6. Conclusion

During the development of the City of Syracuse's inaugural Climate Action Plan, the City made a direct effort to learn from all systems of climate knowledge, operational efficiency, and fiscal strategy available.

Emerging voices from engagement instructed the Division of Planning and Sustainability to think pragmatically. Climate action toward a climate resilient community can be both climate conscious and align with the systematic needs of community members, operational stakeholders, and administrative visions of a better future for all. This collective guidance empowered the City to create the Plan you read today.

For the City of Syracuse, this Plan exemplifies the ability to think of climate change as a system change toward an equitable and prosperous society. Every goal in this plan acts toward climate resiliency, fiscal stability, and an improved quality of life for all.

This Plan will guide the community towards greater resiliency and quality of life; however, it is not all encompassing. Climate action will continue to evolve during the 21st century. It is essential to consider the impacts of current planned regional development and where the greater sphere of climate influence will take society. The sequential Climate Action Plan and Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory should build upon this work and further include carbon markets, scope 3 emission calculations, waste diversion such as reuse and revitalization, and the overall connection of climate change and food.

Appendices

A. Climate Actions

The following implementation matrix presents the full set of goals, strategies, and actions that together form the foundation of the City of Syracuse Climate Action Plan.

Organized by major thematic areas—including Green Buildings and Energy Use, Transportation, Climate Adaptation, and the Natural Environment, **the matrix translates the plan's long-term vision into specific, implementable steps that can be undertaken by municipal departments, community partners, and regional stakeholders.**

For each action, the matrix identifies the corresponding goal and strategy, responsible parties, potential implementation partners, estimated order-of-magnitude costs, potential funding sources, and anticipated timelines. Where applicable, the table also indicates connections to greenhouse-gas reduction objectives, fiscal impacts, and alignment with broader City planning efforts. **This structure is intended to provide decision-makers, staff, and community partners with a clear roadmap for implementation while supporting prioritization, coordination, and accountability over time.**

Taken together, the actions listed in this matrix represent a comprehensive portfolio of near-, mid-, and long-term initiatives designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, improve environmental quality, and advance equitable, sustainable development across Syracuse. The matrix will be updated periodically as actions are completed, refined, or expanded to reflect evolving opportunities, funding availability, and community priorities.

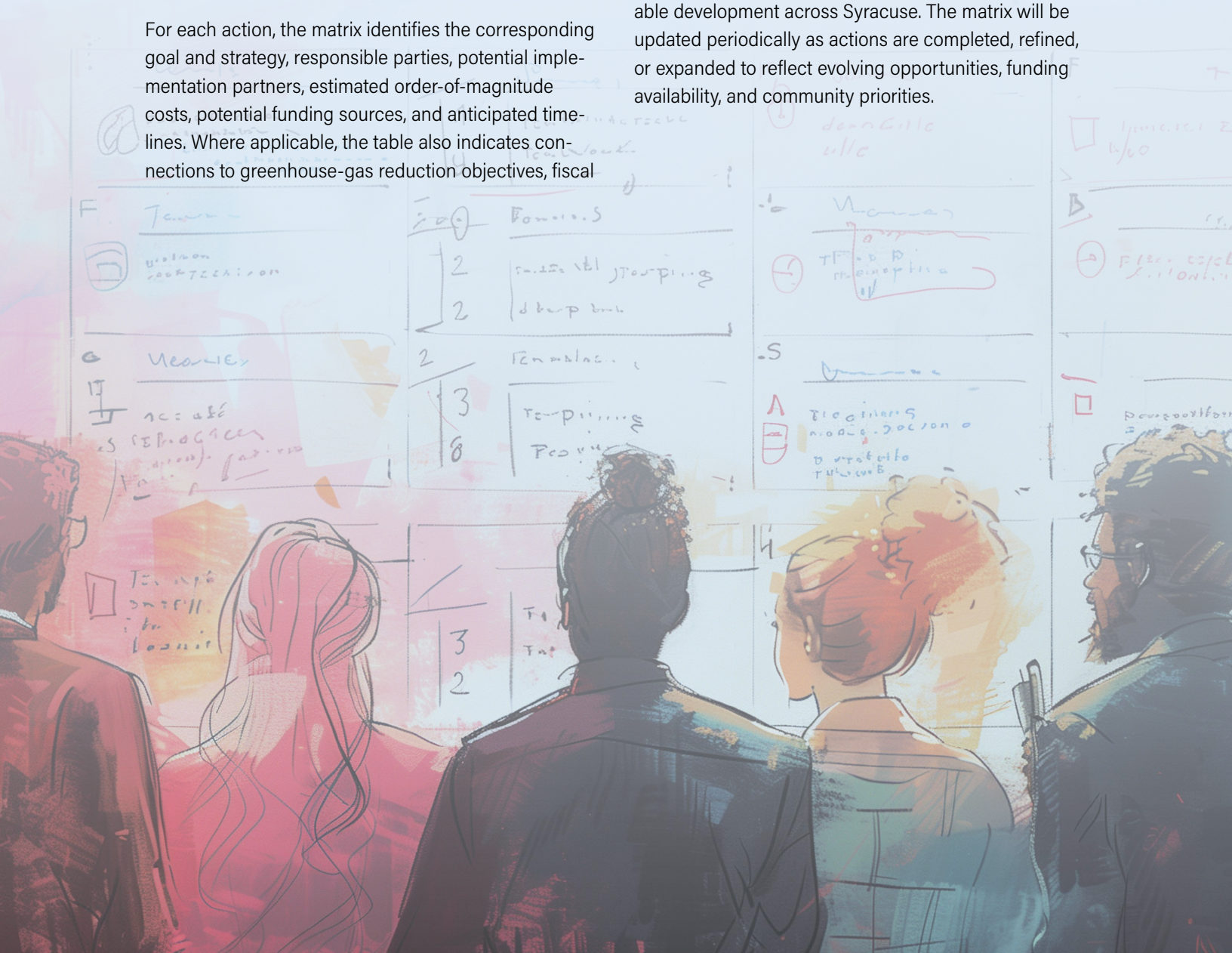

Table 5-1
Syracuse, NY Climate Action Plan Actions

RESPONSIBILITY	STRATEGY	GOAL ID	GOAL	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS
THEME | GREEN BUILDING AND ENERGY USE (1)					
Community	Organize Operations (1.1)	1.1.1	Smart Metering	Promote utility (National Grid) tools for residents, business, and organizations to meter their energy use.	National Grid ▪ City Communications Department
Municipal		1.1.2	Commercial Building Award System	Create an award system to acknowledge commercial and residential leaders in efficient energy use and management using Energy Star Portfolio.	City of Syracuse Common Council ▪ City Code Enforcement Department
Municipal		1.1.3	Energy Management System	Construct, contract, or hire an internal position to manage municipal energy bills and energy use.	City Budget Department
Municipal	Efficient Energy Use (1.2)	1.2.1	Building & Facilities Audits	Conduct ASHRAE level 2 or 3 building efficiency audits for 50-75%, or more, of the City's existing energy portfolio.	City Engineering Department
Municipal		1.2.2	Municipal Building & Facilities Upgrades	Perform building efficiency upgrades based on ASHRAE audit recommendations such as LED lights, metering installation, heat pumps, building envelope upgrades, etc.	City Engineering Department
Community		1.2.3	Community Building & Facilities Upgrades	Promote opportunities for residents, businesses, and organizations to upgrade their buildings and facilities to be more energy efficient such as heat pumps, LED lights, building envelopes, etc.	New York Central Regional Planning and Development Board ▪ EnergySmart CNY ▪ National Grid ▪ City Communications Department
Community	Renewable Energy Generation (1.3)	1.3.1	Community Renewable Energy Generation	Promote opportunities for residents, businesses, and organizations to utilizing existing renewable energy sources (Community Solar subscriptions) or implement their own generation and battery energy storage systems.	New York Central Regional Planning and Development Board ▪ EnergySmart CNY ▪ National Grid ▪ City Communications Department
Municipal		1.3.2	Municipal Renewable Feasibility Studies	ID municipal buildings & facilities or land for potential renewable energy generation and storage, then perform feasibility studies of those sites for implementation recommendations.	SUNY-ESF ▪ Syracuse University: School of Engineering

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES	ORDER OF MAG COST	TIMELINE	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ALIGNMENT	GHG EMISSION CONNECTION	FISCAL CONNECTION
NA	Staff Time	Continuous	No	No	No
NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities	Low (25K – 75K)	Long (8 – 10 Years)	No	No	No
NYSERDA FlexTech Program	Low (25K – 75K)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NYSERDA • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities	Medium (80K – 200K)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NYSERDA • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities • NYS DOS • NYPA	Very High (1 mil+)	Medium (4 – 7 Years)	No	Building and Facility envelope upgrades, to include roof and piping, could reduce hundreds of millions of C02 emissions over a 30-year period in commercial buildings.	
C-PACE Financing • NYSERDA • National Grid	Low (25K – 75K)	Continuous	No	No	Over 50 years, existing residential buildings with proper air sealing and insulation could save energy costs ranging from 10% to 45%.
National Grid • NYSERDA	Low (25K – 75K)	Continuous	No	No	Subscription to community solar power sourcing will result in a bill credit on your utility bill that can range from about 5% to 20% of the total energy bill.
NYSERDA • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities	Staff Time	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No

RESPONSIBILITY	STRATEGY	GOAL ID	GOAL	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS
Municipal		1.3.3	**Municipal Renewable Generation & Storage**	Based on renewable energy generation and storage feasibility studies, implement renewable energy generators and associated storage facilities (batteries).	City Engineering Department ▪ City Department of Public Works
THEME | TRANSPORTATION (2)					
Community	**Alternative Modes of Transportation (2.1)**	2.1.1	**Bike and Pedestrian Trails**	Promote the use of expanded bike lanes and municipal sidewalk trails through use education and map distribution using guidance of Vision Zero to promote safe use of pathways and vehicles of micro-mobility.	City Communications Department ▪ City Department of Public Works ▪ City Department of API
Community		2.1.2	**Centro-Bus Rapid Transit System**	Promote the use of BRT system through education and map distribution.	City Communications Department ▪ City Department of API ▪ CENTRO
Municipal		2.1.3	**Pedestrian & Cyclist Infrastructure**	Seek and implement development opportunities to support Syracuse residents ability to utilize alternative modes of transportation such as protected bike lane expansion, the municipal sidewalk program, and private e-bike/e-scooter partnerships aligned with Vision Zero's Complete Street toolkit.	City of Syracuse Common Council ▪ City Public Works Department
Community	**EV Charging Infrastructure (2.2)**	2.2.1	**Expand Public Charging Infrastructure**	Use public land to install EV, e-scooter, and e-bike charing infrastructure.	City Engineering Department ▪ City Public Works Department ▪ City Parks Department
Municipal		2.2.2	**Municipal Charging Infrastructure**	Install EV charging stations for municipal fleet operations in municipal lots and garages.	City Department of Public Works ▪ City Department of Engineering
Municipal	**Municipal Fleet Transition (2.3)**	2.3.1	**Develop Mechanical Staff**	Recruit EV technically trained mechanics.	City Department of Public Works ▪ City Department of Human Resources ▪ OCC ▪ SCSD
Municipal		2.3.2	**Fleet Transition Plan**	Develop a planning document that outlines methods to right-size fleet operations, then assesses different methods to transition the light duty vehicle fleet by 10% by 2030.	City Department of Public Works

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES	ORDER OF MAG COST	TIMELINE	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ALIGNMENT	GHG EMISSION CONNECTION	FISCAL CONNECTION
NYSERDA • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities • NYS DOS • NYPA	Very High (1 Mil+)	Medium (4 – 7 years)	The NYS CLCPA (2019) mandates 70% renewable energy generation by 2030.	No	No
NA	Staff Time	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NA	Staff Time	Long (8 – 10 Years)	The BRT system will transform the City's connection corridors and the community's ability to transit.	"Communities with strong public transportation networks can reduce the United States emissions by 37 million metric tons of carbon yearly."	"Individuals can save more than $9,738 per year by taking public transportation instead of driving."
NYS DOT • TIP/TAP • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities	Very High (1 Mil+)	Continuous	Biking and pedestrian infrastructure planned in tandem with zoning policy will initiate continued smart growth and a walkable city.		The average cost of owning and operating a personal vehicle was about $12,000, in 2024. The City of Syracuse's median household income was $51,770 in 2024.
NYSERDA • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities • NYS DOS • National Grid	High (250K – 750K)	Medium (4 – 7 Years)	No	No	No
NYSERDA Charge Ready 2.0 Program • National Grid Make Ready Program • NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities • NYS DOS	Very High (1 Mil+)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NYPA	Medium (80K – 200K)	Continuous	No	No	No
NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities • NYSERDA	Low (25K – 75K)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No

RESPONSIBILITY	STRATEGY	GOAL ID	GOAL	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS
Municipal		**2.3.3**	**Light Duty Vehicle Fleet Transition**	Transition 50% of the light-duty-vehicle fleet by 2035. Start with administrative vehicles, then cycle department vehicles upon end-of-life. Use lease agreements with dealerships for maintenance.	City Department of Public Works
THEME | CLIMATE ADAPTATION (3)					
Community	**Flood Mitigation (3.1)**	**3.1.1**	**Development Site Selection**	Implement the city ordinance for construction within the Special Flood Hazard Area (100 Year Floodplain).	City Engineering Department • Onondaga County • Towns Surrounding Syracuse
Community		**3.1.2**	**Green Infrastructure Projects**	Continue public amenity green infrastructure projects and funding; specifically for the avoidance of impervious surfaces and expansion of water retention.	Onondaga County • Developers • Private Residences, Businesses, and Organizations
Community		**3.1.3**	**Public Water Management Efforts**	Use stormwater best practices on private properties i.e. plant trees, reduce paved area, install porous pavement, rain gardens, rain barrels, retention structures, etc.	Community Members
Municipal		**3.1.4**	**Flood Mitigation Plan**	Develop a formal flood mitigation plan for Syracuse. Include public participation components.	City Engineering Department • Onondaga County • Towns Surrounding Syracuse
Municipal		**3.1.5**	**Land Acquisition: Flood Storage Development**	Identify strategic land acquisitions to retain open space for flood storage which can additionally help with regional heat mitigation.	City Engineering Department • Onondaga County • Towns Surrounding Syracuse
Municipal		**3.1.6**	**FEMA Community Rating System**	Continue participation in the FEMA Community Rating System for flood insurance discounts. Work to improve to the next level.	City Engineering Department • Onondaga County • Towns Surrounding Syracuse
Municipal		**3.1.7**	**Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan**	Implement all Syracuse flood mitigation measures in the County Hazard Mitigation Plan including upgrading sewer and stormwater management systems.	City Engineering Department, Onondaga County • Towns Surrounding Syracuse

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES	ORDER OF MAG COST	TIMELINE	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ALIGNMENT	GHG EMISSION CONNECTION	FISCAL CONNECTION
NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities ZEV Program • NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program	Very High (1 Mil+)	Long (8 – 10 Years)	To adhere to the NYS 2035 LDV zero-emission only sales mandate, the City will explore methods to transition the light-duty fleet.	Estimated yearly emission reduction between a Gas-powered Chevy Equinox and All-electric Chevy Equinox is 2.13 metric tons of carbon with a projected lifetime savings (8 years) of 25.6 metric tons of carbon.	The average yearly savings between a Gas-powered Chevy Equinox and All-electric Chevy Equinox is $768 with a projected lifetime (8 year) savings of $10,644.
NYSDEC • FEMA	High (250K – 750K)	Medium (4 – 7 Years)	No	No	No
City Parks and Recreation Department • NYS DEC Riparian Program	Staff Time	Continuous	No	No	No
NA	Staff Time	Continuous	No	No	No
NYSDEC • FEMA	Staff Time	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NYSDEC • FEMA	Very High (1 Mil+)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NYSDEC • FEMA	Staff Time	Continuous	No	No	"If the cost of improvements or the cost to repair damage exceeds 50% of the market value of the building, it must be brought to the current floodplain management standards."
NYSDEC • FEMA	Very High (1 Mil+)	Continuous	To promote intergovernmental coordination, the City should incorporate Onondaga County's Hazard Mitigation Plan into the future planning.	No	No

RESPONSIBILITY	STRATEGY	GOAL ID	GOAL	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS
Municipal	Heat Mitigation (3.2)	3.2.1	Increase Urban Tree Canopy	Use heat island and index maps to strategically plant trees in urban heat islands to increase shade and natural cooling mechanisms, called evapotranspiration.	City Parks Department ▪ SUNY ESF
Community		3.2.2	Expand Cooling Access	Empower residents in aging housing stock with opportunities to install electrical cooling systems and building envelope improvements to reduce extreme heat in residences.	EnergySmart CNY ▪ City Communications Department
Community	Public Health (3.3)	3.3.1	Climate Events Education	Engage in City and County educational materials, communication networks, and workshops to understand the impacts of climate events (extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire smoke).	City Communications Department
Municipal		3.3.2	Climate Resiliency Centers	Develop climate resiliency centers that function through microgrids to provide emergency services, food storage, and shelter during climate events. Additionally, these spaces can act as cooling centers and places of community.	Mayor's Office ▪ City Engineering Department ▪ City Parks Department
THEME | NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (4)					
Municipal	Native Species & Biodiversity (4.1)	4.1.1	Natural Resources Inventory	Inventory Flora and Fauna through partnership, engagement, and contracted services to database a Natural Resource Inventory to inform a Natural Areas Management Plan and Open Space Plan.	City Parks Department ▪ Onondaga Earth Corps
Municipal		4.1.2	Protection of Natural Areas	Protect the natural ecosystem of the Onondaga Creekwalk, City Parks, and other potential natural areas.	City Parks Department ▪ Creekrats
Municipal		4.1.3	Natural Areas Management	Create natural areas management and protection plan to influence updates to the City's zoning ordinance that protects natural assets.	City Parks Department ▪ Onondaga Earth Corps
Community		4.1.4	Native Areas Expansion	Encourage the community's development of mini-meadows through adjustment of the City's Code Enforcement ordinance that prohibits growth past six inches in height.	City Code Enforcement Department

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES	ORDER OF MAG COST	TIMELINE	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ALIGNMENT	GHG EMISSION CONNECTION	FISCAL CONNECTION
DASNY ▪ Federal Programming	Very High (1 Mil+)	Continuous	No	No	No
NYSERDA ▪ National Grid	Medium (80K – 200K)	Continuous	No	No	No
NA	Low (25K – 75K)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	Since 1992, there have been about $7.125 billion dollars in extreme climate event claims for damage. Onondaga County has endured between 18 and 21 extreme climate events since 1954.
NYS DOS ▪ NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities ▪ City Parks and Recreation Department	Very High (1 Mil+)	Long (8 – 10 Years)	Developing distinguished neighborhood climate resiliency centers will equitably connect all residents to safeguard from extreme heat, flood risks, and power outages.	No	No
NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities	Low (25K – 75K)	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NYS DEC	Medium (80K – 200k)	Continuous	No	No	No
NYS DEC Community Reforestation Grant	Staff Time	Short (1 – 3 Years)	No	No	No
NA	Staff Time	Medium (4 – 7 Years)	No	No	No

RESPONSIBILITY	STRATEGY	GOAL ID	GOAL	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS
Community	Urban Forestry (4.2)	4.2.1	Private Tree Canopy Expansion	Connect private residences to right-of-way request a tree program administered by the Parks Department's Forestry Division.	City Parks Department ▪ City Communications Department
Municipal		4.2.2	Maximize Tree Coverage on City Land	Increase support for and continue implementation of the City's Urban Forestry Master Plan and Municipal Tree Ordinance including the initiative (in process) to modernize the tree ordinance	City Parks Department
Municipal	Waste Reduction (4.3)	4.3.1	Gleaning & Food Waste	Establish a centralized location for gleaned food and a non-profit organizational structure that guides and distributes gleaned food to centers of need within the Syracuse community.	SOFSA ▪ Center of Excellence ▪ Onondaga Food Rescue Network
Community		4.3.2	Composting & Organic Waste Management	Develop scaled composting systems that minimize landfilled organic waste. Start with education, progress to drop off sites, then implement a residential collection system.	Syracuse Grows ▪ Center of Excellence ▪ OCRRA ▪ NYS Food Scraps Donation and Recycling Law
Community		4.3.3	Recycling Education & Engagement	Engage in City and OCRRA educational materials on recycling practices.	OCRRA ▪ City Communications Department ▪ NYS Food Scraps Donation and Recycling Law