



Taking Climate Action at Home in St. Louis City

To advance the City of St. Louis Climate Protection Initiative, the Office of Sustainability developed a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan for the City of St. Louis Sustainability Plan. The Climate Action Plan strategies are organized by five Mitigation Objectives. We use those five mitigation approaches to outline this “Good-Better-Best” guide for ways in which an individual can take part in positive climate actions. Working together, we can realize our aspirations of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050, but it will take the entire community contributing to a better, cleaner, healthier environment. Please join us in leaving your St. Louis Climate Handprint of positive actions.

Mitigation Objective	Why is this Important?	Good	Better	Best
Build an Energy Efficient City (Climate Action Plan pages 30-39)	Structures within the existing built environment generate nearly 77% of Greenhouse Gas emissions within the City of St. Louis, with residential buildings accounting for 22% of total emissions. Retrofitting your home for energy efficiency will reduce your energy bill and greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Department of Energy , by switching your home’s five most used light fixtures with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR , you can save \$75 per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Unplug or turn off appliances, lights and electronics when not in use. Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED light bulbs. Add window blinds to minimize heat from sunlight during the summer and maximize during the winter. This will reduce energy costs and make your home more comfortable. ❑ Learn about financing opportunities for residential energy efficiency projects through the YGreenWorks Pace Financing Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Conduct an home energy audit to determine additional opportunities to save energy. ❑ Install a programmable thermostat. During the winter, lower the temperature when you are sleeping or out of the house. In the summer, lower the temperature only when you are at home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Use ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators, washing machines and other appliances. GreenHELP is a low-interest loan program that can help you lower your utility costs by creating more energy efficient homes. ❑ Paint your roof with a white reflective coating to minimize exterior heat.
Accelerate Clean Renewable Energy (Climate Action Plan pages 40-45)	59% of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of St. Louis come from the production of electricity. Onsite renewable energy production at your home, such as the use of solar panels, will substantially reduce a your carbon footprint and save money.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Explore Project Sunroof, a free online tool that allows users to estimate solar savings based on topography mapping and weather considerations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Install a solar water heater. ❑ Support Renewable Energy Credit programs and participate in community solar opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Install photovoltaic panels to reduce the electricity bill and lower GHG emissions. Learn about financing opportunities for renewable energy projects through the YGreenWorks Pace Financing Program.



For more information on the City of St. Louis Climate Protection Initiative or other sustainability efforts in the City of St. Louis, visit stlouis-mo.gov/sustainability



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<p>Create Equitable Access to Inter-Modal Transportation</p> <p>(Climate Action Plan pages 46-55)</p>	<p>Vehicle miles account for 20% of all Greenhouse Gas emissions in the City of St. Louis. By commuting to work using alternative modes of transportation or carpooling, you can reduce vehicle miles and Greenhouse Gas emissions in the City. Remember, every gallon of gas saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Avoid trips in your car that have only a single-destination, and carpool to avoid single-occupant trips. ❑ Use various bike and electric scooter sharing options available in the City of St. Louis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Use public transportation, like MetroBus or MetroLink, to travel throughout the city. ❑ Avoid idling your vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Purchase a vehicle that is more fuel efficient or uses alternative fuels, like an electric vehicle. ❑ Complete part or all of your journey through active transportation (walking or biking).
<p>Support Community Well-Being</p> <p>(Climate Action Plan pages 56-61)</p>	<p>Climate Protection efforts provide an opportunity to improve employee quality of life, improve economic prosperity, build social capital, increase community resilience, and advance public health and safety in the City. Aside from building community, connecting with nature can improve memory performance and attention spans by 20%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Avoid using a gas-powered lawn mower as using a gas-powered lawn mower for one hour is equal to emissions released when driving a new car 200 miles. If you do, mow before 10 a.m. to avoid peak ozone formation hours. ❑ Use a gas barbecue grill instead of a charcoal grill. Charcoal grills release about twice as much carbon dioxide as gas grills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Follow the City's Recommended Nature Diet that provides suggestions for the frequency and the scale at which you should connect with nature. ❑ Check out the Connecting with Nature Activities and Map to explore some of the ways and places you can connect with nature in St. Louis. ❑ Support businesses that have environmentally-conscious practices. Buy products that have been grown or produced locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Read the Sustainable Neighborhood Toolkit to learn about how to implement specific neighborhood-scale sustainability projects. Projects include holding a neighborhood energy challenge or creating a cool or white roofs program.
<p>Protect Natural Resources & Green Spaces</p> <p>(Climate Action Plan pages 62-69)</p>	<p>Conservation is often the easiest way to take climate action. Reducing the amount of resources that you consume, as well as the waste you produce, can have significant impact on the climate. Additionally, conservation can save you money by lowering spending on unneeded resources. Reducing water use is a great place to start. Water requires large amounts of energy to transport and is itself a scarce resource.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Recycle your waste. ❑ Use reusable grocery and produce bags when grocery shopping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Reduce your consumption of meat and dairy products. Producing a ¼ pound burger uses enough water to fill 10 bathtubs. ❑ Conserve water: Install a low-flow showerhead. Reduce water use by taking shorter showers, turning of faucets when not in use and check pipes for leaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Plant trees to absorb carbon and provide shade for your home. Grow your own fruits and vegetables for consumption. ❑ Create a compost for your food and yard waste.

