

**Town of Ithaca**  
**Green New Deal Action Plan**  
April 2, 2021

**Overview/Context**

In March 2020, the Town of Ithaca adopted a resolution in support of a Green New Deal (GND) which included the development of a GND Action Plan to provide details on how to achieve the Town of Ithaca goals for government operations and the broader community. The Action Plan should be thought of as a road map that will be updated and re-evaluated annually.

**Statement about our approach that:**

- incorporates policy, cost and staffing implications
- values community input and collaborative approaches
- adheres to equity principles outlined in the Town's GND 3/23/20 resolution
- supports exploration of grant opportunities, including federal and state, to help with implementation of GND initiatives
- integrates across all components of the Town's organization and work
- taps into knowledge, research and creativity
- coordinates to the fullest extent possible with City of Ithaca, Tompkins County and other municipalities
- utilizes a decision making process that factors in: Town's goals, meeting residents' needs, prosperity & vibrancy, and the environmental health of the community
- considers the costs of environmental externalities
- tracks and reports on progress towards achieving goals.

**Key Goals**

- Meet the electricity needs of Town government operations with 100% regionally sourced renewable electricity by 2025
- Reduce emissions, or create offsets, from the Town fleet of vehicles by 50% from the 2010 levels by 2025
  - Reduce emissions by at least 10%
  - Offset remaining emissions
- Achieve an equitable transition to carbon-neutrality town-wide by 2030
  - Reduce net emissions by at least 85% through efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy
  - Sequester carbon in the Town
  - Offset remaining GHG emissions through regional initiatives

**Goals for the next 2 years**

In order for the Town to achieve the goals stated above it will address a wide range of topics including Buildings and Facilities; Energy Sources; Fleet; Institutionalization and Implementation; Land Use; Transportation; Wastewater; Water; and Purchasing. Specific goals will be identified for 2-year periods and will be re-evaluated annually. The goals in the accompanying table are for 2021-2022.

**Statement about Roles and Responsibilities**

- Role of Town Board: to provide policy leadership for the Town's Green New Deal initiatives
- Role of Management: to provide management direction for policies and initiatives
- Town Board and Management Team: reevaluate priorities and initiatives annually
- Role of Departments: to implement policies and initiatives
- Role of Town Residents: to become aware and educated and work collaboratively with the Town toward a sustainable and vibrant community
- Partnerships/Collaborations: through a number of arrangements with other municipalities and community institutions and organizations we will fully explore synergies to achieve mutual sustainability goals

<b>GND Action Items: 2021-2022*</b>		
	Goal/Objective	Measurement
<b>Town led/major involvement</b>		
Adopt Ithaca Energy Code Supplement	Reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency in new construction	Adoption is a major milestone. Immediate 40% reduction in GHG for new buildings.
1) Explore Community Choice Aggregation 2) Explore renewable energy development for Town operations	Encourage and facilitate the production and use of renewable energy	1) Increase renewable energy use for community, Economic development, Equity and affordability, Reduce GHG emissions, 2) Meet GND goal of 100% renewable energy for Town operations.
Update Energy Audits for Town facilities	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in Town buildings and infrastructure	Will allow Town to set a specific, achievable target for reducing energy use and/or emissions.
LED Streetlight Upgrade	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in Town buildings and infrastructure	Reduced electricity use and emissions for Town operations
Continue work on reducing GHG emissions, energy & water use in existing buildings	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in Community buildings	Energy savings and GHG reduction for Community
Produce GHG inventories for government operations and community.	Incorporate sustainability and climate protection into long-term planning	Quantifies amounts and sources of GHG emissions, allowing tracking of progress in all sectors
Define equity goals and metrics consistent with GND resolution	To ensure that impacts of GND decisions are equitably distributed	Allows tracking of progress toward GND goals
<b>Town led, medium level of involvement</b>		
Plan for fleet EV upgrades in 2022 and beyond	Over-time to increase the number of EV in Town's fleet	Meet GND goal to reduce Fleet emissions by 50% by 2030
Explore grant opportunities to support GND initiatives including via NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program	Grants needed to enhance impact and efforts	Number of grants awarded, Amount of money awarded
<b>Partner led with minimum Town involvement</b>		
Green Purchasing Policy: Assess compliance level and/or revise policy	Reduce GHG emissions related to waste generation and purchasing.	Reduce energy use and emissions, Economic Development, Equity
Resident education	To increase energy literacy of residents	Size of newsletter list, Social media follows, Number of education sessions

\*refer to Town of Ithaca Green New Deal Action Plan, Near-Term Actions. 2021-22 for more details (note that there is a more robust spreadsheet that takes a longer timeframe and is a bit of a placeholder for potential initiatives)