

Climate Protection Action Committee Goals and Objectives for 2020

The Climate Protection Action Committee is submitting for adoption an updated roadmap for the City's role in the global response to climate change. The roadmap provides a broad framework for actions that will move the City toward an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the timeframe by when the scientific community advises the world needs to achieve greenhouse gas reductions to avoid dangerous disruptions to our climate. CPAC asks that the City Council adopt this roadmap.

Based on the best scientific information, the City of Cambridge believes that future generations of Cantabridgians face in the coming decades costly and disruptive weather events as a result of global climate change, including rising sea levels, more intense storms, and higher temperatures and heat waves. These impacts will affect the way we live and work. Their severity depends on how much the concentration of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere increases. The concentration of these gases is driven in part by the world's daily energy-consuming activities. Cambridge's contribution to atmospheric greenhouse gases is miniscule on a global level, yet the actions we take can be used in communities throughout the world as a model for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Cambridge cannot solve the greenhouse gas accumulation problem on its own, but it can contribute to solutions through technological and social innovation while taking responsibility for its own emissions. The city must also begin to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change even as we work to minimize the degree of those impacts.

The roadmap includes high-level goals and objectives that provide a framework for actions by stakeholders that move the city toward the vision and goals. The City will continue to identify and prioritize actions in a manner that is flexible and responsive to opportunities, challenges, and innovations that emerge in the short term. CPAC will continue to work with the City to review specific actions and to evaluate progress towards these goals and objectives. Many of the objectives indicate a target year of 2020. This is consistent with the Commonwealth's near-term goal and is not so far off as to be made obsolete by technological and social changes. As Cambridge approaches 2020, it can take stock and re-set objectives for the next stage.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE PROTECTION VISION

Cambridge will become a center for innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership on actions to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency to the impacts of global climate change.

CLIMATE PROTECTION GOALS

By 2050, Cambridge City Government, institutions, businesses, and citizens will achieve this vision by harnessing the wealth of intellectual, entrepreneurial, social, financial, and physical resources in Cambridge. Leveraging these resources will transform Cambridge into a city that....

- A. Minimizes GHG emissions from all measureable sources
- B. Drives Energy Efficiency
- C. Depends on walking, bicycling, and transit for mobility
- D. Runs on renewable and non-fossil fuel energy sources
- E. Minimizes the impacts of material consumption and waste
- F. Minimizes the urban heat island effect
- G. Anticipates and prepares for the impacts of climate change
- H. Is internationally recognized for climate change education
- I. Is a center of innovation for climate change solutions
- J. Has the capacity to effectively mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change

CLIMATE PROTECTION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal A: Minimizes greenhouse gas emissions from all measureable sources

Objective 1: Reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions by a specific amount below 2008 levels by 2020. Quantify the amount by December 2015.

Objective 2: Track and report quantifiable sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the community. Establish targets for community GHG emissions reduction.

Goal B: Drives energy efficiency

Objective 3: Reduce municipal energy use by a specific amount below 2008 levels by 2020. Quantify the amount by 2015.

Objective 4: Continually reduce the energy use intensity (EUI)(e.g., energy use per square foot) for commercial and residential buildings below current levels. Establish targets and benchmarks as information about building energy use becomes available.

Goal C: Depends on walking, bicycling, and transit for mobility

Objective 5: Reduce ownership of conventional vehicles 10 percent below 2010 levels by 2020.

Objective 6: Reduce vehicle miles traveled by vehicles registered in Cambridge 5 percent below 2010 levels by 2020.

Goal D: Runs on renewable and non-fossil fuel energy sources

Objective 7: Increase the portion of municipal electricity use that is supplied by renewable energy on city property to 5 percent by 2020.

Objective 8: Increase the portion of community-wide electricity use that is supplied by renewable sources to 20 percent by 2020.

Goal E: Minimizes the impacts of material consumption and waste

Objective 9: Reduce residential waste collected by the City trash service 30 percent from 2008 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050.

Goal F: Minimizes Urban Heat Island Effect

Objective 10: Increase the overall amount of vegetative cover and reduce use of materials that absorb heat. Quantify the objective by 2015.

Goal G: Anticipates and prepares for the impacts of climate change

Objective 11: Complete a vulnerability assessment of the impacts of climate change in Cambridge in 2014.

Objective 12: Complete a climate change adaptation plan in 2015.

Goal H: Is internationally recognized for climate change education

Objective 13: Identify best practices in climate change education and implement climate change curriculum in Cambridge Public Schools.

Goal I: Is a center of innovation for climate change solutions

Objective 14: Grow community capacity in climate-change knowledge, technology and entrepreneurship.

Objective 15: Encourage community collaboration to create leading models for a more sustainable future.

Goal J: Has the capacity to effectively mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change