



Climate Resiliency Forum

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Region 1 Planning Council

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion Items:
 - a. 2026 Greenways Plan Update
 - b. State of the Trails Report
 - c. Climate Action Plan – Public Comment Period
5. Action Items:
 - a. Approval of the November 5th, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of the Climate Action Plan
6. Staff Reports
 - a. Parking Reimagined Plan – Out for Public Comment
 - b. Livable Communities Initiative – Round 1 Award
 - c. Integrated Water Resource Planning – Request for Proposal
 - d. Resilience Improvement Plan – Public Survey
7. Agency Reports
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact R1 Planning at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.



Climate Resiliency Forum

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Region 1 Planning Council

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Colin Belle, City of Rockford Planning and Zoning; Mike Bacon; Climate Reality Project; Neely Erickson, Illinois REALTORS; Alan Branhagen, Natural Land Institute; Rebecca Olson, Olson Ecological Solutions; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Ann Wasser, Severson Dells; Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Todd Marshall, Winnebago County Health Department; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; Bob Campbell, Zion Development Corporation

Staff Present: Chelsey Glatz, Clara Romeo, Estelle Adiaba, Lauren Kleve, Sydney Turner, Tim Verbeke, Vanessa Mauries

3. Public Comment

a. None

4. Action Item: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2024

a. Motion by Climate Reality Project, Seconded by Zion Development Corporation. Minutes Approved.

5. Discussion: Climate Action Plan - Update

a. Lauren Kleve, R1 Environmental Planner, notified the forum that the Climate Action Plan is currently in the design phase. Ms. Kleve went on to review the plans chapters and technical reports, highlighting key takeaways.

6. Discussion: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

a. Vanessa Mauries, R1 Sustainability Research Analyst, presented the findings from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Air Quality Assessment. Mrs. Mauries provided a detailed analysis of emissions across the region, categorized by sector, subsector, and source, as well as the data collected from air sensors placed throughout the region.



7. **Discussion: Climate Resiliency Forum – Update**

- a. Sydney Turner, R1 Director of Planning & Programming, notified the forum members about upcoming consolidation of the Climate Resiliency Forum into the Community Advisory Forum. Members who are interested in joining the Community Advisory Forum were requested to reach out to Chelsey Glatz, R1 staff liaison for the Community Advisory Forum. This transition will take effect at the start of next year.

8. **Staff Reports**

- a. Ms. Kleve informed the forum that the Winnebago County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is open for public comment.

9. **Agency Reports**

- a. Severson Dells provided updates on the restoration of the newly acquired Elliot Golf Course.
- b. Sustain Rockford announced that they will share the survey responses collected at the RPS 205 Academy Expo, in collaboration with Forest City Sustainability, on their website.

10. **Other Business**

- a. Clara Romeo, R1 Sustainability Principal, announced the event "Investing in Clean Water: Let's Get the Lead Out." This event will be hosted by the Metropolitan Planning Council and will be held at the R1 office on November 20th at 3:30 PM.

11. **Adjournment**

- a. Motion by Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District, second by Climate Reality Project, to adjourn at 5:17 pm. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Vanessa Mauries

Minutes approved by action of the Forum:

2026 Greenways Plan Update

Stay up-to-date on EngageR1!



2026 GREENWAYS PLAN UPDATE



PROJECT CONTACT
Lauren Kleve,
Environmental Planner
LKleve@R1planning.org



State of the Trails Report

STATE OF THE TRAILS REPORT

- Stay up-to-date on the project through Engage R1.
- Look for the data bike in action throughout the region in May!



PROJECT CONTACT
Nathan Larsen,
Planner
NLarsen@R1planning.org



bit.ly/EngageR1-Paths-and-Trails



Climate Action Plan – Public Comment Period

NEXT STEPS

- Public comment period is open from March 18 – April 22.
- Public open house: April 8th from 5 - 7 p.m. at R1 office.
- Plan goes to R1 Governing Board for adoption in May.



engager1.mysocialpinpoint.com/climate-action-plan-cap

PROJECT CONTACT

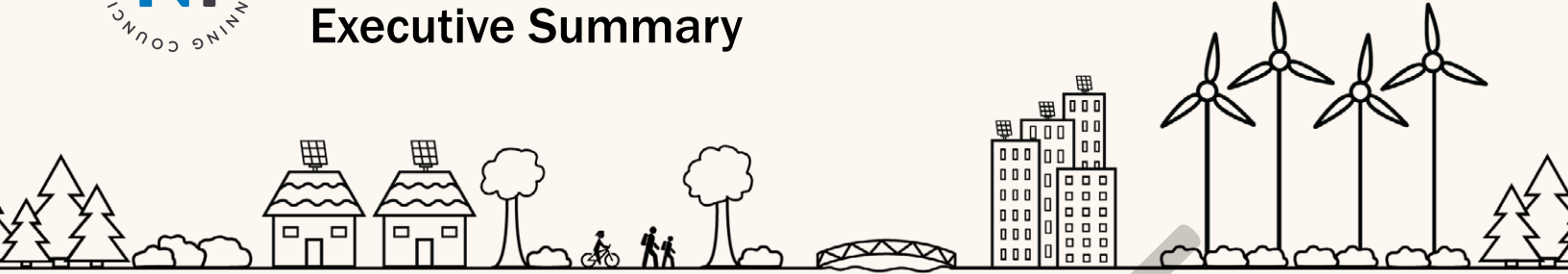
Lauren Kleve,
Environmental Planner
LKleve@R1planning.org





Climate Action Plan

Executive Summary

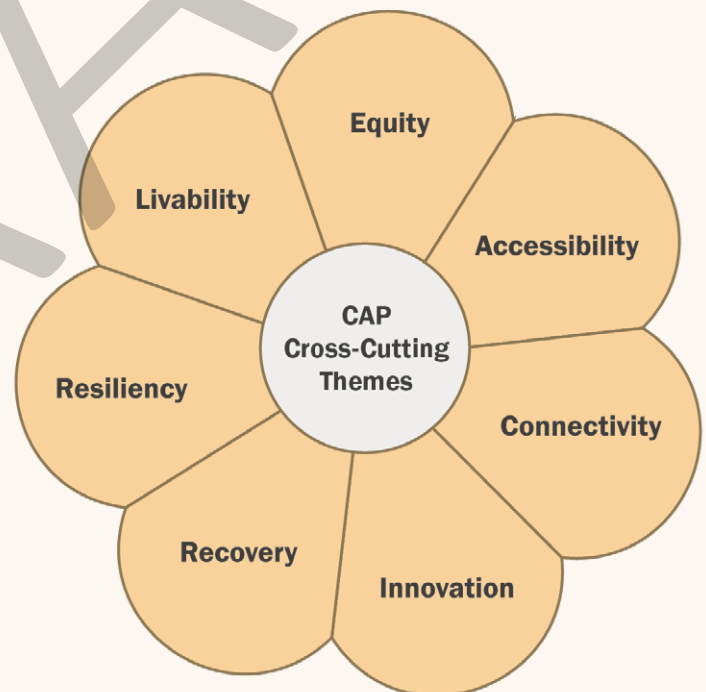


Overview

In the summer of 2023, Region 1 Planning Council (R1) took a proactive step by initiating the development of the region's first Climate Action Plan (CAP). This plan establishes a regional framework for climate action in Boone and Winnebago Counties, referred to as the Rockford Region. It presents a forward-thinking approach to reducing the environmental, economic, and social risks associated with climate change, while fostering sustainable development and building resilience. The CAP not only addresses direct impacts like extreme temperatures and weather events, but also considers broader challenges such as community vulnerabilities and public health concerns. This plan aims to present an equitable response to the pressing challenges of climate change while ensuring a prosperous future for the Rockford Region.

Why Climate Action is Critical for the Rockford Region

The Rockford Region faces unique vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and flooding pose significant risks to the region. These changes threaten the wellbeing of residents, with vulnerable communities often facing the most severe consequences. By following the recommendations laid out in the CAP, the Rockford Region can mitigate the long-term consequences of climate change while fostering resilient and sustainable communities. Immediate and comprehensive climate action can help the region secure a future that provides safety and stability for future generations. Climate action is crucial not only for securing a better future for the next generations, but also for creating a better environment for those who live, work, and enjoy the region today.



Visit Engage R1 at bit.ly/EngageR1CAP or our website at r1planning.org/planning.org/sustainability to learn more about the project!

Climate Action Planning Process

The CAP was developed over a two-year period alongside the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The planning process began by developing a regional vision for the three plans to define the collective desired future for the Rockford Region. Following this, regional characteristics and climate data was collected, and regional challenges and opportunities were identified through extensive public engagement. After initial research and engagement, the focus shifted to shaping actionable goals and strategies. The final stages involved finalizing and adopting the plan.

CAP Steering Committee

Throughout the process, the Climate Resiliency Forum (CRF) played a critical role, fostering stakeholder engagement, addressing challenges, and ensuring that social, economic, and environmental considerations were integrated in the plan. Composed of environmental advocates and regional subject-matter experts, the committee guided the plan's development to ensure it met the needs of the community while promoting long-term sustainability and resilience.

Chapters & Technical Reports

The CAP is organized into six chapters, as defined below. In addition to the final plan, several technical reports were developed alongside the CAP. The topics explored in the technical reports helped shape and inform the plan. These reports explore critical concepts to regional climate action, ranging from greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to public engagement.

The CAP is organized into six chapters, as defined below:

- **Part 1. Introduction:** Details the background and purpose of the plan, including defining climate change and cross-cutting themes of the plan. It also highlights the plan's development process.
- **Part 2. About the Region:** Provides an overview of the Rockford Region, including key demographic, economic, and environmental data, to frame climate action within a regional context.
- **Part 3. Trends and Impacts:** Examines environmental and societal impacts of climate change on global and local scales. It concludes with a discussion of climate change's influences on critical climate sectors.
- **Part 4. Regional Assessment:** Presents the findings of a regional needs and opportunities analysis, which was conducted through public engagement to gain insights on the region's current climate conditions and challenges.
- **Part 5. Strategic Direction:** Introduces the CAP's goals, strategies, and tactics and identifies how the region intends to pursue a sustainable future.
- **Part 6. Looking Forward:** Addresses the framework for implementing and monitoring the plan's strategies and discusses potential challenges and considerations for moving forward.

The CAP technical reports are:

- **Technical Report #1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory:** Quantifies the release of GHG emissions in the Rockford Region. Emissions are monitored from transportation, stationary energy, and solid waste activities.
- **Technical Report #2. Vulnerability Assessment:** Identifies areas within the Rockford Region that are highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat and flooding.
- **Technical Report #3. Social Determinants of Health:** Provides an overview of the relationship between climate change and individual and community health in the Rockford Region.
- **Technical Report #4. SWOT Analysis:** Details the results of a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis, including regional data findings and public input.
- **Technical Report #5. Public & Stakeholder Engagement:** Presents an overview of the public and stakeholder engagement conducted for the CAP.

Goals and Strategies

The CAP sets clear goals and strategies to address regional climate challenges. These goals play a vital role in shaping the Rockford Region's ability to prepare for and respond to climate change equitably over the next 25 years. While the goals focus primarily on regional mitigation and adaptation to climate change, they also address interdisciplinary measures of community wellness impacted by climate change, such as quality of life and economic vitality.

The goals relate to six climate sectors that have been identified as priorities in the Rockford Region due to their vulnerability to climate impacts and their contribution to climate change. The climate sectors comprehensively address all aspects of the region's environment and shape the framework of the CAP, serving as an outline for the goals and strategies. Each goal is attributed to a climate sector, with the exception of Goal 7 that addresses overall community prosperity.



AIR QUALITY

Goal 1. Improve the region's air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Goal 2. Promote strategic and climate-resilient development within the built environment.



ENERGY

Goal 3. Improve energy resilience by advancing clean energy and energy efficiency efforts.



NATURAL & WORKING LANDS

Goal 4. Cultivate a conservation mindset to preserve, restore, and sustainably manage natural and working lands.



WASTE

Goal 5. Promote sustainable waste management practices and technology.



WATER

Goal 6. Support water resource management.




COMMUNITY

Goal 7. Support communities and businesses in preparing for the effects of climate change.

Parking Reimagined – Out for Public Comment

<h3>Parking Reimagined</h3> <p>A plan to transform parking in the Rockford Region over the next 10 years. The plan balances parking needs with economic, environmental, and social community priorities.</p> 		
Public Comment March 12 th – April 11 th The plan will be publicly available on the Parking Reimagined Engage R1 site.	 bit.ly/EngageR1Parking	Project Contact Clara Romeo Sustainability Principal Cromeo@r1planning.org

Livable Communities Initiative – Round 1 Award

<h3>KEITH CREEK LCI</h3> <p>Stay up-to-date on the Round 1 Awardee on Engage R1!</p> 	<p>About LCI Program: r1planning.org/planning/livable-communities-initiative/</p>  <p>PROJECT CONTACT Lauren Kleve, Environmental Planner LKleve@R1planning.org</p> 
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Integrated Water Resource Planning – Request for Proposal

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Regional Water Quality Report



- Increase public understanding of water systems
- Overview of drinking water and surface water quality
- RFPs due April 1, 2025

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

- [Integrated Water Resource Management \(IWRM\)](#) promotes the sustainable and equitable use of water through the coordinated planning of water, land, and other related resources.
- IWRM follows the [One Water](#) approach, which treats all water (stormwater, groundwater, surface waterways, and wastewater) as an interconnected system.


Learn more at:
r1planning.org/planning/water/

Questions? Contact Lauren Kleve

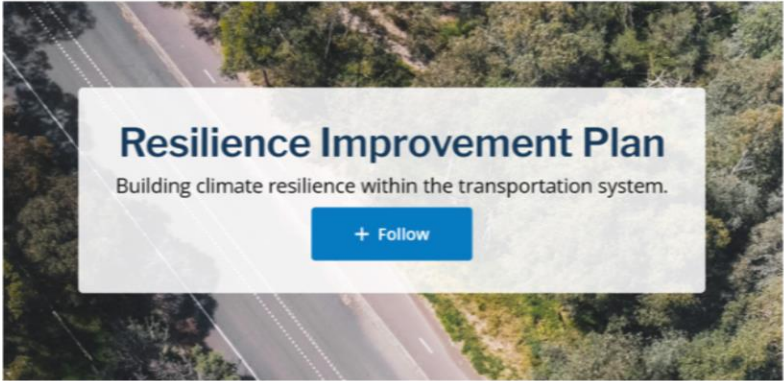


Resilience Improvement Plan – Public Survey

Share the public survey.



Stay informed and take the survey on Engage R1!



PROJECT CONTACT
Lauren Kleve,
Environmental Planner
LKleve@R1planning.org

