

American Cities Climate Challenge

The American Cities Climate Challenge in Cincinnati: Building on Progress and next steps

Presented to the Committee on Climate, Environment &
Infrastructure

March 29, 2022

Objectives for today

- Provide an **overview of American Cities Climate Challenge** work in Cincinnati and wins to date
- Detail the **whole-of-government approach** necessary to deliver on climate and sustainability
- Discuss **paths forward**
 - Federal funding
 - Staff resources

What is the American Cities Climate Challenge?

The **Climate Challenge** is a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative that aims to **accelerate and deepen** U.S. cities' efforts to create the **greatest climate impact** and showcase the benefits – **good jobs, cleaner air, and cost savings** – that climate solutions bring.



Reduce building energy use

+



Increase renewable energy

+



Reduce vehicle travel

+



Electrify vehicles

=



Cities Reach Paris Climate Goals

Cincinnati was one of 25 US cities selected for your vision and leadership on climate action



The Climate Challenge has supported the city on the ground and through national organizations



- Philanthropy-funded Climate Advisor and staff capacity
- Local community grant funding
- Policy and implementation support
- Climate Challenge City Convenings
- Renewables Accelerator Boot Camps
- EV Roadmap Conference
- Cohort Webinars & Resources

Cincinnati has celebrated many climate successes over the course of the Climate Challenge

Cincinnati signs on for largest municipal solar array in the country

By Kelly Pickrel | December 2, 2019

SMARTCITIES DIVE Deep Dive Opinion Library Events Topics

BRIEF

Cincinnati voters raise sales tax to fund public transit

CINCINNATI PUBLIC RADIO NEWS
91.7 WVXU | 88.5 WMUB
Connecting You To A World Of Ideas

Solar Farms Are Rapidly Growing In Southwest Ohio

By ANN THOMPSON • MAR 16, 2020

Share Tweet Email

Mother Jones

ENVIRONMENT FEBRUARY 10, 2020

The Biggest Municipal Solar Farm in the US Is Coming to...Cincinnati?

"This really is a big deal."



OUR WORK OUR EXPERTS OUR STORIES GET INVOLVED ABOUT US

EXPERT BLOG • ANN SHIKANY & KARI ROSS

Greater Cincinnati Steps Forward on Clean Transportation

May 14, 2020 Ann Shikany & Kari Ross

TRANSPORTATION

New Sales Tax Will Fuel Transit Modernization in Cincinnati

ACEEE
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Mayors' Toolkit for Energy Efficiency

EQUITY SPOTLIGHT: REDUCING THE ENERGY BURDEN IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

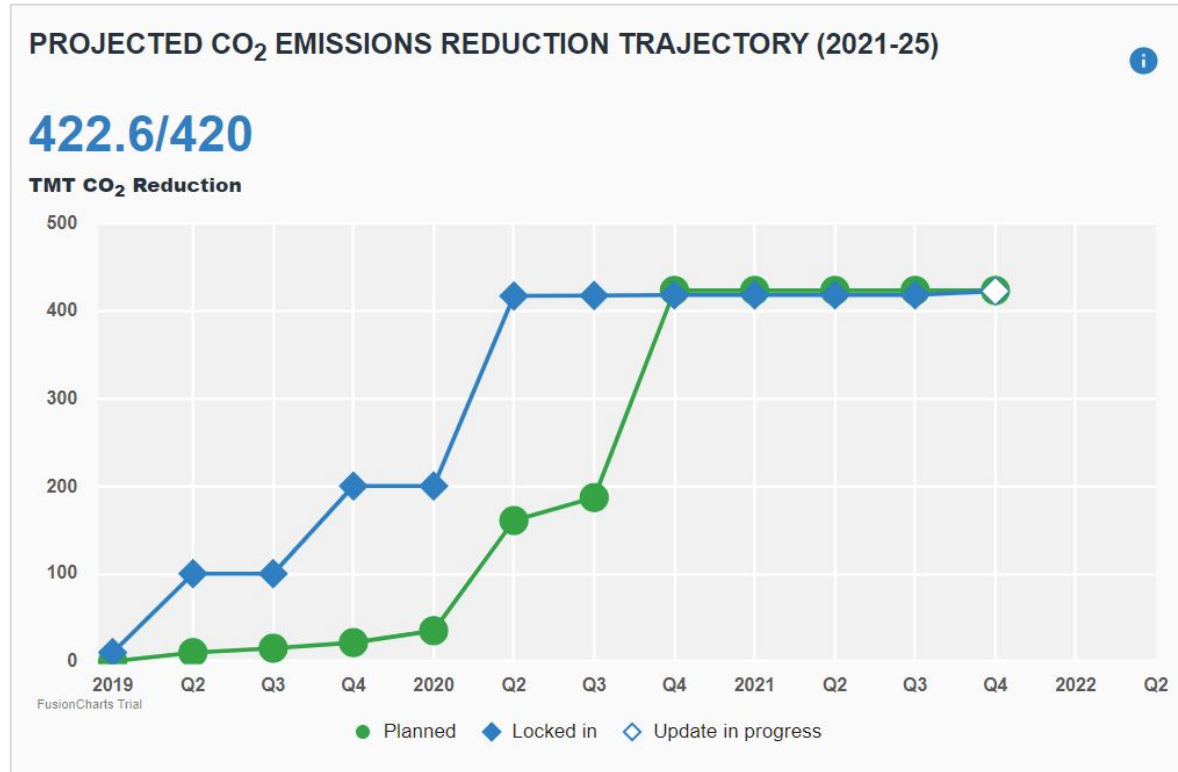
Cincinnati's Green Cincinnati Plan has a quantitative goal to decrease household energy burden by 10% compared to current levels. As the city highlights, more than 60% of households are renters, who tend to experience higher energy burdens than homeowners. The plan also includes steps forward, such as educational and financing...



Municipal Fleet Electrification

A Case Study of Cincinnati, OH
2020

Overall, the City has met the projected emissions goals set out at the beginning of the Challenge



Cities around the Climate Challenge are accelerating climate action, and learning from one another

LOCAL
New electric vehicle car-sharing program Evie debuts in Twin Cities
Evie Carshare will eventually bring 171 electric vehicles and 70 charging stations to St. Paul and Minneapolis.

October 21, 2019 at 3:51 pm Filed Under: 15th Street, Denver News
Denver Unveils Red Transit Lane On 15th Street



NEWS
Indy adopts development plan to promote walkability, deemphasize cars



St Louis mayor signs electric vehicle ordinances into law
by SmartCitiesWorld news team

News 12 Feb 2021

SMARTCITIES
Deep Dive Opinion Library Events
Energy & Utilities Transportation Buildings & Infrastructure Environment Resilience
BRIEF
St. Louis' building efficiency standards pave way for the Midwest

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philadelphia launches regional collaborative to tackle climate change, recycling, renewable energy

by Frank Kummer, Updated: October 16, 2019

New Columbus Ordinance Requires Energy Benchmarking

By JIM LETIZIA · MAR 18, 2020

Together, cities have “beaten the odds” and delivered on their ambitious climate goals

74

MILLION MT OF CO₂
REDUCED
THROUGH 2030



54

MAJOR BUILDINGS,
ENERGY, AND
TRANSPORTATION
POLICIES PASSED



MAYORS DELIVERED

CHANGING MARKETS, REDUCING EMISSIONS, AND IMPROVING
QUALITY OF LIFE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



MORE THAN

800 MW

OF RENEWABLE
ENERGY UNDER
CONTRACT
OR PENDING



11,481

NEW ELECTRIC
VEHICLE CHARGERS
INSTALLED



MORE THAN

800

RESIDENTS TRAINED
OR UPSKILLED
IN GREEN JOBS

Cincinnati's Climate Challenge Wins

New Market Solar Project



Supported By:



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



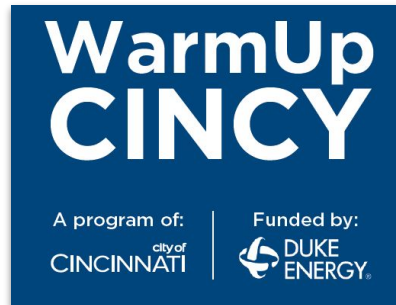
WarmUp Cincy addresses climate, racial equity, and recovery goals all at once

- WarmUp Cincy **reduces energy burden, improves livelihoods, and bolsters the city's responsiveness to residents** hurting from public health and economic crises
- It provides services for a demographic not previously served by city energy programs
 - **Enhancing this program can meet crucial needs and be utilized as an established, "shovel-ready" channel for recovery funding**

Cincinnati to Pilot Cost-Free Energy Efficiency Aid for Lower-Income Renters

The WarmUp Cincy pilot program will help 65 low- and moderate-income renters in multi-family buildings with energy efficiency upgrades, energy education and financial assistance as needed. The city hopes to scale the program up after the pilot.

BY CITYBEAT STAFF – FEB 11, 2020 9 AM



Supported By:

The logo for Firefly Energy Consulting, featuring the word "FIREFLY" in white and "ENERGY CONSULTING" in green, with a green firefly icon to the right.



In Issue 7, a major win presented the region with serious opportunities for transit expansion

- **The Climate Challenge supported** this ballot victory through NRDC Action Fund and local partners, including CommEN Strategies, Better Bus Coalition, and Move Forward
- Potential future opportunities:
 - Bus electrification strategy
 - Long-Term BRT and Transit Oriented Density planning



Supported By:

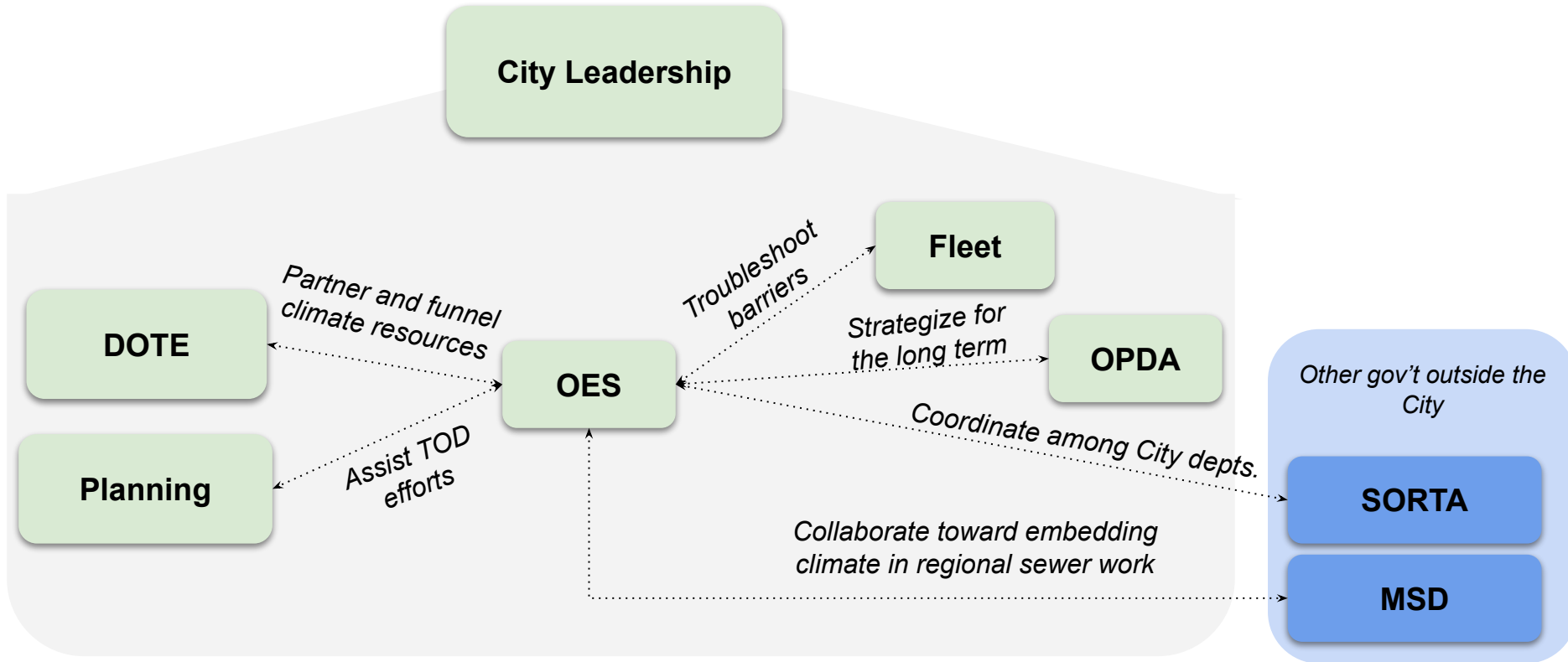
**NRDC
ACTION
FUND**



CommEN
Strategies



OES sits at the center of all Climate Challenge work, deploying support and resources



Cincinnati has achieved these wins through limited but highly dedicated staff, along with external support

- This is just some of the **progress Cincinnati has made** over the past three years
- The Climate Challenge has brought **partners and staff capacity**
 - *Climate Advisor*
 - *Public Allies*
- This capacity is critical to maintaining momentum, and other Climate Challenge cities have responded by increasing their sustainability staff
 - *As an example, nearby Columbus approved a **\$10 million** budget increase and is hiring **6 staff***

Where does Cincinnati go from here?

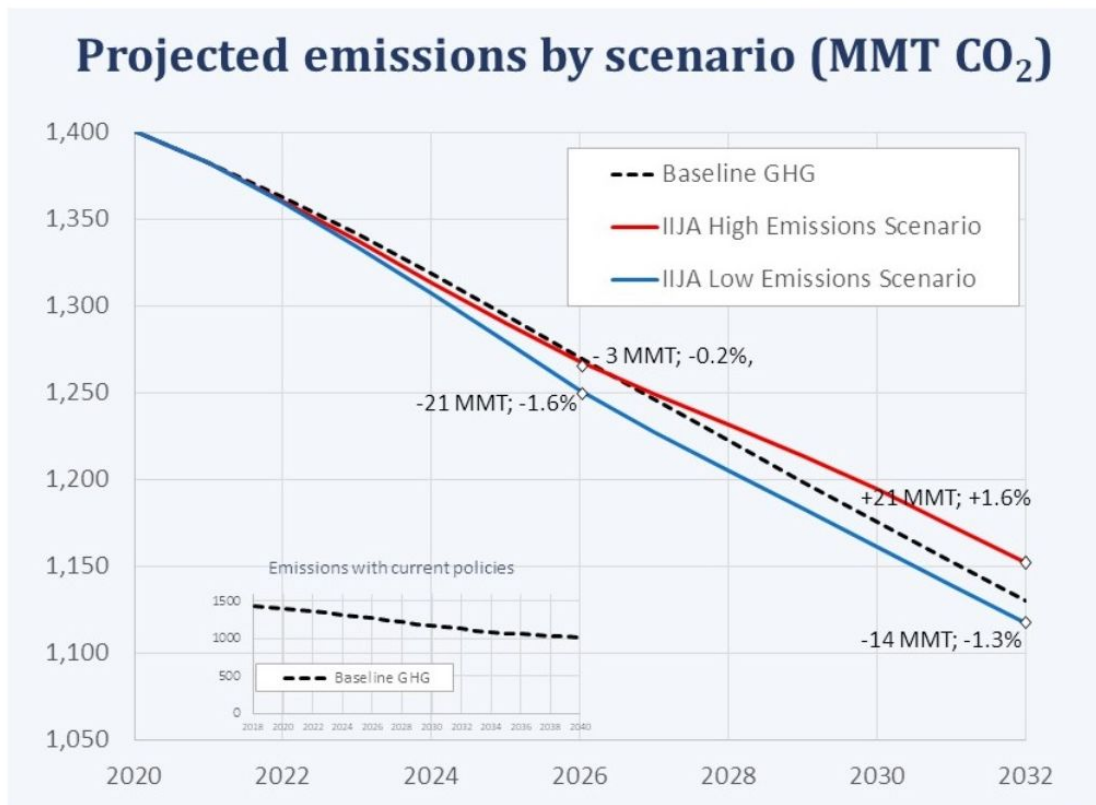
- The City has made extraordinary strides in the past 3+ years. **How do we maintain this momentum?**
 - Additional staff resources dedicated to climate and sustainability
 - Preparing for federal funds and climate / infrastructure funding

Federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has the potential to yield **significant emissions reductions and achieve the Justice 40 goals** BUT only if cities and states actively center these outcomes



The infrastructure law has the potential to be impactful on climate, but only if implemented appropriately



Source: Georgetown
Climate Center analysis

For 3 years, Cities have unlocked funding through Climate Challenge initiatives, and new federal funding presents even greater opportunities



San Jose's Complete Streets

\$22.9M from California's Active Transportation Program included \$12.9M for two new complete streets corridors, and \$10.0M for other complete street work including traffic and bicycle signals, transit boarding islands, and Dutch-style protected intersection.



Orlando's Energy Future

Orlando's power utility is poised to develop a nation-leading, hydrogen system for generating electricity and more than double its reliance on solar power. The system is being financed by several partners for a total investment of cash, material and time worth \$9 million.



Chicago's Congestion Management

Diverting \$2 million in revenue raised by the proposed Transportation Network Providers (TNP) congestion fee towards bus priority zones. This will secure an additional \$18 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and County funds.



Electric Buses For 11 Cities

FTA awarded \$24.5M in grant funding to 11 cities for electric transit bus purchases. NRDC and Electrification Coalition supported this application process with a webinar training, the writing of support letters, and grant writing assistance.

How we are thinking about cities' steps to prepare for federal climate funding

What we're seeing

- A strong focus across cities on collaborating regionally toward preparing for funding
- Infrastructure Task Forces, such as in Washington, DC

What we're doing

- Hosting webinars and providing sector-specific resources for cities seeking to understand infrastructure funding
- Convening cross-departmental and cross-government teams in cities (*e.g. in Orlando*)
- Supporting cities in mapping local climate and equity priorities to funding sources

Thank you!

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Appendix

Climate Challenge Background

- The Challenge was created when former president Trump pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement to demonstrate **U.S. commitment to climate action** at other levels of government
- **The 100 most populous cities** were invited to apply with their existing climate commitments and goals where they sought additional support to accelerate progress
- **The Challenge has coequal goals:**
 - Contribute to significant GHG reductions; and
 - Center historically underserved voices, especially Black and Brown voices, in policy design, development and implementation; and
 - Deliver significant co-defined benefits for these communities that lead to greater prosperity and endure for the long term.

WarmUp Cincy as a means of addressing energy burden

- WarmUp Cincy has **successfully addressed a critical need for energy efficiency** in one of the country's most energy-burdened cities, winning praise and recognition from observers and residents alike

"[WarmUp Cincy] fills a void for our most vulnerable populations by providing residents with direct assistance to keep their families warm."

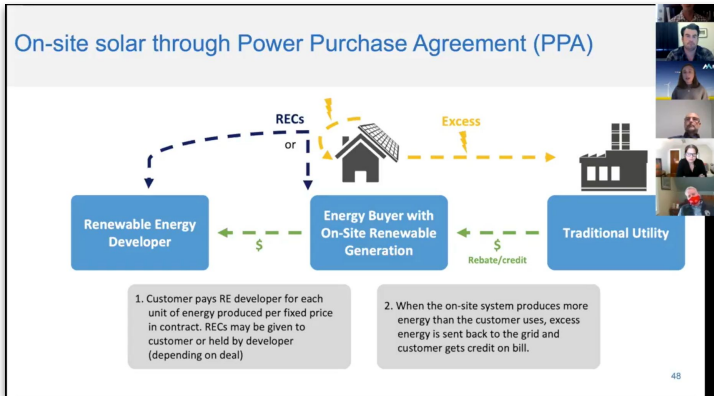
- Mayor Cranley

"I really appreciate the new refrigerator and all of the upgrades. The energy efficiency tips are also coming in handy."

- C. Nelson, Cincinnati resident and WarmUp Cincy participant

OES is now using Climate Challenge support to rally support for a commercial solar cohort

Through the Climate Challenge, partner organizations Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and World Resources Institute (WRI) are hosting **renewable energy workshops** to upskill local businesses in **solar procurement practices**



CINCINNATI
2030
DISTRICT®

We used a Power Purchase Agreement: A long-term contract to purchase power at a fixed price with no upfront City costs

1. The **City signs a physical PPA** with a project developer for a fixed price



Developer / Renewable Generator

\$ / MWh

RECs



Cincinnati

2. The developer is responsible for delivering the electricity from the renewable plant to a predetermined “delivery point”, at which point the City or the City’s retail provider takes physical delivery of the energy

3. The renewable energy delivered offsets a portion of the electricity the customer would need to buy from the energy market



Grid / Electricity Market