



PRINCETON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Executive Summary

THE LOCAL CLIMATE IS CHANGING



More Frequent High Heat Days



Increase in Vector-Borne Diseases



Increase in Heat-Related Illnesses



Heavier Rains



Increase in Average Temperatures



Impacts to Mental Health and Wellbeing



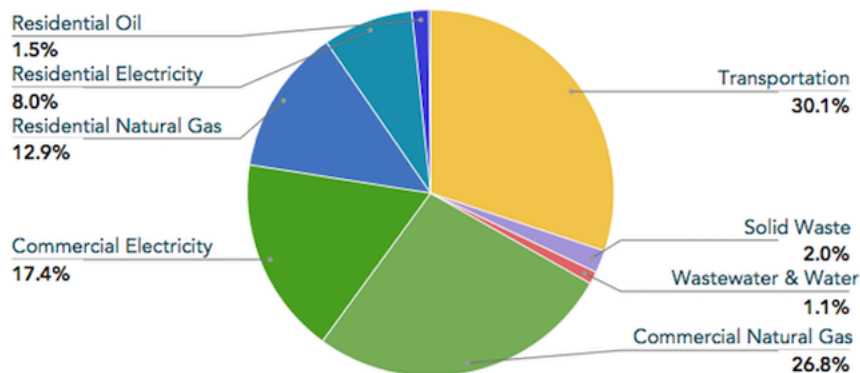
Decline in Outdoor Air Quality



Potentially Longer Dry Spells

WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF OUR GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS?

Production-based GHG Inventory, 2018



The heating, cooling, and electrification of our buildings are the largest sources of emissions in Princeton, followed by transportation-related emissions.



Climate change affects everyone in Princeton and disproportionately affects our most vulnerable community members.



WHAT IS PRINCETON DOING?

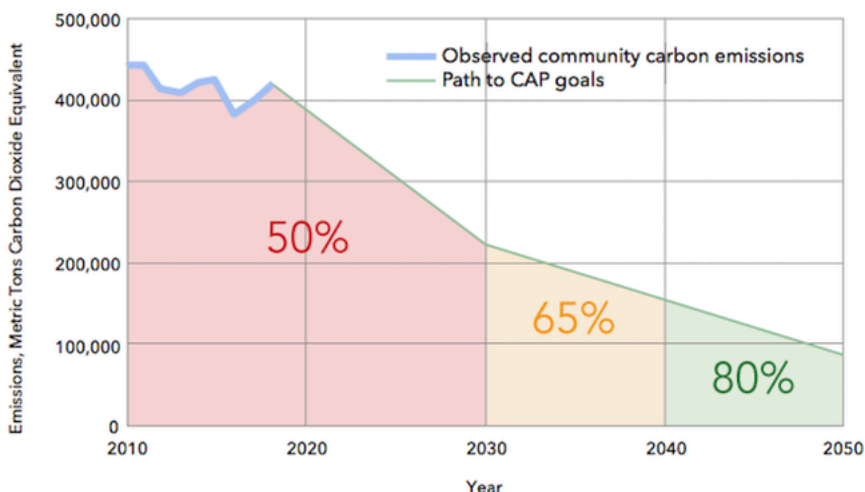
The **PRINCETON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)** is a community plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become more climate resilient.

Princeton's goal is to reduce community-wide carbon emissions:

50% by 2030 | 65% by 2040 | 80% by 2050

from 2010 levels, while pursuing efforts to reduce emissions 100% by 2050.

Progress of the Climate Action Plan will be reported every 3 years and the plan will be updated every 9 years.



PLAN AT A GLANCE



ENERGY

OUR VISION: All Princeton community members efficiently use clean, reliable and affordable energy.

OBJECTIVE 1 Reduce emissions in the built environment

OBJECTIVE 2 Increase the supply of low-carbon, affordable, reliable energy



LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

OUR VISION: All Princeton community members have access to safe, affordable, low-carbon housing and transportation.

OBJECTIVE 3 Promote mixed-use development and pedestrian- and transit-oriented, location-efficient neighborhoods

OBJECTIVE 4 Reduce community-wide vehicle miles traveled by switching to public transit, bicycling and walking

OBJECTIVE 5 Expand access to zero-emission vehicles



NATURAL RESOURCES

OUR VISION: All Princeton community members benefit from a healthy and resilient ecosystem.

OBJECTIVE 6 Protect and enhance local natural resources that provide carbon capture; reduce flooding and heat island impacts

OBJECTIVE 7 Protect the tree canopy



MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

OUR VISION: All Princeton community members are aware of the carbon emissions of the resources they utilize.

OBJECTIVE 8 Reduce life-cycle emissions occurring outside the community from products and services used by the Princeton community

OBJECTIVE 9 Reduce life-cycle emissions from the use of products and services within the community

OBJECTIVE 10 Reduce life-cycle emissions from the disposal of waste generated by the Princeton community



RESILIENCY

OUR VISION: All Princeton community members are prepared for the impacts of climate change.

OBJECTIVE 11 Protect lives, property and critical facilities from the impacts of stormwater flooding

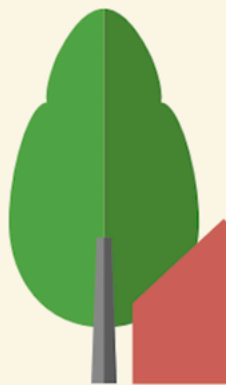
OBJECTIVE 12 Build Municipal and community capacity to prepare for and respond to climate change

OBJECTIVE 13 Prepare for the impact of climate change on human health

For additional information about the 85 detailed strategies included within the Climate Action Plan, please reference the full plan online at

sustainableprinceton.org/climate-action-plan

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



REDUCE ENERGY USAGE

- SWITCH** to a renewable energy provider
- WEATHERIZE** your home (add new caulking, insulate, seal HVAC ducts, etc.)
- SCHEDULE** a home energy audit to find ways to save energy at home or work
- PRIORITIZE** efficiency when buying light bulbs and appliances
- INSTALL** solar panels on your home

EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

- REDUCE** trips made driving alone; instead, use public transportation, carpool, bike, or walk
- JOIN** a carpool or car share
- SUPPORT** development that creates vibrant, higher-density, mixed-use areas to reduce the need for driving
- CONSIDER** an electric vehicle for your next vehicle purchase or lease
- STOP** idling your car when parked

PROTECT THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

- SHIFT** away from gas-powered lawn equipment
- PLANT** and support native species
- MULCH** yard leaves into your lawn
- PLANT** more trees
- CONSIDER** no-mow/low-mow areas on your property



Looking for additional ideas? Check out sustainableprinceton.org/takeaction to learn more.

SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.

REDUCE CONSUMPTION

- REDUCE** the amount of food your household wastes
- CONSIDER** an item's carbon footprint before making a purchase
- SHIFT** to a more plant-based diet
- GIVE** the gift of experiences over material goods
- MAKE** events low-waste with reusable plates, utensils, cups, etc.
- BUY** consigned goods, in stores or online
- PROVIDE** your own containers for take-out
- REPAIR** items, rather than buying new
- COMPOST** your food waste

PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

- INSTALL** rain gardens, rain barrels and other green infrastructure on your property
- KEEP** storm drains clear of leaves, brush and other debris
- REGISTER** to receive weather alerts & communications from the municipality
- PREPARE** for climate emergencies (batteries, medicines, water, etc.)
- SUPPORT** vulnerable neighbors (join the Neighborhood Buddy Program)
- HELP** your neighborhood to be more sustainable (join STAR Neighborhoods)



The Princeton Climate Action Plan has been developed thanks to the contributions of more than 50 Princeton community members who served on the Steering Committee and Working Groups. In particular, the plan was made possible by the leadership and financial support of the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, the **Municipality of Princeton** and **Sustainable Princeton**.

ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

This brochure was produced by Sustainable Princeton and is a summary of the Princeton Climate Action Plan. More information about the plan and resources for sustainable living can be found online at:

**SUSTAINABLE
PRINCETON.**

sustainableprinceton.org | **info@sustainableprinceton.org** | **(609)454-4757**

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