What is the Cross-Community Climate Collaboration (C4)?
C4 is designed to bring together BIPOC and non-minority communities across income lines to share ideas, secure resources, and drive large-scale projects within and across communities that achieve agreed upon greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions reductions, equity and sustainability goals. The project supports disinvested and resourced communities in West Suburban Cook County and beyond through a unique collaboration that prioritizes goal attainment and metrics on a timeline regarding the climate crisis, equity and sustainability. The C4 Executive Team consists of the BIPOC-led Urban Efficiency Group (UEG), 21-year-old Sustainable Communities NGO Seven Generations Ahead and the mayors of the Villages of Broadview, Oak Park and River Forest in Cook County, Illinois.

C4 combines:

- A cross-community collaboration process
- All stakeholder community sustainability team development
- Large-scale projects
- Resource acquisition
- Metrics
- Knowledge and resource sharing that avoids reinventing wheels and maximizes results

Goals

1. Bring together BIPOC and non-minority communities across income lines to develop and drive projects that achieve greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions reductions, equity and sustainability goals.
2. Spur the development of Sustainability Working Groups within each respective community that develop and implement annual scopes of work and measures results.

3. Drive community engagement related to any local community or collaborative regional initiatives or climate plan efforts led by the participating communities.
4. Develop collaboration across communities in the region that adapt and replicate *large-scale* projects designed to dramatically reduce ghg emissions.
5. Support annual reporting on ghg emissions and other sustainability metrics.
6. Achieve the acquisition of state and federal funding that supports large-scale local community and collaborative projects.
7. Develop a capacity building toolkit to increase the adoption of sustainability best practices for disinvested communities
8. Provide a Ready-to-go checklist to municipal partners

Process

1. Develop a Core Team of representatives from various taxing bodies, municipal and county governments, large institutions, community organizations, educators and sector groups (faith-based congregations, businesses, resident groups, etc.) to meet *monthly* as part of C4 Cross Community meetings to learn, share best practices, develop projects and strategize around funding access and project implementation.
2. Host periodic large community gatherings on policies, strategies and best practices that advance the goals of C4, and organize C4 Sector meetings (Park Districts; K-12 Schools, etc.) periodically that convene to share and drive project development and implementation.
3. Utilize C4 Cross Community meetings additionally for sharing best practices and successes and initiatives across institutions/communities and to eliminate reinventing the wheel on specific projects.
4. Work with each community to establish a Sustainability Commission or Sustainability Working Group.
5. Develop and implement a plan for conducting an inventory of ghg emissions for each of the participating communities.
6. Track and report ghg emissions and other sustainability data annually.
7. Conduct outreach to ensure engagement of residents and groups representing BIPOC, low-to-moderate income individuals and youth.

Requirements of the Participating Communities

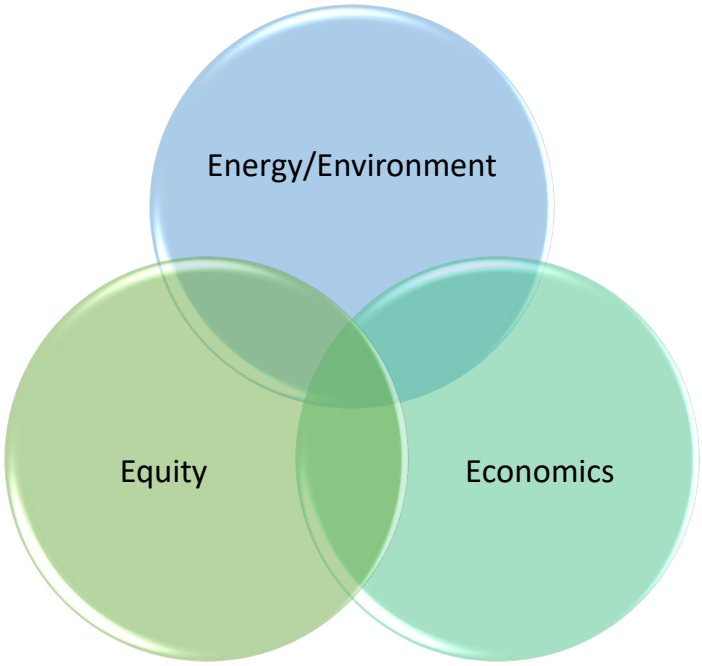
1. Agree to established ghg emissions reductions goal targets based on recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and agree to establish a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and to track ghg emissions and other sustainability and equity indicators annually.
2. Agree to participate in monthly C4 Cross Community meetings, and to pursue agreed upon scopes of work.
3. Agree to establish a municipal Sustainability Commission or local Sustainability Working Group within each respective community that develops a strategy for achieve sustainability goals and ghg emissions reductions goal targets.
4. Agree to work toward becoming a sustainable community.

Big Bucket Initiatives

1. Large-Scale Solar: The project proposes to conduct building analysis' of all major buildings within participating communities to assess their solar capacity and current energy consumption and the ratio between the two; utilize established criteria for determining the solar viability of each building; review ownership and financing models; develop a pipeline of buildings along a timeline ready for solar installations; and develop third-party RFPs or owner-driven solar installations.
2. Energy Efficiency: The project will work with energy efficiency firms to create large-scale house/unit packages for communities that include conducting energy audits, developing options for scopes of efficiency upgrades, executing upgrades including electrification, and providing financial support that reduces the burden on the individual homeowner or renter while achieving energy use and cost savings.
3. Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure: The project will add charging stations within communities and will support EV infrastructure plans that include comprehensive amenities to making a community EV Ready, and also include planning across communities to create EV connectivity, appropriate spacing of charging stations, and collaboration towards accessing federal and state funding.
4. Energy Road Maps: The project will work to develop whole community energy road maps on a timeline that incorporate percentages of on-site renewable energy, percentages of energy saved from large-scale efficiency upgrades, and percentages of renewable energy outside of the communities that will need to be procured to meet renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

5. Metrics: In addition to greenhouse gas inventories and tracking, the project will work with communities to develop and track a set of equity indicators that are measurable as well as other sustainability metrics related to health, transportation, food, water, waste, ecosystem enhancement, energy and education.
6. Economic Opportunities - The project will create economic opportunities in at least two ways; workforce development; the creation of local training opportunities in the areas of energy efficiency, home energy performance, solar installation and EV charger installers that lead to job placement. Additionally, small business development opportunities are an organic outgrowth from these emerging markets. As the demand increases for the adoption of said technological advancements existing businesses will be in position to expand their existing business models, while individuals possessing the skills and certifications to perform tasks associated with these emerging markets will be in position to establish a new business. Success in this area will demonstrate diversity while distributing equitable opportunities.
7. Air Quality – The project will prioritize the air quality issue with a focus on BIPOC communities as it is often compromised by crowded streets occupied by gas- and diesel-powered vehicles. Diesel powered vehicles and equipment account for more than two-thirds of all particulate matter (PM) emissions from all US transportation sources. Ultrafine particulates, which are small enough to penetrate the cells of the lungs, make up 80- 95% of diesel soot population. [1] The social determinants of health associated with this concern is represented in the disproportionately higher reported rates of asthma in Cook County in comparison to other counties in the US. Through the implementation of sensory package technology, we can accurately track and respond in real time to the existential threats of particulate matter that compromise both indoor and outdoor air quality.

[1] Diesel Engines & Public Health | Union of Concerned Scientists (ucsusa.org)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