

May 11, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager

202201146

Subject: 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan Status Update

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202200330

The Council at its session on February 16, 2022, referred the following motion for report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Owens, In an effort to further environmental development and climate protection in the City of Cincinnati, **WE MOVE** that the Administration provide a report within thirty (30) days on the status of the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan.

The purpose of this report is to provide the City Council with an update on the current status of the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP). The City of Cincinnati adopted the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan, providing a comprehensive set of local actions for addressing global climate change as a City and a region.

Community Engagement & Plan Development Process

The 2018 GCP represents a community vision that includes long-term aspirational goals, with near-term pragmatic steps. Over 30 public meetings were held to collect and refine more than 1,400 community recommendations. Strategies within the plan focus on buildings, energy, ecosystems, education, food, waste, and transportation systems. Taken together, the 80 strategies in the 2018 GCP provide a roadmap to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.

Collective Impact

The climate crisis touches all sectors, and meaningful solutions will require extensive collaboration. The GCP development process acts as a community catalyst for collective impact. More than 40 organizations have committed to supporting specific actions of the plan, volunteering as Champions of strategies relevant to their work. Cross-sector collaboration and public private partnerships have been central to many of the major accomplishments the 2018 GCP has supported.

Tracking Progress & Major Accomplishments

The attached GCP tracking dashboard includes a qualitative assessment of progress for each of the plan recommendations. To date approximately 85% of the recommendations are completed or on track for completion. Of the remainder, 11% have seen no progress and 4% have experienced impediments or setbacks.

Major accomplishments supported by the plan include:

- American Cities Climate Challenge winner
- 100 MW solar array to power city operations and the Energy Aggregation Program
- Passage of Issue 7 to increase funding to improve regional public transit
- Installation of energy efficiency measures in nearly 400 low-income households
- Introduction of electric vehicles into the city fleet
- Creation of the Cincinnati 2030 District
- More than \$4M in grant support secure to accelerate climate work in Cincinnati

Together, these strategies have helped achieve a 37.8% citywide reduction in carbon emissions since 2006.

Characteristics of Success

Successes of the GCP can be attributed to:

- Deep community engagement to catalyze collective impact
- Bold aspirational goals, with pragmatic next steps
- Strong executive leadership to champion transformative change and clear hurdles

Lack of progress on specific GCP strategies can be attributed to:

- State preemption of municipal control
- Lack of policy action needed for strategy activation
- Absence of community champion to own strategy implementation

Moving Forward

Learning from the past and building on the positive momentum of the 2018 GCP, City Council has directed the Administration to initiate development of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan. The Office of Environment & Sustainability will lead the community in co-creation of goals and strategies to catalyze climate equity action.

cc: Michael Forrester, Director, Office of Environment & Sustainability
Oliver Kroner, Sustainability Manager

Attachment: Green Cincinnati Plan Dashboard