

### CAP Implementation

- Decide between a CAP with a highly detailed implementation strategy or a general CAP to establish consensus and to set long-term goals followed by a separate strategy document.
- Consider the issue of CAP implementation to generally be a matter of accountability and funding.
- Work to strengthen and continue broad-based political support for a CAP in Northfield, particularly at the highest levels of local government.
- Identify and associate a specific agency/department in the city's government with a specific task as the first step of CAP implementation. Only the specific tied to the specific becomes actionable.
- Institutionalize CAP implementation by exposing city staff members to the logic of and rationale for the CAP (advertise the ratification of the CAP throughout city government, update job descriptions to include responsibilities the CAP adds, keep staff informed on progress of CAP implementation, etc.)
- Give the CAP some legal teeth by integrating it into the city's comprehensive plan. We cover this recommendation in detail in the paper.
- Include a variety of funding sources tied to a source of funding with considerations for future changes. Organize projects and funding sources in general categories by their function. Ex. Transportation, Housing.
- Engage stakeholders throughout the processes of drafting and implementation.
- Create a Sustainable Revolving Fund similar to that of Carleton College. This would provide an specific, ongoing, and dedicated source of funding.
- Institute an annual review process for funding. Setting priorities and confirming funding on a regular basis aids proper implementation. Several avenues for possible funding are explored further within our paper.

### Communication and Public Engagement

- The following two strategies should be incorporated in everything that Northfield does for communication and public engagement.
  - Identify stakeholders so that meetings and announcements can more effectively target specific groups.
  - Incorporate equity (Spanish-speaking, low-income, and disabled populations). We recommend printing material in both Spanish and English, for both non-English speakers and for those who do not have access to a computer. We also suggest developing an equity working group.

- Hold meetings and public hearings that are both formal and informal and offer them at a variety of times in order to maximize attendance.
- Send out announcements and updates throughout the development of the CAP and the decision making processes so that residents can become more involved and stay up to date.
- Publicize multiple drafts of the CAP with surveys and events to facilitate feedback throughout the process.

### Existing Buildings

#### **Energy Efficiency**

- Develop energy efficiency and benchmarking education materials
- Track neighborhood energy use with Xcel's Partner in Energy program
- Mandate by ordinance home energy ratings when homes are sold or periodically for rental properties
- Provide new homeowners with educational material on energy efficiency and financial opportunities for energy efficiency renovations
- Add stricter energy efficiency requirements for majorly renovated buildings

#### **Flood Mitigation and Preparedness**

- Offer a rebate or tax credit to the Stormwater Utility Fee for the adoption of flood management tactics with different sized incentives provided based on the quality of the practice.
- Subsidize audits for green roofs.
- Offer low interest loans for expensive projects with longer economic returns like green roofs.
- Require permits for all developments that increase the amount of impervious surfaces.
- Charge homeowners for each square foot of impervious surface added.
- Offer tax credits to homeowners for each square foot of impervious surface reduced.
- In the long term, Implement a Green Factor scoring system that offers points for storm water management practices and mandates a minimum point amount.
- Improve education related to storm water management practices by providing information regarding how specifically to implement the practice.

- Run an art contest in Northfield schools to promote storm water management.
- Form an inter-municipal committee that meets monthly to collaborate on storm water mitigation issues.
- Apply for funding from FEMA and the MNDNR.
- Increase the Stormwater Utility Fee.
- Commission a new floodplain map from FEMA.
- Commission a new, unofficial floodplain map.
- Include plans for the implementation of goals in the 2018 Stormwater Management Plan.

### New Buildings

- Enact energy-use disclosure agreements for high energy intensive buildings or buildings over a specified amount of interior floor space.
- Require energy-use disclosure prior to any sale, rent or purchase of residential or commercial buildings
- Discuss with local utility providers possible procedures to acquire energy use disclosures of their customers in case of participant failure of the populace
- Enact a fine for the failure of disclosing energy use when necessitated
- Begin measurement of carbon emissions produced by northfield and include the embodied energy, or energy and carbon produced from processed material, of building construction material
- Organize a committee to implement a carbon budget
  - The committee should engage with localities to best strategies ways in which to reduce carbon emissions, particularly in building design and construction material
  - The committee should attempt to contact tradesman associations that specialize in construction and urban planning to further strategize

### Transportation and Mode-shifting

#### **School-level**

- Safe Routes to School teams should be implemented at each school to assess and reassess school safety and serve as guides and resources for planning of future implementations

- Long-term and consistent participation in ATS programs, such as Walk to School Day
- Increased education on bike and pedestrian safety for parents, staff, and students
- Establishing drop-off and pick-up policies at all schools

### **City-level**

- School-specific infrastructure changes based on recommendations from the 2009 SRTS study conducted in Northfield

### Distributed Renewables

- Create a webpage for solar investment, and include permitting, codes, financing, and incentives
- Transition municipal buildings through more CSG subscription, on-site installations, or Xcel programs
- Use a public installation to advertise RE options and as an educational opportunity for students
- Create revolving fund using savings from RE investments
- Install a microgrid in new development area connecting the hospital, St. Olaf, and Three Links

### Personal Behavior

- Promote the weatherization of homes in Northfield.
- Upgrade home appliances so they are more energy efficient.
- Upgrade HVAC equipment in homes to be more energy efficient.
- Implement a car sharing program in partnership with Enterprise in Northfield. This could also include expanding the current program at Carleton.
- Implement a bike sharing program for the City of Northfield.
- Promote more awareness of walking by providing maps and other tools to residents, in addition to talking about the health benefits associated with walking.
- Expand the current composting program run by Curbside Composting.

- Continue to support and expand existing programs in Northfield, including the rain garden and rain barrel rebate programs.
- Develop educational materials and programs to develop a public awareness of how individuals and households play a role in climate change..

#### Private Sector

- We recommend that Northfield encourage businesses to adopt environmentally preferable purchasing programs and seek the Green Globes certification. Such encouragement should be facilitated through incentives, which are explored in detail in this paper.
- We recommend that the City educate businesses about the various financing opportunities that already exist like PACE. Moreover, we recommend that Northfield expand the scope of its current revolving funds to include energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.
- Northfield should conduct an outreach program so that the City can educate local businesses about the various financing programs already available for ‘green’ upgrades. In the short run, the City should send contact information of businesses to state and federal agencies to contact about various opportunities. In the long run, however, the City should conduct an education event for business owner to attend and learn.
- City should adopt a certification program to encourage businesses to partake in the climate change mitigation effort. Specifically, this certification program should have its standards based on mitigation practices recommended by GreenStep.
- We recommend that the City institute a faster permitting process for businesses that are green building certified. This process allows constructions with green standards to proceed quicker. Thus, new building in Northfield will be predominantly energy efficient.