WELCOMETOTHE



2025 Winter Institute



Building Your Efficiency Toolbox: Strategies to create a plan, take action, bring in funds, and measure results







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Agenda

It Starts With a Baseline

• Leverage Data to Share Impact

A Solid Foundation

 Council-Manager Relationship Development

Blueprint for Success

• Adaptable Plan Template

The Toolbox/ Q&A

• Resources and Discussion



Leveraging Data to Share Impact



Michelle
Consulting Services
Program Manager





The Basics of Benchmarking

Baseline: Energy use and cost for a facility over a period of time (typically 1 year)

Benchmark: tracking facility energy use and comparing it against a similar timeframe and similar facilities

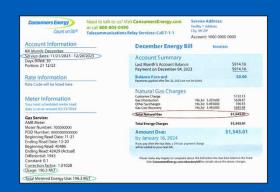
Goal

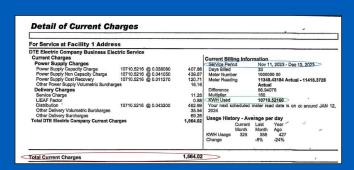
- <u>Leverage</u> data
- Make <u>informed</u> decisions
- Share impact of energy efficiency



Building a Baseline

- Decide on a time frame
- Collect utility bills from this period
- Log the data using monthly intervals
- **Save** the results to compare future data against





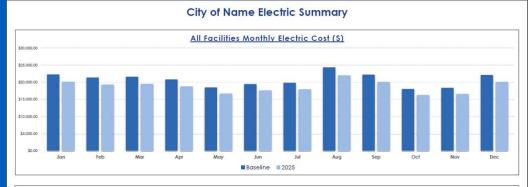
City of Name Facility Electric Usage (kWh)														
Facility 1 Name (Street Address)	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	Total
Actual/Estimate	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	A	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	A	Α	
Start date	12/15/2022	1/13/2023	2/14/2023	3/15/2023	4/15/2023	5/16/2023	6/15/2023	7/15/2023	8/15/2023	9/14/2023	10/13/2023	11/11/2023	12/14/2023	
End Date	1/12/2023	2/13/2023	3/14/2023	4/14/2023	5/15/2023	6/14/2023	7/14/2023	8/14/2023	9/13/2023	10/12/2023	11/10/2023	12/13/2023	1/12/2024	1 !
Days billed	28	31	28	30	30	29	29	30	29	28	28	32	29	
kWh	22,150	20,101	21,186	20,986	20,059	19,435	21,255	23,967	23,321	20,764	20,531	28,369	21,967	284,091
Cost	\$3,765.50	\$3,417.17	\$3,601.62	\$3,567.62	\$3,410.03	\$3,303.95	\$3,613.35	\$4,074.39	\$3,964.57	\$3,529.88	\$3,490.27	\$4,822.73	\$3,734.39	\$48,295.47

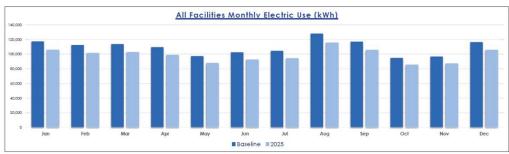


Tracking & Monitoring

- Include your **Baseline**
- Log your utility bills monthly
- Review and look for patterns
- Consider changes in operations, the weather, and facility improvements





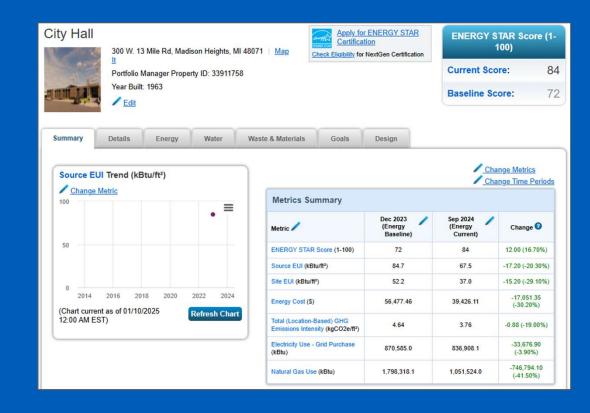


Baseline Stats						2025 Stats					
Total Electric Use (kWh)	Total Electric Cost	Avg Electric Use Per Day (kWh)	Avg Electric Cost Per Day	Highest Use Month (kWh)	Highest Cost Month	Total Electric Use	Total Bectric Cost	Avg Electric Use Per Day	Avg Electric Cost Per Day	Highest Use Month (kWh)	Highest Cost Month
1,310,151	\$248,928.76	3379.41	\$642.09	128,020.37	\$24,323.87	1,184,163.93	\$224,991.15	3,362	\$638.69	115,681	\$21,979.41

Digging Deeper for Insights

- Energy Star Portfolio Manager
 - Rolling 12-month view
 - Certification
- Energy Audits
- Additional assistance and custom reports





A Solid Foundation:

Council-Manager Relationship Strategy



Melissa Marsh
City Manager





A Solid Foundation Identify Your Champions

Start with what you have

- Commissions, Committees, etc.
- Small wins build momentum

Leverage your cheerleaders

- Members of internal and external groups
- Assign activities to build on

Encourage **participation** from everyone

- Define how actions align and contribute to strategic priorities
- Everyone has a role and can contribute



A Solid Foundation

Finding Alignment

- Connect the dots
 - How does this action or project support current initiatives and contribute to them
- Become empowered to act quickly
- Focus on solution potential
 - Define how this can solve a problem or provide value
- Quantify the benefits
 - Share relevant metrics that build your case and the positive outcomes



A Solid Foundation

Coalition Building and Partners

Identify a partner to fill in technical gaps

- Define the gaps and where they can help
 Funding or grants may be available to support it

Band together with your **neighbors**

- Build bridges using community-based groups and non-profits
- Join and support initiatives across jurisdictions

Use the tools and support that are publicly available

- Michigan Green Communities
- EGLE
- Oakland County



Blueprint for Success:

Adaptable Plan Template



Shanna Draheim Director, Policy Research Labs





Blueprint for Success: Michigan Green Communities



What is MGC?



A sustainability benchmarking, networking, & technical assistance program for municipalities & counties



Accelerate environmentally sustainable actions by communities to enhance Michigan's livability & economic competitiveness in the 21st century global green economy



Participation Benefits

- Free technical assistance
- Access to a peer network
- Easily create a roadmap of sustainability actions that work for your community





MGC Challenge Categories

- 1. Planning for Inclusive & Lasting Impacts
- 2. Climate Resilience & Adaptation
- 3. Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- 4. Responsibly Managing Materials
- 5. Sustainable Land Use & Economic Development
- 6. Improving Health Outcomes
- 7. Protecting & Conserving Water Resources
- 8. Support Clean & Inclusive Mobility
- 9. Inspire & Mobilize Residents

CATALYST C MMUNITIES



Blueprint for Success:

Sustainability Plan Toolkit





Internal Sustainability Work Plan

MS Excel

Public-facing Sustainability Plan

MS Word

One-page Factsheet/progress Report

- Canva
- MS Word

User Guide

MS Word

Blueprint for Success: Templates to build a Plan



Action 1: Establish an internal sustainability team, made up of staff from different departments, to coordinate municipal sustainability initiatives

Sustainability initiatives span multiple departments, creating a need for greater collaboration and coordination across (city, county, or lownship) government. The Planning and Economic Development Department will be responsible for establishing and facilitating this working group; the departments listed below will be responsible for contributing staff time to the group.

Staff Lead	Priority Level	Impact Level	Timeline
City Planner	High	Medium	September 2023 – May 2024

Action	Impact
Develop a climate adaptation and resiliency plan in collaboration with the community.	***
Track energy use for all municipal buildings using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.	***
Update Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to include future municipal renewable energy projects.	***
Provide access to information about community recycling programs through the municipal website, local media, social media, or other outreach mechanisms.	**
Conduct a community-wide brownfield audit of public- and privately-owned properties.	★☆☆

Community Data Profile

The Community Data Profile includes demographic data about [city/county/township name], with a focus on residents and geographic areas that may be more vulnerable to environmental hazards. The data below is from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, Neighborhoods at Risk data mapping tool, and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool [add additional sources if any others were used].

Why is it important to think about social vulnerability? Some residents may be more affected by environmental hazards (e.g., less able to recover after a flood) and some may face barriers to accessing sustainability opportunities (e.g., upfront costs of energy efficiency). By understanding who these residents and communities are, the [city/county/township] can better design projects, plans, and policies to ensure that they benefit from sustainability investments.

[Fill out the yellow boxes in the Social Vulnerability and Climate Exposure tables with data from the Community Profile in your MGC Excel template workplan. See the Excel template for instructions on accessing the data from Headwaters Economics' Neighborhoods at Risk tool.]

	Social Vul	nerability			
	[City/Towr	nship Name]	[County Name]		
Population	ins	ert#	insert#		
Families in poverty	insert#	insert %	insert#	insert %	
Housing units that are rentals					
People of color					
Households with no car					
Children under 5 years					
People over 65 years					
People with disabilities					
People without health insurance					

Establish Your Team

• Across All Departments

Define Your **Priority** Actions

Rate Their Impact

Create a Community **Profile**

- Demographic Information
- Enviornmental Hazards
- Climate Exposure
- Economic Barriers
- Risk Analysis





Goal Statement:	Enter energy goal statement here.		
Catalyst Con	nmunities Energy Resources		User Guide
CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORIES & DESCRIPTIONS		ACTION ITEMS
ergy	Benchmark & Track	1	Conduct energy audits on municipal facilities.
Enc	Identify your municipality's energy use and track it over time, noting both your		Adopt decarbonization targets for municipal operations and facilities.
ole .	achievements and areas for improvement.	3	Track energy use for all municipal buildings using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.
wak	Fund Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy		Implement an internal revolving loan fund, or similar financing tool, for municipal energy projects.
Rene	Encourage the deployment of public and private renewable energy projects by establishing financing tools that lower the	5	Implement a public financing or grant program to support community energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
8 8	cost burden for implementing renewable energy projects.	6	Ensure equitable access to any/all energy efficiency and renewable energy financing and grant program(s).
ency	Renewable Energy Deployment Increase the use of renewable energy in your municipal buildings and public spaces.		Update 6-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) or Asset Management Plans to include current or future municipal renewable energy project(s).
Effici			Adopt policies and/or ordinances that support renewable energy projects on private property (e.g., solar/wind ordinance, renewable energy overlay zones, expedited permitting).
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy			Implement at least one new renewable energy project (e.g., solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, wind, district heating/cooling systems, biodigesters, biomass, or energy storage system) on public buildings/property in the last year.

Excel Template

Action Category Tabs

• Align with GCC Categories and Action Items

Planning Columns

- Team/Staff Responsible
- Specific tasks
- Timelines
- Funding Sources
- Notes
- Challenges

The Toolbox:

Resources/ Q&A

Questions & Answers

Resources available through Google Drive:

- Tip Sheet and Links to Online Resources
 - o EGLE
 - o Catalyst Communities
 - o Energy Star Portfolio Manager
 - o Michigan Green Communities Sustainability Plan Template
- Downloadable Templates
 - o Simple Energy Baseline and Monitoring Spreadsheet
 - o Sample Complete Baseline Report
 - o Michigan Green Communities Sustainability Toolkit
- Presentation Slides









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