



Infrastructure Subcommittee Status and 2019 Workplan

February 2019

The EcoInnovation District Plan is comprised of four main chapters that address strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to be built upon in order to help reinvest in Uptown and support current and future residents. Each of these chapters – **Community, Development, Mobility**, and **Infrastructure** – are focus areas for subcommittees with participation from the City of Pittsburgh, property owners, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders.

The Infrastructure Subcommittee is tasked with guiding implementation of the EID Plan in the following focus areas: **Open Space, Green Connections, Landscaping, Underground Infrastructure, Energy**, and **Waste Management**.

Purpose

The Uptown EcoInnovation District Infrastructure Subcommittee addresses topics and launches initiatives to improve community health; upgrade and create open spaces and green connections; manage stormwater; coordinate underground infrastructure improvements; promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and thermal district energy; and advance waste management strategies to reduce trash to landfill.

Participants

The broad topics included in purview of the Infrastructure Subcommittee call for its members to represent a diverse set of stakeholders. As of January 2019, active member organizations include:

- Green Building Alliance (Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair)
- City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- Clearway Energy
- Duquesne Light Company
- Duquesne University
- Pennsylvania Resources Council
- Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority
- University of Pittsburgh
- Uptown Partners

Additional organizations have been invited to participate and other organizations will be invited as they are identified. The Subcommittee also anticipates including other stakeholders as needed for focus area meetings in 2019.

2018 Summary

Using the framework of the Plan, the Infrastructure Subcommittee met four times in 2018 to identify:

1. Action items, together with importance and difficulty (July 19, 2018)
2. Short term priorities for each focus area (August 29, 2018)
3. Metrics to track performance (October 8, 2018)
4. Items to include in development guidelines for Uptown (November 1, 2018)

The outputs from the 2018 meetings are summarized below. Additionally, the Uptown Development Guidelines are provided as Attachment 1.

2019 Priorities

General

- Collect baseline indicator information
- Identify additional subcommittee members / focus area meeting invitees
- Implement development guidelines for project review process

Open Space and Green Connections

- Collaborate with design teams for open space and connections projects (Tustin Tot Lot, Fifth and Dinwiddie, Duquesne Gateway, Colwell Connector, Heritage Trail Connection)
- Explore interest in reimagining Boulevard of the Allies as Uptown's riverfront overlook and forming Allies of the Boulevard

Landscaping

- Identify priority street tree locations and create implementation plan
- Engage with organizations to address vacant land and vegetation issues

Underground Infrastructure

- Promote stormwater management on private property
- Coordinate underground infrastructure improvements with BRT

Energy

- Secure new 2030 District commitments
- Identify renewable energy project(s)
- Advocate for new thermal district energy users
- Engage residents in home energy efficiency and switching to a renewable energy supplier

Waste Management

- Identify and promote resources for construction waste management and deconstruction
- Add public trash and recycling receptacles

2019 Indicators

General

- 2030 District metrics for Uptown – % below baseline for energy and water use, transportation emissions
- Buildings / square feet / % of Uptown committed to 2030 District
- Projects provided with / downloads of Uptown Development Guide

Open Space and Green Connections

- Acres of open space
- Miles of trails and connections

Landscaping

- Tree canopy
- New trees planted
- Acres of vacant land
- Acres of vacant land managed
- Acres of vacant land developed

Underground Infrastructure

- Impervious acres managed by green infrastructure
- Ratio of pervious to impervious surface
- Number of lead lines replaced (public and private side of laterals)
- Linear feet of water mains replaced
- Linear feet of sewer mains replaced

Energy

- Installed solar kW
- Energy burden
- Total energy use
- Buildings / square feet connected to thermal district energy
- Households purchasing renewable electricity
- % of commercial electricity use sourced from renewables / RECs
- # of EV charging stations

Waste Management

- # of households that recycle
- # of public recycling and waste receptacles
- Tons of diverted organic waste
- Construction waste management diversion rate
- Overall diversion rate

2019 Meetings

All regular Infrastructure Subcommittee meetings will be held on at 1pm on the third Wednesday of the month at Neighborworks.

January

Focus: Draft Workplan and 2019 Calendar

Discuss draft workplan, 2019 calendar, purpose statement, and development guidelines

Additional stakeholders: N/A

February

Focus: Finalize Workplan and Development Guidelines

Finalize workplan and development guidelines, identify initial coordination opportunities with other subcommittees

Additional stakeholders: N/A

March

Focus: Landscaping - Trees

Review street tree inventory and priority areas, identify funding opportunities

Additional stakeholders: City Forestry, Tree Pittsburgh, Western PA Conservancy

April

Focus: Energy

Discuss renewable electricity purchasing and EV charging opportunities, Clearway district energy update, discussion on engaging residents

Additional stakeholders: UPMC, CCI, Community Subcommittee representative, other property owners TBD

May

Focus: Indicators

Indicators collected and in progress, additional priority areas

Additional stakeholders: other City of Pittsburgh staff, all Subcommittee chairs

June

Focus: Open Space and Green Connections

Update on design work and status for various projects, identify funding priorities and opportunities

Additional stakeholders: design teams

July

Focus: Waste Management

Update on trash and recycling receptacle inventory and areas of need, opportunities for property owner waste audits, deconstruction and construction waste

Additional stakeholders: City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works, Construction Junction, other property owners

August

Focus: Landscaping – Vacant Land

Identify collaboration opportunities for vacant land and vegetation management

Additional stakeholders: other City of Pittsburgh staff, Grounded Strategies, Penn State Center, Landforce

September

Focus: Reimagining Boulevard of the Allies

Discussion on opportunities for reimagining Boulevard of the Allies as Uptown's riverfront boulevard, explore creation of Allies of the Boulevard

Additional Stakeholders: City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure, Mobility Subcommittee representative, UPMC, Riverlife, Friends of the Riverfront, other transportation stakeholders TBD

October

Focus: Energy

Updates on energy work – identifying solar project(s), 2030 District commitments

Additional stakeholders: N/A

November

Focus: 2020 Workplan Brainstorming

2020 workplan brainstorming and indicators update

Additional stakeholders: N/A

December

Focus: Year in Review and 2020 Workplan Draft

Recap of 2019 accomplishments and challenges, discussion on draft 2020 workplan

Additional stakeholders: N/A

Attachment 1

Uptown EcoInnovation District Development Guidelines

03-13-2019

UPTOWN ECOINNOVATION DISTRICT

Development Guide

The EcoInnovation District in Pittsburgh is the first of its kind. It is a groundbreaking initiative that combines the goals of both EcoDistricts and Innovation Districts that have helped to positively transform communities across the country. The EcoInnovation District is an opportunity to identify the ways in which redevelopment can improve the environment, support the needs of existing residents and expand entrepreneurship and job growth.

- **EcoDistricts** emphasizes a bottom-up model of planning and development to create a resilient and sustainable city. They reflect a new approach to development focused on economic opportunity, universal access, smart and efficient infrastructure, and green building practices.
- **Innovation Districts** are focused on job growth and economic opportunity. Innovation districts that are walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented result in healthier, happier lifestyles for local residents, foster greater equity in access, and create a better environment for businesses to succeed.

Focused on the Uptown and West Oakland communities, the EcoInnovation District creates a new model for urban growth that is inclusive, innovative, and environmentally sound.

THE PLAN

The [EcoInnovation District Plan](#) is comprised of four main chapters that address strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to be built upon in order to help reinvest in Uptown and support current and future residents. Each of these chapters – **Community, Development, Mobility, and Infrastructure** – are broken into actionable items by the City of Pittsburgh, community leaders, and other partners.

BONUS GOALS AND POINTS

New buildings and renovations in this district can utilize the bonus system of [Section 915.07](#). The list below identifies the bonus options available to projects in this district. Points earned by satisfying the bonus goals can be utilized in this district to achieve the bonus height as identified in [Section 908.04.C.4](#).

1. Energy efficiency
2. On-site renewable energy generation
3. Affordable housing
4. Rainwater management
5. Building reuse

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

ENERGY

- **Benchmarking:** Use the [Zero Tool](#) to benchmark your building. The Zero Tool is used to compare a building's design or an existing building's energy use intensity (EUI, total energy use in kBtu per square foot) with similar building types, understand how a building achieved its EUI (via energy efficiency, on-site renewable energy, and/or green power purchases), and set EUI targets. For more information on building benchmarking, contact Isaac Smith, Data & Performance Director at Green Building Alliance, isaacs@gba.org.
- **District Energy:** Consider connecting to Uptown's district energy system that can provide ready-to-use efficient district heating, eliminating the need for on-site heating systems. For more information, contact Cliff Blashford, Vice President and General Manager for Clearway Energy, cliff.blashford@clearwayenergy.com.
- **Electric Efficiency Rebates:** Your project may be eligible for rebates through Duquesne Light's Watt Choices efficiency program. For more information, contact Dave Defide, Manager of Customer Programs at Duquesne Light, ddefide@duqlight.com.

WATER

- **Water Efficiency:** Consider using water efficient fixtures. Look for the EPA's WaterSense label which ensures the product has met rigorous specifications for water efficiency and performance.
- **Stormwater Management:** Green Infrastructure utilizes vegetated areas and water retention techniques to mitigate stormwater problems and is critical to addressing the community's flooding and combined sewer overflow issues. Additionally, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority will soon be billing customers based on their impervious surfaces. For more information, contact Ruari Egan, Engineer III at Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, regan@pgh2o.com.

HEALTH

- **Material Selection:** The materials selected for your space significantly impact the indoor environment for your building occupants. Consider incorporating material requirements related to chemical transparency, volatile organic compound (VOC) limits, and third-party verification systems (e.g. Green Label Plus for flooring).
- **Indoor Air Quality Management During Construction:** Simple strategies like sealing ductwork before it will be used, properly storing absorptive materials, and implementing green cleaning strategies during construction will improve the indoor air quality of your space. Sample guidelines can be found in the LEED rating system's credit, Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan.

LANDSCAPE

- **Trees:** Trees are critical to making a healthy neighborhood, creating a lush and sustainable landscape, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, creating canopy and shade, and slowing and absorbing stormwater. For more information on planting new trees, recommended tree species, and tree preservation, contact Lisa Ceoffe, City Forester, lisa.ceoffe@pittsburghpa.gov.
- **Sustainable Landscapes:** Vegetation should be diverse to support a healthy habitat for people and for wildlife, and to better serve functionally as green infrastructure and open space. It also should be designed considering long-term maintenance and irrigation. For more information on sustainable landscape best practices, contact Kara Smith, Principal Environmental Planner, kara.smith@pittsburghpa.gov.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Recycling:** Consider designating areas in the space for recycling receptacles and outside the space (e.g. loading dock area) for proper collection and storage of waste and recyclables. For more information, contact Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), infoeast@prc.org.
- **Composting:** Commercial composting is available in Pittsburgh through AgRecycle and will greatly reduce landfill waste, particularly for food service use types. For more information, contact Carla Castagnero, President of AgRecycle, carla@agrecycle.com.
- **Deconstruction:** Consider deconstruction methods where appropriate, especially for historic structures and interiors. For more information, contact Mike Gable, Executive Director of Construction Junction, mgable@cjreuse.org.

OTHER RESOURCES

- **Pittsburgh 2030 District:** The Pittsburgh 2030 District, a program of Green Building Alliance, is an internationally recognized, locally driven initiative that supports building owners and managers as they strive toward 50% reductions in energy use, water consumption, and transportation emissions by 2030, while improving indoor air quality. The District connects Property Partners with Community and Resource Partners, driving industry-leading performance through peer-to-peer learning, technical trainings, and data benchmarking. For more information, contact Angelica Ciranni, Vice President of Strategy and Innovation at Green Building Alliance, angelicac@gba.org.
- **Sustainability Technical Assistance:** Green Building Alliance provides technical assistance to projects on these sustainability topics and others. For more information, contact Isaac Smith, Data & Performance Director at Green Building Alliance, isaacs@gba.org.