

Planning2050

Guide

American Planning Association - Sustainable Communities Division | 2024

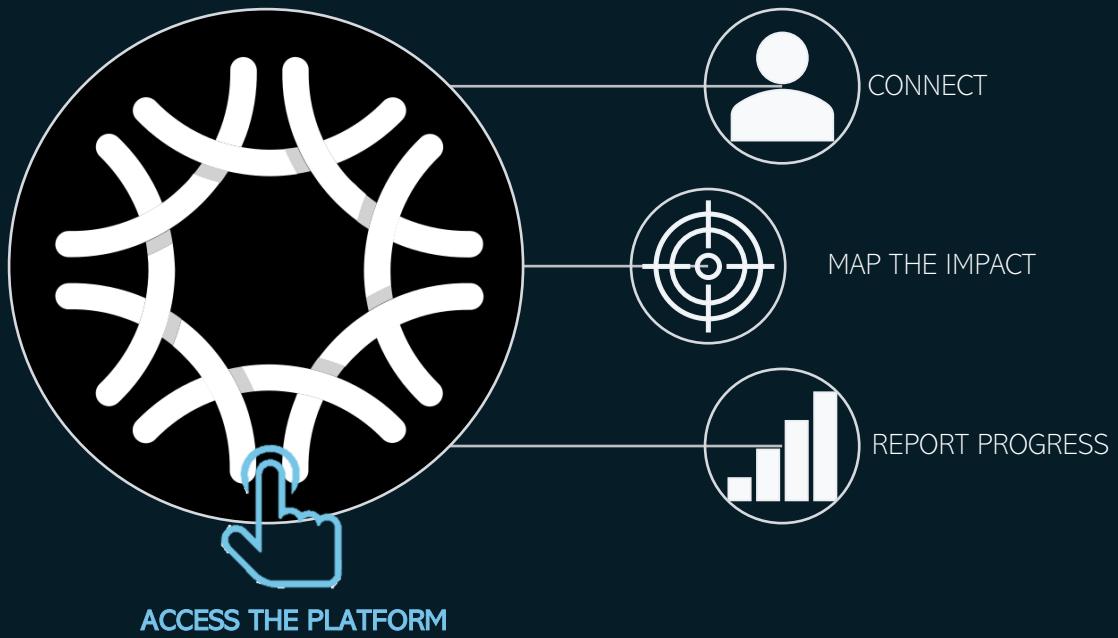


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INTRODUCTION

About Planning2050

Inspired by Architecture2030, Planning2050 (PLG2050) was born as an initiative for planners to report and monitor progress of actions when planning sustainable, equitable and resilient communities.

With Planning2050, Cities and Communities will ensure critical systems are carbon neutral, resilient and equitable by 2050, through the tracking and monitoring of actionable commitments (LISAs / LIRAs)¹.

Planning2050 aims to accelerate data analysis and systems thinking in urban & community planning,

About this Guide

This guide helps cities & communities (C&Cs) understand the process before and after becoming a member of the Planning2050 Network². The guide will help all members to understand how to obtain "signatory" status, and how to generate their own 2050 Commitment(s). This guide has three main sections titled Steps 1, 2, and 3. Going through these steps, C&Cs will define actionable commitments expected to become LISAs or LIRAs; and finally, schedule a timeline for reporting and monitoring progress toward their goals.



Planning2050 outcomes

Ensuring Success

A database of actions of all signatories will be accessible by the Planning2050 Network, making it a collaborative platform.

Becoming part of the Planning2050 Network will help C&Cs ensure progress and success of their ACTIONS between today, 2030 and 2050. The Planning2050 initiative aims to create a network of C&Cs to build knowledge, create healthy competition, and synergistic cooperation among signatories. It will inform the network of participants on successful strategies that could be scaled or replicated. The continuous monitoring of progress will allow for rapidly adaptable changes of course if required.

Most importantly, creating a supportive network of leaders in planning practice, with proof of success on their actionable strategies, is an expected outcome of the Planning2050 initiative. It is also expected that small and rural communities can receive support and assistance from this network of practitioners.

Each signatory of the Planning2050 initiative is considered part of a consortium of local governments, agencies, and organizations who are leading on sustainability actions. These cities and communities agree to share best practices and data with a goal of advancing equitable and resilient communities.

¹ LISAs and LIRAs are acronyms for "Large Impact Scalable Actions" and "Large Impact Replicable Actions" – see section "Future of Planning: Actionable Commitments."

² Planning2050 Network: A consortium of local governments and planning practitioners.



Planning2050 advisory organizations

PLANNING2050 is a multidisciplinary effort supported by various professional organizations.

As a systems thinking approach with overlapping and diverse perspectives,

PLANNING2050 successfully brings together various disciplines to help solve important problems.



One of Planning2050's outcomes is to generate a database of LISAs and LIRAs. LISAs and LIRAs are acronyms for "Large Impact Scalable Actions" and "Large Impact Replicable Actions." Within the Planning2050 framework, we consider LISAs and LIRAs as actions that are worth replicating and/or scaling.



LISA

LARGE IMPACT,
SCALABLE ACTION



LIRA

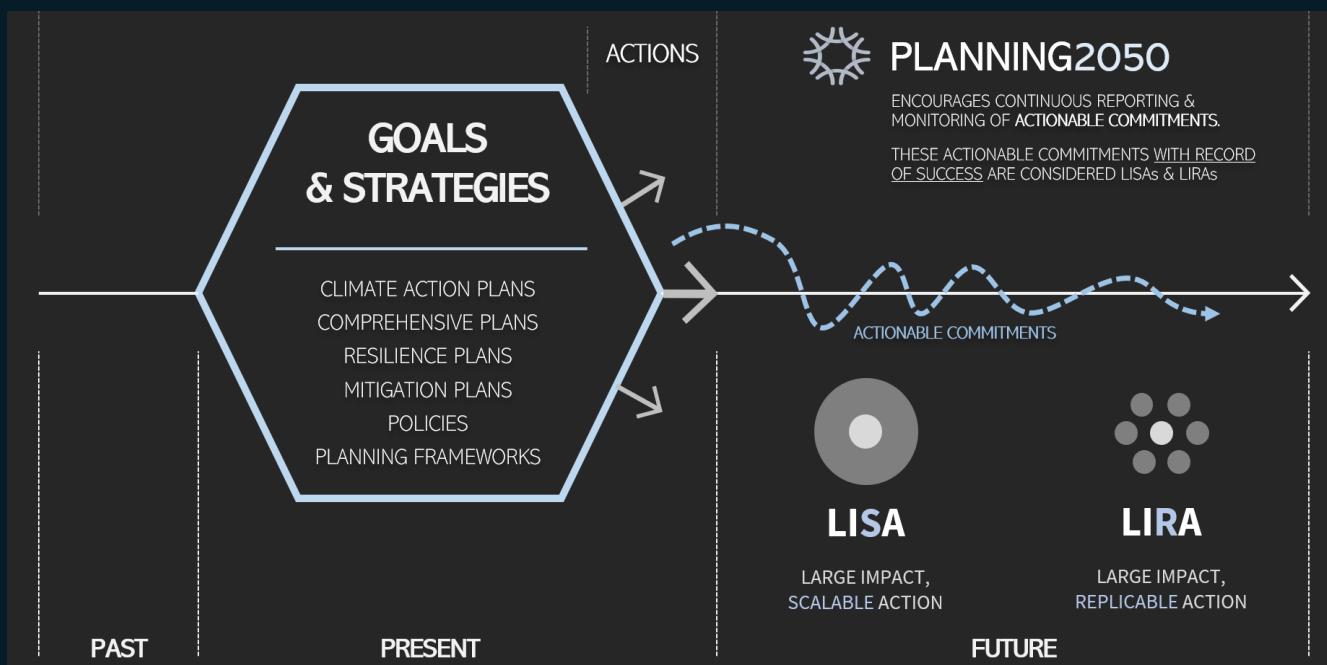
LARGE IMPACT,
REPLICABLE ACTION

The effects and relevant impact of LISAs and LIRAs are monitored continuously. Within the Planning2050 framework, these actionable commitments are considered LISAs and LIRAs when they are proven successful.

LISAs and LIRAs are constant and provide relevant impact in the evolution of C&Cs, hence the need to collect and share with a wide network of communities. The Planning2050 initiative and its web-based platform will facilitate knowledge sharing, not only within its network, but with public and private sectors.

The Planning2050 initiative encourages continuous reporting and monitoring of these LISAs and LIRAs, providing a framework for measuring success. Planning2050 aims to continuously impact the future, after plans and policies are in place, after goals and metrics are defined, and after strategies are implemented by cities and communities.

With a database of LISAs and LIRAs, data-driven decisions will help streamline the planning process, especially in communities with smaller capacity and budgets. This database will be accessible by cities or communities that historically are not able to apply technologies and data-driven planning. Planning2050 will operate continuously to quickly support communities that need assistance with generating actionable commitments.



Planning2050 and the future of planning



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The Planning2050 Initiative has been rapidly evolving. In 2023 (only one year after its inception) the Planning2050 Dashboard Platform was created to intentionally capture the commitments generated by all signatories. This platform streamlines the process of becoming part of the network and/or a signatory.

There are three important pieces in this platform:

- 1.** Join the platform as a single user (Connect).
 - See section "STEP 1" in this guide.
- 2.** Generate your Actions / Goals / Strategies (Mapping impact).
 - See section "STEP 2" in this guide.
- 3.** Report progress (Bar & Line chart).
 - See sections "STEP 2" and "STEP 3" in this guide.



Join

You don't need to be a signatory to join the network and use the tool. It is free to join! Generate your user credentials.

[New user](#)



Upload & Map your Strategy

Does your city / community have a strategic action or strategy to achieve certain outcomes by 2030 and by 2050?

[Map your strategy](#)

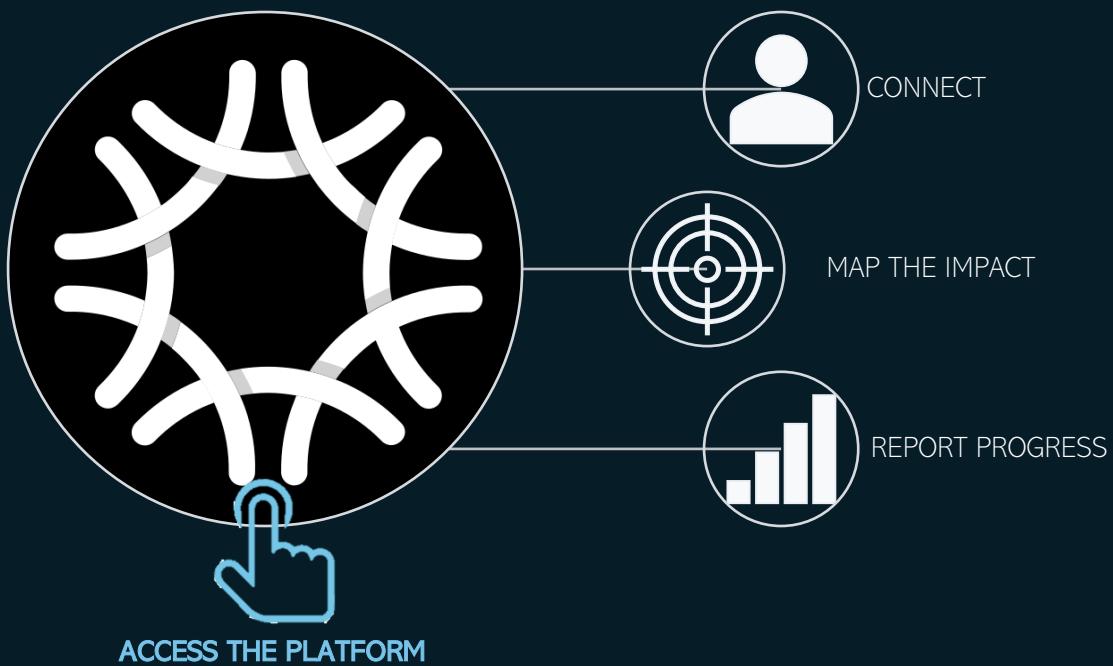


Report your progress

If you already mapped your goal / action / strategy, click here to report your progress to date.

[Report your progress](#)

At any point after #1 above, the user can obtain a signatory status within the platform. Signatories will be assigned an ID, so the user is assigned specific permissions for reading, editing, and reporting within the platform.



STEP 1 – GOALS, METRICS & STRATEGIES

Selection of Goals and Metrics



LISA
LARGE IMPACT,
SCALABLE ACTION

Cities and communities generally define their long-term goals in a Comprehensive Plan, a Sustainability Action Plan, or similar document(s). For Planning2050, these goals are only considered a LISA or LIRA if they are effective, impactful, and relevant. A minimum threshold of progress towards their targets is required (during the reporting period), so that the ACTION identified is considered effective and impactful.

A prospective signatory of the Planning2050 initiative will select their top strategies, goals, or priorities to be measured and monitored. This selection is based upon each community's priority(ies). The selection of these goals / metrics will be carried onto the 2050Commitment (Step2).



LIRA
LARGE IMPACT,
REPLICABLE ACTION

If your community has not defined long-term metrics / goals, you will be assigned a supportive consultant from the Planning2050 Network to guide you as prospective signatory of your commitment(s), and to define the goals and metrics for your specific case. Some examples of "communities" are (not limited to): airports, port authorities, school districts, higher education campuses, etc.

Once the goals / metrics have been selected, there will be a simple alignment with the Planning2050 framework (ref. Step2). These need to be explicitly intentional to achieve an accomplishment level by 2030, and another by 2050 (if applicable).

Mapping the Planning Effect

Each signatory self-assesses the current effect of their strategies by mapping their impact and effect in their communities.

Each strategy or policy is intentionally placed (aka "mapped"), within a quadrant to measure its impact and frequency.

Signatories will repeat the quadrant mapping exercise on an annual basis to monitor the effectiveness of these strategies over time.

The quadrant location identification is intended for internal tracking for each specific user.

The goal of this internal mapping exercise is to understand the current effect of planning practice and specific actions, as well as its impact over time.

The statistics generated in a long term will inform many cities and communities of effective ways for positive action.



Example of mapping effect of cities / communities' strategies



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STEP 2 – GENERATING A 2050 COMMITMENT

With the Self-Assessment completed, each signatory will then convert their list of strategies (with goals and metrics) to the Planning2050 framework. This will lay the groundwork for data monitoring in the last step. In Step 2: Generating a 2050 Commitment, each signatory defines the actual measurable metrics and goals with a time-bound definition.

The Planning2050 initiative intentionally tries to advance the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Most UN SDG targets are aspirational by 2030. With this intentional alignment, Planning2050 aims to create a uniform set of actions with specific SDG metrics and targets³ that are intended to be universal. While the SDG targets are not entirely defined, the Planning2050 framework generates a good starting point to advance UN SDG target definitions where currently lacking.

The 2050 Commitment

A signatory commits to continuously report and track the progress towards achievement of their goals identified in Step1. The 2050 Commitment (generated by each signatory) helps refine the specific metrics that measure achievements in two important milestones ⁴:

By 2030 _____

By 2050 _____

Interim goals could also be incorporated, as optional “check-ins” as needed or required by the signatory. For example, a city or Community with a Comprehensive Plan that outlines goals by 2040, will use a 2040 horizon versus a 2050 end point.

The 2050 Commitment is automatically generated within the dashboard platform, once the signatory input details and metrics to measure the specific strategy defined in Step1. The details are entered in a form within the online dashboard, once the signatory logs all the required information. Upon submission, each action is subsequently plotted with expected performance of achievement (from 0% to 100%).



Reporting dashboard (expected progress = bars | reported progress = yellow line)

³ www.sdg-tracker.org is one of many websites with comprehensive information regarding UN SDG targets for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

⁴ Planning2050's framework is flexible in terms of a binding timeline. This means, that does not necessarily need to be a 2050 horizon, but could be at any point in time in the future.



STEP 3 – REPORTING DASHBOARD

Schedule reporting periods

All reporting activities will be entirely online through the Planning2050 dashboard. Once the signatory (user) logs in and manages their strategies, The section “Our Tool” has an option for reporting progress. The bar chart will appear upon selection of a specific strategy, with an available box for entering the appropriate progress. All bar charts will be accessible to the Planning2050 Network, but only editable by the user with signatory permissions.

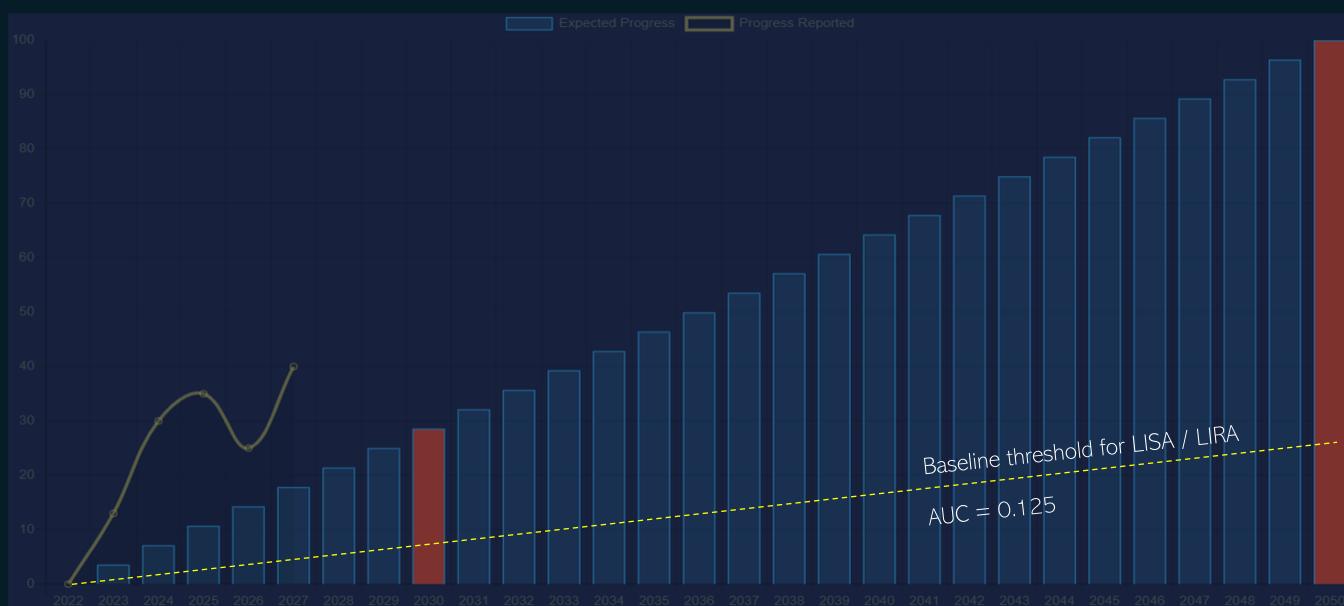
Reporting periods may vary upon specific needs for each community. The dashboard for each strategy is built expecting an annual report, but if there is a specific need to increase the number of reporting periods per year, a request can be processed for a specific case.

Commitment year

The year the commitment is generated (Step2), is the “Commitment year” (Cyear). This will automatically be the starting point (0%). The year 2050 (for most cases expected) is the year by which the specific strategy and action must reach the 100% accomplishment (expected).

Baseline threshold

Each reporting dashboard will generate a reported progress line (yellow curved line image below), which could be located above or below the expected progress (blue bars). A baseline threshold⁵ line is defined as “AUC” = 0.125 as a minimum threshold for the strategy / action to be considered a LISA / LIRA.



⁵ Baseline threshold is AUC (Area Under the Curve) = 0.125 or 12.5% assuming the rectangle (complete chart area) has a total value of 1. The value of the AUC below the reported progress line depends on the reported inputs.



2050 COMMITMENT EXAMPLES

The following are examples of two communities that have exercised exemplary leadership and have supported this initiative since the beginning. These two examples are different and reflect the diversity and flexibility that Planning2050 offers. The differences are due to the scale and governmental authority limitations of the institutions, but also offer a showcase of a diverse set of baseline metrics on which their commitments are generated.

City of Las Vegas – Cyear: 2022

The city of Las Vegas sent a letter supporting Planning2050 in November of 2022. In the letter, the City's Chief Sustainability Officer expresses support for the 2050 Commitment and the incremental targets by the year 2050. The city recognizes and understands the need to exercise leadership through the voluntary and aspirational effort that will truly transform our built environment and our communities. Moreover, the City also supports the Planning2050 framework as a critical tool that allows uniform and proactive action from entities like the City of Las Vegas.

With this commitment the city wants to ensure resilient and equitable places for future generations, which is reflected within the City's 2050 Master Plan adopted by City Council in July 2021. The City of Las Vegas, through its plan and its implementation, commits to the following strategies / actions intended to succeed with the following performance metrics:

Strategy 1 | Develop sustainable, resilient, and inclusive transit infrastructure.

- By 2030, develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure with a focus on affordable and equitable access for 100% of the population within ½ mile of a bus service.
- By 2050, provide access to reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure for 100% of the population.

Strategy 2 | Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces.

- By 2030, provide equitable access to all public buildings, facilities, and services.
- By 2050, ensure 75% of residents live within two miles of a recreation community center, library, or cultural center.

The City of Las Vegas looks forward to reporting and monitoring these metrics. It is important to mention that this city went through a LEED for Cities & Communities certification, which is a system that aligns with the City's 2050 Comprehensive Plan and was instrumental in generating the commitments' actions and strategies.

For this city, the first reporting period is expected to end in November 2023.



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) – Cyear: 2023

In March of 2023, MORPC sent a letter submitting their 2050 commitment, reflecting their support of the initiative and its exemplary leadership in becoming the second signatory.

MORPC is a regional council in Central Ohio that brings together over eighty member communities to collaborate on shared goals, with a focus on sustainability and equity. Their *Regional Sustainability Agenda* guides programming and tracks progress through an online dashboard, while *Sustainable2050* provides recognition and assistance to members. MORPC aligns transportation goals with sustainability principles and supports Planning2050's initiative to create a national database of metrics and actions.

In their 2050 Commitment letter MORPC identified sixteen metrics to track and monitor by 2050. The following 4 Strategies and Actions are displayed in this document as an example.

Strategy A | Create Sustainable Neighborhoods

Objective 2.1 Increase the number of MORPC member communities with complete streets policies (or policies that contain those elements) to 100% by 2050.

RSA Goal 3.1 (Improve transportation safety for all residents)

SDG Target 3.6 Reduce road injuries and deaths.

Objective 2.2 Increase bicycle infrastructure to 1,050 miles of bikeways by 2050

RSA Goal 3.2 (Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users)

SDG Target 11.2 Affordable and sustainable transport systems

Strategy D | Protect Natural Resources

Objective 4.1 Obtain Ozone Attainment by 2050

RSA Goal 1.6 (Increase the number of days with good air quality)

SDG Target 11.6 Reduce the environmental impacts of cities.

Objective 4.2 Maintain PM2.5 Attainment through 2050

RSA Goal 1.6 (Increase the number of days with good air quality)

SDG Target 11.6 Reduce the environmental impacts of cities.

This Regional Planning Commission exercised leadership when planning for social equity, resilience, and climate change. With this commitment, their expectation is to generate additional focus on their members to leverage the power of measuring positive actions, and their ability to succeed. The unexpected generation of a healthy competitive environment will collectively incentivize positive change in these communities.

For this signatory, the first reporting period will end in March 2024.



SUPPORTIVE SYSTEMS & FRAMEWORKS

LEED for Cities and Communities – by USGBC

Communities planning for net-zero by 2050 with social equity will need innovative solutions for achieving the triple-bottom-line. LEED for Cities and Communities rating system provides a credible and validated framework used by more than 360 global projects in revolutionizing the way communities are comprehensively planned, developed, and operated to improve social, economic, and environmental performance with clear, data-driven means of benchmarking, and communicating progress. They are catalyzing energy, emissions, water, waste, transportation, social equity, and quality of life innovation and continuous improvement by utilizing LEED strategies with ambitious, impactful, and actionable roadmaps, policies, projects, and management practices.

Local governments and global private sector experts use LEED for Cities and Communities framework as a blueprint to make and align their master plans, comprehensive plans, and other plans on sustainability, climate action, net-zero, renewable energy, resilience, circular economy, affordability, public health, and social equity that take a triple bottom line approach to sustainability. The city of Las Vegas' 2050 Master Plan and Washington D.C.'s Sustainability 2.0 exemplify how a city can plan for their future by using LEED for Cities and Communities metrics. Similarly, the Beijing-Daxing International Airport Economic Zone, the King Salman Energy Park in Saudi Arabia and Arboleda del Campestre in Colombia are community-scale examples.

Local leaders—designers, developers, and planners can use LEED for Cities and Communities to track progress towards meeting UN Sustainable Development goals. The following diagram highlights various LEED requirements supporting each SDG Goal, and a guide has been developed to facilitate this process. To access this interactive dashboard, click [this link](#).

Globally competitive real-estate developers, corporates and local governments have aggressive Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) targets, on which they continuously measure and diligently improve. LEED for Cities and Communities offers them a credible framework to inventory environmental and social performance and use LEED for governance and strategies to systematically improve, which is validated by third-party reviewers. LEED for Cities and Communities also intentionally aligns ESG priorities.

Additionally, the LEED framework is closely aligned with requirements of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures, and green bond principles of the International Capital Markets Association's Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting, which aims to ease access to climate finance.

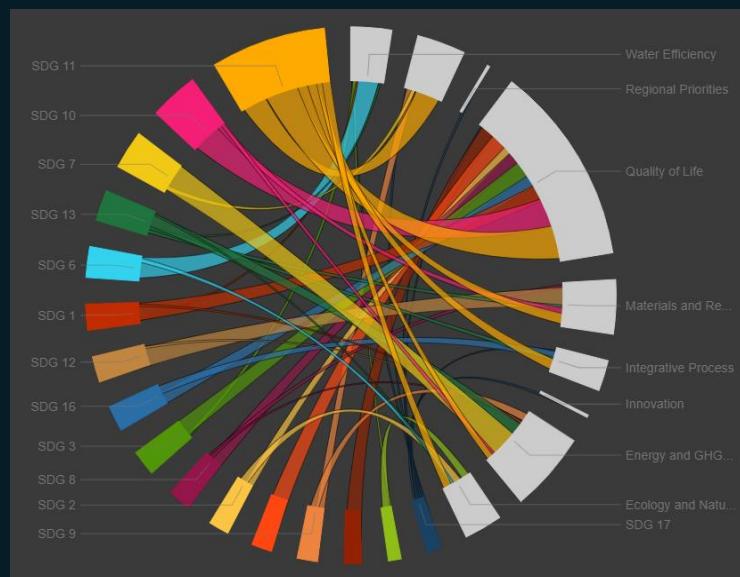


Diagram linking LEED for Cities and UN SDGs. Adapted from "Explore how LEED for Cities and Communities aligns with U.N. Sustainable Development Goals – <https://www.usgbc.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/LEED-and-SDG-Alignment-Paper.pdf>



About the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI)

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) was established in 2010 by the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Public Works Association, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. ISI then collaborated with the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Harvard Graduate School of Design to develop the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System. ISI trains planning and engineering professionals to become Envision Sustainability Professionals (ENV SP) and to use the Envision framework to plan and design more sustainable public infrastructure projects. To date, there are over 7,000 active credentialed ENV SPs, and ISI has conducted over 140 Envision project verifications with a construction cost of over \$130 billion.

Envision - Alignment with sustainable planning.

Planning activities sometimes seek to achieve one benefit or outcome, rather than multiple benefits. With some forethought, planning activities can seek to achieve multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits. Enhanced outcomes in these three areas are often called "triple bottom line" outcomes. The Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Framework (Envision) helps planners enhance triple bottom line outcomes.

Envision, published by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), sets the standard for what constitutes sustainable infrastructure; it incentivizes higher performance goals beyond minimum requirements; it gives recognition for significant contributions to sustainability; and it provides a common language for collaboration and clear communication both internally and externally.

Envision includes 59 core credits in five categories including: Quality of Life, Leadership, Resource Allocation, Natural World, and Climate and Resilience. The 59 credits provide guidance on how to enhance human wellbeing, improve mobility, foster community development, increase collaboration, implement planning objectives, improve project area economic performance, reduce materials use, reduce energy use, reduce water use, improve siting decisions, conserve habitat, enhance ecosystems services, reduce emissions, and improve resilience.

Many of outcomes described in the Envision framework align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) published by the United Nations. The alignment of the Envision framework and UN SDGs are showcased in this diagram. Click [this link](#) (navigate to tab#2) to access the full interactive dashboard.

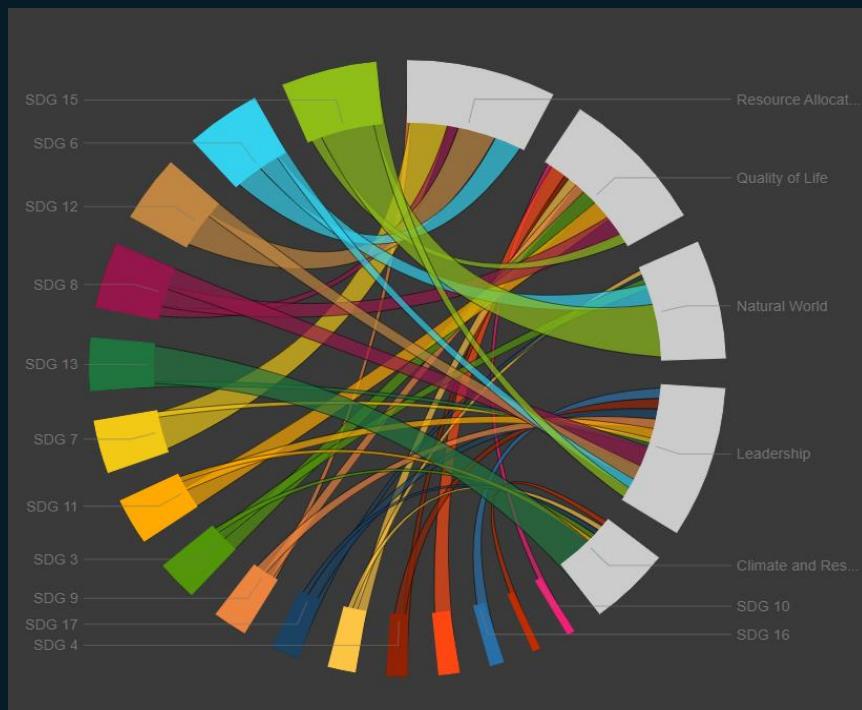
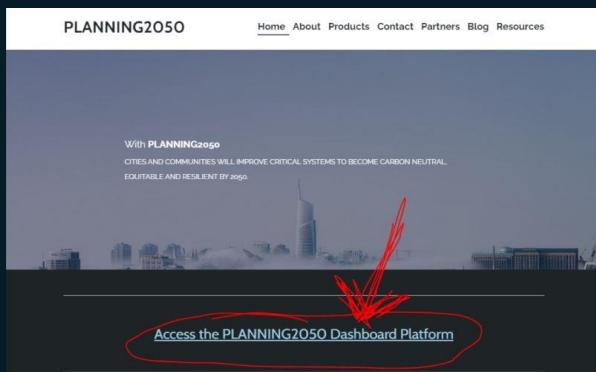


Diagram linking ENVISION and UN SDGs. Adapted from C. Contreras "Creating a Common Language: How Does the Sustainable Infrastructure Criteria Compare to the SDGs?" Presented at International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure, American Society of Civil Engineers. 2019.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I become part of Planning2050, or how do I become a signatory? What is the cost?



There is no cost to become part of Planning2050. Anyone with an email address can become part of Planning2050. The first step is to create an account on the 2050 dashboard platform. The account creation starts with a selection to be a "signatory" or a "non-signatory." Each official signatory will go through a few extra steps when creating a dashboard account.

Users within private-sector consulting businesses will be considered non signatories and will be included in the list of firms with "technical expertise" within the Planning2050 Network. Fees are expected to be \$0 until December 31, 2024.

Dashboard platform: <https://planningcommitment.org>

What are Cities and Communities (C&Cs) committing to?

The 2050 Commitments are voluntary and defined by cities and communities, based on their top priorities and selection of urgent needs. These C&Cs commit to continuously track and report their progress towards their defined goals.

Do I need to generate a commitment letter to become a "signatory" of the 2050 commitment?

A letter is not required to be a signatory. The creation of your account in the online dashboard platform will make you a user. You will need to select the option "Signatory" to be considered one. If you will be reporting the progress and entering the information of each strategy in your commitment, then you will be a "signatory." If you select "non-signatory," you can always change to "signatory" later.

What will "non-signatories" do in the online platform?

Non-Signatories will be able to see the signatories' commitments and strategies, as well as their reported progress. But this type of user will not be able to report on progress unless they switch to a "signatory" user profile. If the non-signatory wants to report on an existing strategy generated by other signatory, a connection will be established to coordinate accountability of the action and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Will there be a "menu" list of Actions that Cities and Communities (C&Cs) can use to define commitments?

There are various supportive systems that help guide C&Cs with defining their metrics. Those systems like LEED for Cities and ENVISION have a list of credits and specific performance measures that will also align with UN SDGs. Furthermore, the Planning2050 initiative aims to create a network of professionals who can assist your city or Community with the definition of these metrics.

What could be a duplication of effort?

For example, a member of an MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) at a county level could report on a strategy/goal generated by the MPO, at the same time a city inside the same county boundary want to report at its level on the same strategy/goal generated by the MPO. The different scales and overlap of boundaries might duplicate efforts. This will be coordinated to account only for a portion of the overall metric accordingly. A "connection" will be established between signatories that are trying to report on the same strategy.



Why 2030 and 2050?

Intentionally aligning with UN SDGs is a goal of Planning2050. Most SDGs are targeting the year 2030, hence the intentional checkpoint of 2030 within the Planning2050 framework. Additional “checkpoints” of other years are completely up to each user or signatory. See Step2 for further information.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Planning2050

The initiative. Supported by an advisory board formed with leadership from various professional organizations such as APA SCD, CNU, AIA, and ISI. In short form is also found as “PLG2050”, or “Planning2050”.

2050 Commitments

What cities and communities aspire to report and monitor from today to 2050, or in some cases to any date different than 2050.

Planning2050 Network

Signatories and Non-Signatories. Anyone with an account created within the Planning2050 Dashboard

Planning2050 Framework

Methods and steps to measure actionable commitments from cities and communities.

LISAs & LIRAs

Large Impact SCALABLE Actions, and Large Impact REPLICABLE Actions. Measured continuously to ensure a minimum performance threshold is accomplished within the Planning2050 framework.

Actions, Goals, Strategies

Within the Planning2050 framework these three differ slightly:

- **Goals:** These are targets, including objectives within plans and policies. Typically describing performance metrics to measure achievement, and a time-bound deadline for achievement.
- **Strategies:** These are typically defined as the way to achieve goals and objectives. Within the Dashboard Platform, each of these are created separately with the intention to track and report progress.
- **Actions:** These are immediate steps that allow strategies to move forward. Within the Dashboard Platform, its details are reported within each specific strategy.

Actionable Commitments

Actions adapted and reassessed accordingly to maximize effectiveness, and to ensure relevant impact. These are typically ongoing, and no single occurrences.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Signatories highlighted in this handbook:

City of Las Vegas

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Supportive Leadership & Planning2050 Advisory Board:

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