



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

2025 CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE

MAY 2025



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Cover Image: PHOTO BY ALBERT LEE

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BEPP	Building Energy Performance Policy
BIL	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
BSF	Bright Solar Futures Program
DOA	Department of Aviation
DOE	United States Department of Energy
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPAS	Energy Poverty Alleviation Strategy
EV	Electric Vehicle
GESA	Guaranteed Energy Savings Act
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GRIT	Green Retrofit Immersive Training
GSI	Green stormwater infrastructure
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
MMTCO_{2e}	Million Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
OCG	Office of Clean and Green
OOS	Office of Sustainability
OTIS	Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems
PEA	Philadelphia Energy Authority
PGW	Philadelphia Gas Works
PHL	Philadelphia International Airport
PPR	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
PSIP	Philadelphia Streetlight Improvement Project
PWD	Philadelphia Water Department
SDP	School District of Philadelphia
SEPTA	Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

Letter from the Director

In 2009, Philadelphia introduced its first sustainability plan, setting the foundation for our current efforts to reduce emissions, ensure cleaner air and water, improve public health, and protect our city from the growing impacts of climate change. Since then, we've launched countless initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint, prepare for a hotter and wetter future, foster economic opportunities, and advance environmental justice for every resident of our city.

In 2021, we released the Philadelphia Climate Action Playbook, a framework to guide our ongoing efforts against climate change. Since its introduction, the City has made tremendous progress on centering equity, prioritizing environmental justice, and deploying national and philanthropic resources to uplift our city.

This 2025 Climate Action Update showcases many of the City's achievements since 2021. Thanks to support from philanthropic and local, state, and federal partners, as well as the dedicated work of City department staff and collaborators across Philadelphia, the City has made meaningful strides to improve quality of life for residents while planning ahead to create a more resilient future. Our municipal operations continue to lead by example, demonstrating what is possible when we act boldly and collaboratively.

As we look to the future, I am filled with hope for the transformative change we can achieve together. This work is not just about protecting our environment—it's about creating a future where every Philadelphian can thrive. I invite you to explore this update and see how this collective effort advances Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's One Philly vision for a safer, cleaner, and greener Philadelphia with access to economic opportunity for all.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EHL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth H. Lankenau, AICP

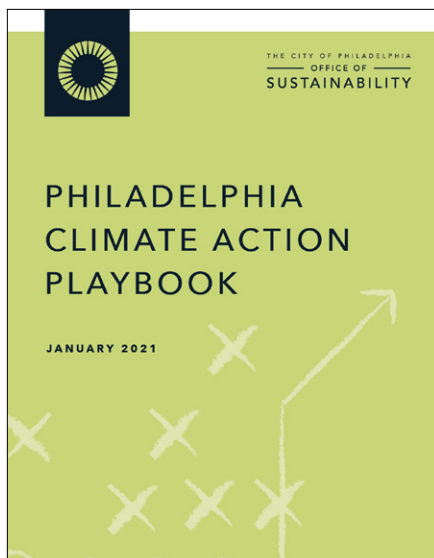
DIRECTOR

Office of Sustainability

Introduction

City of Philadelphia is LEED Platinum

Strategies and successes in improving sustainability and quality of life described in this Climate Action Update made it possible for the City to certify LEED Platinum, the highest level under the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system. This achievement highlights our high performance amongst cities and communities worldwide.



In 2022, Philadelphia achieved a 31% reduction in city-wide carbon emissions* against a 2006 baseline

*Scope 1 and 2 emissions

The **Philadelphia Climate Action Playbook** (the *Playbook*), introduced in 2021, was developed as a strategic framework to guide the City of Philadelphia in advancing equitable climate action. The Playbook outlines the City's path toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and enhancing its resilience to the impacts of climate change.

In the four years since its release, Philadelphia has made substantial progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate adaptation and resilience, with a deliberate focus on equity. This progress has been made possible through collaborative efforts involving numerous City departments, partnerships across the public and private sectors, and active engagement with the community. Additionally, many of these initiatives have been supported by significant investments through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

The *2025 Climate Action Update* highlights representative achievements made since the publication of the Playbook in 2021. While not an exhaustive account of all initiatives and projects, this update emphasizes key milestones that have contributed to Philadelphia's progress toward a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.

How to Read this Document

The 2025 *Climate Action Update* has the following sections:



**Buildings &
Industry**



Transportation



Waste



**Nature-based
Solutions**



**Adaptation &
Resilience**

GOALS AND TARGETS

CO-BENEFITS

KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

MEASURING PROGRESS

LOOKING AHEAD

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Each section describes Goals and Targets, Co-Benefits, Key Actions and Achievements, Measuring Progress, Looking Ahead, and Relevant Publications highlighting connections to health and the environment, the economy, and equity. It includes relevant information from various City departments and partners, such as the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA), the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and the Department of Aviation (DOA) and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). The update also summarizes how Philadelphia is benefiting from investments from federal BIL and IRA programs.

In 2022, Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability (OOS) expanded to include an Environmental Justice (EJ) Division. OOS defines environmental justice as the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens; righting of past harmful environmental policies and practices; and meaningful involvement in decision-making, particularly for those most impacted and that have been historically marginalized. The Division advances environmental justice through education, policy, and resourcing frontline and fence-line communities. Since its launch in 2023, the City's Community Resilience & Environmental Justice (CREJ) Fund has awarded a total of \$450,000 to 35 organizations increasing air quality monitoring, clean energy use, climate resilience and emergency preparedness, community gardening and greening, food sovereignty, flood resilience and tree canopy, and reducing illegal dumping. Environmental justice cuts across the sections included in this report, recognizing the impacts of climate change will not be felt equally by residents across the city and work must be done to ensure equitable access to a clean energy transition.

Buildings & Industry



GOALS AND TARGETS

BY 2026

- Provide critical long-term repairs to 500 households with low- or moderate incomes through PEA's Built to Last Program.
- Through PEA programs, create 10,000 jobs in energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

BY 2030

- Reduce carbon pollution from City-owned buildings and streetlights by 50%.
- Reduce the energy consumption of City operations by 20%.
- Source 100% of the electricity for City operations from renewable resources.
- 20% reduction in Energy Use Intensity per square foot in PHL Terminals from 2019 baseline.

BY 2050

- Achieve a 100% carbon-free electricity grid.
- Achieve carbon neutrality.

CO-BENEFITS

ECONOMY:

Energy-efficient practices create jobs and reduce operating costs.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT:

Emission reductions improve air quality.

EQUITY:

Lower energy costs for low-income residents ensure an equitable clean energy transition.



Members of the Office of Sustainability, the Philadelphia Energy Authority, and Energix Renewables celebrating the completion of the Adams Solar Project in April



PSIP: Reducing Emissions and Improving Public Safety

To date, the Philadelphia Streetlight Improvement Project (PSIP) **converted over 108,000 of 130,000 streetlights to energy-efficient LED lights** with controls. The project is on track for completion in Fall 2025.

PSIP KEY FACTS

- It is the single largest energy conservation project the City has undertaken, **reducing municipal carbon emissions by nearly 10%**.
- The \$91 million project pays for itself with **\$8 million in annual and operational savings to the City**.
- PSIP has improved public safety, demonstrating a **21% reduction in nighttime outdoor gun crimes** where new lights have been installed, according to a University of Pennsylvania study.



Local crew member installing new LED streetlight fixture

(PHOTO BY JARED PIPER/PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL)

KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Improving the energy performance of government operations

- The **Adams Solar Project was launched**, putting the City at 30% of its carbon-neutral municipal operations goal.
- The School District of Philadelphia (SDP) has **completed Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) projects in 23 schools** since 2018, using the savings from energy conservation measures to deliver critical building improvements.
- More GESA projects are underway for municipal properties including the Quadplex, health centers and homeless services buildings. A GESA partnership between PWD, OOS, PGW, and PEA will further explore improved biogas use and **renewable natural gas development** while making needed updates to wastewater treatment plants.
- **OOS began supporting SDP in enhancing utility bill management** and associated data analysis with support through the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.
- **Sustainable design standards were established for all capital projects on PHL property**. New facilities and major renovations must be LEED Gold certified, including those undertaken by tenants.



KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Improving the energy performance of large buildings

- The **Building Energy Performance Policy (BEPP) completed its first compliance cycle.**
- The **Building Energy Benchmarking Policy completed its 10th year** of compliance and enforcement.

Ensuring equity in Philadelphia's clean energy transition

- **The Energy Poverty Alleviation Strategy (EPAS) was published**, to ensure equity, energy security and energy justice for all Philadelphians in the city's clean energy transition.
- Philadelphia was **one of 25 cities selected for Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities** program, a three-year, \$200 million initiative aimed at developing transformative solutions at the intersection of climate action and racial wealth equity.
- Through its Built to Last Program, PEA completed **energy efficient whole-home repairs in 200 income-qualifying homes.**

Activating Philadelphia's clean energy economy

- OOS and the Department of Commerce launched a strategic planning process to **develop a Clean Energy Workforce Strategy**, funded by a US DOE grant.
- PEA **expanded the Green Retrofit Immersive Training (GRIT) and Bright Solar Futures (BSF)** programs to train and connect Philadelphians with clean energy sector jobs. ▼



Bright Solar Futures students and instructor

(SOURCE: KIMBERLY PAYNTER/WHYY)

MEASURING PROGRESS

- PEA created **more than 7,600 clean energy jobs as of 2023** through over \$900 million in investment in clean energy projects and programs.
- **Citywide emissions from buildings and industry decreased by nearly 40% in 2022**, compared to 2006 (10% reduction since 2019). [\[SEE FIG 1.\]](#)
- **More than 1,450 large buildings reported their annual energy and water use** between 2019 and 2022.
- In 2023, the Benchmarking Program **achieved a compliance rate of 68.8%**, while the newer BEPP achieved a compliance rate of 61.2% in the first 5-year compliance cycle (as of March 2025).
- In 2024, the City **saved over \$3 million** by reducing energy use for street lighting.
- **Emissions from municipal operations decreased by 42.2% in 2023**, compared to the 2006 baseline. [\[SEE FIG 2.\]](#)
- **Energy use for municipal operations decreased by 4% in 2023**, compared to the 2016 baseline.
- PEA's GRIT and BSF programs have **trained 141 Philadelphians for careers** in green construction and solar.

FIG 1. Emissions from Energy Use in Building and Industry

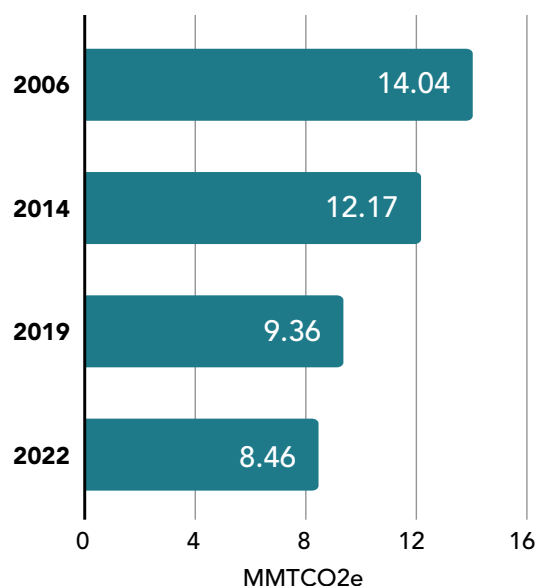
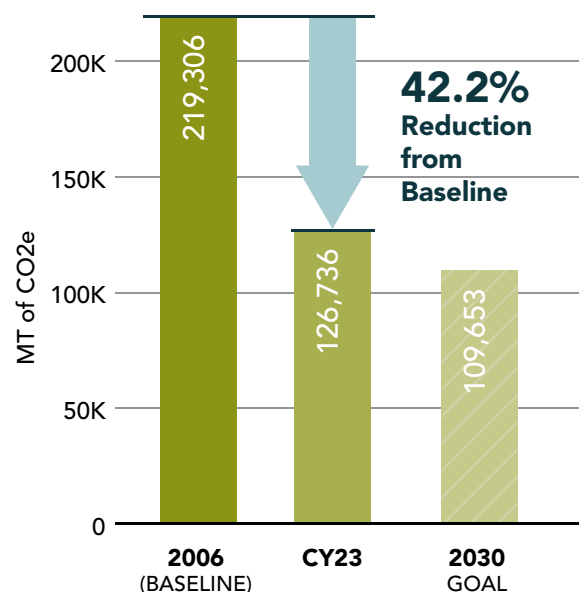


FIG 2. Municipal Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CY23)





LOOKING AHEAD

- OOS and PEA plan to launch additional projects to **source 100% of electricity for municipal operations from renewables** by 2030.
- OOS will **continue implementation of EPAS** to improve energy access and security for energy-burdened communities through support programmatic expansions, advocacy and adoption of enabling legislation, and strengthening of partnerships.
- With \$19.8 million awarded to the City from the DOE, Philadelphia will **adopt a Building Performance Standard** to reduce emissions from large existing buildings.



Solar panels

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- *Climate Action Playbook*, OOS (2021)
- *Municipal Energy Master Plan*, OOS (updated 2022)
- *Energy Poverty Alleviation Strategy*, OOS (2024)
- *Philadelphia Energy Authority Annual Report*, PEA (2023)
- *Municipal High Performance Building Guidelines*, OOS (2024)
- *2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory*, OOS (2025)

Transportation



GOALS AND TARGETS

BY 2025

- Increase the number of residents living within 0.25 miles of frequent transit by 10%.
- Establish a procurement plan to buy only EVs for sedans, SUVs, vans, and light duty pickup trucks by 2030 for the municipal fleet.

BY 2030

- Procure no new fossil fuel consuming vehicles for the municipal fleet after 2030.
- Decrease overall GHG emissions by 40% from 2022 baseline (SEPTA).
- Increase passenger trips per capita by 80% from 2022 baseline (SEPTA).
- Reduce light- and medium-duty vehicle emissions from the municipal fleet by at least 45% from 2019 levels by transitioning to zero-emission EVs.
- 30% reduction in annual fossil fuel usage from 2019 baseline (DOA).

BY 2040

- Establish an all-electric fleet (SEPTA).

BY 2050

- Achieve net zero emissions (SEPTA).

CO-BENEFITS

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT:

Expanding public transit reduces pollution.

ECONOMY & EQUITY:

Expanding transit reduces commute times, creates jobs, and connects residents to economic and social opportunities.

The City of Philadelphia's Municipal Clean Fleet Plan lays out a strategy to transition the City's fleet—which represented around 15% of the municipal government's carbon footprint in 2022—to clean and electric vehicles.

SOURCE: 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory



KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Improving safety and walkability

- The City **received \$244 million in grants for Vision Zero safety projects**, including **\$78 million for the Route for Change Program** to improve service and safety along Roosevelt Boulevard, one of the city's most dangerous streets.

Reducing emissions from the municipal fleet

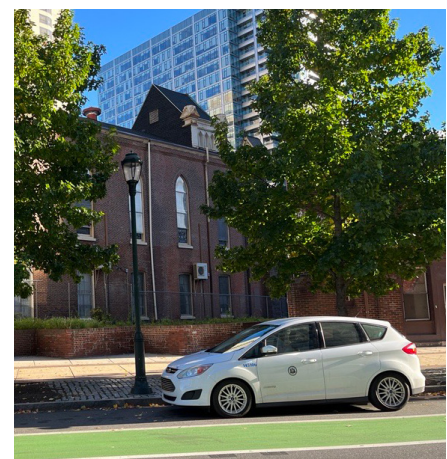
- The **Municipal Clean Fleet Plan**, completed in October 2021, was **updated in April 2024** with achievements and next steps. ►
- SDP received **\$7.9 million from the EPA's Clean School Bus Program** to purchase 20 electric school buses.
- DOA developed a *Vehicle & Equipment Electrification Strategic Plan* in 2022 and **PHL has since purchased 13 electric vehicles** and installed 12 Level 2 electric vehicle chargers.



Municipal Clean Fleet Plan, completed in October 2021

Building the EV infrastructure and workforce

- 100 EV charging ports were installed** across 54 municipal facilities between 2021 and 2023.
- The City **added 199 battery EVs** to its fleet since 2021. ►
- The City **was awarded \$9.8 million in EV charging infrastructure funding** through BIL.
- Through the US Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, the City was **awarded \$1.5 million for Plug In Philly**, a workforce development pilot for training diverse Philadelphians in electric vehicle careers. ►
- In 2024, OTIS **expanded initiatives to install and maintain EV charging stations** in disadvantaged neighborhoods.



Electric City vehicle





KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Enhancing public transit

- In 2024, **SEPTA reduced emissions by 47%** (202 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) and **decreased energy consumption by 12.5%** since 2017.
- In 2024, **SEPTA achieved a 100% green bus fleet**, primarily using hybrid vehicles.
- In 2023, **SEPTA began a two-year Zero Fare Pilot Program**, offering free transit for residents near or below the poverty level and City employees.

Promoting multi-modal transportation

- Since its launch in 2015, the **Indego bikeshare system has grown to 5,500 docks and nearly 3,000 bikes**, with riders offsetting an estimated 68 million pounds of carbon dioxide by biking instead of driving or using public transit. ▼



Community members and passholders using Indego bikeshare

(PHOTO BY JASMINE ALSTON PHOTOGRAPH)



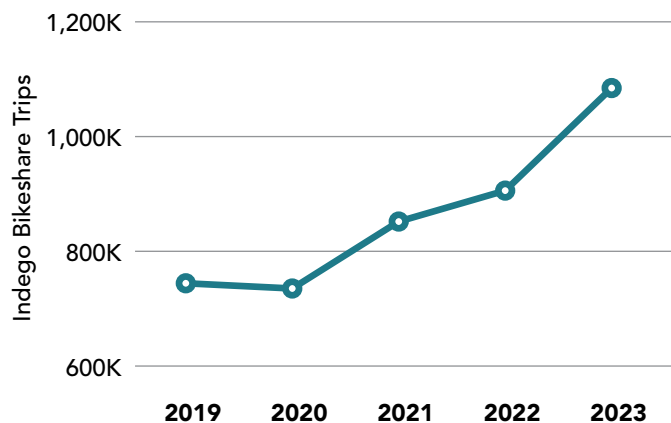
Indego bikeshare program manager Waffiyyah Murray on a group ride

(PHOTO BY RASHIID MARCELL)

MEASURING PROGRESS

- In 2023, **Indego bikeshare ridership increased by 27%** since 2021. [\[SEE FIG 3.\]](#)
- The City's Complete Streets safety project locations show a **71% increase in average daily bike trips** when compared to similar locations without improvements.
- **Public transit ridership in Philadelphia increased by 12%** in Q1 2024 compared with Q1 2023.
- **Emissions from municipal light- and medium-duty vehicles decreased by 10%** from 2019 levels, keeping the City on track to meet its goal of a 45% reduction by 2030.
- Between 2019 and 2022, Philadelphia **reduced its transportation emissions by 18%**.
- DOA has collaborated with airlines and cargo carriers to **electrify 30% of its ground support equipment** at PHL.

FIG 3. Total Indego Bikeshare Trips, 2019-2023



Indego Bikeshare Station at Point Breeze & Tasker



LOOKING AHEAD

- OTIS will work with stakeholders to **complete the 40-mile network of protected bike lanes**, including the Spring Garden Street Connector from Delaware Avenue to Eakins Oval and Washington Avenue from Grays Ferry to Delaware Avenue.
- OTIS will integrate a **citywide EV policy into multimodal strategies** to reduce carbon emissions.
- **SEPTA is creating a citywide resilience plan** that includes major infrastructure investments and community resources.
- **Plug In Philly expects to begin training programs** in 2025-2026.
- SEPTA will launch a **hydrogen fuel cell electric bus pilot program** in 2025. ▼
- DOA plans to **install five Level 3 chargers** for fleet vehicles by 2026.
- DOA plans to enter a contract by 2027 to **transition the majority of passenger and employee shuttle bus vehicles to zero-emission vehicles**.



SEPTA zero-emission fuel cell electric bus

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- **Municipal Clean Fleet Plan**, OOS (2021)
- **Municipal Clean Fleet Plan Update**, OOS (2024)
- **SEPTA Sustainability Playbook**, SEPTA (2024)
- **Indego Equity Plan**, OTIS (2023)
- **Vision Zero Action Plan**, OTIS (2020)
- **2024 Vision Zero Annual Report**, OTIS (2024)
- **Infrastructure Solutions Team Annual Report**, OTIS (2024)
- **Department of Aviation 2022 ESG Report**, DOA (2022)

Waste



GOALS AND TARGETS

- Publish a *Zero Waste 2035* plan to initiate a broader discussion on policy initiatives and steps toward a long-term zero waste goal.



Reforestation Hub at the Organic Recycling Center
(PHOTO BY JULIAN MOORE-GRIFFIN/PPR)



Learning about composting
(PHOTO BY JOE O'CONNOR/PPR)

CO-BENEFITS

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT:

Reducing waste and removing litter reduces environmental pollutants.

ECONOMY:

Waste programs create jobs and can boost local circular economies.

EQUITY:

Increased waste diversion reduces pollution in neighborhoods, parks, and waterways.

“

We will create a Clean and Green Cabinet to organize government, community, and business collaboratively to reduce waste, increase recycling, and continue to work towards a more sustainable future—all with an eye towards environmental justice for underserved and under-resourced communities.”

—Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's
100 Day Action Plan

KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Diverting waste from the landfill and incineration

- Increased efforts to **reduce landfill waste through a Plastic Bag Ban**, tracking diversion rates at SEPTA stations, and a recycling and donation finder on the City website.
- Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) **launched a public-private partnership with Bennett Compost to compost food** waste from PPR properties, including 100+ Recreation Centers with food programs. ►
- PPR and partners **launched the Philadelphia Reforestation Hub**, providing workforce training, transforming wood waste into higher value products, and supporting sustainability goals. ►
- In October 2024, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were **awarded nearly \$14 million EPA grant** to enhance wood waste utilization.

Achieving Zero Waste: Studies, New Initiatives, and Long-Term Goals

- The **Office of Clean and Green Initiatives (OCG), created in 2024 by Mayor Parker's administration**, advances a data-driven plan to reduce waste, increase recycling, and address quality of life issues like litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, abandoned automobiles, nuisance properties, and vacant lots. This work is guided by the Clean & Green Cabinet comprising City departments and external partners.
- Since 2021, the Sanitation Department has **conducted extensive studies**, including waste composition and sanitation operations assessments, to advance waste reduction goals.



Public tour of Bennett Compost
(PHOTO BY WENDI WU/PPR)



Launch of Philly Reforestation Hub
(PHOTO BY WENDI WU/PPR)

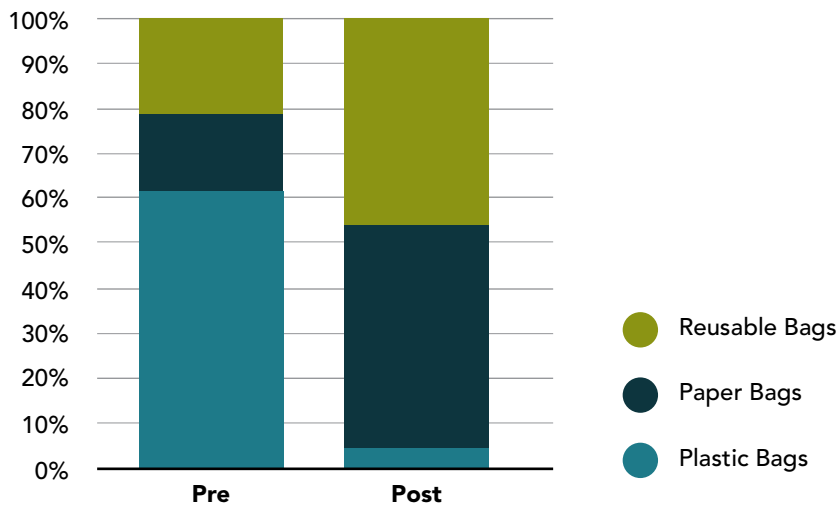
MEASURING PROGRESS

- A 2023 [study](#) estimated the Plastic Bag Ban **eliminated the use of over 200 million plastic bags in the city**, roughly equivalent to filling City Hall with plastic bags every eight months. [\[SEE FIG 4.\]](#)
- The **waste diversion rate for PHL reached a historic high of 25%** in 2022 and continued to meet the 25% rate during 2023 and 2024.
- Over 13 weeks, the **One Philly, United City (2024) program cleaned 18,000 blocks**, conducted 269 school and 47 park cleanups, completed 86 green stormwater infrastructure cleanups, and performed 2,419 commercial corridor cleanups. In total, over 60,000 quality of life actions were completed between over a dozen City, nonprofit, and community organization partners.
- PPR **diverted over 42,000 tons of Recreation Center food waste** since partnering with Bennett Compost. ►
- The **Reforestation Hub diverted 1,200 tons of logs**, producing nearly 15,000 board feet of reclaimed lumber.



Bennett Compost
(PHOTO BY WENDI WU/PPR)

FIG 4. Estimated Change in Total Number of Bags Used



Philadelphia Reforestation Hub
(PHOTO BY WENDI WU/PPR)

LOOKING AHEAD

- PPR will **expand the Reforestation Hub**, modernize the Organic Recycling Center, and enhance workforce training.
- PPR will **expand the public-private food composting partnership** by adding more recreation centers and training sessions for youth and staff.
- OCG and the Sanitation Department will make the **One Philly, United City Cleaning Program a biannual event**.
- Continue to proactively **clean streets** in each of the 10 Council Districts **through the new District-Based Residential Cleaning program**.
- The City will **expand the twice-a-week trash collection pilot** to more communities and sanitation districts by fall 2025.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS


- **City's Plastic Bag Ban**, (2022)
- **Evaluating the Ban: Philadelphia's Plastic Bag Ban and Changes in Bag Usage in the City**, University of Pittsburg & Swarthmore College (April 2023)
- **Zero Waste Plan 2035**, Sanitation Department (pending publication)

Resources for recycling and donation

Find out where to donate items or recycle in Philadelphia

 FILTER [Clear all](#) Food donations X

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All other donations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food donations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction and demolition debris | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic/universal waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic waste |

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single-stream recycling  | <input type="checkbox"/> Used motor oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Source-separated recycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Textile donation or recycling | |

☐ Select
All

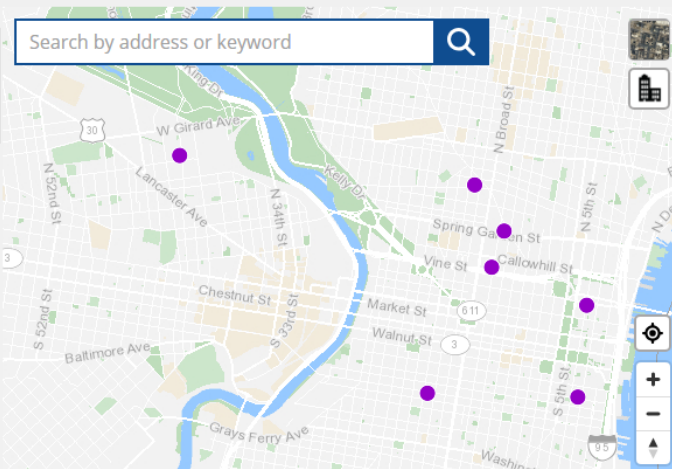
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Showing 20 out of 169 results

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bebashi Hunger Relief | + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bethesda Project | + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FISH Community Food Cupboard at North Light Community Center | + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Recovery Network (Online Tool) | + |



Recycling and Donation Finder

Nature-based Solutions



GOALS AND TARGETS

- SEPTA plans to increase green acreage by 25 acres by 2030.
- Continue implementing the Green City, Clean Waters program.
- Implement the recommendations of the *Philly Tree Plan* by 2033.



CO-BENEFITS

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT:

More green space improves physical and mental wellbeing.

ECONOMY:

Nature-based projects create green jobs and support the local economy.

EQUITY:

Nature-based solutions enhance climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

53rd and Baltimore Complete and Green Streets

(SOURCE: PWD)

KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Increasing Philadelphia's tree canopy and enhancing greening

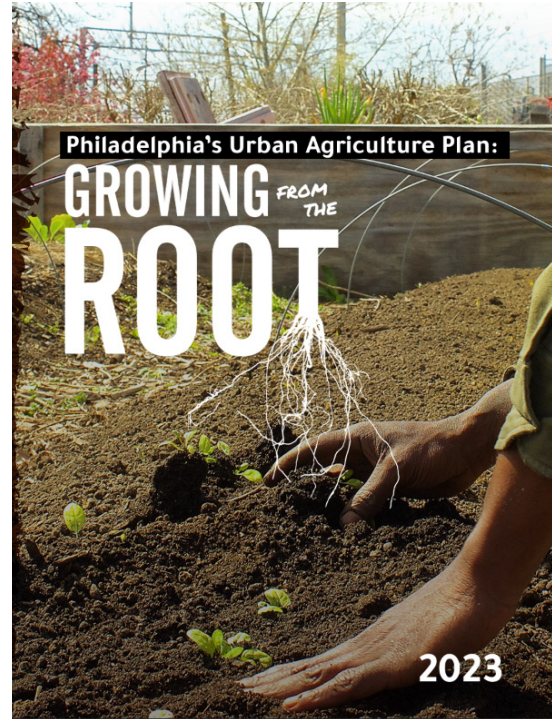
- PPR **launched the Philly Tree Plan** (2023) that prioritizes equitable urban forest growth, focusing on areas with high heat, poor air quality, and low tree canopy.
- The City and nonprofit partners **received a \$12 million USDA grant to implement the Philly Tree Plan** and restore tree canopy in priority neighborhoods.
- SEPTA **added 35.6 acres of greenery** since 2017, including rain gardens and swales, exceeding their goal.
- The City **invested \$1.7M** to bring 12,000+ cleaned and greened vacant lots to a year-round maintenance standard.



KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Growing urban agriculture opportunities for all Philadelphians

- In 2023, PPR **published *Growing from the Root***, a 10-year plan addressing urban agriculture and establishing a framework for investing in agriculture and food justice. ►
- Through the Land Access Program, Farm Philly **expanded climate-resilient green spaces** by establishing three new community gardens in 2024, enhancing local food production and stormwater management.
- In 2024, Farm Philly **added 10 sites to the Community Compost Network** bringing the number of compost sites that collect food waste from residents up to 20 total across the city.
- In 2024, as part of a Municipal Compost Public Delivery Pilot, PPR **delivered 75 tons of excess compost and mulch** from the Organic Recycling Center to 43 sites around the city.
- Since 2021, Farm Philly has **increased support for community orchards** on parkland, including the Kingsessing Library Orchard, Hunting Park Community Garden Orchard, and the Cobbs Creek Environmental Center Orchard.



Philadelphia's Urban Agriculture Plan:
Growing From the Root, PPR (2023)

Protecting our waters

- By December 2021, the City **met or exceeded all Year 10 Performance Standards** for the Green City, Clean Waters program, reducing pollution by preventing sewer and stormwater overflow.
- The 53rd and Baltimore Complete and Green Streets project **added 2.6 greened acres** and improved pedestrian safety, winning the 2023 Sustainable Business Network Excellence in Green Stormwater Infrastructure Award.



Tree ambassadors at the end-of-project celebration
(PHOTO BY SAHAR COSTON-HARDY)

MEASURING PROGRESS

- In Fiscal Year 2024, PPR **planted 3,724 trees**, a 35% increase from the previous year. [\[SEE FIG 5.\]](#)
- From 2011 to 2024, the City **added 3,144 greened acres**—a term used to describe the volume of stormwater managed by green stormwater infrastructure (GSI)— through nearly 1,000 projects.
- Between 2011 and 2021, cumulative **overflow reduction exceeded targets**, reaching 3,080 million gallons per year.
- **Philly Tree Coalition**—a public private partnership—**formed** to implement the *Philly Tree Plan*, which has been awarded over \$12M in grants.
- Farm Philly estimates that the Community Compost Network **diverted 6 tons of food waste** in 2024 with 10 sites and anticipates 12 tons of food waste diversion this year with 20 sites.



Philly Tree Plan

FIG 5. Philadelphia Tree Canopy Projection to Reach 30% Canopy Cover by 2050





LOOKING AHEAD

- PPR will **continue implementing Philly Tree Plan recommendations**, hiring Urban Forestry staff, planting trees in priority areas, and restoring forested natural spaces.
- The City aims to **plant 3,200+ new trees annually**.
- PWD will **advance 200+ active GSI projects**, including eight in Cobbs Creek to enhance stormwater management, transit safety, and canopy cover.
- In 2025, Farm Philly will continue its work by **creating three additional gardens and two more orchards**, strengthening community-led climate adaptation and urban sustainability.
- In 2025, an **additional five to 10 Community Compost sites** are planned based on community interest.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- ***Philly Tree Plan***, PPR (2023)
- ***Green City, Clean Waters***, PWD (Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report)
- ***Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategic Framework***, PWD (2021)
- ***Philadelphia's Urban Agriculture Plan: Growing From the Root***, PPR (2023)



TreePhilly giveaway at The Dell Music Center
(PHOTO BY DONTRECE STEWART/PPR)



2025 Arbor Day tree planting at Mifflin Square
(PHOTO BY JOE O'CONNOR/PPR)

Adaptation & Resilience



GOALS AND TARGETS

- Enter Philadelphia in FEMA's Community Rating System by 2026, a program that will make flood insurance more accessible and affordable for all Philadelphians.
- Update the City's climate resilience plan, Growing Stronger: Toward a Climate-Ready Philadelphia, informed by citywide equitable engagement, by 2027.
- Finish construction on a Near-Term Flood Barrier in Eastwick by 2027.
- Develop comprehensive climate-resilient design standards and guidance for City departments, private development, and homeowners.

CO-BENEFITS

SAFETY:

In addition to reducing harm from extreme events, many resilience actions can contribute to reductions in crime and improve physical and mental wellbeing.

HEALTH & ECONOMY:

Proactive efforts help prevent future health emergencies and economic losses from extreme heat and natural disasters.

EQUITY:

Place-based adaptation planning helps build community capacity and resilience in neighborhoods vulnerable to a changing climate.

KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Integrating climate resilience in planning and decision-making

- Starting with fiscal year 2026, **climate resilience is now embedded in the capital budget process** with a climate vulnerability and risk score assigned and considered for departmental requests.
- PWD **adopted *Climate Resilient Planning and Design Guidance*** in 2022.
- In 2023, the **interagency Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience Committee was formed** to address the cross-cutting issues of environmental justice, climate action, and climate resilience.
- PHL adopted **Climate Resilient Design Standards** in 2023.



KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Protecting Philadelphia from flooding

- In 2022, the City launched *Eastwick: From Recovery to Resilience*, **a place-based initiative to respond to flooding** and quality-of-life challenges in the Eastwick community.
- In 2024, OOS released an *Eastwick Resident's Guide to a Flood Ready Home*, **a resource to help residents reduce the risk of flood damage to their homes** and minimize the recovery period if flooding occurs.
- Received \$450,000 from the BIL to **develop a long-term Flood Resilience Strategy in Eastwick**.
- **Secured \$2.2 million** to fund an interim flood barrier project in Eastwick.
- In 2022, the City **launched a Flood Resilience and Compliance Strategy program** within OOS to ensure the safety of Philadelphians by managing flood risks and coordinating a Flood Risk Management Task Force and the City's Flood Management Program.



Philadelphians and federal officials discussed the proposal to build a levee in Eastwick at a public meeting

(PHOTO BY SOPHIA SCHMIDT/WHYY)



Eastwick Community Day 2023

(SOURCE: FEMA REGION 3)



KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Building resilience to rising temperatures

- In 2023, the Department of Public Health and OOS **updated the City's Heat Vulnerability Index**, an essential decision-support tool that helps municipal staff target neighborhoods for engagement and education and determine where to locate cooling centers and other resources.
- Over the last several years, the **City has expanded its cooling resources for heat health emergencies**, which includes cooling centers, pools, spray grounds, and a helpline.
- OOS **was awarded federal funding to launch a place-based heat resilience project** in a heat vulnerable community.
- In 2024, OOS and Philadelphia Streets Department **launched a cool pavement pilot project** around the Hunting Park Recreation Center to address the area's urban heat island effect. ►
- In recent years, the Department of Public Health has **expanded communication and engagement efforts** around public health risk associated with extreme heat through development of **tailored tools** and training programs for trusted messengers and residents in Philadelphia's most vulnerable neighborhoods.



Cool Pavements Pilot Program



MEASURING PROGRESS

- Since 2022, the OOS has been awarded **over \$6 million in philanthropic and federal grant funding** to support resilience action.
- Since 2022, the OOS has regranted (or will regrant) or distributed **over \$1.4 to community-based organizations** for community capacity building to address climate and environmental injustices.
- OEM has worked with PPR and The Free Library system to **expand access to cooling centers and sites**.
- PWD and PHL have **released climate-resilient planning and design guidelines**.

LOOKING AHEAD

- As part of the process to update the City's climate resilience plan, OOS will **launch a citywide equitable engagement process** in 2025 (supported by the William Penn Foundation) to inform that plan and resilience efforts across the city. The plan is anticipated to be released in 2027.
- In 2025, OOS will **launch a place-based initiative around heat resilience, environmental justice, and energy poverty alleviation** in Strawberry Mansion, a project developed for the EPA's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program.
- In spring 2025, the City will start **design and construction on the Eastwick Near-Term Flood Barrier Project**, an interim barrier estimated to protect approximately 600 residences from moderate flood events.
- With support from federal BIL funding, OOS is working with residents to **develop a long-term Flood Resilience Strategy** for Eastwick to address current and future flooding from multiple sources.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

- ***Growing Stronger: Toward a Climate-Ready Philadelphia***, (2015)
- ***Beat the Heat Hunting Park***, A Community Heat Relief Plan, OOS (2019)
- ***Philadelphia All-Hazard Mitigation Plan***, OEM (2022)
- ***Climate-Resilient Design Standards***, PHL (2023)
- ***Climate-Resilient Planning and Design Guidelines***, V1.1, PWD (2024)
- ***Eastwick: From Recovery to Resilience***, OOS (2024)

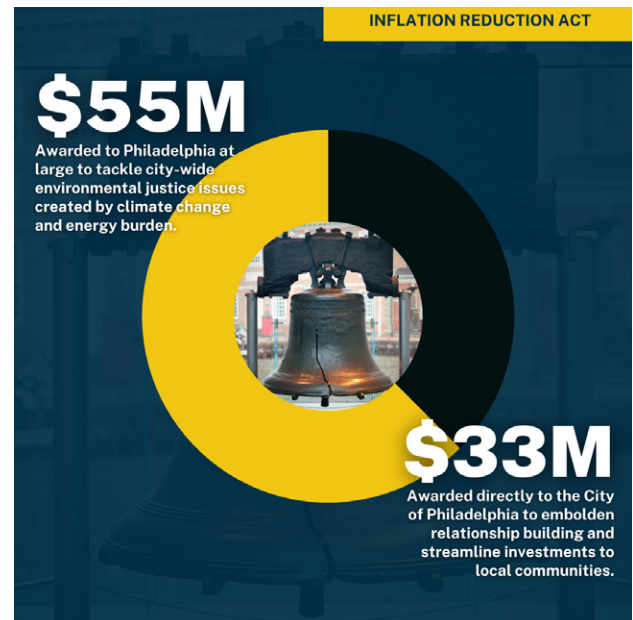
BIL and IRA Funding Summary

Since being enacted in 2022, the federal BIL and IRA funding programs have represented a historic opportunity to advance climate action and the clean energy economy in Philadelphia. Through extensive collaboration, Philadelphia agencies, local organizations, and regional entities have developed impactful projects designed to benefit the entire City, with a particular focus on supporting its most vulnerable populations. The City submitted successful proposals for seven unique IRA programs, including EPA's Community Change Grants and USDA's Urban and Community Forestry Grants. Projects developed for the IRA include developing a large building performance standard, advancing place-based climate resilience projects, implementing PPR's Philly Tree Plan, and facilitating urban wood reutilization and the Reforestation Hub for upcycling and workforce development, among other initiatives.

Significant IRA programs at the state and regional level include the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, which funded the development of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Priority Climate Action Plan to inform priority actions at the state level to advance climate action across the Commonwealth. CPRG funding supports the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) grant program, intended to advance decarbonization projects at industrial facilities to reduce GHG and co-pollutant emissions. In addition, projects developed for the EPA's Clean Ports Program will support the electrification and modernization of port equipment.

In addition to funding through the IRA, City departments have been awarded significant funding through the BIL since 2021 supporting transportation, water, clean energy and resiliency projects, with additional funding being allocated to PHL.

Going forward, the City and its collaborators will continue to pursue the developed projects to advance climate action, resilience, and environmental justice at the local level.



Conclusion

As demonstrated through this 2025 Climate Action Update, Philadelphia has made significant progress toward its climate and environmental goals since 2021. This progress has only been possible because of the tireless, collaborative efforts of multiple City departments, organizations, individuals, and the support of critical federal, state and philanthropic investments that complement our office's budget. In the coming decades, we intend to continue scaling and accelerating our efforts to reduce emissions, protect residents from climate impacts, and promote environmental justice. While shifting federal priorities make some national programs and policies uncertain, we are committed to advancing our goals on the local level: our responsibility to Philadelphia's residents, both present and future, demands it. Together, we can create a safer, cleaner, greener Philadelphia with access to economic opportunity for all.



2025 Arbor Day tree planting at Mifflin Square
(PHOTO BY JOE O'CONNOR/PPR)



City of
Philadelphia



**Office of
Sustainability**
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

One Parkway Building
1515 Arch St., 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

sustainability@phila.gov
(215) 686-3495

www.phila.gov/sustainability