

CLIMATE *ACTION* PLANNING: YPSILANTI

MICHIGAN SUBURBS ALLIANCE EVALUATION OF CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIES

The City of Ypsilanti is working with residents to create a community-guided climate action plan. This document begins the assessment of which strategies suggested by the Ypsilanti community should be included in the final climate action plan. Strategies have been evaluated by the Michigan Suburbs Alliance according to community input, cost to implement and effectiveness in reducing Ypsilanti's greenhouse gas emissions. The Suburbs Alliance has provided recommendations identifying proposed strategies as high, medium or low priorities for implementation. This assessment is not final and will not be the complete determination for what makes it into the official climate plan. Categorization of an item as medium- or low-priority for greenhouse gas reduction does not exclude the strategy from consideration to meet community-stated goals. We encourage citizen feedback on how we have rated these strategies.

We also seek resident input on how we can make these strategies work most effectively in Ypsilanti. What stakeholders will need to be included in these solutions? What are the most important tactical considerations? What are the possible first steps to implementation? Please email Valerie Bieberich at valerie@suburbsalliance.org with further feedback, or post your comments to <http://climateplan.uservice.com>.

This planning process is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Ypsilanti has contracted some of this work out to the Michigan Suburbs Alliance.

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BUILDINGS <i>COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND GOVERNMENT</i>	SUBURBS ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION	GHG/ COST PRIORITIZATION	COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION	STAKEHOLDERS	TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS	FIRST STEPS
TARGET GHG REDUCTION: 70%						
Create a green rental certification program	High	High	High			
Install light sensors, especially in EMU buildings	High	High	High			
LED lights (or best available option) for residential and business	High	High	High			
Host neighborhood “parties” to educate about and do weatherization	High	High	High			
Require LEED for building projects receiving maximum amount of tax abatements	High	Medium	High			
Solar thermal water heating for municipal uses	High	Medium	High			
Residential and commercial weatherization	High	Medium	High			
Require energy and heat cost disclosure for rentals	High	High	Medium			
Florescent fixture upgrades	High	High	Medium			
Community awards program for energy efficiency, separated out by businesses and by neighborhoods.	Medium	High	Medium			
Hold an energy competition between the town and university or between schools	Medium	Medium	Medium			
Find funding options for low-income households	Medium	Medium	Medium			
Fix leaky faucets	Medium	Low	Medium			
Research funding for brownfields or lobby for return of credits	Medium	Low	Medium			
HVAC upgrades (energy efficient retrofit at time of sale)	Medium	Medium	Low			
Mitigate heat effects from south-facing windows of downtown businesses	Medium					
Residential solar thermal water heating	Medium					
Residential geothermal	Low	Low	High			
Green roof installation	Low	Low	High			
Incentivize installation of solar PV at gas stations, carports and parking garages	Low	Low	Medium			
Explore the possibilities of wind energy	Low	Low	Low			
Cool roof installation	Low	Low	Low			

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CULTURE CHANGE <i>EDUCATION, EVENTS, CELEBRATION</i>	SUBURBS ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION	GHG/ COST PRIORITIZATION	COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION	STAKEHOLDERS	TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS	FIRST STEPS
TARGET GHG REDUCTION: 5%						
Provide more visibility for alternative transit, and create a detailed database and map	High	High	High			
Provide residents with information on their home's carbon emissions and utility costs	High	High	High			
Create a community sustainability "library" with information on how residents can make change	High	Medium	High			
Get City leaders and employees visibly active on climate change issues	High	Low	Medium			
Include stewardship, engagement and sustainability education in local schools	Medium	Medium	High			
Carbon offset fund – Model is regional	Medium	High	Low			
Provide incentives to have biking or walking employees	Medium	Low	Medium			
Micro-grants or -loans to promote individual change	Low	Medium	Medium			
Create a folk school centered around skills-trading	Low	Low	High			

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INFRASTRUCTURE <i>WASTE, WATER, ENERGY GENERATION</i>	SUBURBS ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION	GHG/ COST PRIORITIZATION	COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION	STAKEHOLDERS	TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS	FIRST STEPS
TARGET GHG REDUCTION: 5 %						
Community-wide recycling contest	High	Medium	High			
LED streetlights	High	Medium	High			
City-wide composting system (curb-side or dropoff) for waste disposal	High	High	Medium			
Place artful trash and recycling bins throughout community	High		Medium			
Composting and recycling programs	High		High			
Explore existing funding options for energy upgrade projects	High		Medium			
Geothermal energy installation under downtown streets and parking lots	Medium		Medium			
Waste disposal program (pay as you throw)	Medium		Low			
Wastewater treatment plant upgrade	Medium		Low			
Community-level or co-op owned alternative energy micro-grids; Install a solar farm on brownfields	Medium	Low	Medium			
Financing: Worker-owned cooperatives	Low		Medium			
Motion-sensor lights in public lots and near residential areas	Low	Low	Low			
Create hydroelectric power with Ypsilanti's currently un- or under-used dams	Low	Low	Low			
Impervious surface tax, or "stormwater utility fee"	Low	Low	Low			
Use sheep and a moveable fence to mow city parks	Low		Low			
Become dark sky compliant in the course of lighting upgrades	Low		Low			

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LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION <i>DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS, TRAVEL OPTIONS</i>	SUBURBS ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION	GHG/ COST PRIORITIZATION	COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION	STAKEHOLDERS	TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS	FIRST STEPS
TARGET GHG REDUCTION: 20%						
More bike lanes, bike-safe streets and bike facilities	High	Medium	High			
Ridership promotion	High	Medium	High			
Help EMU increase walkability, including connections between city and campus	High	Low	High			
Infill development	High	Low	High			
Regional commuter trains (or bus rapid transit)	High		High			
Bike sharing and car sharing	High		Medium			
Parking cash-out for city, county, campus employees	High					
Express bus service between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor oriented towards commuters	Medium	Medium	High			
Businesses encourage employees to live nearby and commute via bike, walk or bus	Medium	Medium	High			
Vanpooling promotion	Medium	Medium	Medium			
Provide incentives to employees who utilize alternative forms of transportation	Medium	Low	Medium			
Complete the Border to Border trail across Washtenaw County	Medium		High			
Extend AATA bus service to include Ypsilanti Township	Medium		Medium			
Install plug-in electric vehicle charging stations in municipal and campus parking lots	Medium		Medium			
Complete Streets policies, focusing especially on Water Street, parks and the B2B Trail	Low (Done)		High			
Complete sidewalk gaps	Low	Low	Medium			
Increased residential density	Low	Low	Low			
Create a pop-up bike shop	Low		Medium			
Have days free from car use, or zones that are car-free	Low		Medium			
Allow for live/work zoning on the first floor of buildings	Low		Medium			
Extend the existing park system along river	Low		Low			
Start a circulation bus or trolley	Low		Low			
Regional tax base sharing system that incentivizes reinvestment in city neighborhoods	Low		Low			
Hybrid transit	Low		Low			

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WELL-BEING <i>HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, FOOD</i>	SUBURBS ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION	GHG/ COST PRIORITIZATION	COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION	STAKEHOLDERS	TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS	FIRST STEPS
TARGETGHGREDUCTION:0%						
Plant more shade trees	High	Medium	Medium			
Make ordinances more friendly to urban agriculture and other forms of local food production	Medium	Low	High			
Locally source cafeterias and vending machines (YPSD, EMU)	Medium	Low	High			
Encourage walking via city-sponsored events, benefit walks, and meetings	Low	Medium	Medium			
Find a 12-month location for the farmers market and explore accessibility options	Low	Low	High			
Encourage community gardens, including training on growing	Low	Low	High			
Develop a co-op barter network or reuse center	Low	Low	Medium			
Replicate Cleveland's "Gardening for Greenbacks;" provide grant for material costs for market gardens	Low	Low	Low			