

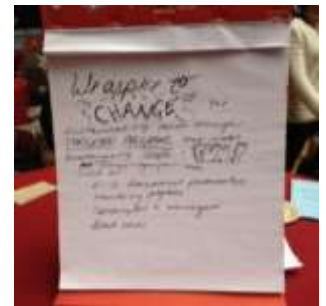


The Cleveland Climate Action Plan (CAP) consists of 33 citywide actions aimed at tackling climate change while improving quality of life. To be successful, it depends on neighborhood leadership. A Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit has been developed to help neighborhoods and residents incorporate the climate actions into their local work in ways that advance neighborhood visions while meeting CAP goals at the same time.

To develop the Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit, the City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability, supported by Enterprise Community Partners, worked with partner organizations in several communities to map out how local climate action projects build on neighborhood assets, address neighborhood concerns, and advance Cleveland's climate action goals.

This document provides guidelines for bringing together key stakeholders in your neighborhood to participate in a 2-hour climate action brainstorming workshop. The goal of the workshop is for participants to develop local climate action project ideas, tailored to the particular assets and concerns of the neighborhood.

The workshop is divided into three parts, as follows. Note that all the tools listed can be found at: <http://www.sustainablecleveland.org/climate>.



Part	Activities	Tools Used	Time
Review the Cleveland Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how climate change and climate action relate to participants' neighborhoods and lives • Interview participants about their climate actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cleveland and Climate Action: Building a Green City on a Blue Lake</i> • Climate Action Videos • Visual Collages 	35 min
Brainstorm local project ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Toolkit process for developing project ideas • Work in small groups to develop project ideas • Share ideas back with the whole group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Climate Action Case Studies • Climate Action Project Worksheet 	1 hr 10 min
Discuss next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion/Reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop Guide questions 	15 min

Details for planning and facilitating the workshop are described below. Note that while the guidelines are for a workshop, the different steps can also be taken separately, over the course of several workshops or using different types of activities. The guidelines are simply guidelines, intended to be tailored to your interests, needs, and style.

PREPARE FOR THE WORKSHOP

- **Study Up!** Make sure you and everyone else you will be working with has a basic understanding of how climate change is impacting Cleveland and Northeast Ohio and is expected to further impact it in the future, by viewing the presentation, *Climate Action and Cleveland: Together, We're Building a Green City on a Blue Lake*. Alternatively, you can allot time at the beginning of the workshop to go through the presentation together. You also have the option of showing Climate Action Videos. View these videos beforehand. They are linked from the Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit website.
- **Read the Plan.** Familiarize yourselves with the goals and actions of the Cleveland Climate Action Plan (CAP). Download the At-A-Glance version or the full report, at <http://www.sustainablecleveland.org/climate>.
- **Review the Visual Collages.** The workshop makes use of Visual Collages as a tool for interviewing participants to identify their climate actions. Familiarize yourself with the collages ahead of time. They are downloadable at the Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit website.



PLAN THE WORKSHOP

Time:

- 2 hours
- The workshops can be done during the same session or as two separate workshops

Number of People:

You can do this workshop with just a few people or with a larger group. To make sure you get a bunch of ideas, try to convene at least 4-5 people. Maximum is probably 20-25. To expand your reach and engage more people in climate action—beyond your usual “choir”—consider reaching out to groups that you have not worked with much to date. This workshop will help you find common ground and develop project ideas that accomplish multiple goals at the same time.

Space:

If more than 5 people attend, it is best to divide people into small groups for some of the activities, so you will want a room with some tables that can be separated for small group work.

Materials:

1. A few sets of the preparation materials, for reference (*Climate Action and Cleveland: Together, We're Building a Green City on a Blue Lake* and CAP At-A-Glance).
2. One set of Visual Collages of Climate-Friendly Practices
3. 1 copy per person of the EcoVillage Produce Climate Action Project Approach Diagram (below)
4. 1 copy per person of the Climate Action Project Worksheet (below)

FACILITATE THE WORKSHOP

PART 1: Review the Cleveland Climate Action Plan

Goal: Review the 6 Cleveland climate action focus areas and 33 actions

Total Time: 35 minutes **Work as:** Large group

Instructions:

10 minutes: Review the Climate Action Plan. Refer to the reference documents introducing the plan and briefly review its six focus areas.

- Have a discussion about climate action, using some of the discussion questions on Slide 23 of *Climate Action and Cleveland: Building a Green City on a Blue Lake*. If you think it's necessary to go through this presentation together first, allot more time to do that.
- Make sure everyone understands what "climate action" is. The Toolkit treats it as the diverse and creative ways in which neighborhoods respond to climate change. *Climate Action and Cleveland: Building a Green City on a Blue Lake* includes a number of examples of community-based climate action that show the power of building on communities' strengths—such as strong local businesses, frugality, conserving water, growing food, etc.—to implement the region's climate action strategies in locally meaningful ways. Connecting climate action projects to neighborhood strengths ultimately attracts more participation and helps ensure that projects will be sustained into the future. For example, we expect that EcoVillage Produce Inc. will be successful long-term because it is spearheaded by Detroit Shoreway residents who are passionate about gardening and the neighborhood.

5 minutes: Show Video. If you have the technology to do this, show a short video or two about climate action in Cleveland. Videos are available on the Sustainable Cleveland 2019 website ranging from 5 to 15 minutes long.



15 minutes: Interview Each Other. Next, to help everyone understand what these strategies really mean, interview volunteers from the group, using Visual Collages. Pull up two chairs to the front of the room. You sit in one and have a volunteer sit in the other as the interviewee. Choose one of the collages, introduce the topic, and then show it to the volunteer interviewee. Using the guiding questions on the front and back of the collage, have a short conversation with the volunteer about the practices related to the collage topic that s/he does or has seen other people do in the neighborhood. Do this a few times, with 3-4 volunteers, using a different collage each time so that the group gets a good understanding of the different types of practices that fit under the climate action strategies.

5 minutes: Check In. Before moving on to the next activity, take a moment to ask if people generally understand the CAP goals and focus areas. If they have further questions, address them as a group.

PART 2: Brainstorm Local Project Ideas

Goal: Brainstorm ideas for expanding or developing new local climate action projects that will address a climate change challenge and also another issue that residents care about.

Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes **Work as:** Large and small groups

Note: You may wish to focus on a particular topic or program. For example, if you are already doing a garden and you want help thinking about how to expand the garden or garden programming or connect your garden work more closely to climate action, then focus this activity around that topic rather than leaving it open-ended.

Instructions:

10 minutes: Practice Process. Using the Bridgeport Café diagram (right) and EcoVillage Produce Climate Action Project Case Study (below) as examples, walk the large group through the process of coming up with some local climate action project ideas and then creating your own diagram.



Bridgeport Café in Kinsman sells healthy food, employs local residents, and serves as a community gathering place

40 minutes: Complete Worksheets.

Break people into small groups. Instruct everyone to complete their Climate Action Project Worksheet in these groups. Explain the worksheet instructions to make sure everyone understands what they should do.

Note: Each group should complete one or two worksheets by the end of the activity, focused on the project(s) that they are most enthusiastic about.

20 minutes: Discuss Worksheets. Reconvene the large group and have each small group explain their worksheet and the final project idea that they came up with.

PART 3: Discuss Next Steps

Goal: Determine next steps

Total Time: 15 minutes **Work as:** Large group

Instructions:

Assuming that your goal is to use this workshop as a springboard to actual action, spend this last bit of time talking about next steps and developing a broad work plan. Consider questions such as: How much more work is required to flesh out your project concept? Do you know for sure which project you want to focus on, or do you need more time to choose from a few ideas? How will you then move from discussion to action? Who else needs to be involved in these conversations, to think big-picture and also to work out practical details such as budget, funding, time, staffing, space, etc.?

Conclude the workshop with a quick 3-minute reflection exercise. Ask participants to shout out words about how they're feeling about your local climate action project ideas.

the foundation

ECOVILLAGE PRODUCE, LLC

The story starts in Ithaca Court, a summer sprouts community garden plot made possible through St. Stephens church, land banked property, Cleveland zoning code, and Ohio State Extension. As a gathering space of the community, residents built strong relationships while cultivating the earth. It was here two EcoVillage residents, Barbara Strauss and Margaret Armstead, formed a strong bond.



the spark

Margaret and Barbara were recruited by Ohio State Extension to partake in a market garden course. The two thought that a market garden would be a valuable addition to the EcoVillage and would build on existing resident engagement in community gardening.



the project

Margaret and Barbara built a business plan for a market garden in 2006 called EcoVillage Produce. The idea was to generate quality produce in an urban area to build economic stability and increase public health. Starting as an offshoot of the Ithaca Court community garden, they sold produce to City Fresh and vended with Tremont Farmers Market. As the garden grew the two looked for more partners. John Yokie joined the team in 2007. John had gardened extensively in his home country, Liberia. To better understand the growing seasons in Ohio, he took the master gardener course at Ohio State Extension. It was there he met Barbara and Margaret.



the impact

The garden made several changes in 2009, receiving an infusion of money and technical support from Reimagining Cleveland. A new plot provided by Detroit Shoreway CDO and land banked property, raised beds, compost facilities, and modern farming technologies allowed EcoVillage Produce to triple their output.



the climate

Creating a garden on a previously impermeable lot helps us adapt to a changing climate by capturing stormwater, lessening flooding, and reducing the urban heat island effect. Composting green waste reduces greenhouse gas emissions as compared to landfilling and replenishes soil nutrients. Produce grown at the garden is sold to residents, increasing access to fresh food and benefiting neighborhood health. By buying local food, the neighborhood is cutting down on emissions from trucking and transportation.



For more information call (216) 961-4242.



CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT WORKSHEET

As a small group, follow the instructions below to complete the blank diagram on the next page. Fill out a diagram for the one or two best project ideas you come up with.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill in the Neighborhood Assets and Neighborhood Concerns sections first.
 - Use these guiding questions to help you brainstorm some strengths and concerns that can be incorporated into a climate action project:
 - Are any of the CAP actions already being done in your community, by organizations or individuals (lots of people already doing some of these things)? *Hint:* Think back to the Visual Collage interviews. What kinds of things did the interviewees say they do or have seen others do?
 - What are your community's greatest strengths? These can be physical assets (e.g., buildings, parks, rivers, homes, etc.) or practices and values (e.g., strong sense of family, caring about the outdoors, gardening knowledge going back generations, strong community organizations, etc.).
 - What are the issues or concerns that residents care most about and that community organizations are mobilizing around (e.g., education, passing on a sense of cultural heritage, economic development, foreclosures, etc.)?
 - What programs or projects, run by an organization you work with or by others in your community, do you think might lend themselves to incorporating one of the climate action strategies? For example, some organizations have youth or senior programs and have incorporated gardening. Others have affordable housing programs and have incorporated retrofits (energy efficient buildings) to help people save money on utility bills.
 - Choose a couple of the strengths and concerns that stand out the most and write them in the NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS and NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS sections of the worksheet.
2. Then circle or highlight the CAP focus areas that you think ...
 - Could build on some of the strengths you identified to address some of the concerns; and/or
 - Make the most sense for your community.
3. Leave the OUTSIDE SUPPORT section blank for now, unless you already know of a partner or funder that would be interested in this project, in which case fill in their names. This is a section you'll think about further down the line.

Finally, look at everything you have filled in and discuss what kinds of climate action projects might be good for your community to take on. If you have one idea that you all think is best, complete one worksheet. If you have two, complete another. Be prepared to explain your worksheets to the whole group.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT IDEAS:	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>build on neighborhood assets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">1 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">3 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">4 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">5 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">6 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>address neighborhood concerns</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">1 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">3 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">4 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">5 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">6
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>use outside support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">1 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">3 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">4 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">5 <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">6 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>take climate action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">1 LAND USE + CLEAN WATER <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + PUBLIC HEALTH <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">3 WASTE REDUCTION + RESOURCE CONSERVATION <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">4 ENERGY EFFICIENCY + GREEN BUILDING <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">5 ADVANCED + RENEWABLE ENERGY <li style="margin-bottom: 10px;">6 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY