

NEAR EASTSIDE QUALITY OF LIFE PLAN

SUSTAINABILITY

Lead Agency: Englewood Community Development Corporation

Our Vision: The near Eastside is a place that embraces and pilots sustainability initiatives in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change and prepares businesses, residents, and spaces to become carbon-neutral by 2040.

Priority #1: Create a sustainable and resilient built environment	
Action 1.1:	Advocate for and seek funds to provide low-cost weatherization on near Eastside homes
Performance Measures:	Offer low-cost assessments of LEED and Energy Star performance standards for 2,000 homeowners and renters
	Develop workshop or programming which teaches at-home techniques (i.e. use of smoke pencils, etc.) to determine home's existing performance
	Support existing programs like Caulk of the Town to weatherize near Eastside homes requiring upgrades
Implementation Partner:	NEAR
Supporting Partner/s:	ECDC, IHEDA, DOE, Indianapolis Office of Sustainability
Action 1.2:	Encourage more effective outreach by IPL in order to make businesses aware of free prescriptive and custom rebate programs to save energy
Performance Measures:	Engage IPL in conversations to ensure near Eastside is considered a priority for outreach and ongoing education about changes to rebate programs
	Up-to-date materials advertising incentive programs are regularly distributed at business association meetings and available at key organizations and online (Quality of Life Plan website, etc.)
	Number of qualifying Near Eastside businesses participating in incentive programs
Implementation Partner:	Near Eastside Business Association
Supporting Partner/s:	NEAR, ECDC, IPL

Action 1.3:	Engage local universities in service learning and research and design competitions in order to drive new thinking and energy into making the near Eastside more resilient
Performance Measures:	Identify local universities with sustainability-focused projects or initiatives and invite them to use the near Eastside as a demonstration area for new and ongoing projects
	Seek funding to implement promising solutions which rise from such initiatives
Implementation Partner:	Ball State University – CAP IC
Supporting Partner/s:	ECDC, IUPUI Office of Sustainability, PPHS, Environmental Resilience Institute

Action 1.4:	Explore more widespread renewable energy generation opportunities for non-residential community-serving properties so that benefits of clean energy and future savings may directly impact Near Eastside neighbors
Performance Measures:	Complete a feasibility study for Near Eastside Solar Facilities Initiative (NESFI), which would comprise solar array installation on properties of community-serving organizations, including a financing model and updated power purchase agreement terms
	Number of solar sites
	Encourage NESCO land use committee and neighborhood association equivalents to prioritize new structures which incorporate renewable energy generation
Implementation Partner:	ECDC, JBNC
Supporting Partner/s:	NESCO, Jefferson Electric, IPL

Action 1.5:	Advocate for policies and legislation that make renewable energy generation more feasible for residential and commercial buildings alike
Performance Measures:	Advocate for net metering with wide applicability, including in situations which would expand its benefits to low-income neighbors, such as multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use developments
	Advocate for lower fixed charges by investor-owned utilities like IPL, which currently contribute to disincentivizing solar installation
	Support and elevate projects that help offset the initial cost of renewable energy generation equipment for low-income neighbors

Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	Solar United Neighbors, Jefferson Electric, Citizens Action Coalition, Sierra Club, IPL, Indianapolis Office of Sustainability

Action 1.6:	Increase accessibility of renewable energy generation opportunities to neighbors of all income levels
Performance Measures:	Encourage participation in and advertise programs like Solar United Neighbors' Co-ops, which reduce the initial cost of solar installation
	Seek and implement innovative financing to extend economic benefits of solar and other renewable energy to residents of multifamily developments
Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	Solar United Neighbors, Jefferson Electric, Citizens Action Coalition, Sierra Club, IPL, Indianapolis Office of Sustainability

Action 1.7:	Maximize the number of permeable surfaces as a mechanism for heat and pollution reduction, including strategies such as green rooftops, green walls, rain gardens, tree lawns, etc
Performance Measures:	Encourage NESCO land use and neighborhood association equivalents to prioritize new development that incorporates permeable surfaces
	Seek funding and increase number of permeable surfaces across near Eastside
Implementation Partner:	JBNC
Supporting Partner/s:	Purdue Extension, KIB, Williams Creek, NESCO land use, NEAR

Priority #2: Reduce carbon emissions by improving multi-modal transportation options

Action 2.1:	Coordinate with multi-modal advocates for significant increase in the number of protected bike lanes on the near Eastside
Performance Measures:	Audit existing bike lanes and identify key gaps in connectivity across Near Eastside
	Collaborate with infrastructure CAT to create scope of work and seek funding for new trails as opportunities arise
	Number of miles of bike lanes
Implementation Partner:	ECDC

Supporting Partner/s:	DPW, Health by Design, IndyGo, MPO, NEAR, JBNC, NESCO land use
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Action 2.2:	Concurrently support land uses and developments which both maximize employment and housing density, thereby minimizing neighbors' reliance on transportation
Performance Measures:	Determine baseline data on number of mixed-use developments and track the increase
	Adopt East Washington Street Partnership goals for employment and housing density
	Seek walkable workforce development housing opportunities
Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	IndyGo, DPW, DMD/City Planning, JBNC, NEAR

Action 2.3:	Support Blue Line transit-oriented development overlay district as a model for future city-wide districts
Performance Measures:	Prioritize development of welcoming outdoor public spaces, which may include features such as generous sidewalks, street trees, and gathering spaces
	Develop commercial properties which build to the streets and hide or minimize parking as zoning allows, to encourage use of multi-modal transportation, and disincentivize new auto-centric developments
	Design slow neighborhood streets and prioritize networks of streets and pedestrian passages that minimize walking distances
Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	NEAR, IndyGo, DPW, DMD/City Planning, JBNC, NESCO land use

Action 2.4:	Encourage businesses to adopt commuter incentives for employees using multi-modal or alternative transportation
Performance Measures:	Research existing transit incentive models and suggest a model for businesses to adopt which would incentivize a wide array of alternative transportation, including bus/rapid transit, pedestrian and biking
	Facilitate connections between employers and transit leaders such as IndyGo.

	Number of near Eastside businesses offering some form of commuter incentives for employees using alternative transportation
Implementation Partner:	Near Eastside Business Association
Supporting Partner/s:	NEAR, JBNC, INHP, IndyGo

Priority #3: Support the restoration and stewardship of natural environments and green spaces

Action 3.1:	Pursue grants or incentive programs for homes and businesses to capture rain water (rain barrels and cisterns) in order to reduce flash flooding
Performance Measures:	Seek funding (grants, incentive programs, etc.) for installation of rain capture infrastructure
	Support and advertise annual DIY rain-barrel making workshops
Implementation Partner:	NEAR
Supporting Partner/s:	KIB, Reconnecting Our Waterways

Action 3.2:	Advocate for an increase in lead testing in residential backyards or community garden plots
Performance Measures:	Map existing community garden plots across the near Eastside and determine what percentage have conducted lead testing
	Collaborate with neighborhood associations and partners to organize annual low-cost lead testing days for households
	Connect neighbors with programs such as IUPUI 360 Dust Testing
Implementation Partner:	NEAR
Supporting Partner/s:	Purdue Extension, KIB, various neighborhood associations

Action 3.3:	Focus on litter abatement and increased neighborhood engagement related to beautification, tree planting, and the use of native plants
Performance Measures:	In the development of pocket parks, community gardens and other outdoor spaces, prioritize the use of native plants and those which attract pollinators

	Conduct near Eastside tree canopy inventory, building on existing tools like KIB's Treeplotter Inventory
	Collaborate with KIB to organize regular tree plantings in strategic locations to increase the existing tree canopy
	Organize bi-monthly neighborhood cleanups that attract individuals from diverse backgrounds
Implementation Partner:	NESCO
Supporting Partner/s:	Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Various Neighborhood Associations

Priority #4: Develop a sustainable local economy

Action 4.1:	Establish a near Eastside small-scale food producers' coalition to bring together gardeners for resource and expertise sharing
Performance Measures:	Create a data-rich resource map, including contact information, type/size of operation, etc. of existing small-scale food producers and include on lead agency or Quality of Life plan website
	Number of food producers joining the coalition
	Producers meet on a monthly basis and host annual community outreach events for neighbors interested in gardening more
Implementation Partner:	Healthy Harvest
Supporting Partner/s:	Fruit Loop Acres, UpLift Produce, Paramount School of Excellence

Action 4.2:	Advocate for policies that allow innovative zoning to accommodate growing structures (like hoop houses) and methods
Performance Measures:	Survey near Eastside individuals and food producers on their needs and incorporate findings into conversations with city and state agencies
Implementation Partner:	NESCO Land Use
Supporting Partner/s:	DMD, KIB

Action 4.3:	Create a youth sustainability club and provide engagement in various sustainability learning opportunities and competitions
Performance Measures:	Club convenes students from near Eastside Schools
	Seek funding for club to hold quarterly field trips to local and municipal locations such as food production sites, renewable energy installers and recycling operations, etc. and to register in applicable competitions

Implementation Partner:	Paramount School of Excellence
Supporting Partner/s:	PPHS, TGNS, ECDC, Arsenal Tech

Action 4.4:	Implement job training for clean energy careers and expand partnerships with sustainability-related businesses and organizations to offer green job opportunities
Performance Measures:	Prioritize training for vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, those exiting homelessness or incarceration, those with disabilities, and low-income individuals
	Develop a sustainable pipeline to place trainees in real positions upon completion of training program and obtainment of certifications
Implementation Partner:	Jefferson Electric
Supporting Partner/s:	RecycleForce, ECDC, JBNC

Action 4.5:	Recruit business leaders to serve as a pilot group to implement Thrive Indianapolis initiatives on the near Eastside
Performance Measures:	Identify and recruit core group of near Eastside business leaders
	Engage Indianapolis Office of Sustainability in ongoing conversation about progress of Thrive goals and communicate with business leaders when new opportunities for engagement arise
	Update NEBA listserv to include such engagement opportunities
Implementation Partner:	Near Eastside Business Association
Supporting Partner/s:	ECDC, NEAR, Indianapolis Office of Sustainability

Priority #5: Create systems for individuals and families to engage in sustainable practices through effective use of public services and educational opportunities

Action 5.1:	Seek funding to employ a full-time resiliency director to more fully implement sustainability initiatives and to identify new sustainability solutions as they emerge and present them for adoption at Quality of Life summits
Performance Measures:	Seek and secure sustainable funding source to cover the salary of a resilience director
	Sustainability CAT determines job description in collaboration with lead agency, which then conducts application and hiring process

	Resiliency director is overseeing execution of sustainability initiatives and pursuing funding opportunities and organizational relationships (local, state, national, and international) beneficial to the plan
Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	JBNC, NEAR

Action 5.2:	Highlight businesses and residents who integrate sustainability into their everyday lives
Performance Measures:	Create a new, or integrate into existing QOL newsletter highlighting local and national sustainability news, ongoing and planned Near Eastside sustainability initiatives, etc.
	Seek funding and plan for a small annual near Eastside sustainability award and luncheon.
	Create an annual near Eastside sustainability award which is given to an individual and/or group (selected from a pool of nominees) embodying environmentally sustainable actions or furthering environmentally sustainable projects
Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	JBNC, NEAR

Action 5.3:	Identify and build on existing educational programming to include environmental sustainability topics such as recycling best practices and disaster preparedness
Performance Measures:	Seek funds to host annual or bi-annual sustainability fair convening subject matter experts and fun activities for neighbors to learn about sustainability and resilience
	Encourage businesses and households to develop 72-hour disaster preparedness plans
Implementation Partner:	JBNC
Supporting Partner/s:	RecycleForce, Red Cross, Indy Recycling Coalition, Jefferson Electric

Action 5.4:	Advocate for city-wide free or low-cost curbside recycling and composting programs and offer the near Eastside as a demonstration community for pilot models
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Performance Measures:	Look to other cities for best practices and present recommendations to applicable city and state agencies
	Survey of existing services and their use by Near Eastside residents
Implementation Partner:	NESCO
Supporting Partner/s:	ECDC, NEAR, Indiana Recycling Coalition, DPW, Indianapolis Office of Sustainability

Action 5.5:	Promote awareness of and develop financial assistance program for equitable resiliency initiatives, including weatherization, LEDs, homeowner repair, etc.
Performance Measures:	Seek funding to establish assistance program
	Conduct outreach of existing programs, like homeowner repair, through appropriate Quality of Life plan channels
Implementation Partner:	ECDC
Supporting Partner/s:	IPL, NEAR, DMD

Action 5.6:	Develop opportunities for placemaking which supports the development of mixed use and diverse businesses on the Near Eastside
Performance Measures:	Increase number of placemaking events from baseline
	Identify mixed use commercial nodes
	Develop new partnerships that focus on placemaking in key commercial nodes
Implementation Partner:	Inspire 10 th Street
Supporting Partner/s:	Arts Council, INRC/Harrison Center