Community Climate Action Plan

September 2021

CEDAR RAPIDS
City of Five Seasons®

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FOCUS GROUPS

Large Industry
Medium & Large Businesses
Small Businesses & Neighborhoods
Nonprofits & Schools
Governmental Partners

ADDITIONAL THANKS

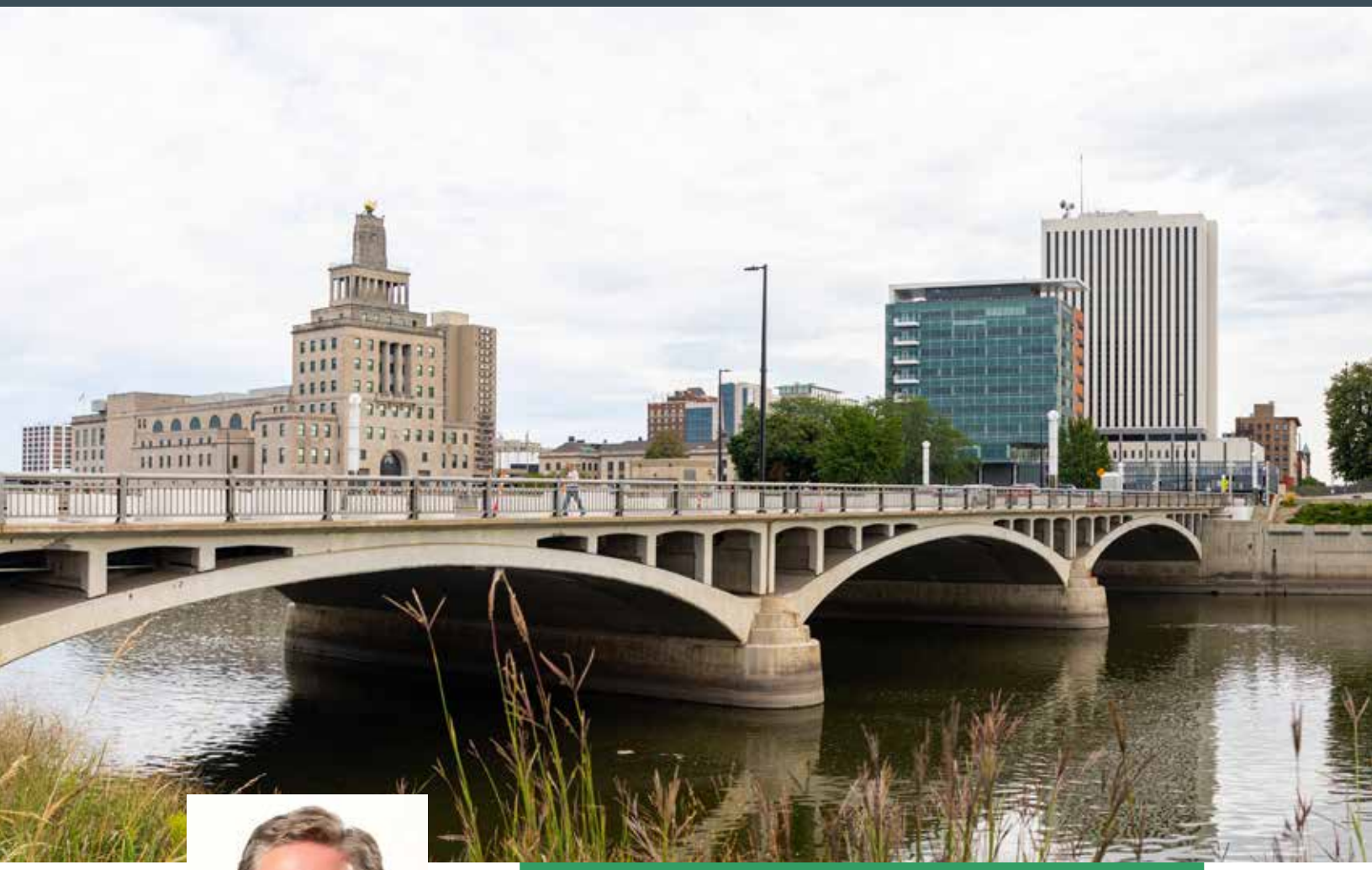
Thank you to the countless individuals and organizations not named here but who dedicated time and effort toward creating this Community Climate Action Plan. Your efforts are appreciated!

CITY COUNCIL

Cedar Rapids' City Council recognizes the urgency to address climate change and the important progress our community has made to ready us for ambitious action. This community plan demonstrates the vision and commitments for Cedar Rapids to keep leading the way for our city and for the greater good.

Brad Hart, Mayor
Patrick Loeffler, At Large
Tyler Olson, At Large
Ann Poe, At Large
Martin Hoeger, District 1
Scott Overland, District 2
Dale Todd, District 3
Scott Olson, District 4
Ashley Vanorny, District 5

PLAN APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2021.



IN FEBRUARY 2020, the Cedar Rapids City Council passed a resolution calling on our community to take urgent action on climate change. Following 18 months of extensive planning and public engagement, we are pleased to introduce Cedar Rapids' Community Climate Action Plan. This plan includes actionable steps to make meaningful change today and for the betterment of future generations.

Our community has become remarkably familiar with the consequences of an intensifying climate. From record flooding in 2008 and 2016, to the 2020 derecho, Cedar Rapids has endured a disproportionate share of extraordinary climate events. These have come at significant cost and with many opportunities to learn, adapt and improve.

Climate change is bringing heavier rainfalls, hotter days and more flooding across Iowa — and extreme weather to every corner of our world. Cedar Rapids is no exception. Our Community Climate Action Plan brings focus to these changing realities.

This plan also builds upon our community's strengths. The Cedar Rapids community has become familiar with the concepts of adapting to and mitigating climate change.

To protect from anticipated floodwaters, we are building the Cedar River Flood Control System. This is the most extensive public infrastructure investment Cedar Rapids has ever made. Following the devastating loss of more than half a million trees from our canopy last year, we are responding with an equally extensive replanting effort.

Cedar Rapids has one of the largest industrial bases in the state of Iowa and is one of the largest corn-processing communities in the world. Our industries understand how greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change. Most are already working to reduce their own contributions. Many businesses and residents across Cedar Rapids are doing the same. Our schools have sustainability plans and dedicated employees who work tirelessly to bring excellent and meaningful sustainability education to their students. Non-profit organizations and neighborhood associations bring great talent and passion to the many areas addressed in this plan.

These groups worked together to develop the actions in this plan with a strong emphasis on equity. Residents in Cedar Rapids all belong to the same community and deserve the same opportunities, yet many residents may not have access to the resources they need to thrive. Extensive efforts were made to ensure voices from all of our community members are heard in this plan. You will find these voices reflected in each of the plan's objectives.

Our Community Climate Action Plan charts a future rich in community, passion and dedication to the greater good. We are proud of this plan and look forward to working alongside everyone willing to help our community achieve the important goals set out in the plan. This city's strengths and momentum, evidenced throughout the development of the plan, give us confidence we can and will move the plan forward.

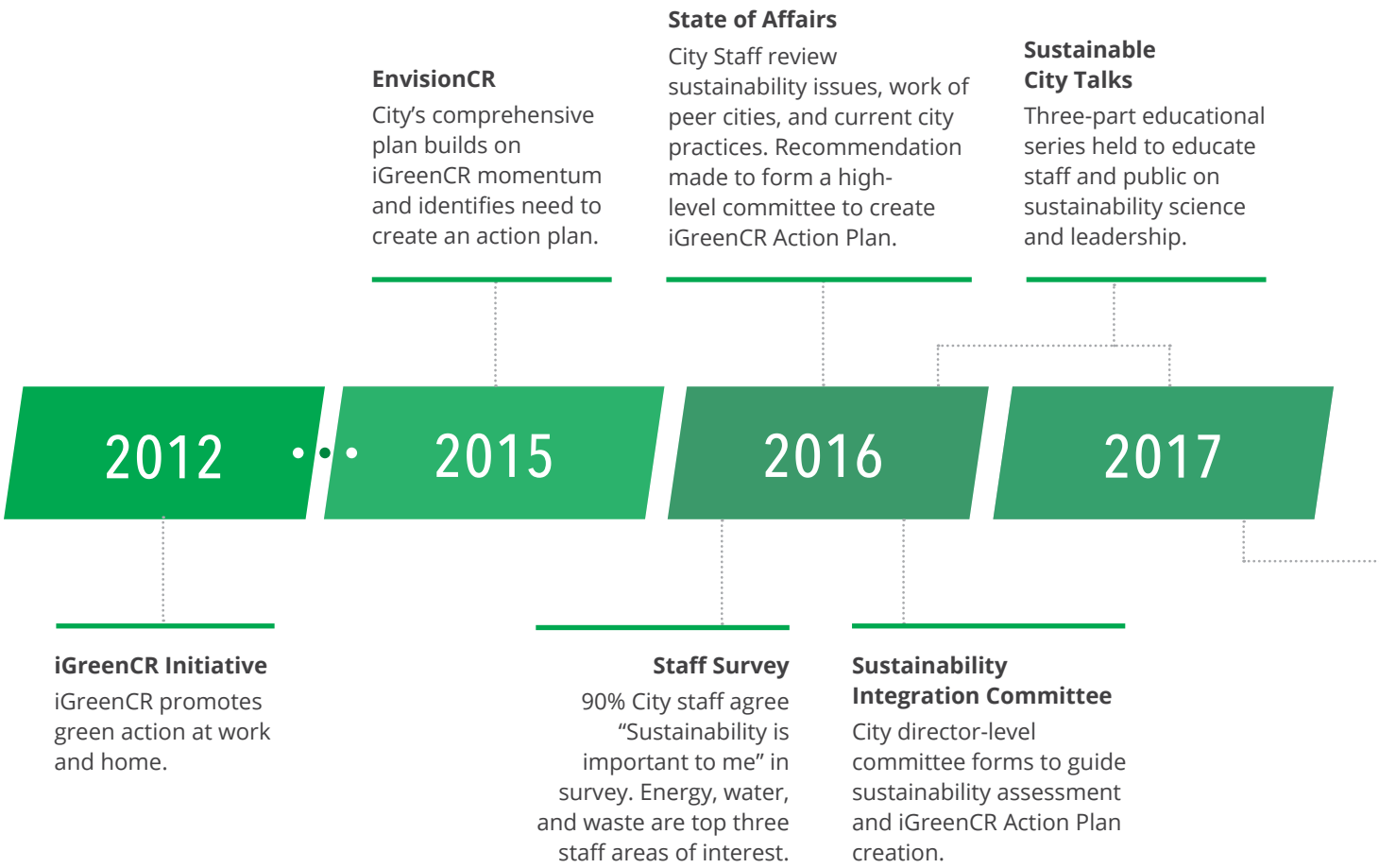
Sincerely,

Brad Hart
Mayor

Jeff Pomeranz
City Manager

CEDAR RAPIDS' CONTINUING SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Sustainability efforts are not new for the City of Cedar Rapids. The Community Climate Action Plan builds off the momentum and successes of the City's longstanding commitment to leadership and innovation.



iGreenCR Action Plan Development

iGreenCR Action Plan is the City's first municipal sustainability plan, an ambitious guiding document pursuing environmental, social, and economic health. Teams work to integrate sustainability priorities across City operations. Sustainability Integration Committee evolves to Innovation Executive Council.

Community Climate Action Plan

- More than 1,600 residents surveyed
- Advisory Committee guided plan
- 24 actions included in final plan

2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 +

STAR Communities

Comprehensive sustainability assessment; Cedar Rapids earns Certified 4-STAR Community designation. (Review a report overview in the Appendix.) The STAR report forms a baseline from which to build Cedar Rapids' first municipal sustainability plan, the iGreenCR Action Plan.

STAR Communities has since transformed to LEED for Cities.

iGreenCR Action Plan Implementation

First iGreenCR Action Plan covers FY20, FY21 & FY22

- Progress reports are provided following each fiscal year
- Plan is renewed every three years

CLIMATE RESOLUTION

In February 2020, Cedar Rapids City Council declared an **urgency for our community to take climate action.** City Council's Climate Resolution called for the creation of a Climate Action Plan. According to the resolution, the plan should aim to prevent global climate change from surpassing 1.5 degrees Celsius and support our community's most vulnerable residents in this journey.

CLIMATE RESOLUTION GOALS:

1. CARBON-FREE

- REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS FROM 45% BY 2030 AND 100% BY 2050,
- TRANSITION TO 70-100% CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050,
- ACHIEVE 35-65% LOW-TO-NO EMISSION TRANSPORTATION BY 2050,
- ELIMINATE COAL AND REDUCE CARBON IN INDUSTRY BY 65-90%,
- SUPPORT CARBON CAPTURE, AND
- REDUCE METHANE AND BLACK CARBON (FROM DIESEL AND COAL) 35% BY 2050

2. RESILIENT & ACCESSIBLE

- BUILD RESILIENCE TO FLOODING AND CLIMATE HAZARDS – WITH A PRIORITY FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS, AND
- GUARANTEE ACCESS (PRIORITIZING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS) TO CLEAN WATER AND AIR; HEALTHY FOOD; GOOD PARKS AND NATURE; GOOD-PAYING GREEN JOBS; AND DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO CITY GOVERNMENT

CHANGE IN AVERAGE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE 1850–2020

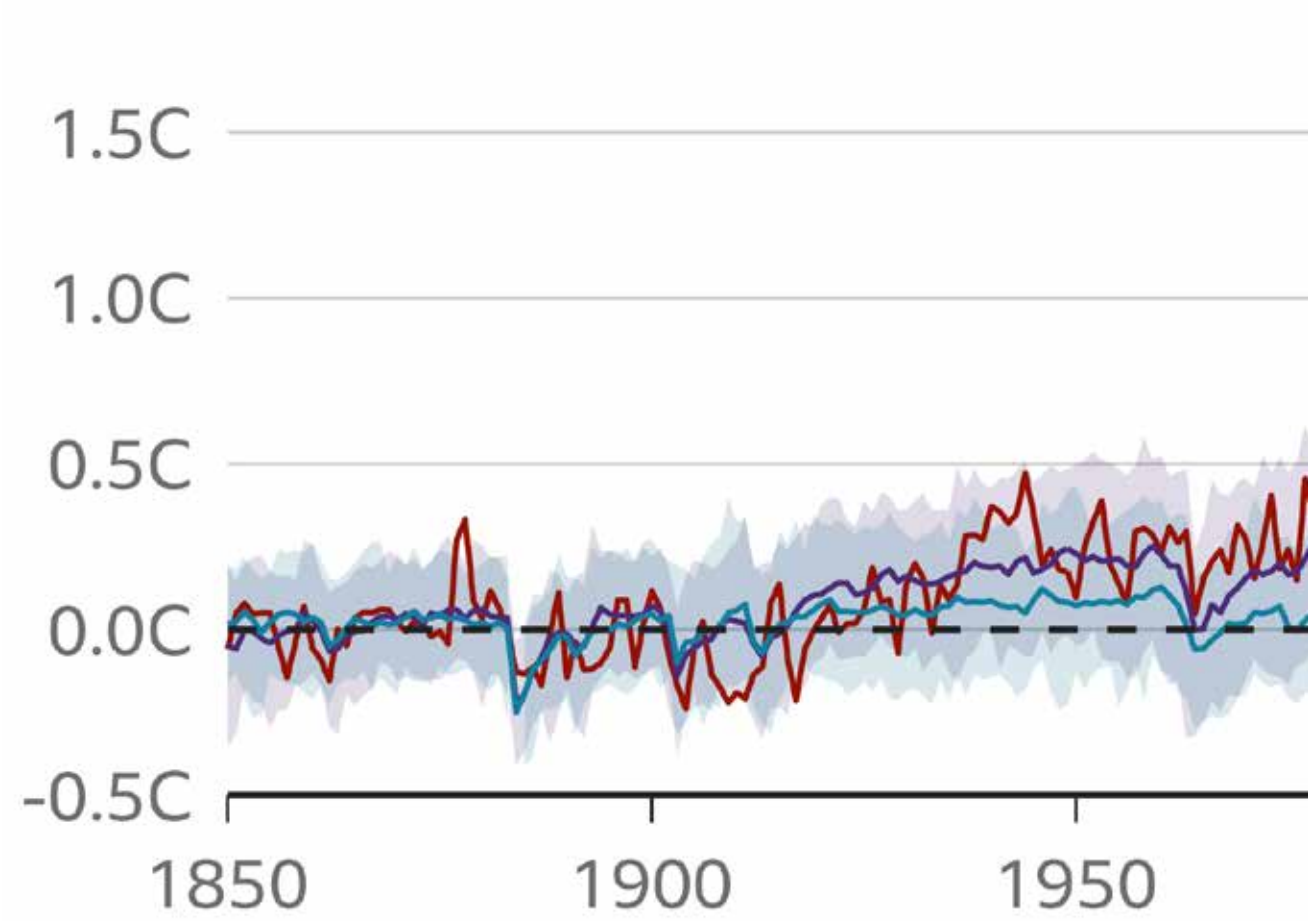
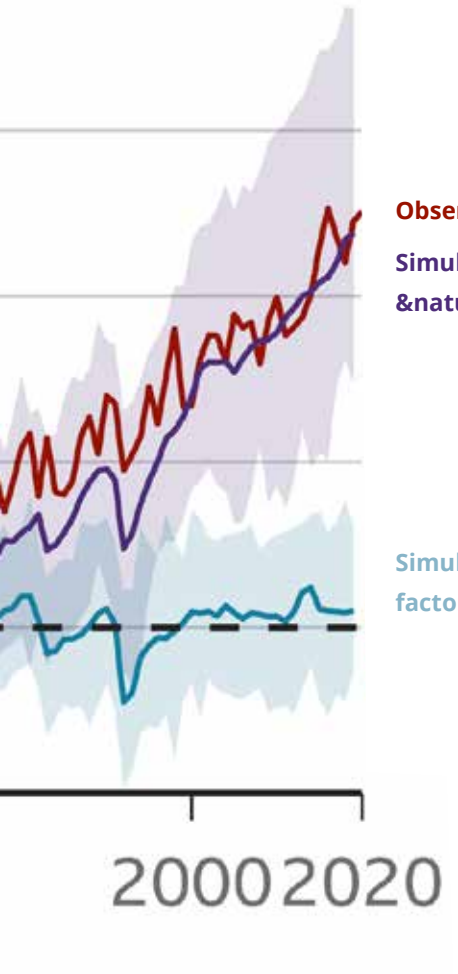


Figure 1 : Change in Average Global Temperature from 1850 to 2020. Note: Shaded areas show possible range for stimulated scenarios

Source: The Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change, 2020.

OUR CHALLENGES



EARTH'S CHANGING CLIMATE

Human life on Earth has progressed within a relatively stable climate. Half of the warmth on Earth is caused by the sun's rays hitting our planet. The other half of the warmth is caused by the atmosphere that acts like a blanket surrounding Earth. When sunshine hits the Earth's surface, it bounces off and, rather than going back into space, some is trapped in greenhouse gases that make up the atmosphere. Without this atmosphere composition, Earth would be more like Mars, cold and uninhabitable.

Since the industrial revolution, society has powered civilization from energy trapped in the Earth's crust. Coal, natural gas and petroleum, are mined and extracted to be used as energy inputs in factories, power plants, and vehicles. The burning of these fuels results in the emission of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) into our atmosphere. Proven by Irish physicist John Tyndall in 1859, these gases can trap heat. If enough are put into the atmosphere, the Earth will warm.

For the past 150 years, a growing amount of greenhouse gases have been emitted into the atmosphere. As decades have passed, scientists around the world have gained greater understanding of human and natural drivers (volcanic eruptions, variable solar radiation) of the climate. In response to a rapidly warming climate due to human influences, the International Panel on Climate Change was formed in 1988 to provide regular research and reports on the state of climate change.

RISING COSTS OF CLIMATE HAZARDS

Climate change is causing more frequent and overlapping weather extremes, challenging the resilience of communities at global and local scales. Significant action is needed to build resilience to extreme weather and to reduce the greenhouse gases that are supercharging the climate and causing extreme weather.

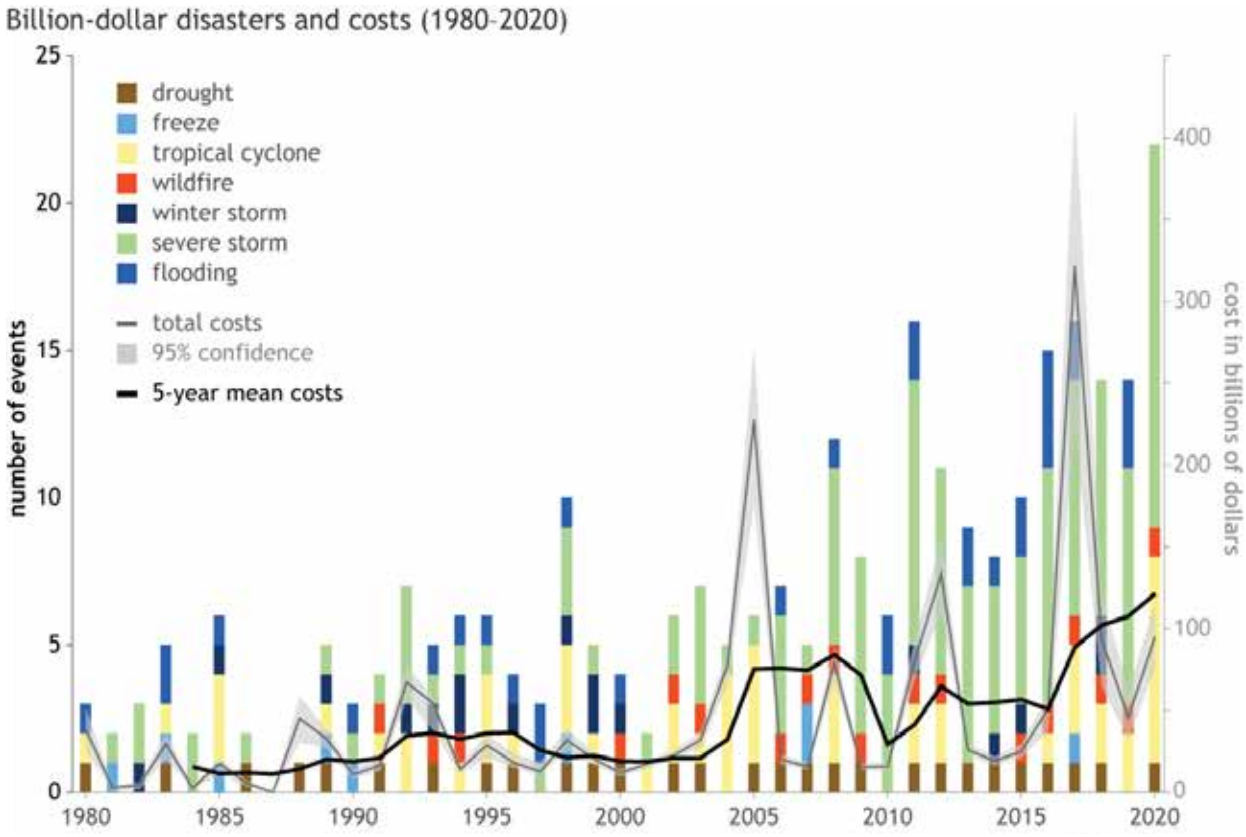


Figure 2 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's estimates of billion-dollar disasters and associated costs from 1980 to 2020
Source: Adam B. Smith, 2020 U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in historical context, utilizing NOAA data

From Climate.gov : *"The number and cost of weather and climate disasters are increasing in the United States due to a combination of increased exposure (i.e., more assets at risk), vulnerability (i.e., how much damage a hazard of given intensity—wind speed, or flood depth, for example—causes at a location), and the fact that climate change is increasing the frequency of some types of extremes that lead to billion-dollar disasters (NCA 2018, Chapter 2)."* **Costs of all disasters in this graph are adjusted to the December 2020 Adjusted Cost Index.**

CEDAR RAPIDS EVENTS	COST
2008 FLOOD	$1.1 billion
2014 FLASH FLOODING	$1.5 million
2016 FLOOD	$8.5 million
2020 DERECHO	$60–80 million (estimated)

Source: City of Cedar Rapids Finance Department

2020 was a **record-shattering year** of billion-dollar events; 4th-highest annual costs **($95.0 billion)**

PERIOD	ANNUAL AVERAGE COST	AVERAGE EVENTS PER YEAR
1980–2020	$45.7 billion	7.0
2011–2020	$89.0 billion	13.5
2016–2020	$121.3 billion	16.2

Source: Adam B. Smith, 2020 U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in historical context, utilizing NOAA data

Figure 3

CLIMATE HAZARDS IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Climate extremes are increasing in Cedar Rapids.

HEAT: 90+ degrees days in a calendar year will triple.

HEAVY RAIN: Downpours have increased 42% since 1958. In 2014, flash flooding in Cedar Rapids cost the community $1.5 million as 3.5–5.5 inches of rain fell in less than 6 hours and peaked at 8 inches in one hour in some locations (a 500-year, one-hour rainfall event).

FLOODING: The Cedar River is rising 1" per decade. The 2008 flood cost Cedar Rapids $1.1 billion, cresting at 31.1 feet, well beyond the 26.5 foot, 500-year flood level. The 2016 flood cost $8.5 million and crested at 22 feet.

EXTREME WEATHER: The 2020 derecho was an extreme weather event, costing Cedar Rapids (estimated) $60–80 million.

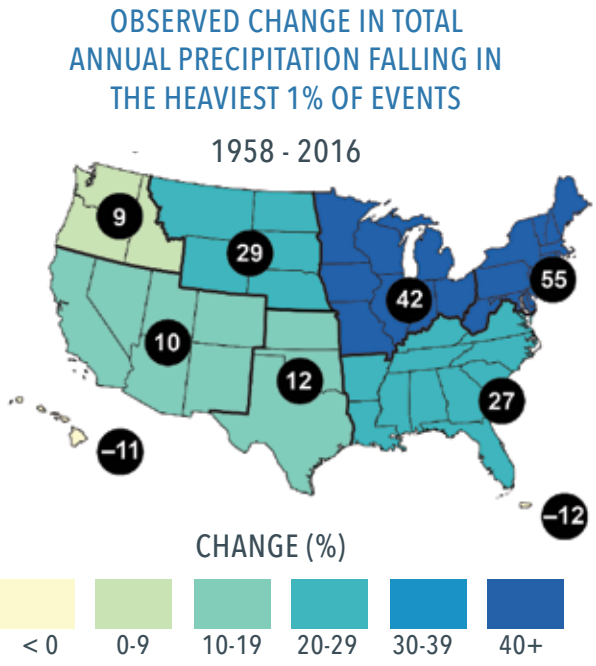


Figure 4

Source: Fourth National Climate Assessment, 2018

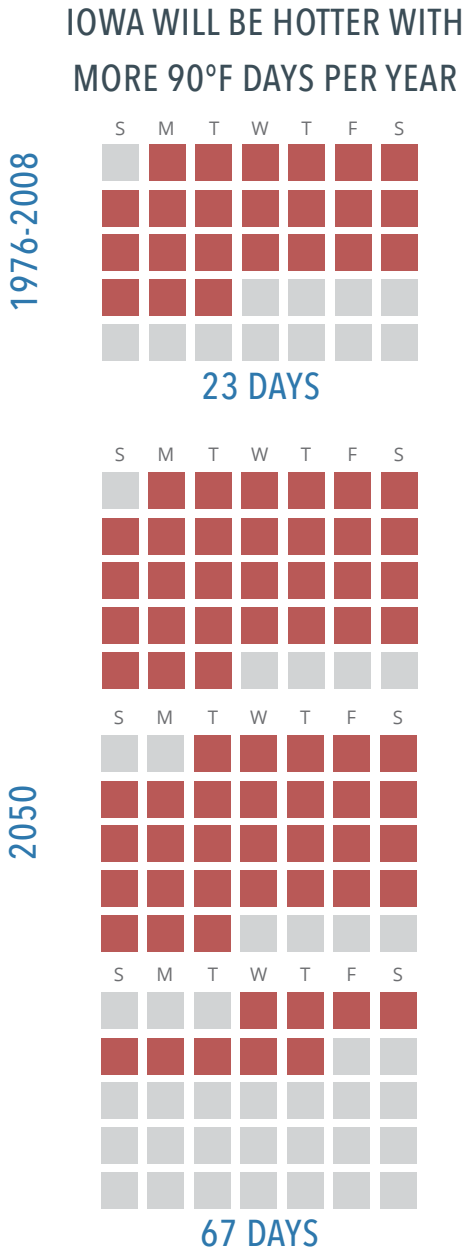


Figure 5: Change in 90+ degree days in Iowa by 2050

Source: 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment, Volume II (2018)

We refer to reputable scientific organizations and studies to understand climate change:

- **STATE:** "An Uncertain Future: The outlook for Iowa communities and flooding as our climate changes."
- **NATIONAL:** 4th National Climate Assessment
- **INTERNATIONAL:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The latest working group report, released in August 2021, describes the "widespread, rapid, and intensifying" nature of climate change that is pushing society toward—and soon beyond—1.5 degrees Celsius warming.

GREENHOUSE GASES (GHGS) IN CEDAR RAPIDS

EMISSION INVENTORIES FOR 2010 AND 2019

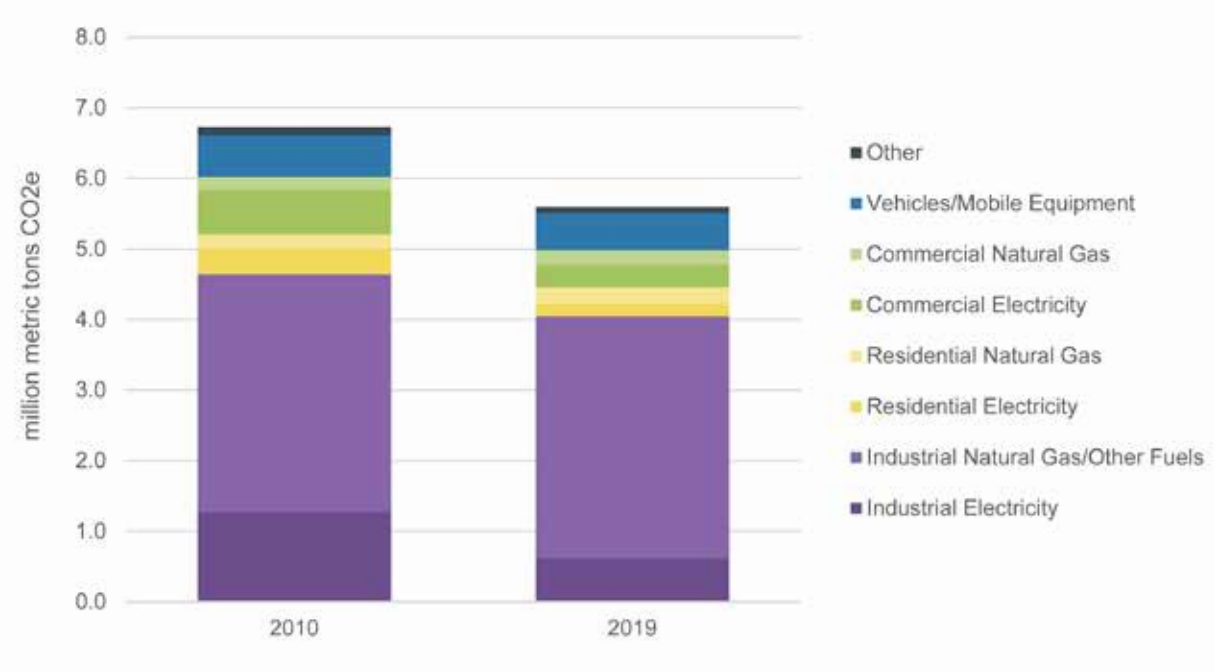


Figure 6: Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in Cedar Rapids (2010 and 2019).

Data Sources: Alliant Energy, Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, City of Cedar Rapids, EPA FLIGHT, EPA National Emissions Inventory, ICLEI, Iowa Department of Transportation, MidAmerican Energy

Cedar Rapids has conducted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories tracking the GHGs associated with the community. More information and methodologies can be found in the Existing Conditions Report on the City's Climate Action Page.

Cedar Rapids' GHG inventories account for:

- Commercial buildings: Natural gas from MidAmerican and electricity from Alliant
- Residential buildings: Natural gas from MidAmerican and electricity from Alliant
- Vehicles and mobile equipment: On-road passenger and freight vehicles and off-road construction or industrial equipment
- Industrial operations: Natural gas from MidAmerican, on-site fuel combustion, and electricity from Alliant
- Other: Emissions from landfill waste and wastewater treatment

In 2019, the community of Cedar Rapids emitted 5.60 million metric tons of CO2e.

- More than 70% of emissions come from industrial processes
- 17% of emissions are from residential and commercial buildings, supplied by the grid
- 9% of emissions come from on-road vehicles and off-road equipment
- 2% of emissions are from solid waste and wastewater treatment

Community-wide emissions have decreased by 17% since 2010, which recorded 6.72 million metric tons of CO2e. The reduction during this time period is due primarily to a transition to cleaner electricity sources rather than efficiency or conservation efforts.

TARGETED EMISSION REDUCTION IN CEDAR RAPIDS

THIS IS HOW MUCH EACH SECTOR NEEDS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS BY 2030 AND 2050

2030	2050	METRIC
9%	35%	Reduction in energy usage through efficiency from 2019
15%	15%	Of commercial and residential electricity met through local renewable energy
23%	100%	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions rate from grid-supplied electricity from 2019
67%	100%	Reduction of coal-fired electric generation in the industrial sector from 2019
23%	78%	Commercial and residential buildings using electricity for space and water heating
15%	45%	Reduction in vehicle miles traveled per resident from 2019
19%	84%	Of vehicle miles traveled are in electric vehicles
16%	24%	Reduction in waste per resident from 2019
45%	75%	Diversion of waste from landfills

The emission reduction scenario planned for Cedar Rapids takes the following trends into account:

- Existing policies, such as building energy codes and federal vehicle fuel economy standards;
- Established goals, such as Alliant Energy's goals to reduce their carbon emissions 50% from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;
- Anticipated market trends – such as an increase in electric vehicles – adjusted based on feedback from the community; and
- Potential reduction strategies developed through the planning effort, such as increasing energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and supporting large-scale solar installations. These strategies are the focus of the community actions described in this plan.

HOW WE BUILD OUR COMMUNITY DETERMINES HOW MUCH RESOURCES WE CONSUME

The more spread out our community, the more energy and water properties consume, the more GHGs we emit, and the less our communities can be accessible by biking, busing, and walking. The more spread out our community is, the more expensive it is for residents and for the City to pay for infrastructure.

Figure 7: Comparison of Resource Consumption by Density
Source: City of Cedar Rapids adapted from City of Denver, Colorado

VULNERABILITY IN CEDAR RAPIDS

DEFINITIONS

Vulnerability: As climate change intensifies, the basic needs of vulnerable residents in Cedar Rapids should be prioritized. Residents who have barriers to achieving basic needs experience daily stress, making them susceptible to greater challenges when faced with extreme weather.

Equitable Engagement is the process for developing understanding and partnership with vulnerable residents who are under-represented and under-resourced. As a community looks to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to a changing climate, residents with vulnerabilities should be central to the planning and decision-making processes and outcomes.

TAKING ACTION

Impacts: Vulnerable residents are most impacted by extreme heat and flooding. If you wait for the bus, live without air conditioning, or work outside, heat and flooding can be very difficult to endure.

Process: Residents who are under-resourced and under-represented are often disconnected from City decision processes. Traveling downtown to a meeting or getting online to provide feedback may not be feasible with limited funds, mobility, time, and familiarity.

Outcomes: Prioritizing the needs of vulnerable residents in a planning process ensures their needs are central to the plan's outcomes. Without their input and interests, a plan could be made focuses on actions that are irrelevant or not attainable.

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS	Below Poverty Unemployed Income No High School Diploma
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION & DISABILITY	Aged 65 or Older Aged 17 of Younger Older than Age 5 with a Disability Single-parent Households
MINORITY STATUS & LANGUAGE	Minority Speaks English "Less than Well"
HOUSING TYPE & TRANSPORTATION	Multi-Unit Structures Mobile Homes Crowding No Vehicle Group Quarters

MAPPING VULNERABILITY IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Using the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, Census tracts with the highest levels of vulnerability can be mapped. These areas are important priorities for climate action engagement in Cedar Rapids. Neighborhood Association boundaries are overlayed on the map. Those with the highest levels of social vulnerability include **Wellington Heights**, **Oakhill Jackson**, **Westdale Area**, and **Taylor**.

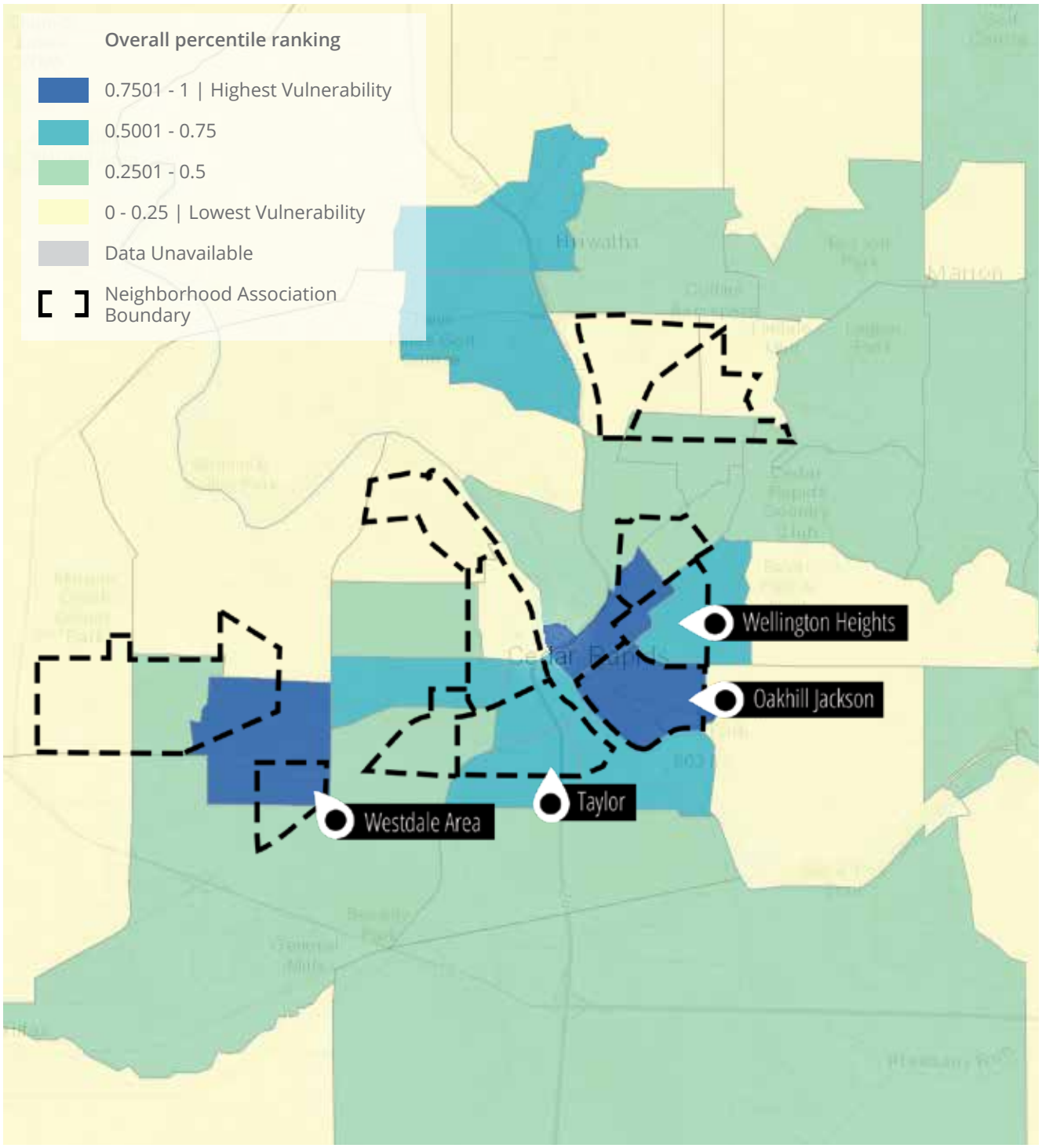


Figure 8: CDC Social Vulnerability Index 2018 for Cedar Rapids
Source: cdcarcgis.maps.arcgis.com

BUILDING THE PLAN

To develop the Community Climate Action Plan, public surveys, focus groups, and an advisory committee were used to integrate the community's priorities.

KICKOFF EVENTS:

City and community leaders introduced the Community Climate Action Plan effort, sharing stories of climate action & equity needs in CR.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC):

A representative group of 13 Cedar Rapids residents guided the development of the planning process. Members represented industry, business, non-profits, schools, and neighborhoods. The committee met regularly from January 2021 to September 2021, providing feedback and perspective on community priorities and plan development.

PUBLIC SURVEY 1:

Residents provided high-level climate action priorities and experiences. Surveys were conducted online and in-person, garnering 1,400 responses, 200 of which came from local schools. **Top issues for residents were extreme heat, tree replacement, renewable energy, and winterized homes.**

PUBLIC SURVEY 2:

Residents provided feedback on potential climate action initiatives. Survey outreach occurred primarily in person, with a focus on under-resourced and under-represented residents. 28% of responses identified as non-white, and 29% identified household income of under $25,000. **Top priorities were healthy food access, energy efficient homes, and tree replacement.**

GROUND TEAMS:

Neighborhood volunteers & City staff conducted COVID-safe, in-person surveys in under-resourced neighborhoods: Westdale, Taylor, Oakhill-Jackson, Wellington Heights, and Northwest Area. Ground Teams then helped create the Sustainable Neighborhood program.

FOCUS GROUPS:

Input was solicited from stakeholder groups including neighborhoods, small and large businesses, nonprofits and schools.

OPEN HOUSE:

The final draft of the plan was presented at a public event, which featured City staff and community members from the CCAC, Ground Teams, and focus group participants.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Community Climate Action Plan was developed over 18 months, which included six months of preliminary development and twelve months of public engagement and plan creation.

PLAN STRUCTURE

EXAMPLE ACTION:

Action toward the 2030 Vision

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Impact to residents	Impact on environment	Impact to jobs and economy

IMPACTS	Potential and tangible impacts of actions
TIMELINE	When public action should begin
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	Foundational City programs and policies
NATIONAL EXAMPLES	Model programs from across the country
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	Funding opportunities and technical resources
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Community partners who are part of solution
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	The City departments responsible for coordinating the work

CLIMATE ACTION BUILDS PROSPERITY

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Climate Action may seem complex or daunting — but we are already taking action in many ways. Iowa is a leader in renewable energy. We're building an extraordinary flood control system. We care about pollinators, bike trails, growing food, energy efficiency, and trees. Climate Action in Cedar Rapids is the commitment to bring these actions to life across our community in order to build an equitable, prosperous, lasting City.

Community **inaction** is undesirable

Community **action** builds prosperity

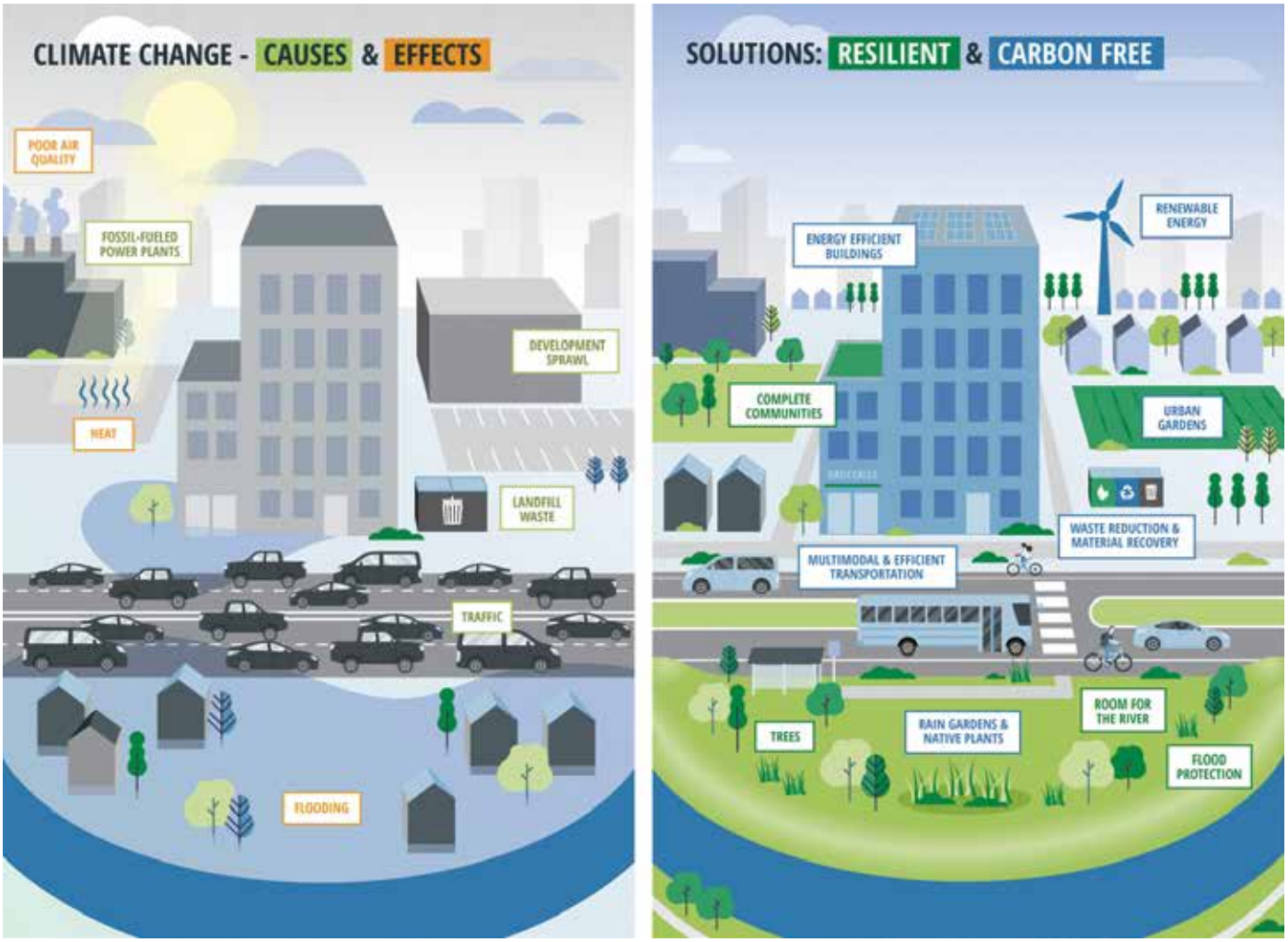


Figure 9: Community inaction versus action

Source: City of Cedar Rapids

GOALS

GOAL AREA 1
CARBON-FREE

PAGES 23–44

GOAL AREA 2
RESILIENT & ACCESSIBLE

PAGES 45–72

In 2020, wind power contributed to 57% of Iowa's net energy generation, a higher percentage than any other state.
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

GOAL AREA 1:

CARBON-FREE

2050 VISION:

Cedar Rapids is a carbon-free community. Residents can meet their basic needs within a 15-minute walk. Clean energy provides clean, healthy air. Walking, biking, and busing are popular, while low-emissions public transit and shared-mobility options come frequently.

OBJECTIVES:

1A. REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS 45% BY 2030 AND NET-ZERO BY 2050

1B. INCREASE RENEWABLES TO 70-100% ELECTRICITY

1C. INCREASE TRANSPORT SECTOR'S SHARE OF LOW-EMISSION ENERGY TO 35-65%

1D. ELIMINATE COAL, REDUCE CARBON IN INDUSTRY 65-90%, AND SEQUESTER REMAINING CARBON

GOAL AREA 1 SUMMARY

CARBON-FREE

OBJECTIVES	2030 VISIONS
1A. REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS 45% BY 2030 AND NET-ZERO BY 2050	2030 Vision I: Homes and businesses build identity, achievements, and community through sustainability actions, which are celebrated and shared.
	2030 Vision II : Sustainable development policies support walkable core neighborhoods, where basic needs can be met in a 15-minute walk or bike ride. Living and working options support flexibility, resilience, entrepreneurship, and neighborhood identity
1B. INCREASE RENEWABLES TO 70-100% ELECTRICITY	2030 Vision: Renewable energy is widespread, equitable, and a key attractor for economic growth
1C. INCREASE TRANSPORT SECTOR'S SHARE OF LOW-EMISSION ENERGY TO 35-65%	2030 Vision: Low-emission city fleet and private vehicles are standard
1D. ELIMINATE COAL, REDUCE CARBON IN INDUSTRY 65-90%, AND SEQUESTER REMAINING CARBON	2030 Vision: Industry-City partnerships drive carbon reduction and community resilience, providing a model of cooperation locally and nationally

ACTIONS

Action 1: Build a Sustainable Neighborhood program to advance sustainability achievements in each neighborhood and provide an exciting neighborhood-building opportunity for Neighborhood Associations.
Action 2: Create a fund to implement a Green & Healthy Homes and Small Businesses program to support deep energy and water efficiency retrofits, hazard remediation, renewable energy, and vehicle and large appliance electrification, prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods.
Action 3: Build a Sustainable Business program that enhances sustainable building practices (energy efficiency, clean energy, electrification, water, waste reduction) and sustainable land use practices (trees, green infrastructure, gardens, biking facilities).
Action 4: Support residential energy disclosure for prospective homeowners and renters and commercial energy benchmarking to encourage energy awareness and conservation.
Action 5: Develop and implement a sustainable building policy for new construction and major renovations.
Action 6: Update land development regulations to expand missing middle housing and neighborhood scale commercial opportunities throughout the city.
Action 7: Create a sustainable development policy that defines the characteristics of a 15-minute neighborhood and develops guidance and incentives to fill in missing amenities and features, prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods.
Action 8: Enhance transit and shared transportation options (micro-mobility and car-sharing) in under-resources communities and high-priority transit locations.
Action 9: Enhance the Complete Streets Policy to further community education and prioritize urban heat island mitigation and tree plantings in vulnerable neighborhoods.
Action 10: Support large-scale solar installations in underutilized areas (parking lots and rooftops) and urban reserve areas that offer multiple benefits.
Action 11: Develop readiness in the community for electric vehicle infrastructure and emerging low-emitting technologies.
Action 12: Collaborate with industry around emission reductions (carbon capture, renewable energy) and community sustainability efforts (stormwater BMPs, garden and tree plantings, philanthropy, volunteerism).

2050 VISION:

Cedar Rapids is a carbon-free community. Residents can meet their basic needs within a 15-minute walk. Clean energy provides clean, healthy air. Walking, biking, and busing are popular, while low-emissions public transit and shared-mobility options come frequently.

BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN CEDAR RAPIDS (2019)

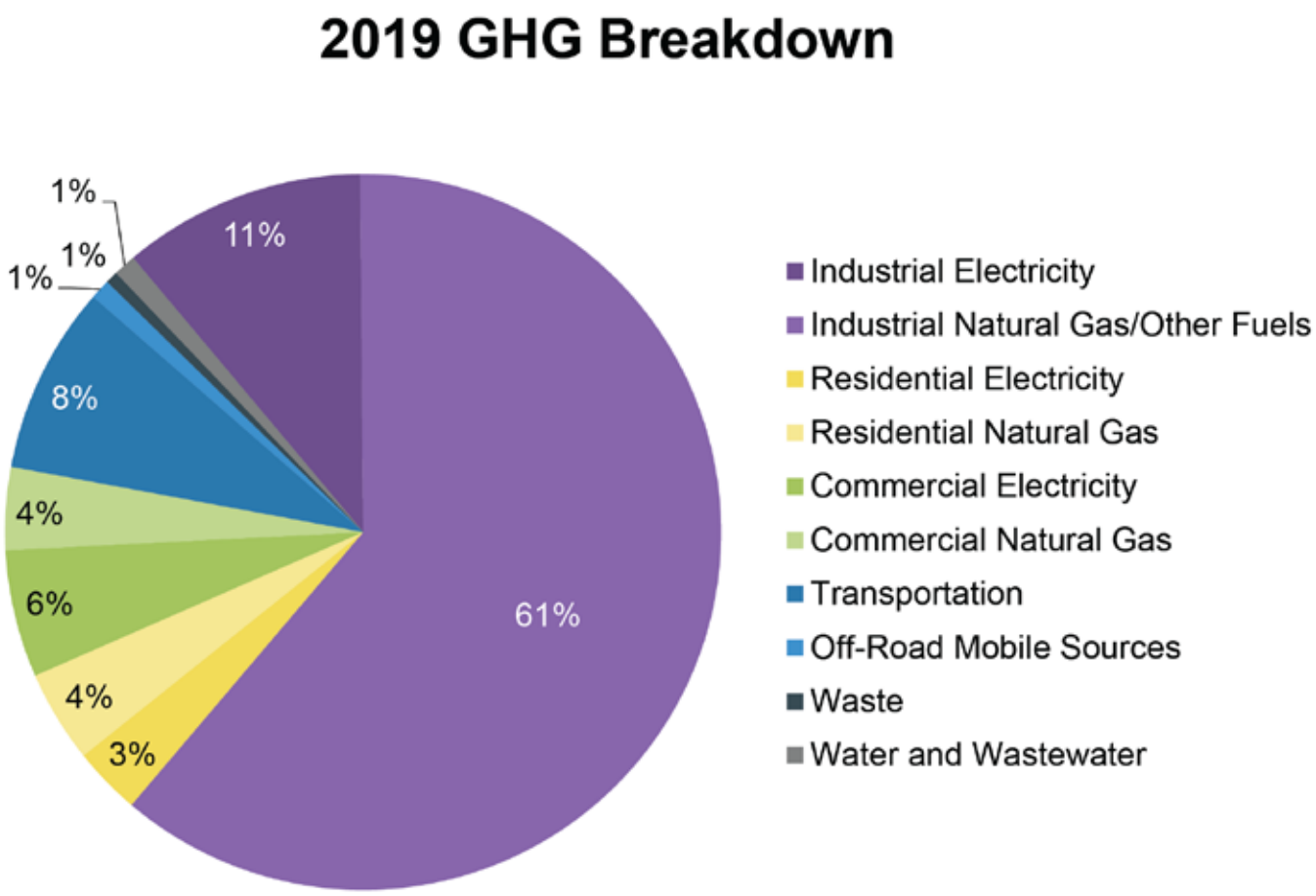


Figure 10: Breakdown of Cedar Rapids Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2019

Source: City of Cedar Rapids 2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, Alliant Energy, MidAmerican Energy, EPA FLIGHT Data (2019)

1A. REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS 45% BY 2030 AND NET-ZERO BY 2050

Existing Conditions:

- Industrial emissions: 4.05 million tonnes CO2e, 72%
- Building emissions: 936,000 tonnes CO2e, 17%
- Transportation emissions: 526,000 tonnes CO2e, 9%
- All other emissions: 87,700 tonnes CO2e, 2%

Co-Benefits:

- Improved access to basic needs (Objectives 2B, 2C)
- Improved air quality, (Objective 2D)
- Increased efficiency and renewable energy jobs (Objective 2E)

Public Input:

What excites you about climate action?:

"That it could help not only the community, but all the world."

"People working together for the better good."

"The fact that we can literally stop global warming it is just that everyone has to join."

2030 VISION I:

Homes and businesses build identity, achievements, and community through sustainability actions, which are celebrated and shared.

A home in Minneapolis, MN showcasing example sustainable behaviors, including dense yard vegetation and native prairie grasses, a bicycle on the stoop, solar panels on the roof, and an electric vehicle parked at the curb. All are small but impactful ways to reduce individual carbon emissions.

Source: Great Plains Institute

ACTION 1:

Build a Sustainable Neighborhood program to advance sustainability achievements in each neighborhood and provide an exciting community-building opportunity for Neighborhood Associations.

EQUITY

Prioritize outreach in target neighborhoods (Westdale, Wellington Heights, Oakhill-Jackson, Taylor, Northwest)

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce energy, water, and waste in the home; enhance sustainability in yards

ECONOMY

Increase interest in green products and services

IMPACT	• Households could save more than $100 annually through small sustainability updates including efficient lighting, low-flow water fixtures, weatherstripping, and programmable thermostats • Household waste emissions can be reduced by 33% by 2030 through reduction, compost, and recycling strategies
TIMELINE	Within 1 year
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	Green Iowa AmeriCorps; City door-to-door Derecho assistance
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Denver Sustainable Neighborhoods Program • Accelerating Neighborhood Climate Action (Denver, Boulder) • Minneapolis Green Zones Initiative
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities (Environmental Protection Agency) • Partner for Places
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Neighborhood Associations, non-profits
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office (Sustainability) + Community Development

Green Iowa AmeriCorps provides free energy audits and energy efficiency installations.

ACTION 2:

Create a fund to implement a Green & Healthy Homes and Small Businesses program to support deep energy and water efficiency retrofits, hazard remediation, renewable energy, and vehicle and large appliance electrification, prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods.

EQUITY

Reduce energy burden, improved indoor air quality, increased access to technology

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality

ECONOMY

Solar, EV and energy efficiency jobs; reduced utility costs

IMPACT	• Deep energy retrofits can reduce home energy use by 30% • 2,500 homes need to be retrofitted annually to meet 2030 goals • 350 businesses would need to be retrofitted annually to meet the 2030 target • Cleaner grid-supplied electricity will further reduce residential emissions by 7% by 2030
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Housing Rehabilitation Programs • Neighborhood Finance Corps • Alliant Energy and MidAmerican programs, Owner occupied rehab program, first-time home buyer program, NFC
NATIONAL LEADERS	• 1,000 homes in 1,000 days, Ithaca, NY • Green cost-share program with low-income production incentive, Minneapolis, MN • National Association Housing Redevelopment Organizations (NAHRO) • American Planning Association (APA)
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Green & Healthy Home Initiative • HACAP Energy Conservation Programs • Utility rebates, Alliant Energy, MidAmerican Energy • Low-income and Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs Inventory (ACEEE)
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Kirkwood Community College, local labor unions, non-profits, small businesses
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Community Development (Housing) + City Manager's Office (Sustainability) + Building Services

ACTION 3:

Build a Sustainable Business program that enhances sustainable building practices (energy efficiency, clean energy, electrification, water, waste reduction) and sustainable land use practices (trees, green infrastructure, gardens, biking facilities).

EQUITY

Prioritize small and minority-owned businesses

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce waste, reduce GHG emissions, enhance indoor and outdoor environmental sustainability

ECONOMY

Lower operational costs, green existing jobs, increase demand for green products and services

IMPACT	• Cleaner grid-supplied electricity will further reduce commercial emissions by 10% by 2030 • Commercial waste emissions can be reduced by 33% by 2030 through reduction, compost, and recycling strategies
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar Rapids Economic Development "Buy Local" program • ISU-Cedar Rapids Food & Bio Business Roundtable
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Green Business Program, Jersey City. NJ • Sacramento Area Sustainable Business • Sustainable Business Program, Longmont, CO
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Utility rebates: Alliant Energy, MidAmerican Energy • Economic Alliance "Buy Here"
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Businesses, non-profits
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office (Economic Development & Sustainability) + Community Development

Making energy use for rentals and homes public can allow residents to make more informed decisions on where to live that can also spur energy efficiency improvements in homes.

ACTION 4:

Support residential energy disclosure for prospective homeowners and renters and commercial energy benchmarking to encourage energy awareness and conservation.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Reduce energy burden, increase energy education and awareness	Conserve resources	Increase sustainability practices of landlords and property managers

IMPACT	• Cities that have implemented commercial building energy benchmarking and disclosure policies have demonstrated a 3 to 8 percent "gross energy consumption or energy use intensity over a two- to four-year period", Lawrence Berkeley Lab • Deep energy retrofits can reduce commercial energy use by 21% • Up to 16,000 renters will be informed about the energy costs of rental unit • Up to 4,500 home-buyers will be informed about the energy costs of homes each year
TIMELINE	2 - 3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Landlord Training Program
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Benchmarking DSM, Des Moines, IA • Home Energy Score Program (Portland, OR)
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Energy Star Portfolio Manager, Environmental Protection Agency
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Developers, local labor unions, real estate groups, property managers, building owners
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Building Services + City Manager's Office (Sustainability)

The Living Green Roof atop the LEED-certified Downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library exemplifies how buildings can be designed and constructed with climate in mind.

Source: Great Plains Institute

ACTION 5:

Develop a sustainable building policy for new construction and major renovations.

EQUITY

Lower operating costs for small businesses, tenants

ENVIRONMENT

Increase energy conservation, reduce greenhouse gases

ECONOMY

Reduce energy costs

IMPACT	• High-efficiency new homes can achieve 20% energy savings over the current building energy code while improving air quality and reducing household costs • New commercial buildings meeting the Architecture 2030 Challenge can achieve 66% energy savings over the current building energy code while also reducing operating costs • 180 new homes and 10 new commercial buildings need to participate annually in a sustainable building policy to meet the 2030 target
TIMELINE	2–3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• LEED Certified buildings: Downtown Library and the Central Fire Station • Ten ENERGY STAR Certified Schools
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Sustainable Building Policy for Private Development, St. Paul, MN • Green Building Policy, St. Louis Park, MN
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Minnesota Municipal Sustainable Buildings Policies Guide, Center for Energy and Environment
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Developers, local labor unions, real estate groups, property managers, building owners
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Building Services + City Manager's Office (Sustainability)

2030 VISION II :

Sustainable development policies support walkable core neighborhoods, where basic needs can be met in a 15-minute walk. More living and working options support affordability, resilience, entrepreneurship, and neighborhood identity.

ACTION 6:

Update land development regulations to expand missing middle housing and neighborhood scale commercial opportunities throughout the city.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Increase access to basic needs	Increase active mobility, improve air quality, reduce emissions	Build local wealth, increase financial resilience

IMPACT	• With more compact development, people drive 20 to 40 percent less compared to sprawling communities • Services and infrastructure required to serve low-density, sprawling development can cost 3.7 times as much as more compact development
TIMELINE	Within 1 year
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• ReZone Cedar Rapids (chapter 32) • Age-Friendly Cedar Rapids
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Accessory Dwelling Units Program, Portland, OR • ADUniverse central resource, Seattle, WA
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Promote Inclusionary Growth, American Planning Association • Cedar Rapids Livability Index, AARP • Congress for New Urbanism
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Neighborhood organizations, small businesses, developers
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Community Development + Development Services

Historical example of an Accessory Commercial Unit (ACU) in Cedar Rapids. Commercial units attached to homes can provide affordable real estate and an additional source of income to homeowners.

Source: The History Center

Mixed-use developments contribute to a community's walkability. Ground floor commercial units with apartments on top make it easy for residents to access daily needs without an automobile.

A bicyclist uses a bike lane protected by plastic bollards in Minneapolis, MN. Safe, connected bicycle infrastructure can provide residents with appealing alternatives to vehicle travel.

Source: Great Plains Institute

Connected communities provide opportunities for easy access to walkable, well-vegetated commercial corridors, such as 3rd Street SE in Cedar Rapids.

ACTION 7:

Create a sustainable development policy that defines the characteristics of a 15-minute neighborhood and develops guidance and incentives to fill in missing amenities and features, prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods.

EQUITY

Increase amenities in under-resourced neighborhoods, improve health

ENVIRONMENT

Increase tree canopy coverage

ECONOMY

Build local wealth

IMPACT	• Americans with lower incomes spend between 17% and 29% of their incomes on cars • Sprawling development that is not walkable, compared to compact development, costs residents, 2-3x more in transportation and housing and uses 2-3x more energy, water, and carbon per development
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar Rapids neighborhood action plans • Cedar Rapids Complete Streets Policy • Cedar Rapids Economic Development Programs
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Sun Valley EcoDistrict Denver, CO • Sustainable Development Incentives, Bloomington, IN
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• EcoDistrict Protocol to create neighborhoods for all • Blue Zones improve longevity through built environment and healthy food access • Review of Sustainable Development Incentives
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Neighborhood organizations, businesses, non-profits, developers, government agencies
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Community Development + City Manager's Office, Development Services, Public Works, Parks & Recreation

ACTION 8:

Enhance transit and shared transportation options (micro-mobility and car-sharing) in under-resourced communities and high priority transit locations.

EQUITY

Reduce asthma hospitalizations, increase active-living options, improve transportation accessibility

ENVIRONMENT

Improve air quality, reduce transportation emissions

ECONOMY

Reduce transportation costs

IMPACT	• Individuals in the community will need to drive 2% less each year to meet the 2030 targets • In 2019, more than 80% of Cedar Rapids commuters drove alone
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar Rapids bike- and scooter-share program • Via Ride Service from Neighborhood Transportation Services
NATIONAL LEADERS	• EV Spot Network, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN • Twin Cities Shared Mobility Program
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Driving Down Emissions: Transportation, Land Use, and Climate Change, Smart Growth American and Transportation for America • Complete streets policy with mode prioritization, Minneapolis, MN • Golf Carts as micro-transit - Review of 4 cities
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Transit riders, neighborhood organizations, government agencies
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Transit + Community Development, Public Works

The City of Cedar Rapids partners with VeoRide to bring residents an electric-bike- and scooter-sharing program.

Parking outside of the Downtown Cedar Rapids Library prioritizes Low Emission Fuel Efficient Vehicles.

ACTION 9:

Enhance the Complete Streets Policy to further community education and prioritize urban heat island mitigation and tree plantings in vulnerable neighborhoods.

EQUITY

Increase proximity to natural spaces, reduce urban heat island effect

ENVIRONMENT

Increase tree canopy, carbon sequestration; improve ecological functions

ECONOMY

Increase community vibrancy

IMPACT	• Shading building walls and rooftops can reduce their temperatures by as much as 45°F and placing trees in downtown areas can reduce temperatures by as much as 7°F • 100 medium-sized trees could store more than 44,000 pounds of CO2 annually
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar Rapids Complete Streets Policy
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Shared, stacked-function infrastructure, St. Paul, MN
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Urban Street Stormwater Guide, (Performance Policy Metrics) National Association of City Transportation Officials • Extreme heat map tool, Metropolitan Council
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Government agencies, non-profits, bike advocacy groups, neighborhood associations
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Public Works + Community Development, Parks & Recreation

Making streets safer for residents supports all, particularly those who need to walk, bike, or bus.

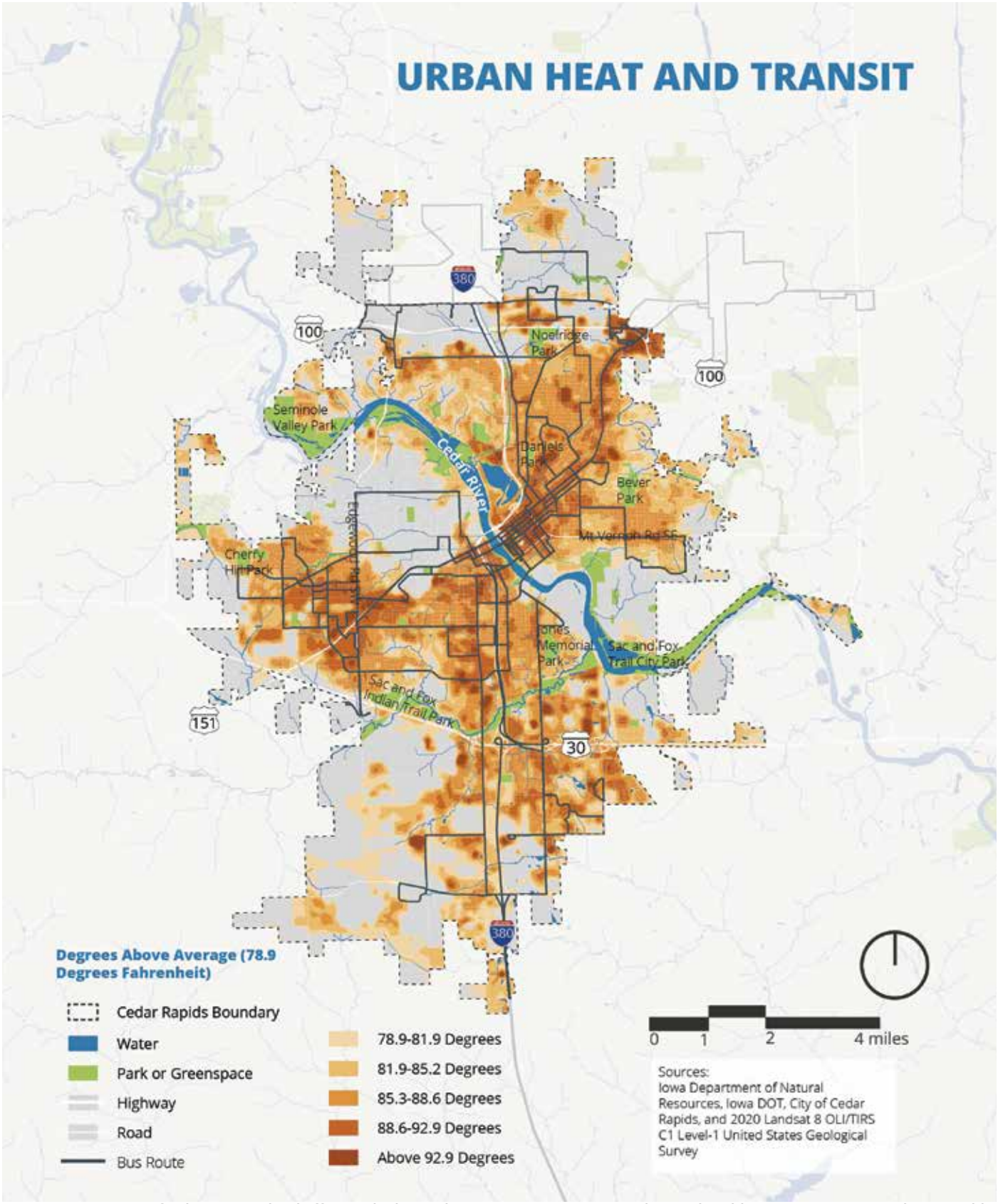


Figure 11: Areas of Urban Heat Island Effect with Elevated Average Temperates, overlain with Public Transit Routes. As shown, public transit routes show the highest temperatures above average, compounding exposure for transit-dependent residents.

Source: Asakura Robinson 2021

SOLAR MAP

Figure 12: Solar Resource for the City of Cedar Rapids, Zoom in of the Downtown Area Building Rooftops.

Data Source: University of Northern Iowa provided Solar insolation data in 2018 based on 2015 LiDAR data; the planometric building footprints were generated by Cedar Rapids GIS based on 2017 data

1B. INCREASE RENEWABLES TO 70-100% ELECTRICITY

Existing Conditions:

- Grid-supplied electricity use in buildings and industrial processes accounts for **20% of total emissions (2019)**
- 34% of Alliant's generation comes from renewable sources
- The existing solar resource could meet at least 36% of non-industrial electricity use
- Alliant plans include 50% renewable by 2025 and reduced emissions 50% by 2030

Co-Benefits

- Reduction in carbon emissions from electricity (Objective 1A)
- Increased grid resilience (Objective 2A)
- Clean access to air (Objective 2D)
- High-wage clean energy job opportunities (Objective 2E)

Public Input:

"Renewable energy is important for obvious reasons. We must leave oil and other fossil fuels in the ground if we are to have a hope of meeting the challenge of climate change"

"Renewable energy makes economic sense, and I want a sustainable future."

2030 VISION:

Renewable energy is widespread, equitable, and a key attractor for economic growth

ACTION 10:

Support large-scale solar installations in underutilized areas (parking lots and rooftops) and urban reserve areas that offer multiple benefits.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Increase renewable energy options for all residents	Reduce fossil fuels, decrease pollution	Increase jobs in renewable energy

IMPACT	• The top 10 largest rooftops can fit 9.5 MW of solar energy systems, serving 1% of the community's residential and commercial electricity needs • 135 MW of solar would need to be installed to meet the 2030 target, achieving 15% of the community's residential and commercial electricity needs
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar Rapids Future Land Use Map • Linn County Solar Energy
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Solar Master Plan, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe • 100 MW solar development for City of Cincinnati (35 MW) and its residents (65 MW) • Jobs trainings and resilience hub microgrid, Minneapolis, MN
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Alliant Energy Community Solar Program • Cities Renewables Accelerator, World Resource Institute • American Planning Association
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Alliant Energy, local labor unions, neighborhood organizations, government agencies, non-profits
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Development Services + Community Development, Utilities

COMMUNITY FLEET MAKEUP

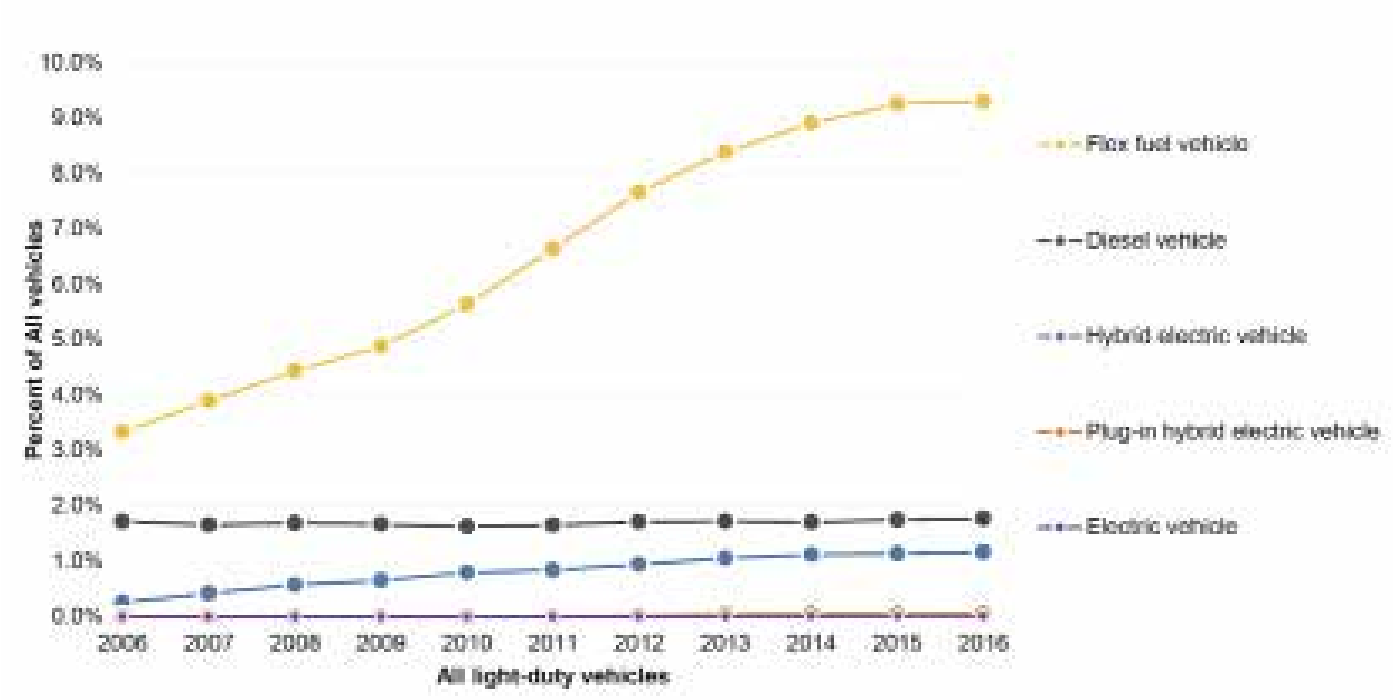


Figure 13 : Community-wide Vehicle Fleet Composition in Cedar Rapids (2006 to 2016).
Data Source: National Renewable Energy Lab, State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) data

1C. INCREASE TRANSPORT SECTOR'S SHARE OF LOW-EMISSION ENERGY TO 35-65%

Existing Conditions:

- On-road transportation accounts for 9% of total emissions
- More than 80% of vehicles use gasoline
- Less than 1% of vehicles are electric
- There is one fast charger and two dozen level two chargers

Co-Benefits:

- Reduce carbon emissions (Objective 1A)
- Improved air quality, (Objective 2D)
- Support green jobs and economic development (Objective 2E)

Public Input:

"Eliminating the need to drive everywhere is at the top of the list because of the innumerable health and environmental benefits."

"We have a population that is trending to want to live in walkable neighborhoods, use renewable energy, really use the built environment"

2030 VISION:

Low-emission city fleet and private vehicles are standard.

ACTION 11:

Develop readiness in the community for electric vehicle infrastructure and emerging low-emitting technologies.

EQUITY

Increase charging availability for all residents

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality near arterial roads

ECONOMY

Increase jobs in electric vehicle manufacturing and infrastructure

IMPACT	• Owning an electric vehicle results in $6,000-10,000 of lifetime savings for the typical driver, compared to a gas-powered vehicle • 19% of the community's vehicles will need to be electric to meet the 2030 target
TIMELINE	Within 1 year
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Eastern Iowa EV Readiness Report • iGreenCR Action Plan (page 20) - Resources, Goal 4, Objective A
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Electric Vehicle Readiness Road Map, Fort Collins, CO • Electric Vehicles & Infrastructure, San Jose, CA
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Eastern Iowa EV Readiness Plan • Summary of Best Practices for EV Ordinances, Great Plains Institute • Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, EPA
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Government agencies, small businesses, local labor unions, housing developers, non-profits, Alliant Energy
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office (Sustainability) + Community Development, Finance, Public Works

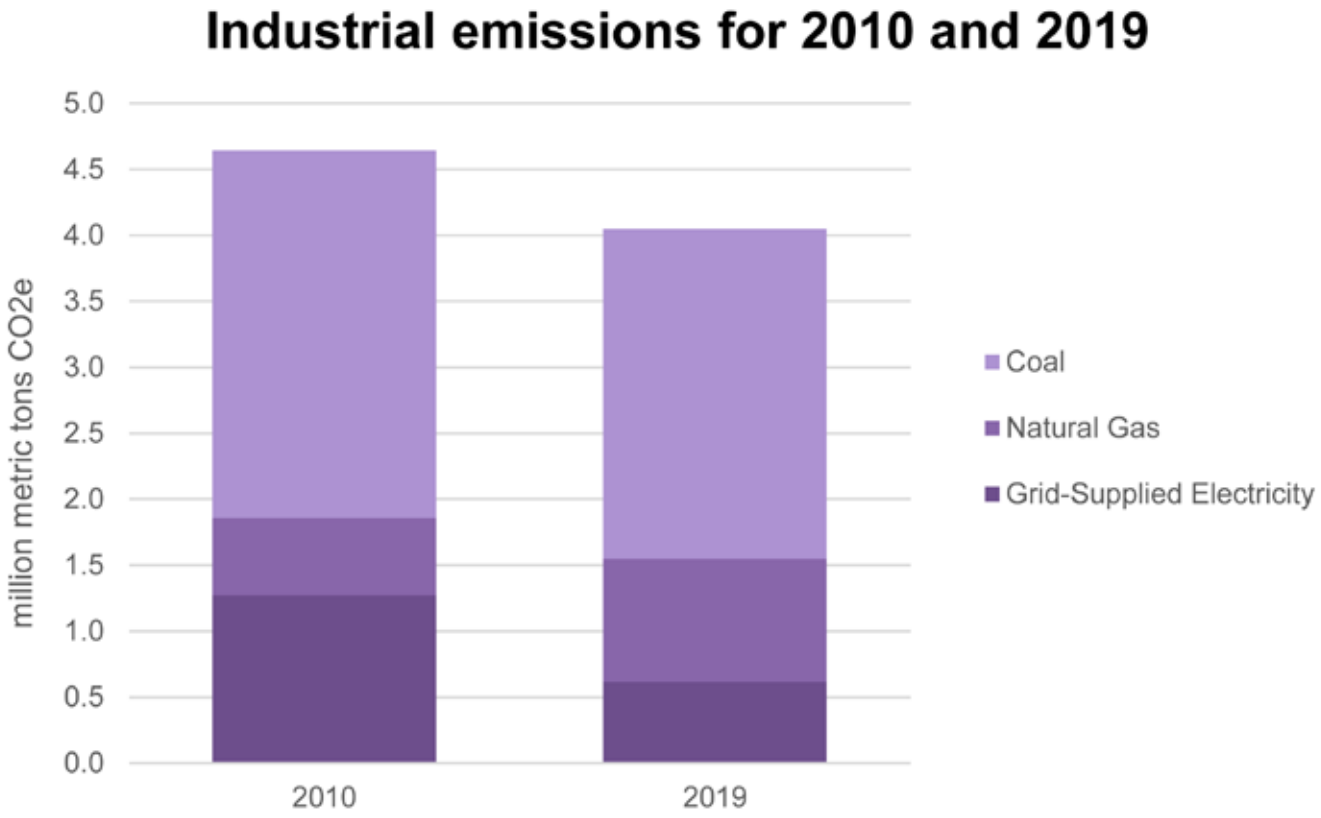


Figure 14. Industrial GHG emissions for 2010 and 2019.
Data sources: Alliant Energy, MidAmerican Energy, EPA FLIGHT data

1D. ELIMINATE COAL, REDUCE CARBON IN INDUSTRY 65-90%, AND SEQUESTER REMAINING CARBON

Existing Conditions:

- 72% of community-wide emissions come from industrial processes
- Industrial emissions decreased 13% between 2010 and 2019 due to cleaner electricity and switching from coal to natural gas
- The five largest industrial companies have corporate GHG goals

Co-Benefits:

- Reduce carbon emissions (Objective 1A)
- Increase renewables (Objective 1B)
- Improved air quality, (Objective 2D)
- Support green economic development (Objective 2E)

Public Input:

"Cedar Rapids should prioritize using clean energy resources, given that we are an industrial city that often emits many pollutants."

"Reduce fossil fuels. Invest in solar and wind power."

2030 VISION:

Industry-City partnerships drive carbon reduction and community resilience, providing a model of cooperation locally and nationally

ACTION 12:

Collaborate with industry around emission reductions (carbon capture, renewable energy) and community sustainability efforts (stormwater BMPs, garden and tree plantings, philanthropy, volunteerism).

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Improve air quality for most sensitive	Reduce GHG emissions, eliminate coal-powered electricity	Increase energy efficiency, resilient infrastructure, and clean energy

IMPACT	• A pathway to achieving the 2030 target includes improving industrial energy efficiency by 1% each year, replacing two-thirds of coal use with lower-emitting alternatives, and obtaining 60% of industrial electricity through green power programs reduces emissions. • Cleaner grid-supplied electricity will also contribute, reducing industrial emissions by 3% by 2030
TIMELINE	Within 1 Year
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	Stormwater BMPs, Flood Control, Economic Development programs
NATIONAL LEADERS	• ADM: Reduce absolute emissions 25% by 2035 • General Mills: 30% reduction by 2030, net zero by 2050 • Cargill: 10% from 2017 by 2025 for Scope 1 and 2 • Ingredion: 25% absolute reduction by 2030 • Quaker (PepsiCo): 40% by 2030, 100% renewable electricity by end of 2021
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Low carbon industrial policy options, Industrial Innovation Initiative • 45Q tax credit, Carbon Capture Coalition • EJ Screen Mapping Tool • Guide to Public-Private Collaboration on City Resilience Planning, C2ES
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Large industrial companies, government agencies
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office + Utilities, Public Works, Community Development

GOAL AREA 2:

RESILIENT & ACCESSIBLE

2050 VISION:

All residents of Cedar Rapids have access to high-quality green space, healthy food, clean air and water, and good, green jobs. Residents and neighborhoods are cohesive and familiar, helping each other out and getting connected to our rich community resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- 2A. BUILD RESILIENCE TO FLOODING AND CLIMATE HAZARDS WITH PRIORITY FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS
- 2B. ENSURE ALL RESIDENTS HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOOD OPTIONS FOR GROWING AND CONSUMING HEALTHY, CULTURALLY RELEVANT FOOD
- 2C. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND NATURAL SPACE
- 2D. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER
- 2E. CREATE HIGH-WAGE, GREEN JOBS AND GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- 2F. PROVIDE DIRECT CONNECTION TO CITY GOVERNMENT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

GOAL AREA 2 SUMMARY

RESILIENT & ACCESSIBLE

OBJECTIVES	2030 VISIONS
2A. BUILD RESILIENCE TO FLOODING AND CLIMATE HAZARDS WITH PRIORITY FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS	2030 Vision: All residents have access to basic needs regularly and following extreme weather events
2B. ENSURE ALL RESIDENTS HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE OPTIONS FOR GROWING AND CONSUMING HEALTHY, CULTURALLY RELEVANT FOOD	2030 Vision: Within a 15-minute walk there are healthy food outlets in all vulnerable neighborhoods
2C. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND NATURAL SPACE	2030 Vision: Vulnerable neighborhoods have 15-minute walkable access to amenity-rich parks via tree-lined corridors
2D. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER	2030 Vision: Cedar Rapids is trusted for excellent air and water quality
2E. CREATE HIGH-WAGE, GREEN JOBS AND GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2030 Vision: High-wage green jobs and a more sustainable local economy support plan implementation
2F. PROVIDE DIRECT CONNECTION TO CITY GOVERNMENT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS	2030 Vision: Community members are active in implementation through equitable engagement that is inclusive of all residents

ACTIONS

Action 1: Develop indoor and outdoor Resilience Hubs to provide basic amenities to residents in public spaces (info kiosks, wi-fi, charging, shelter, water, food).
Action 2: Support and expand existing resilience programs to mitigate flooding and prepare residents for future climate extremes.
Action 3: Support the stormwater master plan with particular focus on regional detention basins and major funding gaps for hard infrastructure maintenance.
Action 4. Develop a food access policy as part of a Sustainable Development approach to ensure vulnerable residents can achieve healthy and relevant food (land access, growing, consuming, selling) within a 15-minute walk (including urban farms, gardens on commercial properties, public gardens, pantries, groceries, education).
Action 5: Support conversion of underutilized hard infrastructure (parking lots, roofs, underpasses) to support gardens, cooling features, and active programming (Resilience Hubs, markets, recreation).
Action 6: Implement the city's ReLeaf program, supporting vulnerable neighborhoods with air and heat pollution challenges.
Action 7: Protect water quality by supporting source water protection initiatives and existing watershed partnerships that reduce nutrient-rich runoff into the Cedar River.
Action 8: Support stormwater BMP cost-share and ERU reduction programs on large properties.
Action 9: Complete and implement a green economic development plan, identifying green jobs, community strengths, and programs for equitable business and workforce development.
Action 10: Expand sustainability support and expectations in purchasing, contracts, and development to support circular economy, local buying, and cooperative buying.
Action 11: Operationalize the equitable public engagement toolkit to reach more under-resourced and under-represented residents.
Action 12: Establish City-student partnerships to engage youth in plan implementation.

2050 VISION:

All residents of Cedar Rapids have access to high-quality green space, healthy food, clean air and water, and good, green jobs. Residents and neighborhoods are cohesive and familiar, helping each other out and getting connected to our rich community resources.

2A. BUILD RESILIENCE TO FLOODING AND CLIMATE HAZARDS WITH PRIORITY FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Existing Conditions:

- 2,636 residential and 778 commercial parcels currently located in the 100-year floodplain
- 11.6% of the population is below the federal poverty line

Co-Benefits:

- Reduction in carbon emissions (Objective 1A)
- Improved access to basic needs (Objectives 2B, 2C)
- Support connection to city government for vulnerable residents (Objective 2F)

Public Input:

"Humans are resilient resourceful, and adaptable. It excites me to see the solutions we will come up with to adjust how we live with any changes in the weather around us."

"Ensuring that racial and socioeconomic equity are a priority in addressing climate change."

2030 VISION:

Cedar Rapids builds resilience, with a focus on the most vulnerable, acknowledging its legacy of flooding and extreme weather.

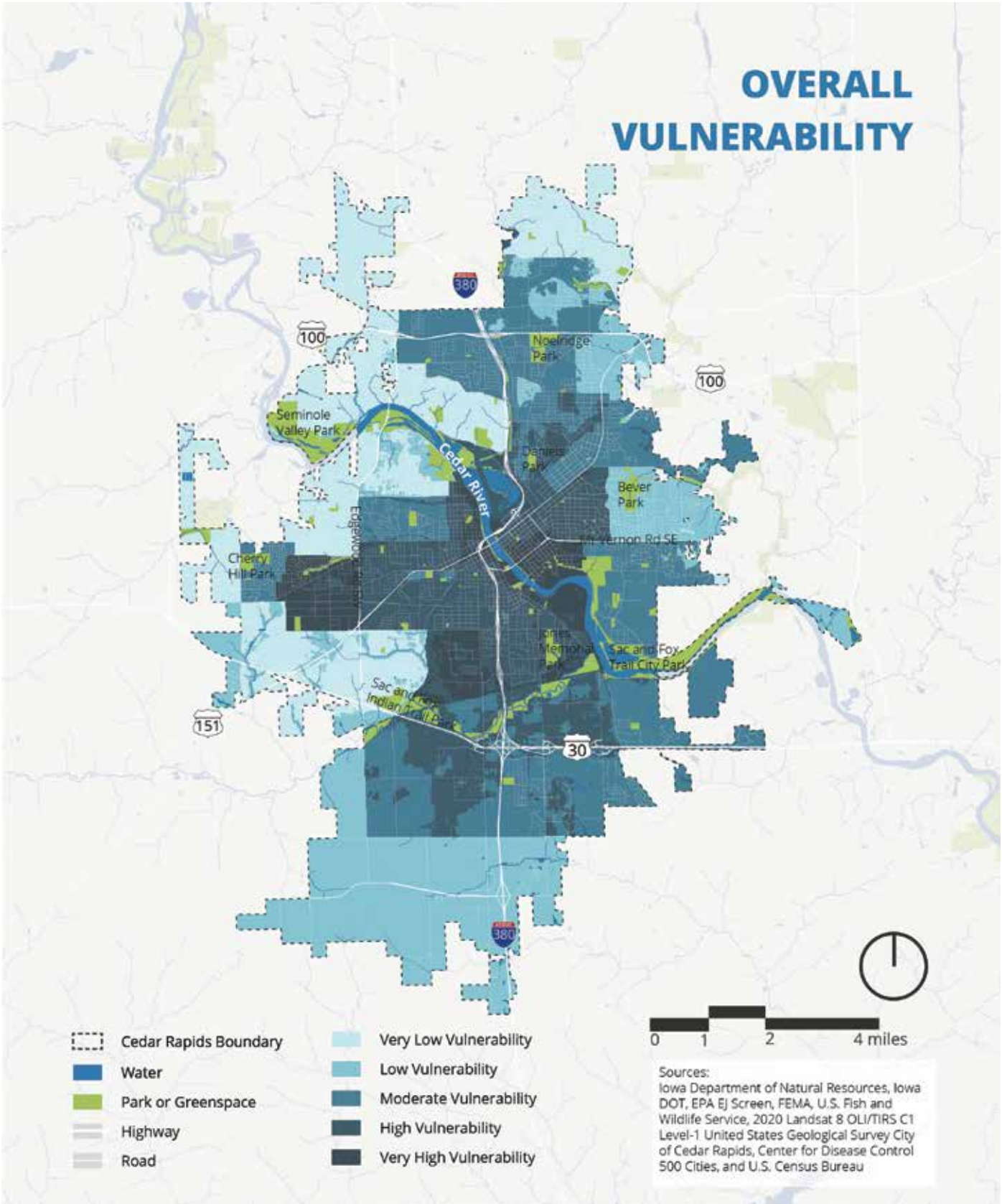


Figure 15: Vulnerability, shown as the aggregate of many factors for residents, across the City. Determinants of vulnerability include both social and demographic, like vehicle access and language ability, as well as geographic considerations like proximity to high-traffic corridors, or green space access.

Source: Asakura Robinson 2021

ACTION 1:

Develop indoor and outdoor Resilience Hubs to provide basic amenities to residents in public spaces (info kiosks, wi-fi, charging, shelter, back-up power, water, food).

EQUITY
Increase resilience in vulnerable neighborhoods

ENVIRONMENT
Decrease vehicle miles traveled to meet basic needs

ECONOMY
Increase economic resilience for vulnerable residents

IMPACT	• Resilience hubs located in priority neighborhoods (Wellington Heights, Oakhill Jackson, and Taylor would help more than 3,800 households
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Rollin' Recmobile • Leadership in Community Resilience Grant • Cedar Rapids Public Library
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Resilience Hubs, Medford, MA • City Community Resilience Hubs, Baltimore, MD
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Resilience Hubs, Urban Sustainability Directors Network • Partner for Places, Funders Network
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Neighborhood organizations, Cedar Rapids Library
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office + Parks & Recreation, Community Development

City of Cedar Rapids staff engage with community members while residents cool off in the splash pad at Greene Square. Splash pads like this one provide opportunities for cooling during increasingly hot summer months. Building connections with community members creates resilience and communication networks for future action.

Flood Control System Master Plan

ACTION 2:

Support and expand existing resilience programs to mitigate flooding and prepare residents for future climate extremes.

EQUITY

Mitigate flooding in vulnerable neighborhoods

ENVIRONMENT

Increase tree canopy, reduce impervious surface, control flooding

ECONOMY

Increase infrastructure jobs

IMPACT	Flood Control System protects both sides of the river
TIMELINE	In progress
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Neighborhood P.A.C.T. • Flood protection resources
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Leadership in Community Resilience, National League of Cities
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• FEMA Community Rating Score and flood insurance premium reduction
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	All residents, businesses, non-profits, government agencies
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office + Development Services, Community Development

ACTION 3:

Support the stormwater master plan with particular focus on regional detention basins and major funding gaps for hard infrastructure maintenance.

EQUITY

Mitigate flooding in vulnerable neighborhoods

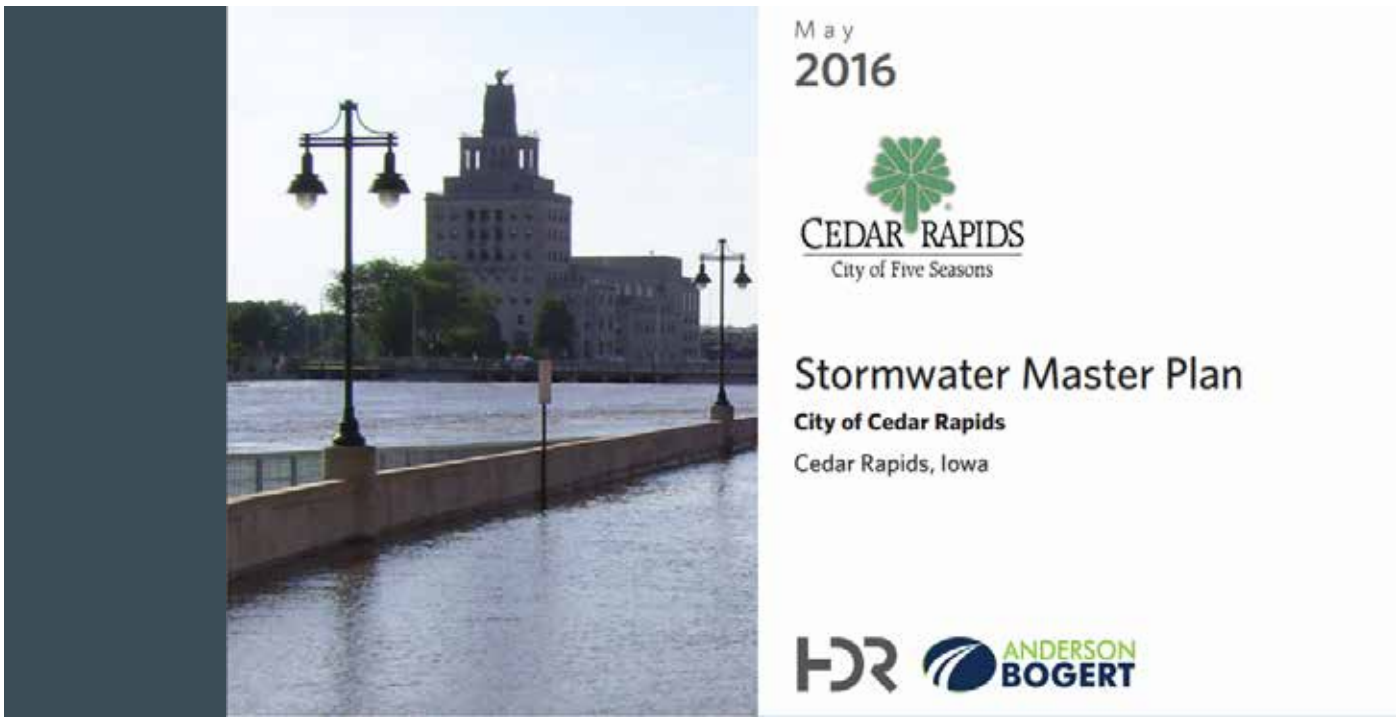
ENVIRONMENT

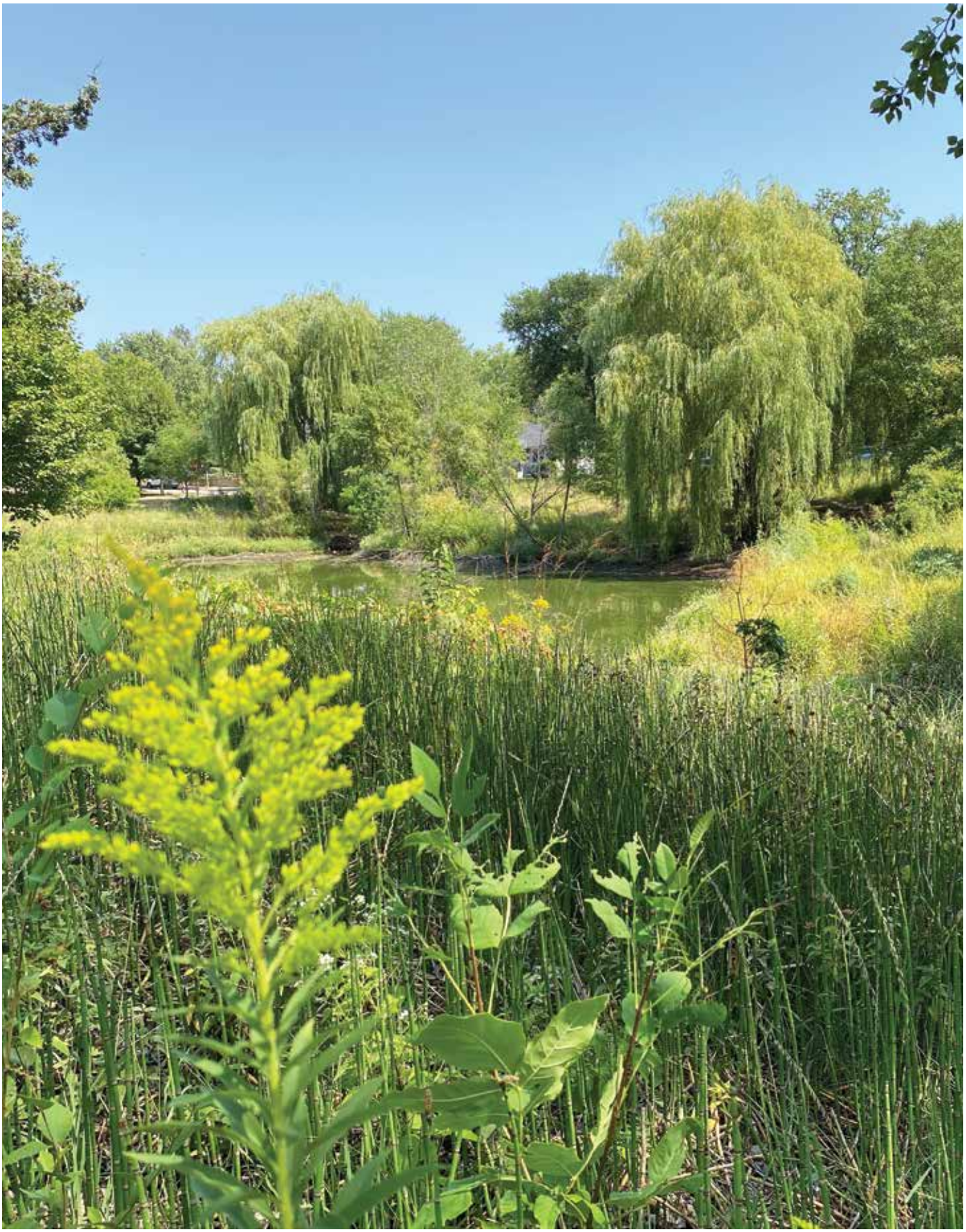
Increase tree canopy, reduce impervious surface

ECONOMY

Increase infrastructure jobs, avoid economic losses due to flooding

IMPACT	Detention basins capture sediments and pollutants, improving receiving stream water quality, and reduce stormwater flow, decreasing the risk of flooding
TIMELINE	In progress
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Stormwater Master Plan • iGreenCR Action Plan, Nature, Goal 2, Objective A & B • Flood Control System
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Greenseams Program, Milwaukee, WI
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Water Systems, Urban Sustainability Directors Network
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Government agencies, State of Iowa Flood program
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Public Works + City Manager's Office, Development Services, Community Development





2B. ENSURE ALL RESIDENTS HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE OPTIONS FOR GROWING AND CONSUMING HEALTHY, CULTURALLY RELEVANT FOOD

Existing Conditions:

- 63% of low income residents are more than 0.5 miles away from a full service grocery store
- 12.1% of seniors are food insecure

Co-Benefits:

- Increased community resilience (Objective 2A)
- Advance equitable access to green and natural space for cultivation or urban gardening (Objective 2C)

Public Input:

"Implementation of more urban gardens to both provide food and jobs in a more sustainable fashion."

"Healthy food access is the number one priority for non-white residents and households with incomes under $25,000."

"I would like to garden cause I love fruits and would like to have fresh vegetables."

2030 VISION:

Within a 15-minute walk there are gardens and healthy food outlets within all vulnerable neighborhoods

Residents of the Mound View neighborhood volunteer in their community garden.

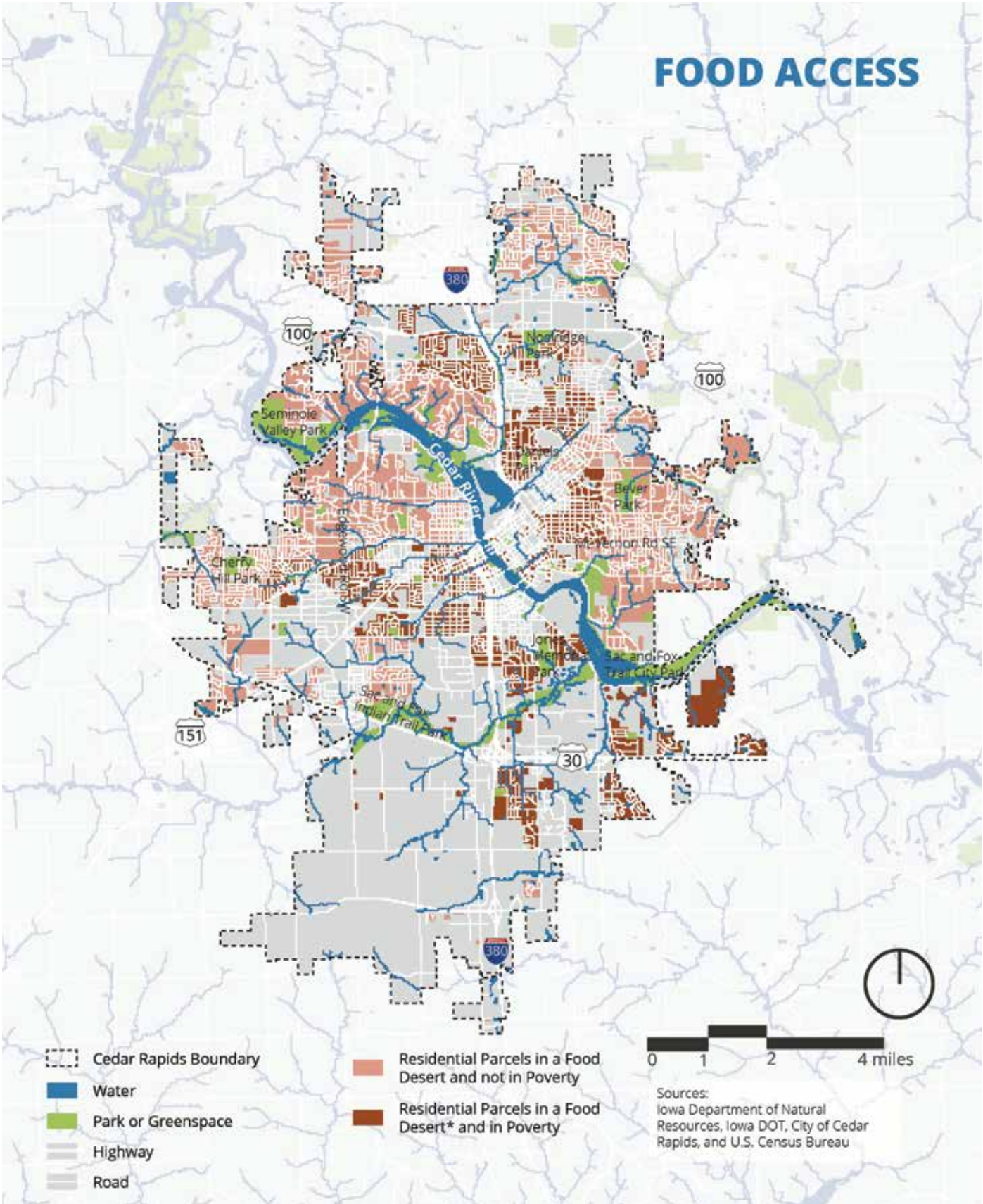


Figure 16: Food deserts - areas with no access to a full-service grocery store within 0.5 miles - shown across Cedar Rapids by residents experiencing poverty

Source: Asakura Robinson 2021

Westdale Area Neighborhood Association residents enjoy healthy, garden-fresh food.

ACTION 4:

Develop a food access policy as part of a Sustainable Development approach to ensure vulnerable residents can achieve healthy and relevant food (land access, growing, consuming, selling) within a 15-minute walk (including urban farms, gardens on commercial properties, public gardens, pantries, groceries, education).

EQUITY

Eliminate food deserts

IMPACT	• In Linn County, 7.8% of the total population and 12% of children are considered food insecure • Double Up Food Bucks enabled low-income Iowa residents to purchase more than $1million in fruits and vegetables, generating almost $2 million in total economic impact • An 800 square-foot garden can feed a family of four year-round
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Linn County Food Systems Council • iGreenCR Goal 4: Increase food health and availability
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Food Policy Action Plan, Asheville, NC • Healthy Food Access, City of Milwaukee, WI
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Food pantries in Cedar Rapids
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	• Local nonprofits and community-based organizations, faith institutions, neighborhood organizations, schools and higher education institutions, government agencies, immigrant farmers
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Parks & Recreation + City Manager's Office, Community Development

The Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers' Market is one of the Midwest's largest open-air markets.
Source: Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

ACCESS TO PARKS

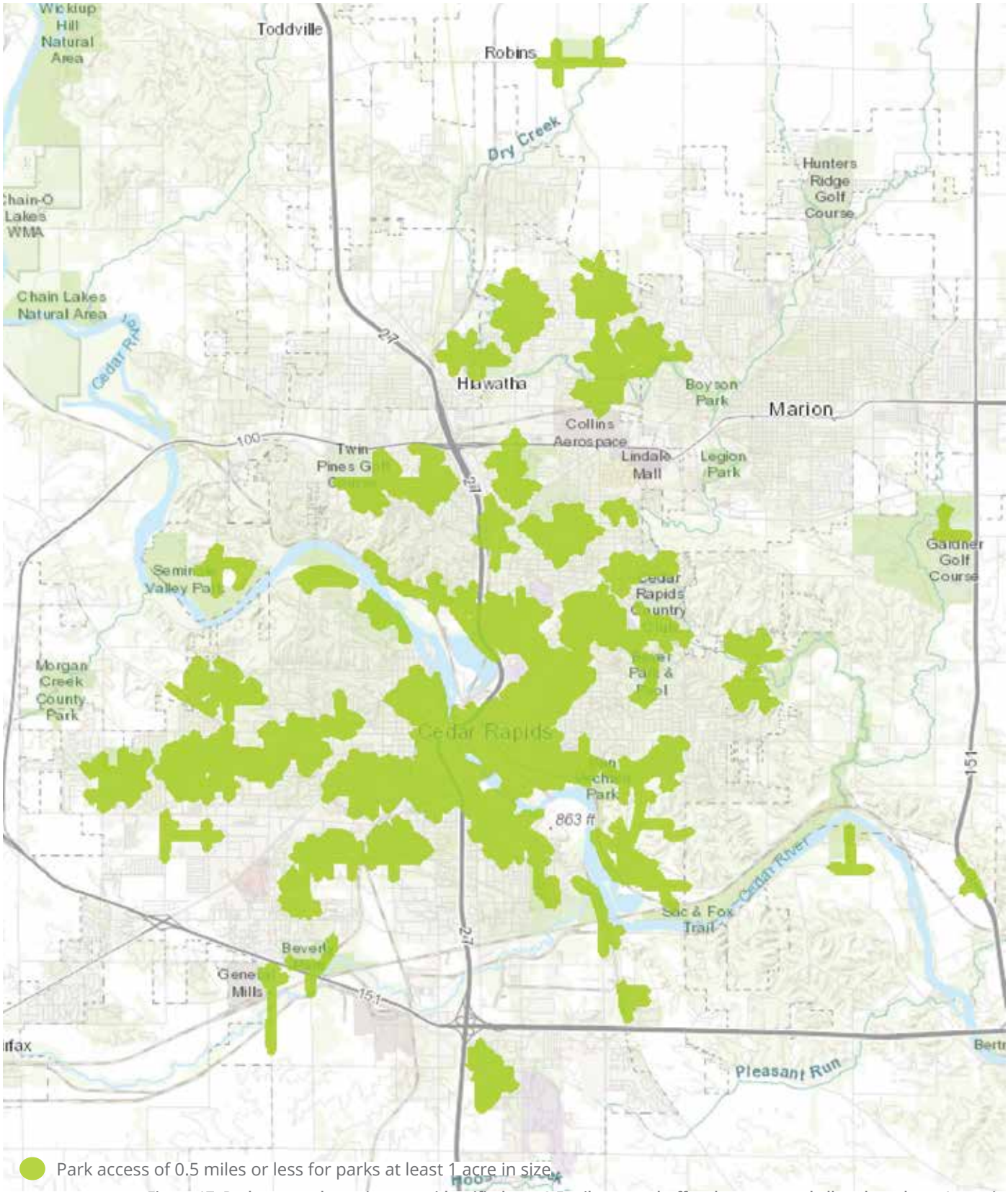


Figure 17: Park access shown in green, identified as a 0.5 mile access buffer shown around all parks at least 1 acre in size within Cedar Rapids.

Source: City of Cedar Rapids Climate Story Map, created by Cedar Rapids GIS staff, 2020

2C. ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND NATURAL SPACE

Existing Conditions:

- The City manages over 4,171 acres of parks and green space
- Park access is greater closer to the urban core than the newer sections of Cedar Rapids
- Cedar Rapids lost 65% of its tree canopy during the August 2020 derecho

Co-Benefits

- Carbon sequestration through increased vegetation (Objective 1D)
- Improved air quality with more trees (Objective 2D)

Public Input:

Planting trees for increased shade was identified as the top priority by survey participants. In Survey 1, 36% of students reported that their families would not be completely prepared for several days over 100°F.

"Repopulating our City with trees and green spaces should be top priority. Investing in bike and walking trails connecting parks to neighborhoods making it easy to access parks."

2030 VISION:

Vulnerable neighborhoods have 15-minute walkable access to amenity-rich parks via tree-lined corridors.

During an Open Streets event in Minneapolis, MN, a state highway was opened up for use by the community.
Source: Cedar Rapids Pedestrian Master Plan

ACTION 5:

Support conversion of underutilized hard infrastructure (parking lots, roofs, underpasses) to support gardens, cooling features, and active programming (Resilience Hubs, markets, recreation).

EQUITY

Increase amenities in under-resourced neighborhoods

ENVIRONMENT

Increase natural spaces, reduce urban heat island effect

ECONOMY

Increase economic resilience, real estate values

IMPACT	Changing the use of underutilized infrastructure to create public spaces is cheaper than intensive construction and can drive local economic benefits
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• UFG Pocket Plaza • Matthew 25 garden • 1,000-acre Pollinator Initiative • ReZone
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Expand and improve public space in the urban core, New York Regional Planning Association • The Underline, Miami, FL • American Planning Association's Review of Underpass-to-Park Conversions
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Innovative ways to create more urban green spaces, Project Living Tree • Parklets guide, National Association of City Transportation Officials
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Government agencies, non-profits, school districts, property owners
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Community Development + Public Works, Parks & Recreation

An underused underpass in Cedar Rapids between L & 3rd St SW and 2nd & 3rd Ave SW

The August 2020 Derecho damaged every corner of our 75 square mile city, and impacted every resident in some way. It was the most costly thunderstorm in U.S. history.

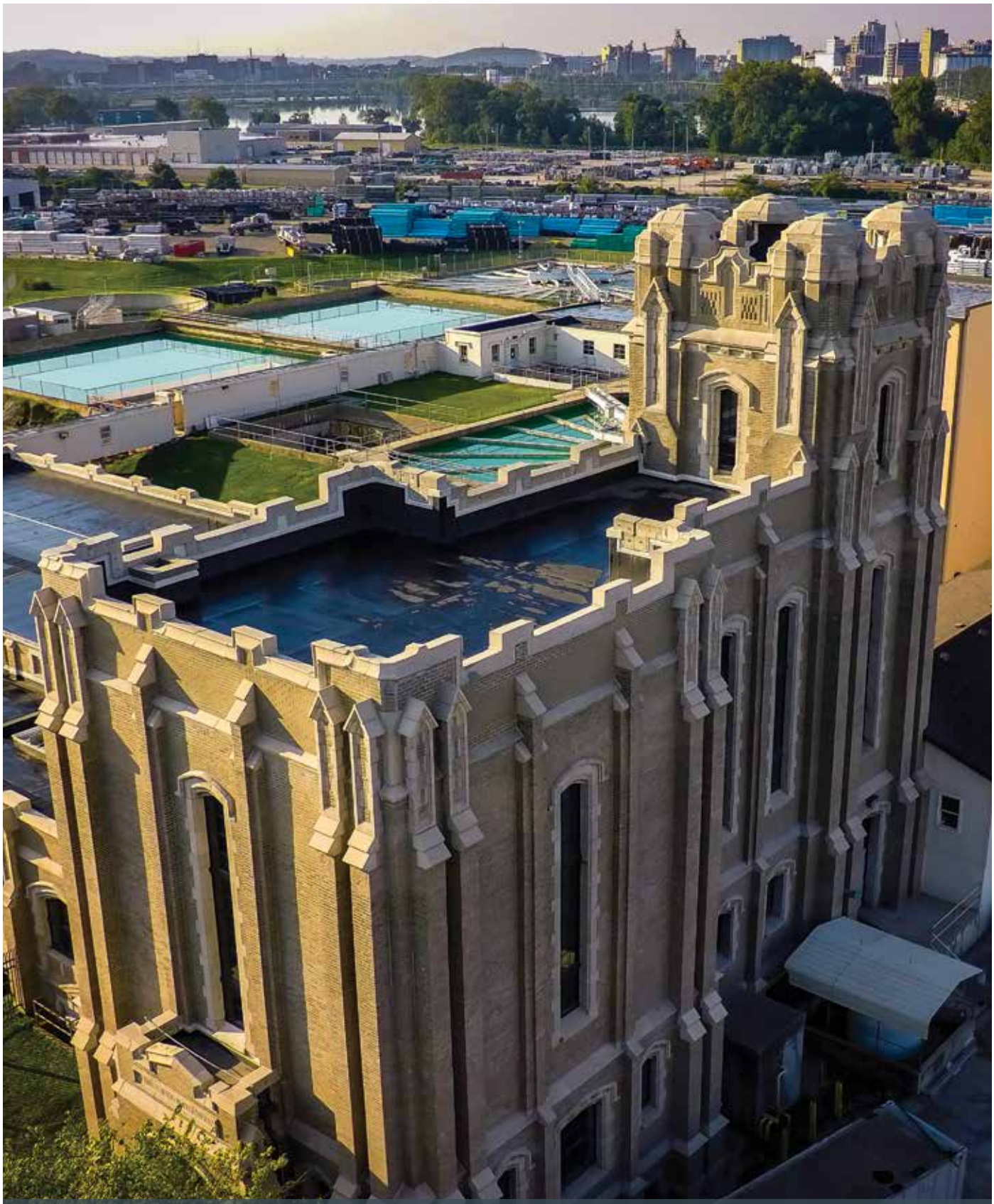
Source: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ACTION 6:

Implement the city's ReLeaf program, supporting vulnerable neighborhoods with air and heat pollution challenges.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Increase tree canopy in low-coverage communities, improve mental health	Improve air quality and ecological functions; increase habitat for wildlife, carbon sequestration	Increase jobs in forestry, reduce energy costs with trees to provide shade and reduce wind

IMPACT	• Trees placed near buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and reduce energy use for heating 20-50% • The Cedar Rapids Tree Equity Score is lowest in the urban core (39) and highest (100) in many of the surrounding neighborhoods • Trees have the greatest impact filtering air pollution within 30 meters of the source (e.g., highway)
TIMELINE	Within 1 year
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• ReLeaf • City forestry
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Street Tree Interactive Map, Eugene, OR • Urban Tree Nursery Program, Savannah, GA
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Reforestation Hub, World Resource Institute • Urban Drawdown Initiative and carbon credits
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Businesses, residents, neighborhood organizations, large institutions, non-profits
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Parks & Recreation



The 1930 J Avenue Water Treatment Plant has undergone many expansion and renovation projects over its 90+ years as the community has grown and water treatment methods have improved. Ongoing investments ensure the city has safe, reliable water for years to come.

2D. INCREASE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER

Existing Conditions:

- The City consistently achieves federal clean drinking water standards
- Asthma is most prevalent along arterial roads

Co-Benefits

- Enhanced resilience from public health benefits (Objective 2A)
- Improved access to basic needs (Objectives 2B, 2C)

Public Input:

"I think our city should continue to be passionate about water quality and using nature's resources to keep the supply clean."

"The water quality and air quality are already good and need to be protected."

2030 VISION:

Cedar Rapids is trusted for excellent air and water quality

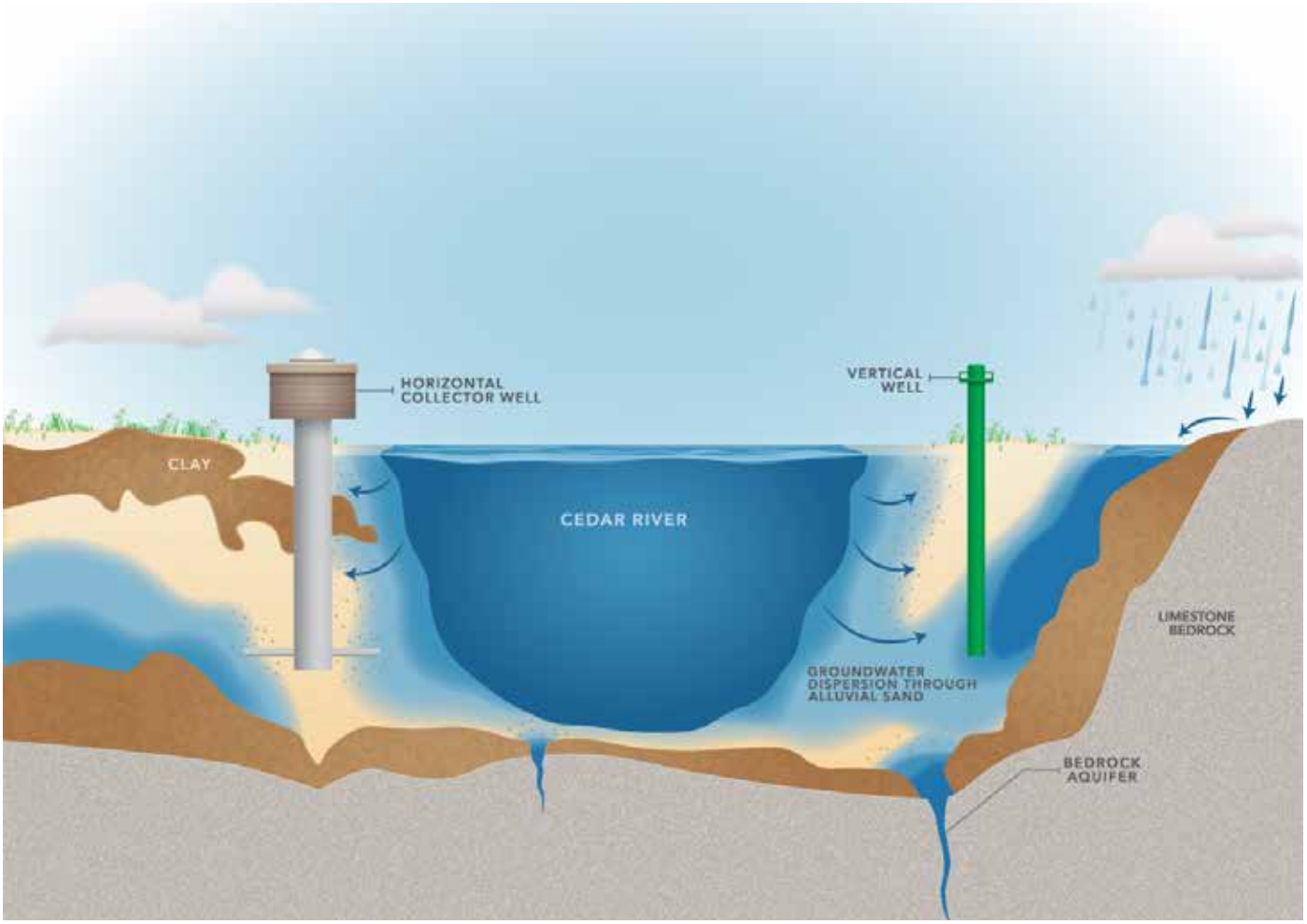


Figure 18: Cedar River Basin Cross-section, shows how wells collect water from the river to use for drinking water.

Source: City of Cedar Rapids

Densely vegetated waterways tucked between agricultural fields in western Iowa showcase opportunities to integrate green infrastructure, improving water and soil quality and sequestering carbon.

ACTION 7:

Protect water quality by supporting source water protection initiatives and existing watershed partnerships that reduce nutrient-rich runoff into the Cedar River.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Protect residents most vulnerable to water quality changes	Improve water quality, reduce erosion, sequester carbon, solar and pollinator habitats co-benefit	Diversify income for farmers, increase jobs in green infrastructure

IMPACT	• Riparian buffers have the capacity to remove up to 50% of nutrients and 75% of sediment • Stormwater bets practices capture carbon and support wildlife
TIMELINE	In-progress
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar River Source Water Partnership to improve water quality • Partnership with Soil and Water Outcomes Fund to reduce nutrients and sequester carbon • Middle Cedar Partnerships Project • Forthcoming Sourcewater Protection Plan and MS4 Permit
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Iowa DNR • EPA Water Finance Center Case Studies
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Benefits of solar-integrated agriculture, Great Plains Institute • Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Farmers, non-profits, watershed management authorities, state and federal government
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Utilities + Public Works

ACTION 8:

Support stormwater BMP cost-share and ERU reduction programs on large properties.

EQUITY

Increase resilience in vulnerable neighborhoods

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce impervious coverage, improve ecological function

ECONOMY

Increase infrastructure jobs, decrease stormwater fees

IMPACT	• Benefits of green infrastructure: • Porous landscapes (e.g., forests, prairies) can soak up to 90% of rainfall • As much as 75% of rainfall that lands on a rooftop can be captured on-site and repurposed • The life expectancy of a green roof is twice as long as a regular roof • A typical rain garden is 30% more absorbent than a conventional lawn • Bioswales can filter out as much as 90% of trace metals, oils, and grease; 70% of sediment; and almost 30% of phosphorus from stormwater runoff
TIMELINE	Within 1 year
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Cedar Rapids Stormwater Master Plan • Cedar Rapids Stormwater Program
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Stormwater management practices and EPA facilities • Shared stormwater system design, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Localized flood map tool, Metropolitan Council
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Eastern Iowa Airport, large property holders
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Public Works + Development Services, Utilities

Bioswales capture and treat pollutants in stormwater runoff before the water reenters streams and rivers. Bioswale installation can be partially reimbursed through the City's Stormwater BMPs Cost-Share Program.

2E. CREATE HIGH-WAGE, GREEN JOBS AND GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Existing Conditions:

- There are approximately 6,784 green jobs in Linn County
- Wind energy makes up the largest share of clean energy jobs in Iowa (3,909)
- Current median household income is $58,511
- 12.5% of Cedar Rapids live below the federal poverty line

Co-Benefits:

- Reduction in carbon emissions, particularly from advancement of green industry and technologies (Objective 1A)

Public Input:

"I think that we need to encourage all jobs to help with the environment. I especially feel that teachers need to have programs that emphasize the importance of a community climate action plan and have students assist in these areas having more project learning based opportunities."

"Climate action has the power to both reduce emissions, but also create jobs and equity in our community. In this way it can be very transformative."

2030 VISION:

High-wage green jobs and a more sustainable local economy support plan implementation

A wind turbine installer shown at work. Renewable energy infrastructure creates and supports green jobs.

A solar panel technician outfits a panel prior to installation.

Solar panel installers mount solar photovoltaic panels to a rooftop.

Jobs in the renewable energy industry are high-paying and in high demand as appetite for renewable energy increases.

ACTION 9:

Complete and implement a green economic development plan, identifying green jobs, community strengths, and programs for equitable business and workforce development.

EQUITY

Provide training and opportunities for high-wage green jobs

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce GHG emissions, reduced energy, increased resilience

ECONOMY

Increase green jobs, retain local talent

IMPACT	• Iowa has 5,000 jobs in wind, 1,000 in solar, and 18,000 in energy efficiency • 80% of recent college graduates are "very" or "extremely" interested in gaining jobs that feel purposeful, yet only 50% achieve this work
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Energy Production and Distribution Technology program, Kirkwood Community College
NATIONAL LEADERS	• The Cleveland Model to build community wealth • Policies for Community Wealth-Building, Democracy Collaborative
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Bureau of Labor Statistics Green Jobs Definition • Vancouver Economic Commission, Green and Local Food Jobs • Annual U.S. Energy & Employment Report, U.S. Department of Energy
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Government agencies, colleges, schools, non-profits
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office (Sustainability + Economic Development)

ACTION 10:

Expand sustainability support and expectations in purchasing, contracts, and development to support circular economy, local buying, and cooperative buying.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Contract with small, local, and/or minority-owned businesses	Reduce waste	Build local wealth

IMPACT	• City wide waste emissions can be reduced by 33% by 2030 through reduction, compost, and recycling strategies • U.S. cities purchase $1.72 trillion of goods and services annually together, these purchases create a carbon footprint nine times greater than city buildings and vehicle fleets combined
TIMELINE	2-3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Buy Local Policy • Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines
NATIONAL LEADERS	• City of Seattle Sustainable Purchasing Policy, Seattle, WA • Sustainable Procurement Policy, Raleigh, NC • The Cleveland Model, Cleveland, OH
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Developing a sustainable purchasing policy, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency • Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Businesses, non-profits, schools, local unions
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office (Sustainability) + Finance, Public Works, Utilities

The City's Central Fire Station is LEED Certified.

2F. PROVIDE DIRECT CONNECTION TO CITY GOVERNMENT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

EQUALITY

EQUITY

Existing Conditions:

- Cedar Rapids tracks and reports outreach efforts
- The City has more than two dozen commissions citizens can participate in
- The Rollin' Recmobile has reached engages 13 neighborhoods through the summer
- Ground Teams help to reach deeper into underrepresented communities

Co-Benefits:

- Enhance community resilience (Objective 2A)
- Improved access to basic needs (Objectives 2B, 2C)
- Support green economic development (Objective 2E)

Public Input:

"The city should prioritize equitable engagement and outcomes and working closely with environmental organizations who are already integrated into the community could be a good way to do this."

2030 VISION:

Community members are active in implementation through equitable engagement that is inclusive of all residents

ACTION 11:

Operationalize the equitable engagement toolkit to reach more under-resourced and under-represented residents.

	EQUITY Inclusive engagement and decision-making	ENVIRONMENT Increase public environmental awareness and action	ECONOMY Increase learning and connections among all residents
IMPACT	• 9,658 Cedar Rapids residents live in the priority neighborhoods of Wellington, Oakhill Jackson, and Taylor • Equitable and inclusive engagement ensures those most impacted by policy decision have a say in those decision		
TIMELINE	In Progress		
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Rollin' RecMobile • Public Engagement Opportunities		
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Public Participation and Resource Guide, Madison, WI • City of Everett, Washington Mayoral Directive on Community Engagement and Inclusion		
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Guide to Equitable Community-Driven Climate Preparedness, USDN • Our Power, Our Communities Toolkit, NAACP • Streetwyze engagement platform		
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Neighborhood leaders, non-profits, BIPOC residents, social service organizations		
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	Community Development + City Manager's Office, Public Works		

The Rollin' Recmobile brings recreational activities and public engagement opportunities to neighborhood parks across Cedar Rapids.

City staff and residents plant trees at Reed Park and the Cedar River Academy following the August 2020 derecho.

ACTION 12:

Establish City-student partnerships to engage youth in plan implementation.

EQUITY	ENVIRONMENT	ECONOMY
Diverse student participation	Increase public environmental awareness and action	New generation of climate-focused workforce

IMPACT	16,294 students attend Cedar Rapids Schools Students, staff, and community volunteers from the school district participate in Green Teams
TIMELINE	2–3 years
LOCAL PRECEDENCE	• Municipal Volunteer Program • Collaborations with local schools and colleges
NATIONAL LEADERS	• Climate Justice Advisory Committee (youth requirement), St. Paul, MN • Climate Action Committee (youth requirement), Albany, CA
RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	• Governments Engaging Youth Toolkit , Institute for Local Government • Youth in Planning Task Force, American Planning Association, Washington Chapter
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	K-12 schools, colleges
DEPARTMENT LEAD + SUPPORT	City Manager's Office (Sustainability) + Community Development

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

2050 VISION:

Successful implementation of this plan will require all-hands-on deck from city to community

OBJECTIVES:

I. MAINTAIN SUCCESSFUL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

II. CONTINUE TO BUILD MOMENTUM AND OUTREACH FOR COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION, PRIORITIZING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

I. MAINTAIN SUCCESSFUL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

2030 VISION:

The Community Climate Action Plan is embedded across city programs, functions, and services

National Leaders:

- Greenest City Action Plan - an approach to involve residents, businesses, organizations, and all levels of government to implement the plan, Vancouver, BC, CA
- Fort Collins Municipal Sustainability & Adaptation Plan

ACTION 1:

Integrate Community Climate Action Plan priorities into city decision-making and existing plans.

ACTION 2:

Align the iGreenCR Action Plan, the City's municipal sustainability plan, with the Community Climate Action Plan.

II. CONTINUE TO BUILD MOMENTUM AND OUTREACH FOR COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION, PRIORITIZING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

2030 VISION:

Momentum for the CCAP continues to build through shared successes and meaningful engagement

Examples/Models:

- The A2Zero landing page includes progress updates, plan information, and an opportunity to pledge to support the plan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Climate Dashboard, San Francisco, CA

ACTION 1:

Create a process for tracking, sharing, and regularly reporting upon success.

ACTION 2:

Create regular outreach opportunities in education, volunteering, and recognition.

CONCLUSION

The City of Cedar Rapids is committed to doing its part to limit global warming and avoid the worst effects of a changing climate. This will take a community effort, where every resident, business, and institution plays a role in reducing emissions and strengthening resilience to ensure everyone benefits from an improved quality of life, especially our most vulnerable.

While achieving the goals of this plan will be a great challenge, it is also a momentous opportunity to shape our community into one where everyone has access to basic needs, healthy food, active living, and prosperity. Cedar Rapids will move forward together.

STAY CONNECTED.

Find updates on the Community Climate Action Plan at:
www.CityofCR.com/climate

Keep up-to-date with all of the latest City news, stories and information.

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