



Eryn Santamoor for Philadelphia City Council At-Large Sustainability Action Plan

Human activity is the main driver of global climate change. To address this crisis, Philadelphia needs to think globally and act locally. City Council should explore the concept of a Green New Deal for Philadelphia that is citizen-generated, focused on Philadelphia-based solutions, and recognizes that our most vulnerable communities are already disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. We must continue to engage city departments, businesses, community groups, and residents to build upon the important strides made through our Office of Sustainability's comprehensive Greenworks plan.

ACTION PLAN

- Achieve Zero Waste by phasing out single-use plastics and Styrofoam, working to implement a citywide compost program, and hiring a Commodities Broker within the Streets Department to ensure Philadelphia's recycling is sold at the highest price and for the best use. Eryn fully supports the goals of the City's Zero Waste and Litter Action Plan.
- Increase transit ridership to cut down on emissions from cars. We need to focus on improving SEPTA's levels and scopes of service to increase ridership and reduce the need for vehicle ownership and driving. This includes improving bus service and exploring Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to better connect our communities to each other, Center City, and neighborhood commercial corridors. In particular, we need to examine and act on transit strategies that better connect areas such as the Northeast and Northwest with the rest of Philadelphia.
- Optimize and reduce the size of city government's fleet by expanding vehicle and equipment-sharing between departments. We should reduce the reliance on City-owned non-emergency passenger vehicles by promoting other lower-cost options such as car-share, transit, bike-share, or walking.
- Seek opportunities to invest in, and incentivize, the use of alternative energy sources to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Invest in renewable power (solar, wind, otherwise) for all city and School District buildings, to lead by example.
- Further fund the TreePhilly program to reduce the number of "heat islands" citywide. Heat islands - where neighborhoods are significantly warmer than surrounding areas due to human activity - result in increases in energy use, utility bills, and elevated emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases.
- Expand and invest in Philadelphia's Green Stormwater Infrastructure network through the Water Department's Green City, Clean Waters program.
- Identify means through which City Council can support triple bottom line businesses that center sustainability as part of their business model, such as expanding the number of businesses eligible to receive the Sustainable Business Tax Credit.

- Transform our vacant lots into productive use. Philadelphia has approximately 40,000 vacant lots that attract litter and illegal dumping, insight public safety concerns, and destabilize entire neighborhoods. City Council must be proactively engaged in policy solutions to crack down on absentee owners and promote the reuse of appropriate parcels into community gardens and other green space.