

**City of Fairfield Minutes  
Regular Meeting of City Council  
November 24, 2025**

**Council-Manager Briefing**

Mayor Rhodus called the briefing to order at 6:00 PM. Councilmembers present: Leslie Besl, Dale Paullus, Debbie Pennington, Adam Kraft, Tim Meyers, Matt Davidson and Gwen Brill. Staff members present: Scott Timmer, Laurie Murphy, Adam Sackenheim, Steve Wolterman, Alisha Wilson, Mandi Brock, Jason Hunold, Gillian Hart, Ben Mann, Greg Kathman, Erin Lynn, Diana Davenport, Tom Lakamp, Steve Maynard and Tami Moore.

Assistant City Manager Sackenheim and Sustainability Manager Hart presented the Sustainability Plan Update. See attached slides.

**Business Meeting Call to Order**

Mayor Rhodus called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Davidson led in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Councilmembers present included:

Councilmember, 1st Ward Leslie Besl  
Councilmember, 2nd Ward Dale Paullus  
Councilmember, 3rd Ward Debbie Pennington  
Councilmember, 4th Ward Adam Kraft  
Councilmember, At-Large Tim Meyers  
Councilmember, At-Large Matt Davidson  
Councilmember, At-Large Gwen Brill

**Agenda Modifications**

None.

**Executive Session Requests**

Councilmember Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Meyers, moved for an Executive Session to discuss the employment or compensation of a public employee or official. Roll call vote. Motion carried 7-0.

**Special Presentations**

1. 100th Birthday Proclamation to Erasmo Iovino

Mayor Rhodus presented a proclamation to Erasmo Iovino in honor of his 100th birthday.

**Citizen Comments**

None.

## **Council Reports**

Councilmember Brill thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for the Parade of Lights. She said it was fantastic, and it was difficult to judge because of how great the floats were. She also thanked Assistant City Manager Adam Sackenheim and Sustainability Manager Gillian Hart for the sustainability update during the briefing this evening.

Councilmember Davidson also commended the Parks & Recreation Department for doing a great job on the parade. He said it gets better every year, and he was impressed that he couldn't tell the next day that anything was even held because the clean-up was so fast.

Councilmember Meyers commended the Finance Department for receiving the 2024 Ohio Auditors State Award for a clean audit report and congratulated the team for their hard work.

Councilmember Kraft announced that Duke Energy recognized the Development Services Department with the 2025 Partner Achievement Award. The department was chosen among all municipalities that Duke serves in the Cincinnati area. Councilmember Kraft congratulated the department for receiving this award.

Councilmember Pennington announced that final pavement on South Gilmore Road is being finished, and all lanes will be open for the holidays, and that Seward Road will re-open tomorrow. She also announced that the Historical Society and Four Seasons Garden Club, Elisha Morgan Mansion holiday event on December 7.

Councilmember Besl also commended the Parks & Recreation Department and staff for a phenomenal parade. She stated that she is proud to be part of a community that hosts great events. She reminded residents about the story walk at Huffman Park and stated that the stories would be changed periodically. She also announced that Parks restrooms and water fountains have been winterized until spring.

Mayor Rhodus welcomed Senator Lang and invited him to speak. Senator Lang commented that his focus in office is to make Ohio the most business-friendly state in the country and return the state to its former ranking.

Mayor Rhodus commended the parade again and commented that the parade route was lined with about as many people as were in Village Green.

## **Public Hearing(s)**

None.

## **Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes - November 10, 2025

The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2025 were approved as written and submitted.

## **Old Business**

## **1. Development Services - Councilmember Adam Kraft**

- a. Ordinance to amend various sections of the Planning and Zoning Code of Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio.

Councilmember Kraft presented the third reading of this ordinance.

Councilmember Meyers commended the Development Services staff and Planning Commission volunteers for a thorough review and update to the planning and zoning code.

Councilmember Adam Kraft, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 137-25. APPROVED 7-0.

## **2. Public Safety - Councilmember Dale Paullus**

- a. Ordinance to adopt the 2025 Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Fairfield.

Councilmember Paullus presented the third reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Dale Paullus, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 138-25. APPROVED 7-0.

## **New Business - Motion to Read All New Business by Title Only**

Councilmember Besl, seconded by Councilmember Paullus, moved to read all New Business by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

### **1. Community & Public Relations - Councilmember Gwen Brill**

- a. Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Field of Interest Fund Agreement with the Fairfield Community Foundation to establish the "Fairfield Recovery and Wellness Fund."

The City has been exploring strategic and sustainable methods for deploying the settlement funds received from the One Ohio opioid litigation. The primary goal is to ensure these funds have a meaningful and lasting impact on our community, rather than being exhausted on short-term, one-time expenditures.

To achieve this, we propose a strategic partnership with the Fairfield Community Foundation. This agreement would use \$350,000 in settlement funds to establish a permanent endowment—the **Fairfield Recovery and Wellness Fund**.

This structure provides several key advantages:

- **Perpetual Impact:** By establishing an endowment and requesting that distributions be made from interest and income only, the \$350,000 principal (corpus) remains intact. This fund will generate investment returns in perpetuity, creating a permanent, annual funding stream for recovery and wellness programs far into the future.
- **Targeted Purpose:** The Fund's purpose is explicitly tied to the One Ohio guidelines. Disbursements will support local programs and initiatives that "prevent, treat, and aid recovery from addiction, including opioid and other substance use disorders, as well as co-occurring mental health conditions."
- **Expert Administration:** The Fairfield Community Foundation will manage all administrative aspects, including fund investment, compliance, and application intake from local non-profits.
- **Retained City Oversight:** This agreement is structured to ensure the City maintains final authority. Annually, Foundation staff, along with the City Manager or a designee, will review all grant applications and submit recommendations directly to the **full City Council for final review and approval.**

This "Field of Interest" model leverages the Foundation's investment expertise while ensuring the funds are deployed in alignment with Council's priorities and with a strong preference for organizations serving City of Fairfield residents. This approach transforms a one-time settlement into a long-term community asset dedicated to health and recovery.

Katie Braswell, VP Community Foundation, thanked Council for considering the Foundation to help manage the fund, along with other Fairfield funds.

Mayor Rhodus reiterated that these funds last forever and will be a continual benefit to the community.

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Leslie Besl, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Dale Paulus, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 139-25. APPROVED 7-0.

## 2. Development Services - Councilmember Adam Kraft

- a. Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, Section 1130.01(B)(2), the City of Fairfield, Ohio, Zoning Map by approving the revised concept plan and final development plan for the Patterson Place Planned Unit Development.

- Legislation - First Reading

- Set Joint Public Hearing Date - December 8, 2025

Councilmember Kraft presented the first reading of this ordinance and announced the Joint Public Hearing on Monday, December 8 at 7 PM.

### 3. Finance & Budget - Councilmember Tim Meyers

- a. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 158-24 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025" - Supplemental Appropriations.

- Legislation - First Reading
- Motion - Suspend Second and Third Readings
- Motion - Adoption

Councilmember Meyers presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 140-25. APPROVED 7-0.

- b. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 158-24 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025."  
- Contractual Appropriations: \$350,000 total (\$350,000 Field of Interest Fund at Fairfield Community Foundation)

- Legislation - First Reading
- Motion - Suspend Second and Third Readings
- Motion - Adoption

Councilmember Meyers presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 141-25. APPROVED 7-0.

- c. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 158-24 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025."  
- Non-Contractual Appropriations: \$81,250 total (see below for description)

- Legislation - First Reading
- Motion - Suspend Second and Third Readings
- Motion - Adoption

Councilmember Meyers presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Adam Kraft, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 142-25. APPROVED 7-0.

\$40,277 - Instrumentation Pressure Differential Transmitters (Public Utilities - Water Division)

\$12,353 - Replacement Refrigerated Composite Sampler (Public Utilities - Wastewater Division)

\$8,400 - New storage area at Community Arts Center (Parks & Recreation)

\$20,220 - New carpet at South Trace Club House (Parks & Recreation)

### **Meeting Schedule**

Monday, December 8: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:15 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 16: Oath of Office, 5:30 PM

Monday, January 12: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Clerk Wilson read the meeting schedule.

### **Executive Session of Council (if Needed)**

Council recessed to Executive Session at 7:35 PM.

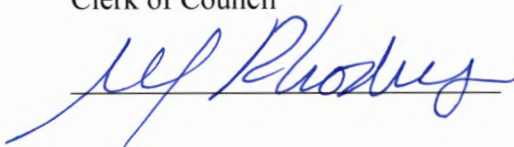
### **Adjournment**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council



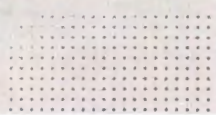
Mayor's Approval

Date Approved: 12/8/25

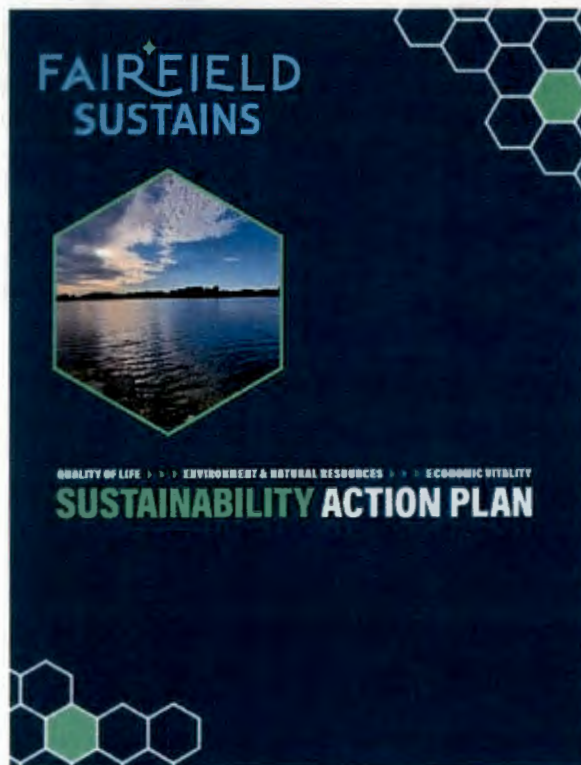


# Sustainability Update Council Manager Briefing

November 24, 2025



# *Fairfield Sustains*



## Five Frameworks:

- Mobility & Transportation
- Buildings & Energy
- Resource Conservation
- Nature & Green Community
- Business & Community Resilience





# Strategic Roadmap

| Framework                       | Goals    | Strategies | Action Steps |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|--------------|
| Mobility & Transportation       | 1        | 5          | 18           |
| Buildings & Energy              | 1        | 9          | 32           |
| Resource Conservation           | 2        | 6          | 12           |
| Nature & Green Community        | 1        | 2          | 11           |
| Business & Community Resilience | 3        | 5          | 17           |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>8</b> | <b>27</b>  | <b>101</b>   |

# Mobility & Transportation

## 2025:

- ✓ EV Charger Grant/Implementation
- ✓ Fairfield Connects
- ✓ Procurement of EV for City Fleet
- ✓ EV Tax Credit
- ✓ PCFO Zero Emission Plan

20%, 30%



## Goal MT.1.0

Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Emissions by 20% by 2030 and 30% by 2055

2026



## Looking Ahead

- Fairfield Connects
- Fleet & Specialty Equipment Electrification

# Buildings & Energy

## 2025:

- ✓ Community Energy Aggregation
- ✓ Municipal RECs/Rates
- ✓ WWTP Solar
- ✓ Energy Efficient Windows
- ✓ OH Energy Conference

50%, 100%



## Goal E.1.0

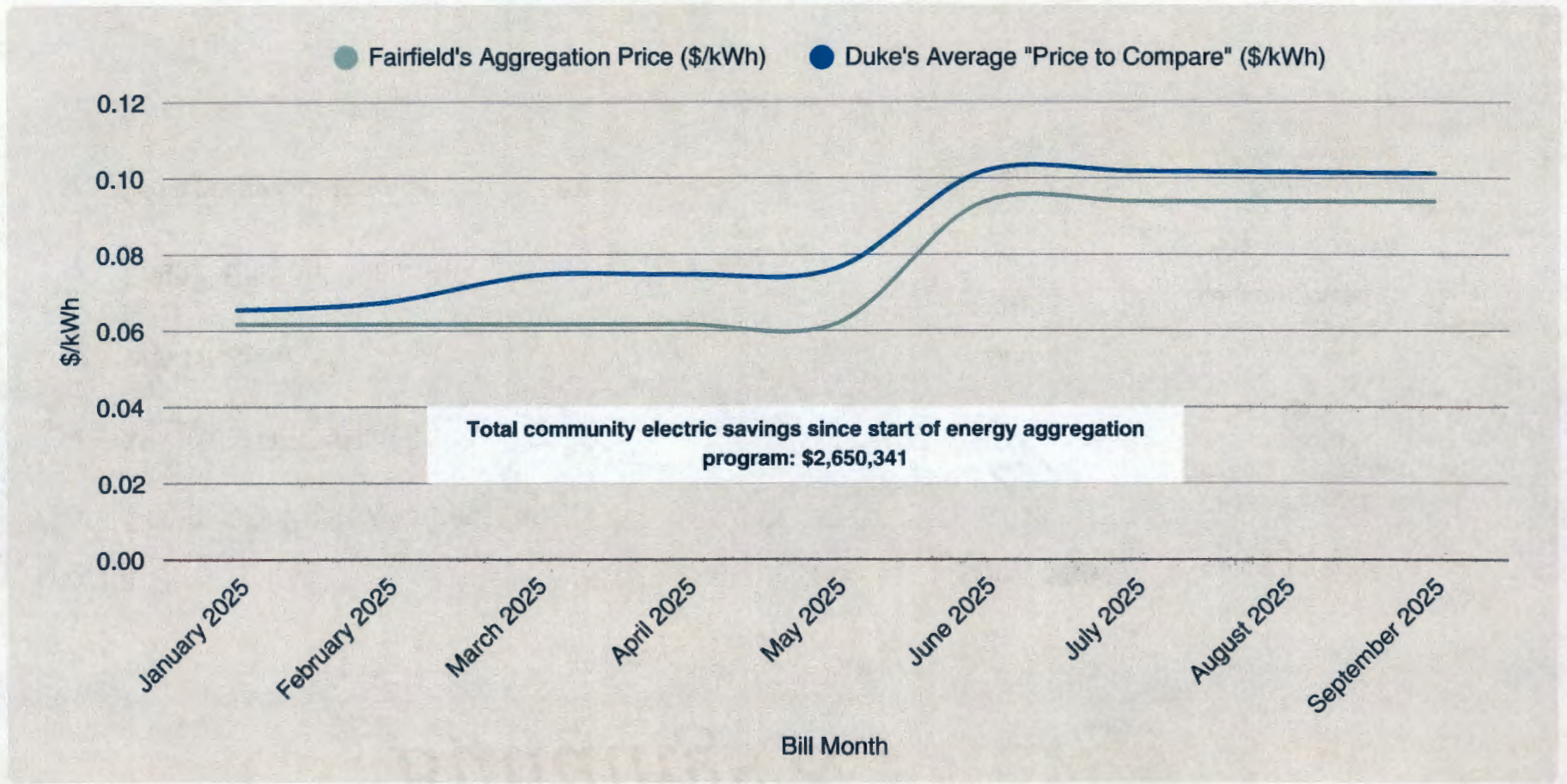
Reduce Energy Emissions  
by 50% by 2030 and  
100% by 2055

2026

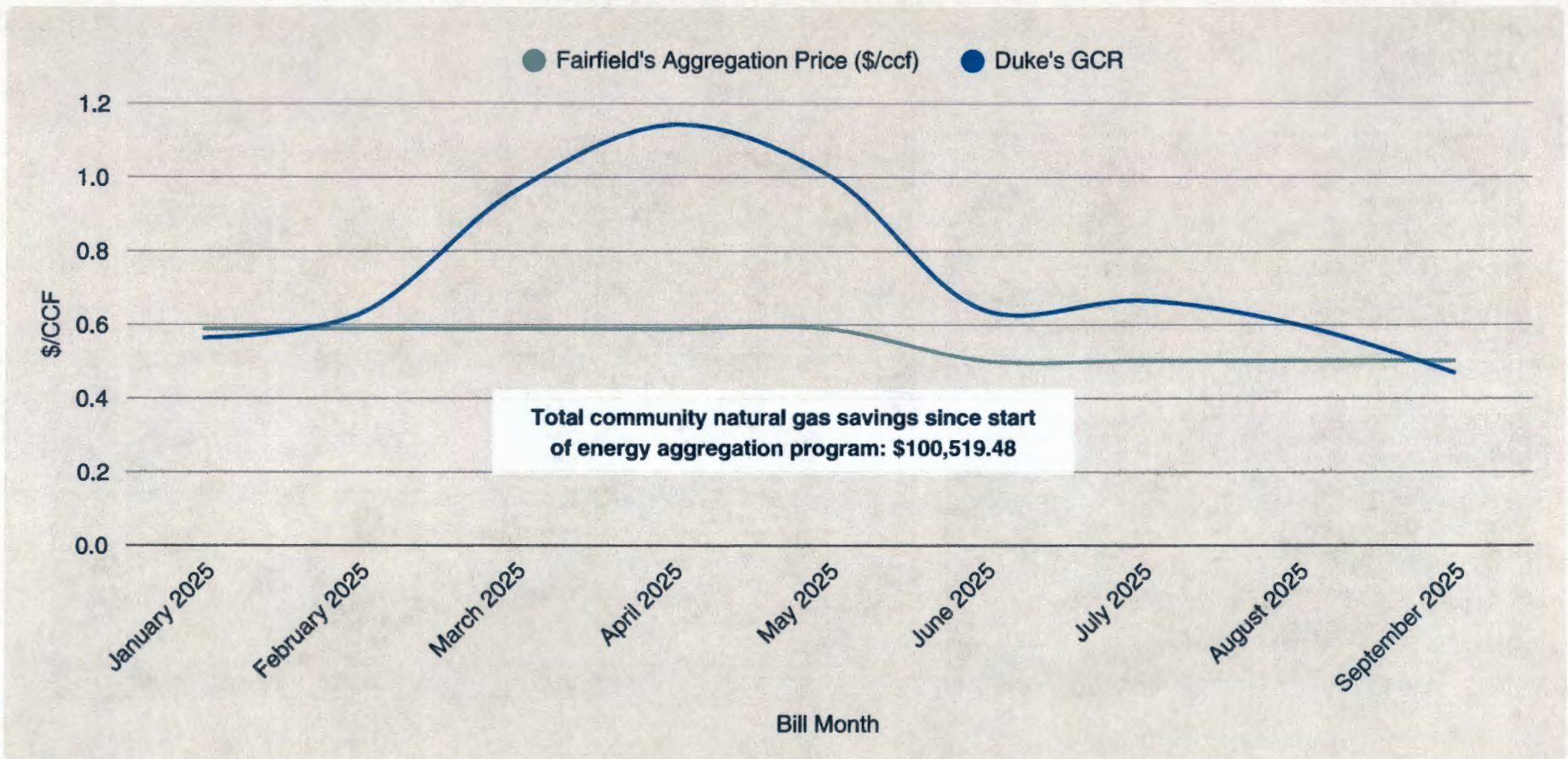


## Looking Ahead

- Solar Operational  
July 2026
- Energy Auditing
- Solar Feasibility



## Electric Energy Aggregation



## Natural Gas Energy Aggregation

# WWTP Solar



# Resource Conservation

**2025:**

- ✓ Recycling at Harbin Park
- ✓ Village Green Recycling BCSWD Partnership
- ✓ Recycling at Fairfield Sports Complex with BCSWD
- ✓ E-Waste Recycling
- ✓ Discard Day

**10%**



**Goal RC.1.0**

Establish baseline and achieve 10% increase in waste reduction and diversion by 2030 (municipal/community)

**2026**



**Looking Ahead**

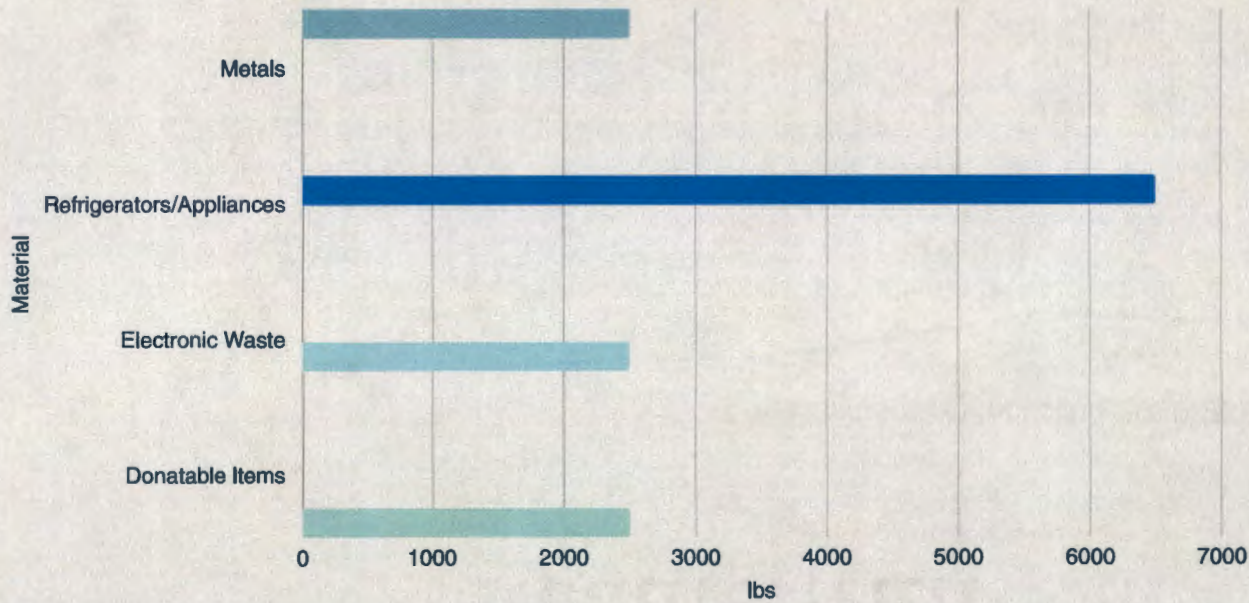
- Composting Pilot
- Recycling Outreach (Business, Residential, Multi-Family)
- Parks Recycling

# *Resource Conservation*

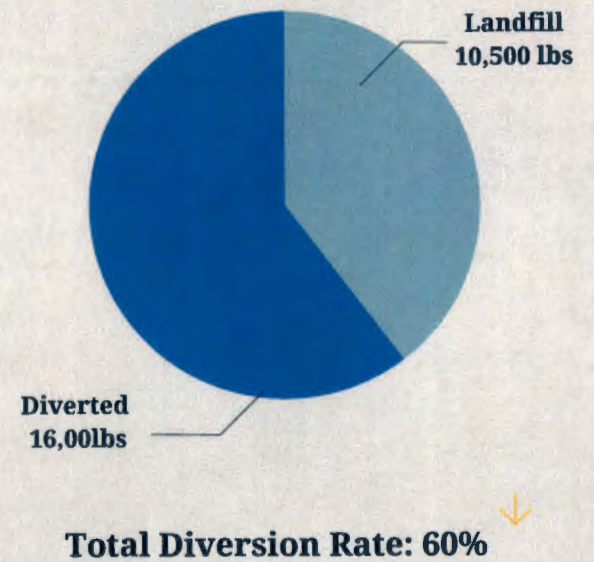


# Discard Day

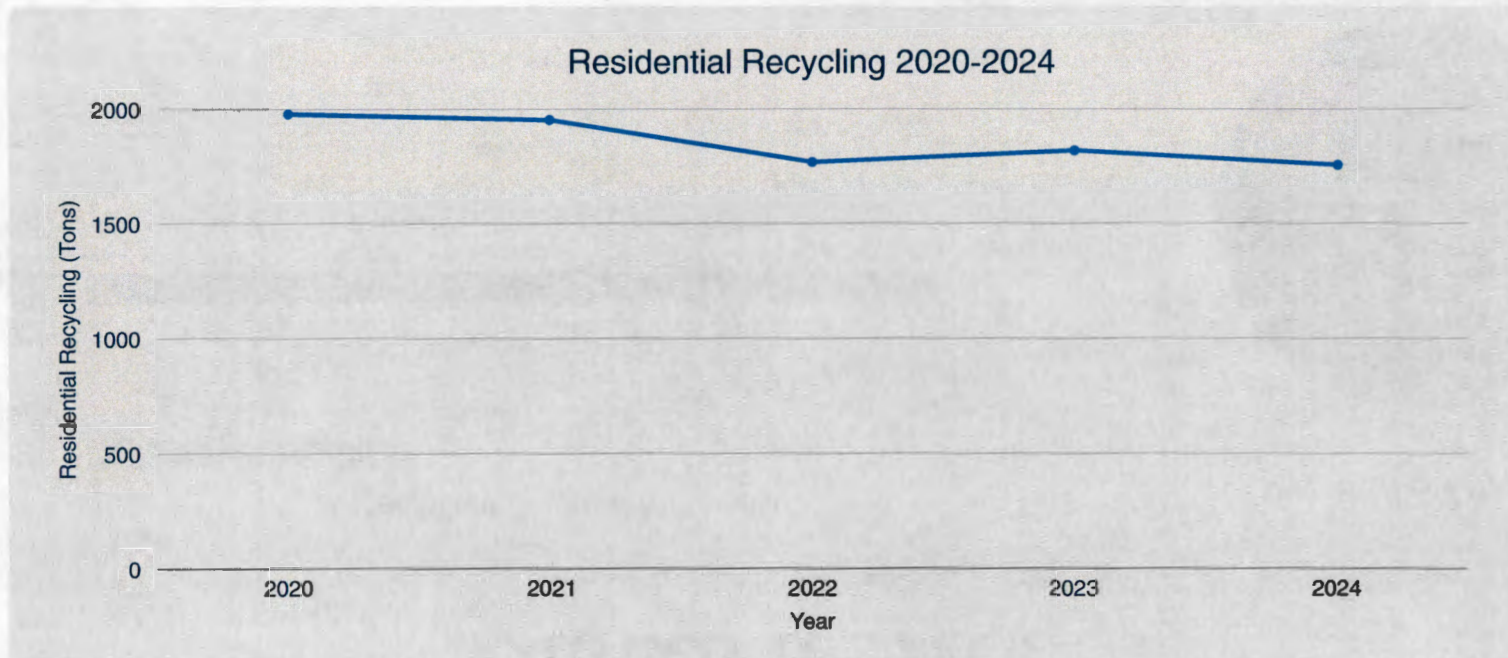
Discard Day Diverted Materials



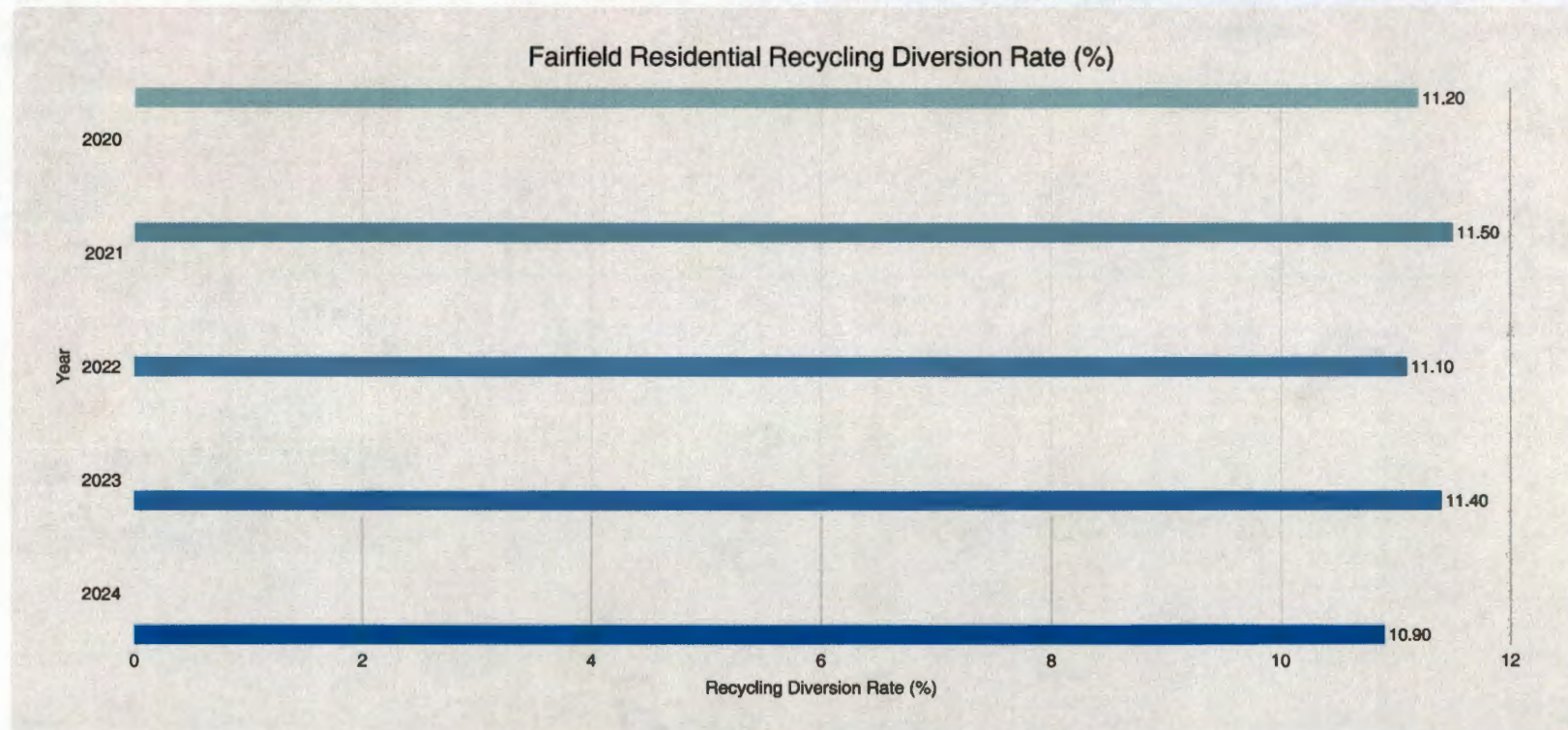
Overall Waste Impact



# *Residential Recycling*



# Residential Recycling



# E-Waste

## REBOOT

ELECTRONICS REUSE AND RECYCLING





**LOCAL ELECTRONICS  
RECYCLING**

**24/7 FREE DROP-OFF**

FAIRFIELD JUSTICE CENTER  
5230 PLEASANT AVE.  
FAIRFIELD, OHIO 45014

**ZERO WASTE RECYCLING**

**WE ACCEPT MOST ELECTRONICS**

**COMPLETE DATA REMOVAL**

**CORPORATE PICK UP OFFERED**

VISIT REBOOT FOR DETAILS

**FOR LARGER ITEMS PLEASE VISIT:**

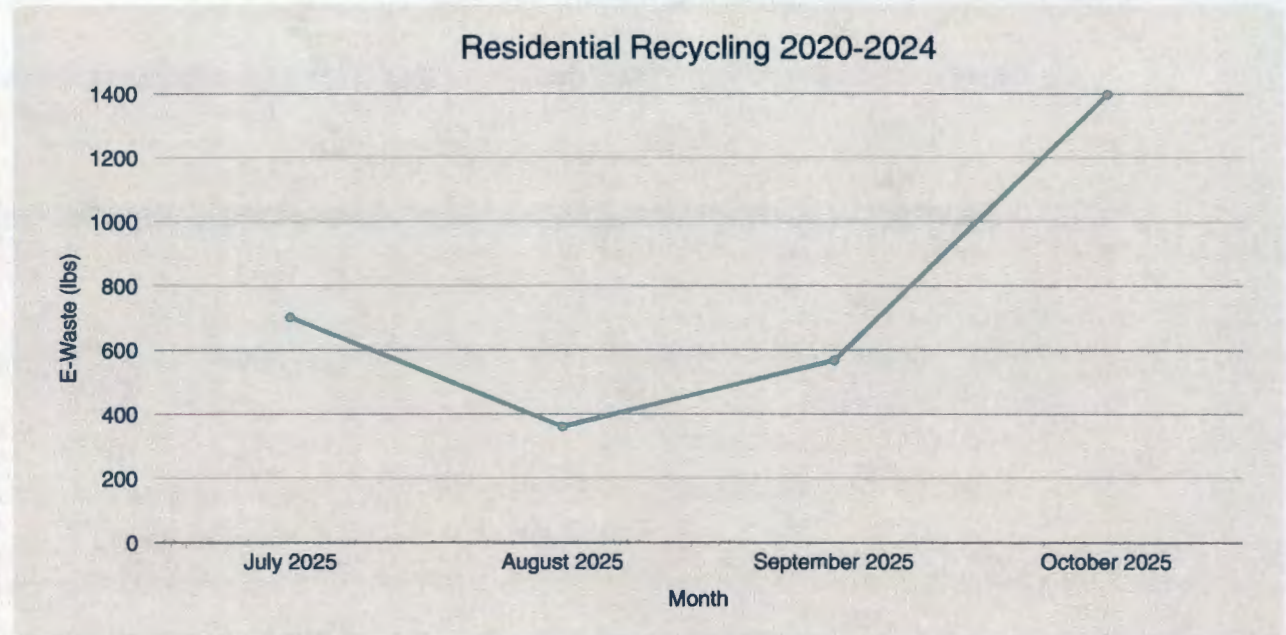
202 CONWELL ST.  
AURORA, IN 47001  
513-364-8277  
REBOOTRECYCLERS.COM



**ELECTRONICS ONLY WE DO NOT TAKE:**

- SHOCK USE BATTERIES
- LIGHTBULBS
- TUBE OR MERCURY-CONTAINING TV'S AND MONITORS
- MEDIA & USED TONERS AND INKS
- COOLING FLUORID BATTERIES

PLEASE VISIT REBOOT FOR MORE INFO



# Nature & Green Community

**2025:**

- ✓ OH Department of Natural Resources Grant
- ✓ Miami University Urban Forestry Professional Service Project (PSP)
- ✓ PCFO Urban Forestry Action Plan Study



## **Goal NGC.1.0**

Preserve and Strategically develop sustainable landscapes and community-wide culture of sustainability

**2026**



## **Looking Ahead**

- Tree Inventory
- Invasive Species Removal Plan
- Urban Forestry Action Plan

# *Business & Community Resilience*

## 2025:

- ✓ Fairfield Chamber Business Roundtable
- ✓ Green Umbrella & Fellowship
- ✓ Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO)
- ✓ Grant Management Software
- ✓ Metric Tracking Dashboard



## Goal RC.1.0

Enhance quality of life through sustainability

## 2026



## Looking Ahead

- 513Green
- Green Business Recognition Award

# Business & Community Resilience

**FAIRFIELD BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE SERIES**  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPANIES TO DISCUSS COMMON ISSUES AND CONCERNS

**Fueling the Future:**  
Energy as Your Competitive Edge



**Climate Action Fellowship**



**Power A Clean Future Ohio**  
LOCAL COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY



**513GREEN**

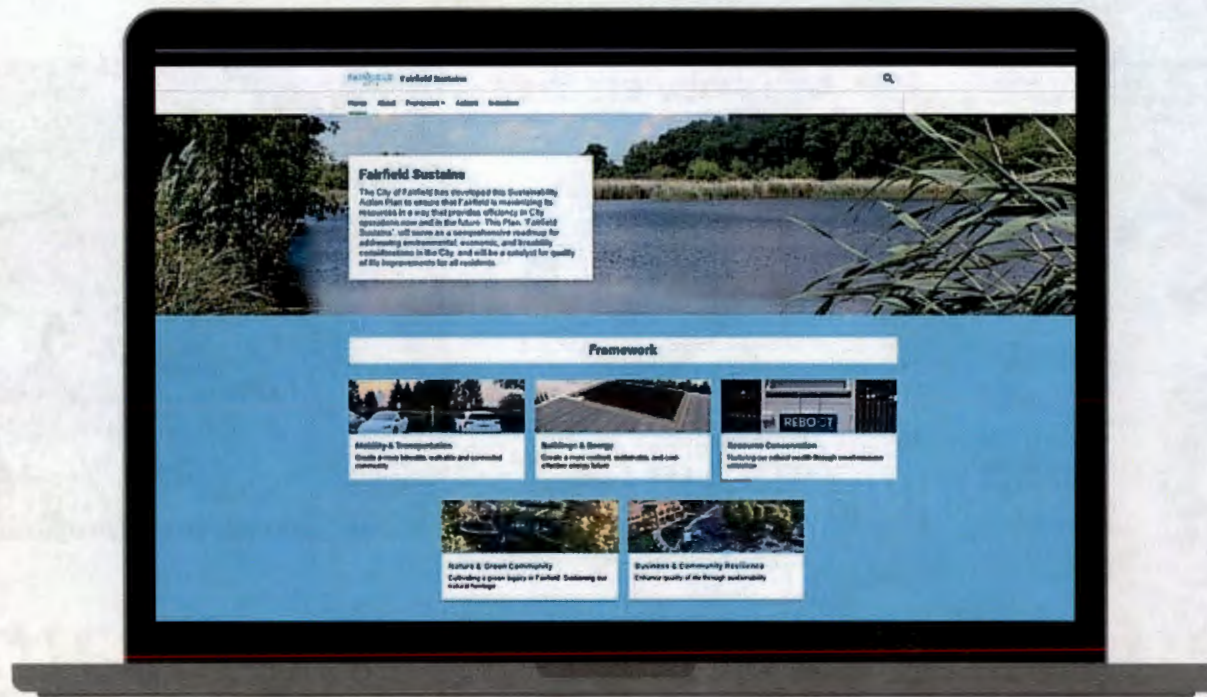


**instrumentl**

**ICMA**



# Kausal Demo





### Fairfield Sustains

The City of Fairfield has developed this Sustainability Action Plan to ensure that Fairfield is maximizing its resources in a way that provides efficiency in City operations now and in the future. This Plan, 'Fairfield Sustains', will serve as a comprehensive roadmap for addressing environmental, economic, and livability considerations in the City, and will be a catalyst for quality of life improvements for all residents.

### Framework



#### Mobility & Transportation

Create a more bikeable, walkable and connected community



#### Buildings & Energy

Create a more resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective energy future



#### Resource Conservation

Nurturing our natural wealth through smart resource utilization



#### Nature & Green Community

Cultivating a green legacy in Fairfield: Sustaining our natural heritage



#### Business & Community Resilience

Enhance quality of life through sustainability

### Fairfield Sustain

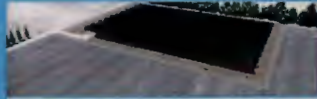
The City of Fairfield has developed this Sustainability Action Plan to ensure that Fairfield is maximizing its resources in a way that provides efficiency in City operations now and in the future. This Plan, 'Fairfield Sustain', will serve as a comprehensive roadmap for addressing environmental, economic, and livability considerations in the City, and will be a catalyst for quality of life improvements for all residents.

### Framework



#### Mobility & Transportation

Create a more bikeable, walkable and connected community



#### Buildings & Energy

Create a more resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective energy future



#### Resource Conservation

Nurturing our natural wealth through smart resource utilization



#### Nature & Green Community

Cultivating a green legacy in Fairfield: Sustaining our natural heritage



#### Business & Community Resilience

Enhance quality of life through sustainability



Framework

## Mobility & Transportation

Create a more bikeable, walkable and connected community

**Goal MT.1.0**

Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) emissions by 20% by 2030 and 30% by 2055.

### Strategies



**MT.1.1** Create a more walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly City through robust implementation of Fairfield Connects by 2055.



**MT.1.2** Promote and reduce barriers to adoption of active and public transportation opportunities.



**MT.1.3** Convert 20% of non-emergency City fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), hybrid or clean fuels by 2030 and 100% by 2055.



**MT.1.4** Proactively support community EV expansion and readiness.



**MT.1.5** Electrify specialty vehicle, off-road tools, equipment, and machinery in municipal operations

Strategy

Mobility & Transportation /

### MT.1.3 Convert 20% of non-emergency City fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), hybrid or clean fuels by 2030 and 100% by 2055.

Co-benefits

GHG Reduction Potential

Increase Operational Efficiency

Reduces Operational Costs

Funding Available

Internal Capacity/Support

Priority Score



Actions by status

100 %  
On time

### Actions

MT.1.3.1.

In progress (On time)

Develop a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Plan for 100% Municipal Fleet by 2055.

MT.1.3.2.

In progress (On time)

Ensure All Newly Acquired Vehicles For City Use Are Aligned With The ZEV Plan





Actions

← Previous | Next →

Mobility & Transportation / MT.1.3 Convert 20% of non-emergency City fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), hybrid or clean...

### MT.1.3.1. Develop a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Plan for 100% Municipal Fleet by 2055.

Progress



On time

Strategy

MT.1.3 Convert 20% of non-emergency City fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), hybrid or clean fuels by...

Official name

Develop a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Plan for 100% Municipal Fleet by 2055, including right sizing, replacement schedule, costs, infrastructure needs, optimal charging locations, and funding opportunities.

Timeline

9/2024 → 12/2055

Information updated 11/21/2025

Develop a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Plan for 100% Municipal Fleet by 2055 including right sizing, replacement schedule, costs, infrastructure needs, optimal charging locations, and funding opportunities.

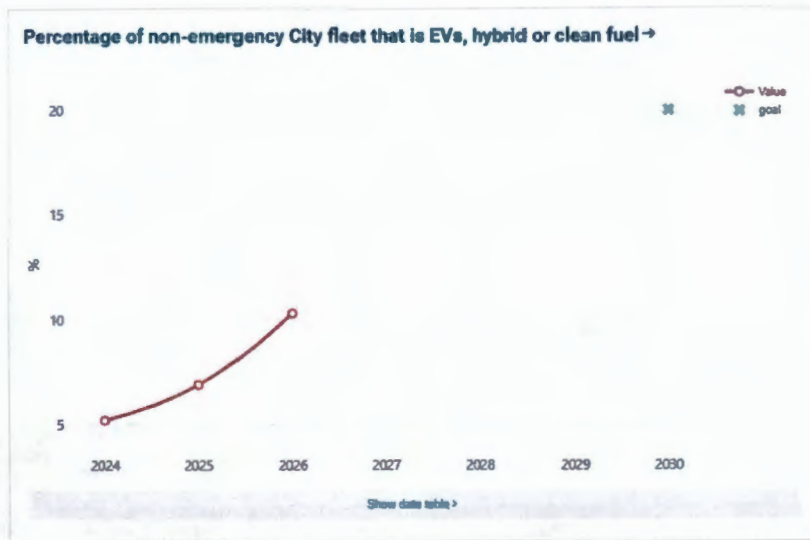
#### Previous Work Done

In 2016 the city purchased its first hybrid vehicle, a Chevy Malibu. Then in 2024 two more hybrids were added to the fleet, a Ford Escape and a Ford Maverick. In 2025, the City purchased its first fully electric vehicle, a 2025 Chevy Equinox as well as a Honda CRV Hybrid.

### Previous Work Done

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### Indicators



← Previous action

Next action →

# Sustainability Financials

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## Fund 416 - Sustainability

\$856,850 CIP Balance

\$35,000 2026 Operating Budget

**\$1,272,500**



**\$1,272,500 in grant and  
incentive applications in  
2025/2026**

- Investment Tax Credit (ITC) Solar Federal Rebate 2026 (\$1,000,000)
- ODNR Urban Forestry Grant (\$100,000)
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (\$75,000)
- T-Mobile Hometown Grant (\$50,000)\*
- OHEPA Community and Litter Grant (\$40,000)\*
- EV Tax Credit Federal Rebate (\$7,500)

*Thank You!*

**Questions?**

