PHASE II

Community-wide

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

# MONROE COUNTY
New York

JUNE 2024

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY OF MONROE · STATE OF NEW YORK

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*COUNTY EXECUTIVE*

# Executive Summary

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, with significant implications for our environment, economy, and public health. Monroe County is dedicated to leading the way in climate action with its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and build resilience against climate-related risks. The **Climate Action Plan (CAP)** presents a comprehensive strategy to reduce our region's contribution to climate change for a more sustainable future.

## Climate change is already having an impact on New York State and these impacts are projected to grow.

In Western New York, by the 2080s, middle range projections show:

**RISING TEMPERATURES**
between 5.7°F and 9.6°F

**RISING PRECIPITATION**
between 4% and 13%
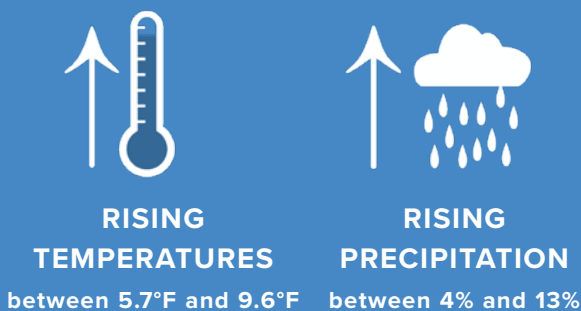
**CHANGES IN EXTREME EVENTS:**

**MORE DAYS ABOVE**
**90°F**

**FEWER DAYS BELOW**
**32°F**

## The CAP Approach:

Monroe County completed the CAP using a two-phased approach. To begin the planning process, Phase I focused on emissions from County-owned sites, facilities, and operations to create a strategy to decrease GHG emissions attributed to government operations. **This document represents Phase II, which expands on the first phase of the CAP to address emissions from Monroe County residents and from businesses and organizations in Monroe County that are not operated by the County.** Together, these phases provide a road-map for climate action that is applicable to all stakeholders in Monroe County.

Both Phase I and Phase II of the CAP can be found at the County's climate action website:

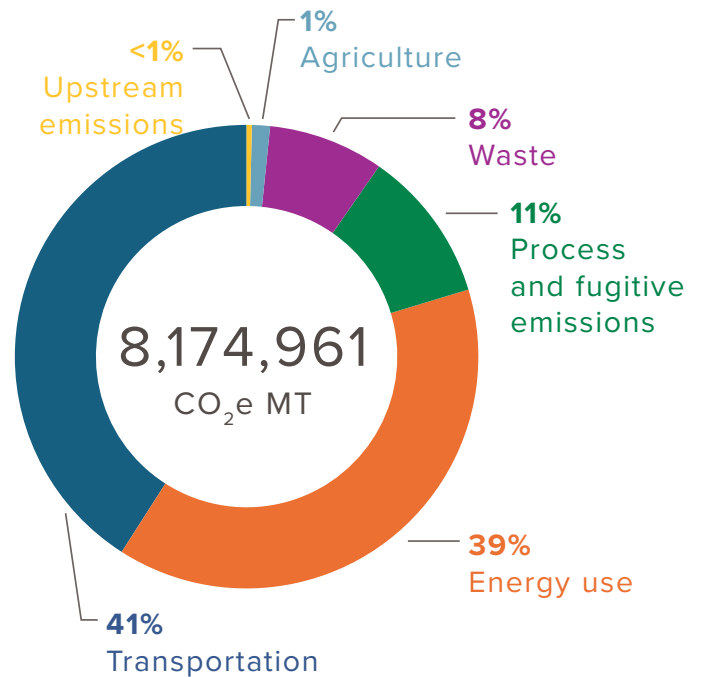**www.monroecountyclimateaction.com/**
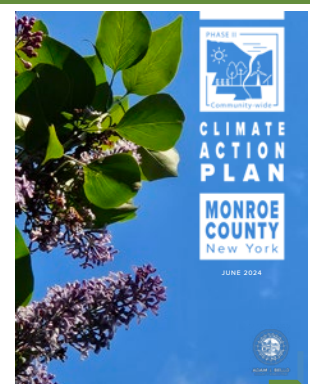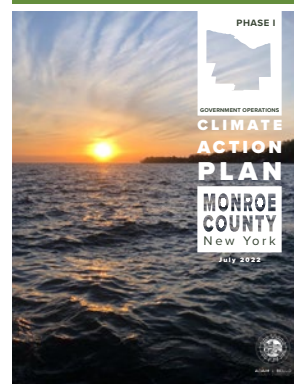
## GHG Inventory

A key element of the CAP is a the GHG inventory, which measured emissions from **Monroe County residents and from businesses and organizations in Monroe County that are not operated by the County.** **This inventory is a complement to the GHG inventory conducted in Phase I, which measured emissions from government operations.** Both the Phase I and Phase II inventories utilize the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) ClearPath tool with data from 2019.

Identifying six different source categories, the Phase II GHG inventory details the metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($CO_2$e MT) in Monroe County. This data highlights that, at over 80% of the total emissions, transportation and energy use are the largest sources of GHG emissions in Monroe County.

### Total 2019 Emissions:



8,174,961
$CO_2$e MT

- **1%** Agriculture
- **<1%** Upstream emissions
- **8%** Waste
- **11%** Process and fugitive emissions
- **39%** Energy use
- **41%** Transportation

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The majority of GHG emissions in Monroe County come from the **transportation** and **energy use** sectors.

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## Forecasting GHGs

As a baseline to guide potential emissions reductions, a "business as usual" (BAU) forecast was developed. This BAU forecast assumes no additional actions will be taken within the Monroe County boundary to reduce emissions beyond what is already regulated or policies that have already been adopted as of 2023. Still, the forecast relies on the achievement of the State's ambitious goals for zero-emission vehicles and a zero-emission grid. **If NYS emission reduction goals are met, GHG emissions in Monroe County are projected to decrease by 32.5% by 2050.**

**COMMUNITY-WIDE TARGET**

**GHG REDUCTION**

**80%**

below 2019 levels by 2050

Taking climate action, Monroe County aims to achieve an 80% reduction in GHG emissions county-wide by 2050, compared to the 2019 baseline. This target is consistent with the overall target set in Phase I of the CAP for government operations. Although not regulatory in nature, the Phase II of the CAP encourages voluntary participation from all community stakeholders.

## A Guiding Framework:

To outline the steps necessary to achieve the GHG reduction target of 80% below 2019 levels by 2050, the CAP provides a dynamic framework of goals, strategies and actions for community-wide implementation. Shaping this framework is the extensive community engagement that was conducted as part of the planning process, including regular CAP Advisory Committee meetings, multiple rounds of public workshops, online surveys, stakeholder meetings, and other interactive engagement techniques.

The framework is organized by six focus areas, including: transportation; buildings and housing; energy use and consumption; land and water resources; partnerships, education and economy; and, sustainable materials management. These focus areas align GHG sources with different sectors of Monroe County that were identified as critical for addressing environmental challenges.

Based on input received, the transportation focus area and the buildings and housing focus area were identified as top priorities.

# FOCUS AREA GOALS

### Transportation:

» Increase connectivity surrounding high trip potential and population centers.

» Reduce vehicle miles traveled.

» Increase zero emission personal and fleet vehicles, equipment, and facilities.

### Buildings & Housing:

» Consider existing development, redevelopment, and new development scenarios to reduce or eliminate GHG emissions.

» Reduce energy use of buildings powered by fossil fuels, and transition to renewable energy sources where possible.

» Implement green building infrastructure and renewable energy generation policies on new development and encourage the retrofitting of existing buildings and land.

### Energy Use & Consumption

» Identify opportunities to reduce energy use and convert to renewable energy sources.

» Support municipalities and connect individuals to potential resources and programs for transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

### Land & Water Resources:

» Protect and conserve existing open spaces, agricultural lands, and natural areas.

» Improve access to and awareness of local natural resources at both a micro and macro scale to build environmental stewardship community-wide.

» Mitigate and reduce heat island impacts from the built environment.

### Partnerships, Education & Economy:

» Identify and foster connections between private and public organizations, local and county governments, and regional initiatives.

» Increase awareness and access to online platforms, tools, and networks to leverage partnerships between these groups.

### Sustainable Materials Management:

» Support, connect, and enhance access and awareness of diverting waste from landfills.

» Develop waste reduction and minimization programs that incorporate techniques of reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and organics recycling.

» Increase innovative re-purposing of waste byproducts and consider opportunities to harvest waste products for energy.

## Community-wide Implementation:

Essential to the CAP are the actions for implementation. It is these actions that identify ways to reach the community-wide GHG reduction target and support sustainable practices throughout Monroe County. Categorized by a variety of strategies, the actions are presented in tables following the goals for each focus area. Each action table highlights the actions applicable to the County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations, and individuals. These tables are designed to be used as a checklist for climate action.

To access the action table for a specific focus area, click on the corresponding focus area icon below:

Climate action through the implementation of CAP goals, strategies and actions can have numerous benefits, such as:

» cost savings through energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption,

» improved public health from reduced air pollution,

» preservation of natural resources,

» economic growth through the creation of green jobs,

» enhanced community resilience to climate impacts, and

» greater equity by reducing energy costs for low-income families.

TRANSPORTATION

LAND & WATER RESOURCES

BUILDINGS & HOUSING

PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION & ECONOMY

ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

## Supporting Continued Climate Action:

The CAP is a part of an ongoing effort for climate mitigation and adaption in Monroe County that includes a variety of guiding plans and operational studies. As a tool for continued climate actions, the Phase II CAP highlights key plans that identify community-wide policies and programs in Monroe County. Additionally, the CAP outlines state, regional and local planning efforts and funding opportunities for climate action to serve as resources for Monroe County stakeholders.

Together, the data, planning framework and implementation resources presented in the CAP support **a community-wide effort for collective action and community engagement in achieving a more resilient future for all residents.**

# TRANSPORTATION ACTIONS

The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by Monroe County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations or individuals with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan. For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.
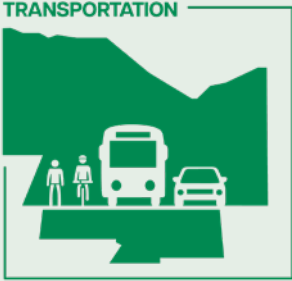
**Table 1.** Transportation Actions by Strategy

| TRANSPORTATION | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1: Education & Awareness Campaign** | | | | | |
| • Consider supporting a county-wide educational campaign on the health benefits of using active transportation. | ✓ | | | | |
| **STRATEGY 2: Active Transportation Infrastructure & Public Transit** | | | | | |
| • Implement the Monroe County Active Transportation Plan. | ✓ | | | | |
| • Increase bike infrastructure county-wide and improve the connectivity between bike infrastructure networks. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Work with municipalities to fill gaps in sidewalks on County roads with support of Monroe County DOT Municipal Sidewalk program. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Further develop online bike and trail maps across the County that link both on-road and off-road facilities. | ✓ | | | | |
| • Improve maintenance of bike and pedestrian facilities within the county-wide network during all seasons, including plowing bike lanes during winter months. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Support efforts to expand public transit systems to increase frequency of services, increase awareness of locations and schedule, and reach of public transit county-wide. | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 3: Facilities & Amenities for Transportation Modes** | | | | | |
| • Encourage bike storage and facilities at employment centers that are connected to bike networks. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Encourage replacement of traffic lights with roundabouts where feasible to reduce time idling and improve traffic safety. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| **STRATEGY 4: Electric & Alternative Transportation Initiatives** | | | | | |
| • Increase use of electric bikes and scooters. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Increase private electric vehicle (EV) ownership through local, state, federal or private grant opportunities, prioritizing incentives for low-moderate income community members. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Support the development of electric car sharing programs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

**Table 1.** Transportation Actions by Strategy (continued)

| TRANSPORTATION | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Complete a county-wide EV plan. Identify appropriate locations for installation of additional Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | |
| • Implement the installation of additional Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations, in accordance with County and/or local plans and studies. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | |
| **STRATEGY 5: Transportation Planning & Policy Development** | | | | | |
| • Continue to implement Monroe County Complete Streets policy to reduce traffic congestion. | ✔ | | | | |
| • Advocate for greater state and federal funding for public transit and multi-modal transportation infrastructure. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| **STRATEGY 6: Land Use Regulations** | | | | | |
| • Provide resources to municipalities to incentivize higher density development to promote walkability and development along existing public transit routes. | ✔ | ✔ | | | |
| • Implement County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) policy to incentivize higher density development and development along existing public transit routes to enhance walkability and accessibility. | ✔ | | | | |
| **STRATEGY 7: Alternative Transportation & Reduction of Car Dependence** | | | | | |
| • Encourage employers to reduce car dependence through hybrid work environments, shuttle services to employees outside of public transit services, and other means. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| • Encourage a reduction of single passenger personal vehicle trips under 5 minutes through an educational campaign. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| • Reinforce road user safety education, especially to provide consideration to alternative transportation users. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| **STRATEGY 8: Sustainable Development Features** | | | | | |
| • Incentivize high density and large developments to provide EV charging stations to residents and businesses. | ✔ | ✔ | | | |

# BUILDING & HOUSING ACTIONS

The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by Monroe County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations or individuals with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan. For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.

**Table 2.** Buildings & Housing Actions by Strategy

| BUILDINGS & HOUSING | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| **STRATEGY 1: Urban Planning & Development** | | | | | |
| • Work with County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) and Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC) to encourage redevelopment of areas targeted for infill that are within public transit or walkable neighborhoods. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Work with COMIDA to implement a scoring policy to encourage high density development/infill. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Develop a target use of renewable energy sources in new development, retrofits, and rehabilitation projects for projects with COMIDA/MCIDC support. | ✓ | | | | |
| **STRATEGY 2: Workforce Development & Training** | | | | | |
| • Provide workforce development services to connect community members with jobs in energy efficiency fields (i.e., online job board, training services). | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Expand workforce training and education in relevant fields such as vocational programs, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs in skilled trades like Electricians, HVAC/R industries. | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Provide support for contractors to complete NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) paperwork on projects. | ✓ | | | | |
| • Provide support to increase contractor workforce with Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification. | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 3: Educational Campaigns & Community Engagement** | | | | | |
| • Provide community-wide education on rebates and incentives related to grant funding for climate-related improvements. Partner with trusted contractors to educate customers on available rebates and incentives. | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |

**Table 2.** Building & Housing Actions by Strategy (continued)

| BUILDINGS & HOUSING | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Support a county-wide educational campaign on the health benefits of housing upgrades and resources (i.e., Rochester Energy Efficiency and Weatherization program). | ✔ | ✔ | | ✔ | ✔ |
| **STRATEGY 4: Land Use Regulations** | | | | | |
| • Explore the benefits of modifying local land use regulations to allow multi-family units to be built on single-family lots and increasing mixed-use development zoned areas to create more walkable areas. Assist and incentivize municipalities willing to modify local land use regulations. | | ✔ | | | |
| • Provide resources for land use regulations to increase development density in targeted areas by re-evaluating and reducing minimum lot sizes, required setbacks, and parking requirements. | ✔ | ✔ | | | |
| **STRATEGY 5: Renewable Energy & Building Retrofits** | | | | | |
| • Increase renewable energy use in buildings, including conversions to heat-pumps and aiming for net-zero buildings. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| • Explore opportunities for new development to connect with renewable energy sources, in line with New York State requirements for advancing zero emission construction in new buildings. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| • Encourage the accommodation of historic building adaptations in local codes to allow for opportunities to increase energy efficiency in historic preservation districts and leverage related funding programs. | ✔ | ✔ | | | |
| • Encourage increased inspection frequency, thoroughness, and performance requirements of insulation and weatherizing practices in residential homes and apartment buildings. | | ✔ | | | ✔ |
| • Consider supporting benchmarking and disclosure programs to help renters and buyers identify energy efficient properties. | ✔ | ✔ | | ✔ | ✔ |
| • Encourage the sharing of information about state weatherization and energy efficiency programs with local residents, organizations, and businesses. | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| • Support education of municipalities and other eligible organizations for green energy grant-funding and assist with grant applications. | ✔ | ✔ | | ✔ | |

# ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION ACTIONS

The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by Monroe County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations or individuals with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan. For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.

**Table 3.** Energy Use & Consumption Actions by Strategy

| ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1: Energy Initiatives** | | | | | |
| • Provide resources for local development review boards to consider incentivizing coverage of solar panels above parking areas. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Incentivize the installation of solar panels above parking areas and rooftops. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Identify potential sites that may be suitable for incentivized renewable energy generation projects. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Identify potential locations for battery storage facilities. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| **STRATEGY 2: Education & Outreach** | | | | | |
| • Provide educational material on energy conservation, fuel switching, and energy use reduction practices. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Expand outreach for C-PACE[1] financing and similar programs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Develop a county-wide toolkit that facilitates sustainable practices among local organizations through resources, training, networking, incentives and/or performance tracking tools. | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Implement a toolkit to guide community partners in efforts to reduce energy use and consumption (including example Sustainability Plans, suggestions for actions/areas of opportunity, available local/state/federal grants to fund energy audits and other activities). | ✓ | | | | |
| **STRATEGY 3: Technical & Financial Assistance** | | | | | |
| • Provide technical assistance to businesses, organizations, and institutions to develop energy reduction goals, seek funding, etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Create a database of renewable energy resources, incentives, and tax credits, and connect residents and businesses to these resources. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Encourage municipalities to consider community choice aggregation and demand response programs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1    https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Commercial-Property-Assessed-Clean-Energy-PACE-Financing-Resources

**Table 3.** Energy Use & Consumption Actions by Strategy (continued)

| ENERGY USE & CONSUMPTION | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 4: Recognition Programs** | | | | | |
| • Recognize residents, and community and business leaders for their achievements in energy use reduction and sustainability. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Recognize businesses and organizations that achieve sustainable goals and objectives. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 5: Development & Assessment Tools** | | | | | |
| • Develop a tool that includes metrics and benchmarking to assist community partners with their energy use goals. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Consider incorporating evaluations of increased electric energy demand with ongoing infrastructure maintenance and improvement programs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 6: Planning & Policy** | | | | | |
| • Incentivize municipalities, employers, and community organizations to develop robust sustainability plans with measurable outcomes. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Consider supporting diversification of energy generation and supply models county-wide. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Consider incentivizing geothermal HVAC systems county-wide. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Provide incentives to homeowners and businesses to convert to solar energy. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Consider supporting development of community thermal energy networks. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 7: Renewable Energy & Infrastructure** | | | | | |
| • Support shifting public buildings and schools to renewable energy sources. | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Explore opportunities for the use of agrivoltaics on renewable energy sites where practicable. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Identify the gap between existing and projected needs for electrified heating systems and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations related to the county-wide energy grid. | ✓ | | | | |
| **STRATEGY 8: Consumer & Utility Engagement** | | | | | |
| • Support shift to electric small equipment and tools (leaf blowers, lawn mowers). | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Promote conversion to LED lighting. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

# LAND & WATER RESOURCE ACTIONS

The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by Monroe County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations or individuals with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan.  For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.

**Table 4.**   Land & Water Resources Actions by Strategy

| LAND & WATER RESOURCES | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1:  Policy Guidance & Support for Municipalities** | | | | | |
| • Provide guidance to municipalities on climate smart development practices and land use decisions through the development of green code or promotion of existing regional and state codes. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Provide municipalities guidance/support to offer local incentives for green infrastructure like fee discounts, development incentives, rebates and installation financing, and awards and recognition programs. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| **STRATEGY 2:  Environmental Conservation & Land Management** | | | | | |
| • Identify natural ecosystems and open space and opportunities for protection through planning and policies. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Identify opportunity areas for ecorestoration that could offset and sequester emissions from energy use. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Support programs to increase tree cover, establish tree canopy goals across the County, and consider creating a tree fund, prioritizing planting trees in vulnerable areas. Consider supporting an expansion of the City of Rochester's Reforest Rochester Fund. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Support programs to conserve more land in collaboration with land trust organizations and to conserve more wooded lots. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

**Table 4.** Land & Water Resource Actions by Strategy (continued)

| LAND & WATER RESOURCES | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 3: Biodiversity, Habitat Restoration & Habitat Connectivity** | | | | | |
| • Use the Monroe County Environmental Management Council (EMC) to provide recommendations for increasing biodiversity and protecting pollinators and birds. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Support local groups and organizations involved with habitat restoration and provide guidance on educational material and signage at restoration sites. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Explore opportunities to expand habitat areas, open spaces, and native ecosystems. Encourage maintenance based on best practices. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Provide education on the conversion from lawn space to native plantings on both public and private property. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 4: Green Infrastructure & Land Use** | | | | | |
| • Explore opportunities to increase green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff from large impervious spaces county-wide. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Encourage initiatives that support no-mow or low-mow lawns and native plantings. | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Provide resources to municipalities to encourage farmland protection in accordance with the County's agricultural land use planning efforts. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Identify potential green space expansion, areas to be preserved as green space county-wide, and opportunities for higher density development. | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| • Consider supporting development of brownfields for clean energy generation. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| **STRATEGY 5: Water Management & Conservation** | | | | | |
| • Identify grants and educational resources for businesses and homeowners to install rainwater collection and graywater systems. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 6: Community Engagement & Education** | | | | | |
| • Create youth and community programs for volunteer maintenance of local green spaces. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

# PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION & ECONOMY ACTIONS

The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by Monroe County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations or individuals with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan. For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.

**Table 5.** Partnerships, Education & Economy Actions by Strategy

| PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION & ECONOMY | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1: Community Engagement** | | | | | |
| • Support county-wide community campaigns in partnership with existing community groups working on commercial and residential building and vehicle electrification, solar, and other forms of clean energy. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Work with and support local organizations, schools, and employers to plant trees, preserve mature trees, and identify renewable projects. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Support community organizations serving underrepresented populations within the County to assist with the accessibility of affordable clean energy and energy efficiency improvements in disadvantaged communities through informational and funding resources. | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Encourage local agencies to collaborate to identify climate-vulnerable populations and develop programs to address their needs. | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| • Develop a Climate Action Toolkit to provide a "roadmap for success" for businesses and organizations, guiding them in implementing effective sustainability strategies. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| **STRATEGY 2: Educational Development** | | | | | |
| • Develop educational materials about the health impacts associated with greenhouse gases and climate change. | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 3: Partnerships & Collaboration** | | | | | |
| • Foster partnerships with local educational institutions and industries to innovate technologies and siting for renewable energy projects that preserve open space and productive agricultural land. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

**Table 5.** Partnerships, Education & Economy Actions by Strategy (continued)

| PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION & ECONOMY | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Foster partnerships with educational institutions and industry leaders that have training programs to support and attract a labor force skilled in green technologies. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Consider developing working groups for focus area action implementation. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 4: Economic Development & Business Support** | | | | | |
| • Identify, support, and protect local economic drivers such as outdoor tourism, recreational assets, and agriculture. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Work with economic development agencies to highlight available programs and resources to support businesses and create jobs related to addressing climate change. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Support the local business community in establishing a Sustainable Business Roundtable to help guide and facilitate the implementation of sustainable practices. | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 5: Educational & Informational Resources** | | | | | |
| • Encourage municipal officials, residents, and commercial entities to explore renewable energy options such as battery storage and load shifting. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Provide educational resources supporting regenerative economics. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Help identify funding opportunities for climate action available to all stakeholders, including individuals. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

# SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following is a summary of potential actions that may be initiated by Monroe County, municipalities, businesses, community organizations or individuals with an interest in furthering the goals and strategies of this Community-wide Climate Action Plan. For some actions, the County may be a partner in implementation through supportive measures such as assistance securing funding, serving as a coordinator or connector of stakeholders, and/or providing informational resources and guidance, as appropriate.

**Table 6.** Sustainable Materials Management Actions by Strategy

| SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1: Waste Reduction Programs** | | | | | |
| • Finalize and implement recommendations of the Organics Management Plan. | ✓ | | | | |
| • Provide educational material, guidance and support to organizations on the benefits of reducing and diverting organic waste. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Support community groups with their waste reduction goals. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Explore deconstruction opportunities for salvaging construction and demolition (C&D) materials. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 2: Reuse Initiatives** | | | | | |
| • With support of the Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC), further explore reuse education and opportunities in the community. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| • Support and promote repair cafes and reuse centers. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Encourage restaurants to use reusable dishes and accept customers clean containers for take-out, when practicable. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Reduce food waste and support food donation network to increase food security. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Educate and encourage consumers and businesses to use reusable products, like refillable containers, the reuse or up-cycling of used goods, goods repair, etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 3: Sustainable Procurement Policies** | | | | | |
| • Explore green procurement policies and programs and offer community partners opportunities to participate. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Explore more circular solutions (such as a virtual material marketplace) for appliances, textiles, building materials, electronics, furniture, and office supplies. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

**Table 6.** Sustainable Materials Management Actions by Strategy (continued)

| SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT | MONROE COUNTY | MUNICIPALITIES | BUSINESSES | COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS | INDIVIDUALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 4: Recycling Enhancement & Education** | | | | | |
| • Continue efforts educate the community on how to recycle right to reduce contamination. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Expand reused, recycled, or recovered materials programs through the WM[1]/Monroe County ecopark. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Expand education campaign about the WM[1]/Monroe County ecopark and the services it provides to the public. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **STRATEGY 5: Business Practices & Corporate Responsibility** | | | | | |
| • Incentivize increased usage of sustainable packaging. | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| • Encourage businesses to track waste, energy, and water data and recognize/celebrate those achieving waste reduction/diversion goals. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Encourage partnerships to provide technical assistance to support pilot programs on organics management/waste reduction. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| **STRATEGY 6: Infrastructure & Resource Efficiency** | | | | | |
| • Identify grant opportunities for electrification of refuse fleets and the use of more efficient routes. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |

1    WM, formally known as Waste Management.

# END OF DOCUMENT

## JUNE 2024

ADAM J. BELLO
*COUNTY EXECUTIVE*