

# Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

## 2020 ANNUAL UPDATE

With robust **climate action goals** set in August 2019, the creation of a Climate Action Commission, the adoption of **accelerated climate actions** earlier this year, and the addition of a **Climate Action Engagement Specialist** to the staff, the City has carried out a series of **climate actions** in the form of **education, incentives, regulation, City policy**, and **specific projects** in these key areas:

### ADAPTATION

- ▶ The City planted **prairies and native plants** at its properties and some of its parks, promoting a diverse ecosystem.
- ▶ The City planted a total of **400 trees** this last year, more than doubling the previous year's total, and launched **Root for Trees** to help fund trees on residential properties.
- ▶ The City awarded more than **200 Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Grants** last year.



### BUILDINGS

- ▶ The City's **housing rehab program** continues to focus on energy efficiency, through projects like the solar panel installation on a Sandusky Street home, with low-interest loans and grants.
- ▶ **Green Iowa AmeriCorps** continues to improve home energy efficiency by providing free energy audits and free weatherizations to community members.
- ▶ Applicants from three Iowa City urban renewal areas are eligible for up to a **50% match on energy efficiency projects**, thanks to tax increment financing.
- ▶ The City's new **Public Works Facility** won an energy efficiency award for its many construction innovations.



### WASTE MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Iowa City and two partner cities in the Midwest received a grant to develop tools to **assess and measure carbon drawdown efforts**, such as increasing tree canopy and composting.
- ▶ More than 3,300 tons of material were recycled through the City's **curbside organics program**, a 50% increase from the previous year.



### TRANSPORTATION

- ▶ The **Iowa City Area Transit Study** shared a draft proposal in October 2020 for system improvements incorporating community input and best practices.
- ▶ A \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation will allow the City to purchase and/or lease **new electric buses**.
- ▶ The spring 2020 addition of an **electric vehicle (EV) charging station** in the Tower Place parking ramp increased the total number of public EV charging stations in City ramps to six.
- ▶ Iowa City and five partner communities in eastern Iowa received an **Electric Vehicle Readiness Grant** from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to prepare a plan for the wider adoption of electric vehicles.
- ▶ The City revised its fleet policy to include provisions stating a preference for **electric vehicle and alternative fuel equipment**. The City's **idling reduction policy outcomes** are being tracked for future reporting.
- ▶ The City applied for Gold Status as a **Bicycle Friendly Community** from the League of American Bicyclists and will be notified if awarded in 2021.



### SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

- ▶ Iowa City held its first virtual **Climate Festival** in September 2020, where the City shared information about electric vehicles, meatless meals, and local green buildings.
- ▶ Five Iowa City businesses received **Climate Action at Work Awards** from the City in September 2020, when the program debuted.
- ▶ **Community Climate Action Grants** were awarded in spring 2020 to eight local entities.
- ▶ The City held its first **Climate Expo** in November 2019 to update the community on climate initiatives.



See climate metrics and more on the back page ⇨

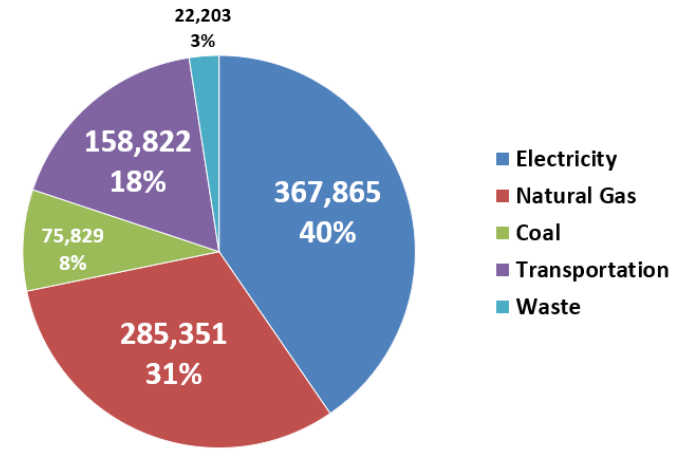
## Iowa City Climate Actions Goals

**45%**  
reduction in  
greenhouse  
gas emissions  
by 2030

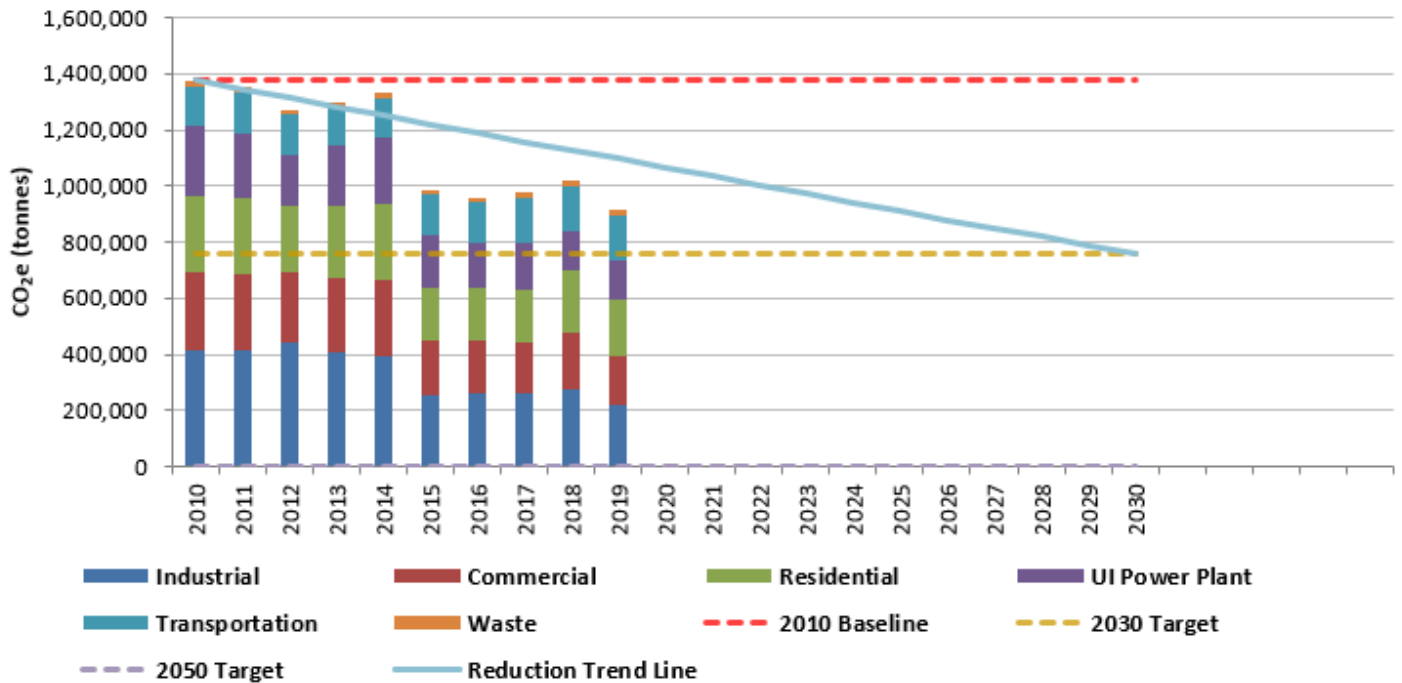


**NET ZERO**  
emissions by 2050

## 2019 Community-Wide Emissions (metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted)



## Iowa City Community CO<sub>2</sub>e Totals by Sector



For more detailed information about the City's progress on climate action and adaptation goals: <https://bit.ly/3eAB7qz>

### Coming soon:

- ▶ Revamped Iowa City transit services
- ▶ Electric vehicle readiness plan
- ▶ Exploration of projects to capture methane at City Landfill and Wastewater Treatment facilities