Sustainability Plan

TOWN OF MILTON, DELAWARE

JULY 2019

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Contents

Summary of Plan

The Town of Milton Sustainability Plan has been prepared by the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland College Park, the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc (SERCAP), and the Milton Sustainability Committee with funding from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Climate and Sustainability Program (DNREC).

The document, which was developed over the course of several years, builds upon the Town's Core Values, all of the other sustainability work that has come before it, and a number of community stakeholder meetings and outreach events where over 200 participants provided feedback and input.

This document should be viewed as a guiding framework for tackling some of the Town's greatest challenges, pursuing trusted solutions, and exploring innovative opportunities. As the community's needs and priorities change, so must the Sustainability Plan.

The plan includes recommendations for specific actions under the following five categories:

1. Good Governance;
2. Community Action;
3. Planning and Land Use;
4. Natural Resources; and,
5. Energy Consumption.

For each category, the plan contains tables with objectives, strategies, and action steps for the Town and community to engage in towards becoming more sustainable. The appendices to the plan include summaries of meetings and stakeholder outreach, a cross reference with other Town initiatives, and plans, resources and additional information to support implementation.

Introduction

Milton: History and Sustainability

The Town of Milton, Delaware is 15 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean in Sussex County, Delaware. Milton's natural and cultural amenities set it apart from the coastal resorts of Dewey, Rehoboth and Lewes. Much of the Town is a dedicated National Historic District with 188 historic buildings. The prominent natural feature is the Broadkill River, which bisects the Town center and provides recreational and scenic value to the Town and visitors.

Located on the Delmarva Peninsula the majority of land surrounding the Town is in agriculture or forestry. In the sub-watershed that encompasses Milton, Wagamons Pond, approximately 44% of the existing coverage is wetlands and forest, with a significant portion of the sub-watershed, almost 50%, comprised of agriculture. There is also a small percentage of protected open space (11%) compared to the other Broadkill sub-watersheds (WIP 2009).

Figure 1. Map of the Town of Milton, Delaware

While impervious cover in Milton is low (3%), the Town has the highest potential for future impervious acreage (22%) based on a 2009 growth projection model (WIP 2009). As the Town of Milton Comprehensive Plan (2018) notes, "As land becomes scarcer and property values increase along the coastal areas of Sussex County, further growth in Milton is anticipated due to its easy access to coastal employment and recreation attractions," (p. 18, Milton Comprehensive Plan, 2018). The population has increased from 1990 and is projected to keep increasing. Milton currently has a population around 2,800 (2015). Projected growth by 2025 is modest at 3,248 (average 1.5% per year).

Table 1. Town of Milton Population Growth & Change, 1990-2030

Town of Milton Comprehensive Plan (2018) Source: 1880-2010: US Census. Estimates and Projections: Delaware Population Consortium, US Census 1990 and 2000 and 2010, ACS 2014

Year	Population	Number Change	Percent Change
1990	1,417	58	4.3
2000	1,657	240	16.9
2005	1,780	123	7.4
2010	2,576	796	44.7
2015	2,869	506	19.6
2020	3,082	296	9.6
2025	3,248	166	5.3

To guide this growth and protect natural and cultural resources for current and future generations, the Milton Economic Development Committee established a subcommittee on sustainability in 2015. The subcommittee members believed that pursuing sustainable practices is important for the future of Milton; that sustainability issues impact the economy of the Town, its citizens, and local businesses; and that implementing sustainable measures will make Milton a more attractive community to visitors and potential residents. Members of the Economic Development Committee Sustainability Subcommittee partnered with the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc (SERCAP) to secure a grant from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Climate and Sustainability Program to develop this Sustainability Action Plan to guide future decision-making and address these issues.

In May 2017, the subcommittee was transitioned into a fully independent standing committee tasked with identifying strategies that the Town and its residents can implement that would support the unique character of the Town while accommodating for growth and planning for stressors like flooding along with other social, economic, and environmental objectives to ensure the livability of the community.

The Sustainability Committee's intent is to develop and implement a plan that would highlight how to promote the conservation of resources and to engage the citizens and Town officials in:

- Community awareness of environmental issues in the Town;
- Efficiency and cost reduction measures available to the community ;
- Organized efforts to implement environmental friendly measures for the community ; and,
- Helping Milton do its part in the global effort to minimize climate change.

The Sustainability Committee, in partnership with SERCAP, began the process of developing a sustainability plan in 2016 and later in the fall of 2018 recruited the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland to provide technical assistance in finalizing the sustainability plan.

The plan development for the Town of Milton involved identifying the Town and stakeholder's vision for sustainability and the important initiatives that should be within the plan. Throughout the process, the Sustainability Committee heavily engaged the public in identifying community priorities and sustainability strategies by hosting workshops and public meetings, conducting outreach at community events, and administering a survey to residents and stakeholders. In total, the Town engaged over 200 community members across the various outreach efforts (See Appendix A).

What is Sustainability?

The Milton's Sustainability Committee website defines sustainability as "satisfying current Town needs without sacrificing the future well-being of citizens through the balanced pursuit of ecological health and economic welfare."

The Town of Milton would like to be known for its sustainability initiatives, becoming a leader in sustainability and resilience for the state of Delaware. Through the Sustainability Committee, the Town of Milton is committed to helping residents feel empowered to make progress toward improving the future and providing residents opportunities to participate in community activities that help protect natural resources, support a strong local economy, and improve the community's overall quality of life.

This plan provides a framework to help the Town determine opportunities and a roadmap of the steps that can be taken to help Milton advance toward a more sustainable future.

It is important to note that the Milton Sustainability Plan is a roadmap for the local government, Milton's Sustainability Committee, and residents interested in participating in sustainable actions to support the Town's effort to achieve a more sustainable future. However, to achieve their sustainability goals, the local government staff and elected officials will need to take the lead on prioritizing, promoting, and propelling the Town of Milton into action. This means 1) setting ambitious goals, 2) incorporating sustainability initiatives into existing programs; 3) actively building leadership around specific issues; and 4) working closely with the Milton Sustainability Committee to leverage the Town's capacity and resources with residents' volunteerism.

It is important to note that while there are a number of opportunities for community engagement and citizen participation, many of the issues Milton will need to address are more complex in nature and will most likely require coordination with, and action by, the County or State. Specifically, the Town of Milton government staff and elected officials should be taking the lead on and advocating for larger infrastructure projects and deeper policy issues. Planning for increased growth, improving the road ways, and developing large infrastructure solutions largely fall outside the scope of the Sustainability Committee and will require major assistance from, and coordination with, the County and State. Some priorities identified in the Sustainability Plan will require Sussex County and the State to intervene, other actions may be led entirely by community volunteers, and many will require cooperative effort from both the County, the local government, residents, and other regional partners.

Framework for Sustainability Plan

Sustainability Plan Development Approach

The approach for developing the Milton Sustainability Plan included a synthesis of extensive desktop research, Sustainability Committee input, stakeholder feedback, and a Milton planning document review. The ideas and comments collected during all of these efforts contribute to the priority sustainability categories and the suggested action steps in the Implementation Planning section to incorporate sustainability into the Town's processes.

The Sustainability Committee's preliminary research and draft plan included categories related to, Environmental Impact & Health Improvement Awareness; Energy & Climate; Transportation & Mobility; Environmental Friendly Development / Growth; and, Protect, Preserve & Enhance Nature and the Environment.

These categories were further explored through stakeholder meetings and an online survey administered by the Sustainability Committee in the spring of 2019 (see Appendix A, B). Through this survey, community stakeholders indicated their priority issues through a simple ranking exercise. Natural Resource Management, Energy, and Climate Resilience were the three sustainability issues ranked most frequently in the top three community priorities. Among the secondary tier priorities were Community Planning and Outreach, Good Governance and Transportation and Mobility. Lastly, communities indicated that Waste Management, Community-Based Food, and

Figure 2. Milton sustainability survey results - priorities ranked in the top three

Health and Wellness were important but lesser priorities than some of the other issues in the community. These priorities have been woven into the final sustainability action category sections in the plan.

To recognize existing sustainability efforts, augment and support established initiatives, and propose new strategies on sustainability planning, the Sustainability Committee and its partners reviewed a number of the Town's existing documents and plans which include elements of sustainability (see Appendix C). These documents and plans were reviewed to identify any overlap and potential for

leveraging priorities and resources around sustainability. The documents and information reviewed included:

- Town of Milton Comprehensive Development Plan (2018)
- Sussex County Comprehensive Plan (2018)
- Economic Development Website/Sustainability Committee Website
- Mid-Atlantic Industrial Assessment Center (SEU054) January 26th, 2018
- Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Sussex, County Delaware (2016)
- Broadkill River Watershed Pollution Control Strategy (2012)
- Broadkill River Watershed Implementation Plan (2009)
- Milton Water Conservation Plan (2012)
- Resolution on Solar Panels and Electric (Vehicle) Charging Stations (2019-009)

Specifically, the Town of Milton Comprehensive Plan (2018) was a foundational resource during this review process. The State of Delaware requires certain elements to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan (22 Del. C. § 702), many of which directly relate to initiatives identified by the Sustainability Committee and stakeholders including:

- Economic Development
- Housing
- Conservation (Including Agriculture)
- Historic preservation
- Recreation and open space
- Intergovernmental coordination
- Mobility (Transportation)
- Water and sewer
- Community facilities
- Future land use

In addition, more progressive comprehensive plans now include sustainability aspects. In particular, the Town of Milton plan has a vision statement that incorporates the concept of sustainability (p. 9, 2018).

> Vision Statement: The Town of Milton will continue to be an economically vital and fiscally sound community, respectful of its heritage, supporting a diverse population, providing a full range of housing, business, cultural and recreational opportunities in a safe, sustainable and attractive setting for residents, businesses and visitors.

The Town of Milton Comprehensive Plan (2018) also outlines the overarching community values that underscore and support all of the Town's priorities. Many of these values, such as public participation, responsible growth, and economic vitality, directly relate with the sustainability categories discussed in this plan.

As such, the Town has already identified sustainability and a number of sustainability issues as a priority through its recently revised Comprehensive Plan (2018) which contains sections that directly relate to community sustainability. The Milton Sustainability Plan reinforces those priorities and provides opportunities for volunteers and citizens to take action on the implementation strategies listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

The intent, content and implementation strategies of the Comprehensive Plan have been cross mapped to this Sustainability Plan along with the other documents listed above. The purpose of this plan is to recognize existing initiatives, enhance and support established initiatives, and proposes new initiatives where the Sustainability Committee or documents have gaps on sustainability planning for the Town of Milton.

Sustainability Plan Framework

The following sections of the Milton Sustainability Plan explore in great detail five major action categories that were identified through the Sustainability Plan development process.

Town of Milton Sustainability Action Categories:

1) Good Governance – Embed sustainability into the Town's economic, administrative, and social processes.
2) Community Action – Increase awareness of and participation in the Town's sustainability initiatives.
3) Planning and Land Use – Commit to environmentally friendly development and smart growth.
4) Water Resources Management - Protect and enhance the Broadkill River and support sustainable water management.
5) Energy Consumption - Promote clean and efficient energy consumption in Milton's municipal, residential, and commercial sectors.

Sustainability Action Category Descriptions. Each sustainability action category has a category description. The plan briefly defines the category and its overarching purpose, why that category is important, how it relates to Milton's community values, and the category's main objectives. In the case of Water Resources Management and Energy Consumption, the category description also includes a discussion of past planning and project implementation efforts.

Implementation Planning. Following the category descriptions, the plan has a fairly comprehensive section on implementation planning. This section is a series of tables that highlight a number of strategies to achieve the objectives of each action category, detailed action steps for the Town and community to engage, and implementation planning columns where the Town of Milton can keep track of notes for each action step.

Three Year Action Plan. While the implementation planning section provides a comprehensive suite of short, medium, and long-term actions, the action plan section provides recommendations for immediate near-term next steps. These recommendations can of course be expanded upon but provides a starting point for taking action.

Resources. The resources section provides helpful links to relevant funding opportunities, guidance documents, and tools for each action category. This is not an exhaustive list of resources just a launching point for quick action.

Appendix. The appendices include summaries of meetings, and stakeholder outreach as well as worksheets to track and record the potential implementation timeframe, status, cost, lead party, cross reference with other initiatives and plans for Milton, and resources such as potential funding, partners, or websites with more information.

Sustainability Action Category Descriptions

Good Governance

Embed sustainability into the Town's economic, administrative, and social processes.

Good governance is vital to the success of local governments. It is the process by which decisions are implemented to meet the needs of the community, and it tries to promote strong relationships between elected officials, government staff, and empowered citizens. Through public participation, respect, and fair dealing, the Town of Milton strives to promote good governance in all it does in order to be responsive to the present and future needs of the community.

Good governance is thus naturally a value embedded in Milton's Sustainability Plan. Not only did the Town solicit extensive feedback from residents to develop the strategies and actions outlined in their Comprehensive Plan and this Sustainability Plan, but they also included good governance as a unique overarching goal.

In this context, good governance refers to identifying and providing specific opportunities to incorporate sustainable practices and pathways into the Milton's daily operations. Milton has existing policies and initiatives that can be strengthened through adequate funding, planning, and government support and decision making. By combining forces of the Town's elected officials, municipal staff, Sustainability Committee, and residents, sustainability can be interwoven and embedded into the Town's actions. Aligning government processes and decision making with the Town's sustainability priorities can help demonstrate to residents that the Town is responsive to their feedback, it helps to build transparency and accountability, and can help build support and trust in further community engagement efforts.

Good Governance Core Value Alignment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - fostering a culture that encourages and values open communication, meaningful dialogue and mutual respect as the community continues to make decisions about its shared future.

RESPECT AND FAIR DEALING - calling upon and respecting the contributions of all who would like to contribute their skills and experience to improve the community.

The Town has three main Good Governance objectives:

GG-1: Integrate sustainability into the Town's operational and capital budgets.
   mid-term, low-cost, strong municipal leadership

GG-2: Require sustainability as a priority criteria for the procurement of all the Town's goods and services.
   short-term, low-cost, strong municipal leadership

GG-3: Engage decisions-makers and Town leadership in sustainability initiatives.
   short-term, low-cost, strong municipal leadership

Community Action

Increase awareness of and participation in the Town's sustainability initiatives.

Community Action is about building the capacity of local communities to develop, implement and sustain their own solutions to problems in a way that helps them shape and exercise control over their physical, social, economic and cultural environments. It puts community members at the heart of their own local services and provides opportunities for all residents and local stakeholders to get involved and take action. The Town of Milton is committed to making choices that support educational opportunities and create an environment that welcomes people from all cultures and backgrounds to participate in Milton's sustainability initiatives.

The Town's Community Action strategies will position Milton as a leader and catalyst for sustainability by inspiring and stimulating individual and institutional action. Through community outreach, Milton can provide educational opportunities and help promote the importance of sustainability as a primary avenue for improving quality of life. The Town can also facilitate community-led projects, that will enable residents to take ownership of outcomes and help build social cohesion. By identifying specific needs in the community and providing targeted support, the Town can help build the capacity of residents to take action towards improving the environmental, social, and economic well-being of the community.

> ### Community Action Core Value Alignment
>
> **ATTENTION TO THE WELFARE OF OUR CHILDREN** - committed to making choices that support formal and informal educational opportunities, support safe schools and create a healthy environment in which our children can grow and thrive.
>
> **WELCOME VISITORS** - making Milton an attractive destination for visitors by creating an environment that welcomes and supports a variety of cultural, culinary, entertainment and recreational organizations and businesses.

The Town has five main Community Action objectives:

CA-1: Maintain an active citizen-based sustainability committee to help coordinate the Town's sustainability efforts.
   short-term, low-cost, strong citizen leadership

CA-2: Facilitate environmental awareness programs for residents and youth.
   short-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership

CA-3: Promote environmental justice and social equity through sustainability.
   mid-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal leadership

CA-4: Promote community-based food and healthy lifestyles.
   mid-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership

CA-5: Minimize waste and increase recycling efforts.
   short-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership

Planning and Land Use

Commit to environmentally friendly development and smart growth.

Land-use planning is the process of regulating the use of land in an effort to promote more desirable social and environmental outcomes. This process has been instrumental in mitigating the negative effects of development on the land and safeguarding our natural resources. Ultimately, land use planning can help ensure that the needs of the community are met while enhancing the efficient use of resources with minimal impact on future generations.

By anticipating and planning for certain changes that are likely to happen, Milton can prepare for those changes and reduce the community's vulnerability to likely risks, such as drought and flooding, while at the same time maximizing beneficial opportunities associated with these changes. By promoting responsible growth, connecting people and places, and supporting balanced housing opportunities through the implementation of various planning documents and processes, Milton is ensuring that it is building communities that are sustainable and resilient to change, be it the effects of climate change, an increasing population, or a changing economy.

Planning and land-use actions in the Sustainability Plan arose from review of the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan (March 2018) and the Town of Milton Comprehensive Plan (2018). The actions in the Implementation Planning section largely identify potential gaps in planning related to sustainable community planning. These objectives will require extensive collaboration with, and support from, state and county agencies and will success will rely heavily on strong municipal leadership.

Planning and Land Use Core Value Alignment

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH - finding ways to provide the infrastructure necessary to support Milton's responsible development and to inviting annexation of contiguous properties into the Town where fiscally sound and consistent with the charter.

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES - encouraging safe streets and sidewalks to support commerce, tourism, walkability and creating a strong sense of a connected community.

HOUSING - encouraging opportunities to create a balanced range of housing options for all who desire to live, work and contribute to the future of our Town.

The Town has two main Planning and Land Use objectives:

PL-1: Develop a strategy for environmentally friendly development of all future municipal, commercial and residential areas within the corporate limits.
  mid-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal leadership

PL-2: Coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies to ensure the area is linked through a coordinated multi-modal transportation system.
  long-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal leadership

Natural Resources

Protect the Broadkill River and support sustainable resources management.

Natural Resources management is the sustainable utilization of environmental resources that support clean and healthy watersheds. Restoring and protecting the natural resources that promote healthy ecosystems, provide clean drinking water, and enable a better quality of life is paramount to making sure a community is sustainable.

The Town of Milton understands the importance of protecting its natural resources and waterways as a social and economic benefit to the community. Healthy watersheds can reduce capital costs for water treatment plants, reduce damages to property and infrastructure due to flooding, and help support the tourism industry. The Town established rehabilitation and stewardship of the Broadkill River, the water way that lies at Milton's physical, historical and emotional center, as a core community value and sustainable water management helps contribute to the Town's economic vitality.

> **Natural Resources Core Value Alignment**
>
> **REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION OF THE BROADKILL RIVER** - protecting the Broadkill River and improving its stewardship. Providing responsible access to the river for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.
>
> **ECONOMIC VITALITY** - creating an environment that supports economic development and job creation while protecting Milton's irreplaceable natural and historic assets.

There are several existing plans and initiatives surrounding water resources in and around the Town of Milton that address measures and actions of water and sustainability. The sustainability action plan draws from the implementation strategies and specific projects and initiatives that were identified in these existing documents and combines them with the community-based action planning recommendations. The following section highlights the existing watershed management efforts and strategies that were assimilated into Milton's Sustainability Action Plan.

Watershed Stewardship, Protection and Restoration

> The Town has six main Natural Resources and Watershed Protection objectives:
>
> **NR-1: Facilitate engagement in existing watershed stewardship opportunities.**
> short-term, low-cost, strong citizen leadership
>
> **NR-2: Protect tidal and freshwater wetlands.**
> mid-term, high-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership
>
> **NR-3: Implement stormwater management projects.**
> mid-term, high-cost, strong municipal leadership
>
> **NR-4: Support clean and resilient water and wastewater services for all residents.**
> short-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership
>
> **NR-5: Provide opportunities for citizen engagement in watershed stewardship.**
> short-term, low-cost, strong citizen leadership
>
> **NR-6: Develop a strategy for sea-level rise and flooding.**
> short-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership

The Broadkill Pollution Control Strategy (PCS, 2012) was written to identify measures needed to meet total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and improve water quality in the Broadkill. The Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP 2009) includes specific projects for the Town of Milton to undertake for watershed protection, preservation and restoration. The Broadkill River Watershed (Figure 3) has four subwatersheds, Wagamons Pond, Round Pole Bridge, Red Mill Creek, and Prime Hook. The Town of Milton is within the Wagamons Pond sub-watershed. The impairments in the watershed around Milton come from different sources as shown in Table 2.

The Town of Milton has several options to achieve sustainable watershed management goals. The WIP (2009) and the PCS (2012) detail projects and strategies to improve the water quality in the Broadkill specific to the Town of Milton:

- Retrofits in the urbanized sections;
- Retrofits in older neighborhoods without stormwater controls;
- Reduction of point sources of pollutant discharges from Allen Family Foods, SAW Georgetown Plant, Perdue Georgetown Plant, and Town of Milton WWTP; and,
- Additional preservation of wetland areas.
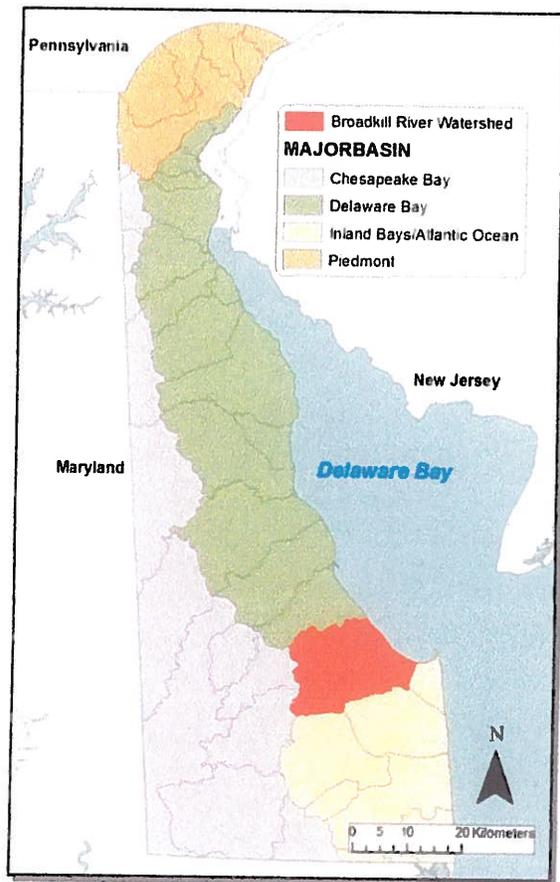
Figure 3. Broadkill River Watershed (Rogerson et al., 2013)

Table 2. Watershed impairments and sources

Sub-watershed of the Broadkill	Segment	Impairments	Source
Wagamons Pond	Round Pole Branch	Bacteria, DO, Nutrients	NPS
	Ingrams Branch	Bacteria, DO, Nutrients	PS, NPS
	Ingrams Branch	DO	PS, NPS
Wagamons Pond	Wagamons Pond	Nutrients	PS, NPS

Adapted from DNREC report "Broadkill River Watershed Proposed TMDLs," August 2006.
*NPS-non-point source |**PS-point source |***DO-low dissolved oxygen

The PCS documented projects and progress that was made in the three years from the WIP development. Several projects listed in WIP were complete in and around the Town of Milton. There are projects identified in the WIP that have not been completed. These projects are included as part of suggested sustainability actions in the Implementation section.

Wetlands are an important component in climate resiliency. The Broadkill Watershed Wetland Report (2013) contains a thorough assessment of various wetland types, quantities, changes and stressors and clearly connects wetlands' ability to deliver multiple sustainability benefits. As stated in the report (p.4, 2013):

> Wetlands in the Broadkill River watershed provide many benefits to people, support natural processes, and provide habitats that are an integral part of the landscape. Wetlands transition between terrestrial and aquatic habitats and are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Wetlands minimize flooding from storms, control erosion, and improve water quality by removing nutrient runoff and pollutants from non-point sources. Wetlands remove and retain sediment loads from waters that can be elevated due to agricultural practices, land clearing, construction, and bank erosion before they enter tidal and nontidal waterways. They also have substantial cultural and economic value as a source of recreation (e.g. hunting, fishing, birding) and livelihood (e.g. fishing, crabbing, furbearer trapping). Tidal wetlands are biologically rich habitats and are a critical resource for migrating shorebirds and wintering waterfowl, and serve as nurseries for commercial fish and shellfish species. Freshwater wetlands process and funnel ground and surface waters into our waterways, and provide wildlife habitat for a wide array of species.

The Broadkill Watershed Wetland Report (2013) has nine management recommendations that were reviewed for the Sustainability Plan. Suggested actions are included in the Implementation section.

The Town of Milton Comprehensive Plan (2018) also has sections to address water quality and quantity sustainability as the town grows. In 2015, a Source Water Protection Area ordinance was adopted into the Town Code, and the 2018 Comprehensive Plan includes maps that define source water and wellhead protection areas, as well as potential groundwater recharge areas. Elements of the Comprehensive Plan that aligned with stakeholder interests and concerns were included in strategy recommendations.

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has water quality monitoring stations which provide data to citizens and stakeholders. The data is collected yearly and provides a snapshot of the water quality during sampling time (Figure 4). There are four stations two upstream of Milton and two within the Town of Milton. An opportunity for the Sustainability Committee and volunteers could be to develop a water quality monitoring program. There are several statewide citizen science groups that volunteers can join to develop a program to monitor and communicate water quality changes around Milton. The actions and resources to pursue this action are in the Implementation section and Resources section.

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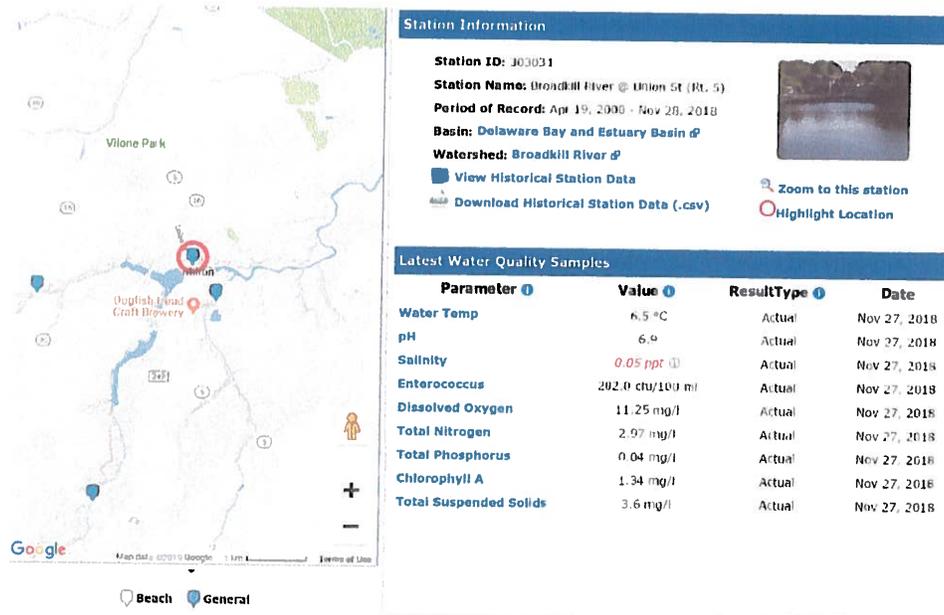
Figure 4. DNREC Water Quality Monitoring Stations (http://DEMAC.UDEL.EDU/waterquality/)

Flooding is a significant concern for the Town of Milton. Recently in May 2018, the Town amended their Flood Plain Management ordinance (2018-001) to strengthen flood protections for building, structures and mechanical systems. The Sussex County, All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (2016) reports that annualized flooding losses in Milton may reach $338,142 - $445,316. This projection does not include sea-level rise, only estimates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance rate maps (100 year and 500 year storms, Figure 5).
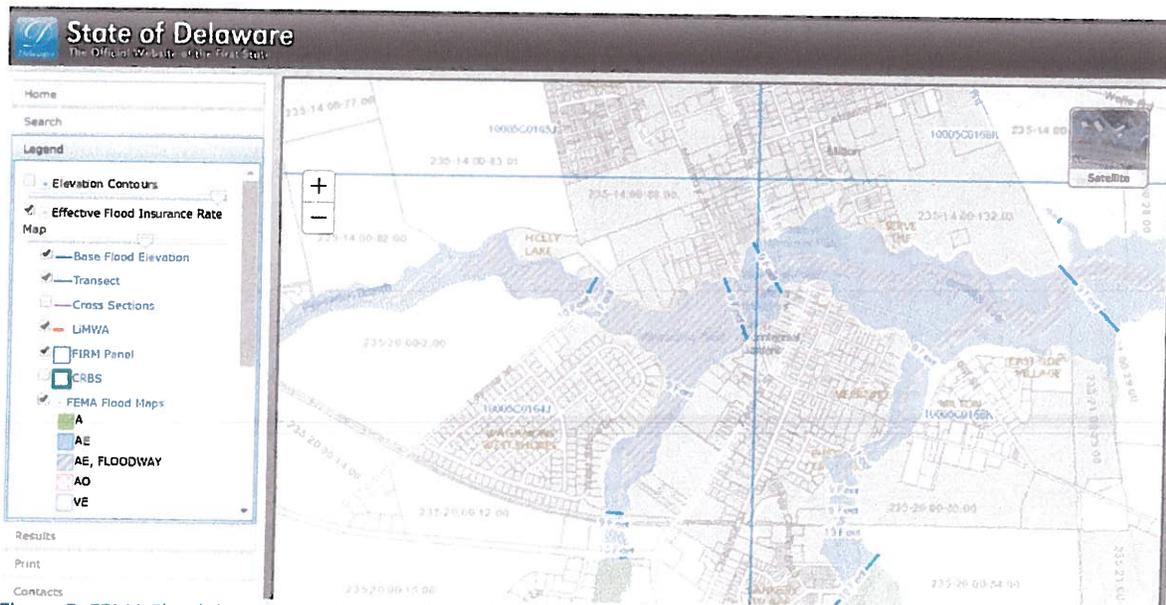
Figure 5. FEMA Floodplain Map, Milton, DE (https://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/FloodPlanning/default.html)

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The Sustainability Committee held a public workshops that discussed the implications of sea-level rise for the Town of Milton. Several options were discussed by DNREC and the committee such as building sea walls; making accommodations through structural adaptations; avoiding exposed areas known to flood; and making a full retreat, moving existing assets away from flood-prone areas. The sea-level rise maps indicate a continued increase in flooding in Milton's town center (Figure 6). This Sustainability Plan included review of the Sussex County All Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP, 2016) and Comprehensive Plan (2018) for indications of planning for not only flood protection but increasing flooding with sea-level rise. The existing plans do not have specific measures for sea-level rise. The Implementation section contains several recommendations from the HMP in addition to comprehensive planning that includes sea-level rise scenario.
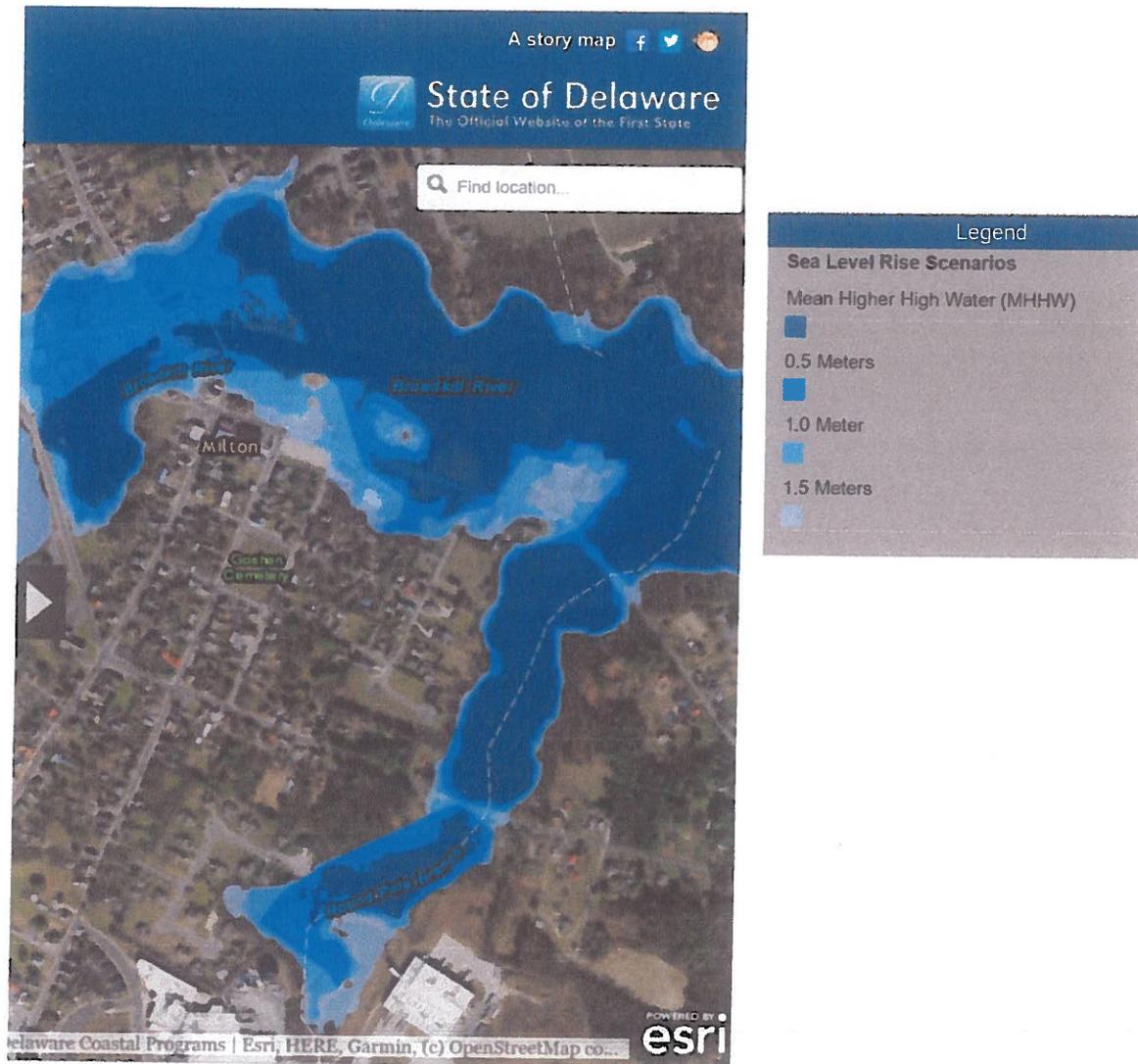
Figure 6. Sea-level Rise Projections for Milton, DE
(http://firstmap.gis.delaware.gov/inundation/)

Energy Consumption

Promote clean and efficient energy consumption in Milton's municipal, residential, and commercial sectors.

Clean and efficient energy consumption is the act of harnessing technology to help avoid or reduce energy waste. This combined with energy conservation measures can save money on utilities, reduce air and water pollution, and help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions associated with global climate change.

The Town's Energy Consumption strategies will prioritize increasing the efficiency of municipal operations, saving tax payer dollars, but the strategies will also extend to residents and local businesses. Milton will promote community action that will empower stakeholders to reduce their electric bills and decrease their carbon footprint.

> **Energy Consumption Core Value Alignment**
>
> SOLVING PROBLEMS - approaching our challenges with fresh ideas and hard work and calling upon subject matter experts to provide expertise that will ground our decisions in facts, data, science, best practices, and experience.

In an effort to reduce the Town's energy consumption, the Town of Milton has already partnered with the University of Delaware Mid-Atlantic Industrial Assessment Center, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering to conduct an audit of four municipal operations: Town Hall, Police Department, Maintenance Yard, and Water Plant (UD, 2018). The assessment recommendations (AR) were given to reduce CO_2 emissions, energy use, and costs. In response to the audit, the Town implemented four ARs including the installation of programmable thermostats and retrofit of Town Hall and police department lights to LED (SEU, 2019). While some of the other measures in the assessment offered little cost benefit, it is important to revisit this audit as new cost effective technologies may make additional energy efficiency upgrades more cost effective in the future.

> **The Town has six main Energy Consumption objectives:**
>
> **E-1: Increase energy efficiency in all municipally owned facilities.**
> short-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal leadership
>
> **E-2: Adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy requirements for all new development.**
> mid-term, low-cost, strong municipal leadership
>
> **E-3: Install cost-effective renewable energy systems on all municipal buildings.**
> mid-term, high-cost, strong municipal leadership
>
> **E-4: Encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy investment in the community.**
> short-term, low-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership
>
> **E-5: Encourage the transition to electric vehicles.**
> mid-term, high-cost, strong municipal leadership
>
> **E-6: Develop a Climate Action Plan.**
> mid-term, moderate-cost, strong municipal and citizen leadership

Implementation Planning

This section provides a "worksheet" for all of the sustainability objectives developed as a part of the Sustainability Plan development process. This tool can be used by the Town of Milton and the Milton Sustainability Committee to track and guide sustainability actions. For each sustainability action category, the worksheet contains the primary objectives that were listed in the *Sustainability Action Category Descriptions* section along with an extensive list of all identified strategies and actions that can be considered over the long-term. In addition, the worksheet contains columns for implementation planning. This includes a space to identify who will take the lead on each strategy, what is the timeframe for completing the strategy, approximately how much does that action cost, and what is the status of the action.

The *Implementation Planning* worksheet should be consider a living document. The Town of Milton may wish to add new strategies as community priorities evolve or the Sustainability Committee may include new action steps as different technologies are developed and new best management practices are established. The worksheet is also designed so that the Town can keep track of actions taken and serve as a bit of an inventory or rubric to monitor progress towards becoming more sustainable.

While the Sustainability Committee was established to help set the framework for the Town's sustainability initiative, it is important to remember that everyone must play a role in ensuring Milton's sustainability. The Sustainability Committee may elect to take the lead on some actions, whiles others may be more efficiently, effectively, or appropriately lead by Town personnel or other stakeholders. Many of the Sustainability Plan's strategies involve engaging local residents and catalyzing community participation. This worksheet helps coordinate efforts and provides a tool for managing who will be the primary point of contact for each action.

Ultimately, this section can serve as a good strategy implementation tool to provide ideas and examples of actions that align with the community's priorities. And provides a process for addressing and documenting the feasibility of each action, including careful consideration of the action steps timeline, the Town's capacity, and the costs.

Good Governance - Embed sustainability into the Town's economic, administrative, and social processes.

Objective GG-1: Integrate sustainability into the Town's operational and capital budgets.

Strategy	Action Steps	Implementation Planning			
		Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
GG-1.1 Incorporate sustainability goals into comprehensive plans.	Adapt existing plans, such as comprehensive, economic development, and/or strategic plans to incorporate sustainability goals and climate-related risks and resilience strategies.				
	Develop check list of sustainability goals for cross-referencing when updating existing plans or developing new plans.				
GG-1.2 Require CIP to align with community sustainability goals.	Adopt policies to encourage or require CIPs and capital budgets to be consistent with sustainability goals either through the CIP's policy framework and/or in the relevant section of the local government charter.				
	Develop capital improvement program sustainability criteria, for example - Does the Capital Improvement Plan limit or prohibit expenditures on projects that would encourage new development or additional development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards?				
	Require each proposed project to be assessed for contribution to sustainability goals and resilience to vulnerability.				
	Engage a cross-departmental collaboration in designing the CIP program and ensure broad representation in all its phases, including developing the CIP framework and scoring criteria, designing and submitting projects, scoring and prioritizing proposals, and implementing and evaluating projects.				
	Bundle and coordinate projects so that they achieve multiple goals at once (this concept is often referred to as "dig once" and a good example is incorporating green infrastructure elements into road repair projects).				

		Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
GG-1.3	Consider available financing and incentive programs that could help the Town implement projects.	Research grants and available cost-saving programs.				
		Participate in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) to lower the Town's flood insurance premium by implementing more rigorous floodplain management practices that can qualify for flood insurance premium discounts.				
GG-1.4	Dedicate municipal funds to implement sustainability projects and initiatives.	Approve an annual budget for advancing sustainability projects and outreach efforts.				

Objective GG-2: Require sustainability as a priority criteria for the procurement of all the Town's goods and services.

Strategy		Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
GG-2.1	Adopt a green purchasing or environmentally preferred procurement policy.	Assess current purchasing practices to determine what goods and services are being purchased annually.				
		Engage municipal purchasing personnel, operations and maintenance personnel, and all municipal departments who purchase goods and services to develop a policy to select environmentally preferable products and services for all municipal facilities.				
		Create a procedure by which to apply environmental criteria to product purchases and train appropriate staff throughout relevant departments.				
		Disseminate policy reminder throughout relevant departments annually.				
GG-2.2	Purchase recycled and environmentally preferable products.	Communicate the municipality's desire for these products to vendors and service providers.				
		Include environmental preference statement in all service contracts and monitor service providers for compliance.				
		Consider utilizing existing green/sustainable cooperative purchasing agreements.				
		Document and evaluate purchases that demonstrate a commitment to the purchasing of recycled products.				

Objective GG-3: Engage decisions-makers and Town leadership in sustainability initiatives.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
GG-3.1	Actively engage local elected officials and Town staff in the implementation of the sustainability action plan.	Train local elected officials and staff on the importance of various sustainability strategies and how they can improve the economic and social well-being of the Town.				
		Encourage elected officials and staff to participate in town-wide sustainability meetings				
		Provide regular updates to the elected officials and staff with regards to the implementation of the sustainability action plan.				
GG-3.2	Embed sustainability across all Town committees.	Require that each of the Town's committees review the Town's sustainability goals and strategies and identify any overlap.				
		Have each of the Town committees address complementary sustainability goals within their respective working groups.				
		Develop a process to coordinate action across committees. Consider having quarterly or bi-annual meetings where committee leaders meet to discuss on-going activity.				

Community Action – Increase awareness of and participation in Town's sustainability initiatives.

Objective CA-1: Maintain an active citizen-based sustainability committee to help coordinate the Town's sustainability efforts.

Strategy	Action Steps	Implementation Planning			
		Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
CA-1.1 Build and cultivate community action.	Maintain Sustainability Committee and recruit new members.				
	Active recruitment of skilled volunteers through community events.				
	Hire a sustainability grant writer.				

Objective CA-2: Facilitate environmental awareness programs for residents and youth.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
CA-2.1 Develop sustainability outreach and education programs.	Build sustainability resource center via website (e.g. energy, recycling, and seismic testing).				
	Coordinate with local schools and partner on green initiatives.				
	Host climate change education community workshops.				
	Create a green business certification and/or awards program.				

Objective CA-3: Promote environmental justice and social equity through sustainability.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
CA-3.1 Understand the needs of vulnerable communities and include them in sustainability programs.	Conduct an assessment of the Town's population and develop a map of community demographics.				
	Develop bi-lingual outreach material.				
	Provide high speed Wi-Fi hotspots.				
	Implement local cooling centers.				

Objective CA-4: Promote community-based food and healthy lifestyles.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
CA-4.1 Continue food and garden programs and combine wellness aspects.	Maintain and promote Milton Farmers Market.				
	Explore combining wellness screening at community events through partnering with mobile screening groups, area clinics, and hospitals.				
	Support Veg Fest and coordinate with related community groups on events.				
	Support local food programs through partnership with the Chamber of Commerce (e.g. Truckin Tuesdays).				

Objective CA-5: Minimize waste and increase recycling efforts.

Strategy		Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
CA-5.1	Support DNREC's recycling program (Universal Recycling Law)	Determine if businesses would benefit from a free, non-regulatory assessment of commercial waste streams and waste management practices.				
		Continue to educate residents about certain materials that are accepted in Delaware's single stream recycling program.				
		Educate businesses, restaurants and other entities on DNREC recycling toolkits.				
		Develop a program to recognize local attempts to reduce, reuse, and recycle.				
CA-5.2	Develop zero waste goals	Partner with Plastics Free Delaware to educate residents about plastic bags and other waste reduction initiatives.				
		Consider shifting to reusable dishware at all town events.				
		Promote "upon request" straws and single-use plastic cutlery in local restaurants.				
		Assess the feasibility of passing a comprehensive single-use plastics policy which would address things such as straws, dishware and cutlery, polystyrene, balloons, bags, and bottles.				

Planning and Land Use – Commit to environmentally friendly development and smart growth.

Objective PL-1: Develop a strategy for environmentally friendly development of all municipal, commercial and residential areas within the corporate limits.

Strategy		Action Steps	Implementation Planning			
			Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
PL-1.1	Develop an environmental resource inventory.	Identify planning grants to develop the environmental resource inventory.				
		Partner with a consulting firm to complete a comprehensive inventory of all environmental resources.				
PL-1.2	Emphasize regional and cross sector cooperation.	Align the community planning vision with the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan to the extent feasible.				
		Coordinate Milton town committees related to land use planning and develop a process to collaborate on land use planning decision making.				
		Provide incentives for developers, business, and residents to reutilize and revitalize existing older structures in the Town.				
PL-1.3	Conduct a sustainability code and ordinance review.	Review existing building codes and setbacks for residential and commercial development to incorporate environmentally friendly elements such as deeper setbacks near wetlands, use of permeable surfaces for all roads, driveways, etc.				
		Develop guidelines and policies requiring developers to establish living shorelines for all projects that front onto the Broadkill River.				
		Establish development requirements for mixed-use community activity areas which promote alternative forms of multi-modal transportation.				
		Consider climate change vulnerabilities and resilience strategies during the sustainability code and ordinance review.				

PL-1.4	Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment.	Contract with a professional consulting firm to develop climate hazard projections. Consider the following hazards: sea-level rise, flooding, storms, heat islands hot spots, erosion hot spots, and historical impacts.								
		Conduct an asset inventory to include the location, function, and current conditions of individual assets.								
		Create hazard vulnerability maps of key community assets at the block or neighborhood scale. Consider social, environmental, and economic assets.								
PL-1.5	Support a housing affordability plan.	Work with planning to ensure that new growth areas in Milton will include a range of affordable housing opportunities or ways to provide the opportunity to create affordable and independent housing options to other family members of the owner.								
PL-1.6	Invest in Land Preservation.	Build an easement inventory.								
		Conduct easement outreach that encourages inspection, evaluation, and stewardship of land.								
		Develop plans for the extension of Memorial Park into the site now occupied by the Tidewater Sewage Treatment Plant. Plans will place an emphasis on the creation of a living shoreline and the use of native plants.								
		Develop environmental guidelines that focus on the use of "living shorelines" or similar environmentally oriented approaches for all future municipal, residential, and commercial project that front on the Broadkill River.								
		Develop a proactive program to protect/preserve all wetland areas within the Town's corporate limits.								
		Preserve and enhance undeveloped natural areas within the corporate limits of Milton that front onto the Broadkill River.								

Objective PL-2: Coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies to ensure the area is linked through a coordinated multi-modal transportation system.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
PL-2.1	Identify opportunities to reduce potential conflicts between pass-through and local traffic.	Establish a process for developing a Level of Service standard at important intersections and the Growth Area that prioritizes the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.			
		Assess the feasibility of using Transportation Improvement Districts to maintain safe and convenient accessibility to the Town Center and its business districts along SR 16.			
		Install directional signage that routes pass-through traffic around the edges of town.			
PL-2.2	Bolster the use of public transit.	Host a regional convening to engage residents and regional partners on the issue of public transportation.			
		Advocate for reducing bus transit headways and improving landside facilities (such as sidewalks, lighting and passenger shelters) for transit users.			
		Lobby for the adjustment of the bus routes/bus stops through Milton to better serve the growing population and increase ridership.			

PL-2.3	Create a pedestrian environment through enhanced landscapes, streetscapes, and public infrastructure projects.	Work with state agencies to promote mixed-use public transportation areas that improve the safe use of the street network by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and freight deliverers.					
		Review all development regulations to reference current standards and specifications required by DelDOT and DNREC.					
		Adopt a complete streets policy requiring context sensitive design features in any highway improvement project, site plan or subdivision within the Town.					
		Evaluate all development proposals for viable connectivity options to the existing neighborhoods, commercial districts, and the Town Center.					
		Promote use of and accessibility to the American Discovery Trail (ADT) by connecting the ADT to Town attractions, the Broadkill River, and its surrounding neighborhoods.					
		Identify possible rails-to-trails opportunities including connecting via a trail head junction with the Georgetown-Lewes rails-to-trails project.					
		Install LED eco-friendly solar powered lighting on existing and future rails-to-trails pathways.					
		Establish financing strategies that fund transportation improvements and programs.					
PL-2.4	Explore a variety of parking solutions that will help support revitalization of the Town Center.	Conduct a comprehensive parking management study to determine the best mix of solutions to support a vibrant Town Center.					

Natural Resources – Protect the Broadkill River and support sustainable resources management.

Objective NR-1: Facilitate engagement in existing watershed stewardship opportunities.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
NR-1.1	Work with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), DNREC Watershed Stewardship, and Delaware Nature Society (DNS) watershed programs to promote watershed stewardship.	Promote TNC DE Stream Stewards to community residents.			
		Link to watershed programs and community events sponsored by the DNREC and help to promote Delaware watershed initiatives.			
		Promote citizen science and have volunteers track the water quality data available for the Broadkill in and around Milton. (Stations 303031,303311, 303341, and 303021).			
		Promote Adopt a Stream, or becoming a Technical Volunteer with DNS. Technical volunteers are needed for Sussex County streams.			
NR-1.2	Promote conservation landscaping.	Continue the community garden tours.			
		Engage in "Gardening for Water and Wildlife program" conducted through a partnership between Delaware Nature Society and the National Wildlife Federation.			

Objective NR-2: Protect tidal and freshwater wetlands.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
NR-2.1	Improve wetland management and encourage informed and effective decisions concerning the future of wetland resources in the Broadkill River.	Work with the State to improve the protection of tidal flats and non-tidal wetlands in Delaware.			
		Work with Sussex County to improve non-tidal wetland buffer regulations and codes in and around Milton.			
		Develop incentives to maintain natural buffers of tidal wetlands.			

Objective NR-3: Implement stormwater management projects.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
NR-3.1	Work with Public Works to identify opportunities on public and private land to manage stormwater. Begin with determining if projects listed in WIP are still viable.				
	Neighborhood - Shipbuilders Village 1 - Onsite Retrofit.				
	Neighborhood - Shipbuilders Village 2 - Onsite Retrofit.				
	Sherman Heating Oil - better site management.				
	Ace Hardware Shipping - better site management.				
	Downtown Public Parking - bioretention.				
	Reed Trucking - better site management.				
	Town Hall - sand filter to treat parking runoff.				
	Milton Firehouse/Police Auxiliary Parking - bioretention.				
	ACE Hardware/Strip Mall/Recycling Center - bioretention in parking areas.				
	Iguana Grill - bioretention.				
	Cannery Village - Onsite Retrofit.				
NR-3.2	Identify grant opportunities for project implementation.				
	Conduct desktop research and reach out to local funders.				

Objective NR-4: Support clean and resilient water and wastewater services for all residents.

Strategy	Action Steps	Timeframe	Status	Cost	Lead
NR-4.1	Support development of a Town's Water Master Plan, evaluating capacities and capabilities of the wells to determine in advance when new facilities will be required to meet quality, capacity and pressure demands.	Ensure the location and enhancement of all water facilities takes into account sea-level rise.				
		Ensure Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc., relocation of the current waste water treatment plant outside of the flood prone area of the Broadkill.			
		Determine water conservation changes since 2013.			
		Monitor compliance with the Town's Source Water Protection Ordinance adopted in 2015 and incorporated into its Zoning and Land Use plan by reference.			
		Consult with DNREC Water Resources Source Water Protection Division and Delaware Rural Water Source Water Protection Program Specialist or other technical assistance provider periodically to ensure best practices are up to date and followed.			

Objective NR-5: Provide opportunities for citizen engagement in watershed stewardship.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
NR-5.1	Increase urban tree canopy.	Participate in Tree City USA to establish a standard tree management program to include: establish a tree board, adopt tree care ordinance, commit $2 per capita minimum budget to community forestry, and observe Arbor Day.			
		Develop a baseline tree assessment and inventory in i-Tree.			
		Determine areas for afforestation or reforestation.			
		Provide public education on baseline assessment to stakeholders and community.			
NR-5.2	Use living shorelines where applicable for bank stabilization.	Identify areas where stabilization is needed for shoreline protection.			
		Work with The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary to secure funds to install living shorelines.			
		Promote Delaware Living Shorelines Committee and membership to stakeholders.			

	Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
NR-5.3	Manage pet waste.	Adopt a pet waste ordinance.				
		Develop a pet waste outreach campaign.				
		Inventory pet waste stations and determine if there are gaps or other locations where stations are needed. Install additional pet waste stations signage at high-use traffic areas around town.				
NR-5.4	Increase wildlife and pollinator habitat.	Encourage the use of conservation landscaping on private property.				
		Educate residents on the co-benefits of trees, native plants, and wildlife habitat.				
		Have the Town of Milton pursue Community Wildlife Habitat certification through the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat™ program.				
		Encourage residential homeowners to participate in the National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat® recognition program.				
NR-5.5	Implement a watershed stewardship outreach program.	Develop outreach material to promote stormwater best management practices including proper application of fertilizers and pesticides for lawn and garden, proper disposal of waste fluids, precautions for applying de-icers to pavement, proper maintenance of existing septic systems (if applicable), and maintaining your car and boat properly.				
		Provide volunteer opportunities for citizen engagement in watershed stewardship including storm drain stenciling events, tree plantings, litter clean up, and rain barrel workshops.				

Objective NR-6: Develop a strategy for sea-level rise and flooding.

	Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
NR-6.1	Review codes and ordinances for sea-level rise protection.	Determine the Town's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) classification and if code enforcement is protecting residents from flood hazards.				
	Explore National Flood Insurance Program Opportunities.	Work with DNREC to complete joining the FEMA Community Rating System.				
	Plan for sea-level rise scenarios.	Conduct a study to identify measures to mitigate flooding, including sea-level rise in the downtown area.				

Energy – Promote clean and efficient energy consumption in Milton's municipal, residential, and commercial sectors.

Objective E-1: Increase energy efficiency in all municipally owned facilities.

Strategy		Action Steps	Implementation Planning			
			Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-1.1	Conduct Municipal Energy Audits.	Partner with a consulting firm to audit all Town-owned facilities.				Completed - 2018
		Revisit audit recommendations every two years for energy saving opportunities. Various technologies may become more cost effective as technologies improve or price of utilities change.				
E-1.2	Support energy efficiency upgrades and the implementation of the Town's SEU municipal energy audit recommendations.	Replace all interior and exterior lighting with LED bulbs.				Completed Town Hall interior lights – 2018
		Promote ENERGY STAR and Water Sense for all appliance and system replacements as appliances come to the end of their useful life.				
		Investigate available energy financing mechanisms including energy performance contracts, and state, federal, and utility energy efficiency incentives.				
E-1.3	Consider installing a green or white roof on municipally owned facilities.	Research costs and benefits of green and white roofs.				
		Conduct feasibility study to determine if a green or white roof is appropriate for any of the municipal buildings.				
E-1.4	Replace all streetlights with energy efficient, eco-friendly lights.	Work with local electric utility to upgrade streetlights to energy efficient and eco-friendly lights that reduce light pollution.				

Objective E-2: Adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy requirements for all new and re-development.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-2.1	Incentivize new construction to comply with stricter energy efficiency Building Code standards.	Partner with an academic institution to conduct research on baseline building codes for the State of Delaware and opportunities for developing stretch codes.			

Objective E-3: Install cost-effective renewable energy systems on all municipal buildings.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-3.1	Conduct a municipal renewable energy feasibility study.	Pursue grant funding to hire a consulting firm or partner with an engineering school to conduct a base-line renewable energy feasibility study, include costs and electric generation capacity for solar and wind.			
		Explore renewable energy financing strategies including power purchase agreement, cooperative purchasing contracts, and state and utility incentive programs.			

Objective E-4: Encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy investment in the community.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-4.1	Encourage energy efficiency within existing residential and commercial buildings.	Partner with Interfaith Power & Light to host residential and commercial energy efficiency workshops at the school, local library, or Town Hall.			
		Encourage residents and businesses to invest in energy efficiency building envelope measures (i.e. sealing and insulation).			
		Promote Delaware's energy efficiency and weatherization programs via social media and the Town's local newsletter.			
		Identify low-cost financing products available for residents and small businesses such as on-bill financing and PACE financing.			
		Research successful energy affordability programs with a specific focus on low and fixed-income residential programs.			

	Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-4.2	Promote renewable energy within existing residential and commercial buildings.	Develop and promote a residential solar bulk purchasing program.				
		Explore and promote existing community solar opportunities to Town residents.				
		Explore opportunities to develop a community solar facility.				
E-4.3	Promote Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Legislation.	Research Delaware's recently passed PACE legislation and adopt an ordinance to participate in the State program.				
E-4.4	Develop and implement point-of-sale residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrade requirements.	Research current programs across the country and adopt an ordinance for the Town.				

Objective E-5: Encourage the transition to electric vehicles.

Strategy	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-5.1 Install fast charging electric vehicle charging stations in the Town Center.	Identify appropriate locations for installing charging stations.				
	Assess the pros and cons of various strategies for managing public e-vehicle charging stations to determine if and how the Town will charge for station usage.				
	Research potential financing options for installing stations including grants and partnering with a private management company.				
E-5.2 Transition municipal and police department fleet to electric or hybrid vehicles when appropriate.	Develop an inventory of all fleet vehicles including year, make and model, mileage, usage, and expected end of useful life.				
	Research appropriate replacement vehicles and develop a replacement schedule.				
	Identify potential financial incentives and develop a capital budget for switching vehicles out.				

Objective E-6: Develop a Climate Action Plan.

Strategy		Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Cost	Status
E-6.1	Create a municipal carbon footprint that measures the amount of GHG emissions produced by local government operations in a given year.	Collect data on greenhouse gas emissions under the three standard emission scopes - 1) direct emissions from owned or controlled sources; 2) indirect emissions from the generation or purchase of electricity; and, 3) indirect emissions that occur due to waste.				
	Establish a community carbon footprint.	Input data collected into a GHG inventory model such as ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability-Clear Path.				
		Summarize the results of the Carbon Footprint and communicate the findings to the public.				
	Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP).	Review other climate action plans.				
		Establish a target for reduction of emissions that aligns with global and state targets.				
		Develop a series of detailed actions and policies designed to achieve the target.				
		Review CAP every two to three years for progress towards goal.				

Three Year Action Plan

This three year planning section provides recommendations for immediate next steps. It pulls from the *Implementation Planning* tables to highlight actions the Town of Milton's local elected officials, government staff, and Sustainability Committee will want to prioritize in the first three years after adopting the Town's Sustainability Plan. These recommendations include strategies to integrate sustainability throughout the Town's processes, empower local residents to adopt sustainability practices, and establishing the conditions that will facilitate implementation of on-the ground projects.

Year 1 – Through the end of 2020

Year one should focus on embedding sustainability into the Town's economic, administrative, and social processes. **This includes having elected officials, government staff, and the Town committees take ownership of the Milton Sustainability Plan and start incorporating sustainability strategies into current and ongoing processes, plans, procedures, and projects.** A secondary focus for year one is to begin generating interest in sustainability and cultivating residents and stakeholders to take action. The following strategies and action steps are recommended for the first year:

1. Maintain an active Sustainability Committee and proactively recruit new members and skilled volunteers to help implement the Milton Sustainability Plan. (CA-1.1)
2. Hire a part-time sustainability grant writer or assign a staff member to identify grant opportunities and available cost-saving programs that could help the Town implement sustainability projects. (GG-1.3, CA-1.1, PL-1.1, PL-2.3, NR-3.2, E-3.1., E-5.1)
3. Have each of the Town's committees review the Town's sustainability goals and strategies, identify any project or scope overlap, and address complementary sustainability goals within their respective working groups. Begin facilitating quarterly or bi-annual check-in meetings so that committee leaders can work together to embed sustainability goals into upcoming projects and initiatives. (GG-3.2)
4. Develop a check list of sustainability goals for cross-referencing when updating existing plans or developing new plans. (GG-1.1)
5. Sustainability Committee to provide quarterly updates to the elected officials and staff with regards to the implementation of the sustainability action plan and host bi-annual trainings for local elected officials and staff on the importance of specific sustainability strategies and how they can improve the economic and social well-being of the Town. (GG-3.1)
6. Assess current purchasing practices to determine what goods and services are purchased annually and develop a policy to select environmentally preferable products and services for all municipal facilities. (GG-2.1)
7. Continue to educate residents and businesses about the materials that are accepted in Delaware's single stream recycling program, promote the DNREC recycling toolkits, and work with local restaurants to adopt an "upon request" policy for straws and other single-use plastic products such as cutlery, dishware, and to-go containers. (CA-5.1, CA-5.2)
8. Develop outreach material to promote stormwater best management practices, educate residents on the co-benefits of trees, native plants, and wildlife habitat, encourage participation in The Nature Conservancy Stream Stewards and the National Wildlife Federation residential homeowners wildlife certification program, and facilitate engagement in existing watershed stewardship opportunities. (NR-1.1, NR-1.2, NR-5.4, NR-5.5)

Year 2 – Through the end of 2021

The primary focus of year two should be to plan and prepare for more in-depth implementation. This includes setting sustainability as a strategic priority in the Town budget and developing baseline assessments of several major sustainability concerns. A secondary focus for year two is to begin partnering on regional solutions and continuing to cultivate residents and stakeholders to take action. The following strategies and action steps are recommended for the second year:

1. Work with the sustainability grant writer to approve an annual budget for advancing sustainability projects and outreach efforts. (GG-1.4)
2. Train appropriate staff on the new environmentally preferable purchasing policy and start applying environmental criteria to all product purchases, such ENERGY STAR and Water Sense for all appliances, clean greening supplies, and recycled content products. (GG-2.1, GG-2.2, PL-2.3, E-1.2, E-5.2)
3. Establish a capital improvement program with sustainability scoring criteria for designing and submitting capital projects, scoring and prioritizing proposals, and implementing and evaluating projects. Share this process with all departments. (GG-1.2)
4. Partner with a consulting firm to complete a comprehensive inventory of all environmental resources. (PL-1.1)
5. Create a municipal carbon footprint that measures the amount of GHG emissions produced by local government operations in a given year and share findings with the public. (E-6.1)
6. Develop an inventory of all fleet vehicles and develop a replacement schedule to transition municipal and police department fleet to electric or hybrid vehicles. (E-5.2)
7. Host a regional convening to engage residents and regional partners on the issue of public transportation. (PL-2.2)
8. Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities via social media, the Town's local newsletter, and community events. (E-4.1, E-4.2)
9. Install and promote fast charging electric vehicle charging stations in the Town. (E-5.1)

Year 3 – Through the end of 2022

The primary focus of year three should be to continue assessment efforts, implementing additional on-the ground projects, and deep planning for the future. The following strategies and action steps are recommended for the third year:

1. Develop a baseline tree assessment and inventory and participate in Tree City USA®. (NR-5.1)
2. Contract with a professional consulting firm to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment. Consider how population growth, sea-level rise, flooding, storms, heat, and erosion are projected to impact key social, environmental, and economic community assets at the block or neighborhood scale. (CA-3.1, PL-1.1, PL-1.4)
3. Build a sustainability resource center where residents can go to learn more about the Town's initiatives on energy, recycling, stormwater, climate change, etc. (CA-2.1)
4. Create a green business certification and/or awards program. (CA-2.1, CA-5.1)
5. Hire a consulting firm to conduct a base-line renewable energy feasibility study, include costs and electric generation capacity for solar and wind. (E-3.1)
6. Pass policies to improve residential energy efficiency including adopting PACE legislation and point-of-sale residential and commercial energy efficiency upgrade requirements. (E-4.3, E-4.4)
7. Consult with DNREC Water Resources Source Water Protection Division and Delaware Rural Water Source Water Protection Program Specialist or other technical assistance provider periodically to ensure best practices are up to date and followed. (NR-4.1)
8. Adopt a pet waste ordinance, develop a pet waste outreach campaign, and install additional pet waste stations and signage at high-use traffic areas around the Town as needed. (NR-5.3)
9. Install directional signage that routes pass-through traffic around the edges of the Town. (PL-2.1)

Resources

In order to facilitate action, the EFC has provided a list of links to relevant resources. While this is not an exhaustive list, resources include news articles, example outreach material from other communities, guidance documents, research reports, toolkits, and Delaware specific funding opportunities organized by *Sustainability Action Category* and general objectives.

Good Governance - Embed sustainability into the Town's economic, administrative, and social processes.

Objective GG-1: Integrate sustainability into the Town's operational and capital budgets.

Participatory Budgeting Project - nonprofit organization that empowers people to decide together how to spend public money through a processes that deepens democracy, builds stronger communities, and makes public budgets more equitable and effective.

https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/

Integrating Resilience into Local Capital Improvement Programs - best practices for embedding climate risk assessments into capital improvement planning processes at the municipal and county level, as a cost-effective means of building community resilience to climate-related threats. This process can also be applied to more general sustainability goals.

https://www.eslc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/III.-Environmental-Finance-Center-Report.pdf

Philanthropy Delaware - an association of grant makers whose mission is to advance philanthropy in the State by connecting key stakeholders to drive meaningful impact for all Delawareans.

https://philanthropydelaware.org/page-18056

Delaware Grant Watch - database of environmental grants to promote environmentally sustainable workplaces, neighborhoods, and schools.

https://delaware.grantwatch.com/cat/10/environment-grants.html

Delaware Community Foundation - information resource and manager of charitable funds.
https://www.delcf.org/grants/

National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System - fact sheets and details about the voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system

Objective GG-2: Require sustainability as a priority criteria for the procurement of all the Town's goods and services.

Responsible Purchasing Network - tools and resources on sustainable purchasing policies, practices, and guides.
http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/index.php

NASPO Green Purchasing Guide - recommended steps and proven strategies to enable the implementation of a green purchasing program with links to other resources offering detailed information on elements of the process.
http://www.naspo.org/green/index.html

4106 Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy - State of Delaware green purchasing policy.

http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title19/4000/4100/4106.shtml

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) by the Northeast States - 2015 report about environmentally preferable purchasing programs in the Northeast including Delaware.

https://nerc.org/documents/green_purchasing/Environmentally%20Preferable%20Purchasing%20by%20the%20Northeast%20States.pdf

GSA Green Purchasing - resources to aid in green procurements and acquisitions.

https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/regions/welcome-to-the-rocky-mountain-region-8/sustainability-in-action/green-purchasing

Objective GG-3: Engage decisions-makers and Town leadership in sustainability initiatives.

Naturally Resilient Communities - a guide of nature-based solutions and included case studies of successful projects from across the country to help communities learn more and identify which nature-based solutions might work for them.

http://nrcsolutions.org/

Antioch University Climate Change Resilience Series - a series of online courses focused on the fundamentals of climate change resilience and sustainable development.

https://www.antioch.edu/new-england/resources/centers-institutes/center-climate-preparedness-community-resilience/climate-change-resilience-series/

Municipal Online Stormwater Training Center - online platform to provide stormwater education and training that includes tools, resources, and brief educational videos for the purpose of increasing awareness and empowering its stakeholders to take action toward effective stormwater management.

https://mostcenter.org/

7 Ways Local Governments are Getting Creative with Data Mapping - seven case studies of ways local governments are increasingly using maps and open data to create tools for the benefit of the public.

http://www.govtech.com/data/7-Ways-Local-Governments-Are-Getting-Creative-with-Data-Mapping.html

Embedding Sustainability in Municipal Culture Best Practices for Municipalities - 2017 report that outlines how municipalities can integrate sustainability into its organizational culture.

https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/sustain.ubc.ca/files/Sustainability%20Scholars/2017_Sustainability_Scholars/Final_Reports/Township%20of%20Langley%20%E2%80%93%20Embedding%20Sustainability%20in%20Municiple%20Culture_Treleaven_2017%20SS.pdf

Community Action - Increase awareness of and participation in Town's sustainability initiatives.

Objective CA-1: Maintain an active citizen-based sustainability committee to help coordinate the Town's sustainability efforts.

Part-time Environmental Grant Writer Job Description - example job description for a sustainability grant writer.

https://www.sustainablebusiness.com/job/environmental-grant-writer-part-time-63422/

Objective CA-2: Facilitate environmental awareness programs for residents and youth.

National Wildlife Federation Delaware Eco-Schools - ongoing program designed to help schools reduce their energy costs and to foster the growth of sustainability initiatives in Delaware's Schools.

https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Partners/Delaware

Green Ribbon Schools - inspire schools, districts and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to strive for 21st-century excellence by highlighting promising school sustainability practices and resources that all can employ.

https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/children-in-nature/green-schools/

https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html

Action for Healthy Kids - website provides tools and resources to develop school action plans, programs & practices, and partnerships to combat childhood obesity.

http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/

EverGreen Links - environmental and sustainability education resources.

https://www.engagingeverystudent.com/links/

Resources for Rethinking - lesson plans, books, videos and other materials that explore the environmental, social and economic dimensions of important issues.

http://resources4rethinking.ca/en/

Delaware House Bill 310 - voluntary certification program for Delaware entities that adopt sustainability and transparency standards.

https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?legislationId=26304

https://www.mofo.com/resources/publications/181030-delaware-transparancy-sustainability-standards.html

Objective CA-3: Promote environmental justice and social equity through sustainability.

Assessing Health Vulnerabilities and Adaptation to Climate Change: A Review of International Progress - examines the evolution of climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including guidance developed for such projects, the number of assessments that have been conducted globally and implementation of the findings to support health adaptation action.

https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/15/12/2626

Methods of assessing human health vulnerability and public health adaptation to climate change - this report describes the objectives and the steps for assessing vulnerability and adaptation.

http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/91098/E81923.pdf

USDN Equity Foundations - an independent study professional development program for sustainability directors and their staff to master best practices for adding a racial equity lens to sustainability.

https://www.usdn.org/public/page/55/Equity-Foundations-Training

Delmarva Green - coalition of regional church environmental groups

Janet Taylor-Smith at jtaylorsmith711@gmail.com

The Connected City and the Future of Free Wi-Fi - article on the rise of municipal wireless networks.

https://www.wired.com/insights/2014/06/connected-city-future-free-wi-fi/

The Role of Public Wi-Fi in Enabling Smart Cities - Business Models and Use Cases for Maximum Impact

https://ruckus-www.s3.amazonaws.com/pdf/other/role-of-public-wifi.pdf

Beyond Smart Cities: Emerging Design and Technology - online short course on setting up smart cities.

The Use of Cooling Centers to Prevent Heat-Related Illness: Summary of Evidence and Strategies for Implementation - this document gives a summary of the effectiveness of cooling centers, with a focus on highly relevant peer-reviewed literature. It also provides an overview of steps for the implementation of cooling centers.
https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/docs/UseOfCoolingCenters.pdf

Objective CA-4: Promote community-based food and healthy lifestyles.

Plan4Health Resources - webinars, training videos, reports, toolkits to inform and educate about active living strategies.
http://plan4health.us/tools-and-resources/

http://plan4health.us/plan4health-coalitions/city-of-dover-kent-county-de-delaware-coalition-for-healthy-eating-and-active-living/

Healthy Eating Active Living Cities and Towns Campaign - resources and tools for local governments to help them create healthy, prosperous community environments that promote environments that promote healthy eating and active living. Specifically targeting Maryland and Virginia but the tools and resources can be applied to any town or city.
http://www.healcitiesmidatlantic.org/policy-assessment

Objective CA-5: Minimize waste and increase recycling efforts.

Delaware Recycles - resource page of Delaware recycling efforts, including outreach material, FAQs, and more information on state policies.

https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/recycling/

Plastic Free Delaware - community-based organization focused on making Delaware a better, cleaner, healthier place by reducing the use of single use plastic and encouraging zero waste practices.

https://plasticfreedelaware.org/

Global Legislative Toolkit - resource center for policymakers and advocates focused on eliminating plastic pollution through policy action.

https://plasticpollutioncoalitionresources.org/

Clean Water Action Plastics & Single-Use Foodware Ordinance Activist Toolkit - provides steps and resources to pass a local single-use plastics/Styrofoam ordinance in your town.

https://www.cleanwateraction.org/plastics-toolkit

A review of Materials Sustainability Frameworks: An Oregon Perspective - this paper reviews several sustainability frameworks including Zero Waste, Circular Economy, Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Materials Management.
https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/mm-matsust.pdf

A coalition of giant brands is about to change how we shop forever, with a new zero-waste platform - article on the changing plastics landscape.

https://www.fastcompany.com/90296956/a-coalition-of-giant-brands-is-about-to-change-how-we-shop-forever-with-a-new-zero-waste-platform

Planning and Land Use - Commit to environmentally friendly development and smart growth.

Objective PL-1: Develop a strategy for environmentally friendly development of all municipal, commercial and residential areas within the corporate limits.

EPA Smart Growth Resource Site - an in-depth look at Smart Growth, including strategies communities can use to promote Smart Growth, as well as links to grants and potential funding for Smart Growth initiatives.

http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smartlocationdatabase.htm

Smart growth tools and resources for sustainable communities - an EPA compilation of key tools and resources to help communities implement more sustainable practices.

https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/tools-and-resources-sustainable-communities

EPA Mapping Tools for Communities - **Tools for communities to use to identify assets and hazards in local areas. Links provided for a number of great resources.**

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-02/documents/team-ej-mapping-tools.pdf

Sustainable Jersey Natural Resource Inventory - guidance on how to develop a natural resource inventory, example inventories, and resources.

http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/?type=1336777436&tx_sjcert_action%5BactionObject%5D=60&tx_sjcert_action%5Baction%5D=getPDF&tx_sjcert_action%5Bcontroller%5D=Action&cHash=59c21b7c2e09718013d5861c4b73c790

Creating a Natural Resources Inventory A Guide for Communities in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed - this report explains what a natural resource inventory is, why they are important, what is included in the inventory, and steps you can take to develop one.

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/nriall.pdf

U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit - information and tools to help you understand and address your climate risks including regional data, case studies, and planning strategies.

https://toolkit.climate.gov/

NOAA Digital Coast - a website focused on helping communities address coastal issues and has become one of the most -used resources in the coastal management community. Has different mapping tools on website.

https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast

American Planning Association Hazard Planning Information Exchange - there are different webinars such as Planning Integration for Resilience webinars and different publications on the website.

https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/planninginformationexchange/pastwebinars.htm

Affordable Housing and Anti-Displacement Policies - policies to aid municipalities in strategies that provide and preserve affordable housing and mitigate the displacement impacts that are often generated from gentrification.

https://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/ComprehensiveGuideToLocalAffordableHousingPolicy.pdf

Preserving, Protecting, and Expanding Affordable Housing: A Policy Toolkit for Public Health - a library of local housing policies and strategies that communities can use to ensure the availability of affordable housing options, with a particular focus on rental affordability.

https://kresge.org/sites/default/files/Preserving-affordable-housing-policy-tools-April-2015.pdf

Objective PL-2: Coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies to ensure the area is linked through a coordinated multi-modal transportation system.

National Complete Streets Coalition - website with resources for complete streets including best management practices, policies, and case studies.

https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/

Walkscore - Quantifies walkability, and maps how far you can go in your community without a car.

https://www.walkscore.com/

Green Maps - Enables community members to make environmental -themed maps.

http://www.greenmap.org/

Rails-to-Trails Delaware - stats on Delaware's Rail-Trails and funding opportunities in the State.

https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/united-states/delaware/

Statewide Rails-to-Trails/Rail-with-Trail System Master Plan - Delaware's Rail-to-Trail and Trail Facility Master Plan outlining the coverage, existing conditions, and available resources.

https://deldot.gov/Publications/plans/rails_to_trails/index.shtml

The Value of Dark Skies - About Environmentally Friendly Lighting- article that helps describe the case for support for ecofriendly lighting.

https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/LpR54_IDA_special-excerpt-low-resolution.pdf

Reforming Parking Policies to Support Smart Growth Toolbox/Handbook - parking best practices and strategies for supporting transit oriented development. This report focuses on the San Francisco Bay Area but covers strategy solutions that apply to towns and cities more generally.

https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Toolbox-Handbook.pdf

Smart Growth Alternatives to Minimum Parking Requirements - report highlighting parking alternatives that have been shown to work.

https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/9aca/93497f2f31589bc1ef46f2faddbfbf601b9f.pdf

Parking Management for Smart Growth - article outlines comprehensive parking solutions and the need for parking management that goes beyond traditional planning for parking

https://www.accessmagazine.org/fall-2016/parking-management-for-smart-growth/

Natural Resources - Protect the Broadkill River and support sustainable resources management.

Objective NR-1: Facilitate engagement in existing watershed stewardship opportunities.

Delaware Nature Society Stream Watch - volunteer and citizen science opportunities for protecting Delaware's local waterways.

https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/what-we-do/clean-water/stream-watch/

Democratizing Science - article on how The Nature Conservancy in Delaware is working to become a citizen science hub.

https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/delaware/stories-in-delaware/citizen-science-in-delaware/

Delaware Watersheds - basic information on what a watershed is, the importance of protecting watersheds, and resources for Delaware programs.

http://delawarewatersheds.org/?fbclid=IwAR3POely-ihv_g1WwAqk3mxc0wgCVY_Oc1NQutRKBb2kWjBMbOyxwYj7xIk

Delaware Watershed Facebook Page - access to videos, outreach material, and upcoming events.

https://www.facebook.com/DelawareWatersheds

Delaware Education and Outreach Opportunities - Delaware Coastal Programs offers a variety of volunteer, educational, and recreational opportunities at the two research reserve sites

https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/coastal-programs/education-outreach/

Delaware Living Shorelines Committee - work group dedicated to facilitating the understanding, peer review and implementation of living shoreline tactics within the State of Delaware.

https://www.delawarelivingshorelines.org/

Maps for Community Organizing - toolbox for identifying, organizing, and sharing its collective voice with decision makers at the local and state levels.

https://hc-v6-static.s3.amazonaws.com/media/resources/tmp/Community_Organizing.pdf

Community Engagement Toolkit: Organizing Your Community - toolkit is designed for individuals and organizations implementing local community engagement campaigns. This resource is an example of community organizing around demand for energy services but the principles can be applied to stormwater or other sustainability issues.

https://powershift.org/sites/default/files/resources/1.31.2012_Organizing_Your_Community.pdf

Objective NR-2: Protect tidal and freshwater wetlands.

Delaware Water Quality Portal - database with water quality monitoring sites and data for Delaware's streams and water ways.

http://demac.udel.edu/waterquality/

The Watershed Resource Registry - an interactive mapping tool to characterize and prioritize natural resource management opportunities using a watershed approach.

http://watershedresourcesregistry.com/

Condition of Wetlands in the Broadkill River Watershed, Delaware - 2013 report on the state of the Broadkill River.

http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/DelawareWetlands/Documents/Broadkill%20Wetland%20Report.pdf

Broadkill River Watershed Pollution Control Strategy - 2012 watershed-based strategy to implement total maximum daily loads in Delaware.

http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/wa/Documents/WatershedPlans/Broadkill%20PCS%202012%20final.pdf

Berlin Stormwater Feasibility Study Appendices - Example of a stormwater community photo contest including promotional flyer, registration form, photograph release form, and submitted photos.

https://efc.umd.edu/assets/berlin_stormwater_feasibility_study_appendices.pdf

Tree City USA Standards - standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management program and that no community would be excluded because of size.

https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/standards.cfm

i-Tree Tools for Assessing and Managing Forests and Community Trees - free software suite from the USDA Forest Service that can help strengthen forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying forest structure and the environmental benefits that trees provide.

https://www.itreetools.org/

Vibrant Cities Lab - ways to plan and account for urban forest services

https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/

Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs Guidebook for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed - practical strategies for funding and financing municipal urban tree canopy, case studies, and regional resources.

http://chesapeaketrees.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FinancingUrbanTreeCanopyPrograms_LowRes_040919.pdf

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary - tools, resources, and volunteer opportunities for protecting the Delaware Estuary.

http://www.delawareestuary.org/science-and-research/living-shorelines/delsi-tactic/

https://www.delawarelivingshorelines.org/

Pet Waste Outreach Material - EFC developed a Dropbox resource folder with various pet waste outreach material including flyers, a listed of example pet waste management videos, social media fun facts, and a community survey.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f4pjrfhjca1yo9h/AAC4b6SaI0GNEpaVbV344FyFa?dl=0

Poop Toss Game - originally developed by Snohomish County Public Works, this game is a fun interactive way to engage youth and adults of all ages with learning how to best dispose of their pet waste.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vp4lpplqh3n9maq/AACe0Zmh6scLTxyswxmSynj4a?dl=0

National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat™ program - communities earn community-wide certification by promoting the use of native trees and plants, work to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and chemicals, and integrate wildlife-friendly practices into sustainability plans and park master plans.
https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat

Certified Wildlife Habitat - residential certification program to encourage property owners to re-establish native plant communities and protect the local watershed with sustainable gardening practices.
https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create/At-Home

https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat/

Lawn and Garden information - University of Delaware Cooperative Extension guidance and resources for lawn and garden care.
http://extension.udel.edu/lawngarden/

Lawn Care Guide - this website provides tips and best practices for switching to organic lawn care, explains the current laws and regulations, and has a list of resource providers.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/

RainScapes Rain Barrels and Cisterns - how to guide for installing a rain barrel or cistern including, what is the difference between rain barrel or cistern, what are the benefits, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, and how to install them on your own.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/rainbarrelsCisterns.pdf

Rain Barrels - Basic flyer explaining rain barrels.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/signs/Rain-Barrel-sign.pdf

RainScapes Rain Gardens - How to guide for installing a rain garden including, what is rain garden and what are the benefits, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, and how to build and implement.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/rain-gardens.pdf

Bioretention Gardens - Basic flyer explaining bioretention gardens.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/signs/Bioretention-sign.pdf

Rain Gardens - Basic flyer explaining rain gardens.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/signs/Rain-Garden-sign.pdf

RainScapes Dry Wells - How to guide for installing a dry well including, what is a dry well and when is it appropriate to install one, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, and questions to ask a contractor.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/drywells.pdf

RainScapes Conservation Landscaping - How to guide for conservation landscaping techniques, what is conservation landscaping and what are the benefits, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, appropriate native plants, and questions to ask a contractor.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/ConservationLandscapingTechniques.pdf

RainScapes Pavement Removal - How to guide for installing a green roofs including, what is a green roof and what are the benefits, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, and questions to ask a contractor.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/pavementremoval.pdf

RainScapes Permeable Pavers - How to guide for installing a permeable pavers including, what is permeable pavement and what are the benefits, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, and how to build and implement.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/permpavers.pdf

Porous Pavement - Basic flyer explaining porous pavement.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/signs/Porous-Pavement-sign.pdf

Wet Ponds - Basic flyer explaining wet ponds.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/signs/Wet-Pond-sign.pdf

RainScapes Green Roofs - How to guide for installing a green roofs including, what is a green roof and what are the benefits, how to assess your property, developing a design and plan, and questions to ask a contractor.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/rainscapes/fact-sheets/greenroofs.pdf

Green Roofs - Basic flyer explaining green roofs.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/stormwater/signs/Green-Roof-sign.pdf

Keep Your Storm Drain Clean - Steps to keep residential storm drains clean, information on reporting illegal dumping, and an educational video on how stormwater destroys our streams.

https://mygreenmontgomery.org/project/keep-your-storm-drain-clean/

Stenciling Storm Drains - Steps for developing a storm drain stenciling event including setting a budget, identifying locations, recruiting volunteers, and follow up. Includes additional resources and links to local programs.
https://www.potomacriver.org/resources/get-involved/water/storm-drains/

Objective NR-6: Develop a strategy for sea-level rise and flooding.

FEMA Community Rating Service for Community Resilience - provides guidance on actions that increase a community's rating, and works directly with communities to increase their resiliency through the CRS process.
https://www.floodsciencecenter.org/products/crs-community-resilience/

NOAA Office for Coastal Management – How to Map Open Space for Community Rating System Credit - an online "how -to" training that provides a step -by -step approach for earning this credit (CRS Activity 420) in areas that are already protected, and identifying places where additional credit could be earned through future preservation efforts. Relates to FEMA's Community Rating system.

https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/crs.html

Energy - Promote clean and efficient energy consumption in Milton's municipal, residential, and commercial sectors.

Objective E-1: Increase energy efficiency in all municipally owned facilities.

Guidelines for Selecting Cool Roofs - 2010 report with descriptions of cool roof strategies, benefits, costs, and guidance on how to select the appropriate option.
https://heatisland.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/coolroofguide_0.pdf

Cool Roofs - Cool Roofs 101. Short video and article on the benefits of cool roofs.
https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-efficient-home-design/cool-roofs

Delmarva Power Launches LED Streetlight Pilot Project Energy-efficient Lights to Receive Test Run - article about Delmarva Power installing various test models of new energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) streetlights in select areas in Delaware.

https://www.delmarva.com/News/Pages/2010-03-24.aspx

LED Street Lighting Assessment and Strategies for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic - report assesses the current status of LED street light conversion barriers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region, provides a quantitative analysis of the regional street lighting efficiency opportunity, and a recommended strategy to address the barriers and achieve large scale conversion.

https://neep.org/led-street-lighting-assessment-and-strategies-northeast-and-mid-atlantic

DVRPCs Regional Streetlight Procurement Program (RSLPP) - cooperative purchasing power of municipalities so that they can confidently and cost effectively access the resources needed to complete an LED street and exterior lighting project.
https://www.dvrpc.org/RSLPP/

Objective E-2: Adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy requirements for all new and re-development.

Objective E-3: Install cost-effective renewable energy systems on all municipal buildings.

ACEE State and Local Policy Database - state and local policy database with a summary of Delaware's policies, programs, and financial incentives for all things energy.

https://database.aceee.org/state/delaware

https://aceee.org/topics/building-codes

Action Plan to Accelerate Strategic Electrification in the Northeast - goals and policies to aggressively cut carbon emissions.
https://neep.org/sites/default/files/resources/Action%20Plan%20To%20Accelerate%20Strategic%20Electrification%20in%20the%20Northeast.pdf

Objective E-4: Encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy investment in the community.

Delaware Interfaith Power and Light - nonprofit grassroots organization that brings the voice of the faith community into the policy-making arena to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard the health of all Creation, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all. Helping to reach the most vulnerable citizens who need the most assistance.
https://delawareipl.org/wp/

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - federally funded program for low-income families that need help in meeting their costs of home energy.
https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/liheap.html

Delaware Green Energy Program - contact information for administrators of the Green Energy Program which offers grants to reduce the cost of purchasing qualified clean energy equipment.
https://www.delmarva.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/DE/DelawareGreenEnergyProgram.aspx

Green Grant Delaware - provides grants for Solar Photovoltaic, Wind, Solar Hot Water, & Geothermal systems. This program is only open to Delmarva Power customers.
https://greengrantdelaware.com/green-energy-delmarva/

Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation Energy Efficiency Programs and Incentives - list of programs that provide rebates, incentives, and tax credits for energy efficiency improvements and/or appliance purchases.
https://www.demecinc.net/sustainability/programs-incentives/

Energy Efficiency Investment Fund - grants to help commercial and industrial customers replace aging, inefficient equipment and systems with energy efficient alternatives.

https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/efficiency/energy-efficiency-investment-fund/

Renewable Energy Assistance - Grant funds and incentives are available to promote the use of renewable energy in Delaware. The Green Energy Program includes several different types of green energy funding programs from the state's major electric utilities.

https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/assistance/

Mapdwell Solar Mapping Tool - a data set that shows what communities and buildings would benefit from having solar panels due to sun exposure.

http://www.mapdwell.com/en/dc

Solar United Neighbors - national organization dedicated to representing the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters. Can help establish a residential Solar Co-op.

https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/

Delaware Solar - state solar policy resources, factsheets, links to state stats and incentives.

https://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/delaware-solar

Emerging State Policies to Support Community Shared Solar - white paper on community solar in different states and policies to help promote it.

http://my.solarroadmap.com/userfiles/Emerging-State-Policies-to-Support-Community-Shared-Solar.pdf

Delaware Shared Renewables - links and resources to explain community solar policies in Delaware.

https://spotforcleanenergy.org/state/delaware/shared-renewables/

Community solar: What is it? - article breaking down what community solar is, the benefits, and ways to get involved. It also has a link to a decision guide to help custom ores think through the issues of solar power.

https://www.energysage.com/solar/community-solar/community-solar-power-explained/

Policies to Support Community Solar Initiatives: Best Practices to Enhance Net Metering - 2012 University of Delaware report on community solar policies, community-owned energy models, and recommendations for boosting customer awareness.

http://freefutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2012_READY_Community_Solar.pdf

Energize Delaware - nonprofit organization that offers a comprehensive array of programs, including — energy audits that identify where homes or buildings are losing energy; rebates on recommended upgrades such as new heating or cooling systems, windows, hot-water heaters and more; low interest loans or grants for large renewable energy systems like solar and geothermal; programs for low-income households; and a list of quality contractors you can trust to perform the work

https://www.energizedelaware.org/residential/

Governor Carney signs PACE legislation - article on the recently passed PACE legislation with information about the program and how much money will be invested.

https://www.energizedelaware.org/governor-carney-signs-pace-legislation/

Objective E-5: Encourage the transition to electric vehicles.

Creating EV-Ready Towns and Cities A Guide to Planning and Policy Tools - best practices and policy options for public officials seeking to prepare their jurisdiction for EVs.

https://www.transportationandclimate.org/creating-ev-ready-towns-and-cities-guide-planning-and-policy-tools

https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Researchers-and-Policymakers/Electric-Vehicles/Resources/Best-Practice-Guides-for-Charging-Stations

Emerging Best Practices for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - 2017 white paper on charging infrastructure deployment practices, challenges, and emerging best practices in major electric vehicle markets, with an emphasis on public charging facilities.

https://theicct.org/sites/default/files/publications/EV-charging-best-practices_ICCT-white-paper_04102017_vF.pdf

Managing Workplace Charging - best management practices for setting clear guidelines in the areas of administration, registration and liability, sharing, and pricing to help ensure a safe and successful workplace charging experience.

https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_charging_workplace_managing.html

EV Infrastructure Best Practices Explained For Confused Fleet Managers - easy to understand article explaining some basic best management practices for ev-infrastructure.

https://insideevs.com/news/333807/ev-infrastructure-best-practices-explained-for-confused-fleet-managers/

Making Your City "EV Ready"- easy to understand article explaining how cities can prepare themselves for including ev-charging stations.

https://www.driveelectricmn.org/making-your-city-ev-ready/

Objective E-6: Develop a Climate Action Plan.

ICLEI ClearPath™ - the leading online software platform for completing greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, climate action plans, and monitoring at the community -wide or government -operations scales

http://icleiusa.org/clearpath/

Carbon -Free City Handbook - Reveals 22 actions-and associated resources-for cities globally to move toward climate -neutrality and see results within a year.

https://rmi.org/carbonfreecities/

The Climate Registry - assists organizations in measuring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions. Tools and resources for local governments to create a greenhouse gas inventory.

https://www.theclimateregistry.org/who-we-are/about-us/