

## Looking Forward

- Develop and start implementing the City's first Zero Waste Master Plan.
- Advance vehicle electrification by continuing to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and promoting the purchases of EVs for the City's municipal fleet.
- Develop Watershed Management Plans and implement water quality improvement projects for the Lakes and Ponds Program.
- Support implementation of the Now | Next Plan recommendations with an emphasis on sustainability, mobility, health and equity.
- Implement green infrastructure projects identified in the 2024 Drainage and Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Invest in expanding the City's urban forest in alignment with the Urban Forest Master Plan.
- Collaborate with the Department of Transportation and Mobility to assist with implementation of the Mobility Action Plan.

Achieving the Green Worcester Plan goals requires a community-wide effort!

From waste reduction and home energy efficiency to nurturing newly planted trees, there's a role for everyone in creating a greener future together.

**The Green Worcester Plan was developed in 2020 through collaboration between city staff, residents, and other community stakeholders.**

**The City's Department of Sustainability & Resilience and the Green Worcester Advisory Committee were established as stewards of the plan.**

**For more information about the plan and how you can help out, please visit our website.**

[worcesterma.gov/sustainability-resilience](https://worcesterma.gov/sustainability-resilience)

[greenworchester@worcesterma.gov](mailto:greenworchester@worcesterma.gov)

(508) 799-8324



## The Green Worcester Plan

A strategic framework for making Worcester one of the most sustainable and climate-resilient mid-sized cities in America by 2050



**GREEN  
WORCESTER**

COMMUNITY | RESILIENCE | SUSTAINABILITY





**We are already on our way to a more resilient & sustainable Worcester**

## Early Plan Accomplishments

# Green Worcester Plan Goals

### ★ 100% Clean and Affordable Energy

- By 2030: 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities.
- By 2035: 100% renewable electricity citywide.
- By 2045: 100% renewable energy that includes heating and transportation.

### ★ Connected Green and Blue Spaces with Healthy Natural Systems

Maintain, improve, connect, and expand quality natural systems in a linked network of parks, open spaces, and water bodies, including street trees and public spaces.

### ★ Net Zero and Climate Resilient Buildings

Require new buildings to be net zero and climate-resilient, and promote deep energy retrofits of existing buildings.

### ★ Sustainable Transportation Choices

Provide safe, convenient, and comfortable pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation networks and transition to vehicles powered by renewable electricity.

### ★ Zero Waste

Implement a plan to prevent – reduce – reuse – compost – and recycle waste.

### ★ One Water: Integrated Water Management

Manage drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater as one resource; increase the use of natural green infrastructure to manage stormwater and to avoid flooding.

### ★ Sustainable Local Food Systems

Ensure that residents have access to food that is sustainably-produced, locally-sourced, healthy, affordable, and culturally-appropriate.

### ★ Pollution Prevention

Ensure that residents breathe healthy indoor and outdoor air and are not exposed to contaminated soils and toxic products.

### ★ Climate Change Resilience

Make the city resilient to climate change impacts, such as extreme storms, flooding, and heat.

### ★ Sustainability, Resilience, and Green Education in All Policies

Implement integrated sustainability and resilience policies for land use, transportation, housing, and economic development – while making Worcester the regional center for sustainability education and training for green jobs.

- Adoption of the new MA Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code (effective in July 2024) which promotes building electrification.
- Received a MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant to plant two Miyawaki Forests in 2024. These pocket forests, known for reducing heat and flooding, are the first of their kind in the City.
- Launched in 2023, the Smart Energy Advice program promotes home energy efficiency improvements with a focus on reaching underserved populations.
- Achieved a 13% decrease in citywide carbon emissions between 2009 - 2023, due to energy efficiency work and the Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation Program.
- A city-wide extreme heat study was completed in 2022 and outlined where resilience solutions are most needed. A key recommendation from the study is to add 35,000 trees to our tree canopy by 2050.

