The City of Ann Arbor has a long history and track record of being a progressive city with strong community engagement. Recently, the City has fallen behind peer communities in regards to implementing climate and sustainability actions. Moreover, the City faces challenges keeping the community informed of and engaged in emerging and ongoing programs due to the City’s many university students and other transient residents. As home to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor also faces the challenge that a significant percentage of property within City limits is owned by the University.

DID YOU KNOW

- Ann Arbor passed a goal of generating 100% of municipal energy from clean and renewable sources by 2035.
- Ann Arbor adopted a Climate Action Plan in December 2012 that sets a goal of a 25% reduction in community emissions by 2025 and an 90% reduction by 2050.
- Since 2000, the City has seen a roughly 14% drop in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City’s Office of Sustainability and Innovations is working with an equity advisor to ensure sustainability and climate programs are addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.
- The University of Michigan, whose main campus is in Ann Arbor, has set an ambitious target of being carbon neutral.
- The City receives 177 Michigan Stadiums worth of precipitation per year; that’s 23 more than 30 years ago.
- The work plan for the City’s new Office of Sustainability and Innovations can be found at a2gov.org/sustainability.
CHALLENGES
Historically, limited financial resources have been dedicated to implementing climate and sustainability actions.

Over 55% of Ann Arbor’s housing units are rentals with a predominantly transient population, making community engagement an ongoing effort.

By 2040, residents age 65 and older are projected to make up 22.6% of Ann Arbor’s population – a 164% increase in the 65 and older population from 2010 to 2040.

The climate is changing faster than anticipated, leading to more intense, frequent, and reoccurring impacts.

OPPORTUNITIES
In July 2018, the city created the new Office of Sustainability and Innovations, which is uniquely positioned to advance sustainability and climate action across the organization, city, and region.

The community is deeply aware of its reliance on the area’s natural systems, including the Huron River, the source of 80% of Ann Arbor’s drinking water.

The City and the University are exploring collaborations to significantly reduce local emissions while reestablishing themselves as global sustainability champions.

REDUCING ANN ARBOR’S CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
The Office of Sustainability and Innovations has a work plan to help the City achieve its 25% community-wide greenhouse gas reduction target by 2025. You can find the work plan and additional details at: http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability. Highlights of the work plan include:

- **Sustaining Ann Arbor Together:** Neighborhood grant program to enhance local sustainability while building connections with your neighbors. Learn more at http://a2gov.org/sa2t.

- **Energy Efficiency in Homes and Rentals:** Including work to help all residents reduce their energy bills and explore renewable energy options.

- **Net Zero Energy Affordable Housing:** Designed to reduce the operational burden on affordable housing units, freeing up resources for the creation of more affordable housing in the community.

- **Resilience Hubs:** Community centers that support existing community needs while also fostering resilience during a disaster.

- **100% Clean and Renewable Municipal Operations:** Which outlines the City’s living strategy for ensuring all City operations are powered with renewable energy.