



Sustainable Kent News

Welcome to our new E-Newsletter!



INSIDE

Sustainability Webpage

Find our climate action plan, news, reports, and more at the City's new Sustainability Overview Webpage

Chronicling Implementation of the Climate Action Plan

See the results from our latest GHG Inventory

The Inflation Reduction Act and You!

Learn more about the IRA rebates and tax credits accessible to you

Around the City

Learn more about City projects, programs, and other events that work to build a more sustainable Kent

Calendar

Find our upcoming events and other items of interest








There has been so much work happening related to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) since its adoption in April 2023! Much of our time since adoption of the CAP has been spent obtaining our Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Update, laying groundwork, building internal frameworks, exploring funding, and working on planning needed to strategically prioritize the CAP initiatives. This newsletter will help serve as a tool to bring you updates, news, and more details about the CAP work, as well as other sustainability related items as we move through implementation over the next several years. We look forward to sharing this with you and should you ever have questions, comments, and/or suggestions related to the CAP work or other sustainability related items in Kent, please feel free to contact the City's Sustainability Coordinator, Julie Morris, at:

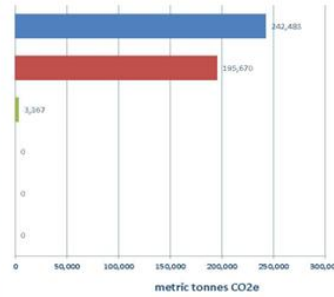
julie.morris@kentohio.gov.

CHRONICLING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

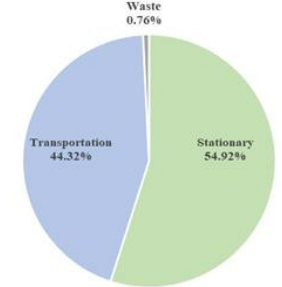
SUMMARY: City of Kent, OH Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update Results - Data Year 2022

NAME OF CITY: Kent, USA
 BOUNDARY: BASIC
 INVENTORY YEAR: 2022
 POPULATION: 28,203
 LAND AREA (km2): 24
 GDP (US\$ million): 5,846

tCO2e	BASIC	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
	Stationary	122,360	120,123	
	Transportation	195,493	177	
	Waste	3,154		213
	IPPU			
	AFOLU			
	Other Scope 3			
	TOTAL	441,521 MT CO2e		

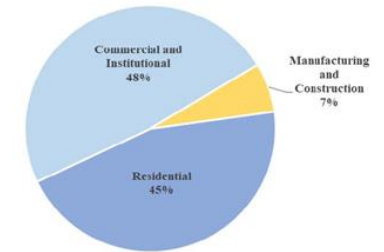


Emissions by Sector (MT CO2e)



Intensity Indicators	Per capita	Per unit land area (km2)	Per unit GDP (US\$m)
Emissions	15.7	18,336	76

Stationary Emissions (MT CO2e)



KERAMIDA, INC. collaborated with the City of Kent to produce a BASIC greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the calendar year 2022 using the City Inventory Reporting and Information System (CIRIS) tool. CIRIS has been designed to support cities in reporting city-wide GHG emissions according to the requirements of the Global Protocol for Community-scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC).

OUR UPDATED GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY IS COMPLETE!

One of the first items we wanted to tackle was undertaking an updated GHG Inventory to give us a current picture of our emissions that aids in our prioritization and development work. The City collaborated with Keramida to produce a BASIC level greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory using data for the calendar year 2022.

The update confirms that commercial, institutional, and residential energy use continue to be our largest areas of emissions with a combined Stationary Energy total of 54.92%, and transportation coming in right behind at 44.32% of our total 441,521 metric tonnes of CO2 equivalent emitted within the City boundaries.

Knowing that the Stationary Energy and Transportation sectors house our greatest areas of emissions, we have prioritized work in these areas for 2024. As such, we are focused on developing our Municipal Energy Management Plan (p.11 of the CAP), Expanding Solar Energy (p.15 of the CAP), and developing our Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (p. 18-19 of CAP) and Bike and Walk Infrastructure (p.20 of CAP) to address the respective sector emissions.

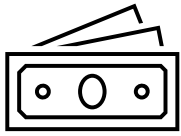
This initiative work must be supported by ongoing funding and planning and is complimented by providing necessary education and outreach work with the community as well.

VISIT OUR SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW WEBPAGE!

The City has a new webpage to feature our Sustainability work and keep you posted about our related CAP implementation progress, programs, news, events, and more!

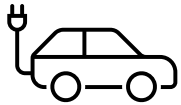
Currently, you can find a complete copy of the CAP and a condensed summary of all its strategies, a summary video about the CAP, implementation timelines, our GHG Inventories and copies of the City’s Sustainability Legislation.

This webpage is a work in progress, and more items will be added and updated as time goes on. Visit: www.kentohio.org/781/Sustainability-Overview



THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AND YOU: Going clean? Claim some green!

New tax credits for individuals and small business owners who invest in clean energy

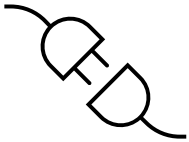


Clean Vehicles

People who purchased a new plug-in electric vehicle (EV) or fuel cell vehicle (FCV) in 2023 or after may qualify for a clean vehicle tax credit of up to \$7,500.

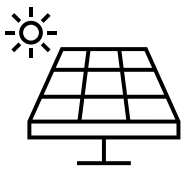
The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 changed the tax credit rules for vehicles purchased from 2023 to 2032. According to the [IRS](#), it can help those who are planning to buy or have already bought a new or used clean vehicle, for home or business use.

You can find more information on the clean vehicle tax program here: <https://www.irs.gov/clean-vehicle-tax-credits>



Refueling and Recharging stations

Those who install qualified vehicle [refueling and recharging](#) stations at their home or business may be eligible for the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Tax Credit, which was extended and modified by the IRA.



Home Energy

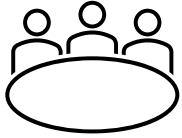
In the year people make qualifying home [energy improvements](#) they can claim either the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit or the Residential Energy Clean Property Credit. Homeowners will find the most opportunities to claim tax credits if they improve their primary residence.

The Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit includes expenses like exterior doors, windows, and insulation materials, as well as central A/C, water heaters, furnaces, and heat pumps.

The Residential Clean Energy Credit includes expenses including solar, wind and geothermal power generation, solar heaters, battery storage and more.

The tax credits are a percentage of the total improvement expenses in the year of installation.

More information is available from the [IRS](#).



AROUND THE CITY: The Sustainability Commission and our recent CAP Open House

Did you know the City has a Sustainability Commission? It was formerly known as the Environmental Commission. The Commission is concerned with environmental aspects of the community which affect the character of the community and the quality of life of its citizens.

In 1993, the City of Kent conducted a strategic planning project called Vision 2000. Many of the goals stated by the residents were environmental in nature. An Environmental Task Force 2000 was created as an extension of the Vision 2000 project. The Task Force produced a report with goals for environmental issues. The main recommendation was to create an Environmental Commission

In 1995, Kent City Council passed an Ordinance creating the Environmental Commission that “shall be responsible for promotion, coordination and remedial activities directed toward increasing sustainable impact on community” and “shall be comprised of five citizens with some technical knowledge and/or strong understanding of environmental issues”. The Commission consists of five, council appointed volunteers, who serve for 3-year terms.

As a first step in 1996, they developed a mission statement and goals for sustainability, which were adopted by Council in April 1999 and amended in May of 2005. There are 25 goals organized across 4 areas: Economy, Planning & Resources, Environment, and Culture & Society. A copy of those goals can be viewed here: www.kentohio.org/198/Goals-For-Sustainable-Growth .

More recently, the Sustainability Commission, along with community members and City staff, were instrumental in bringing the Resolution in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement before Council for consideration, who passed same in October of 2017. That Resolution ultimately set the City on the course of obtaining their first GHG Inventory and development of our Climate Action Plan (CAP) that was adopted by Council in April of 2023. The purpose of the CAP is to build a foundation in Kent for continuous improvement in climate action.

Today, the Sustainability Commission continues to work as an advisory committee, providing input around the implementation of CAP strategies and helps provide education and outreach with the larger Kent community around the CAP. Their input is reflective of personal, professional, and community knowledge that provide critical perspectives to the CAP development work City staff are doing.

One such education and outreach event was the CAP Open House event that was held on February 27th at the Kent Free Library to introduce and provide an overview of the CAP to the public. The Commission helped to plan and organize the event which showcased the process leading up to the development of the CAP, what we’ve been working on since the CAP was adopted and where we’re headed over the next year and beyond with that CAP work. We had around 51 attendees (including some staff) at that Open House!

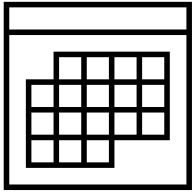
The Open House event was so successful that we are exploring the creation of an Open House Series, whose sessions will allow us to dive more deeply into each one of the CAP’s strategies and engage with the community around them as we move through implementation. Stay-tuned as we will send out more information via our Website, List-Serv and through our E-Newsletter once the next session is ready!

CITY OF KENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at the Service Administration Complex (930 Overholt Road, Kent, OH 44240) from 5:30pm – 7pm and are open to the public.

Visit us on the web:

www.kentohio.org/197/Sustainability-Commission



CALENDAR & ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Sustainability Commission will be tabling at the following events. Come out and see us – we’ll be providing information about the Climate Action Plan and enjoying the festivities! We’ll also be collecting eclipse glasses at our tables on April 20th and 22nd for a reuse donation to Astronomers Without Borders.

- **Who’s Your Mama Festival**
 - Saturday, April 20th from Noon to 4pm at Hometown Bank Plaza in downtown Kent
- **Kent State’s Earth Fest**
 - Monday, April 22nd from 11am to 2pm at Risman Plaza on the Kent Campus (to be held indoors at Kent State University 2nd Floor Student Center in the case of inclement weather)
- **Leadership Portage County Family Fun Day**
 - Sunday, May 19th from 1pm to 4pm at Trail Lake Park (605 Ravenna Rd, Streetsboro, OH 44241)

Other items of interest:

- **Cuyahoga River Day**
 - Saturday, May 18th at the Haymaker Farmer’s Market & John Brown Tannery Park – free and open to the public. Visit [Cuyahoga River Days \(kentparksandrec.com\)](http://kentparksandrec.com) for more details as they become available!
- **Yard Waste Transfer Site Open!**
 - The yard waste transfer site hours are Tuesdays 9am-1pm, Wednesdays 5-8pm and Saturdays 9am-noon. The site is a place to drop off your brush, clippings and other yard waste. It is also the place to get the grindings from the waste, to use like mulch, for free! Stop by near Cherry Street and Mogadore Rd, near the entrance to Plum Creek.
- **Spring Clean-Up throughout the month of May – check for your neighborhood dates in the Spring 2024 Tree City Bulletin here: [Tree City Bulletin | Kent, OH \(kentohio.org\)](http://kentohio.org)**
 - Please try to donate, find a reuse, or recycle unwanted items before placing them at the curb for collection.