



Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4) “Road Map” to Success

I. GOALS

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and by 100% by 2050.
2. Drive strategies that realize the transition to an equitable clean energy economy.
3. Reduce the financial, health and mental burden of climate change on everyone, and particularly on those with fewer resources; and create jobs and new small businesses in the renewable economy for BIPOC and low-income residents.
4. Achieve additional sustainability outcomes related to waste reduction, potable water consumption and water safety, healthy local food, green infrastructure, green businesses and more.
5. Connect communities with fewer resources to federal, state and local grant funding, programs and other resources and to external technical experts and organizations that can support C4 goal achievement.
6. Provide forums for learning and sharing that bring together BIPOC, low-income and non-minority communities to collaborate on achieving joint climate, equity and sustainability goals.
7. Drive metrics, transparency and reporting in relation to progress against climate, equity and sustainability success indicators.

II. POLICY

- a) Green Landscape Policy Implementation – C4 supports policy adoption to Eliminate Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers and Other Gas-Powered Equipment combined with funding through the BRITE program and other resources to support new technology purchases that do not pollute.
- b) Stretch Codes – Building from the state’s new legislation permitting local governments to adopt energy efficiency codes that exceed state and federal codes, C4 works with local governments to adopt more stringent energy efficiency “stretch codes”.

- c) Sustainability Policy and Plan Development – C4 supports community schools, municipalities and community institutions in developing sustainability policies and work plans that incorporate internationally-recognized, science-based goal targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions as well as additional equity and sustainability goals.
- d) Single-Use Plastics – C4 supports ordinances among its communities that require businesses to only provide single-use plastics if requested by the customer.
- e) Other Policies TBD

III. STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

- a) Building and enhancing Sustainability Working Groups in C4 communities (including the formation of Sustainability Commissions) and developing sustainability initiative priorities with C4 communities including projects they determine to be of most importance.
- b) Connecting C4 BIPOC/LMI residents to already-approved Illinois Solar for All projects that are mandated to provide reduced-rate electricity to LMI residents and offer job training and placement related to the installations.
- c) Creating new Illinois Solar for All projects in C4 communities that provide reduced rate electricity to low-to-moderate income residents.
- d) Creating with solar developers new community solar projects that offer institutions the opportunity to purchase solar energy through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) from new projects being built in Illinois.
- e) Advising C4 institutions and businesses on solar financing and ownership models and new incentives and rebates linked to the federal Inflation Reduction Act for the purpose of maximizing on-site solar development on buildings and land within C4 communities.
- f) Providing workforce development job training and placement for low-to-moderate income residents in C4 communities related to energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy projects.
- g) Connecting C4 communities and institutions to Cook County programs/resources (EV Charging Stations; Grow Solar; CPACE; Brownfields Remediation; Climate Resiliency Planning, etc.) and other non-profit and utility-based programs support efficiency upgrades, renewable energy and EV infrastructure.
- h) Designing municipal food scrap collection/composting programs for residents and implementing SGA's Zero Waste Schools program that includes food scrap collection for composting with C4 school districts.
- i) Supporting EV Infrastructure Planning through linkages to technical firms and the acquisition of federal funding sources.
- j) Supporting greenhouse gas community-wide inventory development, tracking of progress against ghg reduction goals and supporting reporting and transparency.
- k) Designing project collaborations and submitting grant proposals to federal, state and local grant programs to bring large-scale resources to C4 communities.

IV. MEETING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROCESS

- a) Monthly Cross-Community meetings for all C4 community representatives.
- b) Periodic Sector Group peer meetings among similar institutions (park districts; K-12 schools; libraries; hospitals; etc.)
- c) Periodic Mayors and Managers lunches.
- d) Individual community Sustainability Working Groups.
- e) Enrolling additional communities – particularly those serving BIPOC/LMI residents – to participate in C4.