

# 2025 COLUMBUS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - DRAFT

The City of Columbus is proud to renew its commitment to achieving our community's climate goals. To keep Columbus on track to reach a 45% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, we are updating the Columbus Climate Action Plan. The update to the Plan includes adjusting each of our community's climate actions to ensure we're achieving our 2030 climate goals, and aligning the plan with the progress we have made towards our climate goals.



45%

GHG REDUCTION  
BY 2030

100%

GHG REDUCTION  
BY 2050

### BOLD STEPS FORWARD

The City of Columbus is taking bold steps forward. We're not just updating our climate actions - we're adapting our approach to create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for all that work, play, and live in the City. **The updated climate actions represent a careful analysis of what is necessary and what is achievable to reach our 2030 climate goals.** These ambitious yet attainable targets build upon our Climate Action Plan foundation, identifying high-impact interventions where we can accelerate progress while delivering meaningful co-benefits to Columbus neighborhoods.



**We want to hear from you!**

Click on the icon to the left or visit to complete a brief survey about climate action.



**SUSTAINABLE  
COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

## PROGRESS TO DATE

Since 2021, the City has used our community's climate actions to guide the creation of policies and programs to deliver resources to our communities. Columbus is making progress towards our community's climate goals. The Climate Action Plan Update will reflect successes seen across all sections of the Plan, including these highlights and the Climate Actions that spurred them:



97 graduates from the **Empowered! Program**, 60% employed in green jobs. Since 2021, the **Columbus Region Green Fund** has invested \$9 million in local clean energy projects.



In 2024, the City began modernizing the **zoning code** for the first time in 70 years, prioritizing development density and sustainable transit options. The **Columbus Urban Forestry Master Plan** was adopted in 2021 to preserve the nearly 5 million trees growing in our City.



Columbus residents voted to approve the City's **100% clean energy aggregation program**, saving residents over \$47.8 million on their utility bills since 2021. Columbus is the only City in Ohio with a **benchmarking program**, reducing energy usage in large buildings by 7% on average.



**LinkUS** will invest in the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) bus system, to expand service by 45%. Over 500 miles of new bikeways are planned through the new **BikePlus** plan adopted in 2024.



9 **food waste drop off sites** across the City allow residents to easily compost their table scraps and avert them from the landfill. The City now collects **household recycling** weekly!

## NEW DRAFT 2030 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS



## SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS



CLIMATE ACTION	ORIGINAL 2030 Goal	NEW DRAFT 2030 Goal
5.1 Increase Development Density	<b>40%</b> <i>of new housing is within ¼ mile of employment centers</i>	<b>50%</b> <i>of new housing is within ¼ mile of employment centers</i>
<b>NEW GOAL</b> 6.2 Reduce Urban Heat with Tree Canopy Cover	<i>GHG benefits of tree canopy not included in Plan previously</i>	<b>22%</b> <i>is Columbus's current tree canopy, which will be maintained and GHG benefits reflected in the Plan</i>



## BUILDINGS



CLIMATE ACTION	ORIGINAL 2030 Goal	NEW DRAFT 2030 Goal
7.1 Increase Residential Onsite Solar	<b>50</b> <i>megawatts</i>	<b>60</b> <i>megawatts</i>
7.1 Increase Municipal Onsite Solar	<b>200</b> <i>megawatts</i>	<b>240</b> <i>megawatts</i>
7.2 Increase Commercial Onsite Solar	<b>600</b> <i>megawatts</i>	<b>750</b> <i>megawatts</i>
7.3 Commercial Clean Energy Procurement	<b>25%</b> <i>clean energy</i>	<b>40%</b> <i>clean energy</i>
8.1 Increase Residential Energy Efficiency	<b>20%</b> <i>less energy use</i>	<b>24%</b> <i>less energy use</i>
8.1 Increase Commercial Energy Efficiency	<b>15%</b> <i>less energy use</i>	<b>18%</b> <i>less energy use</i>
8.1 Increase Municipal Energy Efficiency	<b>25%</b> <i>less energy use</i>	<b>30%</b> <i>less energy use</i>
8.2 Increase Residential Water Efficiency	<b>5%</b> <i>less water use</i>	<b>10%</b> <i>less water use</i>

## NEW DRAFT 2030 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

CLIMATE ACTION	ORIGINAL 2030 Goal	NEW DRAFT 2030 Goal
8.2 Increase Commercial Water Efficiency	<b>5%</b> <i>less water use</i>	<b>10%</b> <i>less water use</i>
8.2 Increase Municipal Water Efficiency	<b>10%</b> <i>less water use</i>	<b>25%</b> <i>less water use</i>



## TRANSPORTATION



CLIMATE ACTION	ORIGINAL 2030 Goal	NEW DRAFT 2030 Goal
10.1 Increase Private Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Adoption	<b>15%</b> <i>ZEVs registered</i>	<b>20%</b> <i>ZEVs registered</i>
10.2 Implement Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Fleet	<b>50%</b> <i>ZEVs in rideshare + private fleets</i>	<b>60%</b> <i>ZEVs in rideshare + private fleets</i>
11.2 Reduce Single Occupancy Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	<b>15%</b> <i>less VMT</i>	<b>25%</b> <i>less VMT</i>
11.3 Increase Transit Use	<b>20%</b> <i>increase in passenger miles traveled</i>	<b>25%</b> <i>increase in passenger miles traveled</i>



## WASTE



CLIMATE ACTION	ORIGINAL 2030 Goal	NEW DRAFT 2030 Goal
12.1 Reduce Landfilled Organic Waste	<b>115,098</b> <i>tons</i>	<b>138,118</b> <i>tons</i>
12.2 Reduce Recyclable Waste Sent to Landfill	<b>61,745</b> <i>tons</i>	<b>77,181</b> <i>tons</i>



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Click on the logo above to learn more about the Columbus Climate Action Plan and Sustainable Columbus!