

Cleveland Heights Climate Forward:

An Action & Resilience Plan Summary



30%
Greenhouse gas reduction
by 2030

Carbon Neutral
by 2050

Cleveland Heights has launched a transformative journey to combat climate change and to build an equitable, resilient future. The Climate Forward Plan charts a path toward the community-wide goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. The City government cannot achieve this vision alone however; this plan is a call to action for residents, businesses, organizations, and others who are passionate about these goals and are eager to lead or join local collective climate action.

This plan is not just a product of city leadership; it's a reflection of the community's vision. We conducted comprehensive and impactful community engagement - and we were met with an outpouring of community support and enthusiastic participation, with residents sharing their innovative ideas and solutions to advance climate action. The community's ideas, suggestions and input directly informed the Plan's vision, strategies, and actions.

440+
Community participants



11
Community events

230+
Survey responses



Our community is already feeling the impacts of climate change, from the severe storms of summer 2024 to the hazardous air quality from the Canadian wildfires. In the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, we assessed how our critical facilities, infrastructure, and community are vulnerable to climate change. We identified several climate hazards, natural events that harm people or the environment, that are projected to increase in severity and probability over time. Severe weather events, including thunderstorms, extreme precipitation, and tornadoes and high wind, are the biggest threats as climate change accelerates.

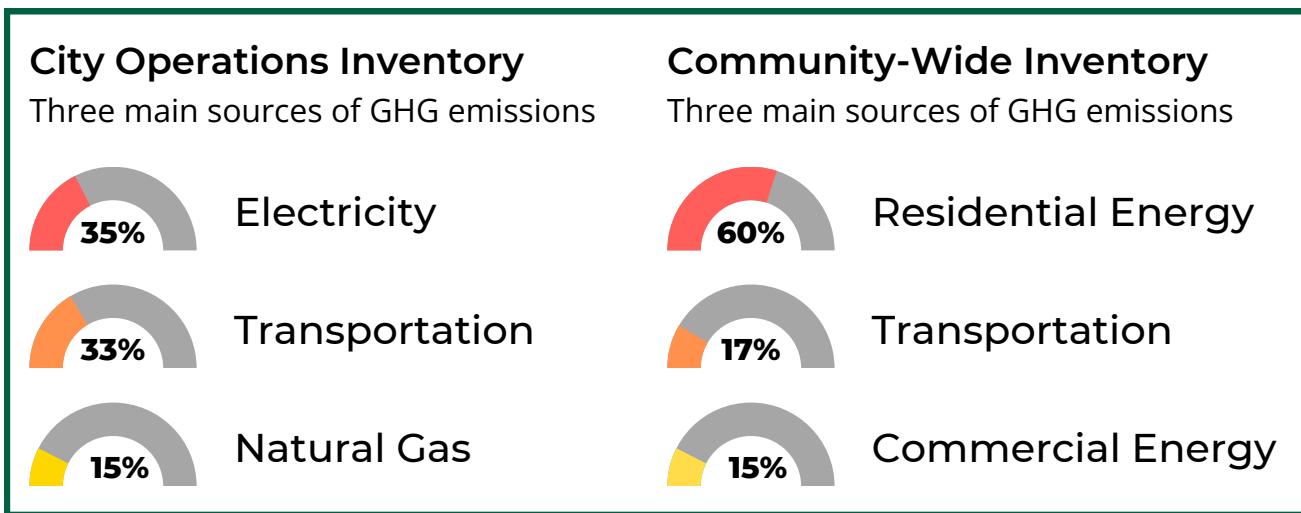


Residents also shared their lived-experiences, identifying groups in Cleveland Heights that face disproportionate climate impacts and unique barriers to taking climate action.

Groups Disproportionately Impacted by Climate Change



We completed two greenhouse gas inventories to understand the source of GHG emissions from city and community activities. Buildings and transportation are the two largest sources of emissions in Cleveland Heights. Percentages of GHG emissions from 2022 are below.



With 28 strategies and 155 actions across 7 sectors, this plan is a living roadmap to a just, resilient, and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights. Beyond carbon neutrality, it prioritizes climate equity, resilience, and public health, ensuring neighborhoods are prepared and vulnerable populations protected. Together, Cleveland Heights is charting a path forward to protect the environment, improve public health, and ensure a thriving, equitable future for all residents.



Sectors and Strategies: At-A-Glance

Buildings and Energy

1.1	Increase community access and use of renewable energy, including solar, wind, and geothermal
1.2	Improve energy efficiency and expand clean energy use for municipal buildings
1.3	Advance equitable energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial buildings
1.4	Increase the resilience of residential, commercial, and municipal buildings
1.5	Increase the resilience of local electricity infrastructure

Transportation

2.1	Reduce transportation emissions from City operations
2.2	Encourage the community's transition to electric vehicles
2.3	Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety
2.4	Expand accessibility and use of public transit and shared mobility services
2.5	Improve transportation infrastructure's resilience to climate change

Materials and Waste

3.1	Expand local composting to reduce organics and food waste in landfills
3.2	Improve recycling waste diversion and reduce local plastic waste pollution
3.3	Prioritize the procurement of sustainable or recycled materials for City government operations and construction projects

Water and Wastewater

4.1	Reduce overland flooding and water pollution by implementing green infrastructure and other stormwater management methods
4.2	Encourage the adoption of water efficient appliances and best practices
4.3	Protect the regional watershed
4.4	Improve the resilience of water infrastructure

Air Quality and Public Health

5.1	Expand local air quality monitoring
5.2	Improve public engagement around air quality
5.3	Reduce local sources of air pollution
5.4	Protect public health during extreme weather events and other climate hazards

Food Systems

6.1	Improve community food security and access to fresh foods
6.2	Expand community gardening and urban agriculture

Natural Areas and Land Use

7.1	Revitalize brownfields, vacant lots, and vacant buildings
7.2	Nurture a healthy tree canopy
7.3	Identify opportunities to expand green spaces in all neighborhoods
7.4	Support native species, biodiversity, and healthy habitats in city parklands
7.5	Encourage denser, mixed-use development to create walkable neighborhoods



To view the complete
Climate Forward Plan, please visit:
www.ClevelandHeights.gov/CARP



Questions? Email us at:
carp@clevelandheights.gov

