

REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PRIORITIES

Cleveland-Elyria Metropolitan Statistical Area Priority Climate Action Plan



Clean Electricity

Sectors:   

- Support current local municipal electric utilities development of clean energy
- Virtual power plant; community choice aggregation; grid responsive demand management; microgrid development; and electricity storage
- Decarbonize the grid
- Build regional consortium of researchers and manufacturers to pursue federal grants like the recent hydrogen hubs
- Partner with school districts to increase rooftop solar availability- coordinated procurement (bulk)
- Develop community and large scale solar projects on public buildings/property
- Solarize campaign where homeowners across community or region receive group solar purchase price from prescreened contractors
- Regional clean cities coalition that advocates for streamlining renewable projects, permitting, and stabilizing capacity markets



Building Efficiency and Electrification

Sectors:   

- Financial incentives and novel financing approaches to promote more adoption of renewables and energy efficiency/conservation
- Incentivize energy conservation measures in public buildings and the use of ENVISION rating system to verify new or renovated public infrastructure
- Benchmarking policy that requires larger buildings to report energy use (possible energy tune-up requirements for low performing buildings).
- Increase home weatherization programs
- Electrify the heating sector through heat pumps, geo-thermal, networked geo-thermal and other means to reduce natural gas devices and emissions (renewable natural gas only when necessary); identify opportunities and develop pilots for district/ neighborhood scale geothermal heat networks
- Advocate for the state to update building code
- Install building envelope and electrification upgrade package (include electrical system upgrades) for low and moderate income residents (stack incentives for low/no cost).
- Workforce development/contractor training for energy efficiency and building electrification opportunities; educational clearinghouse/website for homeowners to easily identify efficiency incentives and contractors



Green Steel Production

Sectors: 

- Expand participation in the US Department of Energy's better plants program (which identifies opportunities for industrial energy efficiency)
- Use of green hydrogen, electric arc furnaces, or new technologies using clean electricity
- Implement technologies to reduce emissions in the production process



Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction

Sectors: 

- Incentivize smart land use patterns that create transit oriented developments (TODs) around transit hubs, with integration between transit providers and first/last mile modes (bikeshare, scooters, electric car share)
- Include multimodal transportation infrastructure and Complete Streets
- Encourage smart land use to minimize commute distances (saving time, money and emissions)



Light Duty Vehicle Electrification

Sectors:    

- Electrify region's municipal and local government fleets
- Educate residents and dealers about the benefits of electric vehicles and available Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives
- Create robust, reliable public electric vehicle charging network with an emphasis on areas with a high volume of multi-family housing



Heavy Duty Vehicle Electrification

Sectors:    

- Electrify region's school buses, public transit vehicles and other heavy-duty vehicles & equipment



Refrigerants Capture

Sectors: 

- Build a system and conduct education to ensure refrigerants are captured at the end of equipment life
- Work with heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors and provide consumer collection/dropoff for appliances



Solid Waste Diversion

Sectors:    

- Divert organic waste (food waste and paper) from the landfill through education, establishment of community drop-off locations for food waste composting, commercial pick-up locations and curbside organics collection



Nature-Based Solutions

Sectors:  

- Protect and restore healthy, stable streams and water systems, including Lake Erie and river shorelines
- Actively address existing and new forest pests (e.g. Spotted Lanternfly) and pathogens (e.g. Beech Leaf Disease) aggressively and at an early stage to eradicate or at least minimize damage to forests and trees.
- Expand tree canopy, coordinate tree planting programs and disseminate knowledge (e.g. on suitable species) throughout the region
- Manage public and private landscapes to provide communities with accessible recreation and support habitat, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, including adoption of managed landscape ordinances
- Remove unutilized pavement and other impervious surfaces, decompact soil and restore natural surfaces to support stormwater absorption
- Support long-term protection and acquisition of large blocks of undeveloped land or parcels that strategically connect/link green spaces in the region
- Provide education, resources, and incentives to help communities, businesses, and homeowners build detention basins, rain gardens, permeable pavements, native landscaping, and other stormwater management tools.
- Expand green infrastructure grant programs throughout the region



Agriculture Actions

Sectors: 

- Manure management actions to capture methane for energy
- Conservation agriculture (uses cover crop, crop rotation, and minimal tilling to produce annual crops; protects soil, avoids emissions, and sequesters carbon)

