

MY CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE PLAN



- Speak up!** Talk to your friends and family, and voice your concerns about climate change to your elected officials. Get the message out that you care about climate change and demand action.
- Switch to 100% clean energy.** Help all of Evanston switch to 100% renewable energy. Advocate for renewable energy installations of solar, wind and geothermal and consider these options for your own home.
- Smart consumerism.** Reduce consumption. Refuse, reuse, repurpose, repair, share and recycle what you have. Borrow from others when possible and purchase items second-hand. Purchase locally-produced and fair trade food and products that are created with environmental safeguards in place. Hold companies accountable to environmentally-responsible operations and practices.
- Support family planning.** The human population has grown dramatically in just 100 years. As of 2020, there are 7.8 billion people on the planet; in 1900 there were only 1.6 billion! This rapid growth is a strain on our planet. Thoughtful family planning helps families economically, healthwise, and reduces carbon emissions.



- Power your home with renewable energy.** Evanston has [community choice electricity aggregation](#): renewable energy is purchased for all residential and city buildings. Electricity customers not part of aggregation should choose an electricity supplier that generates its power from renewable energy sources and has been certified by [Green-e Energy](#). If possible, install renewable energy installations on your property: solar, geothermal or wind.
- Weatherize your home.** Heating and cooling are among the biggest uses of energy. Make your space more comfortable and energy efficient by sealing drafts and ensuring adequate insulation. [Elevate Energy](#) can help.
- Use a programmable thermostat.** Install and use a programmable thermostat. In colder weather set it as low as is comfortable (68°F or lower) and in warm weather as high as is comfortable (74°F or higher).
- Invest in energy-efficient appliances.** Look for the [Energy Star](#) label to tell you which appliances are most efficient. Recycle old appliances. Utility companies may offer free pick up and rebates for recycling old appliances.
- Reduce water waste.** Saving water reduces carbon pollution. It takes a lot of energy to pump, heat and treat your water. Take shorter showers, turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, and install [WaterSense](#) fixtures.
- Be smart about laundry.** Use cold or warm water to wash laundry and wash full loads. Line dry laundry.
- Use better bulbs.** LED bulbs use up to 80% less energy than incandescent bulbs and are cheaper to operate.
- Pull the plug(s).** Reduce the “phantom load” and unplug devices or plug them into power strips and use timers. Adjust your computers to power down to the lowest power mode or off when not in use.
- Reduce waste, Refuse, Reuse and Recycle.** Reduce consumption, especially of single-use items. Use reusable containers. Reuse, repair, and repurpose items when possible. Donate items you no longer need. Recycle.
- Eco-friendly yard care.** Switch to electric or manual lawn equipment. Do not use leaf blowers – they emit dangerous greenhouse gases and toxins at very high speeds, compromising respiratory health and decimating insect populations. Leave the leaves in the fall to help insects, enrich soils, and improve carbon sequestration.



FOOD

- Eat, don't waste, the food you buy.** Approximately 10% of U.S. energy goes into growing, processing, packaging and shipping food – about 40% of which ends up in the landfill. Learn how to store, preserve, freeze, prepare or cook food to prevent it from going to waste.
- Compost.** Landfills emit huge amounts of methane, which is many times more potent than carbon dioxide. Keep organic matter out of the landfill and give it new life as nutrient-rich soil! Composting in Evanston and the Chicago area is made easy by companies like [Collective Resource](#). Evanston also allows food scraps to be included with yard waste collection.
- Reduce or eliminate meat and dairy consumption.** Eating meat-free meals makes a big difference since livestock products are the most resource-intensive to produce. Increase consumption of veggies, fruits, nuts and legumes while reducing consumption of animal products (healthy!).
- Refill.** Use your own reusable and refillable containers such as shopping bags, produce bags, beverage and food containers. Buy in bulk when possible. Buy products with minimal packaging. Bring your own reusable containers with you to restaurants to take leftovers home.
- Support local food production.** Grow your own food! Buy direct from local farmers at farmers' markets, participate in community supported agriculture programs, and support grocery cooperatives.



TRANSPORTATION

- Drive a fuel-efficient vehicle and maintain it.** Hybrids and electric vehicles save fuel and money. Before you buy a vehicle, compare fuel-economy performance. Keep tires properly inflated and air filters clean to save gas and boost miles per gallon.
- Shift transportation methods.** Choosing to live in a walkable, smart-growth area with good public transportation leads to less driving and less pollution. Ride your bike whenever possible. Less frequent flying can make a big difference too. Take the train instead. If you travel by air, consider offsetting the carbon you produce.



RESILIENCE

- Educate.** Become familiar with the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#).
- Prepare.** Create an emergency preparedness plan. Learn about the city's emergency response systems and the services available.
- Strengthen your network.** Meet and get to know your neighbors. Build community through block clubs and groups. Identify vulnerable neighbors and ways you can assist them in times of extreme weather events.
- Manage stormwater.** Reduce stormwater runoff to prevent flooding. Develop a rain garden. Use rain barrels. Improve water infiltration by protecting and planting native trees, shrubs, and plants.
- Plant and protect trees.** Trees and other plants sequester carbon, release oxygen, purify the air, provide shade, attract birds and wildlife, and prevent soil erosion. Protect and expand natural areas and the urban canopy.