



Green New Deal Action Plan

Overview

In March 2020, the Town of Ithaca [adopted a resolution](#) in support of a Green New Deal (GND). The resolution included the development of a GND Action Plan, which describes how to achieve the Town of Ithaca goals for government operations and the broader community. The Action Plan should be thought of as a road map that provides a path for implementation by detailing specific actions and deliverables.

Key Goals

1. Meet the electricity needs of Town government operations with 100% regionally sourced renewable electricity by 2025
2. Reduce emissions, or create offsets, from the Town fleet of vehicles by 50% from the 2010 levels by 2025
 - o Reduce emissions by at least 10%
 - o Offset remaining emissions
3. Achieve an equitable transition to carbon-neutrality town-wide by 2030
 - o Reduce net emissions by at least 85% through efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy
 - o Sequester carbon in the Town
 - o Offset remaining GHG emissions through regional initiatives

The Process: Goal Setting & Review

Specific goals will be identified for 2-year periods and will be re-evaluated annually by the Planning Committee and Town Board. During the year, updates will be given periodically to the Planning Committee as a way to continually assess progress. The goals in the accompanying table are for 2025-2026.

In order for the Town to achieve its goals it will include a range of topics, as determined by the Town's [Comprehensive Plan](#). These include Institutionalization of Sustainability (EC-1); Buildings and Infrastructure (EC-2); Municipal Water and Wastewater (EC-3); Transportation (EC-4); Renewable Energy Production (EC-5); Waste Generation and Sustainable Purchasing (EC-6); and Community Resilience and Adaption (EC-7). Not every topic will be included in each new version of the Action Plan: only those actions which the sustainability planner has direct or partial involvement with will be listed.

When identifying and evaluating goals for the Action Plan, the Town will:

- incorporate the energy and climate protection goals and recommendations from the Town's Comprehensive Plan
- incorporate policy, cost and staffing implications
- seek community input and collaborative approaches, when appropriate
- develop metrics to adhere to equity principles outlined in the Town's Green New Deal resolution
- support exploration of grant opportunities, including federal and state, to aid implementation of GND initiatives
- integrate across all components of the Town's organization and work
- tap into knowledge, research, and creativity
- coordinate to the fullest extent possible with City of Ithaca, Tompkins County, and other municipalities
- utilize a decision-making process that factors in: Town's goals, meeting residents' needs, prosperity and vibrancy, and the environmental health of the community
- track and report on progress towards achieving goals
- consider the costs of environmental externalities

Roles and Responsibilities

- Role of Town Board: to provide policy leadership for the Town's Green New Deal initiatives
- Role of Management: to provide management direction for policies and initiatives
- Role of Planning Committee: annually evaluate priorities and initiatives of the Green New Deal
- Role of Departments: to implement policies and initiatives
- Role of Town Residents: to educate each other and collaborate with the Town, as appropriate
- Partnerships/Collaborations: to collaborate with municipalities, community institutions, and organizations to achieve mutual sustainability goals

Green New Deal Action Plan 2025- 2026

Sector	GND Goal	Comp Plan Goal	Action	Priority	Department	How we measure progress
Institutionalization of Sustainability	GND-1	EC-1-B	Complete government operations greenhouse gas inventory in 2025.	High	Sustainability	Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory completed and approved by Town Board in 2025.
	GND-1	EC-1-A	Explore incorporating internal (TOI) cost of carbon into project selection and planning (e.g., through CIP and/or budget process).	Medium	Sustainability, Finance, Planning, Engineering, Public Works	Create an analysis of possible ways to incorporate cost of planning into project selection and present to management
	GND-3	EC-1-A	Develop a plan on how to best incorporate equity principles into decision-making processes	High	Sustainability, Planning	Provide a draft analysis and scope of work to Town Supervisor and Director of Planning
	GND-3	EC-1-A	Use Town newsletter and website to encourage/ enable Town residents, employees, and other stakeholders to help create a vibrant and healthy community.	Medium	Sustainability	Revise website to be more accessible. Update website quarterly. Provide sustainability updates to the Town newsletter.
Building & Infrastructure	GND-1	EC-2-B	Implement and amend the Ithaca Energy Code Supplement (Chapter 135 of Town Law)	High	Sustainability, Codes & Zoning	Amended code approved by Town Board and NYS
	GND-3	EC-2-C	Manage the IECS Implementation Assistance Program	Medium	Sustainability, Codes & Zoning	Number of projects that utilize the free assistance program
	GND-1	EC-2-B	Participate in the NYSEDA Stretch to Zero (STZ) pilot program	High	Sustainability, Codes & Zoning	Participation in each quarterly meeting and receive \$200k in grant funds
	GND-1	EC-2-D	Continue planning and implementation towards goal of net- zero government facilities (Town Hall and Public Works).	High	Sustainability, Engineering, Planning, Finance	Town Hall weatherization study completed in 2025 and successfully apply for grants
	GND-3	EC-2-A	Stay informed of CR0WD and related policies (local and state level) for deconstruction / construction waste recycling	Medium	Sustainability	Update Town Supervisor and other interested parties on deconstruction policies and develop a potential scope of work
	GND-1	EC-2-D	Explore grant and funding opportunities to support Green New Deal initiatives	Medium	Sustainability, Finance	Updated list of potential grant, rebate, and incentive programs
Transportation	GND-2	EC-4-B	Investigate implementation of EV charging stations town-wide	High	Sustainability, Public Works	Collaborate with internal departments to determine feasibility of EV charging stations throughout the Town
	GND-2	EC-4-B	Analyze and monitor Town fleet with the annual Green Fleet Inventory	High	Sustainability, Public Works	Complete Inventory and present analysis to Town Public Works Committee annually (summer)
	GND-2	EC-4-B	Review and revise the Town's Green Fleet Policy in 2025	High	Sustainability, Public Works, Town Supervisor	Revised policy approved by Town Board by December 2025
Renewable Energy Production	GND-3	EC-5-D	Continue partnership with City of Ithaca and Local Power to advance the creation of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program (Chapter 144 of Town Law)	High	Sustainability	Launch CCA program when local administrators are approved by NYS.
	GND-3	EC-5-B	In partnership with the City of Ithaca and Local Power develop a Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Plan	High	Sustainability	Final DER Plan approved by Town Board.
Waste Generation & Purchasing	GND-3	EC-6-D	Review and, if needed, revise the Green Procurement policy.	High	Sustainability, Human Resources	Revised policy approved by Town Board by December 2025
Community Resiliency & Adaption	GND-3	EC-7-B	Stay informed of NYS CLCPA implementation and related NYS policies.	Medium	Sustainability	Continually update Town Supervisor and other interested parties on NYS climate and energy policy. Use this to inform Town policy.