

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Prepared by

GLCAP
JOINT LEADERSHIP
COMMITTEE

2024

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LETTER FROM THE GLCAP JOINT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

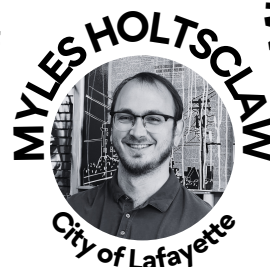
In early January 2023, the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) was published as a roadmap for climate action within our community. A historic, joint initiative between the cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, the plan was developed in partnership with over 100 stakeholders in an effort to represent diverse voices throughout the Greater Lafayette area.

The GLCAP is dependent upon continued collaboration to ensure the goals listed within the plan are implemented with equity as a top priority. Reflecting on the past year, we are proud of the shared progress that has been made to implement the GLCAP and look forward to the collaborative efforts to come in the years ahead.

We would like to sincerely thank our community partners for their dedication to progressing the GLCAP and are excited to highlight the work of our community throughout this report. We further encourage everyone within our community to continue taking action on climate whenever and wherever necessary to ensure a more sustainable, resilient future for all.

For more information about the GLCAP and how you can get involved, please visit: greaterlafayetteclimate.com.

- GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee





IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS SUMMARY

Within the first year of implementation, the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) Joint Leadership Committee has been working collaboratively to further the shared vision and fulfill the mission of the plan.

Vision: *A climate-resilient community, a reduced carbon footprint, and an equitable quality of life for all within Greater Lafayette.*

Mission: *To build a resilient Greater Lafayette by designing policies and implementing initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect equitable quality of life for current and future generations.*

Efforts to implement the goals listed within the plan are aimed at bolstering climate resilience via adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation involves preparing for climate change impacts already happening or soon-to-come, whereas mitigation involves reducing the future effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in particular, aids our community in meeting our science-based target.

Science-based target: *Climate goals in line with the latest climate science. They represent your community's fair share of the ambition necessary to meet the Paris Agreement commitment to keep warming below 1.5°C.*

58%^{BY} 2030

Greater Lafayette's science-based target is a 58% reduction in community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Equity in implementation has been a top priority for the GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee, and resources from the federal government have helped in identifying and targeting disadvantaged communities within the Greater Lafayette area. In 2021, the Justice40 Initiative was established by the Biden administration and set “a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.”¹ To better serve these communities at the local level, the committee is utilizing the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to locate disadvantaged census tracts within Tippecanoe County for the purpose of prioritizing these areas when developing initiatives and applying for grant funding.

To further inform implementation, the committee has continued public engagement within the Greater Lafayette area throughout 2023. In June, the committee hosted the Green Expo (now known as GreenFest), an annual community event hosted by the cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County to raise awareness of all things “green” within our community, provide updates to the GLCAP, and offer opportunities for engagement.

JOIN US AT GREENFEST 2024!

For more information on this year’s event, please visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1470768597175094/>.

Committee members have also participated in the planning committees for partner-hosted community-wide events, such as Riverfest, De-Trash the Wabash, and E-Waste Day. Alongside these events, committee members have hosted GLCAP educational presentations for over 10 community organizations and groups throughout the first year of implementation.

1. The White House. “Justice40: A Whole-of-Government Initiative.” Last modified 2022.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BY FOCUS AREA(S)



Technical strategies for plan implementation are divided into four focus areas: energy use in the built environment, transportation, agriculture & forestry, and water, wastewater, & solid waste. Within each focus area are goals and related actions that have been designed to progress climate adaptation and mitigation within our community. In total, the plan contains 12 goals with 71 related actions categorized accordingly within each of the four focus areas.

One goal within each focus area is a public priority goal, or a goal that the public identified as a top priority of focus during public input sessions held throughout the planning process. The public priority goal within Focus Area 1: Energy Use in the Built Environment, for example, is Goal 2: Begin Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Sources. Throughout plan implementation thus far, public priority goals have been used to guide climate action with a focus on equity.

The following sections highlight goals that have been progressed within each focus area, and those marked with an exclamation point (!) are public priority goals.*

**The GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee recognizes that the following goals are not the only goals being progressed within our community. If you or your organization are taking action to progress the GLCAP, please send us an update via the “Get In Touch” form on the GLCAP website: greaterlafayetteclimate.com/!*

1

ENERGY USE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 2: Begin Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Sources - **Public Priority Goal**



EBE 2-D: Create community solar cohort and/or buy-in program for neighborhoods.

In May 2023, the cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County partnered with Solar United Neighbors (SUN), a nonprofit organization, to host the Tippecanoe and Montgomery Counties Solar and EV Charger Co-op to increase access to renewable energy for residents and offer group purchase options to reduce system costs. Huston Solar was selected by co-op members to be the group's installer through an open and competitive bidding process. By the close of co-op registration in August, 83 members had joined the co-op, which surpassed the member goal of 50.



EBE 2-E: Host solar informational seminars for residents and businesses.

Throughout the summer of 2023, SUN hosted public Solar 101 Sessions within Greater Lafayette to share how residents can go solar. Sessions hosted in Tippecanoe County were located at West Lafayette Margerum City Hall and the Wea Prairie Public Library. Attendees learned about general information on solar, how co-ops work, what to expect as a co-op member, and how to finance solar purchases. For more information on going solar, including free opportunities for technical assistance, please visit:

<https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/go-solar/>.



EBE 2-I: Achieve Solsmart rating by specific target date.

The City of West Lafayette received SolSmart Bronze designation in 2023 for completing a number of initiatives to increase solar access, including making information more available to the public and updating zoning requirements. SolSmart is program that provides no-cost technical assistance to local governments and regional organizations to accelerate the growth of clean, affordable solar energy, and the City of West Lafayette is one of 526 SolSmart designees.



2 TRANSPORTATION

GOAL 1: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

T 1-D: Advertise and expand rideshare & bus options to connect residential areas to industrial/high employment areas.

CityBus, the name for the Greater Lafayette Public Transportation Corporation (GLPTC), unveiled CityVan, a rideshare program, in fall 2023. Through the CityVan program, anyone travelling to a work site located in Tippecanoe County can share a vehicle provided by CityBus to split commuter costs. The program offers a sustainable shared mobility alternative to driving alone and offers benefits ranging from financial savings to environmental stewardship. For more information about CityVan, please visit: <https://gocitybus.com/cityvan>.



T 1-E: Invest in trail projects/implement existing plans for bike infrastructure and complete streets.

As of 2023, there has been \$55 million committed to Tippecanoe County for trail infrastructure. The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, commonly referred to as WREC, is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that catalyzes trail development in the Greater Lafayette area. To date, WREC has raised over \$2.7 million for the completion of long-range plans for the entire 31 miles of river corridor in Tippecanoe County. They have also acquired over \$8 million in land acquisitions to build trails along the Wabash River corridor. For more information about WREC, including ways to get involved, please visit: <https://wabashriver.net/about/>.



3 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

GOAL 2: Enhance, Protect, and Improve Access to Our Natural Resources - Public Priority Goal



AF 2-B: Gov. operations: Create a plan to eliminate the invasive plants on public property and replace them with native plants.

In 2023, the City of West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department launched an AmeriCorps program to enhance the quality of life in the city by connecting citizens to the best possible parks, recreational facilities, and programs. The program aims to further develop and conserve public greenspaces through service experience. In partnership with local community-based organizations, members have led invasive species removal volunteer workdays and native seed sowing workshops to further conservation efforts within the community. With any questions about the program, please Contact Rachel Bingaman, Grant Administrator/AmeriCorps Director, at rbingaman@westlafayette.in.gov or visit the website: <https://www.westlafayette.in.gov/americorps>.



AF 2-G: Identify additional areas for reforestation in urban and rural areas.

Within the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, respectively, Tree Lafayette and West Lafayette Tree Friends have continued work to increase the community's urban tree canopy throughout 2023. With the help of dedicated volunteers, these organizations collectively planted over 400 trees during the year while engaging in educational opportunities with community members of all ages. For more information about Tree Lafayette and how to get involved, please visit: <https://www.treelafayette.org/>. For more information about West Lafayette Tree Friends and how to get involved, please visit: <https://www.wltreefriends.org/>.



4 WATER, WASTEWATER, & SOLID WASTE

GOAL 1: Enhance Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Composting - Public Priority Goal



WWSW 1-B: Create recognition program for increased recycling within the business community.

The City of West Lafayette launched the West Lafayette Farmers Market Green Vendor Certification program in the summer of 2023 to recognize vendors who are taking action to operate more sustainably. Actions include, but are not limited to, providing zero-waste and/or recyclable packaging, composting food waste, and sourcing non-food items from sustainable sources. In the first year of the program, over 15 market vendors were certified and recognized for their efforts.



WWSW 1-C: Provide e-waste education within the business community.

In fall 2023, Tippecanoe County Recycling & Solid Waste teamed up with local businesses to offer a public recycling service for the lithium-ion batteries and plastic exteriors that compose vapes and other e-cigarette products. Concerns regarding the hazards of vapes in the municipal management of solid waste have grown in recent years, and the program provides a low-cost way for our community to divert dangerous lithium-ion batteries from the general waste stream, reduce the risk of fires occurring in waste trucks, and source the materials for use in other products, protecting the health of workers and the environment.



WWSW 1-F: Develop food waste reduction and composting campaign.

Throughout 2023, the City of West Lafayette Go Greener Commission provided updated education and outreach on the City's Food Waste Diversion program. The program, launched in 2019, created a drop off point to divert community food waste to an anaerobic digester at the West Lafayette Water Resource Recovery Facility. The digester converts the food waste to energy, lowering the City's dependence on fossil fuels and the community's overall waste footprint. For more information about the Go Greener Commission and the food waste program, please visit: <https://www.wlgogreener.com/wl-composting>.



MOVING FORWARD

The GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee is excited about the progress made within our community throughout 2023 and recognizes the importance of sustained climate action in the years to come. Looking ahead, equity will continue to be prioritized in implementation efforts, and the committee aims to increase public engagement to gather constructive feedback for the purpose of guiding the development of future policies and programs.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK & ASK QUESTIONS!

To get involved, please fill out the “Get In Touch” form on the GLCAP website: <https://greaterlafayetteind.com/climate-action-plan/>.

To build capacity for climate action, the committee is in the process of applying for federal grant funding related to energy efficiency and green job development. The committee will also consider other grant opportunities as funds are released by the state and federal governments. These funding opportunities are the result of federal legislation, such as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Expanded funding has not only been made available to local governments and organizations, but also to individuals in the form of tax credits and deductions.²

EXPLORE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!

To view funding opportunities for climate action, please visit: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-and-deductions-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>.

To stay up to date with implementation, please visit the GLCAP website, greaterlafayetteclimate.com, and connect with us on social media.

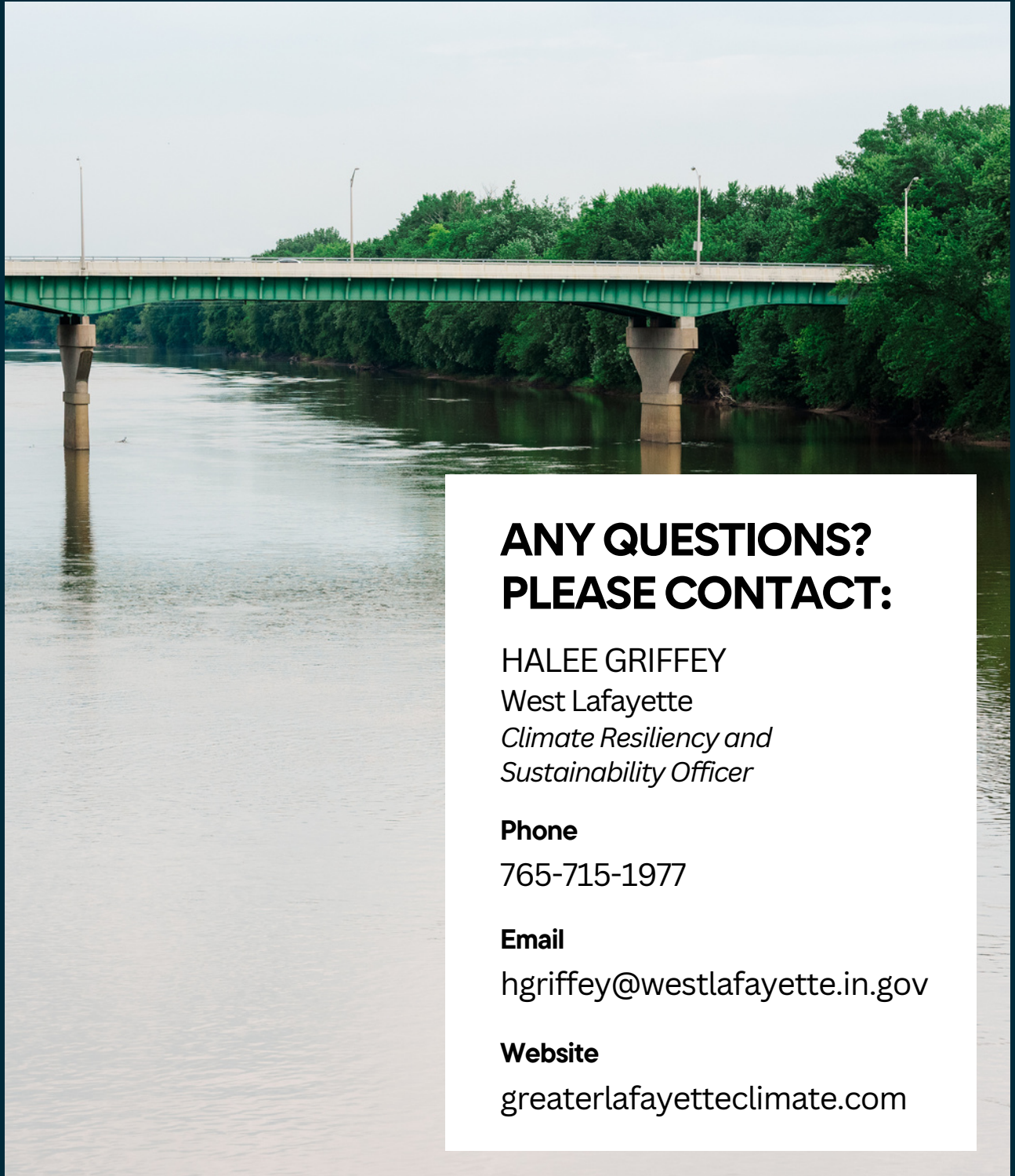
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The White House. “Justice40: A Whole-of-Government Initiative.” Last modified 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>.

IRS. “Credits and Deductions Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.” Last modified 2023. <https://www.irs.gov/credits-and-deductions-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>.

This report is inspired by the CAP annual reports of the City of Indianapolis, the City of Tempe, the City of Encinitas, and Travis County. Thank you for your transparency in implementation progress!

Greater LAFAYETTE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

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