



**To:** Dr. Charles Johns  
Board of Education

**From:** Dr. Kim Ptak  
Dr. R.J. Gravel

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**Re:** Village of Northbrook Climate Action Plan

**Background**

In May 2020, the Village of Northbrook hired paleBLUEdot to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The project's objective was to inventory the Village of Northbrook's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, assess the Village's forecasted climate change impacts, and establish and prioritize climate action and mitigation actions to support overall carbon reduction. For 12 months, the Village worked with 31 planning team members and 514 community members to establish the plan that has been adopted by the Village Board of Trustees. For ease of review, an executive summary and the CAP Fact Sheet are attached. In addition, the complete plan is available on the Village [website](#).

The CAP provides the Village with an organized road map outlining the strategies and actions that a Village will implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan is intended to be a "living document" with adjustments along the way to achieve the ultimate 2030 emission reduction goals.

The CAP is broken into eight sectors:

1. Transportation and land;
2. Buildings and energy;
3. Waste management;
4. Water and wastewater;
5. Local food and agriculture;
6. Health and safety;
7. Greenspace and ecosystems; and
8. Climate economies.

The sectors have a combined 42 strategies that are supported by 190 actions.

For illustrative purposes, below is an example of two strategic transportation strategies and associated action steps:

 **Transportation and Land Use**

**1 Strategy TL 1:**  
Decrease vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 2.5% by 2030.

Actions	Implementation Phase
TL 1-1 Execute a community Complete Streets assessment to identify percentage of streets in compliance with Village's complete streets policy. Assessment should recommend 10 year compliance goals outlining percentage of streets to be renovated to be with-in compliance, recommend prioritized streets for renovation, and establish an implementation plan.	<b>1</b>
TL 1-2 Work with local businesses to promote tele-working as an alternative to commuting.	<b>1</b>
TL 1-3 Prioritize transportation funding for Vision Zero engineering improvement projects to create safe streets for people walking, biking and riding transit.	<b>2</b>

**2 Strategy TL 2:**  
**Increase public transit ridership from 11.8% to 14% by 2030**  
(increase to be focused on currently underserved populations, particularly low income individuals and households without vehicle access).

Actions	Implementation Phase
TL 2-1 Advance improved mobility options for youth and seniors such as shifting student transportation modes from cars to school bus system and promotion of services such as the PACE dial-a-ride, PACE Paratransit, and Senior Cap services. Explore creation of \$5 credit per ride arrangement with PACE similar to those established by cab companies	<b>1</b>
TL 2-2 Explore frequent service transit to the village's many employment centers	<b>1</b>
TL 2-3 Work with local employers encouraging them to implement subsidized or discounted transit program. Explore TMA Lake-Cook and others for potential partnerships. <a href="http://tmalakecook.org/">http://tmalakecook.org/</a>	<b>1</b>
TL 2-4 Study mobility limitations and challenges for youth and seniors not addressed in existing programs and services and explore additional mobility options and programs with partners to address limitations while decreasing community vehicle miles traveled.	<b>2</b>
TL 2-5 Establish parking maximums for new development within 3/4 mile of existing or future rail or rapid bus stations.	<b>2</b>



The Village of Northbrook is asking that all Northbrook governmental agencies either adopt or endorse their CAP through Board action. Endorsement of the plan shows a commitment to look within an organization and identify environmentally friendly actions that are both economically and operationally feasible and in alignment with the broader goals as defined in the Village CAP.

To date, the only entity to take Board action is the Northbrook Library who has endorsed the CAP and is currently putting together a Climate Action Planning Team to identify meaningful and achievable goals within their organization. To accomplish this, they are creating two subcommittees to split the work into operational efforts and public awareness.

1. **Operations:** The Operations subcommittee will work closely with Maintenance and Administration to do an assessment of internal operations, applying the Climate Action Plan actions to the library's operations and building projects.
2. **Public Awareness & Marketing:** The subcommittee will work with the Village on increasing public awareness over the CAP and on helping community members take actions based on the objectives of the plan through marketing and programming efforts.

### **Next Steps**

The Village has established quarterly meetings with the Northbrook governmental entities. The first official meeting is in January 2022.

A feasible next step for the District is to have the Operations Team (Kim Ptak, Lauren Bonner, Casey Wright, and Brian Murdy) review the CAP and identify actions within each sector that the District has either already implemented or can be implemented in the future. A report will then be brought to the Facility Committee meeting in January 2022.