



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

124 W. Michigan Avenue – Ninth Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

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MEDIA CONTACT: Valerie Marchand
517-230-4904

Lansing Announces First Climate Action Plan for City Operations and Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Sustainability

(LANSING) – Mayor Andy Schor today announced that the City of Lansing has released its first Climate Action Plan for City operations. As a part of the plan, Mayor Schor has issued an Executive Order to establish and create the Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Sustainability, who will help guide the City in its climate action and sustainability efforts. The goals of the plan include reducing the City’s carbon impact, increasing energy efficiency, reducing waste and looking at other areas that lead to long-term operational savings, while protecting the natural environment.

“In my vision 2030 plan, I emphasized the importance of increasing sustainability efforts throughout the city and implementing Lansing’s Climate Action Plan for internal operations is just the start of this important work. We’re committing to creating and maintaining sustainable practices in all City operations, services, planning, design, construction, transportation, fleet and building maintenance,” said Mayor Schor. “I look forward to receiving additional input and recommendations from members of my newly-established Commission on Sustainability.”

In addition to the Executive Order, Mayor Schor signed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), which is an international alliance of more than 10,000 cities. The GCoM serves as a method of accountability to ensure that the City of Lansing is remaining committed to promoting and implementing sustainability within the community, as well as the objectives outlined in the Paris Agreement. Some of the principles of the GCom include efforts to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, develop a plan of action to combat climate change, increase sustainable energy and track the progress that results from these actions.

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As a part of the City's Climate Action Plan, Mayor Schor announced the promotion of Lori Welch to become the City of Lansing's first Sustainability Manager in April 2020. Welch's role is critical for continuing to develop and implement the plan, which includes keeping track of data inventory in order to better understand the impact of City operations on the environment.

"Lansing has started to track greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to City operations, which will be utilized to help improve municipal facilities," said Lori Welch, Sustainability Manager. "I'm looking forward to implementing the plan and helping to set a path toward a more energy efficient, and environmentally sound operation."

The plan includes several other goals that are already in development including:

- Creating an internal team of City employees to help implement key aspects of the plan, help educate fellow employees, track and set goals.
- Creating a Sustainability Action Plan that focuses on the Lansing community, laying out specific goals and outlining a path forward.
- Engaging residents, community stakeholders, City employees and others to ensure the sustainability planning efforts are transparent, equitable and responsible.

Applicants must have a passion for areas including energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, water management and transportation. Commission members will work with the Sustainability Manager and will act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor.

To apply for the Sustainability Commission, please visit
www.lansingmi.gov/sustainabilitycommission.

To learn more about sustainability in the City of Lansing, please visit
www.lansingmi.gov/sustainability.

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