

Section 10 Climate Action Implementation



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Climate Action Implementation

The first few years after plan adoption are critical to its success. Establishing roles, both internal and external, and identifying funding will help establish the implementation phase of the plan and ensure the community is on track to achieve its goals. This plan includes robust goals for significant GHG emission reductions and addressing climate resilience. This vision requires commitment and integration of the CAP into City operations, functions, and services.

Implementation is For Everyone

Implementation actions are detailed items that should be completed in order to carry out the vision and strategies identified in the plan. Some actions will need to be led by City Council, City departments, and/or the business community; and there are some things that households and individuals can do to make an impact. While many actions will require City Council to amend a policy there will be opportunities for businesses, organizations, households, and individuals to support the City Council policy changes and provide input on and feedback on those policies. Ultimately, achieving the visionary energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative transportation, and climate resilience goals outlined in this plan will require engagement and a sense of responsibility not only by the City of Albert Lea leadership and government, but by the community itself as well. It is critical for all to remain engaged and active, advancing and advocating for actions you feel are important.

General Implementation Recommendations

Foundational recommendations to support the long-range implementation of the CAP include Building Internal Capacity, External Support, and Funding:

Building Internal Capacity

Continuing to build internal capacity will be important to help establish the CAP as a priority integral to internal operations as well as fostering connections to community partners, businesses, and individuals through outreach, education, special projects, and service delivery.

1. Establish clear guidance and direction for the participation in and support of the CAP implementation actions by all City of Albert Lea departments.
2. Fund and support Climate Action / Sustainability staffing required to:
 - Facilitate discussion among large users to reduce emissions through business and industrial strategies.
 - Participate in technical resource programs as they are available through County, Regional, State, Federal, and non-profit provider partners.
 - Support City of Albert Lea department managers and staff as they implement CAP actions within their service area or area of expertise.
 - Convene an internal City of Albert Lea Climate Working Group that meets regularly and provides updates on progress and success, identifies additional support or resources needed to advance actions of the CAP, and collaboratively discusses strategies for more complex challenges.
 - Ensure the establishment and maintenance of a City of Albert Lea Climate Action webpage supporting CAP resources for the community.
 - Coordinate and organize volunteer groups and events.
 - Engage City boards and commissions to ensure the CAP is integrated into their work plans.
3. Review Climate Action Plan implementation progress and impacts on a regular basis (1-2 year cycle). Review should include development of an updated community wide and municipal operations GHG inventory. Strategies and actions should be reviewed for implementation progress and for continued appropriateness. Based on the review, adjust, add, and remove detailed CAP actions as appropriate.



Climate Action Implementation

External Support

City staff and elected officials will not be able to implement this plan without robust support from community members and coordination with jurisdictional, institutional, and organizational partners.

1. Establish an existing commission, or create a new commission to function as the main citizen-body to support the implementation of the CAP. Committee's mission and scope of work should include support of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, coordination with City staff in all relevant departments, receiving updates on City CAP projects and progress, and providing input on plan adjustments as needed.
2. Establish a designated City Council representative and commission representative participant in the City's internal Climate Working Group in support of CAP implementation.
3. Establish a coordinated communication and education campaign supporting the educational and informational actions included in each of the CAP sections. The campaign should also look to help community members:
 - Understand why change at the individual, community, City, and business level needs to occur,
 - How to make those changes correctly, and
 - What the benefit/incentive to them might be, for example, articulating that switching to solar energy and or an electric bus fleet might help reduce bills
4. Establish jurisdictional partnerships that advance CAP strategies to advance and accelerate action. This can include government entities like Freeborn County, Shell Rock River Watershed District, the State of Minnesota, utilities like Freeborn Mower Cooperative Electric and Minnesota Energy Resources; institutions like Albert Lea School District and Riverland Community College; Albert Lea businesses, and community groups.

Funding

Funding the implementation of the CAP will require reallocation/reconsideration of existing City funds, raising new City funds, and identifying outside resources and funding opportunities. Some funds will need to be dedicated toward long-term support like staffing, while other funding will be on a project-by-project basis.

1. Establish and maintain funding for staff supporting the implementation of the CAP.
2. Establish and maintain a Climate Action Reserve Fund to support projects on an annual basis
3. Explore additional sustainable funding sources as per the detailed actions outlined in the Climate Economy section of the plan.
3. Utilize no-cost technical assistance offerings as available.

Climate Action Implementation Support Tools

To support the City in its initial implementation phase, the paleBLUEDot team has created a number of tools including:

- Implementation and Monitoring Matrix
- Example Climate Action Policies and Ordinances
The paleBLUEDot team has assembled example policies and ordinances supporting some of the strategies and actions included in the Albert Lea Climate Action Plan.
The examples can be found on the following webpage:
<https://palebluedot.llc/albert-lea-cap-policy-examples>

