

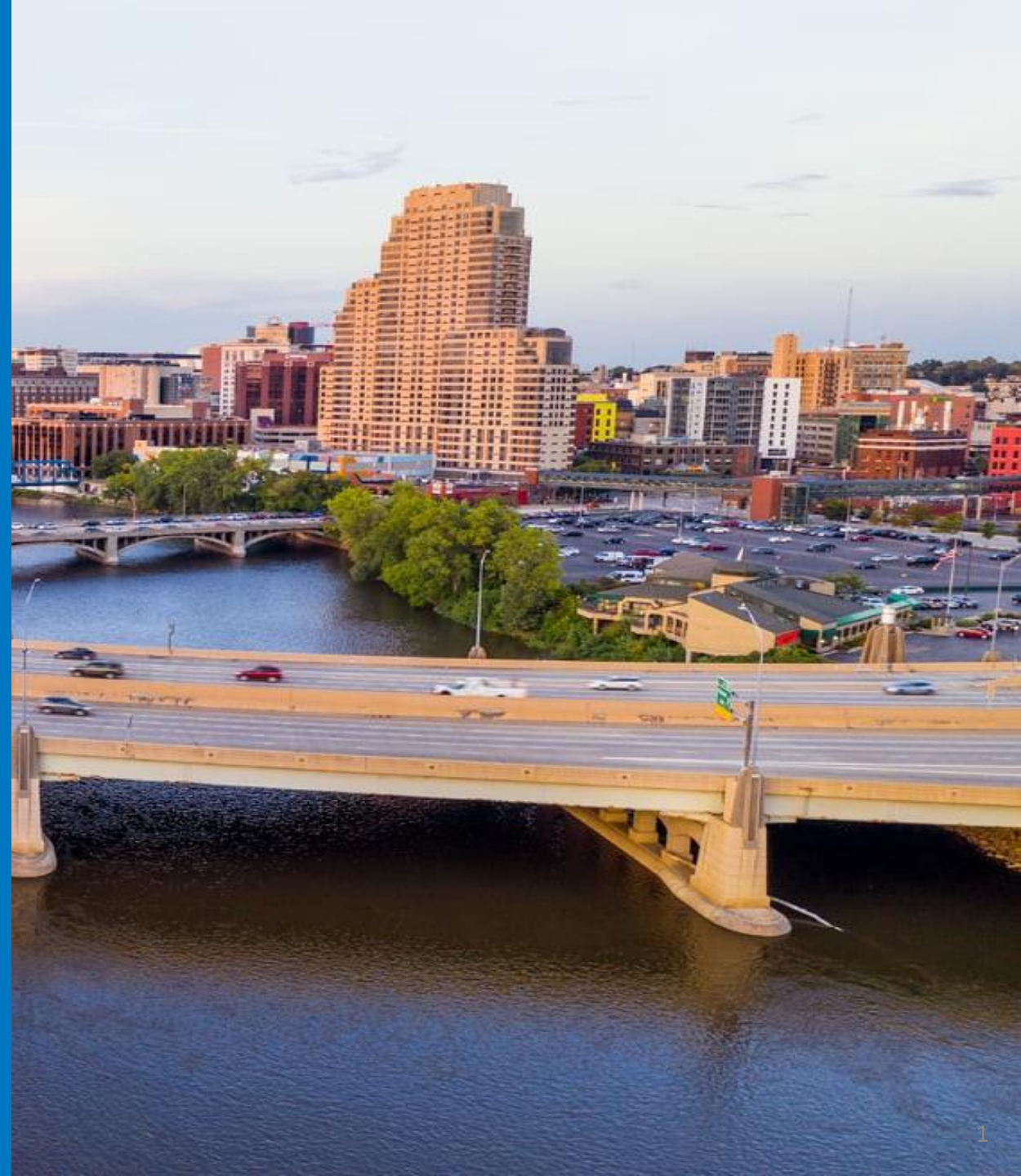


April 14, 2026

Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

20 Commission Prioritized Actions
Feasibility & Analysis of
Implementation

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(she/her)





CAAP Background

April 29, 2025

- City Commission held a public hearing on the CAAP

May 13, 2025

- The Committee of the Whole prioritized 20 actions

July 15, 2025

- The Committee of the Whole provided staff direction to move forward with a resolution to accept the plan, including the 20 priority actions

August 12, 2025

- City Commission accepted the Grand Rapids Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and established the Commission's 20 priority actions
- The Office of Sustainability issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional consulting firms to assess the GHG emissions reduction potential, cost estimates, and co-benefits for the strategies and actions of the CAAP

August 25, 2025

- The City received seven proposals and through the City Manager's authority, a \$26,000 contract was authorized with Fresh Coast Climate Solutions

Scope of Analysis

Fresh Coast Climate Solutions' Work with the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability

About Fresh Coast

- Michigan-based LLC
- Decades of expertise coaching private companies, organizations, and public sector clients toward smart and impactful sustainability practices
- Areas of expertise include climate action planning, GHG emissions inventories, lifecycle accounting, energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification, resiliency, water, stakeholder engagement, and decarbonization

Goals

Quantify Estimates:

- GHG emissions reduction potential
 - Scope 1 and 2 only
- GHG reduction % total emissions (from 2019 baseline)
- Total costs
 - Next step: cost verification with City departments
- Identify co-benefits

Format

20 Actions Prioritized by City Commission

- Energy Systems (4 actions)
- Residential Homes (3 actions)
- Buildings & Industry (3 actions)
- Transportation (3 actions)
- Nature Based Solutions (2 actions)
- Food Systems (5 actions)

Methodology

1. Generated estimates for 20 priority actions based on GHG reduction assumptions research that correspond to specific targets modeled in the calculations
2. Identified co-benefits for all priority actions
3. Financial analysis is still in process. Some preliminary budget estimates for FY26 and opportunities for FY27 are provided.

Quantification of each metric for each action was informed by numerous assumptions and sources. Fresh Coast provided the City with models, methodology, and sources for traceability. For a more accurate analysis, future adjustments with more refined project-specific data is required.

Feasibility & Analysis



Fresh Coast Climate Solutions' Work with the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability

CAAP Priority Action	GHG Emission Reduction	Community-Wide SBT Reduction	Co-Benefits
1. Energy Systems S1, A2: Partner with Utilities	490,609 MT CO ₂ e	19.84%	Improves air quality, reduces energy needed in the community, potential to increase number of clean energy jobs
2. Energy Systems S2, A2: Energy Legislation	119,927 MT CO ₂ e	4.85%	Promotes local energy independence, expands access to renewable energy to renters and low-income households
3. Energy Systems S3, A4: Increase Access to Financing	Not estimated	Not estimated	Improves building resilience, provides more equitable access to upgrades
4. Energy Systems S7, A8: Resilience Hubs	158 MT CO ₂ e	0.01%	Enhances community resilience and preparedness, enhances community services and strengthen local networks

Feasibility & Analysis



Fresh Coast Climate Solutions' Work with the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability

CAAP Priority Action	GHG Emission Reduction	Community-Wide SBT Reduction	Co-Benefits
5. Residential Homes S3, A3: Home Energy Update Financing	835 MT CO ₂ e	0.03%	Improves air quality in homes
6. Residential Homes S5, A2: Innovative Housing Solutions	Not estimated	Not estimated	Expands access to diverse, energy-efficient housing options, reduces material waste and construction emissions (Scope 3), strengthens collaboration between local government, developers to advance sustainable urban design.
7. Residential Homes S5, A3: Protect Against Displacement	Not estimated	Not estimated	Promotes community stability and resilience

Feasibility & Analysis



Fresh Coast Climate Solutions' Work with the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability

CAAP Priority Action	GHG Emission Reduction	Community-Wide SBT Reduction	Co-Benefits
8. Buildings & Industry S1, A1: Financing Resources for Businesses	187 MT CO ₂ e	0.01%	Advances equity, improves building resilience, reduces energy needed and operating costs, improves air quality
9. Buildings & Industry S1, A2: Increase Data Access	249 MT CO ₂ e	0.01%	Reduces operating costs for businesses, improves resilience of local businesses, reduces energy needs, improves air quality
10. Buildings & Industry S4, A3: Vicinity Energy	15,081 MT CO ₂ e	0.61% (0.05% - City portion)	Improves air quality, strengthens community partnerships

Feasibility & Analysis



Fresh Coast Climate Solutions' Work with the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability

CAAP Priority Action	GHG Emission Reduction	Community-Wide SBT Reduction	Co-Benefits
11. Transportation S2, A5: Pedestrian Amenities	581 MT CO ₂ e	0.02%	Improves mobility options, strengthens downtown, improves Grand Rapids as an attractive destination to visit/move to
12. Transportation S3, A2: Expand Bike Lanes	15,555 MT CO ₂ e	0.63%	Reduces traffic congestion, increases safety for bicyclists, improves transportation accessibility, improves air quality & public health due to reduced driving
13. Transportation S6, A4: DART EV Program	157 MT CO ₂ e	0.01%	Improves mobility options for residents, improves air quality
14. Nature Based Solutions S1, A1: Tree Plantings	1,560 MT CO ₂ e	0.06%	Mitigates urban heat island effect, enhances biodiversity, improves air quality
15. Nature Based Solutions S4, A1: Native Plants	20 MT CO ₂ e	0.00%	Improves soil, water, and air quality; strengthens flood resilience; improve community engagement on sustainable landscaping

Feasibility & Analysis



Fresh Coast Climate Solutions' Work with the City of Grand Rapids Office of Sustainability

CAAP Priority Action	GHG Emission Reduction	Community-Wide SBT Reduction	Co-Benefits
16. Food Systems S1, A1: Greenhouses & Hoop Houses	Not estimated	Not estimated	Reduces Scope 3 GHG emissions, enhances food security, promote sustainable land use
17. Food Systems S2, A9: Compost Soil & Biochar	2,287 MT CO ₂ e	0.09%	Improves long-term soil health, provides nutrient-rich materials for agriculture
18. Food Systems S3, A1: Compost Ordinance	92 MT CO ₂ e	0.00%	Improves soil health, provides nutrient-rich compost for residential gardening
19. Food Systems S3, A4: Food Scrap Diversion	54.38 MT CO ₂ e	0.00%	Improved soil health and air quality due to increased compost, reduced strain on WTE facility and landfill
20. Food Systems S4, A1: Edible Trees & Livestock	Not estimated	Not estimated	Reduces scope 3 GHG emissions, improves food security, increases biodiversity



20 CAAP Priority Actions Budget Update

FY26 Budget Investments

DART EV Car Share Program (T S6, A4)

- Continuation of FY25 Carshare Pilot - three-year contract for \$500,000
- \$300,000 in FY26 for a local match to a USDOT CFI Grant. Grant was awarded, but the program has stalled at the federal level.

Tree Plantings (NBS S1, A1)

- \$12,000 – Tree Give-away program
- \$25,000 – Plantings through Building Bridges
- \$80,000 – Friends of GR Parks Partnership
 - This agreement covers a number of things including volunteer coordination, tree planting, tree stewardship, and invasive species.

Food Scrap Diversion (FS S3, A4)

- \$3,000 – food scrap pilot engagement events
- \$30,000 – purchase of six community compost collection receptacles
- \$195,000 – Purchase of in-vessel compost unit for residential composting



20 CAAP Priority Actions Budget Update

Future Budget Considerations

DART EV Car Share Program (T S6, A4)

- Continuation of FY25 Carshare Pilot - three-year contract for \$500,000
- \$30,000 included in the FY27 budget to support the final few months of the carshare pilot.
- In FY27, an RFP will be released for a long-term program operation, which will not begin until FY28.

Tree Plantings (NBS S1, A1)

- \$12,000 – Tree Give-away program
- \$25,000 – Plantings through Building Bridges
- \$90,000 – Friends of GR Parks Partnership
 - This agreement covers a number of things including volunteer coordination, tree planting, tree stewardship, and invasive species. However, beginning in FY27 \$50,000 of the \$90,000 is specifically set aside for “urban forestry support”.

Vicinity Energy (BI S4, A3)

- Initially discussed with City Commission on February 10, 2026, with an estimate of \$310,000 annually. Funding for this action has not been allocated to-date.



20 CAAP Priority Actions Progress Updates

Resilience Hubs (ES S7, A8)

- Secured a Catalyst Leadership Circle Graduate Student for the summer of 2026. The Fellow will review potential pilot options for resilience hubs.

Home Energy Update Financing (RH S3, A3)

- Staff eliminated a green revolving fund from consideration as the charter dictates the general fund cannot fund individual benefits. Staff are continuing to review other financing options.

Innovative Housing Solutions (RH S5, A2)

- Will be part of the Zoning Ordinance update

Financing Resources for Businesses & Increase Data Access (BI S1, A2)

- Submitted a Wege Grant Application for Office of Sustainability staff member focused on providing commercial business coordination

Pedestrian Amenities (T S3, A2)

- MSU Urban Planning Graduate Practicum Class providing an assessment of bus shelters
- Continued improvement additions that support alternative ways to travel (incl. bike and pedestrian connections)



20 CAAP Priority Actions Progress Updates

Native Plantings (NBS S4, A1)

- Urban Forestry Committee and staff created recommendations currently under review

Greenhouses & Hoop Houses (FS S1, A1)

- Will be part of the Zoning Ordinance update

Compost Soil & Biochar (FS S2, A9)

- Innovation Team coordination with multiple departments is in process and the team has submitted grants to finance portions of the equipment (grinder)

Compost Ordinance (FS S3, A1)

- Under Urban Agriculture Committee review

Food Scrap Diversion (FS S3, A4)

- Renew Grand Rapids engagement began March 2026, in partnership and collaboration with Kent County Department of Public Works

Edible Trees & Livestock (FS S4, A1)

- Under Urban Agriculture Committee review (both Zoning & Urban Ag Code)

Next Steps

Feasibility & Analysis of Implementation

- *Summer 2026*
 - Cost verification with City departments
- *Fall 2026*
 - Provide an update to City Commission on full feasibility & analysis of implementation and progress report of actions

Engagement

- Tabling at Neighborhood Summit
- Neighborhood Association Events

RESIDENTIAL CLIMATE ACTION CHECKLIST

You can take action every day with small lifestyle changes. Here are some suggestions of how you can help right now:

ENERGY SAVINGS:

- Turn off devices such as fans and air conditioners, televisions, or computers when you're not home.
 - Replace old, incandescent or compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs with LED lights that use less energy, last longer, and do not contain mercury.
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- Install a smart, programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust your home's temperature to fit your daily schedule to save energy & money.
 - In the **winter**, adjust your thermostat to **68°F** when you are home and set it colder when away.
 - In the **summer**, adjust your thermostat to **73°F** when you are home and set it warmer when away.
 - Get a **free** energy analysis & upgrades for your home by **Consumer's Energy**. 
Scan this link to [schedule your audit](#).
 - Wash your clothes in the coldest water setting you are able and dry on low heat to save energy.
 - Turn on your shower when you are ready to get in to reduce water & energy use.
 - Make a 7 to 15 minute playlist to keep track of time and take efficient showers 

- Air-dry bulky items like sweaters, jeans, and towels or use your dryer's "no-heat" mode to save energy.
 - Try the Michigan Home Energy Rebates Program (MIHER) which can help you upgrade your natural gas appliances, or improve your home's insulation, heating, and air conditioning. 
Scan this link to see if you qualify:
 - During the day, use **bright winter sunlight** to warm your house and save energy on indoor lighting.
 - Invest in heavy curtains or window shades to block the **hot summer sunlight** to keep your house cool.
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- Insulate your window sills and door gaps with fabric draft-stoppers to keep cold or hot conditioned air inside.
 - Save energy with heating and cooling by replacing your air filter **every 3-4 months** with a clean one.
 - In the summer, postpone charging devices or using appliances during peak energy demand hours (from 2pm to 7pm) to avoid paying a **5¢/kWh** higher rate.
 - Turn off unnecessary outdoor lights at night.

SAFE & EFFICIENT HOMES

- Get your house checked for lead if it was built before the year 1978 and especially if young children (ages 0 - 5 years old) live there or visit.
- Check out **Michigan Saves** to finance home renovations for renewable energy projects or energy efficiency upgrades. 
- Swap your natural gas appliance for electric, when possible, for better air quality and less fossil fuels.
- Install low-flow shower heads/toilets, and aerators for your sinks, to save water and money.
- Connect a rain barrel to your gutter system to save money on water and slow down the movement of pollution into rivers. 
- Do not burn any material besides firewood. Burning yard waste, tires, construction debris, and plastic is very harmful to the environment and illegal.
- Sign up for local air quality text alerts from **JustAir.co** to know the conditions in your area before going outside. 
- Create an emergency preparedness plan with your household to keep safe during severe weather.
- Consider flood insurance for your property if you live near a stream, river, or lake. You can visit **FloodSmart.gov** for more about flood insurance and get a quote. 
- Invest in a **high efficiency particulate air (HEPA)** filter for high indoor air quality and healthy breathing.



THANK YOU

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