



MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
**CONVENTION 2024**  
*WELCOME!*

# Reducing or Eliminating Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Municipal Operations and Beyond

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# Agenda

- **Energy Efficiency as a Strategy for Madison Heights**
  - Where it started
  - Next Steps
- **Sustainability Plan**
  - Defining Sustainability
  - Building a Plan
  - Results of the Plan
- **DOE Energy Future Grant**
  - Grant Overview
  - Partners and Support
  - Phase 1 Goals
- **Key Takeaways**

# Energy Efficiency as a Strategy







# Where it Started

2009 Madison Heights was awarded an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG)

- **Began working with Energy Sciences**
- **Built trust and partnership with Energy Sciences as an advisor**

A grant from SEMERO Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office (SEMREO) in 2010

- **Energy monitoring and benchmarking**
- **Challenged to reduce energy usage by 25% in 10 years**
- **The City reduced it by 38%**





## Next Steps

- Environmental Citizen Committee
- Resolution from City Council adding sustainability to the Strategic Plan
- Green Communities Challenge from Michigan Green Communities
- Revisiting Relationship with Energy Sciences
- Community Energy Management Grant from EGLE
  - **Re-establish energy consumption baseline**
  - **Resume energy monitoring and benchmarking**
  - **Sustainability Plan**
- Prioritize actions/ projects from the Sustainability Plan, then identify and act on funding opportunities

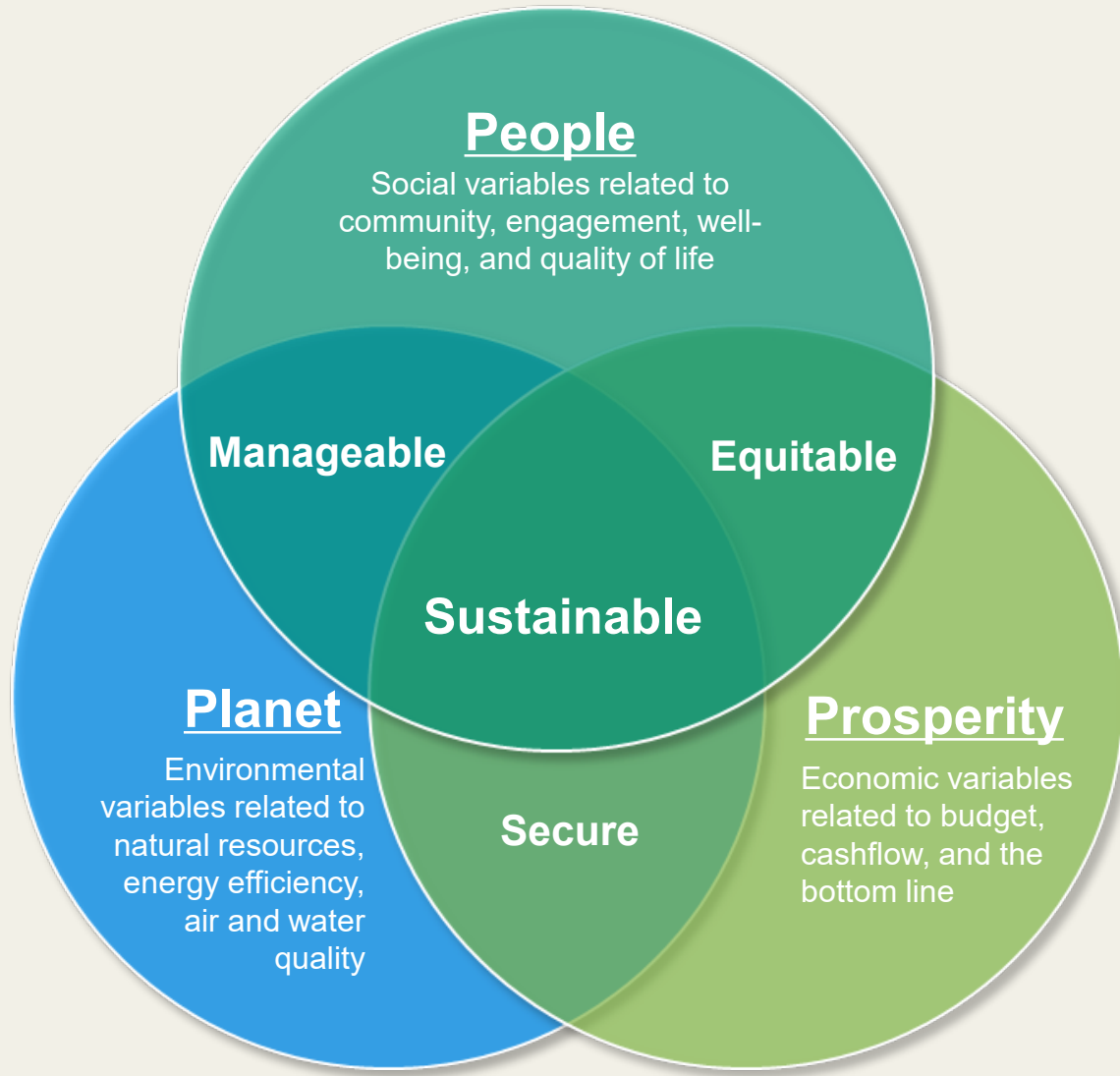


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# Madison Heights Sustainability Plan



# Defining Sustainability



**People:** Engaging the community and quality of life

**Planet:** Adapting to and mitigating the risks of climate change

**Prosperity:** Building a resilient and economically secure future





# Building The Plan

## Assessment

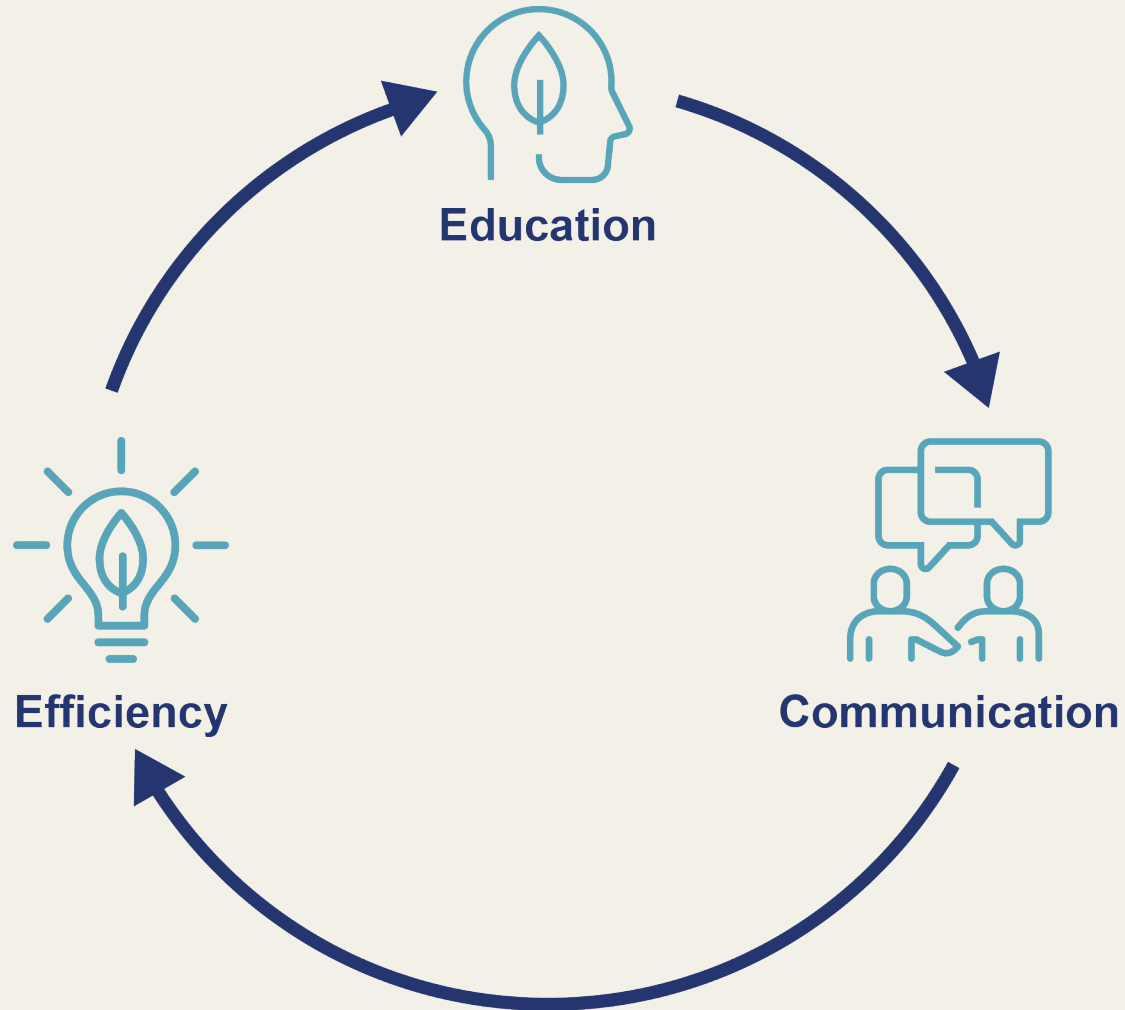
- Energy Sciences and the City reviewed current practices
- Analyzed connections between the budget, CIP, and other documents
- Found a common theme between the practices assessment and policy documents

## Development

- Defined focus areas
- Identify Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and areas of economic and environmental burden
- Created an Action Plan organized by priority level and focus area

## Review and Revise

- Ensure everyone is on board (Environmental Citizens Committee, City Council, etc.)
- Start with actions and projects are quick wins
- Build a wish list of what could be done with additional funding and have a plan for it



# Focus Areas

## Education

- Awareness and shared understanding of sustainability among elected officials, city staff, and the community

## Communication

- Develop a plan for sharing updates, benefits, and collecting feedback
- Enhancing internal communication
- Ensure accessibility for the community

## Efficiency

- Increase awareness of energy and water consumption
- Identify and mitigate potential health risks
- Highlight the benefits of waste reduction

## Triple Bottom Line in Action

- The focus areas are interconnected, actions build on each other and support more than more than one Focus Area



**Most Recent Success: Energy Futures Grant**  
Billions of dollars are trickling down to states, local governments, and NGOs from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). An ambitious mindset towards grant applications and a trusting, healthy council-manager relationship has positioned Madison Heights to successfully pursue new grant opportunities as they arise. In early April 2024, the city received notice that it had secured \$500,000 through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Futures Grants program. Madison Heights was the lead applicant on a project to create a regional decarbonization plan, along with the Cities of Ferndale and Oak Park, Lamphere School District, Michigan Clean Cities, and Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. [\(source\)](#)

The creation of this plan will involve outlining strategies for the region to upgrade their current fleet and mobility systems and improve building energy performance. It will also encourage broad reductions in GHG emissions and boost economic development throughout the region. A focus on community engagement and education is key to the implementation of the plan. The team may be eligible for additional implementation funding in the future through DOE. [\(source\)](#)

The Energy Futures Grant award exemplifies Madison Heights' success in proactively positioning itself for grant funding opportunities before they even exist. This achievement occurs at a time when most municipal governments in Michigan already face a lack of funding, yet unprecedented amounts of federal dollars have been made available in recent years through legislation. It showcases the importance of local governments choosing to embrace uncertainty when looking towards the future.

**Madison Heights, MI**  
Population (2020 Census): 29,488  
Government: Council-Manager  
Location: Southeast Michigan, Oakland County

**Key Takeaways:**

- Energy efficiency investments have the potential to drastically lower energy costs. These savings can be used to make additional investments.
- Apply a sustainability lens to your community's capital improvements planning and/or comprehensive planning.
- To expedite grant applications, consider a "preapproval" list of projects/goals that your council/trustees authorize staff to pursue grants for even if the specific grants haven't been identified yet.
- Use the Michigan Green Communities Challenge to track progress and identify next steps.
- Regional partnerships can not only make a larger impact but also set up smaller communities to be more competitive for climate/sustainability-related funding.

## Madison Heights partners up for regional decarbonization plan

By: Andy Kozlowski | Madison-Park News | Published May 6, 2024

**Michigan EIBC**  
1,089 followers  
4mo • 📍

Congrats to Michigan EIBC member [Energy Sciences](#) and the [City of Madison Heights](#)! This plan will improve critical infrastructure, increase community resilience, and foster the growth of clean energy jobs 🌱

**Midwest Climate Collaborative**  
2,423 followers  
4mo • 📍

So glad you could make it, [Michelle Dainus Peters](#)! Thank you for your great work in Madison Heights, MICHIGAN!



Project Title	Prime Recipient	Topic Area
Evolve: A Regional Mobility Transformation and Decarbonization Plan for Southeast Oakland County	City of Madison Heights, MI	Cross-Cutting

# Results of the Plan

- Identified opportunity and selected for Energy Future Grant through the US Department of Energy
- Promotion of success from local media outlets, partners, and Green Communities Challenge
- Positive feedback from City Council and Environmental Citizens Committee
- Upon adoption of the Plan, 6 out of the 21 items in the Action Plan were complete
- Silver award from Green Communities Challenge for 2023
- Qualifies for a Catalyst Leadership Circle Fellow from Green Communities Challenge next Spring
- Connecting with neighboring communities and Regional Organizations for support and to share experience

# Energy Future Grant from the U.S. DOE







Join the Energy Future



Plan the Energy Future



Support the Energy Future



Implement the Energy Future

## Overview

- 2 phase grant from the US Department of Energy
  - Phase 1: \$500,000 planning grant
  - Phase 2: \$1,000,000 implementation grant
- Funding projects that help **scale local strategies** that **increase resiliency** and **improve access** to affordable clean energy
- Selected projects are **led by communities** and support **innovative, deployment-based plans** in the **transportation, buildings, and/or power sectors**
- Successful projects will have **equitable** program innovation, **multi-jurisdictional partnerships**, and **scalable outcomes** that can leverage DOE and other resources to speed and scale **deployment strategies nationwide**



## Evolve: A Regional Decarbonization Plan for Southeast Oakland County

- Address the financial and technical barriers that municipal and local governments face with decarbonization
- Each team member is at different stages in their journey with energy efficiency and sustainability
- Improve the energy efficiency and performance of operated facilities
- Prepare for the future of mobility and electrification
- Neighboring communities with unique characteristics and priorities can build individual plans and come together and leverage their collective power
- Collectively reduce GHG emissions, improve health outcomes, quality of life, and spur economic growth





## Partners and Support

### Partners

- City of Ferndale
- City of Oak Park
- Lamphere School District
- Energy Sciences
- Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)
- Michigan Clean Cities (MICC)

### Support

- Michigan Green Communities
- Graham Sustainability Institute at University of Michigan
- Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)
- Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council (EIBC)
- Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)



## Goals for the Phase 1

- Meaningfully engage the communities throughout the process
- Set a uniform assessment method for measuring GHG emissions and benchmark standard
- Inventory operating and community-based GHG emissions
- Measure and assess the energy intensity of the operated fleets
- Conduct a Community Mobility Assessment and determine barriers to electrification
- Create a strategy to improve energy efficiency in operations and implement mobility solutions for the municipalities and school districts
- Come together using the results to develop a Regional Decarbonization Plan

# Conclusion







# Key Takeaways

- You are already doing more than you think
- Build a relationship with a trusted partner if you do not have technical expertise
- Cultivate a **SMART** plan with simple, manageable, and timebound actions
  - **Define the next steps (“how you do it”)**
  - **Assign the actions**
  - **Go for the easy wins first**
- Develop your “wish list” of projects
- Leverage existing commissions, committees, and groups
- Work with your neighboring jurisdictions to build a coalition
- Ask for help if you hit a roadblock

# Thank You!

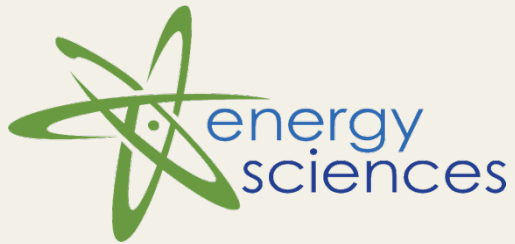


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