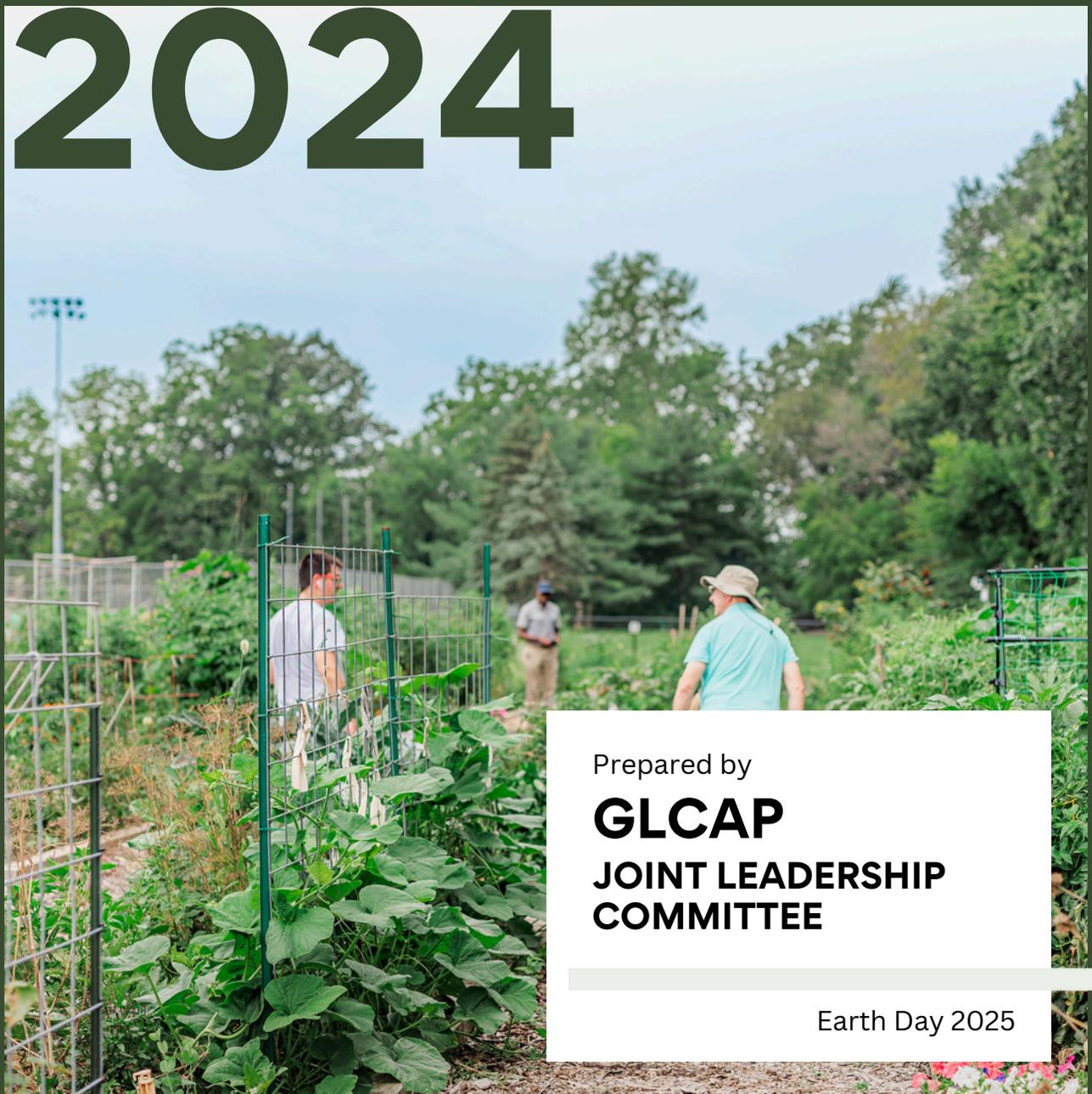


Greater LAFAYETTE
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Prepared by

GLCAP

**JOINT LEADERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Earth Day 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE GLCAP JLC	1
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS SUMMARY	2
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BY FOCUS AREA	4
ENERGY USE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT	5
TRANSPORTATION	7
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY	8
WATER, WASTEWATER, & SOLID WASTE	10
MOVING FORWARD	12

LETTER FROM THE GLCAP JOINT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Since its adoption in January 2023, the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) has served as a catalyst for advancing social, economic, and environmental sustainability within our community. As an innovative collaboration between the cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, we are proud to continue building and fostering partnerships that engage all stakeholders.

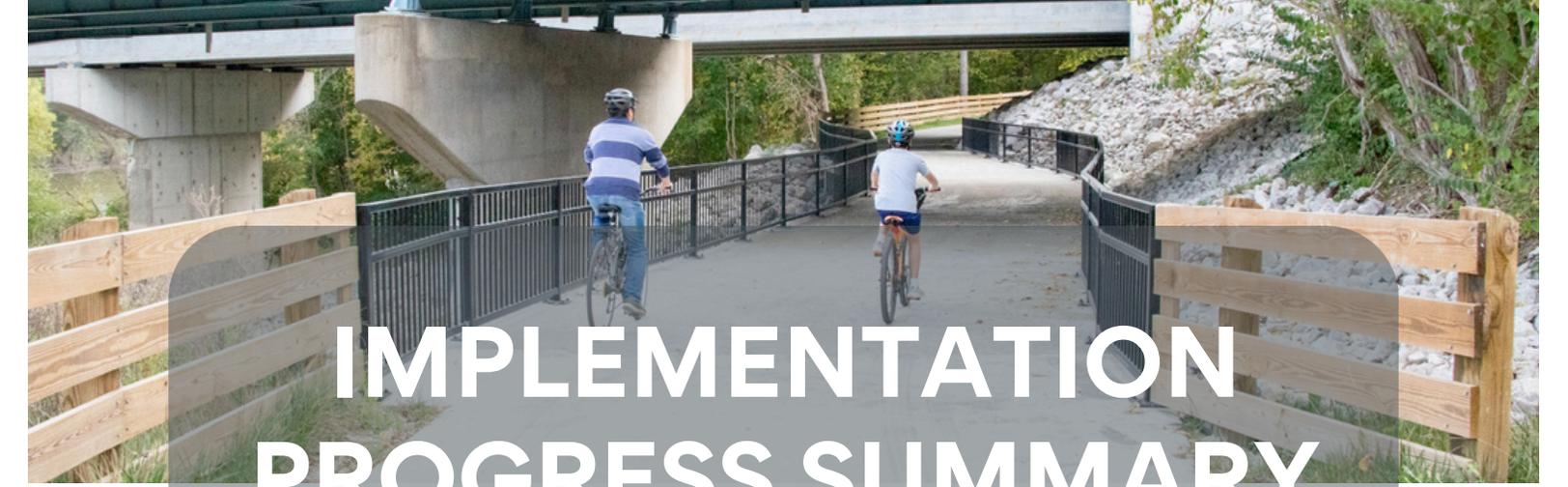
This year marked an achievement in sustainability leadership for Greater Lafayette with the creation of the Climate and Resilience Manager position in Lafayette in August, further strengthening our ability to implement the GLCAP. Additionally, the arrival of a summer McKinney Climate Fellow from Indiana University's Environmental Resilience Institute bolstered our capacity to kickstart new initiatives, implement ongoing projects, and develop community-wide food waste diversion mapping. Furthermore, we welcomed a representative of arts and culture to the planning and implementation process via the addition of a new arts-focused committee member position.



As we enter the third year of GLCAP implementation, it is essential to reflect on the shared accomplishments of the past year as the evolving landscape at the local, state, and federal levels offers a unique opportunity to deepen our existing collaborations and create new ones. We extend our thanks to our community partners and stakeholders for their continued dedication and support. We look forward to continue strengthening our partnerships and advancing the goals of the GLCAP in the years to come.

- GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee





IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS SUMMARY

Serving as a roadmap for climate action within our community, the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan takes advantage of policies and initiatives that our local government is uniquely positioned to implement and will ultimately benefit Greater Lafayette for years to come. Throughout the first two years of implementation, the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) Joint Leadership Committee, alongside dedicated community partners, have been working collaboratively to further the shared vision and fulfill the mission of the plan.

Vision: *A climate-resilient community, a reduced carbon footprint, and an equitable quality of life for all within Greater Lafayette.*

Mission: *To build a resilient Greater Lafayette by designing policies and implementing initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect equitable quality of life for current and future generations.*

Efforts to implement the goals listed within the plan are aimed at bolstering climate resilience via adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation involves preparing for climate change impacts already happening or soon-to-come, whereas mitigation involves reducing the future effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in particular, aids in our community's ability to meet our data-supported science-based target.

Science-based target: *Climate goals in line with the latest climate science. They represent a community's fair share of the ambition necessary to meet the Paris Agreement commitment to keep warming below 1.5°C.*

58% BY 2030 Greater Lafayette's science-based target is a 58% reduction in community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Throughout GLCAP planning and implementation, a strong focus has been placed on promoting equity as vulnerable community members often face disproportionate burdens caused by extreme weather events and other implications of a changing climate. The second year of implementation has been of no exception as the committee worked to prioritize goals that mitigate vulnerabilities and advance adaptation for community members most at risk.

To further inform equitable plan implementation, the committee continued public engagement within the Greater Lafayette area throughout 2024. In June, the committee hosted GreenFest (formerly known as the Green Expo), an annual community event hosted by the cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County to raise awareness of all things “green” within our community, provide updates to the GLCAP, and offer opportunities for engagement. The event brought together over 125 attendees and 10 participating organizations to promote social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

JOIN US AT GREENFEST 2025 ON JUNE 7TH!

For more information on this year’s event, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1470768597175094/>.

Committee members have also participated in the planning committees for partner-hosted community-wide events, such as Riverfest, De-Trash the Wabash, and E-Waste Day. Alongside these events, committee members have hosted GLCAP educational presentations for over 10 community organizations and groups throughout the second year of implementation.

Overall, the committee saw continued collaboration among local businesses, government entities, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups, and engaged residents to progress the goals of the GLCAP and promote sustainable practices within the Greater Lafayette area. From K-12 environmental education to hands-on workshops designed for attendees of all ages, community members have implemented innovative actions for increasing education and engagement to bolster community resilience.

The following sections contain further information related to GLCAP goals and actions addressed in 2024, including an overview of the focus areas that are used to categorize strategies for plan implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BY FOCUS AREA(S)



Technical strategies for plan implementation are divided into four focus areas: energy use in the built environment, transportation, agriculture & forestry, and water, wastewater, & solid waste. Within each focus area are goals and related actions that have been designed to progress climate adaptation and mitigation within our community. In total, the plan contains 12 goals with 71 related actions categorized accordingly within each of the four focus areas. Within just two years of implementation, the cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, alongside dedicated partners, have initiated progress on 41 of these actions— 58% of total actions.

One goal within each focus area is a public priority goal, or a goal that the public identified as a top priority of focus during public input sessions held throughout the planning process. The public priority goal within Focus Area 1: Energy Use in the Built Environment, for example, is Goal 2: Begin Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Sources. Throughout plan implementation thus far, public priority goals have been used to guide climate action with a focus on equity.

The following sections highlight goals that have been progressed within each focus area, and those marked with an exclamation point (!) are public priority goals.* These efforts reflect the ongoing dedication of our community to the goals set forth in the GLCAP and demonstrate our region's commitment to fostering a sustainable future for all.

**The GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee recognizes that the following goals are not the only goals being progressed within our community. If you or your organization are taking action to progress the GLCAP, please send us an update via the “Get In Touch” form on the GLCAP website: greaterlafayetteclimate.com!*

1

ENERGY USE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 1: Increase Energy Efficiency of Buildings and Infrastructure

EBE 1-A: Gov. operations: Develop a plan for evaluating and increasing energy efficiency in government buildings.

Building on the momentum of previous cost-saving solar energy projects, the City of Lafayette installed new solar fields at the Lafayette Renew facility as well as the Ross Road Lift Station in 2024. Both solar arrays will offset peak and base electrical demand and reduce electrical energy costs for each facility.

Additionally, with the approval of bids in 2024, the City of West Lafayette will begin installing rooftop solar on 5 City-owned buildings in 2025. This initiative will not only improve the energy efficiency of government buildings, but also reduce long-term facility operating costs.



EBE 1-B: Hold public education and outreach campaign on energy consumption and building efficiency.

Greater Lafayette has been actively supporting energy conservation efforts through public outreach campaigns. The West Lafayette Go Greener Commission, in particular, has used the City of West Lafayette's social media platforms to share energy efficiency tips. For example, posts in preparation for winter 2024 highlighted home winterization strategies for homeowners and renters.



EBE 1-E: Identify funding for improving energy efficiency in low income or multi-family homes and provide education.

The City of West Lafayette and Go Greener have also created posts identifying funding opportunities aimed at improving energy efficiency and providing payment assistance in low-income and multi-family housing. The posts encouraged residents to apply for the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority's [Energy Assistance Program](#) and the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#), both of which provide support for homeowners and renters throughout Tippecanoe County.



1

ENERGY USE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 2: Begin Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Sources - **Public Priority Goal**



EBE 2-E: Host solar informational seminars for residents and businesses.

Following the success of the 2023 [Solar United Neighbors](#) (SUN) Solar + EV Charger Co-Op, SUN has continued to offer valuable resources to the Greater Lafayette community. In October 2024, SUN hosted a Solar 101 Session in Battleground, open to all Tippecanoe County residents. The session provided information on the Ready, Set, Solar! Program for homeowners, renters, and nonprofits, as well as the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which supports rural small business owners and farmers in installing affordable rooftop solar arrays as well as ground-mount solar systems that can also support the growing of crops and grazing of livestock.



GOAL 4: Increase Social Resilience

EBE 4-A: Create a network of resiliency hubs to support vulnerable community members during extreme weather events.

In December 2024, the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette joined the [EPA's Sustainable Communities Accelerator Network \(SCAN\)](#) as 1 of 19 communities across the U.S. to be selected to participate in the inaugural cohort. This program provides free technical assistance to communities nationwide, helping to expand capacity and create actionable plans. As part of this initiative, the cities are collaborating to develop a strategic implementation plan for a network of resiliency hubs to support vulnerable community members during extreme weather events.



2

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL 1: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

T 1-E: Invest in trail projects/implement existing plans for bike infrastructure and complete streets.

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) with the assistance of the Cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, INDOT, and other state agencies unveiled the new [Sagamore Parkway Trail](#) in October 2024. The project, partially funded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Next Level Trails program, provides another safe and accessible route connecting Lafayette and West Lafayette across the Wabash River. The new trail is a major step forward in enhancing multimodal transportation in the area, making it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to travel between the two cities.



GOAL 2: Incentivize Zero and Low Carbon Fuel Transit and Equipment - **Public Priority Goal**



T 2-A: Gov. Operations: Conduct a study and develop a plan to convert government and public fleet vehicles to EV and lawn equipment to electric power for the public.

In 2024 and early 2025, the City of West Lafayette Water Resource Recovery Facility acquired 3 new hybrid vehicles, reducing emissions from its fleet and setting the stage for future electric vehicle adoption.

Additionally, [CityBus of Greater Lafayette](#) was awarded \$10.5 million through the Federal Transit Administration's Low and No Emission Vehicle Program. This funding will support the adoption of hydrogen fuel cell buses, the first of their kind in Indiana. These buses are slated to be in service by Spring 2026, along with necessary infrastructure and workforce development support.

Furthermore, the City of Lafayette, through financial support provided by the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust, received 2 electric recycling and trash trucks with automated arms to reduce pollution within local neighborhoods and increase efficiencies in solid waste collection.



3 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

GOAL 2: Enhance, Protect, and Improve Access to Our Natural Resources - Public Priority Goal



AF 2-B: Gov. operations: Create a plan to eliminate the invasive plants on public property and replace them with native plants.

In 2024, the [Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce \(TICT\)](#), housed within the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District, approved their 2025-2029 5-Year Strategic Plan. TICT works closely with local parks departments, county staff, state organizations, and volunteers to target invasive species across the county. The three pillars of their 5-Year Plan—education, eradication, and reporting—are designed to improve the health of public land ecosystems and make these areas more enjoyable and sustainable for future generations.



AF 2-C: Gov. operations: Increase support for local parks departments and partner with local organizations to acquire and protect existing high quality forested areas.

The West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department’s [AmeriCorps Park Allies](#) program has become a crucial force in protecting our public lands and forested areas. In 2024, the Park Allies hosted 6 invasive species removal days and collaborated with local organizations such as WREC, TICT, and [Niches Land Trust](#) on another 10 removal workdays that positively impacted 5 West Lafayette current and future parks, 2 Lafayette parks, and 4 public lands sites throughout the County. Their work is making a lasting impact on preserving our parks for future generations. Additionally, the Park Allies program assisted [West Lafayette Tree Friends](#) in planting 95 trees, contributing to the growth of our urban tree canopy.



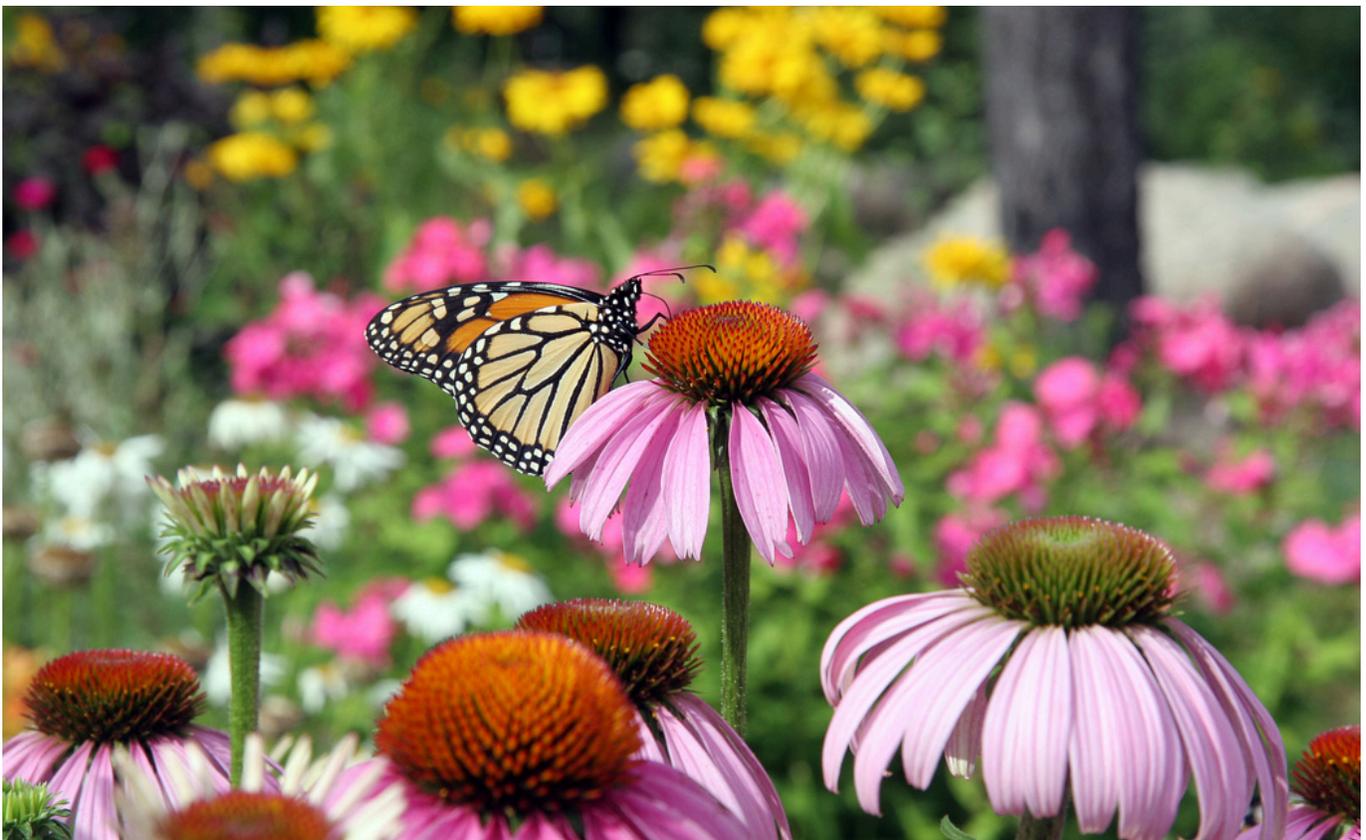
Further contributing to the growth of the urban tree canopy is [Tree Lafayette](#) who, alongside community partners and volunteers, planted 312 trees throughout 2024.

3 AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

AF 2-E: Develop a community initiative to map invasive plants and provide incentives for eliminating the use of invasive species.

TICT hosted two successful community mapping days. The first, held in April at the John R. Dennis Wellness Center, introduced participants to [EDDMapS](#), an invasive species mapping software used nationwide. Participants learned how to identify invasive species at Cumberland Park and document their findings. In October, TICT organized an EDDMapS Hike and Map event, where community members identified and mapped instances of the invasive Burning Bush on public lands for future removal. These events will continue throughout 2025.

TICT also partnered with the Duke Energy Foundation to launch the [Invasive Plant Swap Program](#), where homeowners were encouraged to remove invasive plants from their properties and replace them with native plants at no cost. In 2024, this program successfully removed over 150 invasive plants from local properties, helping restore our community's natural landscape.



4 WATER, WASTEWATER, & SOLID WASTE

GOAL 1: Enhance Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Composting - Public Priority Goal



WWSW 1-A: Gov. Operations: Conduct waste stream audit for government operations.

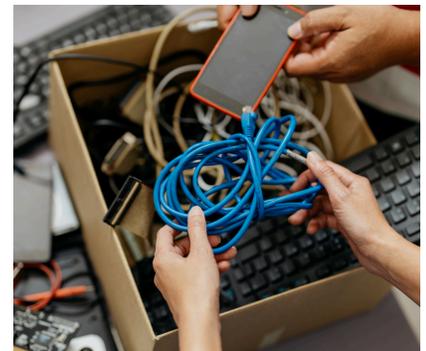
In October 2024, discussions were initiated between key stakeholders, including the [Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District \(SWMD\)](#), the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Purdue University, and local businesses. The group came together to discuss strategies for waste reduction and share information on current and upcoming grant programs for recycling and solid waste. This collaborative effort aims to ensure better communication about available opportunities and coordinate initiatives for greater impact across the region.



WWSW 1-C: Provide e-waste education within the business community.

In collaboration with community partners, the Tippecanoe County SWMD hosted several e-waste education and outreach campaigns. A notable initiative was the [Vape Recycling Program](#), now Vape Disposal Program, which was coordinated with Oscar Winski's E-Waste team (now GreenWave) and 3 local businesses. This program offers bins at the local businesses to drop-off vape devices and raises awareness about the importance of properly disposing of the devices, which can be hazardous if discarded improperly due to their lithium batteries. The program has since grown to offer drop-off sites at 5 local business across Lafayette and West Lafayette.

Additionally, the Tippecanoe County SWMD hosted two [E-Waste Days](#) for residents to drop off their electronic waste free of charge in partnership with GreenWave. These events were a tremendous success, collecting a total of 183,004 pounds of e-waste, much of which was either recycled or repurposed, reducing environmental harm and promoting sustainable disposal practices.



4 WATER, WASTEWATER, & SOLID WASTE

WWSW 1-F: Develop food waste reduction and composting campaign.

West Lafayette's Go Greener Commission continued its outreach efforts in 2024 to educate residents on food waste reduction and composting. The Commission attended several West Lafayette Farmers Markets and Purdue University Farmers Markets, where they distributed free table-top composting totes to residents and shared best practices for food waste management while informing the public about composting benefits.



In addition, the City of West Lafayette continued its social media outreach with Go Greener, promoting the benefits of food waste diversion. The City of West Lafayette and Go Greener informed residents about the food waste and cooking oil drop-off bins available at the West Lafayette Street and Sanitation Department which provides access for residents to dispose of these materials sustainably. Food waste and cooking oil are ultimately taken to the anaerobic digester housed at the West Lafayette Water Resource Recovery Facility and processed to generate electricity for the facility. Food waste delivered to the facility powers around 10-15% of the facility daily.



MOVING FORWARD

The GLCAP Joint Leadership Committee is excited about the progress made within our community throughout 2024 and recognizes the importance of sustained climate action in the years to come. Looking ahead, equity will continue to be prioritized in implementation efforts, and the committee aims to increase public engagement to gather constructive feedback for the purpose of guiding the development of future policies and programs.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK & ASK QUESTIONS!

To get involved, please fill out the “Get In Touch” form on the GLCAP website: <https://greaterlafayetteind.com/climate-action-plan/>.

The committee is looking forward to continuing the advancement of sustainability initiatives, which will be catalyzed through the cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette’s participation in the LEED for Cities 2025 National Certification Cohort. Other efforts include the completion of the Cities’ respective Carbon Disclosure Project reporting and the creation of updated community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventories. These efforts will provide valuable data as we work toward reducing our environmental impact. A key project the committee anticipates completing is a joint strategic implementation plan for resilience hubs, developed in collaboration with the U.S. EPA’s Sustainable Communities Accelerator Network. We are actively exploring grant opportunities in preparation to support the development of resiliency hub projects in the future.

Additionally, the committee remains hopeful for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, for which the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette received a conditional award agreement. While the program is currently paused, it presents an exciting opportunity for the cities to receive energy audits, energy efficiency retrofits, and the potential launch of a clean energy workforce development program. We are optimistic that further updates are available soon.

As always, the committee is incredibly grateful for the support of our community partners who have helped make the successes of 2024 possible. We look forward to continuing these strong partnerships as we work together toward an even more sustainable future in 2025.

To stay up to date with implementation, please visit the GLCAP website, greaterlafayetteclimate.com, and connect with us on social media.

Greater LAFAYETTE
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

**ANY QUESTIONS?
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