

# Town of Ithaca

## Green New Deal Action Plan

April 10, 2024

### 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 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 2024-2025.

### 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

## Green New Deal Action Items 2024-2025

Priority	Goal	Action	Measures of Success or Deliverables	Town Departments
High	Incorporate sustainability and climate protection into long-term planning	Explore incorporating internal (TOI) cost of carbon into project selection and planning, e.g., through CIP and/or budget process. Continue to monitor and analyze progress through the Green Fleet Inventory.	Initial proposals developed and considered	Sustainability/ Planning/ Public Works/ Engineering
High	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in buildings and infrastructure. (New Construction)	Continue implementation of Energy Code Supplement: Amend code through the IECS Workgroup; Manage the IECS Implementation Assistance Program; Participate in NYSERDA Stretch to Zero (STZ).	2023 version aims for 80% GHG reduction. Completion of STZ project enables \$200k grant funding.	Sustainability/ Planning/ Codes and Zoning
High	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in buildings and infrastructure (Town-owned)	Continue planning and implementation towards goal of net-zero Town Hall and Public Works facility. Research funding sources for Town Hall and Public Works upgrades.	Goal of net-zero facilities by 2030	Sustainability/ Planning/Engin eering
High	Encourage and facilitate the production and use of renewable energy.	Continue working with City of Ithaca and Local Power to develop Community Choice Aggregation program for 2024 program launch. Also explore additional options for developing renewables for Town operations.	Increase renewable energy use, Economic development, Equity, and affordability, Reduce GHG emissions	Sustainability/ Planning/ Town Supervisor
High	Enable successful adherence to equity principles in GND resolution	Define equity goals and metrics consistent with GND resolution. Develop next steps for Town's equity work. Stay informed of the City's Sustainability and Climate Justice Commission.	Enable tracking of progress toward GND goals	Planning & Sustainability
Medium	Enable successful implementation of sustainability initiatives	Explore grant opportunities to support Green New Deal initiatives.	Number of grants awarded; Amount of funding awarded.	Planning & Sustainability
Medium	Incorporate sustainability and climate protection into long-term planning	Complete Community GHG inventory estimate and fill in remaining gaps.	Completed estimates allow tracking of progress in all sectors	Planning & Sustainability
Medium	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in buildings and infrastructure. (Existing Buildings)	Stay informed of NYS CLCPA implementation and City of Ithaca work, especially relating to benchmarking and building performance standards. Implement pilot program for electrification of 15 buildings.	Inform Town policy decisions. Buildings in Town (community) take part in Electrification Program with BlocPower.	Planning & Sustainability
Medium	Reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions in the transportation sector.	Stay informed of the Town's participation in Safe Streets 4 All. Assess how we can better utilize the Town's current Transportation Plan.	Informed Town policy decisions	Planning
Medium	Reduce GHG emissions related to waste generation and purchasing.	Stay informed of State legislation and the City of Ithaca's work around Deconstruction law and/or Construction Waste Recycling law.	Inform Town policy decisions	Planning & Sustainability
Low	Enable successful implementation of sustainability initiatives	Use Town newsletter, website, and social media to encourage/enable Town employees, residents, and other stakeholders to help meet Town sustainability goals. Update webiste quarterly.	Size of newsletter list, Social media follows, Number of education sessions	Planning & Sustainability