

OAKLAND COUNTY 2020 CLIMATE, JOBS, AND JUSTICE PLATFORM

CLIMATE CHANGE

Oakland County will create a sustainability office; it will conduct an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions amounts and sources, both those by county facilities/operations and those by all sources within the county.

Oakland County will commit to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from county facilities and operations by 2030, and will establish a plan to accomplish this using renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Oakland County will commit to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by all sources within the county by 2050, and will work with other governments, utilities, businesses and residents to achieve this goal. The county will work to replace all fossil fuels with renewable energy

sources, energy conservation and energy storage to meet demand.

The county will establish a climate resilience plan to counter the effects of climate change, including provision of affordable clean water, heat relief for all who need it and prevention of stormwater flooding.

The County will establish a plan to support the development of green businesses, green jobs and green job training, particularly in areas with the most need. The sustainability office will consult with labor unions, advocates and low-income communities to manage the transition to net-zero greenhouse gases, and to develop policies to maximize the quality, quantity and access to new, low-carbon and green jobs.

TRANSIT & TRANSPORTATION

Oakland County will work to expand and fully fund public transportation, bike trails and other low-carbon shared use mobility with a goal of providing everyone in the county access to sustainable mobility options.

Oakland County will create a comprehensive plan to link Woodward Avenue to each nearby community through bike, bus and walkability infrastructure. This will allow a seamless, low-carbon alternative to driving across much of Oakland County, incorporating multiple non-motorized forms of transportation along with transit.

Oakland County will make Woodward Avenue a model for efficient, affordable electrified rapid transit linking all communities along it. Oakland County will encourage higher density, transit-oriented development adjacent to Woodward Avenue

that minimizes the need for personal cars.

Transportation systems will be modernized to be convenient and easy for anyone to utilize, allowing for at-stop ticket purchasing, credit card use, and real time updates.

Oakland County will develop grant and incentive programs in conjunction with state policy to help enable more shared use mobility and create a network of charging stations supporting electric vehicles.

Oakland County will put a moratorium on widening roads until a local funding plan for their long-term maintenance is in place. Oakland County will push the Michigan Department of Transportation to create high-occupancy vehicle lanes on I-75 and other major highways to discourage wasteful single-occupancy vehicle travel.



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ENERGY JUSTICE

Energy justice ensures that all citizens of the county benefit equally in the low-emission economy (environmentally and economically) and have the opportunity and resources available to them so that no worker or community is left behind as a result of these goals and policies.

Oakland County will work with stakeholders to increase participation of low-income neighbor-

hoods in energy efficiency programs.

Oakland County will advocate at the state level for policies that compel utilities to increase their investments in low-income neighborhoods according to need. The sustainability office will intervene, when needed, in cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission.

CLEAN WATER

Oakland County will commit to securing funding to replace all lead service lines in Oakland County, pursuant to the regulations laid out in Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule. The county will pledge to meet timelines for replacement, working on the most vulnerable customers first and foremost.

Once state law is updated, Oakland County will require all cities and townships within the George W. Kuhn Basin to have stormwater utilities, and will incentivize conservation and require the heaviest users to pay a fair rate for their usage. The utilities will be conscious of vulnerable constituencies and design their operation to minimize impacts on those users.

Oakland County will require government properties to use at least 50% native plants and provide additional financial incentives to homeowners

who use native plantings in green infrastructure projects, facilitating the development of urban wildlife corridors.

Oakland County will continue to press the state to pass a statewide sanitary code that would require regular inspections of septic systems, and include funding to help low-income homeowners with inspections, repairs and replacements.

If the state fails to pass a sanitary code, Oakland County will pass a countywide code that can act as a model for the state to follow.

Oakland County will advocate for adequate funding to ensure inspection and cleanup of toxic sites. The county will be proactive in the identification and subsequent action to minimize the potential for damage from toxic sites. Polluters will be obliged to finance the costs of cleanup.

DEMOCRATIC ACCESS

Protection of the environment requires the protection of the democratic process. Oakland County will commit itself to the expansion of the voting franchise, helping to ensure voters have access to the ballot and that registration is hassle-free. Whenever necessary, the county will oppose undemocratic practices such as partisan gerrymandering and roadblocks to full democratic participation.

Oakland County will establish clerk relations to help with poll worker staffing, identify

accessibility and capacity needs in consideration of fulfilling the rights enshrined in proposal three (of 2018).

Oakland County will work with partners (i.e. ACLU, etc.) to conduct 'know your rights' workshops and other voter education events, targeting issues of education and accessibility pieces in low-income and higher people of color neighborhoods for the purpose of registering voters and collecting permanent absentee ballot sign-ups.

