

Capital District Regional Sustainability Plan

The Capital District Sustainability Plan's goals and targets are categorized by the following focus areas:

- Transportation
- Land Use
- Energy
- Water Management
- Waste Management
- Economic Development
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Agriculture and Food Systems

More detailed descriptions of each goal, target and indicator can be found in the regional sustainability plan and the indicator document—locations of those descriptions within both documents are listed within each focus area below.

Transportation (pages 137 – 156 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Provide viable options as alternatives to personal vehicles and single occupancy vehicle commuting. (Page 151 of Sustainability Plan)
- Create walkable and bikeable communities interconnected by regional transit and trail networks. (Page 151 of Sustainability Plan)
- Encourage the use of alternative fuels and transportation technologies. (Page 151 of Sustainability Plan)
- Encourage expanded use of efficient and sustainable freight movement, respecting quality of life of communities. (Page 151 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Improve Housing + Transportation Index (proportion of family income spent on housing and transportation). (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6A)
 - Reduce percent of households with H + T larger than 45% by 10% by 2030.
- Reduce percentage of passengers traveling by Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV). (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2A)
 - Reduce SOV miles 25% by 2030.
- Reduce annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2B)
 - Reduce VMT per capita 20% by 2030.

Land Use (pages 107 – 116 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Preserve, protect and enhance the Region's natural and cultural resources, sensitive ecosystems and agricultural lands, and effectively provide and manage accessible public space to increase recreational and civic opportunities for all. (Page 112 of Sustainability Plan)
- Encourage investment and redevelopment in existing cities, town centers, villages and hamlets, and encourage compact, connected, walkable communities wherever major development occurs in the region. (Page 112 of Sustainability Plan)
- Promote diverse, energy efficient and healthy housing options for all residents of the Region. (Page 112 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Increase annual farm Production. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6D)
 - Increase by 30% by 2025.
- Reduce Per Capita land consumption. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3A)
 - Reduce by 5% by 2030.

Energy (pages 75 – 87 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Improve efficiency of buildings and operations in the residential, commercial, industrial, municipal and institutional sectors. (Page 83 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase public awareness and understanding of energy efficiency, conservation and renewable sources. (Page 83 of Sustainability Plan)
- Improve the Region's Energy Security and Resiliency. (Page 83 of Sustainability Plan)
- Support economic development of the Region through sustainable energy initiatives. (Page 83 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase the percentage of the Region's energy that comes from renewable sources. (Page 83 of Sustainability Plan)
- Reduce energy consumption and intensity throughout the Region as part of a larger GHG reduction plan. (Page 83 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce annual regional energy consumption per capita. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1A)
 - Reduce per capita energy consumption 20% by 2020.
- Greenhouse Gas emissions per capita (metric tons of CO2 equivalent per person). (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 9A)
 - Reduce per capita emissions by 26% by 2020.

Water Management (pages 159 – 174 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Maintain and improve the availability and reliability of the potable water supply and reduce water consumption to ensure adequate supply for all users. (Page 170 of Sustainability Plan)
- Minimize the use of grey infrastructure by maximizing use of both natural systems and when necessary the construction of green infrastructure. Ensure that all downstream areas are appropriately protected from the impacts of stormwater runoff. (Page 170 of Sustainability Plan)
- Protect water quality of streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater to ensure adequate supplies of water for drinking, recreation and wildlife. Reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs associated with sewer systems. (Page 170 of Sustainability Plan)
- Maintain and improve water quality and quantity for recreation and habitat. (Page 170 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- No targets set.

Waste Management (pages 119 – 134 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Develop new systems to recycle and/or recover energy from food waste and other organic materials in the existing solid waste stream. (Page 129 of Sustainability Plan)
- Improve existing reduction and recycling programs by more effectively diverting designated recyclables, by increasing the number of materials that are currently designated for recycling, and by increasing public awareness of the value of waste reduction and recycling. (Page 129 of Sustainability Plan)
- Develop material management strategies, on both the regional and local level, that encourage local manufacturing that utilizes regionally recycled materials and that encourages and incentivizes municipalities, businesses, institutions and local non-profits to buy local products, including recycled products. (Page 129 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce Per capita waste disposal rate (lbs. per capita/day). (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4A)
 - Reduce per capita disposal of MSW from 1.22 tons/capita/year to 0.11 tons/capita/year by 2030.

Economic Development (pages 57 – 72 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Economic development should focus on the region's 52 cities and villages-through such strategies as transit- oriented. Mixed-use development and land recycling- to increase community revitalization, reduce poverty, improve the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard our rural and agricultural resources. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan)
- Expand economic opportunities to support a socially and economically diverse population by focusing on small business growth, neighborhood revitalization, expanding our agricultural economy and reducing urban and rural poverty. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan)
- Align state, regional and local policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration and shared services, increase the opportunities to leverage funding and improve accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan)
- Capitalize on knowledge and innovation offered by the region's 16 universities and the technology offered by the private sector to advance our green economy to the forefront nationally by becoming more energy efficient, increasing production and use of renewable energy sources, creating green buildings, increasing recycling, creating Complete Streets and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Annual Median House-hold (MHH) income, families below the poverty line, population below the poverty line. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6K)
 - Increase MHH 3% above rate of inflation by 2020.
 - Reduce total population and number of families below the poverty line 50% by 2020.

Climate Change Adaptation (pages 41 – 56 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Enhance the Region's resiliency in the face of climate change in order to maintain basic services and minimize the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations and ecosystems. (Page 52 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Maintain economic value of property vulnerable to flooding (\$10.8 billion) through 2020. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 7E)
- Increase number of Climate Smart Communities within Region. (Page E-11 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8A)
 - 25% annual increase.

Agriculture and Food Systems (pages 91 – 103 of Sustainability Plan)

Goals

- Prioritize the protection of agricultural land; Increase the volume of local food production commensurate to existing and future demand; Maximize the utilization of land appropriate for agriculture and encourage production using sustainable and best management practices. (Page 99 of Sustainability Plan)
- Enhance the capacity and number of processing facilities for meat, produce, and other local agricultural products. (Page 99 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase distribution of locally produced foods to institutions and food stores, including large chain grocery stores and corner stores. (Page 99 of Sustainability Plan)
- Create a variety of warehousing and storage options to accommodate seasonal food options and adverse weather conditions. (Page 99 of Sustainability Plan)
- Augment access to fresh produce for residents across the capital region from urban neighborhoods to rural settings. (Page 99 of Sustainability Plan)
- Educate consumers and food buyers about the benefits of eating healthy, preparing, and purchasing local foods. (Page 99 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- No targets set.