

CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, NY

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

Type: Regular Legislative Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:15 P.M.
Place: Council Chambers- 1St Floor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Martha Lopez	District 1 Council Member - Present
Albert A. Tarantino Jr	District 2 Council Member - Present
David Peters	District 3 Council Member - Present
Shane A. Osinloye	District 4 Council Member - Present
Sara R. Kaye	District 5 Council Member - Present
Matthew A Stern	District 6 Council Member - Present
Yadira Ramos-Herbert	Mayor - Present

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Legislative Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2025;
Committee of the Whole Sesssion, Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Motion to approve was moved by Council Member Matthew A. Stern, seconded by Council Member Sara R. Kaye, and unanimously approved.

SUBMISSION OF MINUTES: Regular Legislative Meeting, Tuesday, February 18, 2025;
Committee of the Whole Session, Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

PRESENTATION

6:15 P.M. - NEW ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION RE: POLICING
UPDATE

Robert Gazzola, Police Commissioner, accompanied by Neil Reynolds, Deputy Police Commissioner, presented the report entitled "New Rochelle Police Department - 2025 Community Engagement", which encompassed Community Policing vs .Community Engagement; Community Meetings (members at all levels attend various community meetings); Community Engagement; Youth Engagement; Webpage and Social Media Engagement; Downtown Vanguard District/New Bike Unit to address QOL (Quality of Life) Issues. (See attached).

Commissioner Gazzola reviewed each of the above-noted programs/categories followed by discussion and questions.

The Members of City Council expressed their gratitude and appreciation for community engagement and for the Police Department's endeavors to improve relations and communication between the Police and residents.

Council Member Peters spoke of the importance of engaging young women in Police programs and events.

Council Member Osinloye addressed the need for a Police Department events calendar; questioned the impact of crime on communities; and spoke of interest in Police work by young residents.

Commissioner Gazzola commented that the recruitment program for young people is relatively new. A review of available programs for young people in specific areas or communities and community engagement were addressed.

Council Member Kaye expressed appreciation for the programs offered.

Council Member Stern spoke of the need for community events.

Mayor Ramos-Herbert expressed appreciation for the Department's endeavors, transparency, programs offered, and partnership.

In answer to questions, Commissioner Gazzola acknowledged that crime has increased slightly this year and that crime in the Vanguard area will be dealt with. He added that Police will be available in areas where needed.

When Council Member Peters addressed the homeless community and the lack of a standard place or location for them--no protection from the elements--City Manager Melendez acknowledged that he will address the matter. It was agreed that the Administration review this need.

Commissioner Gazzola stated that while some individuals in the homeless community respond to assistance, others do not; and, while some appear homeless, they are not. The Westchester County Department of Health also assists and refers individuals to various services. He added that while some do not want help, the Department is successful in getting help for individuals.

LEGISLATION IN VOTING ORDER

CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sara R. Kaye, District 5 Council Member
SECONDER:	Martha Lopez, District 1 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

2. **2025-30 - PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION RE: LEASE TRANSFER AND PARKING ALLOCATION FOR 2 PELHAM ROAD** - Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amended Lease Agreement relative to 2 Pelham Road.
3. **2025-31 - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE RE: SECTION 301-12- TREES AND SHRUBS - RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRIMMING** - Ordinance amending Section 301-12, Responsibility for Trimming, of Chapter 301, Trees and Shrubs, of the Code of the City of New Rochelle.
4. **2025-32 - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE RE: PARKING REGULATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED - 7 WEEKS PLACE** - Ordinance amending Section 312-91, Schedule XX: Handicapped Parking, of Chapter 312, Vehicles and Traffic, of the City of New Rochelle (7 Weeks Pl).
5. **2025-33 - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE: RE: PARKING REGULATION CHANGE - NORTH AVENUE** - Ordinance amending Section 312-88, Schedule XVII: Loading Zones, and Section 312-90, Schedule XIX, Bus Stop, of Chapter 312, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of New Rochelle.

6. **2025-34 - PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANTS** - Ordinance accepting the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities and Water Quality Improvement Project grants totaling \$1,187,912, amending Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, and appropriating funds therefor.
7. **2025-35 - PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING RE: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE REBATE PROGRAM (NYS DEC ZEV GRANT)** - Ordinance accepting the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Program (NYS DEC ZEV Grant) in the amount of \$30,000, amending Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, and appropriating funds therefore.
8. **2025-36 - PROPOSED SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION RE: PACKAGING REDUCTION AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ACT** - Resolution in support of New York State Legislation relative to Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act S1464/A1749 (Co-sponsored by Council Members Sara R. Kaye, Shane A. Osinloye, and Matthew A. Stern)

RESOLUTIONS

9. **2025-37 - PROPOSED BOND DE-AUTHORIZATIONS** - Resolution repealing unexpended bond authorizations previously authorized.

Council Member Tarantino spoke of the needs for, (1) a traffic study as it relates to the Kings Highway/Main Street/Weyman Avenue area, and (2) available funds for such study. He said he wanted to ensure that monies would be available and that consideration be given to provide funding. He commented that the Members of City Council should keep an open mind as it relates to the availability of monies for the western gateway to the City, including improved traffic signalization, to ensure a successful downtown. He stressed that a traffic study is needed. Council Member Tarantino requested that future proposed bonding include the Kings Highway/Main Street Weyman Avenue area improvement project.

Mr. Castaldo stated that although it is proposed that the bonding be de-authorized, the sum of \$110,000 for a study will be available.

City Manager Melendez acknowledged that further review regarding the area is required.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Peters, District 3 Council Member
SECONDER:	Albert A. Tarantino Jr, District 2 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

10. **2025-38 - PROPOSED REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF GREENR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE** - Resolution supporting the 2025 update to the GreenR - The New Rochelle Sustainability Plan and authorizing the City Manager to prepare and present for City Council review an initial implementation strategy for GREENR and annual updates on progress toward GreenR goals.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sara R. Kaye, District 5 Council Member
SECONDER:	Shane A. Osinloye, District 4 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

11. **2025-39 - PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF DICHTER LAW LLC RE: CON EDISON ELECTRIC & GAS RATES CASE BEFORE THE NEW YORK PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION** - Resolution authorizing the hiring of Dichter Law LLC as special counsel to represent participating Westchester municipalities in Con Edison Electric and Gas rates case before the New York Public Service Commission.

City Manager Melendez and Todd Castaldo, Deputy City Manager, addressed the proposal by Con Edison for a rate increase which is currently before the Public Service Commission (PSC). They stressed the need for the County of Westchester and cities to participate in the hiring of special counsel to argue against the proposed increases in electric and gas rates. The Westchester Municipal Officials' Association has requested that the City of New Rochelle join other Westchester communities and hire Joel R. Richter, attorney, as legal counsel, to represent participating municipalities at a cost of \$5,000 per municipality.

A discussion ensued.

The Members of City Council concurred with the proposed legislation.

Council Member Matthew A. Stern requested that regular updates be provided.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matthew A Stern, District 6 Council Member
SECONDER:	Shane A. Osinloye, District 4 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

12. **2025-40 - PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTHA LOPEZ'S STIPEND** - Resolution authorizing the City Manager to transfer \$10,000 to the Boys' & Girls' Club of New Rochelle (Mascaro Branch) from City Council Member Martha Lopez's year 2024 and 2025 stipend account.

Council Member Martha Lopez addressed her proposed transfer of stipends for Years 2024 and 2025 in order to permit participation by the Boys' and Girls' Club in very worthwhile programs.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Martha Lopez, District 1 Council Member
SECONDER:	David Peters, District 3 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

ORDINANCES

13. **2025-41 - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2025 BUDGET (CAPITAL BUDGET)** - Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, relative to the City's Capital Budget.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Martha Lopez, District 1 Council Member
SECONDER:	Sara R. Kaye, District 5 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

FOR INTRODUCTION ONLY: (PROPOSED LOCAL LAW)

14. **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE RE: ARTICLE XII, SECTION 127A, LIABILITY OF CITY IN CERTAIN ACTIONS** - A Local Law, Intro. No. 1, to amend Section 127A, Liability of city in certain actions, of Article XII, General Financial Provisions, of the New Rochelle City Charter in relation to the requirement for prior written notice of an alleged defect. (Intro. 3/18/25; Public Hearing 4/8/25)

Previously discussed in Executive Session.

Public Hearing relative to proposed amendment to the City Charter will be held on
Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

RESULT:	HELD [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 4/8/2025 3:45 PM
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

15. **2025-42 - DIRECTING A PUBLIC HEARING RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, INTRO. NO. 1 - Resolution directing a Public Hearing on a Local Law, Intro No. 1, to amend Section 127A, Liability of City in Certain Actions, of Article XII, General Financial Provisions, of the New Rochelle City Charter.**

Public Hearing relative to proposed amendment to the City Charter will be held on
Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shane A. Osinloye, District 4 Council Member
SECONDER:	Matthew A Stern, District 6 Council Member
AYES:	Lopez, Tarantino Jr, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, Ramos-Herbert

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to convene in Executive Session was moved by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lopez, and unanimously approved by Council Members Lopez, Tarantino, Peters, Osinloye, Kaye, Stern, and Mayor Ramos-Herbert and approved. Subject(s): Pending litigation.

City Council convened in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Kim B. Jones, City Clerk

City of New Rochelle
Police Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Robert Gazzola, Police Commissioner
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: 6:15 P.M. - NEW ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION RE:
POLICING UPDATE

DISCUSSION ITEM

City of New Rochelle
Law

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Dawn Warren, Corporation Counsel
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION RE: LEASE TRANSFER AND PARKING ALLOCATION FOR 2 PELHAM ROAD - Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amended Lease Agreement relative to 2 Pelham Road.

The City currently holds a lease with AM & KH Corp. d/b/a Patsy's Pizzeria for the property at 2 Pelham Road, New Rochelle, NY. On December 24, 2024, the tenant filed a Certificate of Assumed Name to conduct business as AM & KH Corp. d/b/a Kenny's on the Water. Accordingly, the tenant seeks to transfer the lease to Kenny's on the Water.

Additionally, due to the tenant's significant capital investment in the property, they have requested 23 designated parking spaces in the new marina parking structure for a monthly fee of \$100 per space, subject to citywide rate adjustments. These spaces will be reserved for customer use during business hours, with the City retaining the right to modify the location and number of spaces as needed.

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amended lease agreement reflecting the lease transfer and parking allocation.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDED LEASE AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO 2 PELHAM ROAD.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an Amended Lease Agreement relative to 2 Pelham Road, upon the following terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the City Manager and approved by the Corporation Counsel:

- Transferring the lease from AM & KH Corp. d/b/a Patsy's Pizzeria to AM & KH Corp. d/b/a Kenny's on the Water.
- Providing tenant with twenty-three (23) designated parking spaces in the new marina parking structure for a monthly fee of \$100 per space, subject to citywide rate adjustments. These spaces will be reserved for customer use during business hours, with the City retaining the right to modify the location and number of spaces as needed.

City of New Rochelle
Public Works

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Alvaro Alfonzo-Larrain, Assistant City Engineer
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE
RE: SECTION 301-12- TREES AND SHRUBS - RESPONSIBILITY FOR
TRIMMING - Ordinance amending Section 301-12, Responsibility for
Trimming, of Chapter 301, Trees and Shrubs, of the Code of the City of New
Rochelle.

The Department of Public Works receives numerous complaints regarding overgrown trees and other vegetation in the public Right of Way. It is proposed to amend section 301-12 as noted below to clarify property owner requirements and to aid in enforcement. The following changes are recommended:

Matter [bracketed] deleted.

Matter underlined added.

§ 301-12 Responsibility for trimming.

[Amended 4-15-1986 by Ord. No. 87-1986]

Trees, bushes, or vegetation standing in or upon any public highway or public place and on any lot adjacent to any public highway or public place and having branches and/or vegetation projecting into the public highway or place shall, under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, be kept trimmed by the owner [or owners, occupant or occupants of the property on or in front of which such trees are growing] so that the lowest branches of trees and vegetation shall not be less than [a maximum of 15 feet or a minimum of nine] seven feet in height [from the ground.] and bushes and vegetation shall not exceed 3 feet in height. The Commissioner may alter vegetation height requirements, if geometric road conditions require it. [Said Commissioner, may allow newly planted trees to remain untrimmed, provided that they do not interfere with persons using the sidewalk or obstruct the light of any street, electric or other type of light.] In case the owner [or owners, occupant or occupants] shall neglect or refuse to trim such [tree or] trees, bushes, or vegetation upon [on] being notified in writing to do so by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, [it shall be the duty of said manager] after one week from the date of such written notice, [to cause] the City or Representative may undertake the trimming and collect the cost of the work from the owner [to

be done and the cost therefor to be collected from such owner or occupant].

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 301-12,
RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRIMMING, OF CHAPTER 301,
TREES AND SHRUBS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW
ROCHELLE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of New Rochelle:

Section 1. The Code of the City of New Rochelle, Section 301-12, Responsibility for trimming, of Chapter 301, Trees and Shrubs, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 301-12 Responsibility for trimming.

Trees, bushes, or vegetation standing in or upon any public highway or public place and on any lot adjacent to any public highway or public place and having branches and/or vegetation projecting into the public highway or place shall, under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, be kept trimmed by the owner [or owners, occupant or occupants of the property on or in front of which such trees are growing] so that the lowest branches of trees and vegetation shall not be less than [a maximum of 15 feet or a minimum of nine] seven feet in height [from the ground.] and bushes and vegetation shall not exceed 3 feet in height. The Commissioner may alter vegetation height requirements, if geometric road conditions require it. [Said Commissioner, may allow newly planted trees to remain untrimmed, provided that they do not interfere with persons using the sidewalk or obstruct the light of any street, electric or other type of light.] In case the owner [or owners, occupant or occupants] shall neglect or refuse to trim such [tree or] trees, bushes, or vegetation upon [on] being notified in writing to do so by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, [it shall be the duty of said manager] after one week from the date of such written notice, [to cause] the City or Representative may undertake the trimming and collect the cost of the work from the owner [to be done and the cost therefor to be collected from such owner or occupant].

Matter [bracketed] deleted.

Matter underlined added.

City of New Rochelle
Public Works

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Alvaro Alfonzo-Larrain, Assistant City Engineer
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE
RE: PARKING REGULATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED - 7 WEEKS
PLACE - Ordinance amending Section 312-91, Schedule XX: Handicapped
Parking, of Chapter 312, Vehicles and Traffic, of the City of New Rochelle (7
Weeks Pl).

The homeowner at 7 Weeks Place requested designation of a handicapped parking space in front of this residence to allow parking and to accommodate turnaround of a special needs school bus serving this address on this dead end street. The Department of Public Works has no objection to this request. The following amendment to the Municipal Code is recommended:

§ 312-91 Schedule XX: Handicapped Parking.

In accordance with the provisions of § 312-49, the following described locations are hereby designated as handicapped parking spaces:

Name of Street	Side	Location
<u>Weeks Place</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>In front of 7 Weeks Place (20 feet)</u>

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 312-91, SCHEDULE XX:
HANDICAPPED PARKING, OF CHAPTER 312, VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW
ROCHELLE (7 WEEKS PLACE).

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of New Rochelle:

The Code of the City of New Rochelle, Section 312-91 (Schedule XX: Handicapped Parking) of Chapter 312 (Vehicles and Traffic) is hereby amended as follows:

§312-91. Schedule XX: Handicapped Parking.

In accordance with the provisions of §312-49, the following described locations are hereby designated as handicapped parking spaces:

Name of Street	Side	Location
<u>Weeks Place</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>In front of 7 Weeks Place (20 feet)</u>

Matter underlined added.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 7 Weeks Pl

Sbano, Patrick

From: omar jackson
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 8:31 AM
To: Sbano, Patrick
Subject: Handicap Parking Spot Request

EXTERNAL SENDER: DO NOT CLICK links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If unsure, contact IT for guidance.

Good Morning Mr. Sbano and Members of the City Council.

My Name is Omar Jackson, and this is a formal request to have handicap parking space be granted in front of 7 Weeks place for my minor child with special needs.

The school district and the bus company are required to provide door to door bus service for my child to and from school, it's a daily issue to accomplish that task because they are unoccupied vehicles constantly parking were we live that makes it impossible for the district and the bus company to accomplish the necessary transportation.

An approved designated handicap parking spot would allow the special needs bus to provide door to door transportation and mitigate the current safety concerns.

We thank you all very much in advance.

Omar

Attachment: 7 Weeks PI (2025-32 : PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE RE: PARKING REGULATION - 7

City of New Rochelle
Public Works

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager

FROM: Alvaro Alfonzo-Larrain, Assistant City Engineer

DATE: March 18, 2025

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE:
RE: PARKING REGULATION CHANGE - NORTH AVENUE - Ordinance
amending Section 312-88, Schedule XVII: Loading Zones, and Section 312-90,
Schedule XIX, Bus Stop, of Chapter 312, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the
City of New Rochelle.

The developer of the site at 455 Main Street has requested use of the curb space on the North Avenue side of the site during construction activities for the new building. This curb space is currently designated as a bus stop for Westchester County Bee Line buses. Westchester County has agreed to move the bus stop north of its current location and prefers to retain this as a permanent relocation to better accommodate buses turning from Main Street that are utilizing this stop. It is proposed to extend the existing bus stop 80 feet to the north, which requires removal of an existing loading zone and one metered parking space. The following amendments to the municipal code are recommended to reflect this change:

§ 312-88 Schedule XVII: Loading Zones.

In accordance with the provisions of § 312-46, the following described locations are hereby designated as loading zones:

Name of Street	Side	Hours/ Days	Location
----------------	------	-------------	----------

[North Avenue]	[East]	[All]	[From 207 North to 209 North Avenue]
----------------	--------	-------	--------------------------------------

§ 312-90 Schedule XIX: Bus Stops.

In accordance with the provisions of § 312-48, the following described locations are hereby designated as bus stops:

Street Name	Cross Street	Bus Direction	Location/ Hours/ Days
-------------	--------------	---------------	-----------------------

North Avenue	Main Street	North	Northeast corner for [100] <u>180</u> feet/All/All
--------------	-------------	-------	--

Matter underlined added.

Matter [bracketed] deleted.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 312-88, SCHEDULE XVII: LOADING ZONES, AND SECTION 312-90, SCHEDULE XIX, BUS STOP, OF CHAPTER 312, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of New Rochelle:

Section 1. The Code of the City of New Rochelle, Section 312-88, Schedule XVII: Loading Zones, of Chapter 312 (Vehicles and Traffic) is hereby amended as follows:

§ 312-88. Schedule XVII: Loading Zones.

In accordance with the provisions of § 312-46, the following described locations are hereby designated as loading zones:

Name of Street	Side	Time Limit; Hours/Days	Location
[North Avenue] Avenue]	[East]	[All]	[From 207 North to 209 North

Section 2. The Code of the City of New Rochelle, Section 312-90, Schedule: XIX, Bus Stop, of Chapter 312, Vehicles and Traffic, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 312-90. Schedule: XIX, Bus Stop.

In accordance with the provisions of § 312-48, the following described locations are hereby designated as bus stops:

Street Name	Cross Street	Bus Direction	Location/ Hours/ Days
North Avenue feet/All/All	Main Street	North	Northeast corner for [100] <u>180</u>

Matter underlined added.

Matter [bracketed] deleted.

City of New Rochelle
Development

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Adam Salgado, Commissioner of Development
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANTS - Ordinance accepting the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities and Water Quality Improvement Project grants totaling \$1,187,912, amending Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, and appropriating funds therefor.

Background:

The City of New Rochelle submitted several grant applications to New York State through the 2024 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The City was notified of five (5) grant awards including:

- . NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Grant for PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan - The City was awarded grant funding to plan for community climate actions, such as a resiliency hub network, that will enhance the community's resiliency and adaptability to climate hazards while mitigating the drivers of climate change. Total Project Cost (Est.): \$200,000. Grant Award: \$100,000. City Match: \$100,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds.
- . NYS DEC CSC Certification Grant for PE3 Actions: Fleet Inventory & Fleet Efficiency Policy - The City was awarded grant funding to perform an inventory and assessment of the City's fleet and to develop a recommended efficiency policy. Total Project Cost (Est.): \$200,000. Grant Award: \$100,000. City Match: \$100,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds.
- . Enhancing CNR's Food Waste Recycling Pilot: NYS DEC CSC Implementation Grant for Climate Mitigation - The City was awarded grant funding to implement drop-off site improvements, public engagements and marketing, educational materials and other enhancements for the City's food waste recycling pilot. Total Project Cost (Est.): \$600,000. Grant Award: \$300,000. City Match: \$300,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds.
- . Organics Management Plan: NYS DEC CSC Certification Grant for PE5 Action: Organics Management Plan - The City was awarded grant funding to plan for improved organics waste and recycling routes, including food waste pick-up recycling services.

Total Project Cost (Est.): \$160,000. Grant Award: \$80,000. City Match: \$80,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds.

- Glenwood Lake Dam Repairs: NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) Dam Safety Repairs - The City was awarded grant funding to implement dam repair and rehabilitation. Total Project Cost (Est.): \$810,550.00. Grant Award: \$607,912.00. City Match: \$202,637 (previously budgeted).

The total award amount to the City of New Rochelle is \$1,187,912.

Issue:

In order to proceed with related Grant Agreements, City Council needs to accept the awarded grant funds and delegate signing authority for all future grant documents.

Recommendation:

At this time, staff is requesting that the City Council accept the NYSDEC grant funds and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the grant disbursement.

Staff also recommends that City Council authorize the following Budget Amendment to allow for these funds to be entered into the City's 2025 Budget.

Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Revenue

6989H.3897.25AAA	State Aid - Climate Ready NR Implem. Plan	\$100,000
6989H.5710.25AAA	Bond Proceeds - Climate Ready NR Implem. Plan	\$100,000
1490H.3897.25BBB	State Aid - Fleet Inventory & Efficiency Policy	\$100,000
1490H.5710.25BBB	Bond Proceeds - Fleet Inventory & Efficiency Policy	\$100,000
8160H.3897.25CCC	State Aid - Food Scrap Expansion	\$300,000
8160H.5710.25CCC	Bond Proceeds - Food Scrap Expansion	\$300,000
8160H.3897.25DDD	State Aid - Organics Management Plan	\$80,000
8160H.5710.25DDD	Bond Proceeds - Organics Management Plan	\$80,000
7140H.3897.25016	State Aid - Glenwood Dam	\$607,912

Increase Expenses

6989H.20000.25AAA Climate Ready NR Implem. Plan	\$200,000
1490H.20000.25BBB Fleet Inventory & Efficiency Policy	\$200,000
8160H.20000.25CCC Food Scrap Expansion	\$600,000
8160H.20000.25DDD Organics Management Plan	\$160,000
7140H.23000.25016 Glenwood Dam	\$607,912

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANTS TOTALING \$1,187,912, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 212 OF 2024, THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE FOR 2025, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of New Rochelle:

Section 1. The Council of the City of New Rochelle hereby accepts several grant awards from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through the 2024 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), as follows:

- . NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Grant for PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan (Total Project Cost (Est.): \$200,000. Grant Award: \$100,000. City Match: \$100,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds).
- . NYS DEC CSC Certification Grant for PE3 Actions: Fleet Inventory & Fleet Efficiency Policy (Total Project Cost (Est.): \$200,000. Grant Award: \$100,000. City Match: \$100,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds).
- . Enhancing CNR's Food Waste Recycling Pilot: NYS DEC CSC Implementation Grant for Climate Mitigation (Total Project Cost (Est.): \$600,000. Grant Award: \$300,000. City Match: \$300,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds).
- . Organics Management Plan: NYS DEC CSC Certification Grant for PE5 Action: Organics Management Plan (Total Project Cost (Est.): \$160,000. Grant Award: \$80,000. City Match: \$80,000 (50%) secured with municipal funds).
- . Glenwood Lake Dam Repairs: NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) Dam Safety (Total Project Cost (Est.): \$810,550.00. Grant Award: \$607,912.00. City Match: \$202,637 (previously budgeted)).

Section 2. Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, is hereby amended in order to provide for the acceptance and implementation of the grants, as follows:

Increase Revenue

6989H.3897.25AAA	State Aid - Climate Ready NR Implem. Plan	\$100,000
6989H.5710.25AAA	Bond Proceeds - Climate Ready NR Implem. Plan	\$100,000

1490H.3897.25BBB	State Aid - Fleet Inventory & Efficiency Policy	
	\$100,000	
1490H.5710.25BBB	Bond Proceeds - Fleet Inventory & Efficiency Policy	
	\$100,000	
8160H.3897.25CCC	State Aid - Food Scrap Expansion	\$300,000
8160H.5710.25CCC	Bond Proceeds - Food Scrap Expansion	\$300,000
8160H.3897.25DDD	State Aid - Organics Management Plan	
	\$80,000	
8160H.5710.25DDD	Bond Proceeds - Organics Management Plan	\$80,000
7140H.3897.25016	State Aid - Glenwood Dam	\$607,912

Increase Expenses

6989H.20000.25AAA	Climate Ready NR Implem. Plan	\$200,000
1490H.20000.25BBB	Fleet Inventory & Efficiency Policy	\$200,000
8160H.20000.25CCC	Food Scrap Expansion	\$600,000
8160H.20000.25DDD	Organics Management Plan	\$160,000
7140H.23000.25016	Glenwood Dam	\$607,912

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby authorized to make such representation and execute such documentation as may be necessary and required to file and accept the grant awards, totaling \$1,187,912.

City of New Rochelle
Development

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager

FROM: Adam Salgado, Commissioner of Development

DATE: March 18, 2025

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING RE: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE REBATE PROGRAM (NYS DEC ZEV GRANT) - Ordinance accepting the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Program (NYS DEC ZEV Grant) in the amount of \$30,000, amending Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, and appropriating funds therefore.

Background:

The City of New Rochelle submitted a grant application to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Program last month for funding for the City's fleet of four (4) electric Nissan Leaf's. The Department of Development was recently notified of a grant award in the amount of \$7,500 per vehicle. The total rebate to the City of New Rochelle is \$30,000.

Issue:

In order to proceed with related Grant Agreement, City Council needs to accept the awarded grant funds and delegate signing authority for all future grant documents.

Recommendation:

At this time, staff is requesting that the City Council accept the NYSDEC grant funds and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the grant disbursement.

Staff also recommends that City Council authorize the following Budget Amendment to allow for these funds to be entered into the City's 2025 Budget.

Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Revenue

6989.3897.25XXX	State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$15,000
8610.3897.25XXX	State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$7,500

5650EP.3897.25XXX State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$3,250
5640ET.3897.25XXX State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$3,250

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE REBATE PROGRAM (NYS DEC ZEV GRANT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 212 OF 2024, THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE FOR 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of New Rochelle:

Section 1. The Council of the City of New Rochelle hereby accepts the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) grant relative to the Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Program (NYS DEC ZEV Grant) in the amount of \$30,000.

Section 2. Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, is hereby amended in order to provide for the acceptance and implementation of this \$30,000 grant, as follows:

Increase Revenue

6989.3897.25XXX	State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$15,000
8610.3897.25XXX	State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$7,500
5650EP.3897.25XXX	State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$3,250
5640ET.3897.25XXX	State Aid - ZEV Grant	\$3,250

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby authorized to make such representation and execute such documentation as may be necessary and required to file and accept the \$30,000 grant.

City of New Rochelle
City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION RE:
PACKAGING REDUCTION AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ACT -
Resolution in support of New York State Legislation relative to Packaging
Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act S1464/A1749 (Co-sponsored by
Council Members Sara R. Kaye, Shane A. Osinloye, and Matthew A. Stern)

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2024, the New Rochelle City Council adopted a resolution (2024-48) in support of New York State Legislation relative to Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act A5322-A/S4246-A, and an Expanded and Modernized Bottle Bill A.6353/S.237-B.

ISSUE:

The bills were very close to getting passed in both chambers; however, time expired to procedural issues requiring the entire process to start over with the new legislative session.

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act has been reintroduced as S1464/A1749. The Expanded and Modernized Bottle Bill has not yet been introduced.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution showing support to the New York State Senate and Assembly for S1464/A1749, the reintroduced Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE
LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO PACKAGING
REDUCTION AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE
ACT S1464/A1749

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40 percent of the waste in New York State; and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not readily available; and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution including litter and use of toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should help bear the costs of packaging waste, not just taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, as drafted in the New York Assembly A.1749 and the New York Senate S.1464, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs, reduce toxicity in products, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act should work in tandem with and supplement New York State's Returnable Container Act; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of New Rochelle urges and supports the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act S1464/A1749; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council submits the attached addendum in further support of S1464/A1749; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is authorized to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Assembly Speaker and New York State Senate Majority Leader, the local state assemblymember, the local state senator, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Addendum to Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act S1464 A1749

City of New Rochelle Resolution No. 2025-**ADDENDUM TO PROPOSED RESOLUTION RE: PACKAGING REDUCTION AND RECYCLING
INFRASTRUCTURE ACT - Resolution in support of New York State Legislation relative to Packaging
Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act S1464/A1749 (Co-sponsored by Council Members Sara R.
Kaye, Shane A. Osinloye, & Matthew A. Stern)**

Plastic waste is one of the most detrimental man-made materials to our living environment. As such, the New Rochelle City Council thanks you for moving forward with Senate/Assembly Bill S1464/A1749, "The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act." This bill shows environmental advocates that our elected officials are serious about addressing our escalating environmental crisis. Your work: also shows bad actors that we prioritize our clean environment for people over their profits.

As an addition to our letter of support for your legislative intervention, we would also like to advocate for future action. Specifically, we are asking that you invest deeply into environmentally friendly material science research and application. Brands and retailers will be looking for ways to meet the standard set by your legislation, without sacrificing convenience for consumers. At the same time, growers and other environmental advocates are looking for innovative ways to source minerals to grow their produce. Compostable packaging is an emerging solution for manufacturers, retailers and environmentally conscious consumers. Compostable packaging is also a natural advancement away from other biodegradable plastics that still leave behind carcinogenic and mutagenic microplastics upon dissolution.

In your future budgets and legislation, please consider investing in research, manufacturing and distribution of emerging packaging solutions. Materials scientists need additional capital and resources to develop more solutions that manufacturers, retailers and consumers can implement. This will help these parties retain the functionality of durable items for their packaging and carrying needs while utilizing materials that will positively feed back into our local ecosystems.

Thank you again for advancing packaging reduction. We are looking forward to future action to deepen the relationship between academic, commercial and environmental industry sectors.

City of New Rochelle
Finance Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
 THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
 FROM: Edward Ritter, Finance Commissioner
 DATE: March 18, 2025
 SUBJECT: PROPOSED BOND DE-AUTHORIZATIONS - Resolution repealing
 unexpended bond authorizations previously authorized.

Background:

The City of New Rochelle has a 10-year capital plan. Many projects are financed by the issuance of General Obligation (GO) Bonds. To issue (sell) bonds, City Council must authorize, through resolution, their issuance. Bonds are sold when projects are ready to begin and financing is needed. Whether bonds are sold or not, the authorization is part of the City's debt limit.

Issue:

When projects do not move forward or are able to be funded through other sources the bonds are no longer required but continue to remain part of the debt limit until they are de-authorized through resolution by City Council. We have three (3) bond resolutions that require de-authorization:

Account	Description	Amount	Resolution No.
7020H.46000.2529	Parks Master Plan (Hudson Park)	\$4,000,000	2020-174
3310H-20000-2214	Main/Weyman Intersection Improvements	\$750,000	2019-10
3310H-20000-2214	Main/Weyman Intersection Improvements	\$1,500,000	2019-278

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution de-authorizing the aforementioned bonds.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION REPEALING UNEXPENDED BOND AUTHORIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the City of New Rochelle to repeal certain unused bond authorizations which are not expected to be needed; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council, as follows:

Section 1. It is hereby determined, pursuant to Section 41.00 of the Local Finance Law, that the authorized amounts of each of the following bond resolutions are hereby repealed to the extent provided below:

- a. BOND RESOLUTION NO. 174 OF 2020 DATED DECEMBER 8, 2020 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK IN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 TO FINANCE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO HUDSON PARK.

The entire \$4,000,000 authorized amount is hereby repealed.

- b. BOND RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF 2019 DATED JANUARY 15, 2019 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK IN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$750,000 TO FINANCE TRAFFIC-SAFETY RELATED ROAD RECONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS AT MAIN/WEYMAN AREA INTERSECTION, INCLUDING INCIDENTAL EXPENSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

The entire \$750,000 authorized amount is hereby repealed.

- c. BOND RESOLUTION NO. 278 OF 2019 DATED DECEMBER 16, 2019 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK IN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000 TO FINANCE TRAFFIC-SAFETY RELATED ROAD RECONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS, IN AND FOR THE CITY, INCLUDING INCIDENTAL EXPENSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, A CLASS OF OBJECTS OR PURPOSES.

The entire \$1,500,000 authorized amount is hereby repealed.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

City of New Rochelle
Development

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Adam Salgado, Commissioner of Development
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF GREENR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE - Resolution supporting the 2025 update to the GreenNR - The New Rochelle Sustainability Plan and authorizing the City Manager to prepare and present for City Council review an initial implementation strategy for GREENR and annual updates on progress toward GreenNR goals.

Background:

New Rochelle prepared a sustainability plan in 2011 that has served the community well and resulted in a substantial number of efforts that have helped improve the sustainability of the City and the region. GreenNR, as the plan is known, provides a twenty-year plan with ten big goals to be achieved through a variety of initiatives organized in a framework of six themes. The original goals and themes are noted below.

The ten big goals consisted of:

1. *Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%*
2. *Cut non-recycled solid waste generation by 15% and increase recycling rate to 50%*
3. *Preserve natural spaces and restore inland water bodies*
4. *Absorb or retain 25 million gallons of flood water per storm*
5. *Decrease sewage flow by at least 2 million gallons in peak hours*
6. *Build at least 95% of new housing near mass transit*
7. *Open at least one additional mile of the Sound shore to the public*
8. *Plant at least 10,000 new trees on public property*
9. *Create a comprehensive walking and bicycling system*
10. *Subscribe at least half of all households to the City website*

The original themes include the following:

1. *Energy and Climate*
2. *Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction*
3. *Ecology, Biodiversity and Health*
4. *Smart Growth and Economic Prosperity*

5. *Transportation and Mobility*
6. *Public Participation and Awareness.*

Issue:

Though GreeNR has served the community well, changes over the years in environmental science and sustainable initiatives to address climate challenges necessitate an update to the plan to best serve New Rochelle for the next five years. The accompanying GreeNR update details what we have accomplished, what has changed and what needs to be done. To best implement the plan, a new goal and a new theme are proposed.

The proposed new goal is to ensure that economic status and race are not determinant of environmental risk and the proposed is new theme is: Climate Leadership, Resiliency and Racial Equity.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution in support of the updated GreeNR Climate Action Plan document and directs the City Manager to utilize GreeNR as a resource and policy guidance document in the administration of the City.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2025 UPDATE TO THE GREENR - THE NEW ROCHELLE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND PRESENT FOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW AN INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR GREENR AND ANNUAL UPDATES ON PROGRESS TOWARD GREENR'S GOALS.

WHEREAS, GreeNR, New Rochelle's sustainability plan, was initially adopted in March 15, 2011 which has served the community well resulting in a substantial number of efforts that have helped improve the sustainability of the City and the region; and

WHEREAS, the plan is intended to cover the period of 2010 to 2030; and

WHEREAS, substantial changes in the environment, policy, the economy, as well as substantial increase in relevant data have made clear an update to GreeNR is urgently needed; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged the firm MPact Collective to prepare the update; and

WHEREAS, the update is informed by the Recommended Action Plan for the Downtown Overlay Zone, the City's Comprehensive Plan, EnvisionNR, the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, the Green Infrastructure Report, the local Climate Emergency Declaration, and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment, among other documents; and

WHEREAS, the update is also informed by the input of the City's Ecology and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) after their diligent review and comments; and

WHEREAS, a draft update was presented to the City Council at the March 11th, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting where additional input was provided; and

WHEREAS, the latest version of the document reflects the comments provided; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby supports the 2025 GreeNR Climate Action Plan Update; and, be it further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the City Manager to utilize GreeNR as a resource and guidance document in the administration of the City.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. GreenNR_03182025



The City of New Rochelle GreenNR Climate Action Plan Update • 2025

greeNR





THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE A Climate Smart Community

Yadira Ramos-Herbert, Mayor

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Martha Lopez-Hanratty, District 1 Council Member

Albert A. Tarantino, Jr., District 2 Council Member

David Peters, District 3 Council Member

Shane Osinloye, District 4 Council Member

Sara Kaye, District 5 Council Member

Matthew Stern, District 6 Council Member

CITY STAFF

Wilfredo Melendez, P.E., City Manager

Adam Salgado, Commissioner of Development

Jorge Ventura, Deputy Commissioner of Development

Seth Kaye, Deputy Commissioner of Development

Kevin Kain, Director of Planning & Sustainability

Nicholas Sioufas, Grants Specialist

Virginia Perdomo, Social Media Coordinator

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY

Sean McLean, Managing Partner-MPACT Collective

Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, CC-P, LEED-AP-(Former) MPACT Collective

James Vayo, Senior VP of Planning and Development-MPACT Collective

Special thanks to the **members of the Ecology & Natural Resource Advisory Committee (ENRAC)** for their thoughtful review.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
I. INTRODUCTION	6
II. GREENR PLAN'S RENEWED VISION	8
III. CLIMATE HAZARDS & LOCAL IMPACTS	12
IV. TIMELINE OF NEW ROCHELLE CLIMATE SMART POLICIES	18
V. BUILDING UP TO "CLIMATE SMART" IN NEW ROCHELLE	19
VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE	29
Theme 1: Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity	31
Theme 2: Energy and Climate	34
Theme 3: Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction	37
Theme 4: Ecology, Biodiversity, & Health	40
Theme 5: Smart Growth & Economic Prosperity	44
Theme 6: Transportation & Mobility	47
Theme 7: Public Participation and Awareness	50
APPENDIX A: Key Policies of 2011 GreeNR	53
APPENDIX B: Grants	58
APPENDIX C: GreeNR Community Partners	60

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Stronger Commitment to a Greener Future

As climate challenges continue to intensify, New Rochelle is taking bold steps to ensure a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future. The 2025 GreeNR Climate Action Plan Update builds on the successes of the city's **award-winning** 2011 GreeNR Plan while responding to the urgent realities of today's climate crisis.

This update is not just about environmental sustainability—it is about **people, equity, and opportunity**. Climate change is not an isolated issue; it affects public health, economic stability, and social justice. That's why this plan prioritizes **Environmental Justice**, ensuring that all communities—especially historically disadvantaged ones—have equitable access to resources and protections from climate risks.

New Rochelle is not only preparing for the challenges ahead but also seizing the opportunities that come with green innovation. From renewable energy investments to climate-smart infrastructure, this plan provides a clear roadmap for achieving a healthier, more resilient city for all residents.

Key Updates in the 2025 Plan

The **core foundation** of the GreeNR Plan remains intact, including the original **10 Big Goals** set in 2011. However, this update brings forward a stronger emphasis on climate equity, measurable impact, and adaptability.

A major advancement in this update is the introduction of an **11th goal focused on Environmental Justice**. Recognizing that climate change disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities, New Rochelle is committed to ensuring **Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)** (see Page 8.) benefit directly from sustainability investments, green infrastructure, and clean energy initiatives. Alongside this, the city has introduced an **expanded theme: Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity**, embedding environmental justice considerations into every aspect of planning and implementation.

The GreeNR plan is also designed to be a **living document**, capable of adapting to new climate science, technological advancements, and funding opportunities. Sustainability is now deeply integrated into the **City's Capital Plan**, ensuring that every infrastructure project, transportation investment, and development decision aligns with New Rochelle's long-term environmental goals.

Community participation remains central to this effort. This update strengthens **outreach and engagement efforts**, ensuring that residents—particularly those in historically marginalized communities—play an active role in shaping New Rochelle's sustainability strategies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONT.)

Key Actions for a Sustainable New Rochelle

A major focus of the 2025 GreenNR Update is expanding **clean energy initiatives** and strengthening climate resilience. New Rochelle is making bold investments in renewable energy, expanding solar programs for residents and businesses, and upgrading municipal infrastructure to be more energy-efficient. The city is also developing **resilience hubs**—community spaces that provide essential services and emergency relief during extreme weather events—ensuring that vulnerable populations are protected from rising temperatures, flooding, and other climate risks.

At the same time, New Rochelle is working to make **transportation greener and smarter**, recognizing that sustainable mobility is key to a thriving, future-ready city. With an expanded network of **electric vehicle (EV) charging stations**, transitioning city-owned vehicles to electric, and integrating EV infrastructure into new developments, the city is actively reducing emissions from transportation. Investments in **public transit, walkability, and bike infrastructure** will improve access to the city center and surrounding neighborhoods, while projects like the **LINC** will transform underutilized roadways into dynamic, pedestrian-friendly public spaces.

Beyond environmental benefits, these transportation improvements also contribute to a **healthier economic development ecosystem**. Strengthening **mobility networks** supports a **more sustainable retail environment** in commercial corridors, making local businesses more accessible while enhancing the pedestrian experience. By prioritizing transit-oriented development and multimodal access, GreenNR helps attract **new investment, foot traffic, and commercial activity**, ensuring that retail districts remain vibrant and adaptable. Additionally, by embedding sustainability into infrastructure planning, the city is creating **new workforce development opportunities** aligned with the expanding **clean energy, green construction, and sustainable transportation sectors**—ensuring that New Rochelle’s workforce is prepared for **both current and future job markets**.

Waste reduction and resource conservation are also high priorities. New Rochelle is enhancing **composting and textile recycling programs**, making it easier for residents to participate in sustainable waste disposal. Water conservation efforts, including stormwater management improvements and the expansion of green infrastructure, will help protect natural ecosystems while reducing flooding risks.

Equity and environmental justice are embedded throughout this plan. The city is committed to ensuring that at least **40% of climate-related investments benefit Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)**. Tree-planting initiatives and green space expansion will be prioritized in neighborhoods that have historically suffered from poor air quality and limited access to nature. Additionally, **heat emergency plans** will be developed to protect at-risk populations from rising summer temperatures, and policies will be put in place to improve access to affordable, energy-efficient housing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONT.)

Economic development remains a key pillar of the city's sustainability vision. New Rochelle is leveraging state and federal funding to support **green job training programs**, equipping residents with the skills needed to participate in the growing clean energy sector. Smart growth initiatives will continue to guide development, ensuring that new housing and commercial projects align with transit-oriented development principles, reducing car dependency while supporting local businesses.

Municipal investments in energy efficiency and sustainability projects that involve upgrading infrastructure or implementing clean energy technologies, such as solar power, green buildings, and electric vehicles can reduce long-term operational costs, especially in terms of energy consumption. Many of these projects and sustainable initiatives qualify for green capital financing options through public sector sources and private sector partnerships that seek long-term investments in renewable energy innovations. The financial benefits to municipalities from such investments include helping to offset the upfront costs and managing the risks of sustainable initiatives.

Beyond the economic considerations of capital investment and municipal finance, it should be noted that there are significant social costs created by climate inaction. Some of these social costs defy simple spreadsheet calculation, including increased health risks, economic instability, demographic displacement, and the exacerbation of existing and historical inequalities, with the most vulnerable populations bearing the brunt of long-term adverse impacts.

Why This Matters & How You Can Get Involved

The **2025 GreenNR Climate Action Plan Update** is more than just a policy document—it's a call to action for every resident, business, and organization in New Rochelle. Whether it's adopting energy-efficient practices, advocating for climate justice, or participating in community programs, **everyone has a role to play in building a greener, healthier, and more just city.**

As you explore this report, think about how you can integrate sustainability into your daily life and community. Meaningful change happens **when we work together**—and by leading the way in **local climate action**, New Rochelle is shaping a future that benefits **everyone**.

The climate crisis demands urgent action, and **New Rochelle is rising to the challenge.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of New Rochelle's GreenNR Climate Action Plan Update represents a decade of progress and renewed commitment to sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change. Building on the original 2011 GreenNR Sustainability Plan, this update acknowledges the challenges posed by the global climate crisis while celebrating the achievements of the New Rochelle community in adapting to these challenges.

Historical Context and Vision

When first introduced, the 2011 award-winning GreenNR Plan sought to enhance the city's quality of life through sustainable practices while ensuring economic growth and ecological health. Guided by its original thematic goals—ranging from energy and waste reduction to smart growth and community engagement—New Rochelle emerged as a regional leader in sustainability. The 2025 update builds upon this foundation with the inclusion of a new thematic pillar: Climate Leadership, Resiliency, and Racial Equity. This addition highlights the interconnectedness of environmental sustainability with social equity, ensuring that all residents, particularly vulnerable populations, can benefit from and contribute to climate action initiatives.

Key Objectives and Achievements

Since 2011, New Rochelle has made measurable progress, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding green infrastructure, and promoting sustainable urban development.

- A targeted reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions through investments in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.
- The successful implementation of initiatives such as the Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ) and the LINC, which combine urban revitalization with sustainability.
- Joined Westchester Power, a Community Choice Aggregation Program designed to increase the use of renewable power.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ambitious Future Actions

Looking forward, the 2025 GreenNR Climate Action Update sets an ambitious agenda to address the urgent realities of climate change and adapt to a rapidly evolving urban and environmental landscape.

The City of New Rochelle Aims To:

- 1. Expand Green Infrastructure** New projects will include widespread adoption of bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavements to manage stormwater and mitigate urban heat. These efforts will prioritize historically underserved neighborhoods, addressing both environmental and social inequities.
- 2. Promote Renewable Energy Adoption** Initiatives such as solar panel installations on municipal buildings, community solar programs, and incentives for residential and commercial renewable energy systems will reduce dependency on fossil fuels and drive local clean energy production.
- 3. Develop Resiliency Hubs** These hubs will provide critical services during extreme weather events and function as centers for ongoing community education, resources, and engagement, fostering long-term resilience.
- 4. Implement the Electric Vehicle (EV) Master Plan** By increasing EV charging infrastructure and integrating it into public and private spaces, the city aims to promote sustainable mobility and reduce transportation-related emissions.
- 5. Advance Smart Growth and Economic Prosperity** The city will focus on transit-oriented development and affordable housing initiatives to ensure equitable growth while minimizing environmental impacts.
- 6. Strengthen Community Engagement and Education** New outreach efforts will empower residents with practical tools and knowledge to participate in sustainability actions. Community-wide campaigns will emphasize waste reduction, energy efficiency, clean energy and sustainable transportation.
- 7. Leverage Emerging Technologies** By integrating cutting-edge solutions, such as advanced energy storage and building automation, the city will further reduce emissions and optimize resource use.

A Call to Action

The 2025 GreenNR Climate Action Plan Update underscores the need for a collective effort. By prioritizing inclusivity, leveraging innovative technologies, and maintaining transparency, New Rochelle is positioning itself as a model for climate-smart urban development. This update not only sets ambitious targets for the future but also serves as an invitation for residents, businesses, and policymakers to collaborate in building a vibrant, resilient, and sustainable city for generations to come.

II. GREENR PLAN'S RENEWED VISION

The vision set forth in the original 2011 GreeNR plan has driven significant local progress in addressing climate change and its impacts. Grounded in the belief that sustainable practices enhance quality of life today while safeguarding the interests of future generations, GreeNR established a framework where economic growth, efficient governance, and environmental stewardship work in tandem. These beliefs fundamentally inform New Rochelle's role as a model city for climate action. With a clear vision in place, the City is able to articulate its sustainability goals to regional, state, and national partners, fostering collaboration that advances resiliency and emissions reduction efforts. As a result, notable initiatives have been launched to curb greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate extreme weather impacts, and enhance community well-being.

Since its inception in 2011, GreeNR has served as a dynamic roadmap, acknowledging the evolving nature of climate science and the necessity of adaptive strategies. Rather than a static plan, it has functioned as a living framework—one that continues to guide decision-making, drive policy, and inspire action. As reflected in this latest update, GreeNR remains responsive to advancements in science, emerging technological solutions, and an expanding landscape of funding and investment opportunities that strengthen local climate initiatives.

The ongoing impacts of climate change in New Rochelle threaten to deepen challenges related to health disparities, economic inequality, and environmental justice. GreeNR as a response provides a pathway to counteract these risks by fostering climate leadership at the community level, inviting the participation of New Rochelle residents. The current and next generation of environmental stewards must be equipped with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to drive measurable improvements and ensure that sustainability efforts remain both impactful and enduring. Capacity building is also central to this effort, by creating opportunities for education and mentorship. In turn, successful initiatives based on GreeNR can be developed and embedded into broader priorities such as energy security, public health, environmental protection, transportation,

and sustainable urban planning.

Through targeted investments in pilot programs and cross-sector collaborations, New Rochelle is strengthening its ability to test, refine, and scale climate solutions that benefit the broader community. The GreeNR plan's renewed vision is not just about responding to climate change—it is about seizing opportunities to build a greener, healthier, and more resilient future.

The plan's vision emphasizes quality of life, economic growth, efficient government, and a healthy ecosystem.

Changes to Society Put New Focus on Equity Through Climate Justice & Disadvantaged Communities

Climate justice stands at the intersection of grassroots movements aimed at bridging environmental disparities and civil rights issues. The injustice is measured through the pollution, toxins, disasters, heat, and other impacts disproportionately carried by low-income communities and communities of color.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC)

New York State defines a disadvantaged community (DAC) as a defined Census tract that experiences negative health effects, environmental pollution, and climate change impacts. DACs also have certain socioeconomic characteristics, such as low incomes and high concentrations of minority households.

The NYS Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) uses 45 indicators to identify DACs. The CJWG includes representatives from environmental justice communities and state agencies. The CJWG reviews and modifies the criteria annually. Some of the criteria indicators used to identify DACs include:

- Environmental burdens, such as pollution and risk of flooding
- Climate risks, such as inland flooding and traffic density
- Population characteristics, such as income levels and proportion of minority households
- Health vulnerabilities, such as emergency room visits for asthma-related symptoms

II. GREENR PLAN'S RENEWED VISION

To address disparities, the affected communities need meaningful ways to participate in decisions impacting their health and wellbeing.

With nations making major commitments to address climate change, there is an opportunity to use climate adaptation as a vessel for addressing a broad range of underlying social justice issues, giving rise to climate justice. The State of New York is leading the nation through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (The Climate Act) which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85% by 2050, with an interim target of 40% by 2030. The Climate Act's agenda includes focusing 40% of climate investments towards Disadvantaged Communities. The Climate Act, along with other programs, provides direct funding incentives for New Rochelle to continue making efforts and adopting policies to combat climate change.

Changes in Technology and Society

The interconnectedness of extreme climate events are taking place across the world. Recently, weather extreme events have confronted communities across Westchester County, the Hudson Valley, New York State, and nationally. Globally, July 2023 was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth. Record-breaking rainfalls continue to cause destructive flash floods across the region. Yet in 2024, extreme heat and drought conditions led to an increase in wildfires across the Northeast, including incidents near New York City that affected air quality and safety. Severe weather events in mid-July produced tornadoes in New York State, causing significant property damage and loss of life. Despite these challenges, New Rochelle residents have demonstrated resilience. Through these experiences and others, the influence of collective action and inaction in identifying and solving common challenges is illuminated.

The world is being transformed by warming. According to The Special Report on Global Warming produced by The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the planet has seen approximately 1 Degree of Warming since the pre-industrial era. While a seemingly small increase, it has had an enormous impact on nature and human life.

Developed nations have been emitting atmosphere altering greenhouse gas emissions, primarily through burning coal, since industrialization began. Scientists have set a goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees to avoid the worst impacts of climate change of the planet. While the headlines of extreme weather are concerning, there are threads of hope that the world has the capacity to meet the challenge of a warming planet through behavior changes and new technologies.

Efforts to make technological advances in renewable energy production and battery power storage have resulted in dramatic drops in the price of solar and wind energy. Today, renewable energy production is cheaper than burning coal in most places in the world, resulting in coal power plants shutting down across the globe. The United Nations (UN) states that the transition to renewable power will result in trillions of dollars in economic benefits.

The UN estimates that the advancements of wind and solar energy production will result in millions of lives being saved simply by not burning fossil fuels which emit toxins into the air. In terms of renewable power storage, batteries are changing the dynamic, especially for transportation. Many car producers have declared phase-out dates for internal combustion engines and auto manufacturers are acknowledging that electric vehicles

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

On July 18, 2019, the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act or CLCPA) was signed into law. The CLCPA is one of the most ambitious climate action laws in the nation and requires New York to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and not less than 85 percent by 2050.

The CLCPA created the Climate Action Council which developed the initial Scoping Plan that will evolve as the framework for how New York will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero goals, increase renewable energy use, and ensure that all communities equitably benefit in the clean energy transition. The CLCPA established a goal of at least 35% of NYS climate funding to directly benefit disadvantaged communities.

II. GREENR PLAN'S RENEWED VISION

are becoming cheaper to build and cheaper to own than internal combustion engines. The proliferation of electric vehicles in New York is already underway with over 120,000 electric vehicles on the road in the state today, and will hasten with New York State's directive to require zero-emission technology by 2035 for all new passenger cars, pickup trucks and SUVs sold in state. With these technological advancements and state directives comes an opportunity to adjust the goals and actions of the GreenR plan to best direct decision-making around clean energy.

What Vulnerabilities Do We Face?

Since GreenR was released in 2011, New Rochelle has felt the effects of more intense storms, higher tidal storm surge, and more extreme heat, among other hazards. These changes pose new challenges to the City's people, commerce, and government. We are not alone. Across the nation, cities are facing higher risks of drought, wildfire, and flooding which can lead to population displacement, increased resource demands, spread of disease, and a greater need for public services. Cities that fail to adapt to these changes are likely to experience job loss, economic decline, population loss and an inability to rebuild after the shocks of natural disasters.

For New Rochelle, weather-related hazards most often translate into loss of property from flooding, increased hospital visits due to extreme heat, and a reduced capacity for emergency response, for example, when power is lost from violent winds. Major weather events also result in people being displaced from their homes for extended periods of time or permanently. For vulnerable populations who already face systematic constraints and are sensitive to climate shocks, the risks posed by climate change can be great enough to imperil their lives.

For New Rochelle, weather-related hazards most often translate into loss of property from flooding, increased hospital visits due to extreme heat, and a reduced capacity for emergency response

Groups such as children, the elderly, those living in poverty, uninsured individuals, and non-English speaking residents are all at greater risk of harm from climate change. These groups require thoughtful interventions in advance of extreme weather events and other hazards. The GreenR update anticipates the responsibility of the City to identify and share the most current information on risks posed both to vulnerable populations and the city at-large. Through Climate Ready NR—a community Climate Vulnerability Assessment—New Rochelle will explore community resources and their climate sensitivities, and identify vulnerable populations and their top needs resulting from a changing climate. Armed with this information, New Rochelle can take action to mitigate these risks, through initiatives such as the development of heat emergency plans and creation of community resilience hubs. Armed with this information, New Rochelle can take action to mitigate these risks, through initiatives such as the development of heat emergency plans and creation of community resilience hubs.

NYS Disadvantaged Communities Mapper

The New York State Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Mapper is an interactive tool developed to identify and visualize communities disproportionately affected by environmental and socioeconomic burdens. This initiative, led by the Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) under New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act), aims to ensure that these communities benefit from NYS' transition to cleaner energy, reduced pollution, and economic opportunities.

Visit NYS DAC mapper at: <https://climate.ny.gov/Resources/Disadvantaged-Communities-Criteria>

For better viewing of the mapper visit: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=2579112b69b04b4c9a09f4cf013983dc>

II. GREENR PLAN'S RENEWED VISION

A Call to Action for Residents and Businesses

While GreenNR is focused primarily on actions the city government can take to address climate change and develop resiliency, for a truly impactful plan, steps must be taken that go beyond municipal actions. GreenNR policies are designed to engage residents and businesses to reduce emissions, mitigate risks, and adapt to a changing climate.

For example, as part of NYSEERDA's Clean Energy Communities (CEC), the City has performed successful community campaigns related to community solar, clean heating and cooling technology, and demand response that have translated into reduced GHG emissions, as well as CEC points and grant awards. The City continues to support sustainable resident and business actions through ongoing community engagements, planning and outreach initiatives.

As the City moves forward with the objectives of GreenNR, we will be seeking new ways to build awareness of the sustainability actions underway and work with businesses and residents to identify ways they can be part of the implementation of the GreenNR action plan. The community may be interested in participating in one or more of the ongoing groups or the appendix information may provide inspiration for community members seeking to start new initiatives.

Conclusion

The GreenNR plan identifies the bold actions needed to reach New Rochelle's climate goals. This GreenNR Update celebrates the successes of the actions undertaken under the six themes identified in the 2011 GreenNR plan and provides a modernized viewpoint of the City's sustainability goals.

The initiatives contained in the GreenNR Update reflect the new science, access to new technological tools, changes to societal values, and the resources available to help the City address climate change and continue progress towards its goals.

The GreenNR Update also connects readers to other plans, reports, and policies already in place. The connections to data points help document progression towards our common goals. This GreenNR plan update demonstrates a continued commitment to transparency of sustainability efforts by highlighting community efforts and illustrating the opportunities to further achieve the community's vision of a better future. We hope that this document proves to be a useful reference tool and provides fresh perspectives on ways New Rochelle government, businesses, and citizens can participate in meeting the climate challenge.

III. CLIMATE HAZARDS & LOCAL IMPACTS

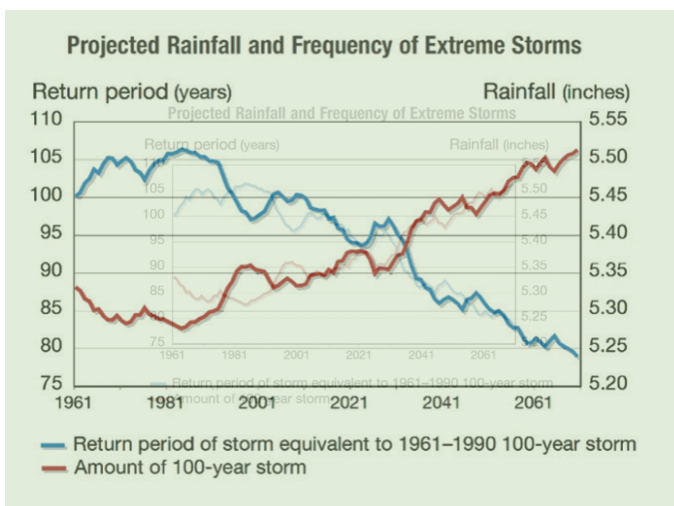
The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sees a critical need to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Such an effort will require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society. In just a few short years, transitions to clean energy and energy efficient consumption are required in order to limit impacts and risks of increased and intensifying extreme weather events. The IPCC released their 6th assessment report across three working groups which looked at the physical science of climate change, the impacts and vulnerability to changes, and the ability to mitigate risks associated with changes. The findings of the physical science working group identified unprecedented observations of surface temperature warming driven primarily by carbon dioxide and methane emissions. World-wide, the impacts of these changes are being experienced in the form of extremes in heat, precipitation, and drought.

Subject to legislative and executive policy and regulatory shifts, the United States government has acknowledged the risks posed by climate change and recent legislation such as the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law include language, policy, programs, and funding to reduce emissions and combat the risks posed by climate change. Initiatives include efforts to promote solar power, new and improved building standards, the creation of a national climate task

force, and a Department of Energy program designed to incentivize community participation in climate action known as the Better Climate Challenge.

American cities face unique challenges and opportunities for responding to climate change. The National League of Cities Center for City Solutions provides research and analysis on key topics and trends important to cities, including creative solutions, inspiration, and ideas for local officials to use in tackling tough issues such as climate change. The NLC City Solutions report “What Cities Should Know About Climate Change and Populations on the Move” identified how cities across the country will be affected by weather changes. The report identifies that effects will arise in slow building crises or through sudden onset events, identifies how disproportionate impacts will be felt, and provides a typology of cities based on their vulnerabilities. The NLC report gives recommendations for all types of cities in how to respond to climate driven migration patterns.

New York State has experienced a wide range of effects from climate change and will continue to do so. Higher temperatures and increased heat waves will lead to increased energy demand; and greater potential for heat-related deaths and declines in air quality. Projected higher average annual precipitation and frequency of heavy precipitation events are likely to increase flash floods in urban areas; higher pollutant levels in water supplies; and inundation of wastewater treatment plants as well as other vulnerable development in floodplains and near coastlines. NYSERDA’s ClimAID report discusses these impacts in detail and articulates, by sector, the likely effects of these changes across the State.



III. CLIMATE HAZARDS & LOCAL IMPACTS

Local Weather Impacts

New Rochelle is experiencing impacts of climate change through more frequent extreme rainfall events, hotter temperatures, prolonged drought, and more intense coastal storm surges. Locally, the Draft Westchester County 2050 climate impact model anticipates a 126% increase in extreme heat and a 7% increase in heavy precipitation within 25 years. In 50 years, a 438% increase in extremely hot days and a 21% increase in days with heavy precipitation is expected. To put it simply, summer months will be hotter and drier with more frequent drought, and wet months will have more rain and greater flooding. Weather will be more extreme overall, and as the climate and environment changes people will likely migrate to the northeast from other areas of the country as those areas become less habitable.

Less often considered, are new diseases & pest patterns as the seasonal range increases and changes globally, population growth in the northeast is likely due to the relatively mild climate of this area compared to other places in



the world, and the potential conversion of local vegetation types compatible with the warmer climates and less intense frosts. The ability of New Rochelle to develop systems which are resilient and responsive to climate shocks will be a determinant of how stable the community will be in the future. As we have seen through the COVID-19 pandemic, New Rochelle is part of a global society which brings unknowns about the future and bring impacts to the City's quality of life. New Rochelle's local climate actions prioritize resiliency but also address emissions in support of global reductions of greenhouse gases.



III. CLIMATE HAZARDS & LOCAL IMPACTS

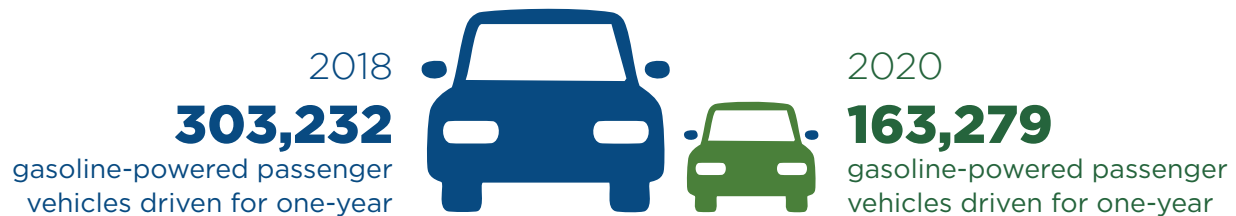
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The 2011 GreenNR report included a Baseline Inventory Report of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions across residential, commercial, school transportation and municipal sectors. The inventory accounts for energy consumed within the City of New Rochelle and establishes the year 2005 as a benchmark for tracking reductions in GHG emissions. Aggregate greenhouse gas emissions were calculated by collecting information on energy use, including electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, and vehicle miles traveled within the City of New Rochelle.

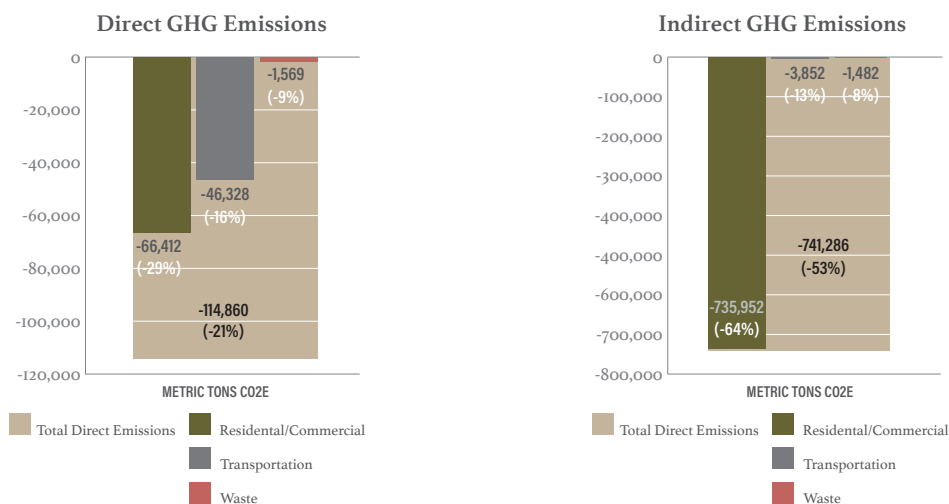
In 2005, the City of New Rochelle emitted approximately 662,601 metric tons of CO₂. The largest sources of emissions came from the residential and transportation sectors, each contributing 37% of total greenhouse gas emissions. For 2018, the City of New Rochelle is estimated to have produced 545,731 metric tons of carbon dioxide

equivalent (CO₂e) emissions, or approximately 6.9 metric tons of CO₂e per year per resident. This is comparable to the per capita emissions of similarly-sized municipalities within the Northeastern Region but represents a measurable reduction from the 2005 baseline CO₂ emissions. Between 2018 to 2020, New Rochelle is estimated to have reduced emissions from 1.3 million to 0.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mt CO₂e) emissions, or approximately 13.0 to 8.8 mt CO₂e per year per resident. Alternatively, this is equivalent to a reduction in 139,953 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven in one-year from 303,232 to 163,279. This is comparable to the per capita emissions of similarly-sized municipalities within the Northeastern Region, and below the statewide per capita emissions for New York State (approximately 10.5 metric tons of CO₂e per year per resident.)

Reducing GHG Emissions in New Rochelle



2018 to 2020 GHG Emissions



III. CLIMATE HAZARDS & LOCAL IMPACTS

Tracking & Reporting Emissions

The latest report, issued for 2019, highlights that the City has made tremendous strides toward implementation, and provided a number of notable achievements, particularly regarding energy, mobility, smart growth, and approval of affordable housing units. As noted in prior updates, the City recognizes that recommended actions are “resource-dependent” and that “judgments about whether, how and when to proceed will be guided in part by organizational capacity and competing priorities.” Accordingly, the City has diligently been working on a select number of projects and initiatives to be most effective.

In order to quantify the cost-effectiveness of current and future initiatives, the City has consulted with AKRF to perform citywide GHG inventories for 2018, 2019 and 2020 from the 3 most significant sectors for the City: the Residential/Commercial/Municipal Energy Consumption, Transportation, and Waste sectors. The 2018, 2019 and 2020 inventories include the ability to incorporate specific metrics driving GHG emissions (such as energy consumption, vehicle miles traveled, and wastewater generation) for future tracking in order to assess the effectiveness of potential initiatives.

These inventories focused on CO₂, nitrous oxide (N₂O), and methane (CH₄), the three of seven key GHGs identified in the Kyoto Protocol. These key GHGs are expressed in CO₂ Equivalent (or CO₂e) with Global Warming Potential (GWP) factors applied. This methodology is commonly used to account for the lifetime and the radiative forcing (an index of the importance specific GHGs have in altering the balance of incoming and outgoing energy of the planet) of each gas over a period of 100 years (e.g., CO₂ has a much shorter atmospheric lifetime than Methane, and therefore has a much lower GWP).

These inventories calculated emissions on a consumption based approach (i.e. the use of electricity in any household or business will be associated with its indirect emissions even though the power is not produced within the City) as well as lifecycle emissions (emissions associated with upstream activity, including fuel extraction or production, processing and transport). Indirect emissions are important components of potential mitigation analyses, enabling the comparison of the full emissions benefits associated with potential initiatives focused on consumption or activity.



Greenhouse Savings in Action

In 2024, Circuit New Rochelle avoided approx. 10 metric tons of GHG emissions which are emissions equivalent to 25,466 miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle. This is equivalent to carbon sequester by 165 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

In 2023, New Rochelle Community Choice Aggregation program participants mitigated 35,056 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, which has roughly the same impact as taking 8,344 gas-powered cars off the road for a year, or the carbon sequestered by 579,665 tree seedlings planted and grown for ten years. According to the NYSDEC calculations, using a 2% discount rate, it is the same as \$4,557,363 in social costs averted.

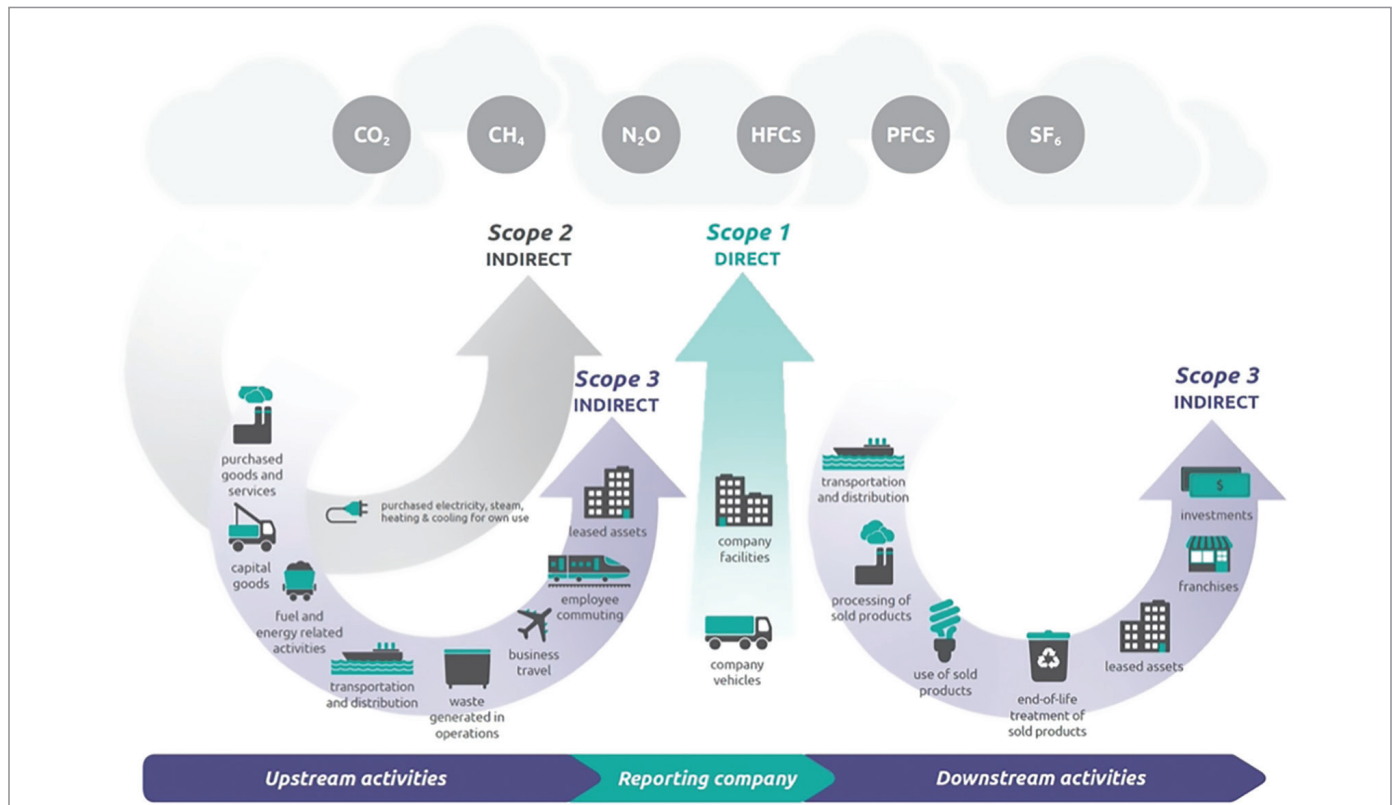
III. CLIMATE HAZARDS & LOCAL IMPACTS

Inventorying Scopes and Sectors of GHG Emissions

The annual GHG emissions inventory is calculated using “scopes” as direct and indirect emissions to clearly identify sources and avoid double counting.

- Direct emissions include emissions that occur at the source of emissions (e.g., exhaust stack, tailpipe, treatment plant).
- Indirect emissions include a consumption-based approach (i.e. the use of electricity in any household or business) as well as lifecycle

emissions associated with upstream activity (including fuel extraction or production, processing and transport). Indirect emissions are important components of potential mitigation analyses, enabling the comparison of the full emissions benefits associated with potential initiatives focused on consumption or activity (particularly in the electricity, transportation, and waste management sectors).



The scopes of emissions are further applied to Sectoral Emissions which are broken down into residential, commercial, municipal, transportation, and waste sectors. Other common sectors include industrial processing, manufacturing, and agricultural activities but are applicable to cities at significant scale. The Stationary Energy sector is mostly represented by buildings which can be broken down into residential, commercial, and institutional facilities. The Transportation Sector emissions in New Rochelle are largely borne

out of on-road travel and the traffic congestion associated with interstate travel. Transportation sector emissions also include other modes of travel, such as commuting by railroad. The Waste Sector emissions come from sources such as solid waste disposal, sewer flows and incineration solid waste, and biological treatment of wastewater and discharge. In the next section of this plan, you will see many actions and recommendations which overlap directly with and work to reduce emissions from sectors identified here.

BUILDING A GREENER NEW ROCHELLE

The GreeNR Climate Action Update aligns New Rochelle with cities nationally in recognizing an obligation to confront climate change and support equitable prosperity. The original GreeNR plan and this update identify local strategies to counteract the negative impacts of climate change and prioritize initiatives aimed at improving the environmental, economic, and social health of New Rochelle's current and future citizens.

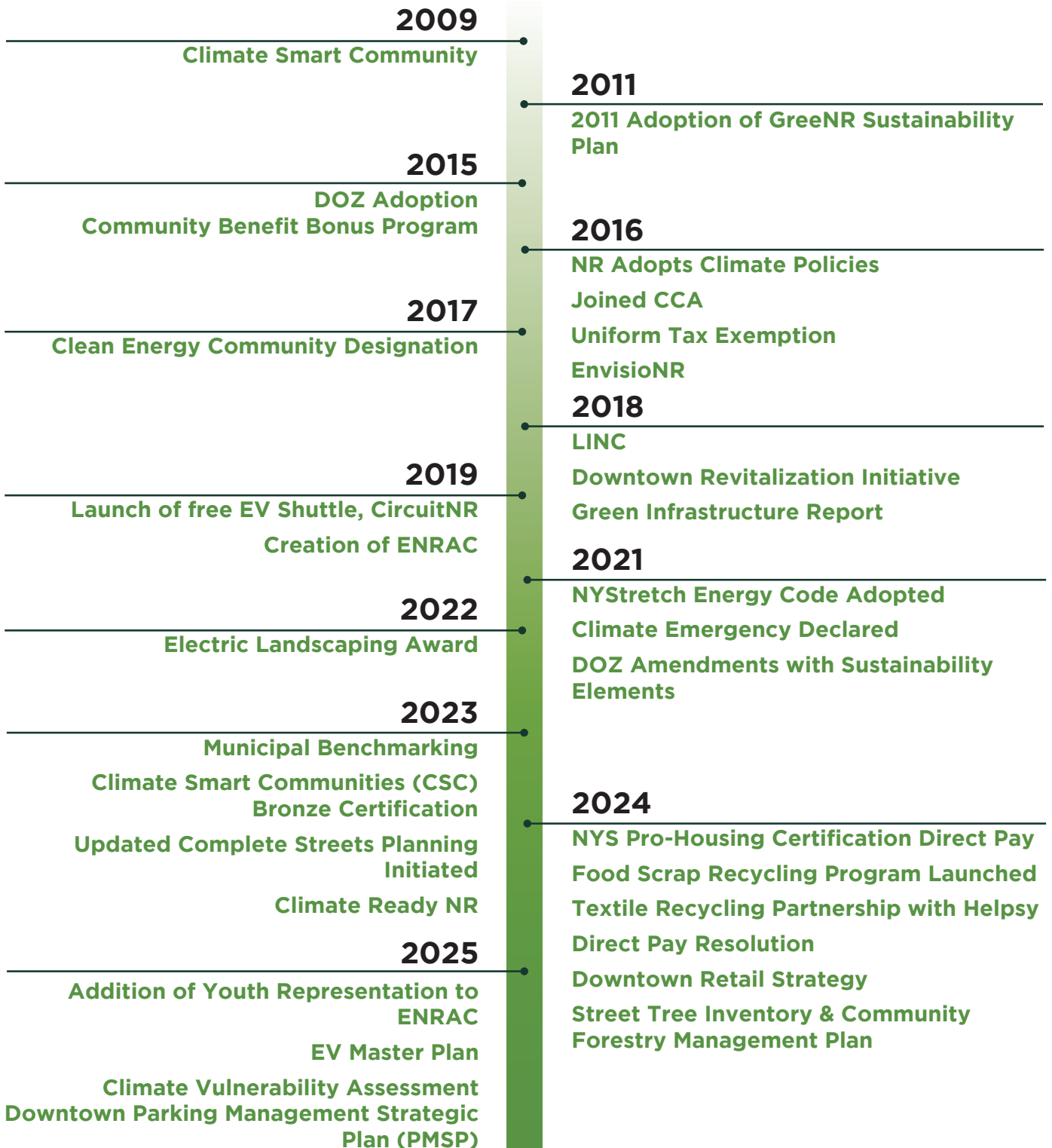
Achieving the original goals of the GreeNR Sustainability Plan requires an ongoing commitment by the public, businesses, community organizations, and individuals. There is much to celebrate in the implementation of the original GreeNR plan. Progress on sustainability efforts is not only visible in public policy, City actions, and businesses practices, but also through the everyday actions of New Rochelle's committed citizenry.

Since the 2011 release of the GreeNR plan, sustainability has become integrated into the many facets of the daily life in New Rochelle. Residents, civic leaders, and community groups, now more than ever, are empowered with the tools to make better decisions both for the environment and themselves.

The GreeNR sustainability plan acknowledges that we are already experiencing the effects of climate change and this update shows that New Rochelle is committed to undertaking significant steps to do more.

IV. TIMELINE OF NEW ROCHELLE CLIMATE SMART POLICIES

This chapter is a testament to the City's commitment to provide its residents the best in class climate policies.



V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

Leading up to the release of the 2011 GreenR sustainability plan, the City of New Rochelle made a pledge to be part of New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation’s (NYSDEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. The CSC program helps municipal governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The point-based program offers free technical assistance, grants, and identifies qualifying actions. As a registered community, New Rochelle made a commitment to taking action to combat climate change. In short, the New Rochelle pledge commits to participation in an evolving planning and implementation process in order to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

Pursuant to the climate smart pledge, New Rochelle established a local CSC coordinator and a climate smart task force. The City also set out to complete milestones from the CSC program, which calls for several actions including the creation of goals, an action plan, and an inventory of emissions. These actions are embodied in the 2011 GreenR plan as well as this 2025 update. Together, the CSC program and GreenR sustainability plan set a path for the City to achieve energy use reductions, bring about shifts towards renewable energy, foster increased livability of downtown, and make enhancements in community resiliency.

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES (CEC) HIGH-IMPACT ACTIONS

- | |
|--|
| 1) Benchmarking ✓ |
| 2) Build Ready |
| 3) Clean Energy Upgrades and Municipal Building Demo |
| 4) Clean Fleets ✓ |
| 5) Climate Smart Communities Certification ✓ |
| 6) Community Campaigns ✓✓✓ |
| 7) Community Choice Aggregation ✓ |
| 8) Electric Landscaping Equipment |
| 9) Green Financing (Open C-Pace) ✓ |
| 10) LED Streetlights ✓ |
| 11) Municipal Clean Fleets Inventory |
| 12) Renewable Energy |
| 13) Thermal Energy Networks |

Clean Energy Future Coming into Focus

Following the Climate Smart Community Pledge and release of the 2011 GreenR Plan, New Rochelle began participation in New York’s Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program. The CEC program provides financial incentives for pursuing climate actions—such as adopting a Community Choice (power) Aggregation policy which resulted in New Rochelle participation in a renewable energy purchasing partnership known as Westchester Power. In addition, the CEC program provided financial incentives for New Rochelle to adopt the NYStretch Energy Code. NYStretch has been a useful tool to meet emissions and sustainability goals set out in the GreenR plan and its adoption came at a critical period of growth with significant new building construction in the pipeline as a result of developments stemming from the adoption of the Downtown Overlay Zone—a particularly important tool for sustainable development and climate action.

The CSC and CEC programs complement one another as both programs require applicants to document completion of specific actions in order to achieve milestones. All CEC high-impact actions satisfy the requirements of one or more CSC certification actions. Because of this relationship, the City is able to submit points from CSC certification actions as linked to specific CEC high-impact actions as a means for meeting the goals set forth in the 2011 GreenR Plan. Because CSC provides incentives for these actions, new funding sources to further implement sustainability initiatives were made available to the City. Key milestones of both the Climate Smart Communities program and the Clean Energy Communities program are listed below:

- 1. Successfully completing community campaigns** related to energy use (i.e., GridRewards™, Community Solar, and Clean Heating Cooling and Energy Efficiency)
- 2. Upgrading City vehicles to electric** and hybrid models and piloting electric shuttle services

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

3. **Enrolling in Westchester Power community choice aggregation**
4. **Adopting the NYStretch Energy Code** & participation in Energy Code Enforcement Trainings
5. **Installing LED Street Lights** and enacting the Sustainable Energy Loan program

Key Climate Policies in New Rochelle

With the Climate Smart Cities pledge and the release of the GreenNR sustainability plan, New Rochelle has a firm understanding of the direction to take with climate actions. The GreenNR plan

also sets the stage for adopting new climate policies. Between 2011 and 2025, New Rochelle lead the way in sustainability policy adoption in the region. Of the several Climate Policy moves from the City in that time period, a few stand out as notable milestones for sustainability action. In the following section, a summary of key policy actions taken are provided, along with relevant information about the benefits those policies provide both to the community and the climate. As these policies were adopted, each provided guidance to the City on future climate actions, informed decision-making, and generally advanced sustainability goals.

2015

DOWNTOWN OVERLAY ZONE

The City of New Rochelle's Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ), established in 2015, is a transformative zoning initiative designed to promote smart growth, economic development, and sustainability. This innovative framework streamlined development approvals, encourages mixed-use projects, and enhances walkability, aligning closely with the 2011 GreenNR Sustainability Plan. GreenNR set ambitious goals for reducing carbon emissions, expanding green infrastructure, and fostering transit-oriented development. The DOZ advanced these priorities by promoting high-density, pedestrian-friendly urban design near transit hubs, reducing reliance on cars, and incorporating energy-efficient building practices. As a result, the DOZ played a pivotal role in achieving a more sustainable, vibrant, and resilient New Rochelle.

2015

COMMUNITY BENEFIT BONUS PROGRAM

Is a planning and economic development tool tied to the Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ) which was adopted in 2015. The Community Benefits Bonus program can be used for improvements such as Historic Preservation projects, Arts and Cultural uses, Community Facilities, Transit and Mobility, and Open Space. For example, funding can be used to increase walkability and bicycle connections through Complete Streets traffic calming features, a GreenNR strategy. The City could also offer job training and job placement services to prepare residents for new green jobs. Additionally, the City Council has the ability to look at additional improvements, and use funds from this program to support new efforts.

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

2016

UNIFORM TAX EXEMPTION

In 2016 the City adopted Uniform Tax Exemption Policies (UTEP), designed create local development incentives offered by the City of New Rochelle through its Industrial Development Agency. This agency prescribes how these incentives are applied, and dictate terms for providing development assistance through tools such as loans or subsidies and how or when such investments will be recaptured. The UTEP was updated in 2022 to address the goals and objectives of City policy documents and now define requirements for hiring of Minority and Woman owned Business Enterprise (MWBE), local residents, minorities and/or disadvantaged individuals, and union labor.

2016

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

In 2016, the City joined the Community Choice Aggregation program through Westchester Power. New Rochelle residents were enrolled in a 100% renewable energy program with the ability to opt-out. By pooling demand and negotiating electricity supply on behalf of residents and small businesses, Westchester Power provides access to renewable energy options, significantly cutting emissions from the electricity sector. Through Westchester Power, New Rochelle and other communities are making measurable progress toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient future. In 2024, New Rochelle CCA program participants mitigated 42,578 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, which has roughly the same impact as taking 9,932 gas-powered cars off the road for a year, or the carbon sequestered by 704,031 tree seedlings planted and grown for ten years.

2016

ENVISIONR

In 2016 the City adopted a new Comprehensive Plan which carries principles of sustainability by incorporating goals from GreenNR plan along with recommendations from the Sustainability Working Group into the adopted Comprehensive Plan. The first paragraph in the plan identifies “the emergence of Downtown as a regional center...and the City’s commitment to principles of sustainability and a resilience from the impacts of climate change.” EnvisionR is seen as a critical response to the imperative to consider resilience to extreme weather and climate change in the Comprehensive Plan for the City of New Rochelle.

2018

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

New Rochelle commissioned a Green Infrastructure report to identify and assess Green Infrastructure opportunities for capital municipal projects and land use development regulations. The City received a planning grant to fund the report from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The fund seeks to advance activities and planning aimed at the reduction of urban runoff currently impacting water quality in the Long Island Sound. The goals of the 2018 report promote clean waters, healthy watersheds, thriving habitats and abundant wildlife. The report also provides key information for engagement of sustainable and resilient communities.

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

2018 LINC

This project is intended to enhance connectivity of African American neighborhoods with the downtown core and new open space, promote environmental sustainability through the use of green infrastructure such as bioswales and permeable pavements to manage stormwater and reduce urban heat.

2018 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE – THE LINC

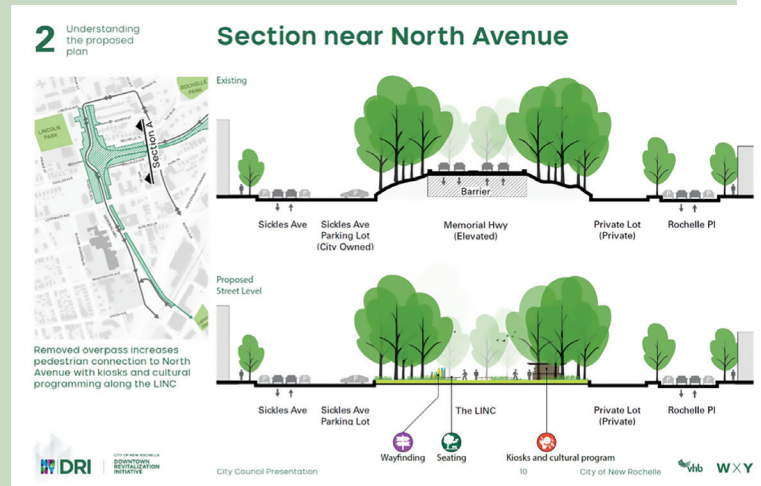
In 2018, New Rochelle was awarded \$10M under the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative with the goals of providing pedestrian safety, creating new accessible public space, spurring beneficial economic development, as well as enhancement of multi-modal access to employment, cultural, and recreational resources. Multiple physical projects will result from the DRI grant and work together to meet the GreenNR goals. Implementation will most notably include the installation of complete streets amenities and traffic calming measures to transform portions of Memorial Highway and Lincoln Avenue Corridor into a high-quality linear park and public open space.

2018 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORING

New Rochelle's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventoring is a critical tool in advancing the city's sustainability and climate action goals. By regularly updating its GHG inventory, New Rochelle can measure progress, identify key sources of emissions, and develop targeted policies to enhance energy efficiency, promote clean transportation, and expand renewable energy use.

2019 ECOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ENRAC)

When the City Council established ENRAC in 2019, the City Manager appointed ENRAC's chair and members. The City adopted a resolution in April of 2022 designating the ENRAC as the City's official Climate Smart Community Task Force and designated the Sustainability Coordinator as the Climate Smart Community Coordinator. ENRAC meets regularly to monitor progress on matters of sustainability, and climate resiliency, adaptation and mitigation. The committee also provides oversight and critical direction to City staff on matters relating to implementation of GreenNR actions.



V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

2019 CIRCUIT

A complimentary, on-demand electric shuttle service launched in August 2019 through a partnership between the City of New Rochelle and Circuit, a company specializing in sustainable micro-transit solutions. This service aims to enhance local mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and promote environmental sustainability by providing residents and visitors with an eco-friendly transportation option. User data demonstrates how the Circuit helps New Rochelle’s elderly and low-income residents (some of the most vulnerable residents to climate hazards) access vital services, such as regional transportation, groceries and medicine.

2021 NYSTRETCH ENERGY CODE

In 2021, New Rochelle adopted a resolution to apply the New York Stretch Energy Code to the City. NYStretch is a set of construction and building standards that promote energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and improved public health. The adoption of NYStretch positions the City for better attracting climate-values driven investment dollars while also improving access to state and federal grants. New Rochelle anticipates NYStretch will become a statewide requirement and by adopting it early on, the City is helping facilitate local builders’ and contractors’ adjustment to changing building standards early on in the process.

2021 CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

In 2021, the City of New Rochelle, adopted a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency. The declaration embraced the mandates of the state of New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (the Climate Act). The Emergency Declaration positions New Rochelle to remain at the forefront of sustainability and environmental policy as well as leadership in emergency climate action by building a climate-resilient and adaptive city for all residents. Through the emergency declaration, the City of New Rochelle made a commitment to keep the concerns of frontline and marginalized communities central to the sustainability planning processes, while inviting and encouraging disadvantaged communities to actively participate in the development and implementation of climate mobilization efforts.

The emergency declaration also created the Sustainability Coordinator position to oversee the mobilization and to monitor New Rochelle’s climate and environmental programs, including the GreenNR Action Plan.

Pursuant to the emergency declaration, the city council directed the New Rochelle City Manager to:

- Determine an accountability and regular reporting structure on climate change goals;
- Establish a City Task Force on Climate and Racial Equity to engage frontline communities;
- Provide options for achieving goals outlined in NY State’s Climate Act;
- Identify outdated plans and policies currently in enforcement by the city;
- Inventory innovative policy approaches to address the climate crisis; and
- Develop an implementation plan for the city’s Green Infrastructure initiatives.

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

2021

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES TO THE DOWNTOWN OVERLAY ZONE

Following the 2015 adoption of the Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ), New Rochelle made an update with a focus on sustainability to align with the City’s goals for environmentally responsible growth and urban development. These updates made actions related to sustainability eligible for incentives under the Community Benefit Bonus Program, and were designed to enhance the City’s green infrastructure, reduce environmental impact, and promote sustainable practices in downtown development. Key elements of the 2021 DOZ Sustainability Updates include: (1) Green Building Standards: New guidelines were introduced to encourage or require developers to incorporate green building practices, such as energy-efficient HVAC systems, sustainable materials, and energy-saving technologies in new construction. These standards aim to reduce the environmental impact of new buildings and improve energy efficiency. (2) Increased Green Infrastructure: The updates emphasize the use of green infrastructure, including bioswales, green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavements, to manage stormwater more effectively. This approach helps to mitigate flooding, improve water quality, and reduce the urban heat island effect in downtown New Rochelle. (3) Renewable Energy Integration: Developers are encouraged to incorporate renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and geothermal systems, in their building designs. This not only reduces the buildings’ carbon footprints but also supports the City’s broader climate action goals. (4) Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure: The updated DOZ includes provisions for EV charging stations within new developments, promoting the use of electric vehicles and reducing dependency on fossil fuels. This also aligns with the City’s objectives to increase accessibility for EV owners and support the transition to cleaner transportation options. (5) Enhanced Pedestrian and Bike Accessibility: The 2021 updates prioritize pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, promoting walkability and bike-friendly streets. By making the downtown area more accessible to non-motorized transit, the City aims to reduce vehicle emissions and encourage active transportation.

2023

MUNICIPAL BENCHMARKING

In April 2023, New Rochelle passed a resolution establishing energy benchmarking requirements for municipal buildings as part of its participation in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program and to advance its status in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. This initiative, which requires annual reporting and public disclosure of energy usage data for municipal buildings larger than 1,000 square feet using the EPA’s ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, is recognized as a certified Climate Smart Communities action. Benchmarking helps municipalities improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make smarter investment decisions by enabling regular tracking and comparison of building energy performance. By adopting this action, New Rochelle not only aligns with state goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 but also strengthens its application for Silver CSC certification, reflecting a higher level of sustainability commitment and performance. This resolution underscores the city’s dedication to advancing transparency, energy management, and climate resilience.

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

2023

CSC BRONZE CERTIFICATION

Bronze Climate Smart Communities Certification: This certification acknowledges the City’s proactive measures to mitigate climate change and enhance community resilience, it also offers the City enhanced grant opportunities and access to expert resources, training and tools. The CSC Bronze Certification aligns with New Rochelle’s GreenNR Sustainability Plan by: (1) Advancing GreenNR Environmental Goals: Supports GreenNR’s objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy adoption; (2) Enhancing Community Resilience: Addresses climate adaptation strategies outlined in GreenNR to protect vulnerable populations and infrastructure; (3) Fostering Sustainable Development: Encourages practices that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship, as emphasized in GreenNR. a. All GreenNR themes including new theme, Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity.

10 CSC PLEDGE ELEMENTS

- 1) Build a climate-smart community
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action
- 3) Decrease energy use
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy
- 5) Use climate-smart materials management
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use
- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change
- 8) Support a green innovation economy
- 9) Inform and inspire the public
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action



2023

CITYWIDE COMPLETE STREETS STUDY

The City of New Rochelle has been actively advancing its Complete Streets initiatives to enhance safety, accessibility, and mobility for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists. Rooted in the city’s long-term vision for sustainable and equitable transportation, these initiatives integrate multimodal infrastructure improvements such as expanded bike lanes, enhanced crosswalks, ADA-compliant sidewalks, and traffic calming measures. By prioritizing safer, more efficient, and interconnected streets, New Rochelle is fostering a more walkable, transit-friendly, and livable urban environment while also supporting economic growth, public health, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

2023

CLIMATE READY NR, A CITYWIDE CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The CVA Report assesses the City’s risks and resilience needs in response to climate-related threats, such as flooding, extreme heat, and storm surge. Key vulnerabilities identified include critical infrastructure, utilities, and community assets, which face increasing risks from severe weather and rising sea levels. The CVA is informed by a community survey,

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

which, among other things, found the following:

- 76-percent of respondents have been unable to enjoy the outdoors due to prolonged periods of drought and heat.
- 20-percent of respondents cannot afford utility bills in the winter due to increased costs.
- 35-percent of respondents identified they don't know where to go during an emergency.

The report emphasizes the need for infrastructure upgrades, improved emergency response plans, and community engagement in resilience efforts. It aligns with GreenNR, by supporting its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect green spaces, and enhance community well-being. The assessment complements GreenNR by prioritizing adaptation strategies like promoting green infrastructure, expanding tree canopies, and implementing energy-efficient retrofits, furthering New Rochelle's commitment to sustainable urban development and climate resilience. Key findings from the CVA include: (1) Climate Hazards: New Rochelle is projected to experience significant climate impacts, including more frequent and intense storms, higher temperatures, and changes in precipitation patterns; (2) Vulnerable Populations: Certain groups, including low-income residents, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are particularly at risk from climate-related impacts; (3) Infrastructure Risks: Critical infrastructure, especially in low-lying areas, faces threats from flooding and erosion due to sea-level rise and extreme weather events. The report outlines various mitigation and adaptation strategies, such as enhancing green infrastructure, improving emergency response plans, and increasing public awareness about climate risks. The recommendations also emphasize the need for policies that promote sustainable development practices and preserve natural ecosystems to enhance resilience. In particular, recommends a resiliency hub network as a vital community resource designed to enhance both disaster response and daily resilience-building for residents. The CVA proposes establishing a network of these hubs across New Rochelle.

2024

NYS PRO-HOUSING CERTIFICATION

The New York State (NYS) Pro-Housing Community Certification is a program aimed at encouraging municipalities to adopt policies that expand housing availability, affordability, and equity. It supports communities in implementing pro-housing initiatives through incentives such as funding opportunities and technical assistance. In 2024, New Rochelle achieved this certification, showcasing its commitment to housing expansion and equity. This accomplishment aligns with the city's ongoing efforts to address housing needs,



V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

as demonstrated by its significant increase in housing stock over the last decade. The certification ties directly into New Rochelle’s GreeNR Sustainability Plan, which emphasizes creating a livable, equitable, and environmentally sustainable community. By advancing pro-housing policies, New Rochelle supports the plan’s goals of fostering inclusivity, reducing housing-related environmental impacts, and ensuring a balanced urban development strategy.

2024 DIRECT PAY

Unlocking Direct Pay Opportunities in New Rochelle Direct Pay (or Elective Pay) is a provision in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that allows non-taxable entities, such as municipalities and non-profits, to receive a cash payment from the federal government in lieu of tax credits for eligible projects. Projects may be aggregated to unlock additional funding opportunities.

In June 2024, the City Council passed a Direct Pay resolution that directs the City Manager to identify and support eligible renewable energy projects, reduce barriers for entities to access these funds, collaborate with identified community resilience hubs to enhance emergency preparedness, ensure that job creation benefits disadvantaged groups, and report progress back to the Council.

Direct Pay is particularly valuable for cities such as New Rochelle to support clean and renewable energy projects in communities that might otherwise lack the capital to invest in resilience and sustainability initiatives. Direct Pay enables clean energy projects to be as cost-effective for municipalities and non-profit, tax-exempt organizations as they are for private sector entities seeking tax credits.

Examples for New Rochelle to access Direct Pay support include implementing resilience hubs, retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency, installing renewable energy systems, and creating backup power sources such as solar and battery storage. By covering a significant portion of these costs, Direct Pay would enable New Rochelle to establish a robust, self-sustaining resiliency hub network as outlined in the CVA’s recommended actions and GreeNR goals and objectives. Another potential project would be the installation of solar panels on the rooftop deck of the New Rochelle Transit Center garage, with a canopy structure to maintain existing parking capacity. In turn, the solar panels could provide power for additional EV charging capacity and the rest of the structure with battery storage, creating a net-zero facility that generates renewable energy into the electric grid to qualify for the Direct Pay requirements.

There are other institutions within New Rochelle that may not have the information or resources available to benefit from these opportunities (e.g. houses of worship, the library and the school district). Therefore, it will be important for City Hall staff and elected officials to help close this gap.

Key Leverage for PPP’s

Direct Pay provides municipalities, non-profits, and institutional entities with key leverage for entering into public-private partnerships with for-profit entities. With municipalities eligible for payments based on federal tax credits, collaboration with private companies can focus on value-added contributions such as advanced technology integration or operational expertise, without over-reliance on private funding. This enables municipalities to negotiate more favorable terms, ensuring alignment with public-sector equity and resilience goals.

V. BUILDING UP TO “CLIMATE SMART” IN NEW ROCHELLE

2024

DOWNTOWN RETAIL STRATEGY

Approved by the City Council in October 2024. This strategy focuses on transforming downtown New Rochelle into a dynamic hub for shopping, dining, and entertainment. It encompasses the creation of the Vanguard District, public realm improvements, retail enhancements, and tenant incentives. As part of the Downtown Retail Strategy, the Tenant Improvement Program offers financial support to retail establishments for physical improvements and relocation costs. With a \$2.25 million grant fund, it aims to attract businesses that will contribute to the downtown’s vibrancy. Through the Streetscape Beautification and Safety Improvements initiative, the city is investing in enhancing the public realm by adding street furniture, decorative plantings, improved lighting, and pedestrian safety measures to create a more inviting atmosphere for shoppers and visitors. To support local entrepreneurs and diversify retail offerings, New Rochelle is encouraging pop-up shops and revitalizing existing storefronts, adding variety and excitement to the retail mix. The City will also modernize zoning regulations, particularly in the Vanguard District, to remove barriers for bars, live entertainment venues, and experiential businesses. This regulatory flexibility is designed to attract a wider array of establishments to the downtown area. Lastly, the New Rochelle Downtown BID plays a crucial role in promoting economic development, supporting local businesses, and organizing events that drive foot traffic to retail area.

2024

STREET TREE INVENTORY & COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

This project will help the City of New Rochelle inventory, assess, and develop a strategic plan for managing its urban forest resources. By conducting a comprehensive tree inventory and health assessment, the city can better understand the ecological, economic, and social benefits of its tree canopy, including carbon sequestration, stormwater management, improved air quality, and enhanced public spaces. This initiative supports sustainable urban forestry practices, helping to guide tree planting, maintenance, and preservation efforts while mitigating climate change impacts and promoting resilience. By prioritizing the long-term health and expansion of its urban forest, New Rochelle aims to enhance biodiversity and overall quality of life for residents.

2025

DOWNTOWN PARKING MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN (PMSP)

Aims to address current and future parking needs, encompassing municipal garages, public lots, and on-street parking. Key objectives include balancing the parking requirements of retail businesses and local residents, reassessing existing parking regulations, and integrating parking policy into the broader strategy for a vibrant downtown. The PMSP will also evaluate privately owned parking facilities available for public use in new developments and consider future technological advancements, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, ride-sharing services, and micro-mobility options.

2025

Electric Vehicle Master Plan

Aims to guide EV infrastructure development to support increased adoption of electric vehicles and reduce emissions. Key objectives of the plan include leveraging various funding opportunities, encouraging sustainable mobility, and supporting both public and private charging infrastructure throughout the city.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

Over the years, New Rochelle has made significant strides in adopting policy and implementing recommendations of the 2011 GreenNR plan. The action plan refresh provides an opportunity to update the actions listed in the plan and modernize the GreenNR goals. This redirection of priorities allows the City to stay focused on the actions that can accelerate past achievements as well as focus on future initiatives that are most feasible and carry the greatest potential for impact.

GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS

The Department of Development will incorporate the GreenNR document Themes and Goals into its existing responsibilities in regard to the City of New Rochelle capital plan process.

The Department of Development shall present to the City Manager and Departments an annual updated priority initiative list which represents:

- Ongoing initiatives
- Opportunities which already have private or public funding associated with them from other sources
- Projects by the City Manager which could be developed between multiple departments (i.e. stormwater infrastructure and coastal resiliency improvements in City parks)
- Any other such priority projects for consideration by each department

The City will develop an evaluation process for capital projects using GreenNR priorities and create criteria to determine scoring for highest-impact projects.

The City will implement an Annual GreenNR Report to Council as part of the budget submission process to enhance accountability and transparency in sustainability initiatives. This report will:

- Cover a three-year period, including prior achievements, current progress, and future goals.
- Be prepared in advance of budget submissions to ensure alignment with financial planning.

By formalizing this reporting requirement, the City will be able to track progress more effectively, align sustainability efforts with budgetary planning, and reinforce its commitment to environmental goals.

The list below and the following pages are organized into the themes from the 2011 GreeNR plan. Each thematic area of action makes linkages back to the goals of the original GreeNR plan and provides a summary of initiatives as well as illustrates an example of climate action. Below is a description of each theme which has been updated from the original GreeNR plan to reflect current information, priorities, and understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented to the City.

GreeNR THEMES



NEW Theme 1 | Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity

Eliminate climate insecurity by addressing racial disparities in vulnerability. Through equity-driven solutions, we mitigate climate risks, strengthen community resilience, and ensure historically underserved populations are prioritized in adaptation efforts.



Theme 2 | Energy & Climate

Reduce local energy consumption while transitioning to clean and renewable sources of energy.



Theme 3 | Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction

Reduce solid waste produced within the City and decreased peak flow of wastewater. Decrease peak loads and waste volumes allow for smaller infrastructure and reduce the energy needed to operate systems.



Theme 4 | Ecology, Biodiversity & Health

Preservation of natural beauty, stabilization of vulnerable habitats, and improvements to air and water quality to achieve a healthy ecosystem, healthy neighborhoods, and better connect people with benefits of nature.



Theme 5 | Smart Growth & Economic Prosperity

Expansion of local tax base, the vitality of the City center, creation of green economy jobs, and new lifestyle options through housing density. Mitigation of pressure to build new car dependent developments in the City's remaining high valued natural assets through the focused growth of economic and lifestyle options in areas with ready access to local goods, services, and quality transit.



Theme 6 | Transportation & Mobility

Encouragement of sustainable transportation options, including walking, bicycling, carpooling and mass transit. Bike, pedestrian, and transit investments reduce traffic congestion and enhance public safety and efficiency of transportation systems for all users while reducing the reliance on private automobiles and the burning of fuels.



Theme 7 | Public Participation & Awareness

Empower all residents with the ability to obtain information about local challenges so they are able to make informed choices about individual lifestyles and consumption, and participate fully in community decision-making activities.

The goals continue to reflect the City's current approach to climate work and addressing the urgency of the climate emergency as we understand it today. The following pages provide additional details on actions associated with individual themes.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 1

Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity



Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity: Advancing climate solutions that prioritize historically marginalized communities, address environmental injustices, and build a more resilient, sustainable future for all.

POLICIES

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP & RACIAL EQUITY BUILDING

Policymaking related to the Climate Smart Communities, the Clean Energy Communities and the Climate Emergency Declaration have positioned New Rochelle as a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change impacts. Activities to identify and address the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized communities further ensures that adaptation efforts also bring about justice for the traditionally under served.

CLIMATE MITIGATION

Through facilitation of numerous community-wide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better comprehend climate risk, New Rochelle is taking the essential steps needed to take advantage of funding opportunities and help the community prosper while combatting climate impacts.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY

Actions designed to leverage local, regional and national funding opportunities and partnerships allow New Rochelle to anticipate vulnerabilities to a changing climate, plan for adaptive measures, and implement processes and programs that foster a climate resilient community.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 1

Climate Leadership, Resiliency & Racial Equity



ACTIONS

I. Climate Leadership & Racial Equity Building

- Prioritize climate mobilization benefits in Disadvantaged Communities (“DAC”), as defined by NYS, and ensure equitable access to resources, especially for vulnerable populations and communities of color
- Identify and take positive steps to engage vulnerable populations and disadvantaged communities (“DAC”), including through a resilience hub network
- Leverage external platforms, partnerships and local organizations for sustained outreach and sustainability recognition
- Report Climate Smart Communities Actions for certification. Create and regularly update CSC webpage [a-1]. Aim for CSC silver certification within 1-3 years.
- Continue to update list of vulnerable residents for County registry
- Continue engaging with youth and school district stakeholders. Add youth membership to CSC Task Force.
- Leverage New York State and Federal resources to achieve climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency goals (such as Direct Pay, Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energies Community funding, etc.)
- Reduce environmental risk disparities by ensuring at least 30% of climate resilience projects directly benefit Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) by 2035
- Implement a citywide Climate Vulnerability Index to track and monitor exposure to climate risks by socioeconomic status and race, informing targeted interventions
- Retrofit and upgrade at least 50% of affordable housing units in Disadvantaged Communities by 2035 to improve energy efficiency, storm resilience, and indoor air quality

II. Climate Mitigation

- Complete the City’s Climate Vulnerability Assessment (“CVA”)—including Natural Resources Inventory, Health Impact Assessment, Resilience Hub Assessment, and Vulnerable Population identification & prioritization
 - a. Integrate CVA findings into preparation for and participate in the next Westchester County Hazard Mitigation Plan process
 - b. Use CVA insights to create standard procedures to capture and archive hazard event losses
 - c. Use CVA findings to prioritize top climate resiliency, adaptation and mitigation efforts into City planning and programming processes and Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Create a citywide, and a neighborhood-based, AGZA Green Zone program
- Continue Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Community & Municipal)
- Leverage Federal Direct Pay, along with grant public and private funding, to implement eligible projects

III. Climate Adaptation & Resiliency

- Conduct Climate Resilience Policy Evaluation
- Develop a Heat Emergency Plan
- Create program to address Urban Heat Islands
- Pursue funding opportunities to fulfill the City’s Stormwater Improvement Program
- Explore nature-based solutions to provide public health benefits, such as stormwater improvements, urban forestry initiatives, resilient shorelines, etc.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

CLIMATE EQUITY & RESILIENCE FOCUS

Climate ReadyNR Identifies Needs of Vulnerable Persons To Build Equity

New Rochelle's participation in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program guides, awards and recognizes communities for their clean energy leadership. Each year, as part of NYS' consolidated funding application, CSC communities can apply for grant funding to implement CSC priority actions.

In 2022, New Rochelle received grant funding from NYSDEC CSC program to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment.

Climate ReadyNR is an ongoing initiative intended to identify New Rochelle's human, natural, socio-economic and built resources and their vulnerability to the climate change hazards with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities.

As part of Climate ReadyNR, several components will be achieved, including:

- 1 Identification & Engagement of Vulnerable Populations;
- 2 A Health Impact Assessment;
- 3 A Natural Resources Inventory with an accompanying map;
- 4 A Resilience Hub Assessment; and
- 5 A Community Resource Vulnerability Matrix.

Climate Resilience Policy Evaluation

At the end of 2022, New Rochelle received approval from NYSDEC through the CSC program to conduct a priority action—the upcoming Climate Resilience Policy Evaluation (CRPE).

As part of the CRPE, New Rochelle will integrate the findings from Climate ReadyNR into the cities operations, planning, and decision making.

The CRPE is intended guide resilient procedures and policymaking with three focused components: (1) Metrics for environmental, social and governance issues and an annual reporting framework; (2) Heat emergency plan policy evaluation; (3) A coastal resilience policy evaluation.



VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 2

Energy & Climate



The Energy and Climate theme encompasses initiatives aimed at reducing local energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while transitioning to renewable sources of energy and adapting to probable climate changes. The following set of initiatives which fall under the energy and climate theme of action.

POLICIES

MUNICIPAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESILIENCY

New Rochelle has a large collection of assets to manage. Assets include buildings, vehicles, infrastructure, and other operational equipment. Through energy auditing, the City can identify the largest and least energy efficient facilities and target them for retrofits which reduce emissions and lower operational costs.

GREEN FLEETS

Fleet owners worldwide are shifting towards low and no-emissions vehicles or have set targets for transportation decarbonization. Electrification of vehicle fleets will significantly reduce carbon emissions and costs associated with fleet operations.

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

By facilitating the generation of renewable energy, the City can play an important role in speeding up the transition of electricity generation away from polluting sources such as natural gas power plants and towards clean renewable energy sources.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 2 Energy & Climate ACTIONS



I. High-Performance Green Buildings

- Continue to align DOZ standards with best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Conduct Climate Resilience Policy Evaluation study
- Publish & update green building guidance on City website
- Track and publish DOZ disclosure requirements
- Continue to ensure Downtown Overlay Zone ["DOZ"] outcomes and objectives are delivered in City planning and plan review procedures

II. Green Fleet

- Perform a fleet inventory
- Establish, and implement a plan to achieve, a fleet efficiency policy

III. Renewable Energy Generation

- Continue support for Sustainable Energy Loan financing to incentivize energy upgrades
- Include Sustainable Energy Loan information as part of commercial building outreach and forming a digital sustainability information hub
- Monitor additional efficiency and conservation financial incentive programs for property owners and renters

IV. Municipal Energy Efficiency & Resiliency

- Track cost, emissions and energy savings related to municipal facility energy audits and upgrades
- Identify opportunities to implement green infrastructure and renewable energy
- Continue to pursue renewable energy building upgrades for municipal buildings
- Conduct the sustainable landscaping program.
- Implement energy saving procedures at municipal facilities (CEC & CSC Actions)
- Conduct annual Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventories that satisfy Climate Smart Communities priority action requirements

V. GreeNR Seal

- Create an engagement platform that highlights sustainability initiatives and developments in New Rochelle
- Establish a GreeNR designation or award for external community action to encourage the promotion and activation of GreeNR related initiatives, such as a Notable Trees Program

VI. Efficiency & Conservation Loans

- Continue support for Sustainable Energy Loan financing to incentivize energy upgrades
- Include Sustainable Energy Loan information as part of commercial building outreach and forming a digital sustainability information hub
- Monitor additional efficiency and conservation financial incentive programs for property owners and renters

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FOCUS

New Rochelle Purchases 100% Green Power to Help Fight Climate Change

The Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program allowed New Rochelle to procure energy supply for city residents and small businesses.

New Rochelle works together with nearby communities through Westchester Power, a shared purchasing program to allow a collection of municipalities to make competitive bids for electricity sourced from clean and renewable facilities.

Since 2016 the program has created competitive power purchase rates for over 145,000 residents and small businesses while increasing renewable energy sources. This practice spurs innovation and investment in renewable energy, improves the availability of renewable power, and reduces overall emission to fulfill an important public purpose.

ACCESS TO GRANT FUNDING

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program recognizes and rewards communities for their clean energy leadership. By completing four High Impact Actions, local governments achieve Clean Energy Community designation and access to funding to support additional clean energy initiatives.

Each High Impact Action is worth points collected upon completion of the action. The points earned count towards unlocking access to additional grant funding. Certain High Impact Actions are eligible for additional action grants. New Rochelle earned up to 2,000 points toward additional action grants by completing the community aggregation action.

Solar Credit Offering

In 2022, New Rochelle was the first municipality to adopt the Solar Credit Offering. The solar credits are applied to participants' electricity bills based on the value of the solar energy produced by their share of the solar facility each month.

The Solar Credit Offering prioritizes enrollment of eligible residents that are low-to-moderate income or live in Environmental Justice Areas.

After a complete review by the Public Utilities Commission, Westchester Power will roll out the Solar Credit offering to the public. The City anticipates the first cohort of eligible residents will see solar credit savings on utility bills as early as 2023.

Due to the City's enrollment in the Solar Credit offering, Sustainable Westchester will provide ongoing community support and customer service during implementation of the Westchester Power Solar Credit offering.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 3 | Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction



The Resource Conservation and Waste Reduction theme encompasses initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of solid waste produced within the City and decreasing the peak flow of wastewater. By using strategies to decrease peak loads and waste volumes, the City can build smaller infrastructure and reduce the energy needed to operate maintain the systems.

POLICIES

MUNICIPAL BUILDING WASTE REDUCTION

Through the use of best practices, the City is able to increase municipal recycling rates, cut supply costs, and reduce overall municipal waste generation. Diverting the organic waste (food scraps) from landfills to composting facilities creates significant reductions in emissions, reduces the need for chemical fertilizer, and reduces the impact of pollutant intrusion into water bodies. Several successful programs were run over the years that all contribute to positive change. Ongoing mitigation efforts highlight the City's achievements. Active efforts include cell phone drop-offs and tennis ball recycling programs, as well as a composting knowledge center.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSTING

Diverting the organic waste (food scraps) from landfills into composting programs reduces GHG emissions, lowers the need for chemical fertilizer and reduces emissions associated with its production. Use of compost in lieu of chemical fertilizers contributes to a reduction of surplus artificial plant nutrients flowing into nearby water bodies with stormwater runoff.

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

Recycling programs are utilized when people have the knowledge for how and where to access resources. Information platforms such as the Recycle Right mobile application make it easy for people to recycle and optimize municipal services to save cost.

WATER USE & WASTEWATER REDUCTION

City-wide analysis of drainage, new zoning policies for water use, and better public awareness can help reduce stresses to the wastewater treatment facilities through low peak flow. The City continues to encourage water conservation, identifying and mitigating infiltration and seeking out options for cost-effective infrastructure to repair and improve which increase efficiency.

PUBLIC AREA RECYCLING & LITTER

The introduction of recycling bins at high foot traffic locations, such as the downtown and ballfields divert compostable and recyclable materials away from landfills. In addition, the City is able to deploy temporary recycle bins during special events as a way to keep paper and plastics out of the waste stream.

REGIONAL COMPOSTING MEMBERSHIP

The City can consider joining the recently opened CompostED regional composting facility. The facility composts up to two tons of food scraps a week and also serves as a valuable educational opportunity for Westchester County residents, students, and municipal officials. At the facility, visitors can learn about the environmental benefits and process of composting and also explore how local municipalities can incorporate food scraps into existing organic yard waste composting sites.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 3

Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction



ACTIONS

I. Municipal Building Waste Reduction

- Educate and inform staff about recycling practices
- Implement recycling processes at City-owned facilities, including food scrap recycling
- Support paperless practices where possible

II. Residential Recycling Campaign

- Engage partnerships to enhance community-wide recycling, composting, reuse and repair, such as, repair cafés, and community tag sales
- Further public education campaigns

III. Public Area Recycling

- Support a public area recycling programs in the Cities' business districts and at parks and recreational facilities
- Provide adequate receptacles and regular collection

IV. Water Use & Wastewater Reduction

- Implement the Stormwater Improvement Plan
- Implement nature-based stormwater solutions to provide public health benefits, in addition to reducing neighborhood flooding
- Enhance Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) annual reporting activities and perform tasks required for relevant grants
- Continue sewer upgrades to prevent stormwater infiltration
- Promote residential water conservation through low-flow fixtures
- Continue amended Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ) regulations requiring wastewater reduction (e.g., low-flow fixtures)

V. Household

- Composting
- Enhance the City's newly launched household food scrap composting drop-off program
- Study how to incorporate pick up food scrap composting services for households
- Perform a municipal waste management study to identify opportunities to enhance community recycling
- Continue support for Helpsy textile recycling program

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & WASTE FOCUS Water Smart Buildings and Improved Infrastructure To Reduce Emissions

Wastewater treatment plants use a lot of energy. It is estimated that somewhere between 1% and 3% of global energy output is attributed to their operations. The 2018 New Rochelle GHG Inventory Report accounted for 3% of Direct emissions and 2% of Indirect emissions to the Wastewater system. To reduce emissions associated with wastewater treatment, a strategy of reducing potable water consumption was identified. The Downtown Overlay Zones incorporate water use reductions into new construction as a way to limit new flow to treatment systems. Through the use of WaterSense appliances and fixtures, the introduction of irrigation systems with sensors and timers, planting of drought resistant species, use of captured or recycled water, and other innovative techniques for buildings use less potable water use per capita and lower the emissions associated with extraction, treatment and conveyance of water.

GRANT FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

In 2017, the City received a \$5.7 million grant to offset costs associated with the planning and implementation of sewer improvements, improvements included lining existing sewer lines to reduce leaks, performing open-cut repairs to sewer lines, and repairing manholes. These improvements are anticipated to result in a reduction of between 398,000 and 799,000 gallons per day of extraneous flow from the City's system. As a result of these efforts, a previous moratorium on sewer extensions that halted increases in wastewater flow to the New Rochelle treatment was lifted.

Solar Trash Cans

A dozen new solar trash bins were installed as a collaboration between the Department of Development and Parks & Recreation.

A request for proposal for purchase and installation of the 12 solar bins in 2022 yielded a low bid from Ecube Labs Company and the bins were installed later in the year. The solar bin locations were selected by both the Parks and Recreation as well as the Department of Development. The solar receptacles were paid for with available Cares Act funding.

11 of these solar trash bins were high-capacity stations capable of using solar energy to reduce 150 gallons of trash to fit within the bin's 33-gallon capacity. A major benefit of these enclosed compacting solar trash containers is increased flexibility for trash collections. The higher capacity and flexibility of the new bins results in fewer instances of overflowing trash and reduced public



VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 4 | Ecology, Biodiversity & Health



The Ecology, Biodiversity, & Health theme encompasses actions to preserve New Rochelle's natural beauty, stabilize vulnerable habitats, improve air and water quality. These actions aim to achieve a healthy ecosystem, healthy neighborhoods, and to better connect people with benefits of being in nature.

POLICIES

SOUND, LAKE & STREAM WATER QUALITY

The City has undertaken several capital improvements projects to improve the Long Island Sound ecosystem and restore the health, beauty, retention capacity and recreational value of New Rochelle's ponds and lakes.

HABITAT & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Through partnerships with organization such as Westchester Land Trust, sensitive natural sites are put into conservation for public use and as wildlife habitat.

URBAN FORESTRY

In 2021 New Rochelle received a growth grant from Tree City USA in recognition for the work the City puts into enhancing tree growth. Boosted maintenance, public awareness campaigns, and an expanded planting program are a few of the actions undertaken. According to the Trust for Public Land, 91% of New Rochelle residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

GREENR WALKING GUIDES & SUSTAINABLE TRAILS

Support public health and wellbeing through access to the outdoors. The City provides walking guides featuring maps, suggested routes, distances, challenge ratings, health benefits, and notes on natural, architectural, historic, and cultural points of interest.

FLOOD CONTROL & MITIGATION

New codes have been added to city regulations to facilitate natural stormwater run-off controls and expand permeable surface coverage. The City is partnering with dozens of homeowners to restore water quality to the Hutchinson River using these natural controls.

RAIN GARDENS

Through a multi-year effort, City facilities have installed rain gardens at parks and schools in an effort to increase stormwater retention and public works is testing ways to incorporate stormwater retention systems into infrastructure features.

GREEN LAWN & GARDEN CARE

Regulations have been passed to support new leaf pickup practices, and awareness campaigns launched to support, sustainable garden and lawn care practices. The City also received a grant to launch a healthy yard initiative and explore amendment of codes that impede sustainable landscaping.

IDLING PREVENTION

Motor vehicle idling, especially diesel vehicles, emits greenhouse gases and other toxins which harm human health. The City has created rules to restrict idling of diesel vehicles throughout the City and all vehicle near schools.

LOCAL AGRICULTURE & FRESH FOOD

Improve access to fresh and nutritious produce through expansion of community gardening programs, expansion of the New Rochelle Farmer's Market. Facilitate the creation and programming of growing spaces such as victory gardens and greenhouses. Ward Acres Community Garden continues to be well subscribed, and Lincoln Park Community Garden has expanded to double its plots and 700 feet of irrigation has been added. Both programs have allocated plots for growing food for the broader community.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE



THEME 4 Ecology, Biodiversity & Health ACTIONS

I. Sound, Lake & Stream Water Quality

- Integrate CVA findings, such as the Natural Resources Inventory and Health Impact Assessment into City processes and initiatives
- Publish resident tools and guidance regarding water quality and stormwater vulnerabilities and opportunities
- Develop a plan to incorporate Hazard Mitigation Plan identified issues and mitigation actions related to water quality in City planning and programming processes
- Integrate stormwater community outreach with GreenNR and the City's ongoing engagement opportunities
- Continue to expand street brining (reduce salt use) prior to winter storms
- Identify methods to reduce use of pesticides and fertilizers on city property
- Increase access to Waterfront for the general public

II. Biodiversity, Habitat & Open Space Preservation

- Identify existing open space and open space opportunities based on the CVA's findings
- Respond to emerging invasive species threats, create natural resource management plans and design reforestation program
- Update policy for use of native plants on city properties
- Preserve view sheds in the waterfront districts

III. Urban Forestry

- Conduct CVA and Natural Resources Inventory, including urban heat island area identification
- Perform a Street Tree Inventory and identify proactive maintenance practices
- Utilize Complete Streets Projects to expand City Tree Canopy, particularly in areas prone to urban heat island effects
- Identify strategies to minimize declines in the community's existing tree canopy, create a smart tree planting system, and promote the City's Tree Canopy, such as through a Notable Tree Program
- Create an enhanced tree planting outreach campaign that leverages NYS' Tree Tracker tool
- Create youth green job program for tree planting, maintenance and invasives management
- Continue Tree City USA participation and strive to achieve Tree City USA Growth Awards

IV. Flood Control & Mitigation

- Identify opportunities to leverage wetlands, natural and open spaces for flood mitigation
- Develop plan to implement the 2018 Green Infrastructure Study
- Explore Bioswales to reduce flooding and stormwater runoff and develop partnership with community workforce program to install and maintain infrastructure
- Continue publishing Municipal Storm Water education tools and guidance regarding water quality and stormwater vulnerabilities and opportunities

(continued on next page)

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 4 Ecology, Biodiversity & Health ACTIONS



V. Rain Gardens, Green Lawn & Garden Care

- Develop plan to implement a Green Infrastructure Initiative Program
- Publishing resident tools and guidance regarding water quality and stormwater vulnerabilities and opportunities
- Establish development bonuses for rooftop gardens and pervious surfaces where appropriate
- Collaborate with local groups to promote leaf mulching, pollinator pathways, and other sustainable yard practices
- Perform a sustainable landscaping transition for City Operations and support local residents and businesses in their transition to sustainable landscaping

VII. GreenNR Walking Guides & Sustainable Trails

- Develop an online walking trails map and information page delineating established routes and information that highlights Natural Resources
- Pursue grant opportunities to improve the City's trails and streetscapes for pedestrians and multimodal mobility, including ADA accessibility

VIII. Local Agriculture & Fresh Food

- Continue support for and expansion of community garden space and create a local network of gardens
- Continue to support and expand access to farmers markets and locally grown or raised food

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY & HEALTH FOCUS

Sound, Lake and Stream, Water Quality

Reducing the amount of storm runoff that reaches the infrastructure system, and then natural water bodies, is a major benefit to water quality. Stormwater carries pollutants with runoff into natural assets such as the Long Island Sound and result in beach closures. The City has invested in pollution removal projects using green infrastructure practices to enhance local water quality. A strategy of green infrastructure is to retain runoff to infiltrate into the soil. This cleans water before it flows into streams. These practices improve wildlife habitat, and improve the health of aquatic organisms.

Public Works has improved stormwater capacity through a robust program of drainage, dredging, and new bio-retention landscape features. These improvements have contributed to a significant reduction in beach closure days in the City. As a result, New Rochelle met its GreenNR Goal of less than 20 closure per year in 2016 and numbers have continued to improve year after year.

ACCESS TO GRANT FUNDING

The City received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to prepare the 2018 Green Infrastructure study. The grant promotes clean waters and supports efforts to provide healthy watersheds for people, and thriving habitats for wildlife. Funding also provides education and engagement in topics relevant to sustainable and resilient communities.

Healthy Yards Community

Healthy Yards New Rochelle is a community led group advocating for healthy yard practices that protect our environment, children, families, and pets. They host walking tours in City parks to highlight native species, and hold regular member gatherings in resident gardens.

The group has a strong social media presence and uses their Facebook page to organize educational events to teach people about benefits healthy landscaping practices. Healthy Yards has also collaborated with the Lincoln Park Conservancy and the New Rochelle Artists Association to hold art and music enriched events in City parks.

If you would like to participate in the activities of the Healthy Yards Community group, you can contact the organization at: HealthyyardsNR@gmail.com



VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 5 | Smart Growth & Economic Prosperity



The Smart Growth & Economic Prosperity theme encompasses investments to expand local tax base, enhance the vitality of the City center, and promote green job creation and training. Encouragement of new housing density and diverse options in areas with ready access to local goods, services, & transit reduces pressure to build new development on the City's valued natural assets.

POLICIES

TRANSIT-ORIENTED SMART GROWTH

Since the adoption of the Downtown Overlay Zone in 2015 the City has experienced major successes in building density and vibrancy in the City center. A wide variety of developments have broken ground in recent years which promote commercial and residential development in proximity to the New Rochelle Transit Center and have relieved pressures for development in lower-density areas where growth is seen as desirable.

WATERFRONT ACCESS & ENJOYMENT

The waterfront access is a large part of New Rochelle's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program update, in addition to the expansion of the downtown overlay zone. Additional planning efforts are ongoing to ensure the provision of waterfront access for more residents. A FEMA-approved sun deck repair has been completed at Hudson Park, as the final action of Phase Two of the FEMA funding, which included repairs and upgrades to runoff, bulkheads, and parking areas, completed in 2017.

WORKFORCE HOUSING

Workforce Housing: Since the inception of the Downtown Overlay Zone, more than 1,300 affordable units have been approved. In 2021 the City also updated the Affordable Housing requirements.

GREEN BUSINESS & JOB CREATION

The City Council adopted Resolution #264 in December 2016, to allow the City to enter into an agreement with Westhab to operate a First Source Referral Center (FSRC), provide job training and prioritize job opportunities for residents. The City updated the Uniform Tax Exemption Policies in 2022, seeking to address the goals and objectives of the City by considering projects that adhere to the tenets of the City policy documents, and defines the requirements for hiring of MWBEs, residents, minorities and/or disadvantaged individuals, or union labor.

CREATIVE CAPITAL

Planning for the installation of wi-fi kiosks throughout the city of New Rochelle was completed in 2017, and 6 kiosks have been installed to date. The kiosks provide free access to the internet and other services for all patrons.

PERIPHERAL NODE PLANNING STANDARDS (15-MINUTE CITY)

Downtown residents and workers are realizing the value of having necessities of life within easy reach. Having additional nodes of mixed use in neighborhood centers throughout the City would help promote a 15-minute walking/biking distance to necessities.

This land-use strategy allows live-work capabilities with lower Greenhouse Gas emissions, improve quality of life, and build neighborhood social cohesion.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 5

Smart Growth & Economic Prosperity



ACTIONS

I. Transit-Oriented Development & Smart Growth

- Design and implement the LINC
- Design and implement the New Rochelle Transit Center Redesign
- Continue implementation of Recommended Action Plan (RAP) & DOZ
- Establish high-level guidance on an LEED-ND equivalency requirements
- Develop a plan for adaptive reuse and preservation of historical properties
- Develop an inventory of brownfield sites and identify adaptive reuse opportunities
- Redesign train station property for enhanced access and sustainability features
- Perform an asset scan to identify opportunities for enhancing New Rochelle's transit-oriented development

II. Waterfront Access & Enjoyment

- Continue seeking projects and partnerships to expand waterfront access
- Finalize planning and implement Pratt Landing & DO-7
- Create a plan to support public waterfront parks, incorporate waterfront public access into redevelopment plans
- Support youth after-school and summer programming based on the waterfront's ecology

III. Peripheral Node Planning Standards

- Design and implement the LINC (design phases 2025; construction 2026+)
- Complete Streets planning and implementation
- Complete and implement the Transit Center Redesign

IV. Green Business & Job Creation

- Continue support and promotion of workforce training programming
- Support a clean energy workforce development and training program, including summer and year-round youth employment opportunities
- Create green job program to install and maintain natural resources and green infrastructure

V. Workforce Housing

- Continue down payment assistance program and gather related data to determine strengths and weaknesses of the program
- Promote programs to support weatherization and energy efficiency in housing units, with a focus on disadvantaged communities

VI. Creative Capital

- Continue utilizing the arts and cultural district in the downtown area to encourage arts' related partnerships under the DOZ Community Benefits Bonuses
- Continue support and utilization of the Green and Climate Resilience DOZ Community Benefits Bonuses

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

SMART GROWTH & PROSPERITY FOCUS

New Rochelle's Downtown Overlay Zone

The Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ) provides a transparent roadmap for property investment by developers and owners. The DOZ also sets design standards and community benefit requirements intended to create a thriving, attractive, and sustainable City center. The DOZ promotes walkability and sustainable lifestyle choices through the creation of active street frontages and mixed-use districts which are convenient, safe, and pleasant to access from public transit. The DOZ focuses on regulating building form and codifies well-designed pedestrian friendly streetscapes, and appropriately green spaces.

The City has created an atmosphere of plan-grow-assess-revise, and in doing so, has continued to evolve its development ecosystem. The City recently created two new a new overlay district DO-7 which extends the DOZ to the City's waterfront and DO-8 which creates economic development opportunities in the historically African American neighborhood of Lincoln Park. These new districts are intended to create a more productive and resilient mix of land uses as well as significant environmental and social investment.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

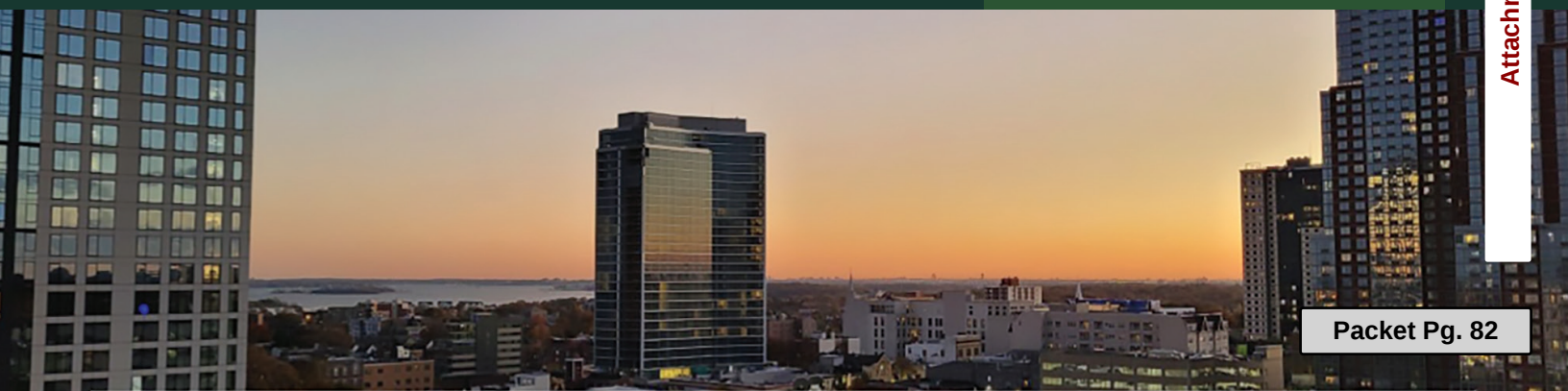
New developments can leverage brownfields funding to aid in the remediation of many sites within the City boundary. Proposed developments must identify environmental hazards prior to construction or redevelopment activities. During review developers can determine if environmental cleanup is warranted. If an environmental site assessment identifies conditions which pose public health risks, then remediation is triggered. The majority of the parcels in 21 acres of the newly added DOZ-7 are eligible or enrolled in NYSDEC's Brownfield Program. These sites are in addition to +/-115 acres within the City where the cleanup has already been completed.

Community Benefit Bonus

The Community Benefits Bonus program was adopted in 2015. The program is targeted at generating community benefits for New Rochelle's citizenry. Development projects approved and built in the DOZ either embed community assets into their development or contribute to the community benefits bonus fund.

The fund supports community-based initiatives which bring benefits to City residents. Some examples of projects that have benefited from this funding tool include programming with the Lincoln Park Conservancy, funding the Black Box Theater, improvements to Memorial Plaza, new Art & Cultural Space, restoration of historic building façade, and several other projects.

The community benefits categories and the amount of funding per square foot in lieu of an on-site benefit is defined for each overlay zone district. The categories and fee structure are part of the package of overlay zone adopted by the City in 2015.



VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 6 | Transportation & Mobility



The Transportation & Mobility theme encompasses efforts to encourage the use of sustainable transportation options, including walking, bicycling, carpooling and mass transit. Bike, pedestrian, and transit investments reduce traffic congestion and enhance safety and efficiency of transportation systems for all users while reducing the reliance on private vehicles.

POLICIES

PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY & SAFETY

Safe and accessible walking networks for pedestrians help reduce vehicle trips and increases physical health. Improvements to crosswalks, curb cuts, complete street projects, and the LINC project are all geared towards increasing pedestrian mobility. Pedestrian signals are being upgraded through routine maintenance, damage repair, and as part of new development or infrastructure projects. Sixty-three ADA-compliant curb ramps were installed around the City in 2016 and solar-powered flashing LED warning signals were installed at high pedestrian-vehicle conflict intersections.

CIRCUIT NR

A NYSERDA grant to study the viability of a free downtown circulator shuttle resulted in a pilot program with CircuitNR in August 2019. The vehicles, that seat up to 5 passengers and are 100% electric. The electric shuttles saved over 60,000 vehicle-miles traveled with over 68,000 rides and over 87,000 passengers. The program diverted 18.7 metric tons of CO2 equivalent from fossil fuels and eliminated the negative effects of air pollution from idling within the downtown. The use of CircuitNR is growing as the residents are becoming aware of the convenience.

SCOOTER AND MOTORCYCLE PARKING

The scooter and motorcycle parking facilities are available at the Intermodal Transit Center, Prospect Street Parking Lot and the New Roc Garage. Motorcycle and scooter riders can apply for a permit to park on crosshatched 'dead' spaces on the corners of these designated lots. There are 20-30 users at the transit center regularly utilizing this parking.

GREEN COMMUTING

The City has completed an EV Master Plan to guide future initiatives such as implementing a new approval process for private institutions to obtain EV charging stations at parking lots via special permit. The City is also investigating solutions to create EV charging stations for on-street parking spaces. New electric charging stations have already been installed for public use in New Roc Garage, City Hall, and the Intermodal Transit Center. A combination of different types of EV charging stations are available for use to different charging service subscribers. There are 19 EV stations located at New Roc public garage, 2 of which are owned by the City; 4 at Transit Center and City Hall. Of the 129 commercial installations, 22 are available to public users for a subscription service fee.

DOWNTOWN ACCESS

As downtown development continues, design is underway for the two-way street conversion of Main Street and Huguenot Street, which will greatly improve access and mobility, reduce speeding and therefore improve pedestrian safety as well as discourage unnecessary idling. to New Rochelle's downtown through the improvement of major transit corridors and through the redesign of under-utilized alternative routes.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 6 Transportation & Mobility ACTIONS



I. Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Design and implement the LINC including complete street designs
- Continue sidewalk and intersection curb improvements
- Develop a plan to connect the City's various complete streets projects into a complete streets network
- Secure funding to support safety and mobility initiatives
- Install signage and signalization where appropriate to increase pedestrian safety
- Increase the City's inventory of sidewalks

II. Green Commuting & MicroMobility

- Complete Citywide Complete Streets planning and implement complete street improvements at identified locations throughout the City
- Continue and seek additional external partnerships to enhance green commuting and micro mobility options
- Monitor and assess costs and benefits of micromobility and identify additional funding opportunities
- Develop a plan, including annual funding budgeting, to expand public EV charging and leverage grant opportunities

III. Downtown Access

- Design and implement the LINC
- Complete Huguenot/Main Two-way Conversion
- Complete Station Plaza & Transit Center Upgrades
- Implement Complete Streets projects
- Support EV shuttle service

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY FOCUS

Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Invests in Lincoln Avenue Corridor Reconfiguration (The LINC)

The LINC is one of six projects identified by the City of New Rochelle for funding through New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The DRI funding is directed at reviving the City's downtown corridor. The project is designed to re-imagine Memorial Highway, a car-centric connector to local streets which has isolated the predominantly African American Lincoln Ave neighborhood from the downtown for decades.

Through the reconnection of an underserved neighborhood to the City center, the LINC will create opportunities to get to, and from, new economic opportunity and better connect residents to the Metro North train station to access points north and to NYC.

Improvements to the Lincoln Avenue corridor's accessibility and appearance will improve comfort and safety for those traveling by foot, bicycle, or vehicle through the area. The LINC project will use the DRI funds to place temporary barriers, signage, striping, as well as remove asphalt and paving in order to re-purpose portions of NYS Route 5 as public open space. These improvements will also lay the groundwork for the creation of a proposed recreation center.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE FUNDING

DRI funding is designed to help compact villages and walkable downtowns create resilient economies and to meet climate goals by promoting the use of public transit to reduce dependence on private vehicles. New Rochelle's was awarded \$10 million in the 2018 funding round for their winning grant application.

EV Charging Infrastructure

New York is slated to receive over \$175 million in funding over the next five years from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program which was part of the 2021 federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

New York State's Office of Climate Change is administering a portion of the NEVI funding through their Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program. The program is largely designed to fund municipalities up to \$500,000 per year to purchase and install EV charging stations.

New Rochelle is well positioned over the coming years to leverage this grant to install DC fast charging infrastructure in various public locations within the City.



VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 7 | Public Participation and Awareness



Empower all residents to obtain information about local climate challenges and sustainability issues in order to assist planet conscious choices, sustainable practices, and to participate fully in community activities and decision-making.

POLICIES

GREENR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Conducting broad-based and ongoing public awareness campaigns shares information about sustainable actions and enlists community participation in achieving GreenNR's objectives. Strategies such as pairing the distribution of GreenNR branded reusable tote bags with disincentives such as fees for the use of non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags can shift public behavior.

INFORMED SOCIAL COMPETITION

Provide residents with comparative statistics on the consumption of utilities such as electricity and water to facilitate self-evaluation and foster friendly social competition toward an overall reduced consumption of resources.

CIVIC COMMUNICATION

Better utilize electronic and traditional communication methods to improve the flow of information between municipal government and the larger community. Consider ways to create and use a sustainability education center: Consider adapting an under-utilized municipal building to serve as the center, providing ongoing outreach, instruction, programming and demonstration sustainability issues.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Promote understanding and appreciation of regional ecology by facilitating school sponsored instruction within wooded parks and by introducing maps and interpretive signage.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Ensure that English language instruction is available, accessible, and affordable to all non-English speakers in New Rochelle who seek access. Facilitating language skills for English language learners will help improve the abilities of those individuals to communicate with others as part of their day-to-day tasks. Obtaining language skills is key to helping new Americans working to acclimate to new environments. Offering English language instruction to adults and in schools helps non-native English speakers as they seek services and employment opportunities. A knowledge of the English helps individuals with understanding of local context as well as cultural norms.

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

THEME 7

Public Participation & Awareness

ACTIONS



I. Informed Social Action

- Utilize local partnerships for community education related to all GreenNR and climate action programming
- Integrate sustainability information on the webpage, create and disseminate existing guidance
- Establish an employee sustainability committee or working group to engage employees and all departments regarding general sustainability topics and GreenNR themes
- Monitor and track demographic statistics and integrate findings into programming and planning processes

II. Civic Engagement & GreenNR Awareness

- Enhance the City's sustainability outreach and community awareness efforts, including Spanish-language access, through digital and in-person platforms and campaigns
- Create a comprehensive communications plan and community awareness campaign that is tied to each GreenNR theme and related actions
- Create webpage and user-friendly applications to display GreenNR goals and progress in a way that is visually compelling and easy to understand
- Continue annual New Rochelle parks clean-up weekend event
- Plan annual Earth Day to celebrate and promote GreenNR awareness and successes
- Explore participatory budgeting

III. Outdoor Classrooms & Education

- Continue to support ecology-based after-school and summer programming for youth employment
- Continue partnerships with the City School District to assist and inform governmental operations

IV. Here are the CLCPA and GreenNR goals with cross reference to New Rochelle's CSC Bronze Certification Actions.

- NYS CLCPA Goals as aligned with Federal Justice40*:
 - By 2030, achieve at least 70% of NYS electricity generation from renewable sources.
 - By 2040, achieve 100% zero-emission electricity
 - By 2050: reduce emissions at least 85% below 1990 level
 - At least 40% of the benefits from clean energy and energy efficiency program go to disadvantaged communities (DACs)*

VI. TAKING ACTION IN NEW ROCHELLE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & AWARENESS FOCUS

Public Awareness Campaigns

New Rochelle's participation in the Clean Energy Communities program put in place the social infrastructure needed to foster community campaigns aimed at increasing access to solar power production, clean heating and cooling systems, investments in energy efficiency improvements, as well as tools to better manage energy use at times of high demand. For example, in 2021 New Rochelle conducted a community Solar and Grid Rewards campaign for Earth Month. The City also completed ten clean heating and cooling efficiency upgrades to municipal facilities in order to complete the Energy Efficiency & Clean Heating & Cooling community campaign.

New Rochelle leverages staff responsible for coordinating community clean energy campaigns for sustainability initiatives and additional public outreach and engagement efforts focused on identifying climate vulnerabilities of traditionally underserved populations and to work with community members and consultants to establish a Climate Justice Plan for New Rochelle.

Completing these community outreach campaigns also help unlock grant funding from the state's CEC and CSC programs. Initiatives such as the planned sustainable landscaping program which provides rebates for the purchase of electric powered residential & commercial landscape equipment are ideal funding candidates for next steps in New Rochelle's sustainability actions.

Climate ReadyNR

The City hired a consultant to engage residents and stakeholders to gather diverse community input through a survey, in-person events, webinars and digital outreach. Data collected will be used to identify and assess the community's vulnerability to climate hazards.

Outreach will be geared toward the participation of disadvantaged communities and leveraging existing City engagement tools, such as, EngageNR, public workshops and community events.

Outreach efforts, discovered resources, and vulnerability findings will be ranked and prioritized in a report provided to the City as a tool for future decision-making in selecting climate hazards adaptations.



Appendix A | Key Policies of 2011 GreeNR

BIG GOALS

THE 2011 RELEASE OF “GREENR: THE NEW ROCHELLE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2010-2030” set a path for our City to make progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a key contributor to global warming, and to achieve greater resiliency to the effects of a changing climate. At the time of release, the GreeNR plan was recognized by the Westchester Municipal Planning Federation for its innovative thinking, and the plan continues to prove a useful guide in the City’s overall decision-making.

The 2011 GreeNR plan was based around “Ten BIG Goals” and demonstrated how New Rochelle was taking action to become a regional climate leader. The plan set forth a strong vision and provided a useful thematic framework to guide implementation actions for combating climate change through local adaptation and mitigation efforts. These themes of action included energy and climate, conservation and waste reduction, ecology, biodiversity and public health, smart growth and prosperity, transportation and mobility, and public participation and awareness.

This update to the GreeNR document includes several important steps forward in the City of New Rochelle’s commitment to and understanding of the public needs related to climate change. A new theme of Climate Leadership, Resiliency, and Racial Equity has been added to GreeNR as part of this update. Additionally, we are introducing an 11th goal focused on Environmental Justice (EJ) to ensure equitable access to climate resources, prioritizing Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and vulnerable populations. This new goal reinforces our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that all residents—especially those most affected by climate change—benefit from sustainable initiatives and resilience planning.

- 1 Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%
- 2 Cut non-recycled solid waste generation by 15% and increase recycling rate to 50%
- 3 Preserve natural spaces and restore inland water bodies
- 4 Absorb or retain 25 million gallons of flood water per storm
- 5 Decrease sewage flow by at least 2 million gallons in peak hours
- 6 Build at least 95% of new housing near mass transit
- 7 Open at least one additional mile of the Sound shore to the public
- 8 Plant at least 10,000 new trees on public property
- 9 Create a comprehensive walking and bicycling system
- 10 Subscribe at least half of all households to the City website

NEW GOAL 11 Ensure economic status and race are not determinant of environmental risk

Appendix A | Key Policies of 2011 GreeNR

2011 THEMATIC GOALS



1 ENERGY & CLIMATE

Reduce local energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while transitioning to renewable sources of energy and adapting to probable climate changes.

- Reduce annual per capita energy consumption by at least 20%, from 125 MMbtus to 100 MMbtus.
- Reduce annual per capita CO₂ e emissions by at least 20%, from 9.0 metric tons to 7.2 metric tons.
- Reduce municipal energy use, GHG emissions, and costs for lighting by at least 40% and for buildings by at least 15%.
- Increase the average gas mileage of the municipal fleet by 50% from 10 mpg to 15 mpg.
- Align with New York State objectives to obtain at least 30% of energy from renewable sources.



2 CONSERVATION & WASTE REDUCTION

Cut waste generation, improve recycling rates, encourage conservation and efficient use of water and other natural resources.

- Reduce annual per capita non-recycled solid waste by at least 15% from 777 pounds to 660.5 pounds and increase recycling rate to 50%.
- Reduce daily peak non-storm wastewater generation by at least million gallons from 20.5MGD to 18.5 MGD.
- Reduce daily per capita water use by at least 15% from 159 gallons to 135 gallons.
- Cut municipal waste generation by at least 20%, while increasing the municipal recycling rate from 50% to 75%. Achieve near universal household participation in recycling. • Reduce annual municipal water consumption by at least 10%, from 8.57MG to 7.71MG. Encourage at least 500 families to compost their organic waste.

Appendix A | Key Policies of 2011 GreeNR

2011 THEMATIC GOALS



3 ECOLOGY, BIODIVERSITY & PUBLIC HEALTH

Preserve New Rochelle's natural beauty, stabilize vulnerable habitats, improve air and water quality, limit or reverse the incidence of flooding and deforestation, and promote beneficial lifestyles and practices in order to achieve a healthy ecosystem, healthy neighborhoods, and healthy families.

- a. Preserve or expand the amount of land in a substantially natural state.
- b. Achieve a net increase of 10,000 trees on public property and rights-of-way.
- c. Reduce run-off from a one-inch rain event by 25 million gallons.
- d. Provide universal access to healthful nutrition options.
- e. Increase community-wide permeable surface by 50 acres.
- f. Establish a regional storm water management district.
- g. Create at least 5 acres of rain gardens, including 50 on public property.
- h. Encourage at least 50% of single and two family home owners to employ sustainable lawn and garden care practices.
- i. Site at least one designated walking route within or close to all neighborhoods.
- j. Increase the number of community gardening plots to 200.

Appendix A | Key Policies of 2011 GreeNR

2011 THEMATIC GOALS



4 SMART GROWTH & PROSPERITY

Attract beneficial investment to expand our local tax base, enhance the vitality of our commercial centers, and promote green job creation and training. Employ smart-growth principles that strategically encourage density and diverse housing opportunities in areas with ready access to local goods, services, infrastructure, and mass transit, while also realizing the economic and recreational potential of assets such as Long Island Sound.

- a. Open at least one additional mile of the Sound shore to the public.
- b. Quadruple the number of local green businesses and green jobs.
- c. Complete street scape improvements on North Avenue, Memorial Highway, and West Main Street.
- d. Rehabilitate all City-owned waterfront parks.
- e. Facilitate construction of 250 affordable workforce housing units.
- f. Triple the number of artists living and working in New Rochelle.
- g. Construct at least 500,000 square feet of new commercial space in the central business and transit districts.
- h. Increase inflation-adjusted taxable sales to at least \$1 billion per year.

Appendix A | Key Policies of 2011 GreeNR

2011 THEMATIC GOALS



5 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Facilitate and encourage the use of sustainable transportation options, including walking, bicycling, carpooling and mass transit, while also reducing traffic congestion and enhancing the safety and efficiency of transportation routes.

- Create a comprehensive, safe, continuous and community-wide walking and bicycling system.
- Achieve at least a 50% increase in the number of commuters who walk or bike, from 3,300 to 5,000.
- Increase the miles of local sidewalk in good repair from 136 to at least 195.
- Cut by 25% the peak hour travel time from Eastchester Road to Huguenot Street, from 4 minutes to 3 minutes.
- Reduce the rate of single-vehicle occupancy commutes to City Hall by at least 15%, from 96% to 81%.



6 PARTICIPATION & AWARENESS

Empower all residents to obtain information about local challenges and issues, make sensible choices about individual lifestyles and practices, and participate fully in community activities and decision-making.

- Subscribe at least half of all households to the official City website.
- Achieve near-universal English-language proficiency.
- Achieve near-universal awareness of the GreeNR logo and its meaning.
- Restore distribution of a semi-annual City newsletter
- Reduce by 7.2 million the number of non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags used annually in New Rochelle.

Appendix B | GRANTS

AWARDED GRANTS For the City of New Rochelle



ENTITY TYPE	GRANTOR	PROGRAM	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	GRANT AMOUNT	COST SHARE
U.S.	DOT	Reconnecting Communities / Neighborhood Access and Equity for LINC	\$-	\$16,039,888.00	\$4,000,000.00
U.S.	DOT	FY23 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program for NRTC Resdesign		\$1,070,000.00	\$-
NYS	DASNY	New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS)	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$250,000.00
U.S.	DOT	Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant Program (IFACGP)	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$-
NYS	DEC	Ash Tree Management in DAC	\$41,600.00	\$41,600.00	\$-
NYS	OPRHP	Ward Acres Trails Improvements	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
NYS	DEC	Urban Community Forestry 1 (UCF-1) - Tree Inventory & Community Forestry Plan	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$-
NYS	DEC	Climate Smart Communities Implementation (Flooding Adaption) for Pinebrook Watershed Phase 1 Drainage Improvements	\$2,260,000.00	\$1,130,000.00	\$1,130,000.00
U.S.	HUD	Community Project Funding (House Appropriations - Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)) for New Roc City Community Center	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$-
NYS	HCR	Resilient Investments through Support and Capital (RISC) - City Park		\$200,000.00	\$-
NYS	HCR	Resilient Investments through Support and Capital (RISC) - Palmer Ave		\$200,000.00	\$-
NYS	HCR	Resilient Investments through Support and Capital (RISC) - NRHS Area		\$200,000.00	\$-
NYS	NYSERDA	Clean Mobility Program: Planning Track	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$-
US	FEMA	PDM - Congressional Direct Spending for City Park	\$2,529,721.00	\$1,150,791.00	\$-
NYS	DEC	CFA CSC certification grant PE7: Climate Adaptation Plan	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
NYS	DEC	CFA CSC Certification for PE3: Fleet Inventory & Fleet Efficiency Policy	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
NYS	DEC	CFA CSC Implementation for reducing food waste	\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
NYS	DEC	CFA CSC Certification for PE5: Organics Management Plan	\$160,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
NYS	DEC	CFA WQIP Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation	\$591,500.00	\$443,625.00	\$147,875.00
NYS	DEC	Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate Program	\$66,960.00	\$30,000.00	\$36,960.00
NYS	NYSERDA	Clean Energy Communities ITC Solar	\$2,984,860.00	\$997,500.00	\$600,267.00
TOTALS				\$24,783,404.00	\$6,357,875.00

Attachment: GreenNR_03182025 (2025-38 : PROPOSED SUPPORT OF GREENER CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE)

PENDING GRANTS For the City of New Rochelle



ENTITY TYPE	GRANTOR	PROGRAM	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	GRANT AMOUNT	COST SHARE
U.S.	ACE	USACE FY24 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for Stormwater Mitigation Improvements	\$-	\$20,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00
U.S.	DOT	RAISE FY24 - NRTC Redesign Community Accessibility	\$31,002,675.00	\$24,802,140.00	\$6,200,535.00
NYS	DEC	Community Environmental Education Center - For Oakwood Pavilion at Five Islands with the EJLPC	\$634,432.00	\$634,432.00	\$-
NYS	DEC	DAC Air Pollution Mitigation Grant Opportunities for a New Rochelle DAC Air Pollution Project with the EJLPC	\$-	\$-	\$-
Private	CGC/ICLEI	Municipal Investment Fund Phase I	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$-
NYS	NYSERDA	Clean Energy Communities for ITC Solar	\$2,984,860.00	\$975,000.00	\$600,267.00
U.S.	FEMA	Emergency Operations Center Program	\$1,246,580.00	\$934,935.00	\$311,645.00
U.S.	IRS	Direct Pay Tax Credit for ITC Solar	\$2,984,860.00	\$684,757.00	\$-
NYS	NYSERDA	NY-SUN Rebate for ITC Solar	\$2,984,860.00	\$702,336.00	\$-
TOTALS				\$48,983,600.00	\$14,284,622.00

GreenNR Community Partners

Advisory Committee on Immigrant Affairs - CNR
African American Advisory Committee - CNR
Boys & Girls Club - Remington & Mascaro
City School District of New Rochelle (CSDNR)
CSDNR Green Schools Committee
Ecology & Natural Resources Advisory Committee - CNR
Energy Justice Law & Policy Center
Friends of Glenwood Lake
Healthy Yards New Rochelle
Hispanic American Advisory Committee - CNR
HOPE Community Services
Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse
Hugh Doyle Sr Citizens Center - CNR
Iona Preparatory School
Iona University
LGBTQ Committee - CNR
Lincoln Park Conservancy & grow! Lincoln Park
Meals on Wheels
Monroe College
Montefiore Hospital New Rochelle
New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority
New Rochelle Business Improvement District
New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce
New Rochelle Public Library
City of New Rochelle Youth Bureau & Eco-Ambassadors
United Community Center of Westchester County
Ursuline School
Ward Acres Conservancy

City of New Rochelle
City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF DICHTER LAW LLC RE: CON EDISON ELECTRIC & GAS RATES CASE BEFORE THE NEW YORK PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - Resolution authorizing the hiring of Dichter Law LLC as special counsel to represent participating Westchester municipalities in Con Edison Electric and Gas rates case before the New York Public Service Commission.

Background:

On January 31, 2025, Con Edison filed rate cases (25-E-0072 & 25-G-0073) with the New York Public Service Commission ("PSC") to increase rates as of January 1, 2026. **Electric rates would rise by 18% under this proposal. Residential delivery charges by a whopping 25.1%. Natural Gas delivery rates would be hiked by 19.1%.** This proposal comes on the heels of an increase of 20% over the last three years.

The PSC engages in a litigation-type review of rates. The amount of revenues that Con Edison is able to collect from its customers in total is based upon a detailed review of the cost of providing service plus a reasonable return on its investments in facilities. With its submission, Con Edison has pre-filed the written testimony of its witnesses in support of the increase. Discovery is then undertaken by the parties, who in turn may file their own expert witness testimony in opposition to Con Ed's request. An evidentiary hearing is then held for cross-examination of witnesses. Traditionally, the parties will engage in settlement discussions following the submission of all testimony. Briefs will be submitted by all parties in support of their respective positions. Ultimately, the Commission will review and render a final decision on any increase.

Con Edison serves New York City and Westchester County. New York City is well represented during the proceedings described above to review Con Edison's rate request. In the last Con Ed rate case, no representative of Westchester County or of any of its municipalities participated in the rate cases. Thus, there was no voice to advocate for the interests of Westchester residents.

The setting of rates by the PSC is comprised of three parts. First, a determination of the overall increase in revenues which Con Edison will be authorized to collect based upon its cost of providing service is determined (the "revenue requirement"). Second, the allocation of the

revenue requirement to the various customer classes such as residential, commercial, industrial, public authority is made based upon a cost-of-service study. Third, the rate design for the amounts allocated to each class is determined. For example, if Con Ed is authorized to collect \$10 billion and \$5 billion is assigned to the residential class, the PSC will then decide how much of that should be recovered from NYC residents and how much from Westchester residents.

Without the participation of Westchester County and its municipalities, there is no one to protect against an unfair share of the costs being allocated to Con Edison's Westchester district or to its residents. NYC advocates will be seeking to reduce the share allocated to NYC residents and thereby potentially transferring the cost to Westchester residents. Westchester residents also have a much greater interest in a number of issues such as storm preparedness, outage response, plant siting, and the impact of climate change.

Issue:

The City of New Rochelle has been approached by the Westchester Municipal Officials Association to join with at least 19 other municipalities in Westchester County, including the Villages of Rye Brook and Port Chester and City of Rye, to hire special counsel that would serve as an intervener in the current Con Ed rate case before the PSC.

Rye Brook, Port Chester and Rye have received a proposal from Dichter Law LLC that includes intervening in the rate case, conducting discovery, retaining expert witnesses, preparing briefs, and attending all hearings and any settlement negotiations at a total cost that shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000). The cost would be split equally among all of the participating municipalities and not exceed \$5,000 per municipality. Representation will only proceed if at least twenty (20) municipalities agree to be represented by Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC.

Rye Brook has agreed to take the lead on contract administration and coordination of payments to Dichter Law LLC on behalf of the participating municipalities for representation in this Con Edison electric and gas rate case.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the following:

- 1) The hiring of Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC as special counsel to represent participating Westchester municipalities in Con Edison's Electric and Gas Rate Case before the Public Service Commission;
- 2) Legal fees for the City of New Rochelle shall not exceed \$5,000 for representation in this Con Edison electric and gas rate case;

- 3) The contract shall only take effect if at least twenty (20) municipalities agree to be represented by Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC in this Con Edison electric and gas rate case; and,
- 4) The City Manager to take all necessary actions to execute agreements and related documents and make payments for representation in this Con Edison electric and gas rate case.

Funding:

Funds are available in MUNIS Account Code: 1230-46000

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF DICHTER LAW LLC AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT PARTICIPATING WESTCHESTER MUNICIPALITIES IN CON EDISON'S ELECTRIC AND GAS RATE CASE BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2025, Con Edison filed a petition with the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) to increase electric and gas rates as of January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, under this petition, electric rates would rise by 18% with residential delivery charges increasing by 25.1%, and natural gas delivery rates rising by 19.1%; and

WHEREAS, this Con Edison rate hike proposal comes after an increase of 20% in rates over the past three (3) years; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Rochelle has been approached by the Westchester Municipal Officials Association to join with at least 19 other municipalities in Westchester County, including the Villages of Rye Brook, Port Chester, and City of Rye, to hire special counsel to serve as an intervener in the current Con Ed rate case before the PSC; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of New Rochelle to be represented in this matter to ensure the concerns of local government and its residents are adequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC submitted the attached proposal to represent participating municipalities in intervening in the rate case, for a total cost not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), which would be split equally among all of the participating municipalities that accept his representation in this rate case; and

WHEREAS, such representation will only proceed if at least twenty (20) municipalities agree to be represented by Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Rye Brook will coordinate the payment to Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC on behalf of the participating municipalities for representation in this Con Edison electric and gas rate case; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of New Rochelle hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute such documentation as may be necessary and required to retain Joel R. Dichter of Dichter Law LLC as special counsel to represent participating Westchester municipalities in Con Edison's Electric and Gas Rate Case before the Public Service Commission, with the City's fee share not to exceed \$5,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dichter Law LLC Proposal

DICHTER LAW LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
118 N. BEDFORD ROAD
SUITE 300
MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. 10549

TELEPHONE: (212) 593-4202
 FAX: (212) 994-5394
 Website: www.dichterlaw.com

JOEL R. DICHTER
 Dichter@dichterlaw.com

M E M O

TO: Chris Bradbury, Stuart Rabin and Greg Usry
FROM: Joel R. Dichter
RE: Con Edison Electric and Gas Rate Case
DATE: March 13, 2025

Overview

On January 31, 2025, Con Edison filed a petition with the New York Public Service Commission to increase rates as of January 1, 2026. Electric rates would rise by 18% under this proposal. Residential delivery charges by a whopping 25.1%. Natural Gas delivery rates would be hiked by 19.1%. This proposal comes on the heels of an increase of 20% over the last three years.

PSC Process

The Public Service Commission engages in a litigation-type review of rates. The amount of revenues that Con Edison is able to collect from its customers in total is based upon a detailed review of the cost of providing service plus a reasonable return on its investments in facilities. With its submission, Con Edison has pre-filed the written testimony of its witnesses in support of the increase. Discovery is then undertaken by the parties, who in turn may file their own expert witness testimony in opposition to Con Ed's request. An evidentiary hearing is then held for cross-examination of witnesses. Traditionally, the parties will engage in settlement discussions following the submission of all testimony. Briefs will be submitted by all parties in support of their respective positions. Ultimately, the Commission will review and render a final decision on any increase.

Chris Bradbury, Stuart Rabin and Greg Usry

Page 2

March 13, 2025

Role of Westchester County and its Municipalities

Con Edison serves New York City and Westchester County. New York City is well represented during the proceedings described above to review Con Edison's rate request. In the last Con Ed rate case, no representative of Westchester County or of any of its municipalities participated in the rate cases. Thus, there was no voice to advocate for the interests of Westchester residents.

The setting of rates by the PSC is comprised of three parts. First, a determination of the overall increase in revenues which Con Edison will be authorized to collect based upon its cost of providing service is determined (the "revenue requirement"). Second, the allocation of the revenue requirement to the various customer classes such as residential, commercial, industrial, public authority is made based upon a cost-of-service study. Third, the rate design for the amounts allocated to each class is determined. For example, if Con Ed is authorized to collect \$10 billion and \$5 billion is assigned to the residential class, the PSC will then decide how much of that should be recovered from NYC residents and how much from Westchester residents.

Without the participation of Westchester County and its municipalities, there is no one to protect against an unfair share of the costs being allocated to Con Edison's Westchester district or to its residents. Rest assured, the NYC advocates will be seeking to reduce the share allocated to NYC residents and thereby potentially transferring the cost to Westchester residents. Westchester residents also have a much greater interest in a number of issues such as storm preparedness, outage response, plant siting, and the impact of climate change. Thus, it is vital for Westchester to participate in the process of developing rates and services.

Proposal

We have represented municipalities before the Public Service Commission for decades in electric, gas and water rate cases. We represented Rockland County and its municipalities in the recent Orange and Rockland rate cases. Orange and Rockland is owned by Con Edison and thus many of the same players and issues will be present in the pending Con Edison cases. To intervene, conduct discovery, retain expert witnesses, prepare briefs, and attend all hearings and settlement negotiations, over the course of the eleven-month or longer proceeding will require considerable dedication of resources. We would propose a flat fee of \$100,000 for legal and expert witness fees to be divided among the participating municipalities. Please let me know if you have any questions.

City of New Rochelle
City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTHA LOPEZ'S STIPEND - Resolution authorizing the City Manager to transfer \$10,000 to the Boys' & Girls' Club of New Rochelle (Mascaro Branch) from City Council Member Martha Lopez's year 2024 and 2025 stipend account.

BACKGROUND:

Each year the City of New Rochelle Operating Budget includes an annual stipend, in the amount of \$5,000, for each of the six (6) City Council Members to be used towards City related business or allocation to local organizations.

ISSUE:

Council Member Martha Lopez has requested that her 2024 and 2025 stipends be allocated to the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (Mascaro Branch).

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to transfer \$10,000 from City Council Member Martha Lopez stipend account to the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (Mascaro Branch).

FUNDING:

Funding is available in MUNIS Account 1010.45000.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TRANSFER \$10,000 TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NEW ROCHELLE (MASCARO BRANCH) FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTHA LOPEZ'S YEAR 2024 AND YEAR 2025 STIPEND ACCOUNT.

WHEREAS, each year the City of New Rochelle Operating Budget includes an annual stipend, in the amount of \$5,000, for each of the six (6) City Council Members to be used towards City related business or allocation to local organizations; and

WHEREAS, City Council Member Martha Lopez has requested that \$5,000 from 2024 and \$5,000 from 2025 be allocated from her stipend account to the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (Mascaro Branch); now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of New Rochelle hereby authorizes the City Manager to transfer \$10,000 from City Council member Martha Lopez's year 2024 and year 2025 stipend account to the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle.

City of New Rochelle
Finance Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Edward Ritter, Finance Commissioner
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 2025 BUDGET (CAPITAL BUDGET) -
Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New
Rochelle for 2025, relative to the City's Capital Budget.

Background:

On December 10, 2024, the City Council of New Rochelle adopted Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025. Included in the adopted ordinance is the City's Capital Budget. Staff in the Departments of Development and Finance are constantly reviewing the Capital Budget with all City Departments who receive capital funding. From time to time, the Capital Budget requires amending in an effort to better allocate resources.

Issue:

City staff has compiled the Capital Budget amendments attached hereto. These amendments include the following:

- Reallocation of General Fund ("GF") Cash.
- Deauthorize grant funding not received.
- Close out old Capital Projects.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, be amended as specified on the attached schedules and in accordance with City Code Chapter 75-1.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 212 OF 2024,
THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE FOR
2025, RELATIVE TO THE CITY'S CAPITAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2024, the City Council of New Rochelle adopted Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025; and

WHEREAS, staff in the Departments of Development and Finance are constantly reviewing the Capital Budget with all City Departments who receive capital funding; from time to time, the Capital Budget requires amending in an effort to better allocate resources; and

WHEREAS, City staff has compiled the Capital Budget amendments attached hereto, which include the following:

- Reallocation of General Fund ("GF") Cash.
- Deauthorize grant funding not received.
- Close out old Capital Projects.

Now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of New Rochelle:

Section 1. Ordinance No. 212 of 2024, the Budget of the City of New Rochelle for 2025, be amended as specified on the attached schedule and in accordance with City Code Chapter 75-1.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Capital Budget Adjustment Revised 3 18 25 RLM

Capital Budget Adjustments REVISED						
03/18/2025 RLM						
Org	Object	Project	Description	Amount	Type	Notes
3310H	20000	2214	Main/Weyman Intersection Improvements	\$ (2,250,000.00)	Expense	Bond Deauthorization Only
3310H	5710	2214	Main/Weyman Intersection Improvements - Bond Proceeds	\$ (2,250,000.00)	Revenue	Bond Deauthorization Only
3310H	20000	25066	QofL - Street Lighting	\$ 100,000.00	Expense	New Project - Street Lighting
3310H	9998	25066	QofL - Street Lighting - Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 100,000.00	Revenue	New Project - Street Lighting
1490H	20000	23115	New Rochelle Signage	\$ (100,000.00)	Expense	GF Cash
1490H	9998	23115	New Rochelle Signage	\$ (100,000.00)	Revenue	GF Cash
1490H	20000	2525	HVAC Replacement	\$ (60,779.00)	Expense	Project Completed
1490H	9998	2525	HVAC Replacement - Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ (60,779.00)	Revenue	Project Completed
1490H	20250	2098	Hudson Park Bathhouse Phase II	\$ (5,536.00)	Expense	Removal of GF Cash
1490H	9998	2098	Hudson Park Bathhouse Phase II - Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ (5,536.00)	Revenue	Removal of GF Cash
7020H	46000	2529	Parks Master Plan (Hudson Park)	\$ (4,000,000.00)	Expense	Bond Deauthorization
7020H	5710	2529	Parks Master Plan (Hudson Park) - Bond Proceeds	\$ (4,000,000.00)	Revenue	Bond Deauthorization
7020H	23000	7105	Hudson Park Improvements	\$ (750,000.00)	Expense	Grant Not Received
7020H	3897	7105	State Grant - Hudson Park Improvements	\$ (750,000.00)	Revenue	Grant Not Received
7020H	23000	7105	Hudson Park Improvements	\$ (250,000.00)	Expense	Grant Not Received
7020H	3897	7105	State Grant - Hudson Park Improvements	\$ (250,000.00)	Revenue	Grant Not Received

City of New Rochelle

Law

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager

FROM: Dawn Warren, Corporation Counsel

DATE: March 18, 2025

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE RE: ARTICLE XII, SECTION 127A, LIABILITY OF CITY IN CERTAIN ACTIONS - A Local Law, Intro. No. 1, to amend Section 127A, Liability of city in certain actions, of Article XII, General Financial Provisions, of the New Rochelle City Charter in relation to the requirement for prior written notice of an alleged defect. (Intro. 3/18/25; Public Hearing 4/8/25)

The City has a “prior written notice” statute, codified in Article XII, Section 127A, of the City Charter, which provides that civil claims for injuries sustained as a result of certain defects allegedly created by the City can only be brought against the City if the Commissioner of Public Works actually received notice of the particular defect that allegedly caused the injury *in writing* prior to the occurrence of the injury. Prior written notice statutes ensure that municipalities will not be held responsible for injuries caused by defects about which they are not aware, and are allowed in recognition of the fact that municipalities cannot be cognizant of every crack or defect within their borders.

However, in a recent New York Court of Appeals decision, *Calabrese v. City of Albany*, the Court interpreted a prior written notice statute similar to the City of New Rochelle’s and greatly expanded the definition of prior written notice to include, effectively, any electronic communication sent to a statutory designee.

This proposed local law will return, to the City’s prior written notice statute, the requirement that notice be given actually in writing, on paper, to the statutory designee, in keeping with the intent of the statute as it was originally enacted. The amendment also allows the City to change the statutory designee for all prior written notices from the Commissioner of Public Works to the City Clerk, ensuring centralized record-keeping.

LEGISLATION

LOCAL LAW NO. 1

LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 127A, LIABILITY OF CITY IN CERTAIN ACTIONS, OF ARTICLE XII, GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS, OF THE NEW ROCHELLE CITY CHARTER, IN RELATION TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE AN ALLEGED DEFECT.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council of the City of New Rochelle, as follows:

Section 1. Section 127A, Liability of city in certain actions, of Article XII, General Financial Provisions of the New Rochelle City Charter, is hereby amended to read as follows:

No civil action shall be maintained against the city for damages or injuries to person or property sustained in consequence of any street, highway, [trees,] bridge, culvert, [sanitary sewer or storm drains,] sidewalk or crosswalk [any other public place] being defective, out of repair, unsafe, dangerous or obstructed, or in consequence of the existence of snow or ice thereon, unless written notice thereof, specifying the particular place, had actually been given to the City Clerk [Commissioner of Public Works] prior to the happening of the event causing such damage or injury to person or property, and there was a failure or neglect by the city to repair or remove the defect, danger or obstruction or to cause the snow or ice to be removed or the specified place to be made reasonably safe within a reasonable time after the receipt of notice relating to it. Such written notice must describe, in reasonable detail, the location and nature of the referenced condition(s), shall be manually subscribed, and shall be delivered to the City Clerk by hand, first class, or certified mail.

Notice of a defect submitted via email, the city's website, any service, website, or application the city uses to allow the public to submit reports or service requests to the city, comments on a social media page maintained by the city, or any other electronic means does not satisfy the process and procedure for submitting written notices of defect required by this section.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect upon final passage, public hearing, and filing with the Secretary of State.

Matter [bracketed] deleted.

Matter underlined added.

City of New Rochelle
Law

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager
FROM: Dawn Warren, Corporation Counsel
DATE: March 18, 2025
SUBJECT: DIRECTING A PUBLIC HEARING RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, INTRO. NO. 1 - Resolution directing a Public Hearing on a Local Law, Intro No. 1, to amend Section 127A, Liability of City in Certain Actions, of Article XII, General Financial Provisions, of the New Rochelle City Charter.

Resolution directing a Public Hearing on 4/8/2025 regarding the proposed amendment of the charter of the City of New Rochelle re: Article XII, Section 127A, Liability of City in Certain Actions. (Intro: 3/18/2025; Public Hearing: 4/8/2025)

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION DIRECTING PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 127A, LIABILITY OF CITY IN CERTAIN ACTIONS, OF ARTICLE XII, GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS, OF THE NEW ROCHELLE CITY CHARTER, IN RELATION TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE AN ALLEGED DEFECT.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of New Rochelle:

This Council shall hold a public hearing on April 8, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 515 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York, on the proposed Local Law, entitled:

LOCAL LAW NO. _1____

LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 127A, LIABILITY OF CITY IN CERTAIN ACTIONS, OF ARTICLE XII, GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS, OF THE NEW ROCHELLE CITY CHARTER, IN RELATION TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE AN ALLEGED DEFECT.

and, be it further

RESOLVED that the City Clerk give due notice of this public hearing.