

**7:00 - 7:10 | Introductions**

Teresa Gillotti, Ypsilanti City Planner, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Teresa asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**7:10 - 7:20 | Ypsilanti Climate Action Planning: Process Overview**

Valerie Bieberich, community outreach coordinator for the process, gave an overview of the project goals, timeline, the climate action plan itself, and outlined the current stage of strategy evaluation. The PowerPoint she gave can be found online, [at this page](#).<sup>1</sup>

**7:20 - 8:00 | Small Group Review of Proposed Strategies**

Attendees broke into groups to discuss the Suburbs Alliance’s assessment of proposed strategies. Notes were captured via large sheets of paper placed on the tables and are reproduced below.

**Buildings**

- NGOs and government seek funding for projects that reduce private sector costs (residential geothermal, for example) with some funding from sharing private sector savings
- Rent-a-roof: people with resources sponsor the installation of PV panels on the available roof
- Cool roofs, as recommended or required by city: white or reflective roof instead of black
- Review wind energy assumptions
- LEED is not the only and probably not the best standard to use

**Culture Change**

- Educate business owners!
  - First step: Sidewalk chalk art about being sustainable: EMU art program or urban planning program
  - Green Fair: vendor with sustainable products or “green building,” local farmers and companies. Plymouth does this every May. This is very feasible. During a spring month, maybe include farmers market or Growing Hope?
- Create a 24-hour place for community members to discuss at a “deeper” level

	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Tactics</b>	<b>First Steps</b>
Alternative transit database or map	Citizens, AATA, regional/visitors, carpoolers, commuters	Map (interactive); signage; events (see incentives); telecommuting?	GIS Dept of EMU, Dr. Joseph; project collaboration
Provide residents carbon info	Landlords, renters, residents	Coalition meet; rating system; competitions between neighborhoods	Landlords in DAY create a separate group or committee; quantify savings

<sup>1</sup> If you’re working from a non-digital version of this document, visit <http://climateplan.uservoice.com>, scroll down, and in the box with the lightbulb icon, click “RESOURCES: How are you creating these climate action plans?”

Library of resources	All people	Organize and record	Erica's thesis project; place to build community exchanges based on more than \$
City visibility	Government agencies, AATA/transit	Social media?	Give Teresa an assistant and blog; feature resident or employee actions on city website
Stewardship, engagement, sustainability in schools	Kids of all ages, Central Gardens Middle School, EMU, Growing Hope, Creative Change Education Solutions	Festivals; public events led by youth and hosted by schools; community service and learn shop or sharing	Mentor links; interns/library from SEMIS; inter-school committee
Carbon offset	Developers	Include model in library	Build informational database of offset opportunities
Incentives to employees	AATA		DAY/DDA/ AATA: GetDowntown pass for Ypsi
Micro-grants			Identify national grants; identify mentors
Folk school	Students, citizens	Map existing; central space	Identify existing and coalition

[Editor's note: Yes, this chart was in the table notes.]

#### Infrastructure

- "Pay as you throw" seems like a risky idea—charging people money to dispose of waste will encourage illicit dumping
- "Geothermal:" would this be worked into other street repaving projects? How will it be paid for? This type of project has high initial costs.
- "Dark sky compliant:" Although low payoff, this is very easy to implement and has other good implications. Light pollution = bad!
  - EMU Astronomy would love to partner on this
  - Might the city consider a standalone policy for new or retrofit of streetlights?
- Composting as business [Editor's Note: there's a circular diagram with an arrow from restaurants to farms, back to restaurants.]
- Business recycling/city-sponsored
- City-wide composting or recycling:
  - Composting: As business
  - Composting resources: Co-op or EMU clubs
  - Recycling stakeholders: City/landlords
- Explore existing funding options: DTE, EPA, community foundations

- City-wide no-impact week: live without waste! Community process where you document your impact
- Place artful trash/recycling cans—resources: EMU art department, local artists
- Expand curbside recycling to all of Ypsilanti, including rental properties

#### Land Use & Transportation

- Make Water Street into a zero-energy community and temporary tree nursery and permaculture for food production and education project
- Themes: ridership promotion applies to multiple strategies
- EMU walkability? → GHG
- Bike share or car share could have a big impact—how to find data?
- Overall: how to gauge general public prioritization?
- New: where is light rail?
- New: Creation and enforcement of better and safer biking conditions
  - Especially along Michigan Ave and Washtenaw in high-speed zones
- Parking cash-out: would this be funded by employers? *[Editor's note: this is an idea for when employers are already paying for employee parking passes. The strategy would allow employees to "cash out" this parking pass if they are biking, walking or busing in to work instead of driving.]*
- Mid-town area revitalization?
- Help EMU increase walkability:
  - Partner to create walkability plan
  - Try to raise EMU residence WalkScore
  - If you live on campus (or near), what are the closest amenities?
    - Ex. Nobody knows you can get groceries at Dos Hermanos

#### Well-Being

- Plant more shade trees: good gesture but doesn't cover scope of well-being
- Make ordinances more friendly: Very good step, and a good way to utilize government resources and get them involved.
- Get to 50% local food production by 20...?
- Propose ad campaign with EMU about local food in cafeterias: "50% local food TRUEMU"
- Local cafeteria initiative
  - St. Joe's/WCC obstacles:
    - School regulations
    - Cost of locally-grown produce or meals vs. "typical" school lunches
  - Community resources: EMU Giving Garden, Growing Hope, local farmers
- Community gardens
  - Growing Hope and EMU Giving Garden—more classes and educational workshops
  - EMU nutritional program?

Climate Action Planning  
Ypsilanti Community Taskforce Meeting 3  
April 9, 2012 | 7:00-8:30pm  
SPARK East, 215 W. Michigan Ave.

- Encourage walking via city-sponsored events: Partner with local nonprofits in Ypsi and Washtenaw County and have runs and walkathons to raise money and promote health
- Walking events could raise funds for other well-being strategies
- Locally-sourced food and 12 month farmers markets—aren't they higher GHG? – find data

### **8:00 - 8:20 | Discussion of Proposed Climate Action Strategies**

Bieberich asked attendees to share their observations and the most salient points from small-group discussions. Participants generally felt that, as presented in the handout, much of the Suburbs Alliance assessment was correct.

One participant voiced the opinion that LEED is not the best system to evaluate the environmental impact of a building. This resident also wanted to make sure that early adopters are not penalized. For example, tax credits or other incentives sometimes exclude those people who have already taken action. This citizen also offered the idea of renting roof space to put up solar panels and expressed approval of cool roofs. Another participant raised the issue of enforcing traffic and speed limits to reduce endangerment of pedestrians and cyclists.

Meeting attendees felt that they weren't really able to get to the point of offering support for implementation in their discussions, and expressed a desire to add more to the "stakeholders," "tactical considerations," and "first steps" section of the handout after this meeting. The group decided that the best way to do this might be online, by adding a section to the UserVoice site or by creating a fillable form online. Participants wanted to be able to see the answers of others and contribute their own ideas.

### **8:20 - 8:30 | Next Steps**

The Ypsilanti Climate Plan team will:

- Post meeting materials online
- Record table notes for external viewing and internal use
- Figure out how to post a fillable version of the strategy evaluation (along with responses) online, probably using a Google Doc or survey, as suggested by residents
- Follow up with further opportunities for involvement