



At a Glance

Rochester Climate Action Plan

*Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
for a resilient and sustainable future.*

Blieve.



City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
Rochester City Council

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor,
City of Rochester



Dear Neighbors:

The people of Rochester understand the sense of urgency that must be brought to bear against increasingly damaging impacts of climate change. By taking steps to protect Rochester's environment, we are creating a healthier, more vibrant and livable community for all of our citizens. This is why Rochester is working toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By sharing our success with other cities across the nation, we expect our local efforts to have a global impact.

As part of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Cleaner Greener Communities initiative, Rochester has developed this community-wide Climate Action Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders, including non-profits, business leaders, community organizations, and colleges and universities.

The strategies and actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan will play an important role in revitalizing Rochester's neighborhoods and contributing to Rochester's ability to create and retain jobs. The Plan follows several past sustainability initiatives, including the Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan, the Bicycle Master Plan, and the Energy Master Plan. The Climate Action Plan is a progression of the recommendations laid out in the Finger Lakes Regional Sustainability Plan and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Rochester's Climate Action Plan provides opportunities to create more jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and stimulate economic development. By doing these things, it contributes to our efforts to improve public safety and educational opportunities in our schools. Through actions related to energy efficiency, transportation, waste management, water and land use, the Plan lays a foundation to reduce the impacts of climate change and adapt to its unavoidable impacts.

I want to thank all who contributed to the planning process, and I look forward to your continued engagement as we implement the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lovely A. Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor of Rochester

Credits and Acknowledgments

Lovely A. Warren, Mayor

Rochester City Council

Loretta C. Scott, President
Dana K. Miller, Vice President
Carolee A. Conklin
Matt Haag
Jacklyn Ortiz

Adam McFadden, South District
Molly Clifford, Northwest District
Elaine M. Spaul, East District
Michael A. Patterson, Northeast District

Mayor's Office

Jeremy Cooney, Chief of Staff
Brittaney Wells, Executive Staff Assistant

Office of Innovation

Henry Fitts, Director of Innovation

Department of Environmental Services

Norman Jones, Commissioner
Mark Gregor, Manager of Environmental Quality
Dorraine Kirkmire, Sr. Environmental Specialist/Planner
Erik Frisch, Transportation Specialist
Karen St. Aubin, Operations Director
Josh Dranoff, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Belknap, Refuse Operations Manager

Bureau of Communications

Patrick Flanigan, New Media Editor

Neighborhood and Business Development

Kate Washington, Deputy Commissioner
Zina Lagonegro, Director of Planning & Zoning
Doug Benson, Associate City Planner
Joshua L. Artuso, Senior GIS Analyst / City Planner
Raul Salinas, Director of Strategic Business Development
Elizabeth Murphy, Senior Housing Planner

Department of Recreation and Youth Services

Sara Lynn Scott, City Horticulturalist

Prepared by:



City of Rochester, Office of Energy & Sustainability
Anne E. Spaulding, Energy and Sustainability Manager
Melissa Chanthalangsy, Energy and Sustainability Analyst



Bergmann Associates
Kimberly Baptiste, Business Segment Leader
Susan Hopkins, Project Planner



Brendle Group
Judy Dorsey, Executive Project Manager
Becky Fedak, Project Manager



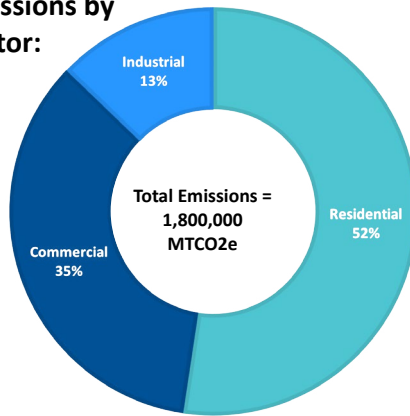
The city of Rochester is a great place to live and work. We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and making Rochester a cleaner, greener community. Together, we can create a more sustainable community and move closer to our goals of creating jobs, safer, more vibrant neighborhoods, and better educational opportunities for our children.



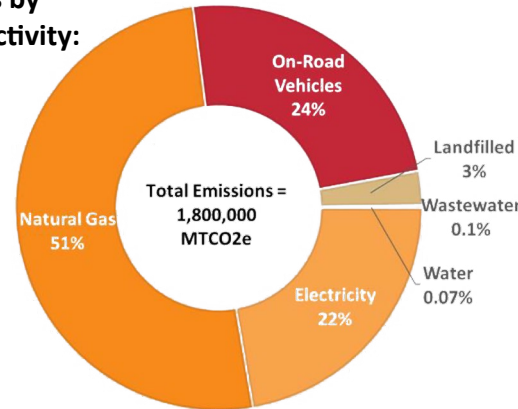
Where are we now?

Rochester's total greenhouse gas emissions were **1.8 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MT CO₂e) in 2014**, which is the equivalent of 380,000 passenger vehicles being driven in any given year or the energy used by 190,000 homes for one year. The figures below summarize the total GHG emissions for 2014 by sector and source/activity.

Emissions by Sector:



Emissions by Source/Activity:



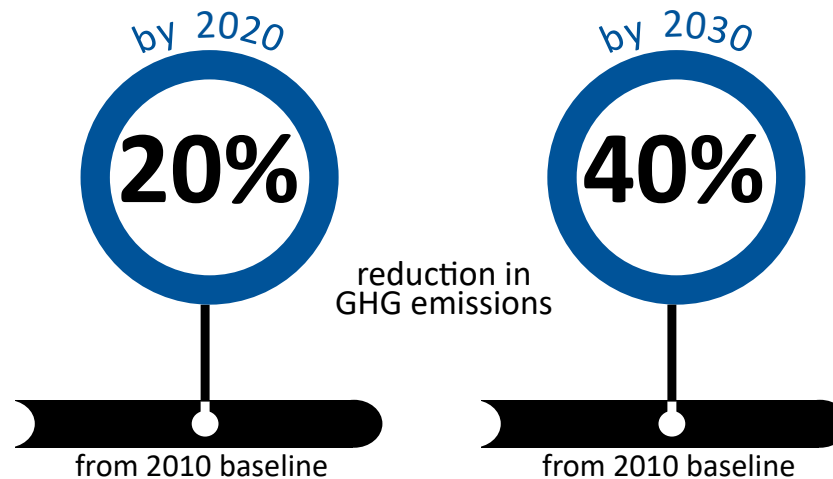
1 MT CO₂e =
41 propane tanks
used for BBQ



1 MT CO₂e =
2,397 miles driven
by the average
passenger vehicle

Where are we going?

The City's goal is to reduce Rochester's greenhouse gas emissions 20% below 2010 levels by 2020 and 40% by 2030 to align with the State of New York's emission reduction goals.



10 MT CO₂e =
1 home's energy use
for one year



"It's nice to be saving money, but it's also nice to be contributing to the environment."

-Homeowners Craig and Jennifer Kaplan

Consider this...

The majority of homes in Rochester were built more than 70 years ago. Older housing stock represents a great opportunity for Rochester residents to take advantage of energy efficiency upgrades that will help reduce energy use and lower utility bills. This is especially important in Rochester, where 57 percent of housing units are renter-occupied, and almost 62 percent of households spend more than a third of their income on housing and utilities.



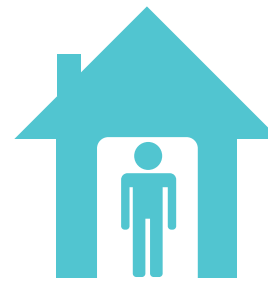
99,110 housing units



57% of units are renter-occupied



57% of homes were built before 1939

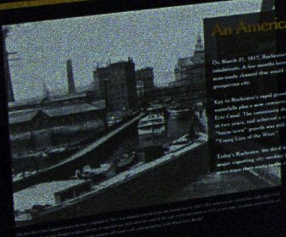


What you can do at home

- 1 Improve the energy efficiency of your home: Upgrade lightbulbs to LEDs
- 2 Evaluate the potential for powering your home with solar energy: Get a solar assessment
- 3 Consider your home heating options: Work with RG&E to get a high efficiency furnace or explore other heating options like a heat pump
- 4 Utilize alternative transportation modes to get around town: look for transit routes or bike paths between your home and work, school, and other common destinations
- 5 Consider electric for your next vehicle purchase: There are various tax credits available and the number of charging stations in and around Rochester is constantly on the rise
- 6 Increase your diversion rate: Make sure you recycle whenever you can and compost food scraps at your home
- 7 Look for opportunities to save water: Turn off the faucet when not in use, collect rainwater for flower beds
- 8 Reduce stormwater runoff at your home: Install a rain garden or redirect your downspouts to improve water quality and increase greenspace in the city



Rochester



An American "Boom Town"

On March 21, 1817, Rochester officially became a village of 400 and was the first boomtown. A year earlier, the Erie Canal had opened to the East Coast. The canal, which had been built over the previous 10 years, had opened the way for commerce and industry.

Part of Rochester's rapid growth was the Erie Canal, which was completed in 1825. The canal provided a water route from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. This route was vital for the transport of goods and people, and it helped to establish Rochester as a major center of commerce and industry.

Today's Rochester has built upon its rich history and is now a vibrant city with a diverse economy and a strong sense of community.



With a large majority of Americans living and working in urban areas, cities play a key role in addressing climate change.

Consider this...

Rochester is home to a robust network of community partners, including neighborhood organizations, block clubs, community development organizations, non-profit agencies, advocacy groups, philanthropic organizations, educational institutions, and local governments. With the support and leadership of the City of Rochester's Office of Energy and Sustainability, the Rochester community will play a key role in achieving the community's greenhouse gas reduction goals and realizing the benefits of taking climate action.



job creation



improved public health



greater resilience



savings



reinvestment



stable
community



What we can do as a community

1

Develop an energy density map of Rochester

2

Evaluate options for increasing the use of utility-scale solar

3

Create energy job training programs to ensure the workforce is able to meet the needs of the Climate Action Plan

4

Improve alternative transportation options. Increase transit level of service. Upgrade bike and pedestrian infrastructure

5

Increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations city-wide

6

Improve the city's existing recycling program and implement a community composting program

7

Conduct a water supply system climate impact study

8

Implement policies that encourage smart growth and urban green space

“The Rochester Chamber supports sustainable and environmentally friendly business practices as part of our work to bring economic prosperity to the Finger Lakes region.”

*-Bob Duffy, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO*



Consider this...

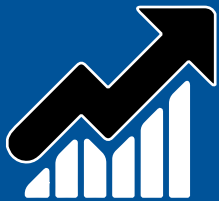
There are great opportunities to develop targeted programs that help reduce the impact of Rochester's major industry sectors, including education, IT, and health care. Climate Action can help improve the economy by creating green jobs, encouraging innovation in sustainable industries, and helping residents and businesses save money on utility bills.



9.3% unemployment rate



\$30,990 median household income



Major Industry Sectors:

Universities, IT, Health Care, Professional Services



energy savings



reinvestment in mobility



increase labor force



What you can do at work

- 1 Improve the energy efficiency of your office – RG&E has various program offerings for Rochester businesses
- 2 Evaluate the potential for installing solar on the roof of your business – get a solar assessment
- 3 Consider an electric heat pump – an electric heat pump powered by solar energy will go a long way to reducing your carbon footprint
- 4 Provide alternative transportation incentives for your employees – encourage employees to use transit or bike to work; when relocating, consider proximity to transit stops
- 5 Improve the efficiency of your vehicle fleet – institute efficiency standards for all new fleet purchases and consider options for integrating electric vehicles into your fleet
- 6 Increase your diversion rate – institute recycling and composting programs at your office
- 7 Look for opportunities to save water – replace end use fixtures (faucet aerators, toilets, urinals) in your office with high efficiency models
- 8 Reduce stormwater runoff at your business – technologies like rain gardens, pervious pavement, and bioswales will improve water quality and increase greenspace in the city

For more information contact:

Anne Spaulding

City of Rochester Energy and Sustainability Manager

Anne.Spaulding@CityofRochester.gov

585.428.7474

Project website: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/climateactionplan/>

