

JERSEY CITY CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Jersey City Planning Board 7.20.21



WHY CREATE A CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN?

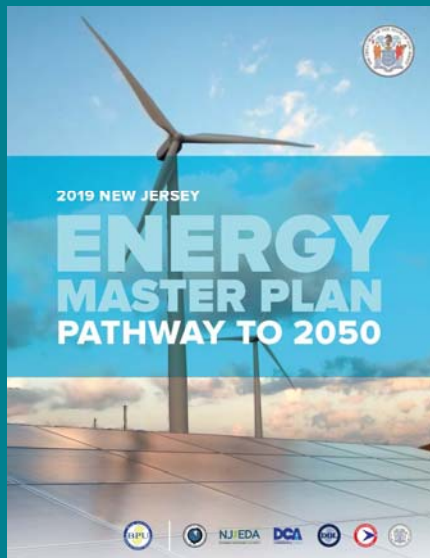


- Detailed and strategic framework for meeting City Climate and related sustainability goals
- Involves community in identifying and implementing strategies
- Gets everyone on the same page – incl. other departments and agencies
- Ensures strategies will live on in future administrations



Jersey City's CEAP aligns with NJ State efforts:

- *NJ Energy Master Plan (2019)*
- *NJ's Global Warming Response Act 80x50 Report (2020)*



Related City Plans:

- *Jersey City Master Plan Update* (in process)
- *Hudson County Hazard Mitigation Plan* (2020)
- *Jersey City Parking Plan* (2020)
- *Let's Ride JC Bicycle Master Plan* (2019)
- *Vision Zero Action Plan* (2019)
- *Pedestrian Enhancements Plan* (2018)
- *Resiliency Master Plan, Adaptation Master Plan, and Urban Environmental Green Infrastructure Plan* (2017)

How'd we get here?



2015 – Resolution to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050

2017 – Mayor Fulop joins Climate Mayors after U.S. drops out of Paris Climate Agreement

2018 – Commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

2019 – first-ever community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory

City of Jersey City

2016 Inventory of Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

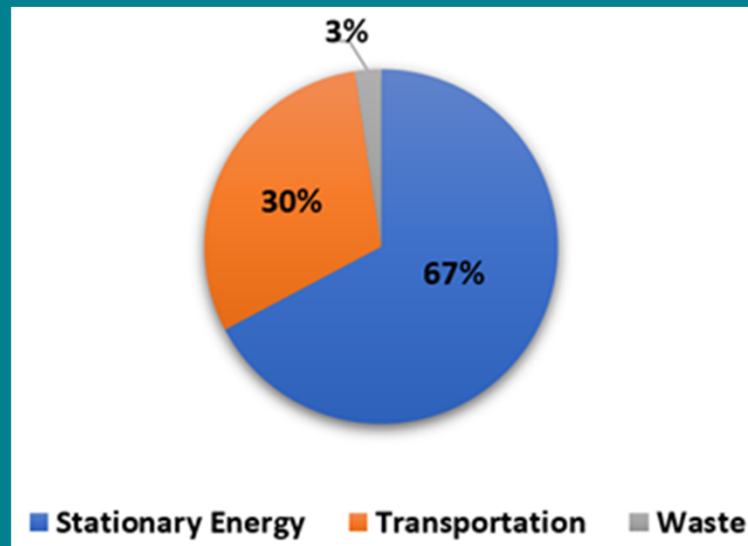


Produced by the Jersey City Office of Sustainability
August 2019

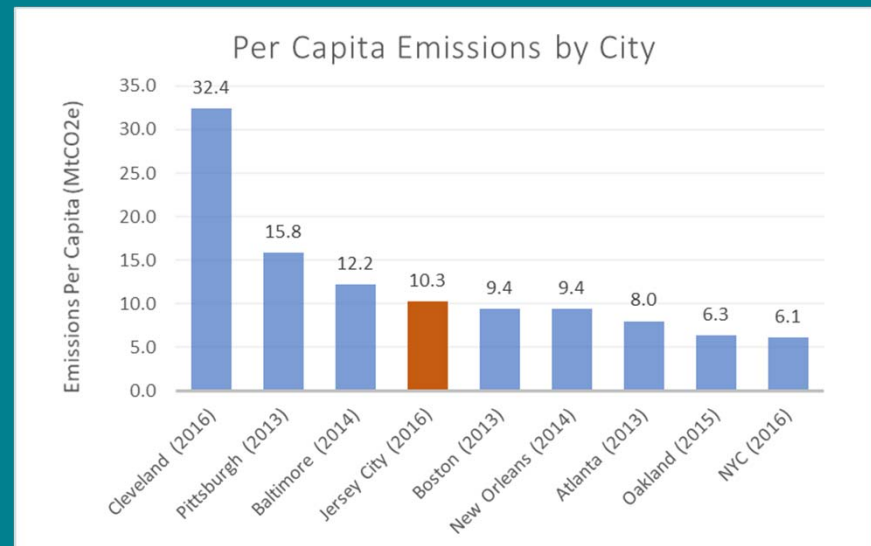
With the assistance of Montclair State University's PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA

Jersey City's total community-wide GHG emissions = 2,897,275 Mt CO₂e

(Metric tons of CO₂ equivalent)

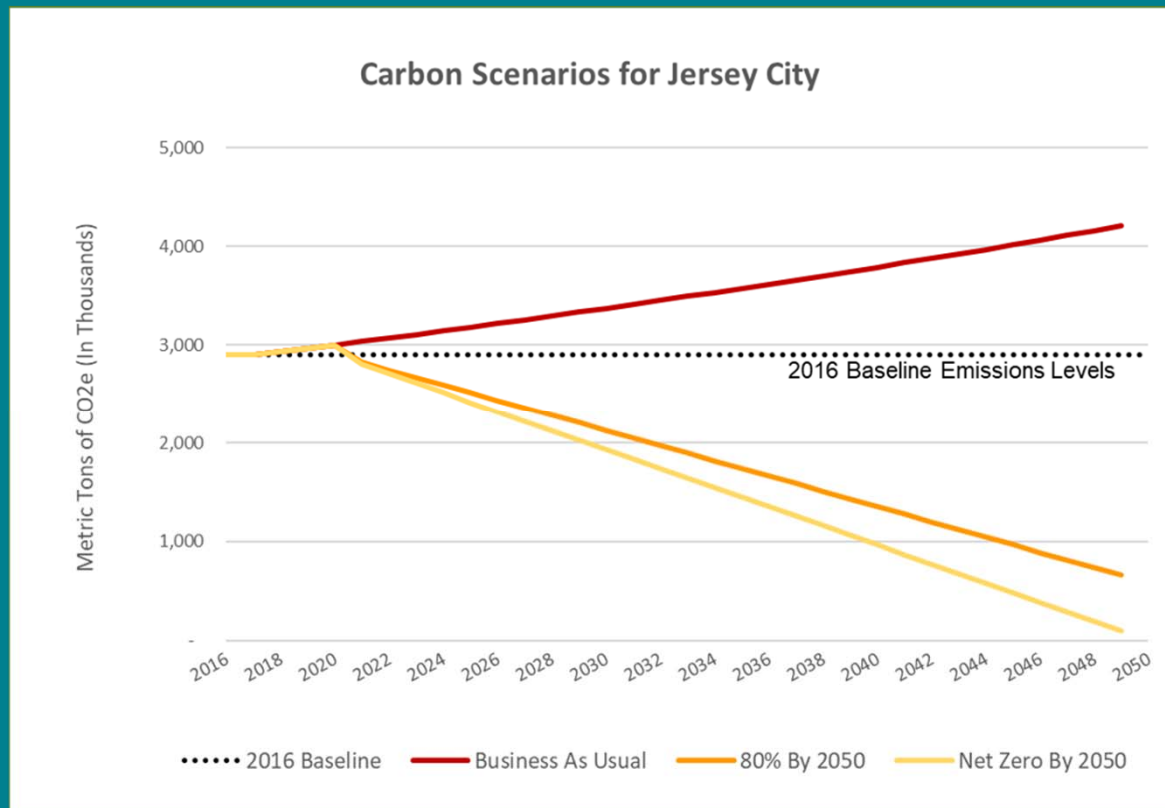


Jersey City Total 2016 GHG Emissions by Sector



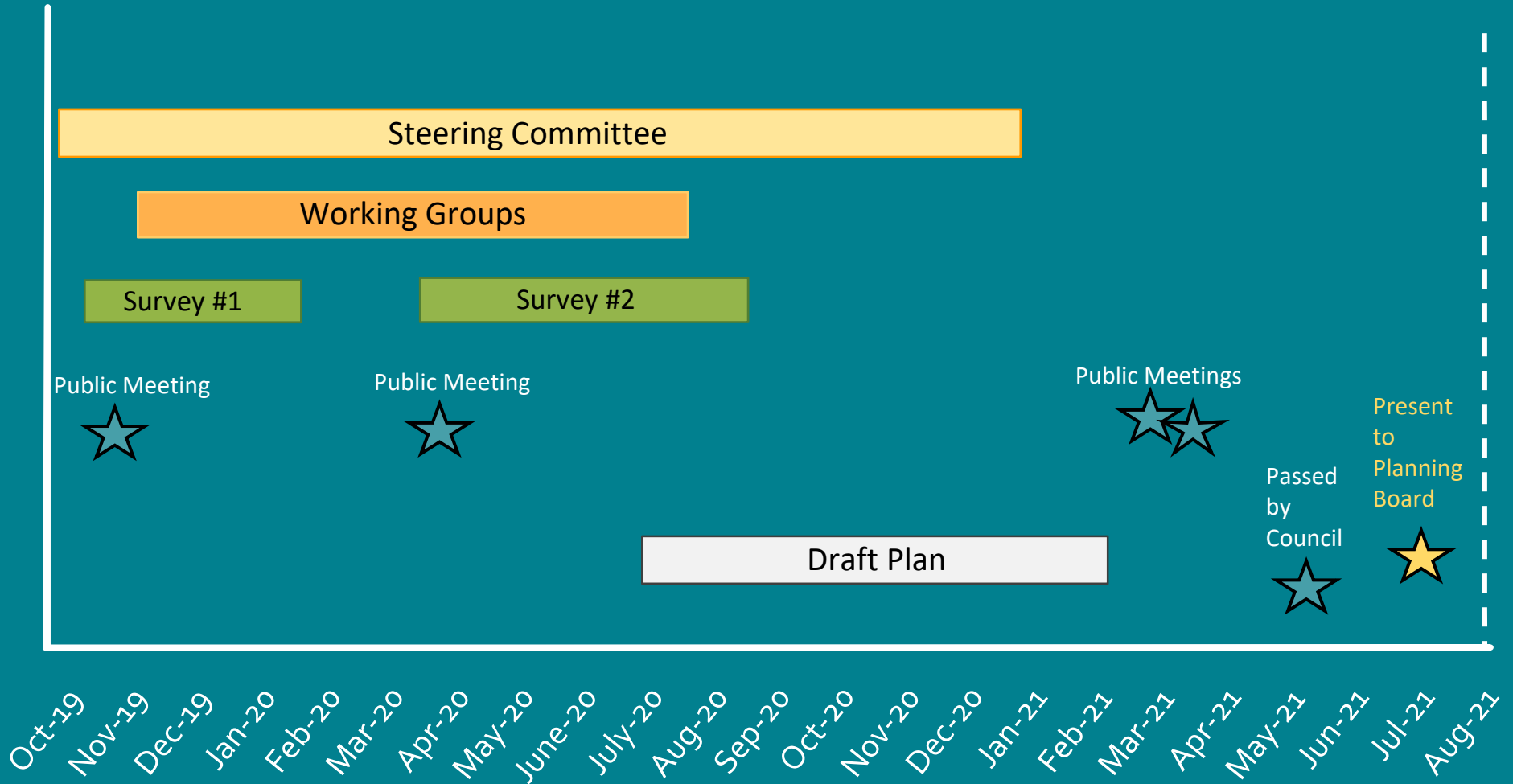
GHG Emissions Per Capita Comparison

Where do we want to be?



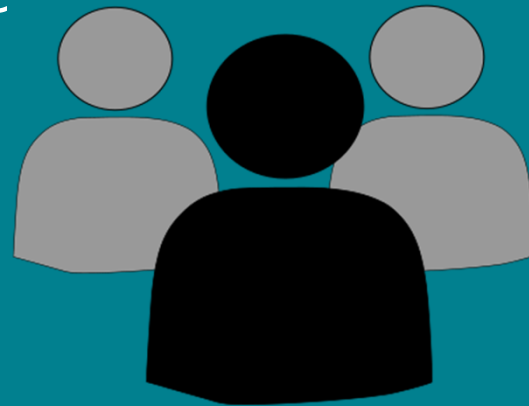
80% x 2050 Reductions in GHG emissions

CEAP Timeline



Steering Committee

- Made up of 15+ representatives from local, regional, and state agencies
- General steering of process
- Assistance with outreach
- Review of documents



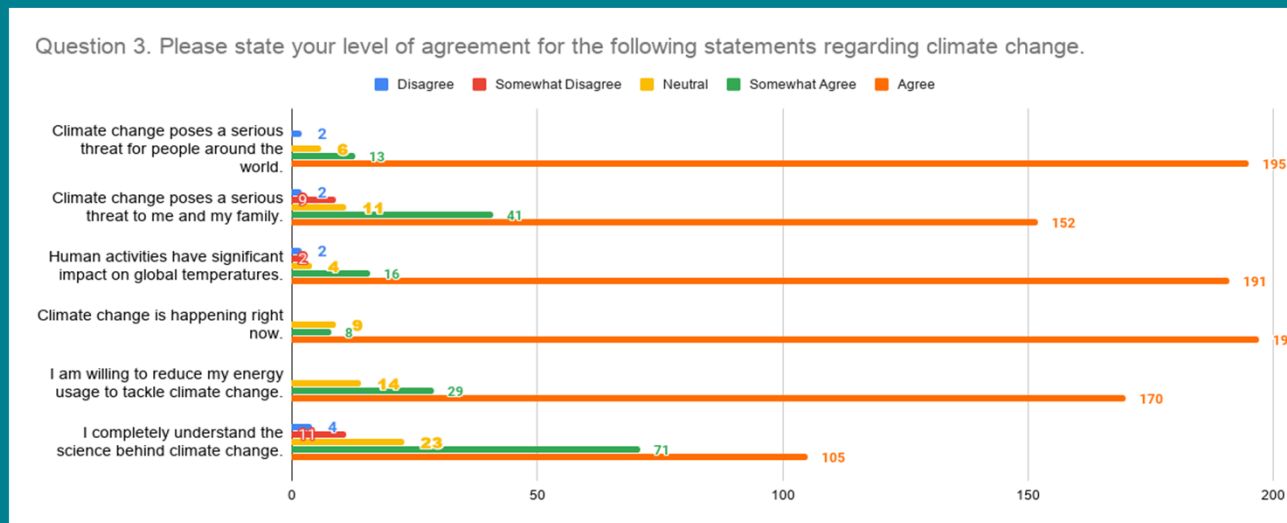
Four Working Groups



- 15-member working groups for each major focus area:
 1. Energy
 2. Transportation & Land Use
 3. Waste
 4. Equity & Outreach
- Reviewed national examples and New Jersey Energy Master Plan
- Established draft goals for each GHG emissions sector
- Recommended specific action items and priorities

Public Engagement

- 2 public surveys
- 4+ public meetings
- “Meeting in a Box”
- Regularly updated website
- Open Comment on Draft Plan



[HTTPS://JCMMAKEITGREEN.ORG/CLIMATE-ACTION](https://jcmakeitgreen.org/climate-action)



HOME ABOUT LEARN MORE ACTION RESOURCES Q

JERSEY CITY CLIMATE ACTION

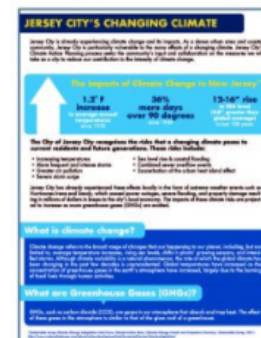
CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SAFETY, AND QUALITY OF LIFE. THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY RECOGNIZES THAT EXTENSIVE EFFORTS MUST BE MADE IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BOTH LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.

Climate Change and Jersey City

Jersey City is already experiencing climate change and its impacts. As a dense urban area and coastal community, Jersey City is particularly vulnerable to the many effects of a changing climate. Jersey City has already experienced these effects locally in the form of extreme weather events such as Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, which caused power outages, severe flooding, and property damage resulting in millions of dollars in losses to the city's local economy. The impacts of these climate risks are projected to increase as more greenhouse gases (GHGs) are emitted. Read more about Jersey City's changing climate [HERE](#).

The **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection** has compiled excellent data on the current and projected impact of climate change within the State. Please see their website at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange>.

Another excellent resource for understanding climate change impacts in coastal municipalities like Jersey City is the recent report from Rutgers: *New Jersey's Rising Seas and Changing Coastal Storms: Report of the 2019 Science and Technical Advisory Panel*. Read it [HERE](#).



TAKING ACTION

Jersey City is taking action both to mitigate and to adapt to Climate Change. The City has committed to the Paris Climate Agreement and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. A City-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory was completed in 2019, and the City recently completed its first plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout the city. This **Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)** is a detailed and strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related climatic effects. Read below for more information on all of these actions.

[HTTPS://JCCLIMATEACTION.KONVEIO.COM/](https://jcclimateaction.konveio.com/)



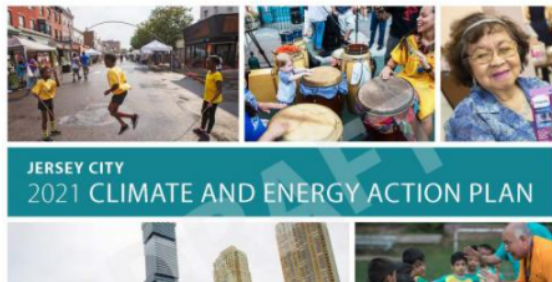
Draft Jersey City Climate and Energy Action Plan

Select Language ▼

Welcome to the virtual open house for the Draft Jersey City Climate and Energy Action Plan!

After a full year of planning and meeting, the [Jersey City Office of Sustainability](#) is excited to present the draft Climate and Energy Action Plan. The final plan will be Jersey City's first strategic plan for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the energy, transportation and land use, and waste sectors. Please take some time to explore the links below to read and learn about the plan and provide your feedback.

How to Provide Your Input



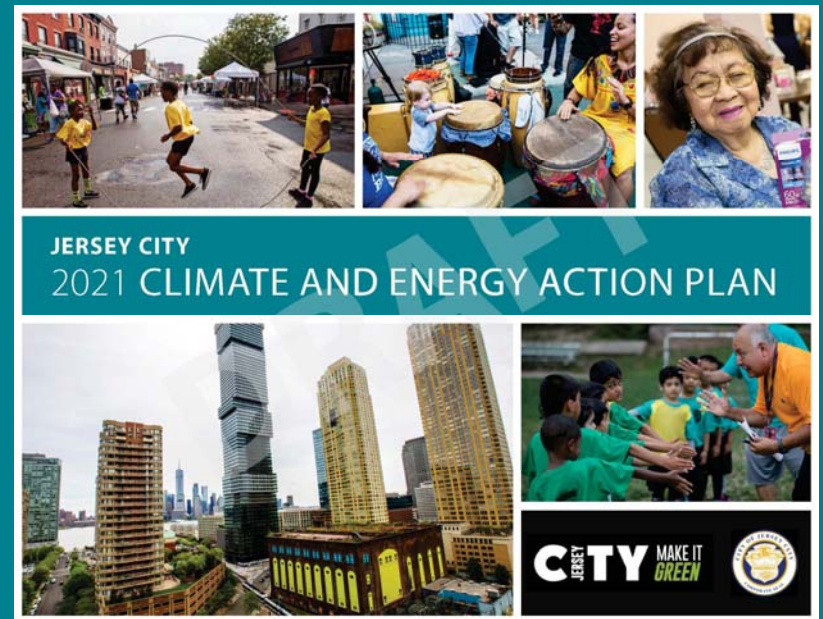
1. Check out the Climate Action pages and the other relevant resources below.
2. Click anywhere in the document to share your feedback.
3. Select a bubble to view and/or respond to other comments in the document.
4. If you want to download a PDF of the draft CEAP, visit the Plan page.

JERSEY CITY'S DRAFT CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN



Goals of the CEAP:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions **80 percent** below a 2016 baseline by the year 2050
- Adapt to climate change and build community resilience
- Ensure solutions are implemented equitably



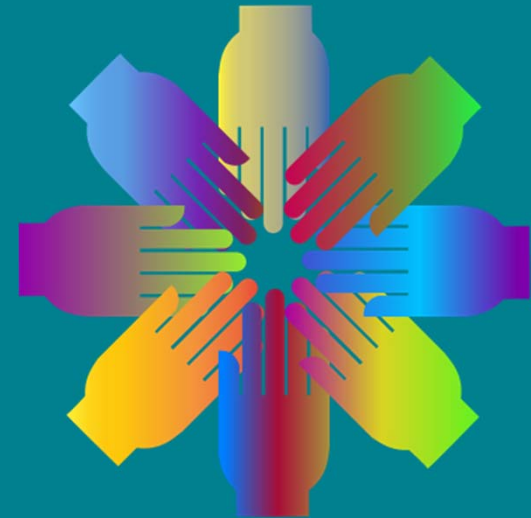
CLIMATE EQUITY OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve energy security and affordable access to clean energy while minimizing displacement

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase access to active transportation, such as walking and bicycling, and public transit options that are affordable, low or zero-emission

OBJECTIVE 3: Expand and improve access to parks and public green spaces

OBJECTIVE 4: Reduce the risks and impacts of air pollution, flooding, and extreme heat



57 Action Items across the Energy, Waste, and Transportation & Land Use sectors to meet GHG reductions through the following strategies:

- Reduce energy usage and carbon emissions in new and existing buildings
- Improve access to clean and/or renewable energy sources
- Decrease total per-capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through urban infrastructure and development choices
- Adopt a holistic waste-management strategy with a goal of reducing total waste produced
- Demonstrate leadership in energy efficiency and green building through facilities, equipment, and operations of Jersey City public agencies

ENERGY SECTOR

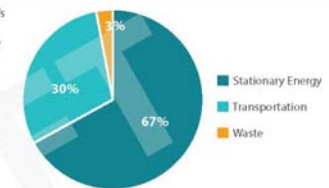
- 20 Actions



ENERGY ACTIONS

Energy use in buildings is responsible for 67% of Jersey City community GHG emissions. Jersey City's approach to addressing energy related emissions starts with making new and existing buildings more energy efficient. Building efficiency improves the health of building residents, reduces energy cost burden for low income residents and creates local jobs.

Buildings offer one of the best opportunities to almost completely eliminate GHG emissions, by using clean electricity for all building energy needs. This starts with developing renewable energy sources—community solar provides the opportunity to develop significant renewable generation near to Jersey City in the near term, and municipal energy aggregation and continuing to work with the state offer longer term opportunities to clean the grid. While electricity becomes cleaner buildings can begin to transition heating to high efficiency electric heat pumps. Buildings currently using fuel oil or propane for heating are the best place to start this transition, offering significant cost savings and reducing local air pollution.



ENERGY ACTIONS

Co-benefits	Public health	Economic sustainability	Equity	Resilience
Emissions reduction	Low	Medium	High	Very high

Number	Description	Timeframe	Priority	Emissions Reduction	Co-Benefits
E-1	Create a one-year task force that will make recommendations on specific energy goals and requirements for commercial, industrial and multifamily buildings.	1-3 years	High	Facilitative	
Objective 1 Reduce energy use and carbon emissions in existing buildings					
E-2	Require energy benchmarking for all buildings over 25,000 ft ² in 2023, and voluntary benchmarking in 2021.	1-3 years	High		

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ENERGY SECTOR

High Priority Actions

1. Building benchmarking
2. Solar, EV and demand response readiness for new buildings
3. Cool roofing requirement
4. Community solar
5. Utilize ESIP for municipal energy efficiency improvements
6. Clean and renewable energy for municipal facilities
7. Solar assessment of municipal property
8. Energy Task Force

TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE SECTOR

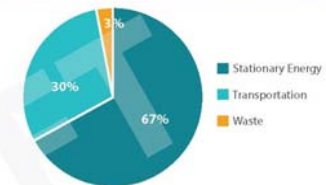
- 22 Actions



TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE ACTIONS



Transportation accounts for 30% of Jersey City community emissions. A major focus of Jersey City's approach to reducing transportation emissions is to improve opportunities for bicycling, walking and use of transit. While transit use is already relatively high in Jersey City, some parts of the city have limited access to transit. In addition, adding infrastructure for safer and more enjoyable bicycling and walking is a priority. Planning and zoning also presents an opportunity to strengthen mixed use walkable communities, while also increasing tree canopy and green space to increase resilience to heat and flooding events. In addition to the above strategies, Jersey City will promote electrification of municipal, transit, and private vehicles.



Co-benefits		Public health	Economic sustainability	Equity	Resilience
Emissions reduction		Low	Medium	High	Very high
Number	Description	Timeframe	Priority	Emissions Reduction	Co-Benefits
Objective 1	Decrease total per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through urban infrastructure and development choices.				
Objective 1a	Expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, connectivity, convenience, and safety in order to significantly increase the % of trips taken by walking or biking.				
T&LU-1	Implement actions identified in the Let's Ride JC Bicycle Master Plan	5-10 years	High	Medium	Public health, Economic sustainability, Equity
T&LU-2	Implement Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Enhancement Plan	3-5 years	High	Medium	Public health, Economic sustainability, Equity
T&LU-3	Implement a Temporary Street Closure program that restricts vehicular access on certain streets for neighborhood street festivals, periodic open street events on major boulevards, play streets, and/or markets.	1-3 years	Medium	Low	Public health, Economic sustainability, Equity

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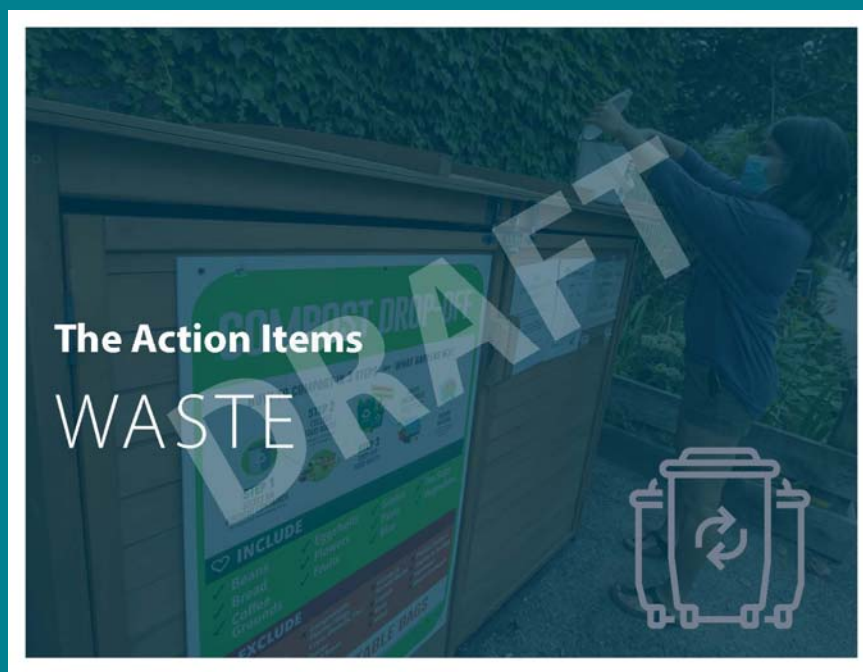
TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE SECTOR

High Priority Actions

1. Bicycle connectivity
2. Implement Vision Zero Action Plan and Pedestrian Enhancement Plan
3. Transit-oriented development
4. Parking changes
5. Improvements to existing transit
6. Electric buses
7. Electric municipal fleet
8. Increase number of street trees

WASTE SECTOR

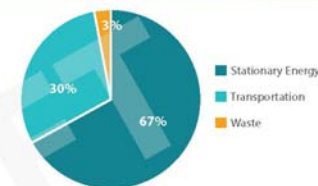
- 15 Actions



The Action Items
WASTE

WASTE ACTIONS

While waste only accounts for 3% of emissions from the 2016 inventory, efforts to reduce waste are important for multiple environmental, health and economic benefits. In addition, recycling, reuse and waste prevention offer opportunities to reduce upstream emissions from the production of goods and food, having an impact larger than the direct waste emissions would imply. Jersey City has the opportunity to start building a circular economy, creating jobs in industries such as composting, repair and reuse to close the loop.



Co-benefits		Public health	Economic sustainability	Equity	Resilience
Emissions reduction		Low	Medium	High	Very high
Number	Description	Timeframe	Priority	Emissions Reduction	Co-Benefits
Objective 1 Adopt a holistic waste management strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste produced by municipal operations and the community.					
W-1	Conduct a comprehensive waste audit to understand current waste practices.	1-3 years	High	Facilitative	
W-2	Within 2 years of plan adoption, develop a "Zero Waste" Plan that establishes citywide aggressive waste reduction targets and strategies for achieving them.	1-3 years	High	Facilitative	Public health, Economic sustainability
W-3	Expand the NJ Food Waste Mandate to encompass smaller institutions and businesses by 2025. Work with the State to ensure that food waste recycling facilities are located within 25 miles of Jersey City.	1-3 years	Medium	Low	Economic sustainability

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WASTE SECTOR

High Priority Actions

1. Develop city-wide Zero Waste Plan
2. Facilitate reuse
3. Increase recycling education
4. Composting of Business food waste
5. Expand residential composting

NEXT STEPS



- Planning Board Approval
- Inclusion as element within Master Plan Update
- Coordination with State
- 1-year Energy Task Force to draft legislation for policy action items
- Create Equity Assessment Tool in coordination with Diversity & Inclusion Board
- Progress reports every two years

Jersey City Office of Sustainability

Kate Lawrence, Director

klawrence@jcnj.org

201-547-4632

Website: www.jcmakeitgreen.org