

Detroit Climate Resilience Ordinance

The DEA translates the Detroit Climate Resilience Ordinance in the following way

Climate change is the process of our planet heating up. The Earth has warmed by an average of 1.33 °F in the last century. The impacts of climate change are felt by Detroit residents in the form of extreme rain storms that flood Detroit streets and homes with increasing regularity. By enacting the Detroit Climate Resilience Ordinance, our leaders will help Detroit reduce the negative effects of climate change, and they will also make the City more efficient and resilient.

Four key points from the Ordinance are:

- 1 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The ordinance requires the City of Detroit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050. Greenhouse gas emissions are what cause damage to the earth's atmosphere — they make our earth to warm at such a fast rate that it causes our climate to change.
- 2 Create the Detroit Climate Plan:** Gather input from non-profits, universities, business, and residents to develop a plan for how the City of Detroit will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet our 2050 goal. Central parts of the plan include:
 - Reduce the use of gasoline engines and increase the use of public buses, trains, and other forms of shared transit.
 - Make changes in existing buildings and design new buildings to use less energy for heating and cooling.
 - Use renewable energy like solar and wind energy in place of energy that is powered by non-renewable fossil fuels like coal and gasoline.
- 3 Develop a Monitoring and Reporting Program:** Collect data to make sure that Detroit is meeting its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. A program will be developed to check the air quality levels and provide annual progress reports.
- 4 Create an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee:** The City of Detroit will be required to organize a committee made up of residents that live in heavily polluted neighborhoods and non-profit organizations to address the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.



To read more about the Detroit Climate Resilience Ordinance click here

Detroit Water Agenda:

The DEA translates the Detroit Water Agenda in the following way:

The Detroit Water Agenda is a framework that seeks to protect and manage precious water resources at city, corporate, and community levels. It exists to protect vulnerable communities and ensure equity for all Detroiters. The Agenda is a City-led commitment to water conservation, water efficiency, and stormwater management. Water conservation means making sure we don't waste water. Water efficiency means doing more with less water. Stormwater management is the underground system that takes care of all the rainwater that flows from our roofs, streets, and lawns.



Click to read more about the Detroit Water Agenda


The key points from the Agenda are:

- 1 Reduce Negative Impacts:** Urban runoff and water pollution negatively affect the natural environment. Urban runoff is what occurs when there are a lot of cars, roads, and parking lots where oils and gasoline can collect. When it rains or snows this oil and gas eventually makes its way into our rivers and lakes.
- 2 Encourage Sustainable Development Practices:** Build, design, construct, demolish and maintain existing facilities using sustainable development practices. They can be described as using materials that are better for the earth to build buildings, recycling or reusing old building materials whenever possible, and using appliances and electrical systems that use less energy.
- 3 Ensure Accessibility:** Make water-related recreational opportunities (e.g. fishing, kayaking, swimming, boating) accessible to all and friendly to the environment.
- 4 Inform and Guide Consumers:** Educate people about sources of water, water issues, and water-related challenges in terms of development, growth, access, and affordability.
- 5 Provide Recommendations for Water:** Look at various perspectives and needs including: conservation, stormwater management, pollution prevention, innovation, open space, wastewater management, urban and commercial agriculture, food processing, educational programs, and community impact.

CA-PHE Public Health Action Plan

The DEA translates the CA-PHE Public Health Action Plan in the following way:

Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments (CAPHE) is a community-based, participatory research partnership that includes organizations, the health community, environmental organizations, and academic researchers. They are working together to develop and put into practice a public health action plan to improve air quality and health in Detroit. Immediate action is needed to reduce exposure to harmful air pollutants. Harmful air pollutants that are found in Detroit include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter. These air pollutants come from manufacturers and factories in Detroit and the surrounding area, and from trucks and cars on our highways and roads. These air pollutants are linked to health issues like asthma.



Click to read the more about the CA-PHE Public Health Action Plan

The key points from the Agenda are:

- 1 Control Emissions from Industrial Sources:** Emissions are the release of a gas into the earth's atmosphere. To "control emissions" is to try and lessen their release into the air and avoid polluting it. Older facilities that have been excused from installing up-to-date air pollution control technologies—this is known as being "grandfathered".
- 2 Control Emissions from Vehicles and Heavy Equipment:** This can be done in a number of ways; retrofitting or replacing older diesel engines, using clean fuels, and reducing idling which means not allowing vehicles to run when they are not moving.
- 3 Install Filters Inside to Protect Residents:** Install filters to remove pollutants from indoor air in homes, schools and other buildings.
- 4 Use Trees as Buffers:** Trees can act as barriers between sources of pollution and people. Trees and plants help to filter some of the air pollution, making our air cleaner and safer.
- 5 Invest in Renewable Energy:** Renewable energy is an energy source that can be used again and again and one that causes less pollution and harm to the earth. Some examples of renewable energy are solar power, wind energy, and geothermal energy.
- 6 Enforce Air Quality Rules:** Hold accountable companies that pollute the air, and the agencies that regulate them. This includes more transparency, and a better permit and regulation process.
- 7 Increase Air Quality Monitoring:** Better understand the impacts and sources of air pollution. Get more residents involved in monitoring the air in their neighborhoods.