

# Greater LAFAYETTE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



## Welcome to the second Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) Newsletter!

In the Fall of 2020, the Cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County joined forces in a historic, cooperative Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) initiative. If you missed the first issue of the GLCAP Newsletter, please visit the [GLCAP website](#) to catch up! This newsletter will provide an overview of progress made with respect to the GLCAP since the first newsletter issue this past July.

### GLCAP PLANNING STATUS

Since joining forces, the Cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County have developed an organizational framework completing two of five phases for this initiative. Phase 3, predominantly focused on public outreach, is currently underway and will remain ongoing throughout the next phase. Recently, we have transitioned into Phase 4 by hosting discussions about areas of focus within the plan.

Check out our **WEBSITE**

[greaterlafayetteclimate.com](http://greaterlafayetteclimate.com)

To learn more about the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan and to sign up for our mailing list to stay in the loop!



## THE PLAN



### PHASE 1 PROGRAM INITIATION

- Conduct Chartering Session
- Establish Leadership Framework
- Develop Interagency Agreement
- Draft Vision and Mission Statements



### PHASE 2 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Develop Communication Plan
- Identify Key Stakeholders
- Facilitate Action Plan Review Workshops
- Develop Resource Catalogue
- Prepare Schedule



### PHASE 3 PROGRAM EXECUTION

- Perform Baseline Assessment
- Identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Integrate Approach with Existing Plans
- Identify and Prioritize Potential Program Initiatives



### PHASE 4 REPORT DEVELOPMENT

- Synthesize Data and Organize Initiatives
- Focus on Sustainability and Resilience
- Clean and Renewable Energy Alternatives
- Improved Transportation Options
- Reduced Waste Strategies



### PHASE 5 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- Measurement and Verification of Metrics
- Development of New Policies
- Engaging with Local Businesses and Industries
- Public Outreach



CURRENT PHASE

CURRENT PHASE

**WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO**

Public outreach is an essential part of the GLCAP. In September, GLCAP Leadership Committee members attended the Tippecanoe Latino Festival at Columbian Park. At the event, we were able to gather input from attendees via the GLCAP Community Survey (link) that was translated from English to Spanish by a local resident, Monica Casanova. She has also since translated the first issue of the GLCAP Newsletter.

We have been reaching out to local groups and organizations to discuss climate change, how it will impact our community, and collect input to be incorporated in the final action plan. Members of the GLCAP Leadership Committee have spoken to Bauer Center staff, Hanna Center staff, local church leaders involved in the Lafayette Urban Ministry, as well as business leaders involved with Greater Lafayette Commerce.

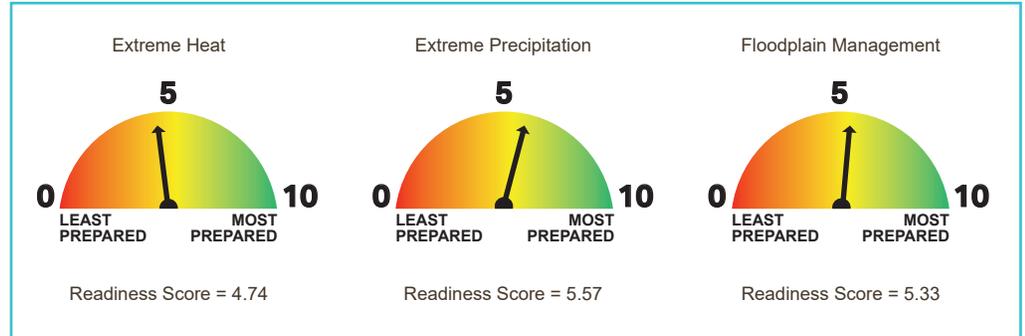
The GLCAP Leadership Committee will be hosting a series of meetings with Advisory Committee members and other experts in corresponding fields to discuss focus areas for the Climate Action Plan. The focus areas include, but are not limited to, energy, transportation, land use, health and safety, solid waste management, water and wastewater, equity, natural resources, agriculture, and the economy. These discussions will help the GLCAP Leadership Committee outline proposed initiatives and strategies to meet the community's climate goals.



Interactive and educational climate action displays at the Tippecanoe Latino Festival

**TECHNICAL STUDIES**

In the last newsletter, we provided information on how a Baseline Assessment was conducted for the Cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County. This included a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for each of the three communities. In this newsletter, we want to share information collected by the Environmental Resilience Institute in the form of a Readiness Assessment called Hoosier Resilience Index. The graphics below show the results from the City of Lafayette's Readiness Assessment. The Readiness Scores are within a range of 1 to 10 (10 indicating the highest level of preparedness) for certain categories, such as extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and floodplain management. Scores are calculated based on responses to the questions that City officials provide as part of the Assessment. For more detailed information about the Readiness Assessment, please visit their website ([hri.eri.iu.edu/readiness-assessment/index.html](http://hri.eri.iu.edu/readiness-assessment/index.html)).



From these Readiness Assessments, we know that climate change affects all people and places differently. Proximity to parks and green spaces, sources of pollution, access to services and exposure to flooding are just a few examples of factors to consider when thinking about climate change impacts to different neighborhoods or communities. Furthermore, people who are more vulnerable to climate change include children, the elderly, people of color, and the economically disadvantaged.

We are also working to identify areas of vulnerability in our community. Strengthening the most vulnerable members of our community strengthens our community as a whole. The Environmental Resilience Institute offers a Climate Vulnerability Index that analyzes how your community will be impacted by climate change and identifies vulnerable areas of a given community. Our communities' weakest Readiness Score, as shown above, is in heat preparedness. Tippecanoe County's Climate Vulnerability Index shows that the number of extreme heat events are expected to more than double in the next 30 years. We will be able to identify neighborhoods with low tree canopy cover and that are financially vulnerable (likely to not have central air conditioning) as prime candidates for more street trees, cooling centers, and other heat-preparedness initiatives.

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF EXTREME HEAT EVENTS PER YEAR**  
Tippecanoe County

Timeframe	High Heat Days	High Heat Nights	High Heat Days and Nights	Total Days with Extreme Heat Events*
Current	9	10	11	30
2050s - Medium Emissions Scenario	23	12	35	70
2050s - High Emissions Scenario	25	12	45	83

\*This number may contain a rounding error

# We want to hear what YOU think!

**TAKE OUR SURVEY**

Your responses will assist us develop policies and initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect equitable quality of life for current and future generations in Greater Lafayette. The survey is anonymous, and information will not be shared with anyone outside of the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Planning committees.

## DID YOU KNOW?

***You can go solar by June 2022 to qualify for 10 years of net-metering!***

What is net-metering, and why does it matter for installing solar panels? Well, it's a part of what makes solar a great financial investment. Net-metering credits solar owners for the energy they contribute to the grid at the same value as the energy they draw from the grid. In other words, your energy company pays you the same amount as they charge you per watt. But SEA 309 is changing that. Installations after June 2022 will no longer be eligible for net-metering and can expect to be credited only \$0.03/kWh while still paying three to four times as much. That's a huge change in affordability! To make the most of solar energy - a great investment that eliminates your energy bills and can pay for itself within 10 years - install your system now. Solarize Indiana, a volunteer-led non-profit, is here to help you navigate the process. Sign up for one of their free workshops at [solarizeindiana.org/events](https://solarizeindiana.org/events) and take your first step to clean, affordable energy!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Volunteer opportunities to remove invasive plants and improve our local ecosystem:**

### Weed Wrangle at Tippecanoe County Amphitheater

- Saturday, November 20
- Info: Mary Cutler, [mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov), 765-567-2993

### Remove Invasive Plants (RIP) Squad Volunteer Workdays

- Tuesdays (Nov 2, 9, and 16) at Prophets Rock
- Thursdays (Nov 4, 11 and 18) at Ross Hills
- Info: Patty Jones, [removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com](mailto:removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com), 765-463-3050 (please leave voicemail)

## Go-Solar Workshops

Solarize Indiana is holding statewide monthly information sessions throughout 2021 and early 2022 as the last remaining year to sign up for net metering expires. Anyone anywhere may attend!

- Monday, December 6, 7 pm - 8 pm
- Tuesday, January 11, 7 pm - 8 pm
- Info: [solarizeindiana.org/events](https://solarizeindiana.org/events)

## GLCAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Wes Tillett is the Executive Director of the **Lafayette Urban Ministry** (LUM) and is our featured GLCAP Advisory Committee Member for this newsletter. In 2018, LUM installed solar panels on the main office roof. To date, they have reported that nearly 147,000 pounds of CO2 emissions have been saved and the equivalent of 1,100 trees have been planted as a result of these solar panels.



**WHAT CAN I DO?***Tips to save energy at home!***TURN OFF UNNECESSARY LIGHTS**

Two 100-watt incandescent bulbs switched off an extra two hours per day could save you \$15 over a year. Better yet, switch to LED.

**MANAGE YOUR THERMOSTAT**

If you have electric heat, lower your thermostat by two degrees to save 5% on your heating bill. Lowering it five degrees could save 10%.

**USE NATURAL LIGHT**

A single south-facing window can illuminate 20 to 100 times its area. Turning off one 60-watt bulb for four hours a day is a \$9 saving over a year.

**USE THE MICROWAVE, CROCK POT OR TOASTER OVEN**

A microwave takes 15 minutes to do the same job as 1 hour in an oven. Use a microwave instead of your oven 4 times a week and save \$13/year.

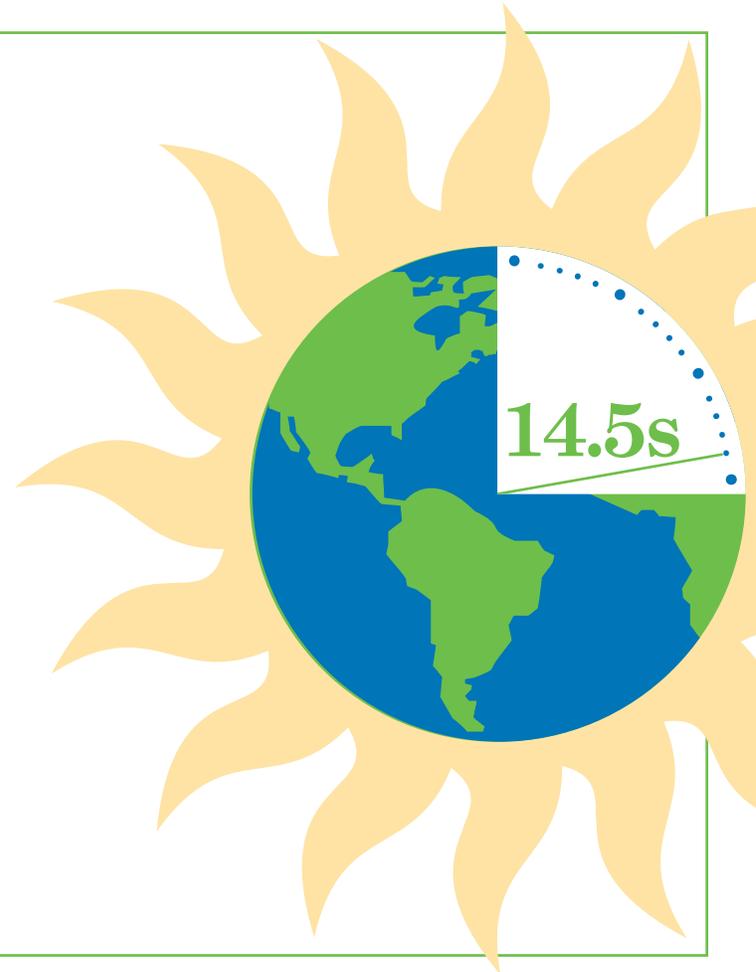
**UNPLUG UNUSED ELECTRONICS**

Standby power can account for 10% of an average household's annual electricity use. Unplug unused electronics and save \$50 a year.

**SKIP THE HEAT-DRY SETTING FOR THE DISHWASHER**

That heat-dry setting is expensive. De-select it and, based on one load of dishes a day, save up to \$27 for the year.

**In 14.5 seconds the sun gives us enough clean energy to power the world for the remainder of the day**



Thank you for reading our second GLCAP newsletter. Stay tuned for more updates!

- GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee