Recommended Climate Adaptations for Columbus

Extreme Heat

N1 Establish a larger, better coordinated, more responsive network of cooling centers and draft clear guidelines for network members.

N2 Implement educational campaign, health advisories, and best practices for time spent outdoors in extreme heat.

A1 Internalize climate resilience practices in city planning to reduce the urban heat island.

A2 Provide programs to distribute fans, air conditioners, and water to vulnerable populations.

Air Quality & Energy

N3 Modernize electric grid for greater resilience and more efficient energy distribution.

N4 Implement educational campaign on idling reduction.

A3 Implement educational campaign on energy audits and renewable energy to reduce emissions for residential and business users.

A4 Increase number of air quality monitoring stations to provide baseline data and public educational opportunities.

A5 Use data and best practices to adapt transportation modes and inform economics of transportation.

Flooding

N5 Design and implement an educational campaign that leads to reduced impacts of stormwater and basement sewage backups, promotes use of green infrastructure, and accurately conveys risks to and responsibilities of property owners.

N6 Review city regulations, technical documents, departmental processes and plans, property owner programs, enforcement mechanisms, and monitoring efforts to ensure that current practices reduce localized flooding and basement/sewage backups.

N7 Develop an emergency plan that can be implemented during a flood to ensure adequate transportation and logistics for critical resources.

N8 Identify and assess risk associated with older flood control and stormwater infrastructure, and use data gathered to reduce risk by developing property owner education, informing the city's capital projects, and establishing property owner requirements.

A6 Advocate for state and federal government to implement policies that reduce erosion and runoff and promote infiltration.

Water Quality

N9 Implement the City of Columbus Watershed Management Plan and work with regional partners to implement the Sustaining Scioto Adaptive Management Plan.

N10 Understand the types, likelihood, and severity of events that could adversely impact the quality of drinking water sources.

N11 Continue upgrades to sewer system and sewage treatment infrastructure to reduce sewage contamination of waterways.

N12 Design an educational campaign for individuals and businesses on proper use of tap water during an emergency.

A7 Improve data collection to anticipate and respond to harmful algal blooms (HABs).

A8 Continue upgrades to water and sewage treatment infrastructure to reduce harmful alagal bloom (HAB) toxins in drinking water.

Water Use

N13 Implement educational campaign on reducing water use.

A9 Develop event-based water use criteria.

A10 Update building code to require more efficient water use.

A11 Improve irrigation through changes in infrastructure and practices that more efficiently use water.

A12 Improve efficiency of water use in city fountains, pools, splash pads, and ponds.

Ecosystems

N14 Promote sustainable landscaping practices for residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

A13 Develop guidelines for city property on application of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and animal waste.

A14 Collaborate with landscaping and fertilizer companies to improve services and use of products.

A15 Implement educational campaign for landowners to promote responsible use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

A16 Collaborate with organizations, agencies, and private landowners to identify and create additional green space, urban tree canopy, and urban farms.

Emergency Preparedness

N15 Use geographic information systems (GIS) to map fixed critical assets and vulnerable populations susceptible to environmental hazards.

N16 Evaluate city preparedness and response during and after environmental hazard emergencies.

A17 Track and communicate costs associated with preparing for and responding to environmental hazards.

A18 Establish contingency contracts so that sufficient resources are available in case of environmental hazard emergencies.

A19 Develop new app or integrate with existing app for environmental hazard alerts.

A20 Implement educational campaign to inform the public about insurance and other shared risk programs available for environmental hazards.

Vulnerable Populations

N17 Identify representative advocacy organizations for diverse and vulnerable populations.

N18 Facilitate cross-cultural dialogue, offer training for service providers, and share best practices.

N19 Ensure diverse modes of communication during environmental hazard emergencies to reach diverse and vulnerable populations.

N20 Implement educational campaign on environmental hazard preparedness to reach diverse and vulnerable populations.

N21 Coordinate closely with the Ohio public-private partnership to manage food and water access for vulnerable populations during environmental hazard emergencies.

N21 Require disclosure of known property problems for sale or rental of property.

A22 Require or incentivize that monthly utility costs for rental properties be reported to potential tenants.