



CITY OF DAYTON
**SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT**
2020–2025



DAYTON IS THE FIRST CITY IN OHIO TO EARN A LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED) PLATINUM DESIGNATION BY THE UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (USGBC).



City of Dayton, Ohio, Office of Sustainability
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COVER PICTURE: PLATINUM LEED PRESS CONFERENCE
AT THE DAYTON ARCADE, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

L-R: COMMISSIONER DARIUS BECKHAM, SARAHLYDIA
KEIHL, BRYAN TAULBEE, MICHELE SIMMONS, ANDREW
ESTEVEZ, SHELLEY DICKSTEIN, FORMER MAYOR
JEFFREY MIMS, JR., COMMISSIONER MATT JOSEPH, KATY
BUDELMEYER, MEG MALONEY, ERIC BORTH, KATIE
NORRIS, ELEANOR MCEWAN-YATES, FELICIA GRAHAM,
AND MIKE CROSS.



CITY OF DAYTON
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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THE CITY OF DAYTON'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS FROM 2020 TO 2025 HAVE...



SAVED THE CITY AND ITS
RESIDENTS OVER **\$29 MILLION**

REDUCED OVER **364,000**
METRIC TONS CARBON EMISSIONS



ENGAGED AND EDUCATED OVER
74,000 PEOPLE IN THE REGION

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the Dayton City Commission unanimously passed the City's first five-year Sustainability Plan. Over the past five years, the City of Dayton has reduced greenhouse gas emissions, saved millions through energy-efficiency initiatives, expanded solar and electric vehicle infrastructure, and improved air quality in our neighborhoods—tangible progress that is building a cleaner and more resilient future for all residents. Guided by the Plan, we prioritized projects that **lower costs for residents** and the City, **advance clean energy** and transportation, and **keep our neighborhoods healthy and vibrant**. Despite challenges—including the COVID-19 pandemic and federal grants claw-backs—City staff have continued to make meaningful strides toward our sustainability goals throughout the plan period.

From securing millions in grant funding to support our work, to being the first City

in Ohio and only a handful of cities in the nation to earn a *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) Platinum designation by the *United States Green Building Council* (USGBC), to procuring 100% renewable energy for most of our municipal buildings and residential aggregation program, to being **one of only two Ohio cities to be designated Silver or higher as a Bike Friendly Community**, Dayton has emerged as a leader in practical, community-driven sustainability.

This report highlights our progress from 2020 through 2025 and outlines the impacts of our work across three focus areas:

[SAVING RESIDENTS AND THE CITY MONEY](#)

[REDUCING EMISSIONS](#)

[KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN AND VIBRANT](#)



SAVED THE CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS OVER **\$29 MILLION**

SUSTAINABILITY WORKS

Saving Residents and the City Money

Sustainability isn't just about protecting the environment — it's about helping Dayton families, businesses, and City operations save money. Between 2020 and 2025, Dayton focused on practical investments that cut waste, improved efficiency, and made our community more resilient.

SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS THROUGH SMARTER CITY OPERATIONS

■ ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS:

The City **upgraded 17 municipal buildings** with modern HVAC systems — replacing more than 270 outdated units. These improvements are saving energy, lowering utility costs, and reducing pollution. A major retrofit at City Hall replaced aging systems

with high-efficiency heat pumps, improving comfort for employees and visitors while shrinking the building's carbon footprint.

■ LED STREETLIGHTS:

Public Works **converted more than 1,500 streetlights to LED technology** between 2020 and 2025. The new lights use less energy, last longer, and improve nighttime visibility. Smart lighting nodes allow the City to monitor outages and lighting levels more efficiently.

■ SAFETY BUILDING UPGRADES:

With support from federal grants, the City installed new lighting and motion sensors in the Safety Building, cutting energy use and **saving an estimated 15% on utility bills** each year.



NEW HIGH-EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMPS INSTALLED AT CITY HALL





“I instantly felt calmer when the roof was done. When the electrical was done, I felt safer. When the insulation was done, I felt warmer.”

— A FIVE OAKS RESIDENT WHO RECEIVED HOME REPAIR FUNDING THROUGH THE DAYTON HOME REPAIR NETWORK



HELPING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES CUT ENERGY COSTS

■ CITYWIDE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM:

In 2021, Dayton restarted its community electric aggregation program in partnership with the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC). This program allows the City to buy energy in bulk on behalf of residents — so residents get stable, lower rates without having to shop for suppliers themselves. The program also provides **100% renewable electricity**, to offer entirely clean energy to its community. From 2022–2025, **participating households saved an average of \$462** compared to the utility's standard service offer, while **avoiding more than 330,000 metric tons of carbon emissions**.

■ SECURING FUNDING TO LOWER ENERGY BILLS AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY:

In 2024, the City of Dayton Sustainability Office **secured \$36 million in grant funding** to help support various sustainability initiatives. These grants worked to expand renewable energy access, implement electric vehicle chargers, assist with energy efficiency in low income households, and work to improve building performance for commercial businesses. While some of these funds have been frozen at the federal government in 2025, the Sustainability Office is still working to implement these initiatives.



"I breathe better because I have been breathing in that mold and mildew. Since I have arthritis, the walk-in shower helps tremendously... I have a more safe, comfortable life in this house."

— A FIVE OAKS RESIDENT WHO RECEIVED HOME REPAIR FUNDING THROUGH THE DAYTON HOME REPAIR NETWORK

■ **LOWERING RESIDENT ENERGY BILLS:**

As utilities requested rate hikes in recent years, Dayton intervened before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to reduce increases. When rate hikes couldn't be stopped entirely, the City negotiated settlements requiring utilities to fund energy assistance and home repair programs. So far, these efforts have **directed over \$7.8 million toward the Dayton Home Repair Network**, a collaboration among local nonprofits helping low- and moderate-income residents make critical home repairs and weatherization upgrades.

■ **SUPPORTING ENERGY-EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS:**

The City also secured \$1 million through a utility settlement to launch the PACE Direct program, managed by the Dayton-Montgomery County Port Authority in partnership with CityWide Development

Corporation. PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing helps owners of commercial buildings, multi-family housing, and small businesses invest in energy upgrades with no upfront cost. To date, the City has supported six commercial projects representing more than **\$12 million in private investment in energy efficiency**.

■ **EXPANDING SOLAR ACCESS:**

The Dayton Division of Planning worked to make solar more accessible — especially for historic homes. Property owners in local historic districts no longer need Landmarks Commission approval for rooftop solar panels, removing a major barrier. Since 2020, **301 Dayton homes have installed rooftop solar systems**. The City is also updating its zoning code to make it even easier for residents to add solar in the future.



Impact AT A GLANCE



1,500 LED
STREETLIGHTS
*Safer, more efficient
neighborhoods*

\$462 AVERAGE
HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS
*From bulk renewable power
purchasing*

\$36 MILLION IN GRANTS
SECURED IN 2024
*Lower energy bills +
reduced emissions*

\$7.8M UTILITY SETTLEMENTS
*Home repairs and
weatherization for residents*

\$12M IN PRIVATE
INVESTMENT
Through PACE financing



301 ROOFTOP
SOLAR HOMES
*Expanding
local clean
energy*

17 CITY BUILDINGS UPGRADED
*Lower energy bills + reduced
emissions*



IN PLAIN TERMS: *Together, these initiatives make Dayton more affordable, efficient, and forward-looking. They show that sustainability can save money today while preparing our city for a cleaner, more resilient future.*

REDUCED OVER **364,000**
METRIC TONS CARBON EMISSIONS



SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Reducing Emissions and Creating Clean Power

Dayton recognizes that the fight against climate change starts at home. Between 2020 and 2025, the City took bold steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in clean energy, and prepare for a low-carbon future — all while creating cost savings and community benefits.

SWITCHING TO CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY

■ **POWERING OUR CITY WITH RENEWABLES:**

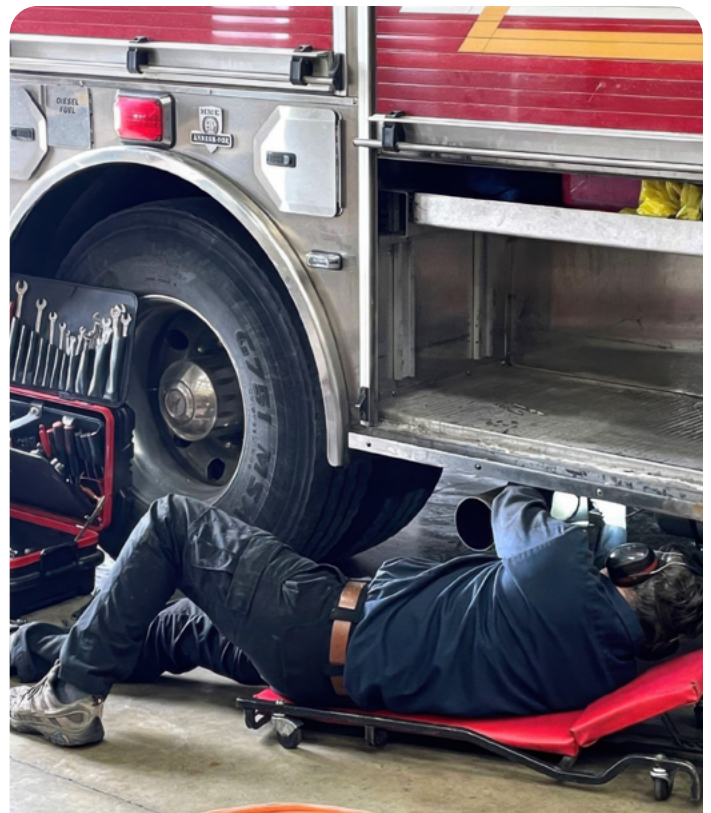
As of 2025 we supply **100% renewable energy to most municipal buildings** and residents who participate in the City's aggregation program. Each year, more than 300 million kilowatt hours of power now come from wind and solar instead of fossil fuels.

■ **LEADING BY EXAMPLE:**

The City installed its **first solar array on a municipal building** in 2025 at the West POD Police Station on Third Street. The system produces 60 kilowatts of clean energy, reducing operating costs and emissions for years to come.

■ **CLEANER EMERGENCY RESPONSE:**

The Dayton Fire Department is also doing its part. All 41 fire and medical vehicles are now equipped with “No Smoke” exhaust filtration systems, which **cut diesel emissions to nearly zero**. These systems improve the air firefighters breathe and reduce pollution in the neighborhoods they serve — a win for safety and sustainability alike.



“NO SMOKE” EXHAUST FILTRATION SYSTEMS
BEING INSTALLED ON A FIRE TRUCK



DRIVING TOWARD A CLEANER FLEET

■ CITY FLEET ELECTRIFICATION:

The City Commission passed the climate emergency declaration in April 2021, pledging to transition the municipal fleet toward electrification by 2035. Since then, we've made steady progress — we currently have **46 hybrid or fully electric light-duty vehicles in service**, with 10 more on order across departments including Police, Water, and Public Works.

Based on an average of about 3,000–4,000 miles per year per vehicle, the City's current EV and hybrid fleet is **saving roughly \$21,000–\$28,000 in annual fuel costs** and **reducing around 90–120 metric tons of CO₂ emissions** each year compared to conventional gas trucks. These savings will continue to increase as more vehicles are added to the fleet.

■ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

The City adopted a data-driven EV Fleet Procurement Policy, one of the most comprehensive in the nation. The policy



"We adopted Dayton's EV Fleet Procurement Policy because it takes a balanced approach that prepares the City for the future while ensuring responsible choices today. Electric vehicles are the future, and by moving forward with data-driven decisions we are laying the foundation for Dayton's transition. Our efforts

go beyond simply updating the fleet. We are creating a model for how to expand electrification as technology and infrastructure evolve. This approach delivers reduced emissions and cleaner air in our neighborhoods today, while building a strong foundation for Dayton's future."

— MATTHEW NEWTON, FLEET MANAGER



Electric Vehicle Fleet Management Procurement Policy

The City of Dayton adopted a comprehensive Electric Vehicle (EV) Fleet Procurement Policy grounded in rigorous data analysis and long-term planning. Using a total cost of ownership model, the City evaluated not only upfront purchase costs but also fuel and electricity expenses, vehicle age, and replacement schedules to determine the optimal timing for fleet electrification. This analysis enabled the City to forecast when EVs would become financially viable and to prioritize vehicle replacements accordingly. The planning process also included a detailed assessment of charging infrastructure requirements, ensuring that sufficient chargers will be available to support the transition. The



resulting EV Fleet Plan offers a clear, data-driven roadmap for electrifying Dayton's municipal fleet and is considered one of the more comprehensive and forward-looking fleet plans among peer cities.

considers not only vehicle purchase price, but also long-term fuel savings, maintenance costs, and replacement schedules. Using this total cost of ownership model ensures the City makes smart, sustainable investments that save money over time.

PRODUCING CLEAN POWER LOCALLY

Solar projects on underused land: The City is turning underutilized sites into hubs for renewable energy.

■ DAYTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SOLAR PROJECT:

A planned 3-megawatt solar array is under development that will cover a former trap shooting range near the airport, a site unsuitable for most development because of historic lead impact. This project will

offset 35% of the airport's electricity use and could **save up to \$1.95 million over its lifetime.**

■ SHERWIN-WILLIAMS BROWNFIELD SOLAR PROJECT:

A 5-megawatt solar system is being built on the former Sherwin-Williams warehouse site, adjacent to the City's Miami Water Treatment Plant. This land was the site of a significant and dangerous fire at a paint factory, which in its aftermath led the City to implement strong wellhead protections. The array will generate about 6,100 megawatt hours per year, **covering 38% of those facilities' electricity needs** while transforming a long-vacant site into a productive asset.

These projects demonstrate how clean energy can both reduce emissions and bring new life to previously contaminated or abandoned land.



“Our water department has always been very forward looking. For years we had been thinking “why are we flaring gas to the atmosphere, we should be looking for a way to put it to use,” but the economics didn’t work. In 2020, the pieces all fell into place. We had a local company with a pipeline in place that could offtake the gas, and natural gas prices were going up, so we did a cost analysis to see what it would take to put in place a system to clean the gas. We had previously used an Ohio EPA grant to buy a type of canister that cleaned and pressurized biogas, but it took

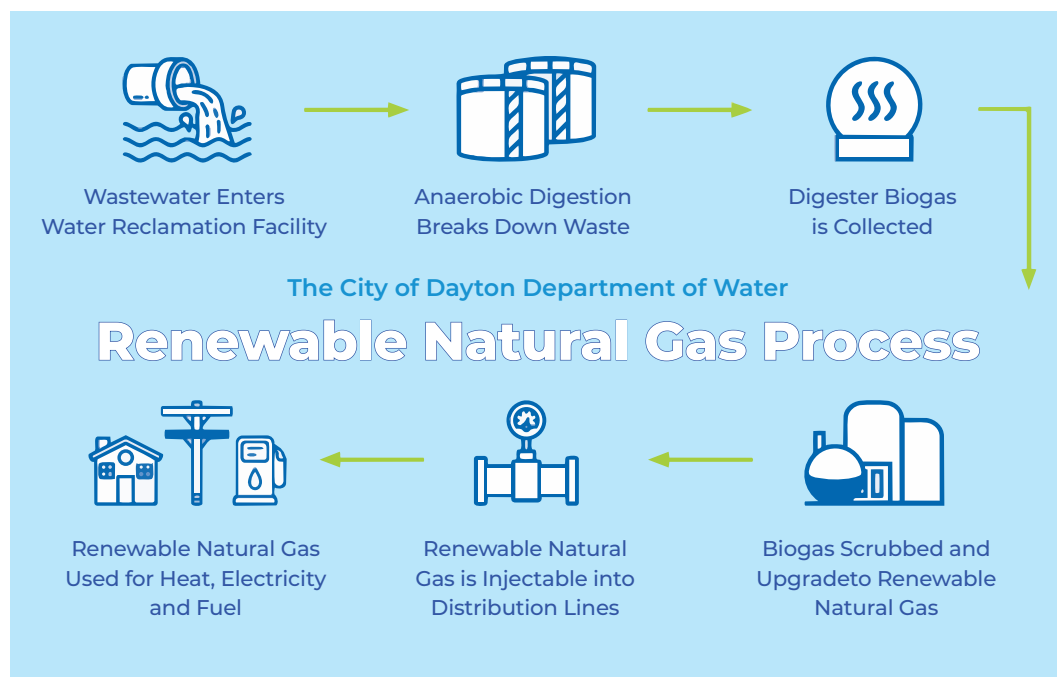
highly expert staff to maintain it and specialized parts, so we had not been able to make it feasible. In 2020, we said “let’s find a turn-key solution where someone else can come in, clean, and sell the gas to the natural gas pipeline. It took four years of thinking this through, meeting, having technical analysis done. **The entire Water reclamation team, and especially Patrick Ludwig, a Wastewater Treatment Senior Engineer, really lead with excellence on this project.**”

— MICHELLE SIMMONS, RETIRED
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR



Turning Wastewater into Renewable Energy

How does it work?



KEY BENEFITS

CREATES CITY OF DAYTON
\$800,000 ANNUAL REVENUE STREAM

50% REDUCTION
CARBON FOOTPRINT AT
CITY OF DAYTON FACILITIES

ONE OF THE FIRST
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER
DERIVED RENEWABLE
NATURAL GAS PROGRAMS

ACHIEVES KEY SUSTAINABILITY GOAL
DAYTON CITY COMMISSION



TURNING WASTE INTO ENERGY

At the City’s Guthrie Road Water Reclamation Plant, a new system now captures methane — a powerful greenhouse gas — and converts it into renewable natural gas (RNG).

Each day, the facility processes over 40 million gallons of wastewater using anaerobic microorganisms to break down the waste through a process called anaerobic digestion. This produces methane biogas that can be refined into natural gas. The methane that used to be burned off (“flared”) is now refined and sold through a local pipeline, **generating about \$800,000 in annual revenue** for the City and leading to **significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions** at the facility.

BUILDING CLEANER, GREENER TRANSPORTATION

Active transportation:

In 2023, Dayton adopted its first Active Transportation Plan, focused on expanding options for walking, biking, and rolling. Active Transportation is a term for all the ways people can get around without using a motorized vehicle – walking or bicycling, using mobility assistance devices (such as wheelchairs and scooters), skating or skateboarding, and more.

From 2020–2025, the City:

- Paved 372 miles of streets
- Added 8.1 miles of new bike lanes with double the number of miles of bike lanes planned in the near future
- Built 1.3 miles of two-way cycle tracks and 1.35 miles of side paths



The League of American Bicyclists recognized Dayton as a **Silver-Level Bicycle Friendly Community** — one of only two cities in Ohio to earn that honor.

Equitable EV charging access:

To make sure everyone can benefit from clean transportation, the City developed an **EV Equity and Charging Infrastructure Analysis** to guide charger placement across neighborhoods. This ensures charging stations are installed in both high-traffic areas and historically disinvested communities.

Dayton has already installed 39 EV chargers for City and public use and secured \$9 million in federal grants to add 60 more. The City also earned a **Bronze “Charging Smart” designation** for removing barriers to electric vehicle access and promoting equitable EV infrastructure.

Impact AT A GLANCE



11 MILES OF NEW BIKE LANES
Safer, greener mobility

100%
RENEWABLE
ELECTRICITY
*300M+ kWh from
wind & hydro*

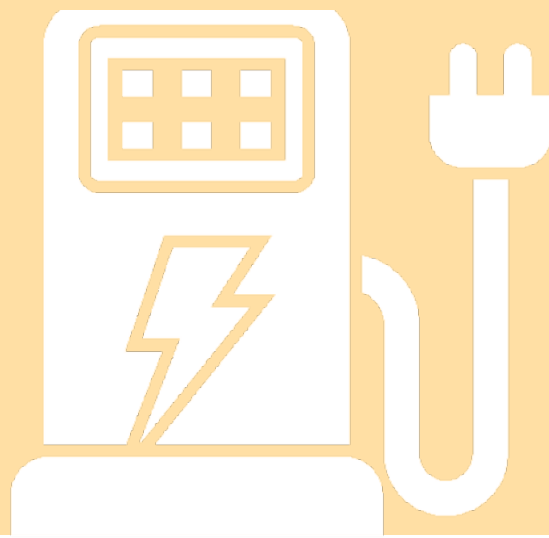
2 SOLAR
PROJECTS
(8 MW TOTAL)
*Powering 35–38%
of key facilities*

METHANE-TO-
ENERGY SYSTEM
*\$800K annual
revenue and
50% reduced
emissions*

39 EV CHARGERS
INSTALLED
*Expanding access across
all neighborhoods*



56 EV OR HYBRID
FLEET VEHICLES BY 2026
*\$21,000–\$28,000 in annual
fuel cost savings and
90–120 metric tons of CO₂
emissions reduction
From bulk renewable
power purchasing*



IN PLAIN TERMS: *Dayton is proving that clean energy and smart planning go hand in hand. By investing in renewables, modern vehicles, and green infrastructure, the City is cutting pollution, saving money, and showing what practical climate leadership looks like at the local level.*



ENGAGED AND EDUCATED OVER
74,000 PEOPLE IN THE REGION

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Keeping Our Community Clean and Vibrant

A thriving city depends on healthy neighborhoods, green spaces, and people who take pride in where they live. For Dayton, sustainability is also about equity and resilience — making sure that every resident, in every neighborhood, shares in the benefits of a cleaner, greener future. From 2020–2025, the City expanded programs that strengthen communities, protect natural resources, and make Dayton a better place to live for all.

REDUCING WASTE AND CREATING HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENTS

■ **RECYCLING MADE EASIER:**

Curbside recycling *participation grew to 58% of Dayton households*, thanks to better education, outreach, and tools. The City’s recycling guidelines are now available in nine languages, and residents can use the Dayton Collects website and app to check pickup schedules, learn what’s recyclable, and get reminders. As a result, contamination rates have dropped — especially the number of plastic bags found in recycling bins.



DAYTON SPROUTS PARTICIPANTS
SHOW THEIR MULBERRY
STAINED HANDS



■ **SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PLAN:**

The Division of Procurement and the Sustainability Office worked to adopt a **Sustainable Procurement Policy** in 2025. This policy ensures that City purchases prioritize products and services that reduce environmental impact, advance social equity, and support long-term economic value. It guides departments to consider factors like energy efficiency, recycled or low-carbon materials, local sourcing, and vendor labor practices when making procurement decisions. By embedding these standards into purchasing, the City aligns everyday operations with its broader climate, equity, and resilience goals.

GREENING NEIGHBORHOODS AND GROWING THE TREE CANOPY

■ **MORE TREES FOR CLEANER AIR AND COOLER STREETS:**

Since 2020, the City has **planted over 1265 new trees** in parks, along streets, and in neighborhoods with the least tree cover. These trees improve air quality, provide shade, reduce heat, and make our streets more inviting.

■ **PUBLIC WORKS ALSO SECURED A \$2 MILLION GRANT TO CONDUCT DAYTON'S FIRST TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT SINCE 1987:**

A major step toward creating a Tree Master Plan that guides planting, maintenance, and removal across the city.



“A tree inventory and master plan will allow us to provide better and more cost effective service, plant where trees are needed, and get rid of some of the lingering hazardous trees out there. Part of the inventory will be community engagement to see what people want and to gather feedback. We can also provide some good info and educate people. Right now, I advertise through the City’s social media and in partnership with Community Engagement, and then I plant where people have requested a tree. I got 300 requests last year and then planted 400 trees. The inventory



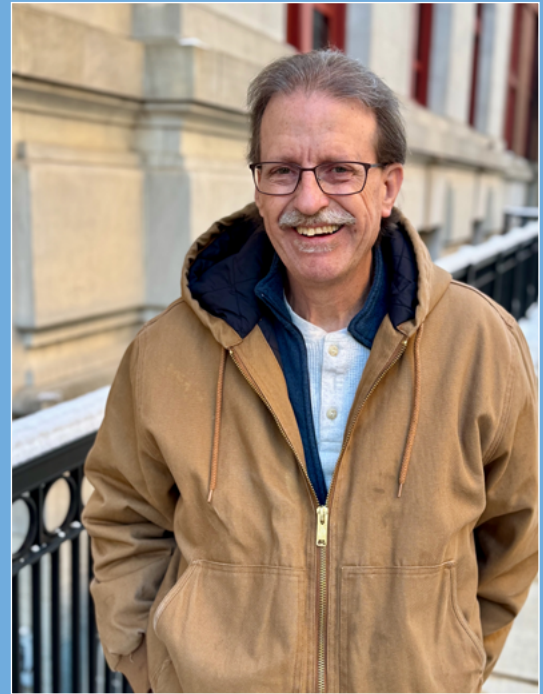
will use GIS data to help me prioritize where to plant trees, and what trees need to be maintained or removed.”

— BRYAN URBAN, STREET MAINTENANCE OPERATION ADMINISTRATOR



“As an environmental advocate, sustainability of effort, messaging, and relationships with stakeholders is paramount. The City of Dayton has been a dedicated stakeholder and partner throughout the decades-long processes for the Valleycrest Landfill and Behr-Dayton Superfund Sites. The City has also played a major role in the achievements made by the neighborhood advocacy groups.”

— JERRY BOWLING III, PRESIDENT, MCCOOK FIELD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



PROTECTING OUR RIVERS AND WATERWAYS

■ CLEAN RIVERS, HEALTHY COMMUNITY:

Dayton’s Water Department continues to lead efforts to protect our rivers — the lifeblood of our city. Through the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River, volunteers from across the region come together each year to remove litter and debris. Since 2020, **3,314 volunteers have collected nearly 47 tons of trash from the river.** Since the program began in the 1990s, more than 175 tons have been removed.

■ ADOPT A STORM DRAIN:

To keep trash out of our waterways, residents can now “adopt” one of the City’s 38,000 storm drains. Participants give their drain a name and commit to keeping it clear of debris — especially before heavy rain. Local artists have painted storm drains around the city to raise awareness about how stormwater connects directly to our rivers.

■ NATIONAL RECOGNITION:

Dayton’s stormwater program has been recognized four times in six years with the **National MS4 Award from the Water Environment Federation** — most recently in 2022 — for its innovation in green infrastructure and community engagement.



STORM DRAIN PAINTED BY TWO LOCAL ARTISTS AT THE DOWNTOWN CORNER OF W. THIRD AND LUDLOW STREETS



SUPPORTING URBAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL FOOD

Urban agriculture isn't just about growing food — it's about strengthening neighborhoods, improving health, and building environmental resilience. The City's Urban Agriculture Grant Program, led by the Water Department in partnership with

Planning, Neighborhoods, and Development, helps residents and community groups get water access for gardens and farms.

Grants provide up to \$500 for water use and \$2,500 for infrastructure such as hydrant hookups or irrigation lines. So far, **31 community farms and gardens have received support** — helping residents grow food locally, build community, and improve soil health.



“Greater Edgemont Community Coalition is very appreciative of the City of Dayton’s Urban Agriculture Grant. This initiative has allowed us to supply water directly to our greenhouse at the Solar Garden and our neighborhood Children’s Garden. These spaces are growing labs for Edgemont children and provide chemical-free produce grown by neighbors for neighbors.”

Working with Sustainability Manager Meg Maloney has kept the Edgemont neighborhood updated on some of the environmental issues and concerns we have. As we move forward to building new housing in Edgemont we look forward to developing a comprehensive and sustainable plan.”

— RHONDA MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GREATER EDMONT COMMUNITY COALITION



EDUCATING RESIDENTS AND ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

■ **BROWNFIELD AND SUPERFUND EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:**

The Sustainability Office has partnered with neighborhoods such as McCook Field, Old North Dayton, and Edgemont to strengthen education and outreach around nearby Superfund and brownfield sites. Along with elevating residents' voices in cleanup decisions and ensuring responsible parties meet all compliance requirements, we work to identify safe, community-driven opportunities to redevelop these sites. Since the office's launch, **we have reached more than 7,000 residents and businesses with information on environmental risks and resources** that support safe, healthy neighborhoods. This work has also included efforts to bring solar energy to the Valleycrest Landfill site and to

install solar paired with ventilation systems on households with contamination; in 2025 the federal government repealed the program before the City could complete the project.

■ **DAYTON SPROUTS YOUTH PROGRAM:**

Through Dayton Sprouts, a partnership between the Sustainability Office and Recreation Department, **more than 1,500 students have participated in hands-on environmental education** since 2021. Supported by a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the program teaches children about recycling, gardening, cooking with fresh produce, composting, and caring for their environment. Lessons are fun, practical, and tied to Ohio's science education standards. The City has made some of the Dayton Sprouts materials public, and other cities are now using them as models for their own sustainability education programs.



"We want kids to appreciate nature early on. They don't need to know every detail — just how to care for the world around them. They love learning about where food comes from. Some days we make smoothies or guacamole with the Mayor, other days we pick mulberries from the trees we planted. There are mulberry trees planted at the Rec centers, and when we pick mulberries, the kids learn that there are things in their yard and the world around them that they can eat and grow. It's



joyful learning — and it connects kids to their environment."

— MEG MALONEY, SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

Impact AT A GLANCE



47 TONS OF RIVER TRASH REMOVED
Cleaner waterways and community pride

58% OF HOUSEHOLDS RECYCLING
Cleaner, less contaminated waste stream

\$2M CANOPY GRANT
First citywide tree inventory in 35+ years

1,500 YOUTH ENGAGED
Growing the next generation of environmental stewards

1,265 TREES PLANTED
More shade + better air quality

31 URBAN FARMS/
GARDENS SUPPORTED
Healthier food access + greener neighborhoods



IN PLAIN TERMS: *Dayton's progress shows that climate action and community care are deeply connected. By investing in trees, clean water, recycling, and education, we're not just protecting the planet — we're building a city where every neighborhood can thrive.*



CONCLUSION

Dayton's progress over the past five years shows what's possible when a city leads with innovation, collaboration, and care for its people. By cutting emissions, investing in renewable energy, and strengthening neighborhoods, Dayton is proving that climate action and equity go hand in hand. Every initiative — from tree planting to fleet electrification — has been guided by a simple principle: build a healthier, more resilient Dayton where everyone can share in the benefits of a clean, sustainable future.

Looking ahead, the City will continue to build on this strong foundation — expanding



IN FIVE YEARS THE SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE HAS GROWN FROM ONE STAFF MEMBER TO A TOTAL OF SIX, WITH DIVERSE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE RANGING FROM BIOLOGY, AND ANTHROPOLOGY TO ENGINEERING.

L-R: TIM PRITCHARD, SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST; NIANI BROWN, INNOVATION TEAM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE; HODA BANDEH-AHMADI, INNOVATION TEAM CIVIC DESIGNER; MEG MALONEY, SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER; LELA KLEIN, INNOVATION TEAM DIRECTOR AND MATTHEW WORSHAM, SPECIAL PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR.



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2020–2025

clean energy, improving housing efficiency, growing our greenspaces, and strengthening the community partnerships that make Dayton resilient. Our office is poised to grow even more in the coming year, guided by a clear plan and powered by an exceptional team whose dedication drives this work forward.

Dayton’s sustainability successes would not be possible without the City Commission and the Office of the City Manager — both have helped identify priorities, provided needed resources, and built an organizational culture favorable to sustainability work. We also extend deep appreciation to the people who have built Dayton’s sustainability program into what it is today: Mark Charles, our inaugural Sustainability Manager (retired); Michele Simmons, Sustainability and Environmental Special Projects Administrator (retired); Matthew Worsham, Energy Administrator; Tim Pritchard, Sustainability Specialist; Lela Klein, Innovation Team Director; Niani Brown, Innovation Team Community Engagement & Communications Associate; Hoda Bandeh-Ahmadi, Civic Designer; and Meg Maloney, Sustainability Manager. Their leadership and commitment since 2020 have shaped a program that continues to position Dayton as a national leader in sustainability.

We also recognize that none of this progress would be possible without the steadfast support of our partners, residents, and businesses. From local neighborhood associations and community organizations to state agencies, federal partners, and national nonprofits, each has played a crucial role in advancing Dayton’s sustainability goals. Their collaboration has strengthened outreach efforts, expanded resources, and ensured that our work reflects the needs and priorities of the people we serve. Residents and business owners have shown incredible leadership — participating in programs, sharing their voices in planning and cleanup processes, and championing solutions that make Dayton healthier and more resilient. The City of Dayton Sustainability Program is successful not because of any one office, but because of this shared commitment and collective effort. We are deeply grateful for every partner who walks alongside us as we build a stronger, more sustainable future for our community.

The challenges of climate change are real, but so is our collective power to meet them. Together, we are creating a city that not only endures but thrives — a Dayton that is resilient, equitable, and vibrant for generations to come.

