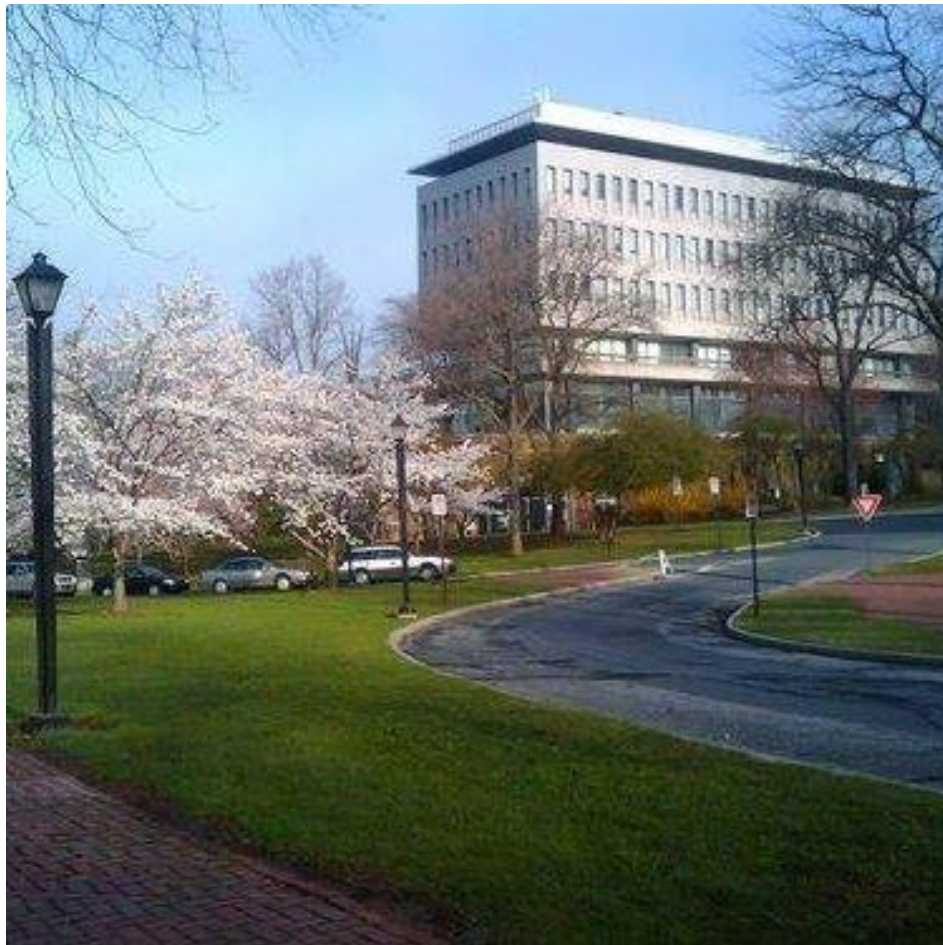




**APRIL 12, 2021**





General public



## Why does Bethlehem need a Climate Action Plan?



## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) PLANNING PROCESS: 2020 AND 2021

<b>April 2020</b>	<b>CAP working group kick-off meeting; Developed surveys for Working groups and public</b>
<b>June 2020</b>	<b>First CAP public planning meetings</b>
<b>July - September 2020</b>	<b>Working groups meet to develop various CAP sections</b>
<b>October 2020</b>	<b>Second set of CAP public planning meetings</b>
<b>November 2020</b>	<b>Consolidate survey responses on CAP strategies and local climate hazard map</b>
<b>December 2020</b>	<b>Third public planning meeting to review draft CAP; Initiated the public comment period on the draft CAP</b>
<b>April 2021</b>	<b>Finalization and public release of CAP</b>



## **BETHLEHEM CLIMATE COMMITMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 2021**      **Bethlehem's first Climate Action Plan (CAP) released**
- 2020**      **Sierra Club's Mayor's for 100% Clean Energy**
- 2018**      **Clean Power Plan Comment Letter**
- 2017**      **City Council unanimously passes resolution supporting creation of City's first CAP**
  - CAP Working Group formed**
  - We Are Still In Initiative**
  - Compact of Mayors Commitment Letter**



## CITY CLIMATE COMMITMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2016**      **Clean Energy Initiative program**  
**Mayors National Climate Action Agenda**
- 2015**      **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Commitment**  
**US Conference of mayors Climate Protection Agreement**  
**Paris Climate Agreement**
- 2014**      **Mayor Donchez begins first term**
- 2006**      **Three-City Proclamation executed**

The City of Bethlehem reduced greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 38% from 2005 to 2017.



## WHAT IS THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)?

- **The CAP is a new vision of an equitable, prosperous, resilient, healthy, and inclusive City that proactively addresses climate change.**
- **The CAP's purpose is to reduce Bethlehem's contribution to global climate change, promote equity and climate justice, and to prepare the city for climate change.**
- **Ambitious climate goals including specific goals and mitigation strategies to reduce Bethlehem's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and the proposed policies, programs, and partnerships to achieve the plan's targets.**





# **KEY PRINCIPLES OF BETHLEHEM'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

**EQUITY**

**PROSPERITY**

**RESILIENCY**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**INCLUSIVITY**

**SCIENCE-BASED**



**KEY TARGETS:** Bethlehem has established community-wide GHG emissions reduction targets (relative to 2017 baseline):

- Reduce GHG emissions **33%** by 2025
- Reduce GHG emissions **60%** by 2030
- Achieve **net-zero** GHG emissions by 2040



## KEY GOALS: COMMUNITY-WIDE OBJECTIVES

- Reducing GHG emissions from **buildings** by 30% by 2030
- Achieving 100% **renewable electricity** consumption community-wide by 2030
- Reducing GHG **transportation emissions** by a minimum of 30% by 2030
- Reshaping **built environment** to optimize building space



## **KEY GOALS: COMMUNITY-WIDE OBJECTIVES**

- Maximizing Bethlehem's urban green space and **tree canopy**
- Achieving **zero waste** by 2040
- Creating a "**Bethlehem Climate Challenge**" program



## **CAP SECTOR OBJECTIVES and INTERMEDIATE GOALS**

- **Municipal Operations**
- **Buildings**
- **Electricity sourcing**
- **Transportation and mobility**
- **Land use and green space Local food and waste**
- **Public engagement**
- **Large organizations and institutions**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY OBJECTIVES**

- **Address disproportionate exposure of frontline communities to climate-related harms**
- **Bethlehem commits to establishing a just and ethical long-term framework for climate action that promotes equity for all Bethlehem residents**
- **Ensure 40% of overall benefits resulting from City spending on implementing this CAP go to frontline communities**



## READY TO GET TO WORK

The CAP will guide and drive the city for years to come.

- **Advancing policy Upwards** - working with state and federal levels of government
- **Advancing policy Downwards** - Review city's own codes, rules, and policies, and practices
- **Collaborative engagement**
  - Formalizing working group.
  - Climate and Environmental Justice Council.
  - Green Ribbon Commission.



## MOVING FURTHER, FASTER

- **CAP includes other potential objectives and sector recommendations.**
  - **Augmenting and strengthening current initiatives**
  - **City tree inventory**
  - **Collaboration with Parking authority on climate-relevant practices**
  - **Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing**
  - **Energy efficiency programs**
  - **Coordinating with LANTA**
  - **Coordinating with PPL and other utilities**
  - **Pedestrian bridge**
  - **Community gardens and urban farms**





## **CAP NEXT STEPS**

### **PHASE 1 - 2021 to 2022**

- **Establish CAP governance framework and create institutional accountability**
- **Establish Office of Sustainability**
- **Improve data to track progress**
- **Build public support for the CAP**
- **Implement actions to achieve community priorities**
- **Act quickly to promote equity and justice**
- **Achieve “no-regrets” quick wins**
- **Lay the groundwork for bigger policy changes**
- **Protect the most vulnerable populations and infrastructure**



## **CAP NEXT STEPS: POTENTIAL EVENTS 2021 - 2022**

- **Virtual kickoff meeting City Council, CAP Working Group City staff, Environmental Advisory Council**
- **Form Environmental Justice Committee**
- **Plan kickoff events for working groups for implementation strategies:**
  - **Municipal Operations**
  - **Buildings**
  - **Electricity Sourcing**
  - **Transportation and Mobility**
  - **Land Use and Green Space**
  - **Local Food and Waste**
  - **Public Engagement**
  - **Large Organizations and Institutions**
  - **Adaptation and Resilience Strategies**

