

WHAT CAN CITIES DO ABOUT AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

Actually, a lot! Cities can play a major role in protecting the health of our children by cleaning up the air and building climate-resilient cities. Cities are on the front lines of making our communities safer, healthier and more resilient through local solutions to pollution and climate change.

CITIES CAN IMPLEMENT A WIDE RANGE OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MAKE SURE OUR AIR IS CLEAN AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE RESILIENT.

- **Commit to increasing the use of renewable energy citywide** — pledge to get to 100% renewable energy by a certain date. It's forecasted that by 2030, wind and solar power will become the cheapest sources of energy in the US. Since November 2016, the number of cities and towns that have committed to 100% renewable energy has doubled, and several cities have already reached that goal.
- **Adopt and enforce an Anti-Idling Ordinance** to improve air quality in areas frequented by children. Mayors can advocate for internal policies that direct city employees, such as police officers, or parks maintenance, to turn off their vehicles instead of idling, especially during the summer. Anti-Idling ordinances in areas near schools, playgrounds, parks, daycares and hospitals reduce the number of respiratory illness, especially in children.
- **Create a climate action plan or sustainability plan.** The first step in addressing a problem is identifying it and planning for the future. Many cities have plans in place already. For sample climate action plans and ordinances, see <http://zeroenergyproject.org/advocate/model-climate-action-plans-ordinances/>.
- **Retrofit city buildings for energy efficiency.**
- **Help homeowners and renters weatherize their homes for energy efficiency.**
- **Buy clean energy to heat and cool city buildings.**
- **Transition to electric fleets of city buses and city-owned vehicles.**
- **Plant more trees.**
- **Make walking and biking easier and more appealing.**
- **Ensure pesticide spraying does not use harmful chemicals that impact children's health.**
- **And so much more...**

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE INSPIRING WORK ALREADY HAPPENING IN CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY:



KNOXVILLE, TN

uses several programs to advance energy efficiency. With the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge, the city created strategies connecting utility bill assistance with energy efficiency upgrades. The city also received \$14 million to retrofit homes to energy efficiency standards.



LITTLE ROCK, AR

used an AmeriCorps team trained in weatherization techniques to assist residents. Weatherization helps conserve energy, which lowers utility bills for families and helps our environment.



CLEVELAND, OH

is reducing carbon, saving energy, preventing erosion, and providing beautiful spaces for the mental and physical health of the community by reforesting its declining urban tree canopy through innovative partnerships.

RESOURCES FOR CITIES

Several programs can help your city reach clean air and sustainability goals.

National League of Cities Program: The Sustainable Cities Institute provides convening opportunities, direct technical assistance and leadership training for cities to mitigate and adapt to the effects of a changing climate. SCI helps elected officials in more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns identify and pursue the strategies that work best for them and for their residents. <http://www.nlc.org/program-initiative/sustainable-cities-institute>

Apply for a 2018 Resilient Cities grant:

<http://nlc.org/leadership-in-community-resilience-program-application>

Path to Positive Communities: Path to Positive Communities is a council of diverse community leaders and organizations united to advance climate solutions. The Path to Positive Communities program empowers local and regional leaders to maximize the opportunities climate solutions bring to American people and their communities, and inspire their citizens and other leaders to support solutions at local, regional, and national levels.

Join: <http://pathtopositive.org/impact/get-your-community-path-positive-path-positive-communities>