Philadelphia’s Greenworks framework sets out eight long-term visions for a sustainable city for all. The Office of Sustainability (OOS) and its partners across City government are doing their part to achieve each vision.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the inextricable link between health, the environment, and the economy, and the critical need for an equitable and sustainable recovery. By centering climate action and equity in its recovery efforts, the City can continue to make advancements toward its sustainability goals and remedy environmental and social injustices for residents disproportionately impacted by climate change. This update captures highlights of the City's sustainability efforts from January 2020 through April 2021. Read on to learn more about recent successes across each of the eight visions and things to look forward to in 2021 and beyond.

**VISION 01 ACCESSIBLE FOOD AND DRINKING WATER**
All Philadelphians have access to healthy, affordable, and sustainable food and drinking water

**RECENT SUCCESSES**

- **EXPANDED FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES**: To meet increased need during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City expanded its system of meal distribution sites to include 101 School District of Philadelphia (SDP) sites and 30 charter schools providing student meals at least weekly, 23 Senior Meal Sites, 53 sites providing weekly groceries, and four Outdoor Meal Sites. SDP, Philadelphia Corporation for the Aging, and Step Up to the Plate are partners in this effort. 9,715,390 student meals, 559,928 senior meals, 483,565 outdoor meals, and 21,671,952 pounds of food have been distributed at City-supported food sites through Share Food Program and Philabundance since the beginning of the pandemic.

- **CONTINUED URBAN AGRICULTURE PLANNING PROCESS**: The City continued its first city-wide urban agriculture planning process, which will establish a long-term urban agriculture strategy for Philadelphia. The plan will contribute to the equitable development of Philadelphia, provide recommendations to the City and its partners on how to best coordinate and strengthen their work on urban agriculture, guide the City on how to expand urban agriculture projects, and offer strategies to sustain existing efforts. The planning process has engaged residents in a variety of ways, with racial justice centered at each step in the process. The planning team is currently collecting feedback from residents through an interactive website that will inform the plan's recommendations.

- **CONTINUED FOOD POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FPAC) STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**: In 2020, FPAC entered the second phase of its strategic planning process, with a focus on uprooting racism and centering equity throughout the organization. Members gathered virtually to develop FPAC’s understanding of how change happens in the food system, discuss strategic goals, and decide on an organizational structure. FPAC members also interviewed seven food policy councils across the U.S. and engaged with 27 local stakeholders including City officials, council members, funders, and non-profit, advocacy, and grassroots organizations to inform the strategic plan.

- **RECEIVED $110 MILLION INVESTMENT FROM PENNVEST FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**: The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Fund (PENNVEST), a low-cost financing program that provides assistance to Pennsylvania communities by funding sewer, stormwater and drinking water projects, has awarded three projects in Philadelphia a total of $110 million in assistance over the past year. Philadelphia received an award of $73.3 million for the reconstruction and improvement of the Torresdale Filtered Water Pumping Station in September 2020 and was notified in January 2021 that two more applications made in 2020 were also awarded. The additional awards were for $100 million for a new preliminary treatment building at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant and $6.7 million for green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects, both of which help contribute to the goals of the City’s Green City, Clean Waters (GCCW) program.
LOOKING AHEAD

- **COMPLETING THE FPAC STRATEGIC PLAN:** As FPAC enters phase three of its strategic planning process, it continues to define its structure, operational goals, and implementation plan. During the stakeholder interviews conducted in phase two, FPAC heard that one of its strengths was bringing together City government and community organizations. FPAC will continue to strengthen relationships with local stakeholders and engage more community members to inform, implement, and lead practices that are identified in the final phase of its strategic planning process.

- **COMPLETING THE URBAN AGRICULTURE PLAN:** The planning team expects to deliver the final plan in fall 2021. Between now and then, they will be sharing what they learn through an online engagement process and presenting draft recommendations for public review and comment.

- **ESTABLISHING FOOD AS A STRATEGIC CITY INITIATIVE:** City leadership and FPAC Ex-Officio members continue to evaluate how multiple agencies can collaborate on food-related initiatives. This group has identified three areas for collaboration: land access and ownership, local supply chain/workforce and economic development, and food and water security and public benefits. FPAC Ex-Officio members are completing a City Foodscape Analysis to understand how City departments are currently working on those areas of collaboration, where there are opportunities for more coordination, what external partners are supporting the work, and what data is being collected and shared.

- **SUPPORTING MEAL DISTRIBUTION TO RESIDENTS IN NEED THROUGH PITCH & PILOT CHALLENGE:** In March 2021, the City’s SmartCityPHL program announced its latest Pitch & Pilot challenge, which requests proposals for a platform to support the logistics and distribution of meals to food-insecure Philadelphians. The City distributes tens of thousands of meals daily to hundreds of sites, and the goal is to use technology to handle the logistical challenge of reliably sourcing and distributing meals from multiple vendors, making it more likely that local businesses could participate in this effort.
RECENT SUCCESSES

• **BEGAN ELECTRIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA:** The Port of Philadelphia (PhilaPort) began making port-wide improvements in lighting, electrification, and warehousing in line with its Port Development Plan. PhilaPort has purchased five electric Super post-Panamax container cranes with further plans to electrify two existing diesel cranes. Continued updates will include enhancing the terminal electric grid to support additional load, installation of electrical hookups for ships while in port, removal of outmoded cranes, and the purchase of four electrical terminal tractors.

• **HILCO REDEVELOPMENT PARTNERS PURCHASED FORMER PHILADELPHIA ENERGY SOLUTIONS REFINERY COMPLEX:** Hilco Redevelopment Partners purchased the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery complex in Southwest Philadelphia in July 2020. Hilco plans to redevelop the 1,300-acre property into a distribution and commercial hub and will remediate the site before redevelopment, integrating cleanup activities with redevelopment plans to reduce the former refinery’s harmful environmental impacts.

• **LAUNCHED COMMUNITY ASTHMA PREVENTION PROGRAM:** The Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC) partnered with the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) to launch the Community Asthma Prevention program, which offers free asthma education classes in schools, churches, daycare centers, and community centers throughout the city. Classes are structured so both caregivers and children with asthma can learn simultaneously.

LOOKING AHEAD

• **FINALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING CLEAN FLEET PLAN:** In 2020, OOS made significant progress towards finalizing a Municipal Clean Fleet Plan that will guide the procurement and deployment of electric vehicles across the City’s fleet. The plan will prioritize the procurement of zero-emissions vehicles and fossil-fuel-free vehicles, and sedan-first procurement for passenger vehicles. It will also emphasize downsizing the City’s fleet and outline a procurement decision-making process that encourages City employees to use alternative forms of transportation. The plan was developed in collaboration with the Electrification Coalition and the American Cities Climate Challenge, with support from the Office of Fleet Management (OFM). The plan is scheduled to be finalized in early 2021 with support from the Managing Director’s Office.

• **OPENING A COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) FUELING STATION:** OFM is preparing to open a new CNG fueling station this spring at the City Sanitation Convenience Center in Southwest Philadelphia. The current fueling station configuration can accommodate 44 trash compactors and can be expanded to 70 trucks. Currently, OFM has six CNG compactors in active service and 21 on order.

• **CONTINUING STEPS TOWARDS JOINING THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (RGGI):** In June 2020, Governor Wolf signed an Executive Order that directed the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to begin a rulemaking process that will allow Pennsylvania to participate in RGGI, with the goal of reducing carbon emissions from the electricity sector. The state collected public comments on a draft regulation and held virtual public hearings held that concluded in January of 2021. PADEP estimates that due to emissions reductions resulting directly from RGGI participation through 2030, up to 639 premature deaths from respiratory illnesses will be prevented and there will be 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory illnesses like asthma in Pennsylvania. Beginning in May of 2021, PADEP will begin presenting its final rulemaking and modeling to its advisory committees.
**RECENT SUCCESSES**

- **RELEASED MUNICIPAL ENERGY MASTER PLAN UPDATE, SHOWING 39% DECREASE IN MUNICIPAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:** The City of Philadelphia has made significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in municipally-owned buildings. The City’s 2021 update to the Municipal Energy Master Plan (MEMP), which uses 2019 data, shows a 39% reduction in GHG emissions, or a reduction from 219,306 MTCO2e (Metric Tons of Carbon equivalent) to 133,527 MTCO2e. The City uses the regional electricity grid, which is becoming cleaner following the addition of more renewable sources of electricity generation like solar and wind. A decrease in electricity consumption, primary heating consumption, and cost, along with the increase in City purchases of renewable electricity, is also a result of improved operations and the completion of energy saving projects.

- **RELEASED MUNICIPAL ENERGY DASHBOARD:** The City’s Energy Office released an online Municipal Energy Dashboard that shows how City-owned buildings use energy. The dashboard tracks and displays energy use for buildings whose operations are paid for from the City’s General Fund, and residents can use it to keep track of continued progress.

- **COMPLETED PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART ENERGY UPGRADES PROJECT:** A performance contract was enacted to reduce the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA)’s energy use and bring the City closer to its energy and climate goals. This performance contract is a public-private partnership between the City, the PMA, the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA), and Johnson Controls. With the completion of the project in late 2020, GHG emissions from the PMA are projected to decrease by nearly 2,400 MTCO2e annually. The building is expected to save 4.8 million kWh of electricity (28% reduction), 16,000 Mlbs of steam (21% reduction), and 1.2 million gallons of water (8% reduction), for an annual cost savings of $750,000.

- **FINALIZED BUILDING ENERGY PERFORMANCE POLICY:** The City’s Building Energy Performance Policy, which requires all non-residential buildings 50,000 square feet and larger to either certify high performance or conduct a “tune-up” to improve efficiency in existing building systems, went into effect in 2020. A building tune-up requires a review of energy systems and controls and minor tweaks to bring the building to a good state of performance. On average, these tweaks result in 10–15% annual energy savings for a building. This policy is expected to cut carbon pollution in Philadelphia by nearly 200,000 metric tons, equivalent to taking 40,000 automobiles off our roads.

- **HELPED FACILITATE ENERGY BURDEN COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:** To hear directly from Philadelphians about their experiences with housing and energy use and build trust, OOS partnered with Greenlink Analytics, Upright Services, the Energy Foundation, and six local community-based organizations (CBOs) in the fall of 2020 to hold virtual focus groups around three topics: residential gas use and preferences, urban heat inequity and management, and residential weatherization and retrofits. Each CBO hosted 10 residents from their respective service area at each meeting. In these in-depth conversations, participants shared their wisdom, knowledge, and experiences with energy burden and the three topic areas, which will be used to inform future City climate action.

- **RELEASED LED STREETLIGHTING RFP:** In early 2020, the City, together with PEA, released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for city-wide LED street lighting conversion to replace all or most City-owned and operated streetlights with energy efficient and low maintenance LED streetlights. In March 2021, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a vendor, from the pre-qualified list established during the RFQ process, to complete the conversion project.
LAUNCHED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY-ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (C-PACE) FINANCING PROGRAM: With PEA as the Program Administrator, Philadelphia launched C-PACE, a financing tool that makes energy efficiency and clean energy projects more affordable and accessible. Three projects were completed in the first year: $8 million in energy efficiency upgrades and rooftop solar installations in Germantown, Kensington, and at the Metropolitan Opera House on North Broad Street. Philadelphia was the first Pennsylvania county to launch a C-PACE program and fund projects.

ADMINISTERED CITY OF PHILADELPHIA SOLAR REBATE: PEA administered this rebate on behalf of the City, issuing $250,000 in rebates to over 250 residents and businesses for rooftop solar arrays over the course of three months in 2020, with a waitlist of over 80 projects. The program provided 20 cents per watt to residential projects and 10 cents per watt to commercial projects, with 10% of all funds reserved for low-income residents.

COMPLETING THE PGW BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION STUDY: OSS is leading a business diversification study for Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), Philadelphia’s municipally-owned gas utility, to explore what new pathways PGW could explore for a low or no-carbon future. The consultant team will make draft material public in the spring of 2021, and the final analysis in the summer of 2021, along with a diversification tool that can be used to analyze how different business practices will affect different evaluation criteria, such as emissions.

BREAKING GROUND ON ADAMS SOLAR PROJECT: In November 2018, Philadelphia City Council passed legislation enabling the City to enter into a power purchase agreement with a renewable energy developer to buy solar power. A 70-Megawatt solar facility—the largest in Pennsylvania by sevenfold—will be built in Adams County, providing 22 percent of the City government’s electricity. Through the contract, the City will purchase electricity for 20 years at a fixed rate that is competitive with conventional electricity prices. Information about the groundbreaking and expected project completion will be released in the upcoming months.

DEVELOPING SOLAR PROJECT AT PHILADELPHIA NORTHEAST AIRPORT (PNE): The City’s Aviation Division, together with PEA, released an RFP for up to 2 MW of ground-mounted solar at the Northeast Airport, Pennsylvania’s fifth busiest airport. The project is in the procurement process now and is expected to break ground in early 2022. It will join other City solar projects, including a 250 kW solar array at PWD’s Southeast Water Treatment Plant installed in 2011 and a 740 kW solar array on the roof of the building housing the City Archives at 5th and Spring Garden Streets, completed in 2020.

WRAPPING UP BLOOMBERG AMERICAN CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE: In June 2021, the City will wrap up its participation in the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge, an initiative to reduce emissions from the buildings and transportation sectors in 25 of America’s largest cities. Projects completed under the challenge include the Building Energy Performance Program, the PGW Business Diversification Study, the Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia, and the Municipal Clean Fleet Plan, among others.
COMMITTED TO CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050: In early 2021, the City committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. To meet this commitment, Philadelphia will need to achieve net-zero GHG emissions in the buildings, energy, transportation, and waste sectors.

RELEASED CLIMATE ACTION PLAYBOOK: To outline existing City actions to combat climate change and identify where additional action is needed to advance the city toward carbon neutrality, OOS released a draft of the Philadelphia Climate Action Playbook, a one-stop resource detailing how Philadelphia is responding to the climate crisis. The Playbook—which outlines the steps Philadelphia is taking to reduce emissions and adapt to a hotter, wetter future—brings together actions from existing plans and programs across various City departments and agencies to provide a comprehensive view of City climate action.

HIRED FIRST CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER: Mayor Kenney named Saleem Chapman as Philadelphia’s first Chief Resilience Officer to coordinate adaptation and resilience efforts across City government, host cross-sector convenings to galvanize momentum, and secure buy-in around the City’s emerging climate resilience strategy. In this role, Chapman will oversee the City’s preparedness for the unprecedented challenge of the climate crisis and ensure progress toward the goal of a more resilient, equitable city.

HELPED RESIDENTS STAY COOL DURING THE PANDEMIC THROUGH THE BEAT THE HEAT INITIATIVE: The City responded to the unique challenge of helping residents stay cool during the pandemic by pivoting the Beat the Heat Hunting Park Initiative’s focus from its plans to expand a community-based heat relief network to helping residents stay cool at home during the summer of 2020. The initiative’s 2020 accomplishments included holding 17 weekly steering committee meetings and distributing 400 heat kits, 100 fans, and 20 air conditioning units to community members. The Initiative also collected heat surveys from residents to inform decision-making.

NAMED AS A GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADER ON CDP 2020 “A LIST” FOR CITIES: In November 2020, Philadelphia was recognized by the non-profit CDP as one of 88 cities across the globe that continue to lead on climate action despite the pressures of tackling COVID-19. To score an A, a city must disclose publicly and have a city-wide emissions inventory, have set an emissions reduction target, have published a climate action plan, have completed a climate risk and vulnerability assessment, and have completed a climate adaptation plan to demonstrate how it will tackle climate hazards now and in the future.

RELEASED MANAYUNK MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT FLOOD GUIDE AND RESOURCES: The Manayunk Main Street Flood Guide was developed to provide local property owners, business owners, and residents tools and resources to mitigate and respond to flooding. The guide includes information on flood risk in the neighborhood, the specific City agencies involved with flood preparation and response, basic improvements and maintenance efforts to mitigate flooding, and more permanent hazard mitigation options to consider.
VISION 04: CLIMATE PREPARED AND CARBON NEUTRAL COMMUNITIES

LOOKING AHEAD

• UPDATING HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: Every five years, the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to outline a variety of hazards that most affect Philadelphia. The Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies these hazards and details plans, policies, and projects that will help reduce our risk. OEM is in the process of updating the next plan, which must be adopted by City Council before June 2022.

• PARTNERING WITH DREXEL HEAT MITIGATION PROJECT: In tandem with Beat the Heat Hunting Park, Drexel University worked with the City and Esperanza to create block-level cooling strategies on the 4400 block of Hunting Park with support from the William Penn Foundation. The project employed residents to build the structures and assist in solution design. Pending a grant renewal, the project will expand this summer throughout the neighborhood and city.

• CONVENING CITY RESILIENCE CABINET: Coordinated by the Chief Resilience Officer, the Philadelphia Resilience Cabinet is intended to be an inter-agency committee of City leadership that coordinates implementation of climate resilience work across offices, develops and disseminates information on the City’s resilience strategies, and ensures City operations are prepared for a changing climate. This includes City agencies’ work beyond infrastructure services, such as work related to education, social services, public health, and emergency management.

• RELEASING HISTORIC FLOOD MAP VIEWER: Later this year, the City will be releasing a web-based story map illustrating previous flood events graphically and through photographs. It will also serve as a living archive for future flood events.

• INTEGRATING FLOOD RISK INTO IWAMS 2.0: The City has been using a suite of applications called IWAMS to analyze its assets and infrastructure. As part of the update to this effort called IWAMS 2.0, the City is working on considering FEMA and City-designated flood-prone areas and analyzing potential damage to public assets. This should allow the City to better protect that infrastructure, both protecting taxpayer dollars and preserving our valuable historic treasures for generations to come.

During summer 2020, heat kits, fans, and air conditioning units were distributed to Hunting Park community members through the Beat the Heat Hunting Park initiative.
• **BEGAN URBAN FOREST STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:** The City launched its first ever urban forest strategic planning process. In support of City-wide equity and sustainability goals, the plan will set out a 10-year strategy to grow, protect, and care for Philadelphia’s tree canopy, and set forth new ways of working with residents to combat climate change. The plan will provide recommendations to the City and its partners on how to best coordinate and strengthen their work on tree planting and maintenance, and what role policy can play to support a more tree-friendly culture across the city. Consultants began work in October 2020, and the plan is expected to be finalized this fall.

• **COMPLETED AN ANALYSIS AND FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION:** Using a community forestry management grant awarded by TreePennsylvania, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) engaged a team of consultants in studying Philadelphia’s wood waste and the capacity of the Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center. After six months, the consultancy produced a document detailing opportunities and a long-term strategy to grow a comprehensive urban wood program that treats wood as a valuable natural resource and uses every log for its highest value.

• **WELcomed 50% more visitors to philly parks during pandemic:** PPR staff estimate at least a 50% increase in visitors to Philadelphia’s parks since the COVID-19 pandemic began, providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and socially distanced socialization. MLK Drive, which the City closed to vehicle traffic in March 2020, saw a 1,300% increase in pedestrian and bike traffic.

• **constructed over 80 gSI projects:** Public and private entities constructed over 80 green stormwater projects in 2020. Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) staff provided essential support for 120+ projects now ready to break ground. These projects will help achieve the GCCW program’s goal to manage hundreds of millions of gallons of stormwater runoff, reducing sewer overflows and protecting our rivers.

• **joined national lights out initiative:** Philadelphia joined the national Lights Out initiative in spring 2021. Lights Out is a voluntary program that involves turning off as many external and internal building lights as possible to protect birds from collisions during peak migration season while also conserving energy.

**looking ahead**

• **Investing in FDR park:** As part of the FDR Park Master Plan, PPR will use $4.5 million in funds to make improvements at FDR Park in South Philly, including converting an existing 5,500 square foot guardhouse to offer a one-stop shop for park users with restrooms, information center, equipment rentals, event space, and community workspace. $3 million in funding came from a grant from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, and $1 million came from the City. Construction is expected to start in 2022. Another FDR Park Master Plan flagship project will be a signature playground and picnic area celebrating the park’s unique identity. Design of the children’s play area will be funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR), matched by a contribution from the Fairmount Park Conservancy.

• **Converting turf to meadow:** PPR will collaborate with the Fairmount Park Conservancy to pilot the conversion of several acres of mowed turf in one or more watershed parks into naturalized meadows. These meadows have potential to provide ecological benefits to wildlife, air, and stormwater, to produce cost savings for maintenance operations, and to activate spaces that are currently passive in a new way for park users.
**RECENT SUCCESSES**

- **RELEASED PHILADELPHIA TRANSIT PLAN:** The City, regional partners, and SEPTA released the Philadelphia Transit Plan, A Vision for 2045, the City’s roadmap for improving public transit. The plan’s mission is to create a more equitable, safe, accessible, comfortable, affordable, and sustainable transit system to connect a recovered, reimagined Philadelphia. Highlights include bus priority corridors, plans for full Market-Frankford Line and Broad Street Line accessibility by 2030, a low-income fare program, increasing weekend bus frequency, trolley modernization, and shifting as many trips as possible from automobiles to walking, biking, or transit. To successfully transition to zero-emission technology, the plan recommends that SEPTA develop a battery electric bus master plan to guide the agency to fully transition to a 100% electric bus fleet in the next twenty years.

- **INCREASED USAGE OF INDEGO BIKESHARE PROGRAM:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, more riders started to use the City-supported Indego bikeshare program, reaching a peak of more than 10,000 active pass holders in September 2020. The program also served as a key resource for low-income residents, who utilized the program at 50% higher rates than during prior years. This was a critical link when other public transit options limited service during the pandemic.

- **INSTALLED IN-STREET BICYCLE COUNTERS:** The City installed in-street permanent bicycle counters in the bike lanes on Spruce and Pine Streets, near 12th Street, in a collaboration between the Office of Transportation, Infrastructure & Sustainability (oTIS), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and the Philadelphia Streets Department. These are the first in-street bicycle counters in the region, and they are gathering data to help the City and partners monitor seasonal and time-of-day trends to inform decisions about traffic flow and infrastructure improvements.

- **RELEASED VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN:** In November 2020, the City released its Vision Zero Action Plan 2025, which identifies strategic action items for safe speeds, safe streets, safe people, safe vehicles, safety data, and transformative policies. Among the actions set in the plan are designing residential streets for 20 mph target speeds using traffic-calming measures, expanding the automated speed enforcement program, continuing the Neighborhood Slow Zones program by launching a new round of applications in 2021, and installing 40 miles of protected bicycle lanes.

- **EXPANDED SAFE ROUTES PHILLY PROGRAM:** Working with the School District of Philadelphia, oTIS expanded and improved Safe Routes Philly, Philadelphia’s transportation safety education program that provides training, resources, and support to Philadelphia schools. In 2020, the Safe Routes Philly team spoke with students, parents, administrators, and community stakeholders across Philadelphia, found new ways to expand transportation safety education, and used these insights to launch new transportation safety education resources.

- **RELEASED PHILADELPHIA TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE:** The Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC), PPR, and oTIS released the Philadelphia Trail Master Plan 2020 Update, which includes a revised priority ranking for proposed trail projects city-wide and provides updates on the status of Philadelphia trails. The Update also highlights that the City and trail development partners secured over $10 million in federal, state, and local funding for construction, design, and planning studies for trail projects in 2019.
LOOKING AHEAD

• **EXPANDING THE INDEGO BIKESHARE PROGRAM:** The City-supported Indego bikeshare program will add 30 new stations and 300-350 new electric bikes to the system by the end of 2021. This expansion marks the first phase of a five-year plan that will more than double the size of the program and increase its presence in neighborhoods outside of Center City, especially South and West Philadelphia.

• **REIMAGINING THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY:** In March of this year, PPR and oTIS released an RFP seeking a consultant to provide a new design plan for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. With support from the William Penn Foundation, the City is seeking designs for permanent improvements along a major stretch of the Parkway between Logan Circle and the Philadelphia Museum of Art to improve access for walking and biking, including a redesign of Eakins Oval.

• **EXPANDING VISION ZERO EFFORTS:** In 2021, the City’s Vision Zero Program will plan for new Slow Zones for greater pedestrian safety, install protected bike lanes (on 2nd Street, 5th Street, 10th Street, Parkside Avenue, and Grays Avenue), develop a Vision Zero Youth Ambassador program, and release the Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety Study and Action Plan, among other actions.

• **INVESTING IN ADA RAMPS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY:** The Recommended FY22 Capital Budget recommends a one-year commitment of $132 million to allow for 115 miles of paving and the installation of approximately 6,955 ADA ramps, pending City Council approval.
RECENT SuCCESSES

• MERGED ZERO WASTE INITIATIVES INTO OOS: In June 2020, the City’s Zero Waste program priorities were consolidated into OOS’ climate mitigation work. Zero Waste program staff were transferred to OOS to continue work to meet the City’s objectives of reducing waste and consumption in Philadelphia and minimizing consumption-related emissions.

• CONTINUED TO BUILD COMMUNITY COMPOSTING NETWORK: Project leaders worked with a consultant to develop a community composting manual and train participating sites, and in partnership with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) conducted composting workshops for project leaders and community members who will be participating in the program by dropping off their household compost at network sites.

• RECEIVED FUNDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO TACKLE FOOD WASTE: The City received two funding and technical assistance awards to tackle food waste across multiple sectors. Philadelphia is receiving technical assistance from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) as part of its Food Matters project expansion into the MidAtlantic region and is collaborating with four other cities to pilot innovative strategies to tackle food waste locally. The City was also awarded a grant issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Projects, which will support residential and commercial food waste diversion strategies, including the Community Composting Network.

• COMPLETED WASTE-RELATED PITCH & PILOT PROJECTS: Over the past two years, the SmartCityPHL Pitch & Pilot program supported two projects around increasing waste diversion. The first pilot was carried out by Metabolic, a company piloting an “urban mining” tool that predicts the supply of waste from demolished buildings that could be reused in new construction as well as demand for recycled construction materials, to reduce waste and encourage reuse in the construction and demolition industry. The second pilot was carried out by Retrievr, a company that offers doorstep pickup of clothing and electronics. During the three-month pilot period, Retrievr collected about 27,000 pounds of clothing and electronics from 468 Philadelphia households. They have continued offering their service, and the waste they have diverted from Philadelphia’s waste stream now exceeds 80,000 pounds.
VISION 07: ZERO WASTE

LOOKING AHEAD

• **BEGINNING OPERATIONS AT RISING SUN AVENUE URBAN COMPOSTING SITE:** Later this year, PPR will launch a demonstration project for the state’s first urban composting permit at 5650 Rising Sun Avenue. Through a public-private partnership, a third party composting company will operate a composting business at the City-owned site and will collect compost from City recreation centers free of charge in exchange for rent and utilities.

• **IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS THAT TACKLE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE:** FPAC’s Zero Waste Subcommittee will continue to manage the grants awarded to the City by NRDC and USDA that support ongoing food waste reduction and diversion projects city-wide. Some projects include: the creation of a messaging campaign that offers food saving education specifically to residents, a food waste challenge that will support a select number of local businesses in implementing food waste reduction and diversion strategies and disseminate tools and resources city-wide, and a study of the efficacy of PPR’s upcoming composting operation at Rising Sun Avenue.

• **IMPLEMENTING PLASTIC BAG BAN:** Starting July 1, 2021, the City will implement Philadelphia’s single-use plastic bag ban to reduce waste and litter and improve environmental quality in our city. The prohibition of plastic bags will begin October 1, 2021, and after a six-month warning and education period, full enforcement of the ban will begin in April of 2022. OOS, the Commerce Department, and many other City and external partners are working to educate businesses and residents about the ban. The City will also conduct an evaluation to examine the impact of the ban on individuals’ behavior and plastic bag litter and waste in Philadelphia.
RECENT SUCCESSES

- **HELD CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA WORKSHOPS ON FOOD WASTE AND FLEET ELECTRIFICATION:** The Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP) was launched in 2019 by OOS with the goal of convening a network of regional institutions to communicate best practices, grow the impact of individual actions, and collectively cut carbon emissions. After a brief hiatus at the beginning of 2020, CCGP relaunched with a two-part webinar and workshop series on food waste reduction and diversion, co-led by the Center for EcoTechnology. In early 2021, CCGP hosted another series on electric vehicle procurement in partnership with the Electrification Coalition, the DVRPC, and the PADEP.

- **LAUNCHED PHILLY FOREST STEWARDS PROGRAM:** Last summer, PPR launched the Philly Forest Stewards program to engage long-term volunteers to adopt sections of the city’s natural lands. The stewards gain forest management experience, explore park sites around the city, save young trees from invasive vines and weeds, watch restoration sites, and keep areas clean and green.

- **LAUNCHED PENNSYLVANIA’S FIRST SOLAR ENERGY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAM:** The new CTE program is the first of its kind in the nation and was launched at Frankford High School in fall 2020. The Bright Solar Futures program is supported by PEA with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Energy, and PECO. The program includes 1,080 hours of instruction, paid summer internships, and job placement upon graduation.

- **HELD VIRTUAL SESSIONS FOR POWERCORPSPHL MEMBERS:** PowerCorpsPHL is a workforce development program that offers disconnected Philadelphia youth ages 18-30 with opportunities to perform national service through AmeriCorps to support their communities and Philadelphia’s environmental health. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, PowerCorps had just begun training, so the program pivoted to Zoom sessions to stay connected with trainees and continue on with training. PowerCorps trains with PWD, PPR, and PEA.

- **HELD LOVE YOUR PARK SOLO CLEANING AND GREENING EVENTS:** To make it possible for residents to help support local parks during the pandemic, PPR and the Fairmount Park Conservancy launched Love Your Park Solo Cleanups. Love Your Park Solo encourages all park users to safely clean up trash and litter individually or with their families as they enjoy our city’s parks, and participants are given the option to receive free cleanup kits.

PPR and the Fairmount Park Conservancy launched Love Your Park Solo Cleanups to make it possible for residents to help support local parks during the pandemic.
VISION 08: ENGAGED STUDENTS, STEWARDS, AND WORKERS

LOOKING AHEAD

- **FORMING AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMISSION:** This year, OOS will begin recruitment for the City’s first ever Environmental Justice Commission. The Commission will assemble individuals with lived experience of and personal interest in Philadelphia’s environmental issues and will work to identify where cumulative impacts occur, as well as City policies or procedures that result in barriers to achieving environmental justice. The group will strive to amplify the concerns of frontline communities and work with the City to co-develop systemic plans to redress racial and class disparities in exposure to environmental harm.

- **INVESTING IN PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES:** In November 2020, the University of Pennsylvania pledged to donate $100 million to the SDP to fix unsafe school facilities. The university will donate $10 million per year for the next ten years, and the contribution will be used to remediate environmental hazards, including asbestos and lead, in our city’s public school buildings. Additionally, the District received $1 billion in federal stimulus funding, with $325 million slated to go towards modernizing school buildings. President Biden’s proposed American Jobs Plan, if passed, would also provide funding to modernize and retrofit school buildings. The District will also continue to implement Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESEA) projects in buildings.

- **OFFERING GREEN RETROFIT IMMERSIVE TRAINING (GRIT) PROGRAM:** PEA launched the GRIT training program in March 2021 in partnership with the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) and the Friends Rehabilitation Program, with funding from the Commerce Department’s Office of Workforce Development. The adult students in the program will receive 11 weeks of training on green home renovation, a 6-week internship rehabilitating affordable housing units, and placement into living wage jobs in summer 2021.

**GUIDE TO ACRONYMS**

- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
- Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP)
- Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)
- Community-based Organization (CBO)
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC)
- Green City, Clean Waters (GCCW)
- Green Retrofit Immersive Training (GRIT)
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR)
- Municipal Energy Master Plan (MEMP)
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
- Office of Fleet Management (OFM)
- Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (oTIS)
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR)
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
- Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Fund (PENNSVEST)
- Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC)
- Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA)
- Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW)
- Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation (PHDC)
- Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA)
- Philadelphia Northeast Airport (PNE)
- Philadelphia Office of Sustainability (OOS)
- Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR)
- Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)
- Port of Philadelphia (PhilaPort)
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
- School District of Philadelphia (SDP)
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

2021 GREENWORKS INITIATIVES UPDATE

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