



“A Community-Based Approach for Developing a Climate Action Plan for Detroit”

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Presentation Overview

- **Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ)**
- **Detroit Climate Action Collaborative (DCAC)**
- **DCAC Goals, Stakeholders, Workgroups**
- **Greenhouse Gas Inventory**
- **Current Activities & Accomplishments for 2013**
- **Educators & Climate Action Planning**

DWEJ

Mission

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice works with communities to create cleaner, healthier and safer neighborhoods

Vision

DWEJ envisions Detroit as a vibrant urban center in SE Michigan where all thrive in environmental, economic, and social health. We aim to foster sustainable communities by:

- Reducing health hazards
- Encouraging sustainable development
- Influencing economic vitality in the communities we serve



DWEJ's Climate Change Commitment

- Since DWEJ's inception in 1994, we have been a leading voice in advocating for sustainable communities in Detroit.
- Factors leading to climate change have adversely impacted low-income and minority communities .
- In 2011, DWEJ convened key stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to form the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative (DCAC).
- DCAC is a grassroots community lead effort

DCAC Goals:

- 1) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the sustainability and well-being of the City of Detroit.**
- 2) Increase the resilience of the city's social, built, and natural environments.**

Why a Detroit Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

- No CAP for Detroit. ☹️
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to address GHG emissions related to land use, transportation, building design, energy use, water demand, and waste generation.
- Identify approaches unique to Detroit to achieve GHG emission reductions.
- Create a roadmap to reducing community GHG emissions associated with both existing and future actions and activities.
- Vet strategies through a community engagement process.

DCAC Stakeholders

- **City of Detroit Environmental Affairs Office**
- **University of Michigan School of Public Health Climate Change Research Team**
- **Michigan Department of Community Health**
- **Michigan Environmental Council**
- **WARM Training Center**
- **Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA)**
- **SW Detroit Environmental Vision**
- **National Wildlife Federation**
- **Data Driven Detroit**
- **Great Lakes Environmental Law Clinic**
- **University of Michigan College of Agriculture and Urban Planning**

Climate Impacts and Causes



Key Steps to Establishing a Community-Based CAP

- Make sure that you make initial key contacts before you launch effort - put your stake in the ground
- Identify stakeholders to attend initial meeting
- Discuss feasibility of developing a CAP
- Determine who else should be at the table
- Establish a strong community engagement process – **Collaboration is Key!!**
- Establish a Steering Committee (Strong core of supporters with specific skills & well connected)
 - Be sure to include a leader from city government early in process, you will need an advocate in city government- invite to serve on the Steering Committee
 - Make sure that environmental and academic leaders play a vital role
 - Arrange several meetings with top mayoral staff and keep them up to date– important to have key political connections
- Academic partners are important because they will provide a lot of the research and develop framework for the CAP
- Make sure that your plan aligns with other city efforts (Master Plan or any other long-term sustainable initiative)
- Meet with lots of key leaders, but keep the plan close
- Secure commitment from key players – “Name Drop”
- Establish a Finance Team to research grants and to apply for them

Lessons Learned

- Establish a Finance Committee early in the process to raise funds
- Hire a Project Manager
- Community engagement is a very delicate process– make sure to have the right people involved in the beginning
- Develop a Commitment Form and have the leadership team sign it
- Determine how you will compensate long-term supporters
- Be very careful how you engage the media – establish the foundation
- Consult with an organizational expert early in the process to make sure leadership is “all in”
- Administer a survey to the Steering Committee at the beginning to determine area (s) of expertise and how they will benefit your effort
- Be sure that ALL Steering Committee members understand their role and what is expected
- Develop innovative strategies for keeping Steering Committee and other stakeholders engaged
- Be sure to celebrate your success

DCAC Workgroups



Transportation



Solid Waste



Homes & Neighborhoods



Parks, Public Space &
Water Infrastructure



Research



Energy



Community
Public Health Impacts



Business &
Institutions

Detroit Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- **Municipal** – includes emissions from all operations that local government owns and controls.
- **Community** – includes emissions from community activities (i.e., energy transportation, agricultural, industrial, and waste).

Vulnerability Assessment & Indicator Development

- **Vulnerability Assessment**
 - Identify & quantify vulnerabilities
 - Tool for future decision-making
- **Indicator Development**
 - Based on identified vulnerabilities
 - Trend & direction

DCAC Progress

Dec 2011 – Dec 2012:

- **Established DCAC**
- **Met with key leaders in Mayors Office**
- **Formed Workgroups**
- **Convened Workgroups**
- **Draft Detroit Climatology**
- **University of Michigan – Developed framework for the 7 DCAC Workgroups**
- **University of Michigan – Developed Climate Change Vulnerability in Detroit Report**
- **Selected as a U of M SNRE Master's Project – Students will conduct a GHG Inventory at the Municipal and Community level - In Process**
- **Wayne State University – Identifying model State and local climate policy throughout the U.S.**
- **Working with Detroit Public Schools to develop DCAC logo**

Thank You

Questions???

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