

Potential for Climate Action

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Feb. 27, 2019

Benefits of Climate Action



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Two Approaches: Prevention vs Managing Symptoms

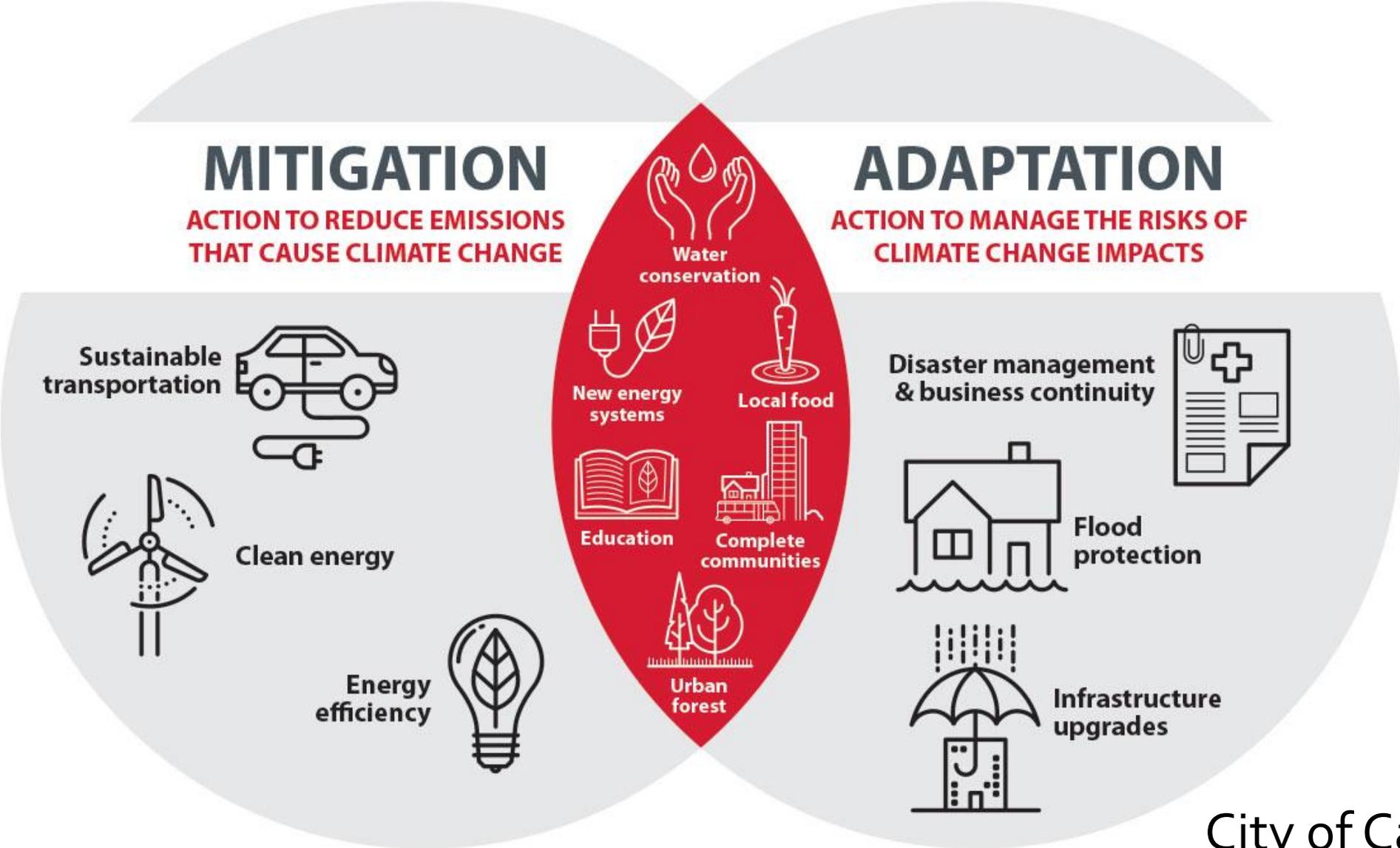
Mitigation

- Stabilize and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to minimize changes in climate.

Adaptation

- Reduce vulnerability of natural and human systems to climate change impacts
- Increase ***resilience***: Ability of a social or ecological system to adapt to stress and change while retaining basic structure and function.
- Recognizes the climate is already or will be changing

Building Climate Resilience



Framework of Global Covenant

Mitigation

Adaptation



Measure/Report Emissions

ID/Report Climate Hazards



Set GHG reduction targets

Assess vulnerability



Develop climate
ACTION plan

Develop climate
ADAPTATION plan

Next Steps

Mitigation



Measure/Report Emissions



Set GHG reduction targets



Develop **climate**
ACTION plan

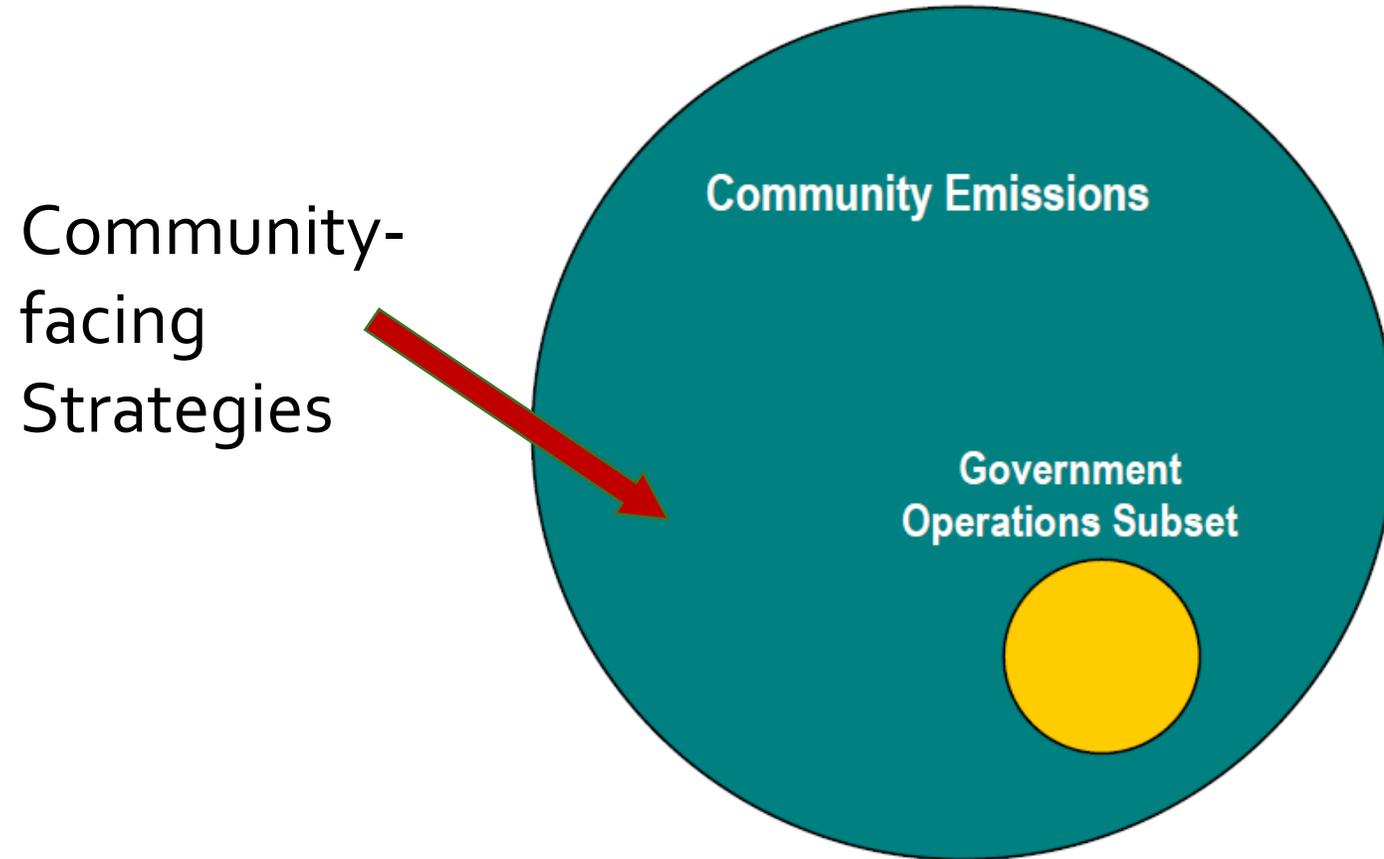
Adaptation

ID/Report Climate Hazards

Assess vulnerability

Develop climate
ADAPTATION plan

Planning Scale



South Bend Climate Action Plan

Community-scale strategies to reduce emissions

- Q1-Q2 2019
- Work with experienced consultant
- Based on community GHG inventory
- Local context + tested strategies = cost-effective planning process
- Does not include adaptation

Deliverables

- Mid-range and long-range GHG reduction targets
- Three to five near-term strategies

Envisioning Strategies

Typical Strategy Areas

Transportation

Energy Supply

Building
Energy Use

Consumption
and Waste
Reduction



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USDN | urban sustainability directors network

Catalyzing Sustainability Impact

A City-Led Process to Invest in High Impact Practices

The Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) connects local government practitioners to accelerate urban sustainability in U.S. and Canadian communities, leading the way to a sustainable, low-carbon future. Local governments develop, adopt, and share practices that create equitable and prosperous communities and a healthy environment.

USDN is the primary network through which local government sustainability and climate practitioners access mission-critical resources, and is frequently sought as a trusted thought partner. USDN enables groups of cities and counties to project a collective voice to partners and key stakeholders. By bringing members and partners together, USDN is able to broaden, inform, and synthesize perspectives on crucial issues and catalyze new partnerships.

High Impact Practices (HIPs)

USDN member communities led a process in 2017-18 to identify High Impact Practices (HIPs) to help USDN and its partners increase impact through more strategic investments.

High Impact Practices are:

- Practices with high aggregate impact potential across U.S. and Canadian cities (not a "must do" list for, nor necessarily even applicable to, every individual community).
- Practices where cities are ready to make on-the-ground change in the next three years. Some may represent cutting edge advanced practices; others may represent established best practices with potential to scale much more widely.
- Practices with high GHG reduction potential (members' starting priority), each with potential to create other important benefits (e.g., resilience, equity, job creation).

Selecting GHG Reduction HIPs

To determine the final list of High Impact Practices, the Committee reviewed estimates of GHG reduction impact potential along with input from USDN peers about their progress and interests in an array of GHG reduction practices. The Committee sought to:

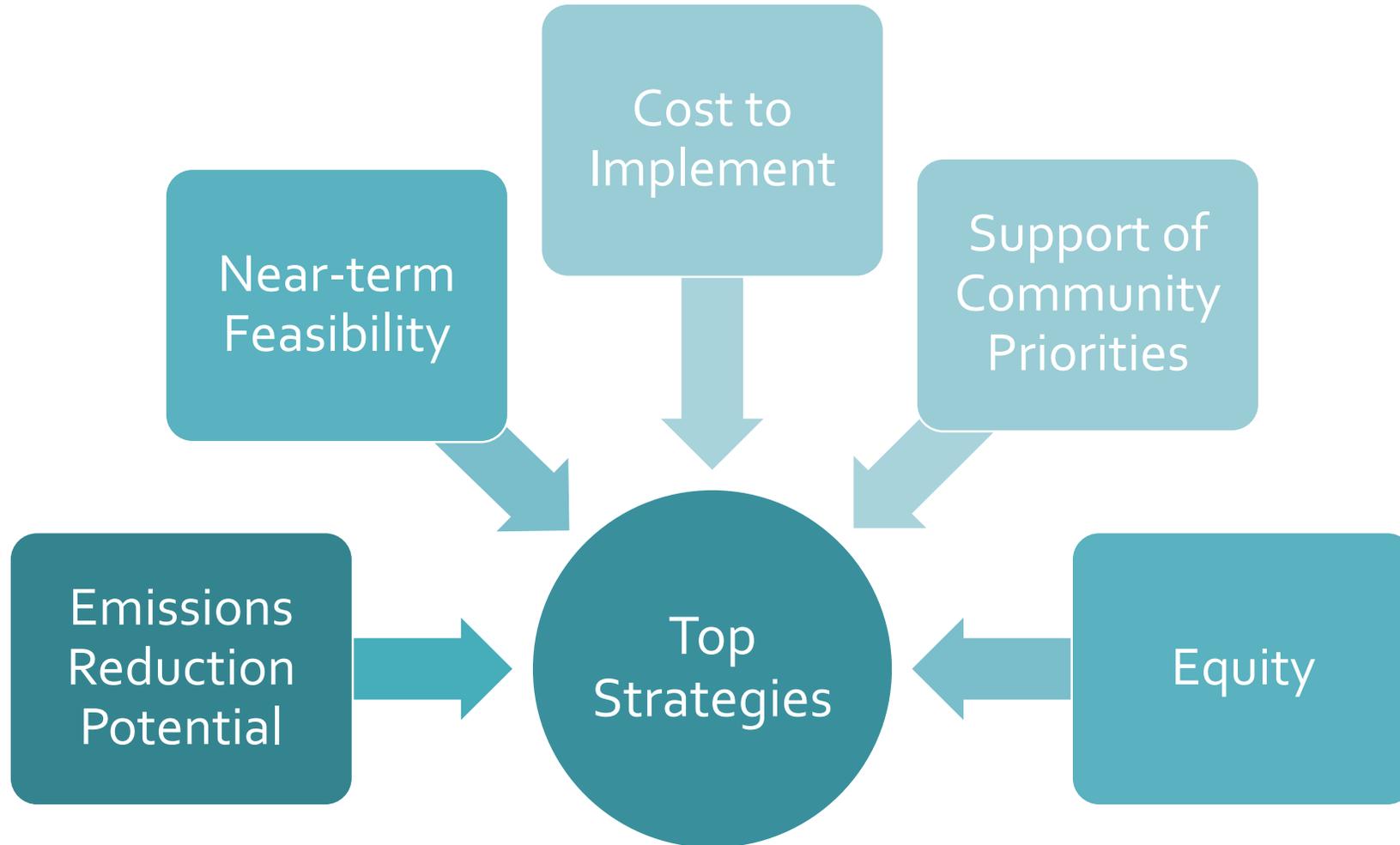
- Advance progress in each critical pillar of deep decarbonization (see below),
- Prioritize practices where high impact potential and high member interest converge, and ensure that -all USDN members are interested in at least some of the identified HIPs, while keeping the list to a practical size.

The Committee's deliberations resulted in 14 practices. (See following page and Appendix A.)

Contact **Garrett Fitzgerald**, USDN Strategic Collaboration Director, for more information at garrettfitzgerald@usdn.org.

[Full Report](#)

Prioritizing Strategies



Jumpstart Action with Phased Approach

1st: BASICS

Fundamentals

Tackle biggest operational emissions sources

Lead by example

GHG Inventory and reporting

Set goals, targets, commitments

2nd: BUILD

Use existing policy tools and established authority

Tackle biggest sources of community emissions

Planning and zoning

Public works projects

Park and tree canopy projects

Stormwater infrastructure

Economic development tools

3rd: TRANSFORM

Expand policy tools and develop innovative initiatives

Advanced policies

New incentives

Public private partnerships

Advocacy

Technology

Example Process for New Policies & Programs

Policy Design

- Identify local/regional champions
- Gather best practices from champions
- Review successful programs in other communities
- Stakeholder review
- Design long-term program
- **Year 1**

Voluntary

- Roll out incentive program
- Recruit and support additional participants
- Proof of concept
- Stakeholder review
- **Year 2-4**

Mandatory

- Roll out compliance program
- Provide support and flexibility
- Enforce/Penalize
- Evaluate impacts
- **Year 5+**

What's Next

Council Member Jo Broden

Council & Administration Launch

- Council Action
- Sustainability Office consulting project

Climate Action Plan Phase I

- Recommended strategies (3-5)
- GHG reduction goals
- Council Adoption

Climate Action Plan Phase II

- Work Plans (3)
- Partners, timeline, funding
- Technical/expert input
- Community and stakeholder input
- Council Adoption

Implementation