



COOK COUNTY **SUSTAINABILITY** REPORT

2020



Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability

www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/environmental-control

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Dear Cook County Resident,

I am pleased to present Cook County's Annual 2020 Sustainability Report, which outlines the County's efforts to support healthy and resilient communities that thrive economically, socially and environmentally.

Equity played a vital role in the County's work in 2020. Our residents who live on the south and west sides do not have the same life expectancy as their neighbors to the north and in the heart of the City. These underserved communities continue to be at the forefront of our work to create a more sustainable and equitable Cook County. A few highlights of this work include:



- Releasing Cook County's Clean Energy Plan that details the path to fight climate change by ensuring that County-owned buildings are carbon neutral by 2050 and using 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030. Fighting climate change helps under-resourced areas and communities of color who are disproportionately at-risk to heat waves, flooding, poor air quality and greater likelihood of new diseases due to existing social, economic and health inequities.
- Launching the Fair Transit pilot program, which reduces fares up to 50 percent on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines and enhances service on Pace's 352 Halsted route. This project will allow residents in south Cook, some of whom now spend half their income on transportation, to save time and money on public transportation while reducing pollution from automobiles.
- Helping fund community bike and pedestrian path improvements, kicking off a Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Program to help communities clean up polluted land and getting sites back on the tax rolls as well as launching the Cook County Solar Schools Program are additional accomplishments featured in this year's sustainability report.

Fighting climate change and creating a cleaner environment ultimately helps relieve the burdens our underserved communities face. I am grateful for the progress the County has made to create a more sustainable environment for future generations to live long, healthy lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Toni Preckwinkle'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board

Helped

45



Cook County homeowners install solar through Solarize Chicagoland

Clean Energy Plan



A reduction in carbon emissions by **45%** by **2030**

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's Clean Energy Plan outlines goals to achieve carbon neutrality and renewable electricity for County facilities. The County will address climate change as quickly as possible, provide new renewable energy and local jobs, create resilient communities and make reliable and cost-conscious investments.



Achieving carbon neutrality by **2050**



100% renewable electricity by **2030**



Trained County electricians on solar installation and maintenance



Launched Cook County Conserve Pledge



Sign up here:
www.cookcountyil.gov/conservcook



Upgraded LED streetlights in **Harvey** and **Blue Island** through Department of Planning and Development pilot program

\$8,500,000

Granted 30 municipalities for transportation projects through Invest in Cook. 15 projects are focused on bicycle and pedestrian path improvements. Approximately 70% of Invest in Cook funding is directed towards projects in low and moderate income communities to create equal access to opportunity.



Drafting a Green Fleet Policy for County vehicles

Forest Preserves of Cook County restored **925** acres of newly acquired land to the highest level of ecological health



Brownfield Redevelopment:

The Village of Bellwood received the County's first loan to clean up a contaminated site so it can be put back into productive use while protecting residents' health. This funding allows a former gas station and auto repair site to become new housing that will help keep growing families in the Village.



Clean Energy Financing



The Bureau of Economic Development is launching a **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)** financing tool to positively impact the bottom line of businesses, create local jobs, preserve building stock and help the environment. Eligible property owners will have access to low-cost, long-term funding for clean energy, energy efficiency and water conservation projects.



Launched the Cook County Solar Schools Grant program

Received a National Association of Counties 2020 Achievement award for the County's employee energy efficiency behavior change program



Equity

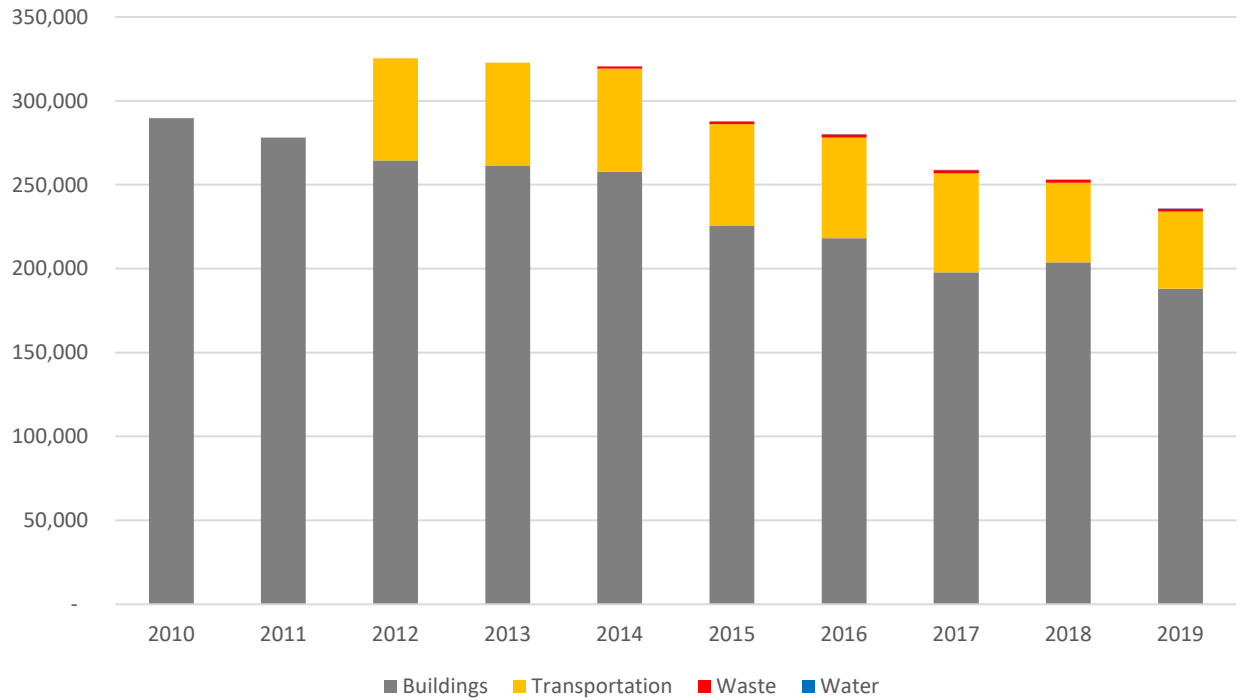
The County sponsored Seven Generation Ahead's GreenTown: Climate Crisis, a two-day virtual conference focused on finding sustainable solutions to **create equitable, accessible and healthy communities** in the context of climate change. Plenary speakers included President Preckwinkle and Jacqueline Patterson, Senior Director of NAACP's Environmental and Climate Justice Program.

Fair Transit South Cook

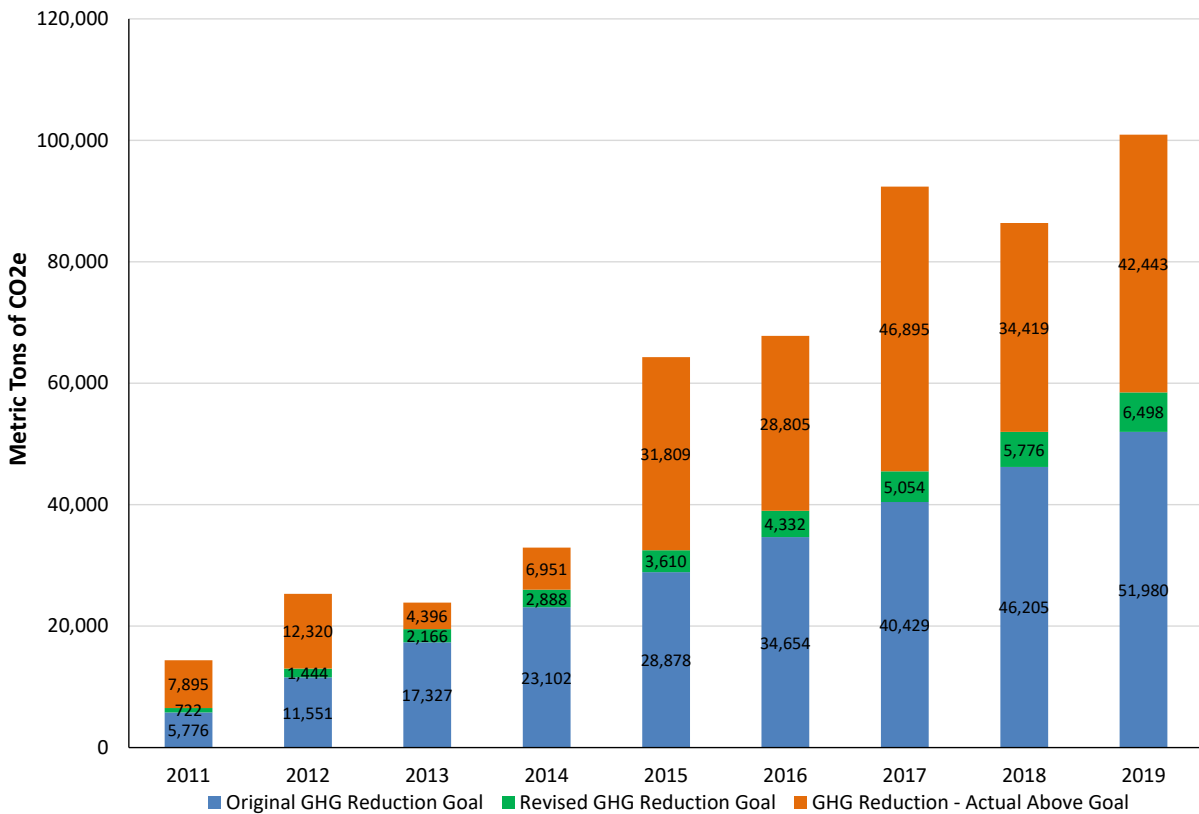


Launched a three-year pilot project that reduced fares up to 50% on Metra Electric and Rock Island lines as well as PACES's 352 Halsted Route for South Cook residents

METRIC TONS CO2E EMITTED FROM COUNTY OPERATIONS



TOTAL BUILDING GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION FROM 2010 BASELINE



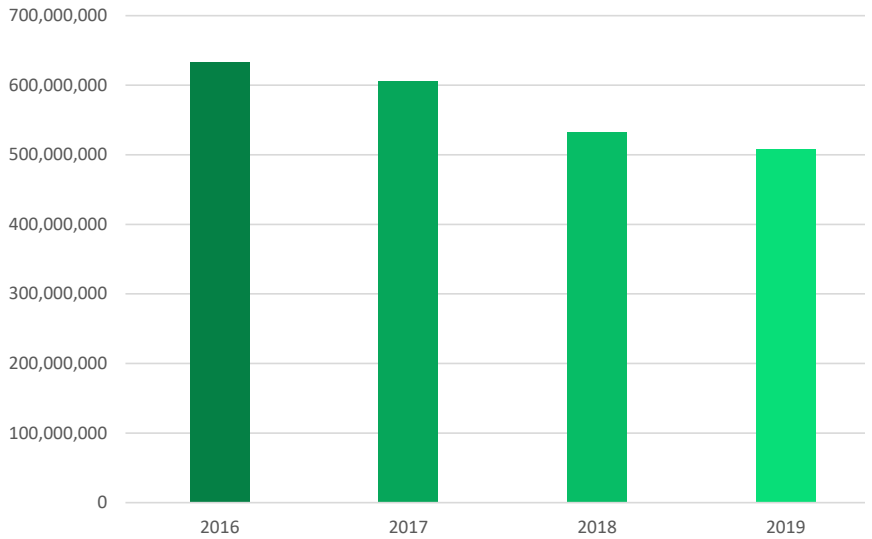
Overall County emissions

↓ **6.8%**
since last year



Reductions were made in overall County GHG emissions, County building emissions, transportation emissions and total water use.

THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF WATER USED IN COOK COUNTY FACILITIES 2016-2019



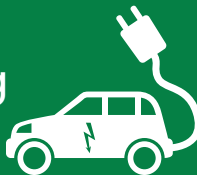
County building GHG emissions

↓ **7.7%**
since last year

↓ **35.1%**
since 2010



Our EV charging stations



Avoided CO₂e emissions =
Charging **260,676**
smart phones



County Building water usage



↓ **4.5%**
since last year

County transportation emissions



↓ **3.2%**
since last year

↓ **24.6%**
since 2012

ANNUAL UPDATES FROM CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

| Immediate (<1 year) | Completed | In Progress | Not Started |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| RFP for strategic energy procurement including bidding at the lowest prices while incorporating renewable energy procurement in these decisions | X | | |
| Finalize RFP for a turnkey solar solution for Skokie and Markham Courthouses and Cicero Records Center | | X | |
| Adopt and publish Green Buildings Standards for performance-based design, solar ready buildings and sustainability measures | X | | |
| Continuing education for Cook County Department of Facilities Management Employees on solar installation and upkeep | X | | |
| Issue an RFP for in-depth building audits and energy modeling for each facility in the proposal. | | X | |
| Verify all meter readings are accurate and up-to-date with the utility companies | | X | |
| Building Automation System upgrades and fault detection and diagnostics integration | | X | |
| Finalize roof age list and work with the Department of Capital Planning and Policy to develop a roof replacement schedule | | X | |
| Incorporate Green Buildings Standards into all new leases, development projects, and Capital Improvement Plan projects | | X | |
| Explore the potential of off-site renewable energy owned by the County, power purchase agreement from off-site renewables | | X | |
| Put a process in place to provide annual progress on the Plan | X | | |

ANNUAL UPDATES FROM CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

| Short Term (1-5 years) | Completed | In Progress | Not Started |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Develop a building-by-building energy efficiency upgrade list. Include estimated costs and upgrade schedules. | | | X |
| Update the current LEED ordinance for new construction and major renovations of Cook County owned and leased properties. | | X | |
| Work with the ComEd energy efficiency program to select and implement a monitoring-based retro-commissioning project on a selected buildings. | | X | |
| Roof replacements at Markham, Rolling Meadows and Bridgeview Courthouses (the Triplets) | | | X |
| Begin solar installations at Markham, Rolling Meadows and Bridgeview Courthouses | | | X |
| Begin solar installation at Cicero warehouse | | | X |
| Develop a policy and strategy for submetering by department | | | X |
| Develop a strategy to reduce transportation emissions from Cook County operations and to transition away from fossil fueled vehicles | | X | |
| Assess opportunities for community solar either on site with the County as an anchor subscriber or through subscription only | | | X |
| Analyze and integrate battery storage to support renewable energy developments | | | X |

| Intermediate (5-10 years) | Completed | In Progress | Not Started |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Implement submetering by department | | | X |
| Complete phased roof replacement and solar installation for County facilities | | | X |
| Procure RECs to cover the remainder of the County's electricity use | | X | |

| Long Term (10+ years) | Completed | In Progress | Not Started |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Conduct a thermal decarbonization analysis to adjust how heating and cooling energy is used to effectively move away from fossil fuels by switching from remaining natural gas (fossil fuel) equipment to electric mechanical equipment. | | | X |
| Switch fuel use away from natural gas to electric equipment based on analysis of equipment as it becomes time for replacement/retrofit | | | X |
| Install portfolio solar rooftops where feasible and accessible as rooftops are replaced | | | X |
| Integrate a Microgrid on DOC Campus | | | X |

Cook County Green Leadership Team
Appointed by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle

Lanetta Haynes Turner

Chief of Staff, Chair

Elizabeth Granato

Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Asset Management

Tom Lynch

Chief Information Officer

Tanya Anthony

Chief Administration Officer

Ammar Rizki

Chief Financial Officer

Xochitl Flores

Chief, Bureau of Economic Development

Deborah Stone

Chief Sustainability Officer

Robert Sumter

Interim Chief Financial Officer, Cook County Health

Our thanks to the many County employees
who contributed to this report, especially:

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Bureau of Administration

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Department of Planning and Development

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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President

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2nd District

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