES



Housing is key to building healthy and stable residents and communities.

**As Detroit grows, we must ensure that all residents can afford efficient, quality homes, free of hazardous materials.**

We must work to minimize the involuntary displacement of longtime Detroiters, who have been central to our city's growth, and to maintain affordable housing options throughout the City. We can bolster existing affordability strategies by reducing utility costs and eliminating exposure to toxic materials in homes. Through these efforts, Detroit residents will not only have affordable housing options, but also quality ones.

To minimize the displacement of long-term residents and protect the health and well-being of residents, this section covers actions that complement the Detroit Multifamily Affordable Housing Strategy. This includes initiatives to improve water affordability, lower energy bills, and reduce lead exposure in homes.

## SECTION GOALS

4. Reduce the total cost of housing, including utilities
5. Improve the health and safety of existing and new housing

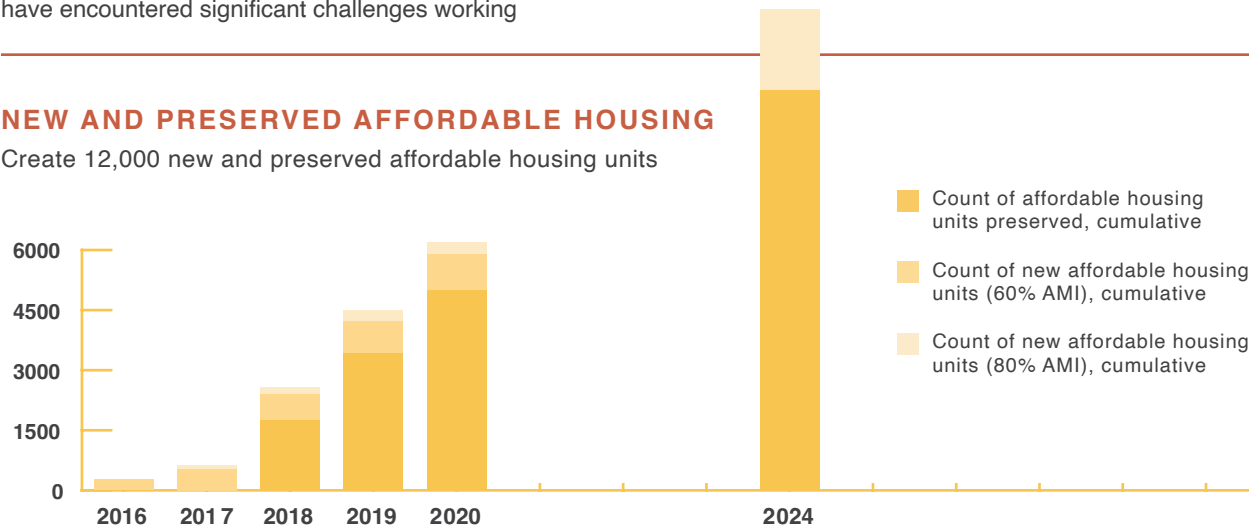
# 2022 Update

Since 2019, the City made significant strides towards our goals related to making affordable, quality homes the norm for all Detroit. In the past two years, we have encountered significant challenges working

towards these goals, including limited staff and funding, engagement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and lack of state and federal support.

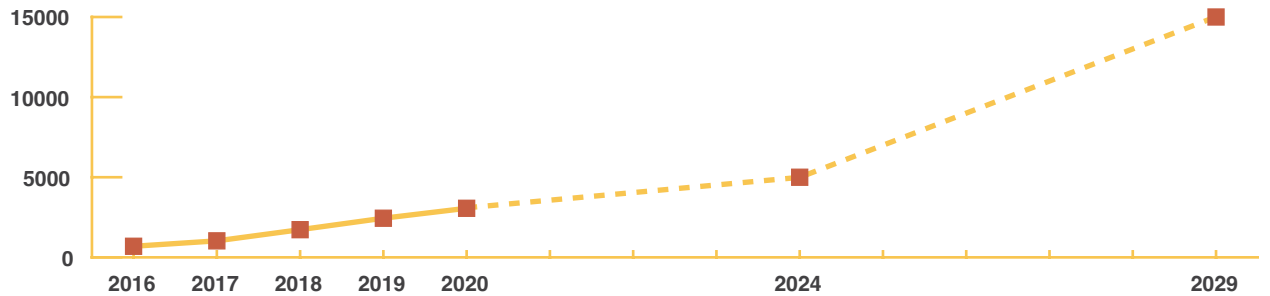
## NEW AND PRESERVED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Create 12,000 new and preserved affordable housing units



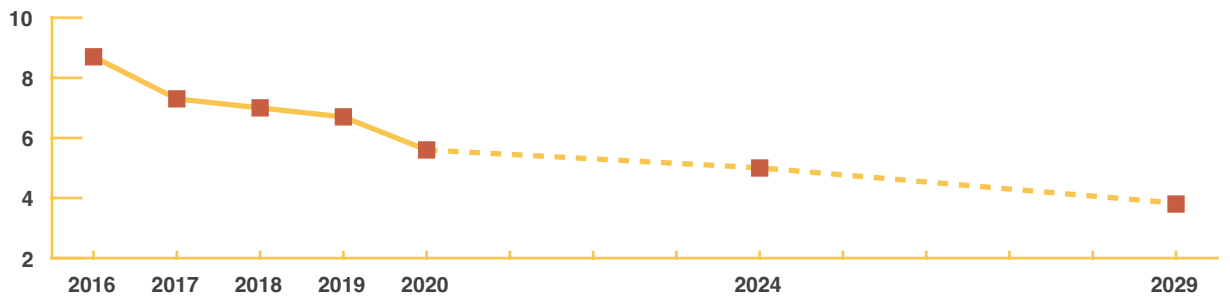
## COST OF WATER SERVICE

Reduce cost of water service for 15,000 low income households



## ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDREN

Reduce elevated blood lead levels in children to 3.8 percent



# GOAL 4

## Reduce the total cost of housing, including utilities

**“This level of spending on basic housing needs is not sustainable for residents.”**

In 2016, an estimated 48 percent of Detroit residents spent more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing and utility costs—a level defined as a burden by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This level of spending on basic housing needs is not sustainable for residents. Significant changes in the Water Residential Affordability Program (WRAP) eligibility requirements and benefits since 2019 made 5,000 more Detroiters eligible per year and increased the plumbing repair assistance cap by 100% to \$2,000, with 20,000 Detroiters assisted to date.

DWSD leveraged \$22 million in state and federal funding, largely through the CARES Act, to provide direct bill assistance to 40,000 accounts as well as major plumbing repairs at 600 households amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the City developed and incorporated displacement prevention standards into development projects receiving City support. The Housing and Revitalization Department and Wayne Metro are developing a common client intake and home inspection form to enable program clients to access multiple programs with one application.

# GOAL 5

## Improve the health and safety of existing and new housing

**“The health and safety of homes can significantly impact Detroiters.”**

The health and safety of homes can significantly impact Detroiters, with lead representing one of the greatest health threats in Detroit housing. The Housing and Revitalization Department disseminated lead dust cleaning kits to 84 families that participated in nursing case management, with 61 families referred for lead abatement services since 2019. They also facilitated 220 lead case management visits and partnered with Southwest Detroit Business Association and the Erb Foundation to pilot a contractor training program for lead abatement work, in both English and Spanish, with participants now hired by construction firms.

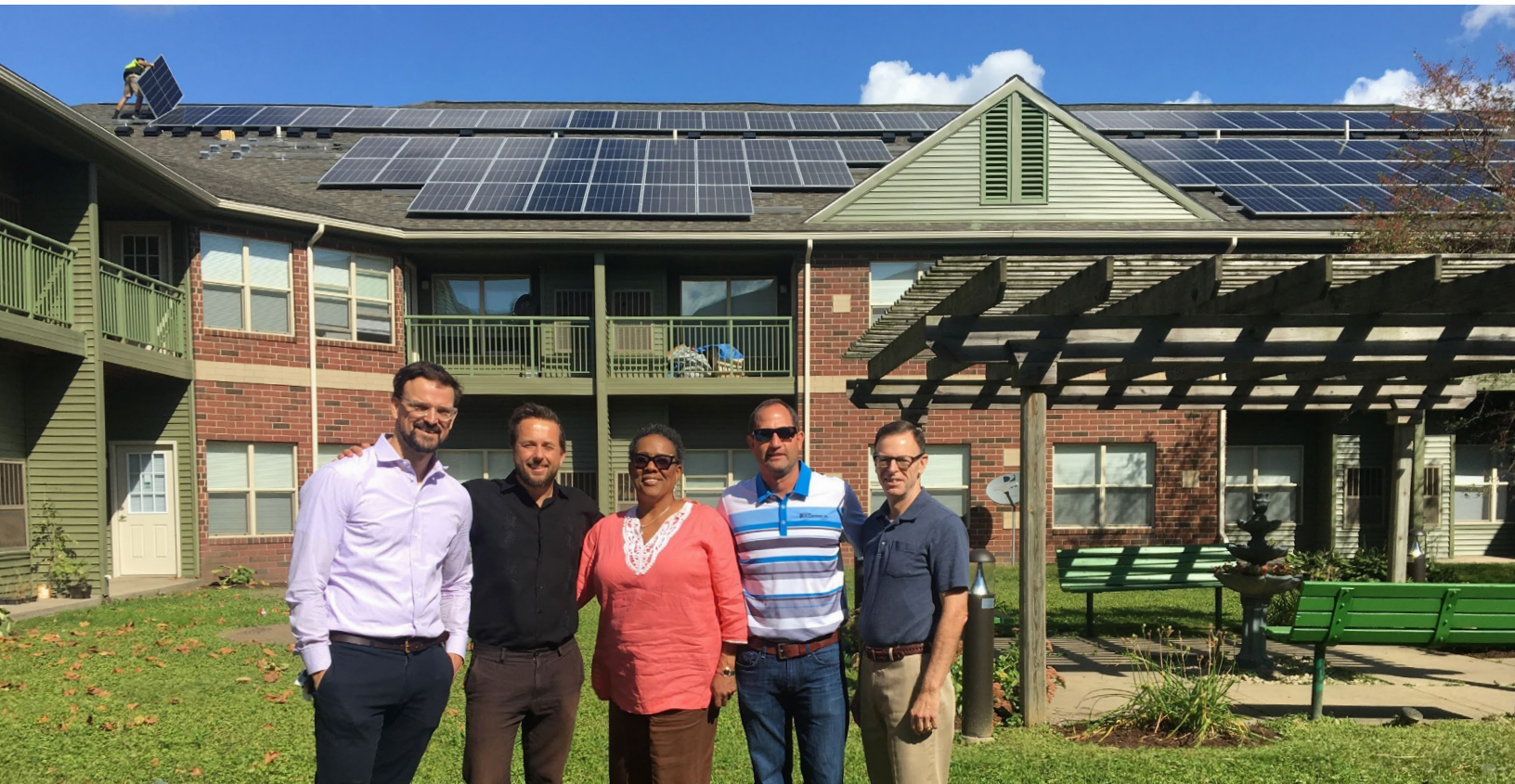
# SUCCESS STORIES

## Emergency Support for Water Bills and Plumbing Repairs

In 2020, DWSD worked with Wayne Metro to access more than \$22 million in state and federal funding to address high water usage and ineffective plumbing fixtures at more than 600 households including replacing toilets, lead service lines and sewer service lines, and to provide direct bill assistance to 40,000 accounts.

## Permanent Expanded Eligibility and Benefits for Water Affordability Programs

Since 2019, The Water Residential Affordability Program (WRAP) that provides bill assistance and plumbing repairs to low-income households in Detroit has seen expanded benefits and eligibility. As of July 1, 2020, the Great Lakes Water Authority Board (GLWA) expanded WRAP eligibility to households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and to allow renters to participate in minor home plumbing repairs, making 5,000 more Detroit households eligible for WRAP, with 20,000 households served to date. The cap for WRAP plumbing repair funding was also increased from \$1,000 per household to an average of \$2,000 per household. Eligible repairs expanded to include the replacement of lead fixtures in eligible low-income households.



# LOOKING FORWARD

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## Expanded Residential Water Affordability Support

DWSD is working to expand support for plumbing repairs and water affordability through a new federal Low-Income Household Water and Wastewater Assistance Program (LIHWAP). LIHWAP will be piloted with up to \$650 per eligible household in addition to WRAP, with door notices planned to be distributed to low-income Detroit households in spring of 2022. A permanent LIHWAP program is being considered by Congress in President Biden's Build Back Better Plan.

## Temporary Housing for Lead Abatement

In partnership with Wayne State University, the City secured funding to evaluate the effectiveness of providing Temporary Emergency Housing for 100 families with lead in their homes, which will kick-off soon. To further reduce lead exposure, these families will receive cleaning kits with HEPA filter vacuums to remove chipped paint and lead dust.

## Affordable Housing Locator Tool

The Housing and Revitalization Department is working with Google.org to develop an affordable housing locator tool for residents. A community engagement process began in May 2021 and will continue through the end of the year. The City and partners have developed preliminary designs and are in the process of gathering feedback from community members.



# CLEAN, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS





# CLEAN, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

A neighborhood is an ecosystem.

**It should provide for the needs of those who live there.**

A clean, connected neighborhood offers easy access to stores, green spaces, fresh food, and jobs. It provides recycling and composting, safe spaces, and beauty that encourages residents to walk and explore. Clean and attractive streets, sidewalks, and lots give residents pride in their community, inspiring us to come together in new and inspiring ways.

This section covers initiatives to improve neighborhood amenities and services and create cleaner and more connected neighborhoods throughout our city, particularly through transforming vacant land and structures, reducing waste, and improving mobility. This includes initiatives to increase recycling rates, create streets that are safer to walk and bike, and make it easier to maintain or purchase vacant lots.

## SECTION GOALS

6. Transform vacant lots into safe, productive, sustainable spaces
7. Reduce waste sent to landfills
8. Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle

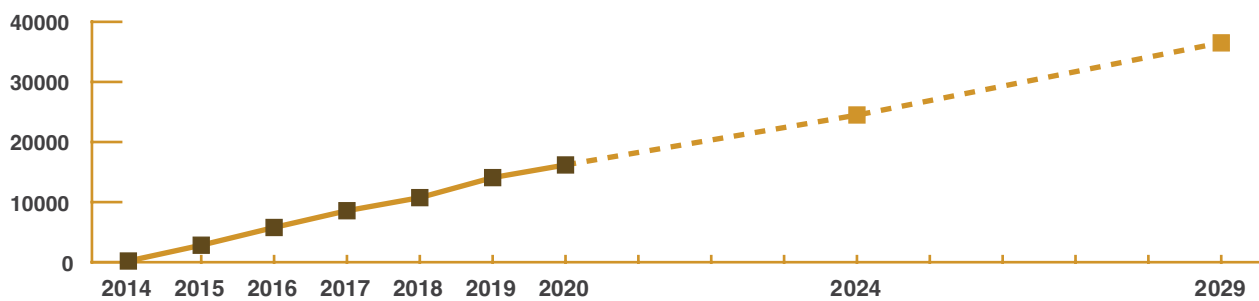
## 2022 Update

As Detroit transitions back to more in person work, community, and social events, it is crucial to build cleaner and more connected neighborhoods. We continue to push forward despite the challenges we face, such as limited labor and funding. Additionally,

the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have hampered efforts to rehab and occupy DLBA homes and made the cost of recycling services less attractive to commercial consumers.

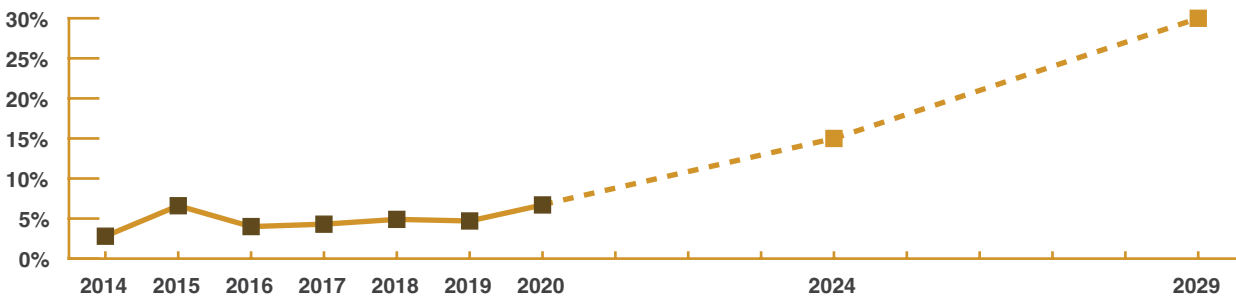
### SIDE LOT ADOPTION

Increase lots in Side Lot Adoption program



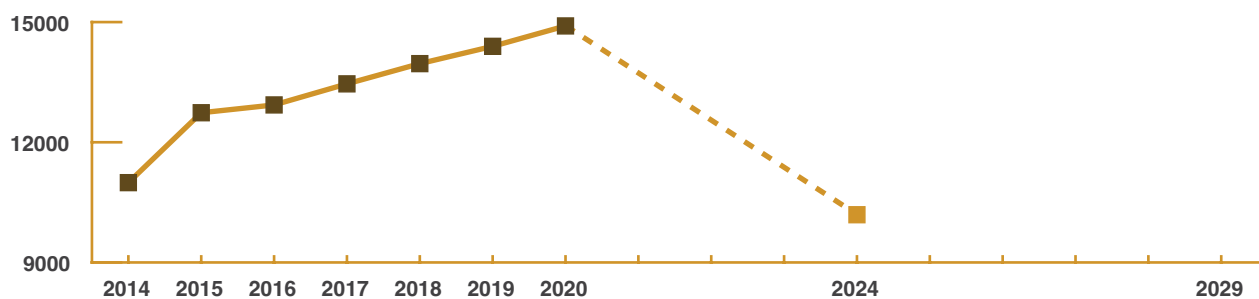
### WASTE DIVERSION RATE

Increase recycling and composting diversion rate to 30 percent



### TOTAL NUMBER OF CRASHES AND CRASH SEVERITY

Reduce the deadliness of pedestrian, and bicyclist crashes



# GOAL 6

## Transform vacant lots into safe, productive, sustainable spaces

**“The Neighborhood Lot program makes vacant lots available to residents that live within 500 feet.”**

Transforming vacant lots into safe, productive, sustainable spaces can increase the safety and vibrancy of our neighborhoods. Since 2019, the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) has sold nearly 8,600 structures to be rehabbed and occupied, and has sold nearly 9,000 lots. Additionally, the DLBA launched the Neighborhood Lot program, which makes vacant lots available to residents that live within 500 feet if neighboring residents do not purchase through the side lot program. DWSD is also making measurable steps towards fee structures and regulatory guidelines for residential irrigation in the City.



# GOAL 7

## Reduce waste sent to landfills

Thriving neighborhoods should have access to amenities like trash collection, recycling, and composting that allow residents to practice sustainability in their daily lives. The City's single-family home curbside recycling participation rate reached 38% in August 2021. Recycling service is now provided at 70 City of Detroit buildings and the Department of Public Works is making it available in more spaces, like commercial buildings, multi-family buildings, and City parks. The City also began partnering with several pilot community composting programs lead by Food Plus Detroit, Georgia Street Community Collective, and Wayne State University.

**“The City’s single-family home curbside recycling participation rate reached 38% in August 2021.”**

# GOAL 8

## Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle

Creating more connected neighborhoods requires making it easier and safer to get around and between Detroit's neighborhoods. From 2019 to 2021, DPW made safety and ADA compliance improvements to 12 miles of priority corridors, including Harper Ave., Mack Ave., and Mt. Elliot, with similar improvements planned for 17 miles of corridors in 2022. Additionally, 6,715 speed humps and speed cushions were installed to slow traffic on residential streets, as well as speed tables at pedestrian crossings along Mayor Archer Greenway, Scotten and Clark Streets, among other locations.

**“The Joe Louis Greenway will provide extensive, safe opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists to get around the city.”**

The City launched a micro-transit pilot to connect Detroiters with manufacturing corridors, continues to operate micro-mobility scooter programs, and supported COVID-19 transportation efforts for Detroiters without vehicles. The City added 18 miles of protected bike lanes and launched a pilot program, leasing 100 MoGo e-bikes to City employees. The framework plan and construction has begun on the Joe Louis Greenway, which will provide extensive, safe opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists to get around the city.



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DO BETTER DO STRONGER

# SUCCESS STORIES

## Launch of Neighborhood Lot Program

The Detroit Land Bank's new Neighborhood Lot Program expands on the existing Side Lot Program where residents can purchase vacant lots next to their homes for \$100. If a lot is not purchased through the Side Lot program, it will now graduate to the Neighborhood Lot program and is available for purchase to owner occupants living within 500 feet for \$250. This program aims to increase land ownership access for residents and to build stronger neighborhoods.

## Expansion of City Recycling

Recycling has made great strides since 2019! The Department of Public Works now has two of its own recycling trucks and a dedicated Recycling Coordinator. The team is actively expanding recycling to more municipal buildings, commercial customers, multifamily customers, and parks. The number of single-family homes who have signed up for carts at home has expanded significantly, reaching a 38% participation rate from 23% in 2018.



# LOOKING FORWARD

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## **More Vacant Properties Available for Rehab or to be Demolished**

DLBA has identified several thousand more properties that can be sold for rehab, many of which will be prepared for sale using Proposal N funds. This includes debris and overgrowth removal, securing openings, installing roof tarps, and pumping out basements. For those that cannot be salvaged, Proposal N funds will demolish them to abate blight.

## **Continued Recycling Expansion**

A commercial recycling program has been established by the Department of Public Works. They are currently recruiting many multifamily properties and have signed up the first buildings to this service. Additionally, recycling containers were installed in four parks during summer 2021 with 12 other parks have been identified to receive containers in the future.

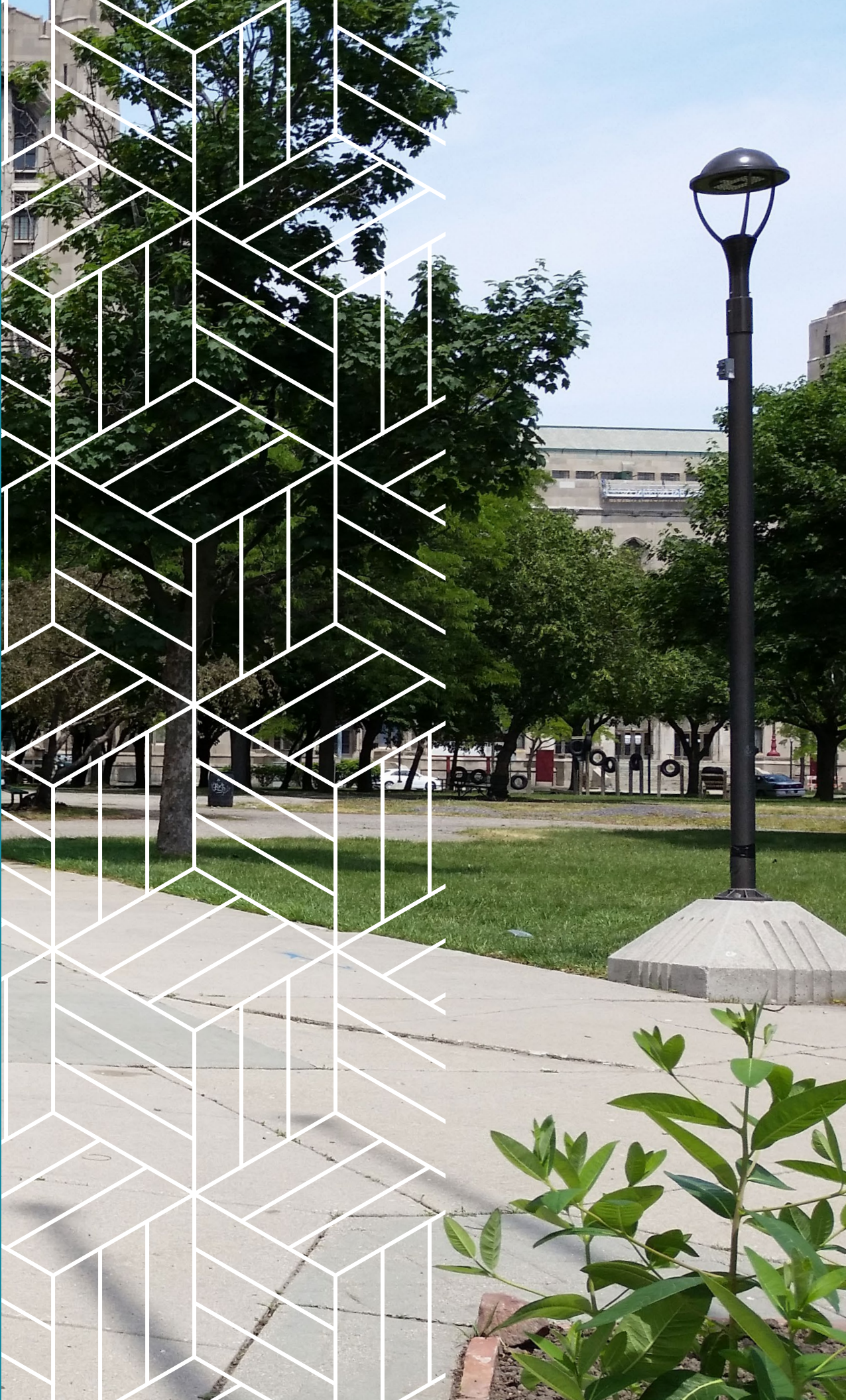
## **Pilot for Differentiated Irrigation Water Rates**

The Board of Water Commissioners approved a residential irrigation pilot program. This pilot, which will begin in the spring of 2022 and run for about 12 months, will collect data to analyze the potential of a separate meter for irrigation purposes that is not charged sewerage fees. The results will guide the implementation of future residential irrigation policy in Detroit.





# EQUITABLE GREEN CITY





# EQUITABLE GREEN CITY



The City of Detroit must lead by example in creating a more equitable, green Detroit.

**The City is working to advance equity and sustainability in all policies and operations** and has already taken steps to align with global environmental standards, such as committing to the Paris Climate Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2025 from a 2005 baseline. Additionally, City Ordinance 25-19, Chapter 24, Article XIV, mandates a reduction of municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2024, 75% by 2034 and 100% by 2050. Finally, Mayor Duggan has committed to the Race to Zero campaign, committing to reducing emissions to net zero by 2050 and by half by 2034. However, we still have work to do to ensure that our city, and its most vulnerable populations, are resilient to the impacts of climate change and to actively reduce our contributions to it.

This section covers initiatives to both reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and increase our resilience to climate change, with an emphasis on our most vulnerable populations. Initiatives aim to increase the use of renewable energy and green stormwater infrastructure, improve resident access to services, and reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from city operations.

## SECTION GOALS

9. Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts
10. Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions

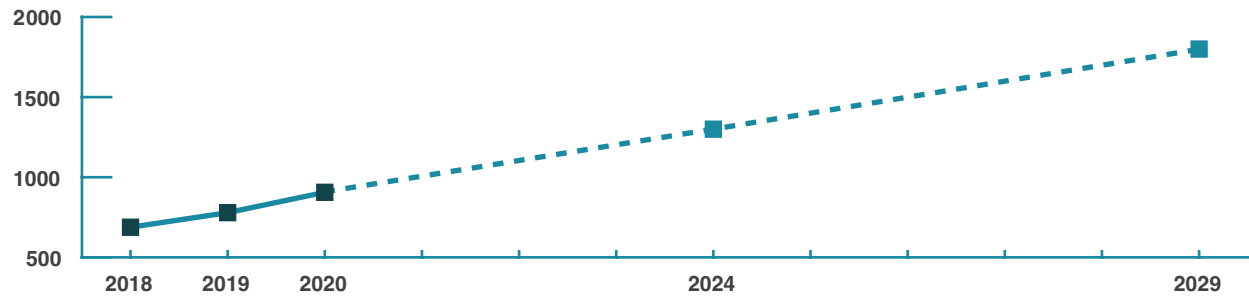
## 2022 Update

In the past two years, we have come together to make progress towards a more equitable and greener city for all Detroiters. While we have encountered setbacks and delays such as limited staffing and funding restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to push forward. Since the Sustainability Action Agenda was published, the City has worked to lay groundwork for

exciting new projects and sustainable policies. The City continues to struggle with higher up front and maintenance costs related to green infrastructure projects. However, as technologies improve and need increases, this will be less of a barrier moving forward.

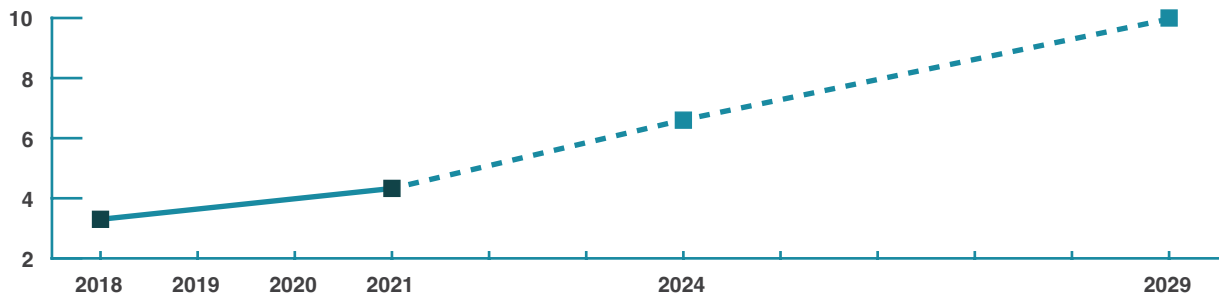
### ACRES MANAGED BY GSI

Double the acres managed by green stormwater infrastructure



### LOCAL SOLAR GENERATION CAPACITY

Increase solar generation capacity to 10 MW



# GOAL 9

## Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts

“By expanding and targeting the location of green stormwater infrastructure, we can reduce the impacts of extreme precipitation events and ensuing flooding.”

As Detroit experiences more extreme precipitation events, wastewater infrastructure can become overwhelmed. By expanding and targeting the location of green stormwater infrastructure, we can reduce the impacts of these events. Green stormwater infrastructure was built into the Livernois and Kercheval Streetscape Projects and DWSD awarded a contract for a large green stormwater infrastructure project at Charles Wright Academy. In January of 2020, the City released the [Eastern Market Neighborhood Framework Plan](#)<sup>2</sup>, developed by the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation and in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Eastern Market Partnership, and others. This framework includes a neighborhood scale stormwater management network plan with greenways adjacent to 68 acres of redevelopment, to manage stormwater.

The City strives to include green stormwater infrastructure in streetscape projects whenever possible, and developed design guidance for it in the Transportation Master Plan. Additionally, the Complete Streets team is wrapping up the Streets for People transportation planning effort focused on making it easier and safer for all Detroiters to move around the City.

# GOAL 10

## Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions

“The Mayor signed on to the Race to Zero, a commitment to a 50% reduction in Citywide emissions by 2034 and net-zero by 2050.”

To become a truly green city, we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. This includes reducing emissions from City operations as well as emissions from Detroit’s residents and businesses, as required by City ordinance 25-19, Chapter 24, Article XIV. Working towards this goal, the Office of Sustainability has developed new greenhouse gas assessments for both community and municipal emissions. The City is also in the process of developing a Climate Action Strategy to address mitigation and adaptation in Detroit, funded by the Kresge Foundation. We are working with a Climate Equity Advisory Council to embed equity throughout the strategy.

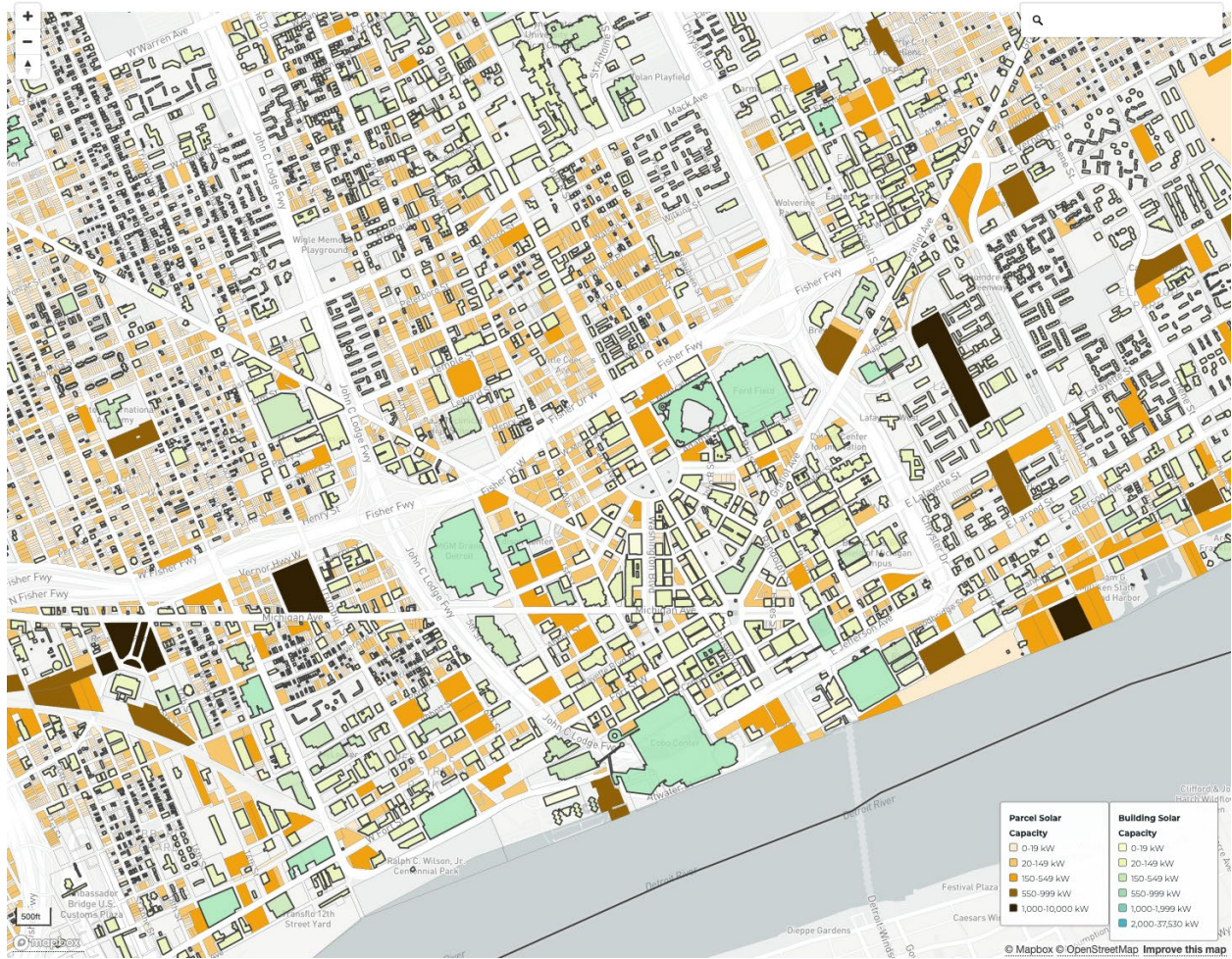
The Mayor signed on to the Race to Zero, a commitment to a 50% reduction in Citywide emissions by 2034 and net-zero by 2050. In partnership with the Detroit 2030 District, the Office of Sustainability launched the Mayors’ Energy Challenge in early 2020, and relaunched it in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with more than 60 commercial buildings and 37 municipal buildings competing to reduce emissions in 2021.

# SUCCESS STORIES

## Detroit Solar Kit

The Office of Sustainability and the Housing and Revitalization Dept partnered with consultants, led by Elevate Energy, to develop and launch the [Detroit Solar Toolkit](#)<sup>3</sup>, which provides tools and resources to help residents and businesses who want to install solar on their properties. This includes a solar map

that indicates the solar potential of homes, businesses, and even neighborhoods. It also includes a process map that transparently outlines the steps that one must follow from the City of Detroit as well as DTE to get solar installed and interconnected.



# LOOKING FORWARD

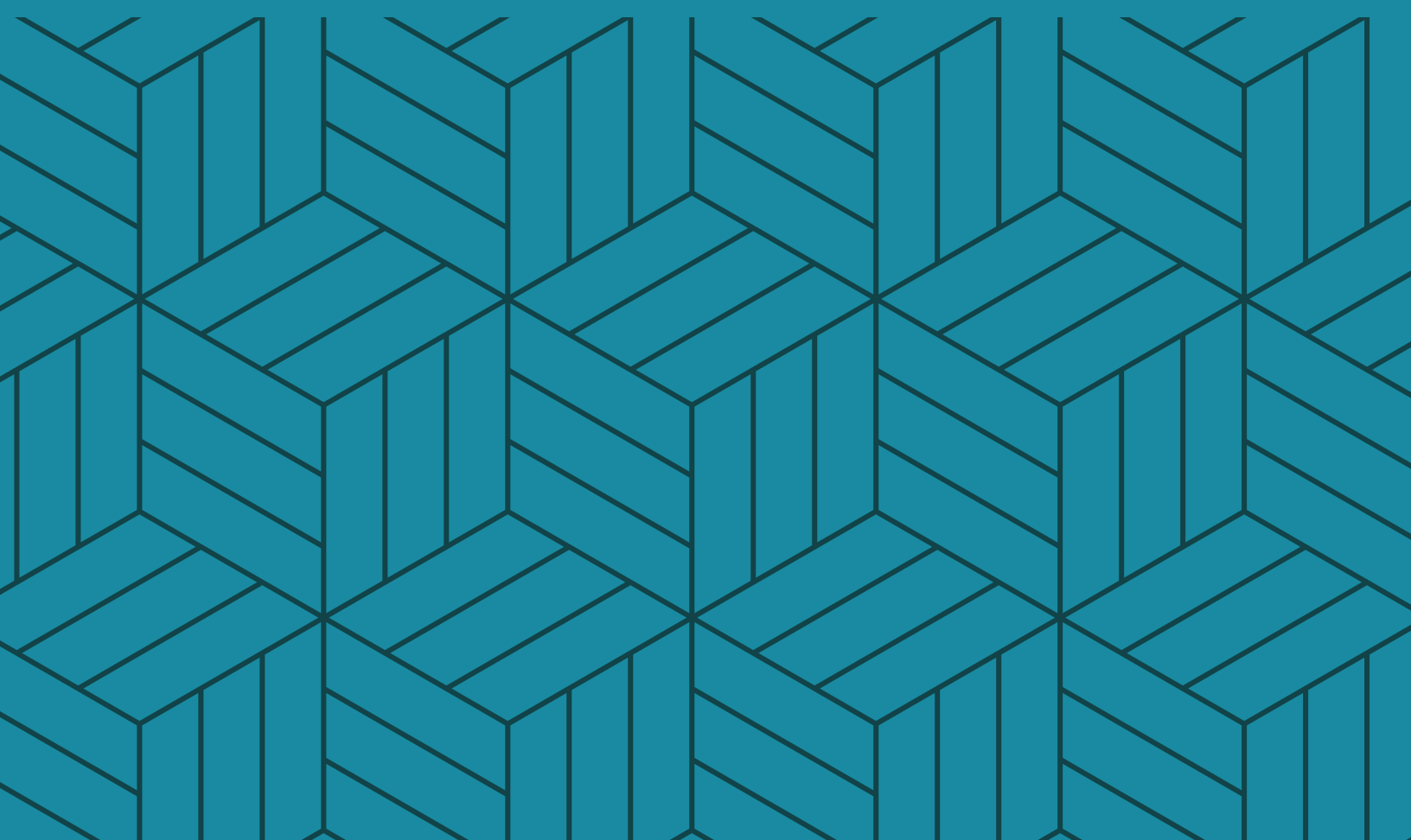
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## Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Keep an eye out for more green stormwater infrastructure projects to manage drainage and reduce flooding in the City, with plans to invest \$50 million by 2029. Additionally, DWSD will award a project in Far West Detroit to remove stormwater generated in this 216-acre neighborhood from the system and provide Rouge Park with large scale green stormwater infrastructure amenities. GSD will install green stormwater features as part of improvements at Palmer Park and A.B. Ford Park.

## Detroit Climate Strategy

The Office of Sustainability has worked for the past two years in partnership with EcoWorks, Next Energy, Elevate, CNT and the Climate Equity Advisory Council to develop the City's Climate Action Strategy, with financial support from the Kresge Foundation. This plan should be complete and available to the public by late 2022. Once in place, there will be a solid foundation and strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to become better adapted to the changes already happening in the City.



# FUTURE REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Detroit's Office of Sustainability will produce regular sustainability reports to update residents and community stakeholders on the progress made towards the goals defined in the 2019 Sustainability Action Agenda.

Feel free to email us to share your thoughts on the work we are doing, could be doing and how we are sharing that work: [sustainability@detroitmi.gov](mailto:sustainability@detroitmi.gov).



CONCLUSION

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to sincerely thank all Detroiters who participated in the process of developing the 2019 Sustainability Action Agenda and those who have helped us move the defined actions forward throughout the last two years. Without your tireless work, the progress we have made would not be possible, and we look forward to continued collaboration to build a more sustainable Detroit in the years to come.

## **CITY OF DETROIT LEADERSHIP**

Mike Duggan, Mayor

The Honorable Detroit City Council

## **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY TEAM**

Joel Howrani Heeres, Director

Whitney Smith, Project  
Manager (former)

Nishaat Killeen, Recycling  
Coordinator (former)

Elizabeth Wallace, MS/  
MBA Mayoral Fellow

## **SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION, CO- CHAired BY**

Sandra Turner-Handy, the Detroit  
Environmental Agenda

Khalil Ligon, the Detroit  
Environmental Agenda

Darlene Strickland, Bedrock Detroit

## **ORIGINAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION AGENDA TEAM**

AECOM

DWEJ

EcoWorks

SAGA Marketing

Bloomberg Associates

## **ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS**

City Council Green Task  
Force Co-Chairs

Sustainability Ambassadors

Participants in the Focus Groups,  
Town Halls and coUrbanize

## **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

SAGA Mktg and Good Done Daily

The Sustainability Action Agenda was supported with funds from the Kresge Foundation, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

This two-year update and accompanying Detroit Sustainability Dashboard were developed with funds and support from the University of Michigan Erb Institute, the University of Michigan School for the Environment and Sustainability, the Kresge Foundation, and the University of Michigan Business + Impact Initiative.





# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We also want to thank the many community partners and departments involved in the City's Sustainability Interdepartmental Work Group for driving implementation of these actions, and providing qualitative and quantitative data to track progress. This work takes a team and we would not be able to make this progress without your expertise and action.

## ACCESS

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Bedrock Detroit

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Breath Free Detroit

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Christ Church Detroit

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Cities of Peace Detroit

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ClearCorps Detroit

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Community Action  
to Promote Healthy  
Environments

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Community  
Development Advocates  
of Detroit

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Congress of  
Communities

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Detroit 2030 District

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Detroit Black Community  
Food Security Network

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Detroit City Council  
Green Task Force

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Detroit Environmental  
Agenda

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Detroit Food Policy  
Council

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Detroit Greenways  
Coalition

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Detroit Public Schools  
Community District

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Detroiters Working for  
Environmental Justice

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Develop Detroit

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DTE

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Eastern Michigan  
Environmental Action  
Council

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Eastside Community  
Network

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EcoWorks

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Elevate

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General Motors

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Gesu Catholic Church

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Global Detroit

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Grandmont Rosedale  
Development  
Corporation

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Great Lakes  
Environmental Law  
Center

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Greater Detroit Victory  
Outreach

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Green Door Initiative

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Green Living Science

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Greening of Detroit

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Henry Ford Hospital

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I.B.E.W. Local 58  
Detroit,1

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Islamic Organization of  
North America

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Keep Growing Detroit

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Michigan State  
University

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Next Energy

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Nortown CDC

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Pan African Orthodox  
Christian Church

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Pilgrim Baptist Church

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PizzaPlex

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Sierra Club

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Southwest Detroit  
Environmental Vision

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Southwest Solutions

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St. Peter's Episcopal  
Church

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The Nature  
Conservancy

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Transit Riders United

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U Snap Bac

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United Community  
Housing Coalition

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University of Michigan

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Urban Neighborhood  
Initiative

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US Green Business  
Council

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Wayne Metro  
Community Action  
Agency

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Wayne State University

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We Found Hip Hop

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We the People of Detroit

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We Want Green Too

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Zero Waste Detroit

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# APPENDIX

## **DETROIT OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE**

<https://detroitmi.gov/departments/general-services-department/office-sustainability>

## **DETROIT SUSTAINABILITY ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY**

City of Detroit, 2019

[https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-06/DetSAA%20Summary%20Web\\_0.pdf](https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-06/DetSAA%20Summary%20Web_0.pdf)

## **DETROIT SUSTAINABILITY ACTION AGENDA**

City of Detroit, 2019

<https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-06/Detroit-Sustainability-Action-Agenda-Web.pdf>

## **DETROIT SOLAR TOOLKIT**

City of Detroit, 2021

<https://detroitmi.gov/departments/general-services-department/office-sustainability/detroit-solar-toolkit>

## **End Notes**

1. 3-year strategic plan: [https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2021-07/CRIO\\_DA\\_3YearPlan\\_072621.pdf](https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2021-07/CRIO_DA_3YearPlan_072621.pdf)
2. Eastern Market Neighborhood Framework Plan: <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/planning-and-development-department/neighborhood-plans/central-design-region/eastern-market>
3. Detroit Solar Toolkit: <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/general-services-department/office-sustainability/detroit-solar-toolkit>



# Indicator Table

This focuses on 2020 data as 2021 data is largely not yet available. We look forward to sharing more current data in future updates

OUTCOME	GOAL	INDICATOR	BASELINE	2020 UPDATE	TARGETS		
					2024	2029	Other
HTP	Increase access to healthy food, green spaces, and recreational opportunities	Percent of Residents within a 10-minute walk to a park	77%	80%	85%	90%	---
HTP	Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution	Asthma hospitalization rate	21.8 per 10,000 residents	21.5 per 10,000 residents*	19.6 per 10,000 residents	17.4 per 10,000 residents	---
HTP	Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution	Average number of good air quality days	80.29%	81.21%*	---	---	Increase
HTP	Improve air quality and reduce exposure to pollution	Tree planting in the 20 most vulnerable census tracts	~ 500/year	223	1,000 trees/year	2,000 trees/year	---
HTP	Advance equity in access to economic opportunity	Average number of Detroiters employed	226,405	206,822	---	---	Increase
HTP	Advance equity in access to economic opportunity	Share of active city contracts with Minority, Women, and Detroit-Based vendors	34%	29%	44%	---	---
AQH	Reduce the total costs of housing, including utilities	Percent of residents paying more than 30% of their Income for housing, including utilities	48%	45%*	---	---	Reduce
AQH	Reduce the total costs of housing, including utilities	Number of new and preserved affordable housing units	610 units (new)	1194 units (new) 4,992 units (preserved)	2,000 units (new) 10,000 units (preserved)	---	---
AQH	Reduce the total costs of housing, including utilities	Cumulative count of low income households in reduced water bill cost programs	1,030 households	3,062 households	5,000 households	15,000 households	---
AQH	Reduce the total costs of housing, including utilities	Average residential energy consumption per capita	49.7 MMBtu	47.7 MMBtu	44.70 MMBtu	39.74 MMBtu	---
AQH	Improve the health and safety of existing and new housing	Testing of elevated blood lead levels in children	32% of eligible	18% of eligible	50% of eligible	Universal	---
AQH	Improve the health and safety of existing and new housing	Elevated blood lead levels in children	9% with EBLL	6% with EBLL	5% with EBLL	3.8% with EBLL	---
CCN	Transform vacant lots and structures into safe, productive, sustainable spaces	Total acres of productive agricultural land	165 acres	In Progress	300 acres	500 acres	---
CCN	Transform vacant lots and structures into safe, productive, sustainable spaces	Number of lots in Side Lot Adoption programs	13,963 lots	16,183 lots	24,500 lots	36,500 lots	---
CCN	Reduce waste sent to landfills	Recycling and composting diversion rate	4%	7%	15%	30%	---
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Number of citywide auto, pedestrian, and crashes	12,932 crashes	14,904 crashes	10,191 crashes	---	---
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Share of pedestrian crashes resulting in fatality or serious injury	16%	26%	13%	10%	---

## Indicator Table *(continued)*

OUTCOME	GOAL	INDICATOR	BASELINE	2020 UPDATE	TARGETS		
					2024	2029	Other
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Share of bicyclist crashes resulting in fatality or serious injury	13%	20%	9%	6%	---
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	WalkScore	55	53	60	75	---
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Annual DDOT Ridership	26,388,668	10,146,826	---	---	Increase
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Average monthly DDOT Weekday On-Time Performance	71%	77%	85%	---	Increase
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Miles of bike lanes	55	68	---	---	Increase
CCN	Make it easier and safer to get around Detroit without a personal vehicle	Speed Humps	0	1,614	---	---	Increase
EGC	Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts	Average annual gallons of untreated combined sewer overflow	1,922	1,964	---	---	Reduce
EGC	Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts	Acres managed by green stormwater infrastructure	688 acres	906 acres	1,300 acres	1,800 Acres	---
EGC	Enhance infrastructure and operations to improve resilience to climate impacts	Responsiveness to resident requests within SLA	69%	52%	80%	90%	---
EGC	Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions	Municipal greenhouse gas emissions	.173 m tons CO <sub>2</sub> e****	.168 m tons CO <sub>2</sub> e**	0.113 m tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e****	---	0.043 m tons CO <sub>2</sub> e by 2034****
EGC	Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions	Community greenhouse gas emissions	11.5 m tons CO <sub>2</sub> e****	10.8 m tons CO <sub>2</sub> e**	---	---	8.07 tons CO <sub>2</sub> e by 2025****
EGC	Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions	Local solar generation capacity	3.3 MW	4.3 MW	6.6 MW	10 MW	---
EGC	Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions	Total industrial commercial energy consumption	11,324,257	9,831,808	---	---	Decrease
EGC	Reduce municipal and citywide greenhouse gas emissions	Total industrial energy consumption	29,457,527	31,235,587	---	---	Decrease

\*2020 data not yet available, reporting 2019 data

\*\*\*\* GHG emissions baseline and targets have been adjusted to reflect services currently in City purview

\*\*2020, 2019 data not yet available, reporting 2018 data



**DETROIT  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ACTION AGENDA**

**2-YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE**

**2021**