



# ELPC CLIMATE CITIES INITIATIVE

Grand Rapids, Michigan (Population: 198,829)

## Climate Action Commitment

Grand Rapids' Sustainability Plan was adopted in 2006 and updated in 2017. The City has committed to operating all municipal buildings with 100% renewable electricity by 2025 and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 25% by 2021, as compared to 2009 levels. The City also wants to ensure the production, conversion, and renovation of committed affordable housing remains on target with goals to reduce GHG emissions.

## Key Strategies

### Renewable Energy



- **Water Systems solar:** In 2012, the City of Grand Rapids installed 429 solar panels on their Oak Industrial Drive Water Systems Administration building. The \$500,000 project was half funded by a federal grant and installed by Inovateus Solar. Estimated payback is 8 years and life expectancy is 30 years.
- **Butterworth Landfill:** The City is evaluating a solar array on the Butterworth Landfill, a superfund site located near downtown Grand Rapids.
- **Circuit West:** Envisioned as an "energy district," this neighborhood west of downtown Grand Rapids is planned to house an array of rooftop solar panels and battery storage facility. The panels generate between .5 to 1 MW.

### Building Efficiency



- **Zero Net Carbon Building Project** - The city is in a three-year project developing "a roadmap toward a zero net carbon building sector by 2050." Zero net carbon buildings produce energy on-site, or they procure enough carbon-free renewable energy to meet the building operations' energy consumption
- The project is a collaboration of several national organizations: Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Architecture 2030, Center for Social Inclusion, Movement Strategy Center, New Buildings Institute, and Resource Media.

### Electric Vehicles



- **EVs:** Indiana Michigan Power, Consumers Energy, and DTE Energy offer a special time-of-use rate option to residential customers who own a qualified PEV. DTE Energy also provides a flat rate option for \$45.65 per month for each PEV.
- **EV Charging:** 9 stations. Grand Rapids' zoning ordinance incentivizes developers to install charging stations by giving a parking bonus for each EV charging site developed: "[Electric vehicle spaces] may count as four (4) regular parking spaces. Electric car spaces shall include a charging outlet for use by the parked car..." (Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zoning Ordinance §5.10.05.B.2 Alternative Vehicles)

\*This information is accurate, to the best of our ability, as of May 2019. Please notify us of errors or updates at [climatecities@elpc.org](mailto:climatecities@elpc.org)