CITY OF NORWALK
AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

ATTENDEES **:** Johan Lopez (Chair), Richard Dellinger, Jesse Buccolo, Darlene Young, Anne Wennerstrand, Joshua Goldstein, Broderick Sawyer, Jan Degenshein (participating as former member/interloper).

STAFF: Jodi Trendler (Director of Sustainability).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Resilience Committee was called to order by Mr. Lopez at 6:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Lopez conducted roll call and a quorum was confirmed.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: October 8, 2025
Mr. Lopez stated that, due to the new makeup of the committee, acceptance of the October 8, 2025 minutes would be postponed to the next meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainability and Resilience Plan Update Review
Ms. Jodi Trendler, Director of Sustainability, who provided a detailed update on the Sustainability and Resilience Plan. Ms. Trendler shared slides (to be included in the minutes) and explained that the 2024 plan covered only approximately 26% of citywide emissions and required updating to become a more comprehensive document.

She reported that the City of Norwalk had joined ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and gained access to the ClearPath 2.0 greenhouse gas emissions accounting tool to improve the accuracy of the emissions inventory. Ms. Trendler described the proposed structure of the updated plan, including:

An introduction with definitions of sustainability, resilience, and vibrant community; principles of sustainability planning; and integration of long-term and short-term strategies as a foundation for the 2029 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

A SWOT analysis incorporating historical and future challenges, a materiality assessment, and an inventory of city assets.

Sector-specific recommendations covering nine sectors, with goals, targets, best practices, neighborhood-level breakdowns, current conditions, primary objectives, actions, measurable impacts, stakeholders, and timelines.

Alignment with state greenhouse gas reduction goals (45% reduction by 2030 from 2001 levels, 80% reduction by 2050, and 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2040).

Ms. Trendler highlighted that transportation (42%), residential buildings (25%), commercial energy use (19%), and waste (11%) represent the largest sources of emissions. She emphasized the need to reduce internal combustion engine vehicle miles traveled and improve building energy efficiency. He presented examples of sector-specific objectives and actions, particularly in the energy sector, aiming for 100% clean energy (noting the existing POCD goal of 100% clean energy by 2029 may be unrealistic).

Committee members engaged in discussion. Mr. Buccolo expressed interest in reviewing the city's internal decision-making framework for sustainability and suggested mapping connections between city departments, commissions (such as the Bike Commission), and community organizations to align goals and avoid duplication. Ms. Trendler agreed and confirmed that such a map would be included in the final plan.

Mr. Degenshein asked whether specific projects such as Manresa would be addressed in the plan and inquired about the Buildings Department's role. Ms. Trendler clarified that the plan would not address individual projects in detail due to capacity constraints but that the Manresa project could be evaluated through the plan's decision-making framework. He noted that the Buildings Department manages city buildings and would collaborate on decarbonization efforts. Mr. Degenshein also emphasized the importance of communicating financial benefits to constituents to build support, particularly around affordability. Ms. Trendler agreed, citing examples such as the cost-effectiveness of electric vehicles, group solar programs, heat pump and weatherization initiatives, and waste reduction measures. He mentioned upcoming educational programs, including a waste assessment for local restaurants.

Ms. Wennerstrand asked for clarification on asset mapping by district. Ms. Trendler explained that assets include infrastructure (such as parks, tree canopy, bike lanes, and sidewalks), human capital (skills, knowledge, home businesses, community gardens, and neighborhood resources), and other valuable community resources. He noted the need to build a better resident email list and identify underutilized or unknown resources, such as commercial kitchens in community centers.

Mr. Dellinger thanked Ms. Trendler for the presentation and inquired about his responsibilities following completion of the plan in May. Ms. Trendler explained that his position is funded through ARPA funds through June 2026 and that future funding would depend on the budget process.

B. Community Task Force Update
No update was provided on the Community Task Force during the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BUCCOLO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
**** THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Baldwin,
Recording Secretary

UPDATE: SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

1-14-2026

Outline

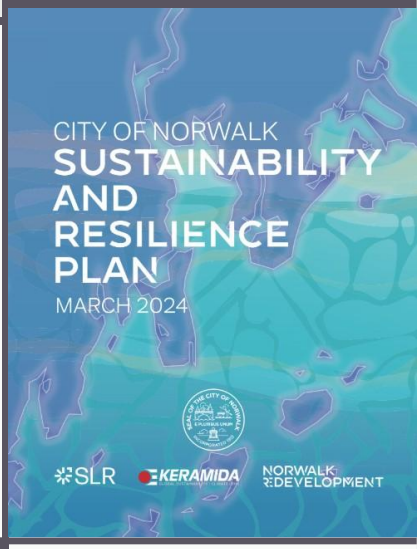
Introduction

SWOT

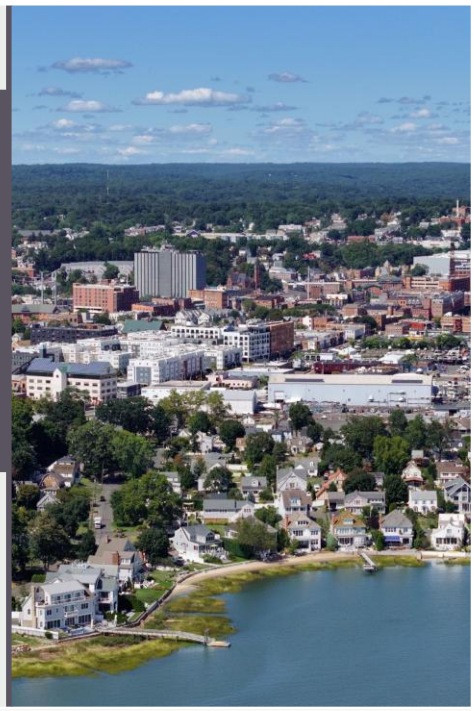
Plan Structure

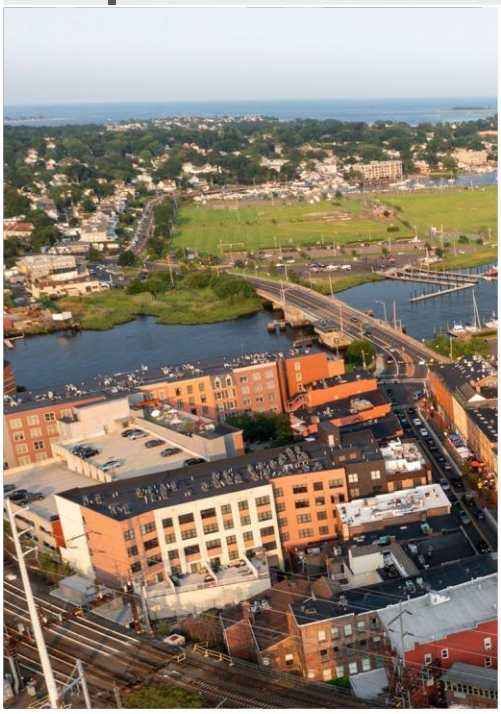
Recommendations

Implementation



INTRODUCTION





Introduction

- Definitions: Sustainability, Resilience, Vibrant
- Principles: Living document
- Planning for systemic change
- Strategy: Integrate short - & long -term planning (POCD)
- VISION:

Vision *(Example)*

"Our city thrives as a vibrant community where people, culture, and innovation flourish. We are committed to building resilience by anticipating challenges and adapting to change, while ensuring human, economic and ecological safety, sustainability, and regeneration for future generations. Through responsible stewardship of resources, inclusive growth, and human connections, we create a place where everyone can live, learn, prosper, and thrive in harmony with each other and the planet."

SWOT

Past & Future

Materiality:

Risks, Vulnerabilities, Adaptability

Assets

RECOMMENDATIONS

FRAMEWORK

Table 2.1: Energy Objectives and Strategies Summary Chart

ENERGY						
	Objective and Strategies	MTCO2e Reductions target	Res	Com	Muni	Timeline
1	**Transition to Clean & Renewable Electricity Purchases (Cut 60% of 2012 to achieve 40% of 2012 use by 2036; 100% by 2050, or sooner)**	515,500				
1.1	Resolution from Council committing to transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner and requesting IMEA to also comply with IPCC emissions reduction targets				x	2021
1.2	Complete a financial & risk assessment on current energy purchasing comparing to alternatives in order to complete a holistic Clean Energy Plan to achieve Net Zero by 2050 or sooner				x	2021-2022
1.21	Solicit all-source energy procurement and development based upon energy risk and needs assessment				x	2025
2	**Community Generation: 25% Community Needs by 2036 (2019 Base)**	293,000				
2.1	Allow PPA agreements for public buildings and install solar on schools potential (11,900 MTCO2e potential savings)			x		2021-2022
2.2	Develop micro-grid capacity for distributed generation for municipal, commercial buildings and large development projects			x	x	2022-2036
3	**Energy Efficiency: 1% Energy savings annually (2019 Base)**	12,000				
3.1	Expand plan for Naperville Energy Efficiency by creating $0.00132 Per kWh charge				x	2022
3.2	Create and permit Demand Response and Time of Use rate structures				x	2021-2022
3.4	Create Benchmarking ordinance for commercial buildings				x	2023-2025
3.5	Lead by example: Engage an energy management service to audit and benchmark City buildings and develop energy management plan (2.5% Savings of 2021 budget = $24,000)				x	2022-2024
4	**Reduce Natural Gas consumption by 15% by 2036 (2019 Base)**	70,000				
4.1	Promote Nicor efficiency programs				x	2021-2036
4.2	Develop building code and incentivize beneficial electrification for new construction				x	2023-2025
5	**Create community education and engagement program for all energy efficiency and clean energy development and funding options**				x	2021-2036
	TOTAL PROPOSED SAVINGS	**1,290,500**				
	2036 Energy Reductions Target (60% of 2012 Energy Sources)	**1,154,300**				
A	**Total GHG omissions saved WITHOUT change in IMEA energy purchasing sources**	375,000	Assumes no PPA restriction			
	Difference from target WITHOUT change in IMEA energy purchasing sources (375,990 MTCO2e)	-779,300	**Naperville cannot reach targets**			
B	**Total GHG omissions saved WITH change in IMEA to 60% clean energy purchasing**	1,290,500	Assumes no PPA restriction			
	Difference from target WITH IMEA 60% Renewable Transition	136,200	**Naperville surpasses targets**			

*MTCO2e numbers are estimates based on assumptions from most recent available data and rounded to nearest hundred

FOR EACH SECTOR:

- **DEFINITION**
- **METRICS**
- **GOALS**
- **BEST PRACTICES**
- **NEIGHBORHOODS**
- **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

01

Increase Recycling Rates

Diverting waste from landfills is critical. Naperville recycling rates at 25% are well below the national average of 32%.

02

Develop and Incentivize Circular Economy (Waste as a Resource) and Source Reduction Opportunities

Local economic development can be created from waste resources.

03

Promote Reduction of Single Use Plastics and Disposables

Plastic reduction is a priority for Naperville residents.

04

Develop Reusable Culture

Reuse is a critical source reduction strategy.

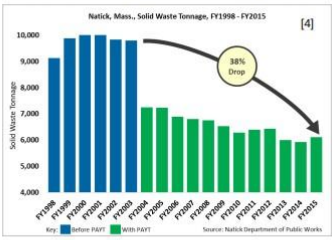
Source	Waste Generated (tons/yr)	Recycling Goal	Waste Recycled Goal (tons/yr)	Conversion: $MTCO_2e$/ton waste	$MTOC_2e$/yr Emissions Avoided
Curbside (2019 data)	56,516	40%	22,606	2.94[2]	66,462
Multifamily	31,417	40%	12,567	2.94[2]	36,946
Commercial (not including multifamily)	32,933	30%	9,880	2.94[2]	29,047
Institutional	9,900	30%	2,970	2.94[2]	8,732
Construction and Demolition	36,795	50%	18,398	1.45[3]	26,676
Subtotal Non-Hazardous	167,561		66,421		167,863
Household Hazardous Waste*	350	100%	350	0.9[4]	315
E-Waste	292	100%	292	Not available	
Subtotal Hazardous	642	-	-	-	-
Total Solid Waste	**168,203**	-	-	-	-

WASTE						
	Objectives and Strategies	MTCO2e Reductions target	Res	Com	Muni	Timeline
1	**Increase Recycling**					
1.1	Surpass 40% curbside residential diversion rate (Single and multi-family)	103,400	x		x	2022-2036
1.2	Establish commercial 30% recycling goal	37,800		x	x	2022-2024
1.2.1	Require commercial waste and recycling data reporting				x	2022-2024
1.2.2	Evaluate commercial waste franchising program options			x	x	2022-2024
1.3	Establish construction and demolition (C&D) recycling ordinance requiring that at least 50% of C&D waste be recycled	26,600		x	x	2022-2024
1.4	Establish free e-waste recycling		x	x	x	2022
2	**Develop and Incentivize Circular Economy (*Waste as a Resource) and Source Reduction Opportunities***					
2.1	Develop/Implement/Incentivize composting for mixed yard and food waste	9,600	x	x	x	2022-2024
2.2	Continue household hazardous waste facility collection	300	x		x	2021-2036
2.3	Reduce household goods in waste stream	3,300	x		x	2022-2036
3	**Promote Reduction of Single Use Plastics and Disposables**					
3.1	Ban, tax, eliminate disposable bags	1,200	x	x	x	2022-2023
3.2	Ban, tax, eliminate disposable water bottles	3,100	x	x	x	2022-2023
3.3	Ban, tax, eliminate disposable packaging and utensils		x	x	x	
4	**Develop Reusable Culture**					
4.1	Legalize "Bring Your Own Container"		x	x	x	2022-2023
4.2	Incentivize reusable bag program		x	x		2022-2023
4.3	Offer customer discounts for using reusables		x	x		2022-2030
5	**Promote/Incentivize/Implement Zero Waste Measures**					
5.1	Create a community-wide Zero Waste Plan targeting zero waste community by 2050		x	x	x	2022-2025
5.2	Disincentivize throwaway culture		x	x	x	2022-2023
5.3	Support green supply chain purchasing	6,500		x	x	2022-2024
6	**Assess transition of Springbrook Waste Water Treatment facility to anaerobic biodigester**	16,000			x	2021
6.1	Create RFP or RFI to solicit feasibility				x	
7	**Create and Employ Community Education and Engagement Campaign**				x	2021-2036
7.1	Create branded GHG waste reduction campaign		x	x	x	2021-2023
7.2	Recognize businesses in Naperville newsletters for waste reduction			x	x	2022-2036
	WASTE TOTAL avoided GHG emissions in 2036:	**191,800**				
	2036 Reductions Target (60% 2012 Waste Sources = 7,200 + 3% Total 2012 GHG = 77,000)	**84,200**				
	Difference fromTarget	**107,600**	**SURPASS**			

1.1.2 Establish a "Pay-As-You-Throw" Program

More than 7,000 U.S. communities operate pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) municipal solid waste collection systems as an alternative to traditional flat rates, and have improved recycling rates an average of 16–17 percent [2]. The U.S. EPA recommends this as a practice because it addresses multiple factors of environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and equity and has been demonstrated that, "a PAYT policy has potential to help local officials advance the strategic waste management goals of waste reduction, increased recycling up to 11%, and control of waste disposal costs [3].

In communities with PAYT programs (also known as unit pricing or variable-rate pricing), such as Natick, MA [4], residents are charged for the collection of municipal solid waste—ordinary household trash—based on the amount they throw away.

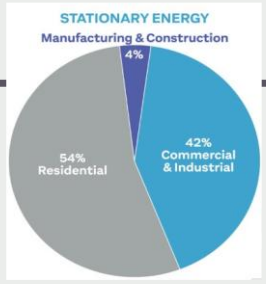


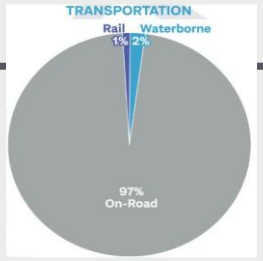
This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste.

[1] 2019 Solid Waste Management Plan for Lake County, Illinois, Plan Update Timeline, Table 3.1. Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Adopted by Lake County Board, December 10, 2019.
[2] City of Milwaukee (2009). "City of Milwaukee: Impacts of Pay-As-You-Throw Municipal Solid Waste Collection."
[3] USEPA (1996). Municipal Experience with "Pay As You Throw" Policies: Findings From a National Survey.
[4] Natick, MA (Accessed online 7/2021). Pay as You Throw Strategy. https://www.natickma.gov/1308/Pay-As-You-Throw-Strategy

Best Practices

- Explanation/Benefits
- Examples (with sources)
- Costs (if available)
- GHG/Other Metric
- Impact
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Stakeholders/Roles





1. **VEHICLES (42%)**
2. **HOMES (25%)**
3. **BUSINESS ENERGY (19%)**
4. **WASTE (11%)**

GHG

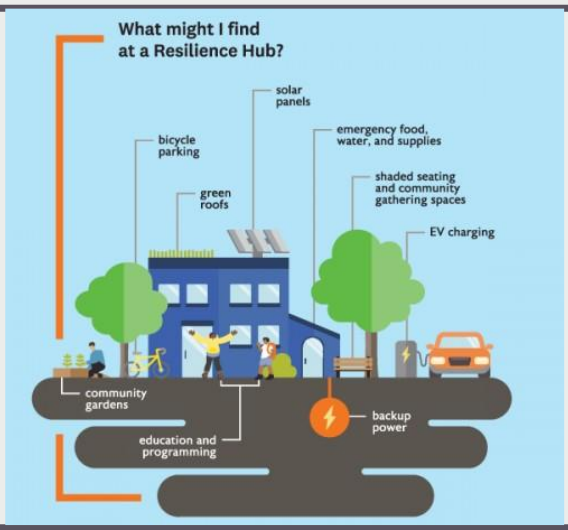
OBJECTIVE: Incorporate into all decision making

OBJECTIVE: Reduce to meet Regional, State, National, and Global targets

Established under the **CT Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA)** and updated by recent legislation (HB 5004 in 2025), aim for

Net -zero emissions by 2050 **:**

- ❑ 45% reduction by 2030
- ❑ 80% reduction below 2001 levels by 2050
- ❑ 100% zero -carbon electric sector by 2040



ENERGY

OBJECTIVE: Transition to 100% Clean Energy by 2050 ***(2029 Goal in POCD)***

- Transition to purchasing fossil -free energy
- Develop Resilience Hubs with microgrids to generate 25%+ of consumed energy within municipal boundaries
- Create and Implement Community Education and Engagement Campaign

Mobility

OBJECTIVE: Reduce ICE VMT

- Develop EV Infrastructure Plan
- Transition Fleets to EV
- Improve and Increase Biking/Walking Infrastructure
- Increase Public Transit Use
- Create and Implement Community Education and Engagement Campaign

Waste

OBJECTIVE: Become Zero Waste city by 2050

- Increase Clean Recycling
- Expand Composting
- Identify, Implement and Increase Waste Reduction Options
- Promote Plastic Reduction
- Create and Implement Community Education and Engagement Campaign

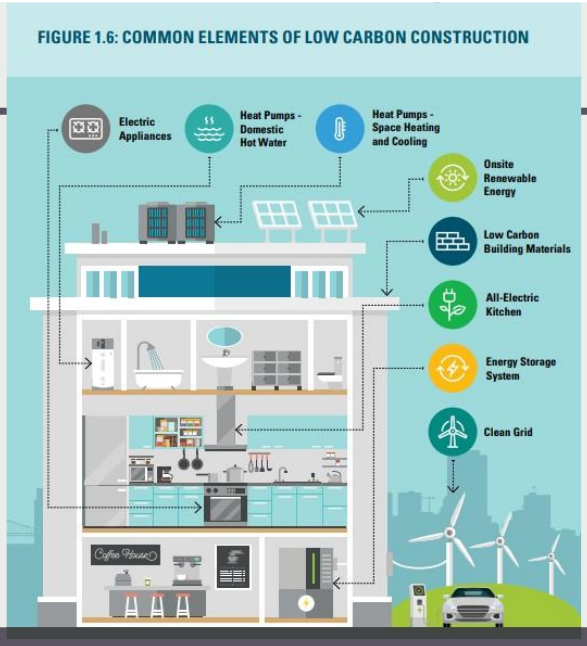
Norwalk River Watershed Association

Natural Resources

OBJECTIVE: Restore and Regenerate Natural Resources to Meet 30/30/30

OBJECTIVE: Mitigate and Eliminate Pollution

- Complete ecosystem services assessment
- Create water conservation plan
- Identify & eliminate pollution sources
- Increase green infrastructure practices
- Increase native plantings & manage invasives
- Monitor, maintain and expand the urban forest
- Create and Implement Community Education and Engagement Campaign



Building & Development

OBJECTIVE: Decarbonize buildings and construction

OBJECTIVE: Reduce energy use across all buildings

OBJECTIVE: Power all buildings with renewable energy

- Create building electrification plan
- Benchmarking and reporting ordinance
- Green Building Incentives
- Developer Education

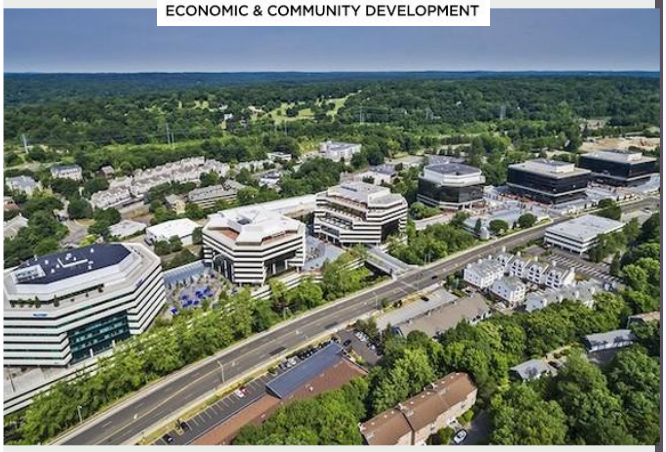
- **Economic Stability:** Poverty, employment, food security, housing stability.
- **Education Access & Quality:** Early childhood education, high school graduation, higher education, language/literacy.
- **Health Care Access & Quality:** Insurance coverage, primary care access, health literacy.
- **Neighborhood & Built Environment:** Housing quality, transportation, crime/violence, access to healthy foods, environmental conditions (air/water quality).
- **Social & Community Context:** Social cohesion, civic participation, discrimination, incarceration, cultural engagement.

Health & Happiness

OBJECTIVE: Track & Improve across indicators

- Social Determinants of Health

NORWALK for BUSINESS
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Strong Economy

OBJECTIVE: Develop Community Wealth Building Plan

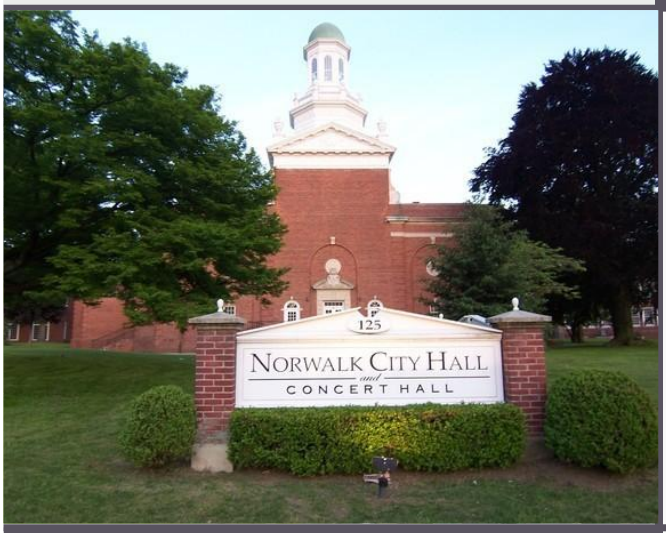
- Increase % of local and EO makeup = system shift & resilience

OBJECTIVE: Build Circular Economy

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

OBJECTIVE: Ensure all residents and businesses are prepared & resilient

OBJECTIVE: Ensure short and long -term recovery plans are in place



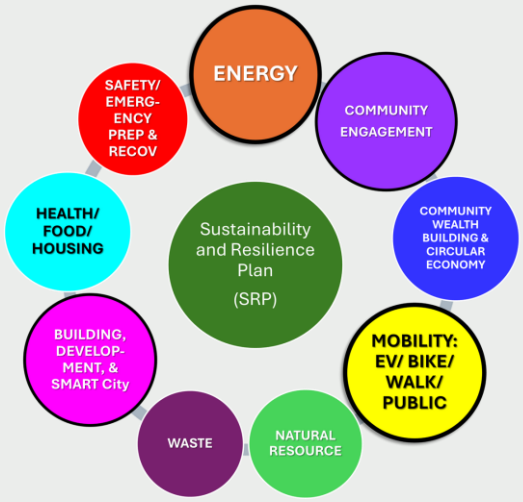
City Operations

OBJECTIVE: Reduce emissions, reduce waste, increase efficiencies

- Create operational SRP
- ClearPath 2.0 Dashboard

OBJECTIVE: Sustainability, Resilience in all decisions

- Green Team
- Decision Framework

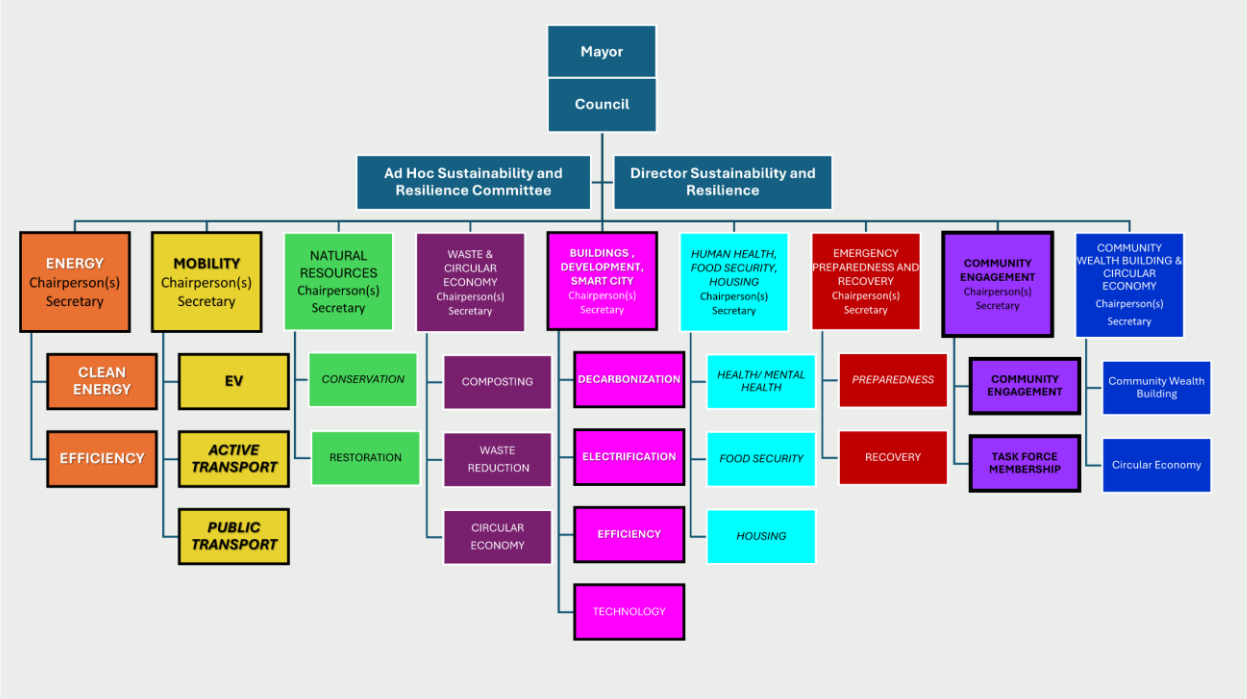


Community Engagement

OBJECTIVE: Increase engagement

- Task Force: Collective Impact
- SRP Recommendations
- Education and Outreach

NEED:
Community Wealth Building Leader



IMPLEMENTATION

- Asset Mapping
  - Community Engagement Process: Council rep: Introduce, Email, Town Hall
- Community Input: HOAs, Community orgs (Churches), Surveys
- Sector Recommendations by District
  - Resident/Business To Do lists
- Budgeting
- **Prioritization: $, GHG, Health, Economy, Feasibility**
- Work Planning