

GREAT LAKES CLIMATE ADAPTATION NETWORK (GLCAN)

WORK PLAN 2021-2023

The Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network (GLCAN) was founded in 2015 with the help of the University of Michigan Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA), the Climate Center at the University of Michigan (UM), and the founding members of the network - the City of Ann Arbor and the City of Cleveland. GLCAN continues to be a member of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) Partner Networks, meets for bi-monthly conference calls, has met with core members annually, and has worked collaboratively to align member interests and produce new products to promote adaptation in the region.

GLISA continues to provide administrative support to the network, including but not limited to conference call capabilities, note taking & distribution, and applying for collaborative project funding, including funding for GLCAN members to attend face-to-face meetings.

Mission Statement:

GLCAN is a USDN Partner Network of local government staff and partners that will work together through peer learning to identify and act on the unique climate adaptation challenges of the Great Lakes region. GLCAN aims to:

- Share strategies for using an equity lens in local government climate adaptation planning and implementation;
- Improve the accessibility and integration of climate information into decision-making processes;
- Strengthen relationships among municipalities and key institutional, non-profit, and business community partners in developing climate-resilient programs and strategies;
- Increase the capacity of adaptation professionals working in the Great Lakes region; and,
- Collaborate on initiatives that enhance the resilience of the Great Lakes region to climate-related impacts.

Why We Exist: The purpose of this network is to build capacity for community resiliency efforts by focusing on sharing information on and finding solutions to the unique challenges faced by the Great Lakes region.

What We Do: Building upon a core network of member cities and counties, GLCAN explores partnerships with other organizations that are working on Great Lakes climate challenges. GLCAN also seeks to promote connections among cities, counties, nonprofits, foundations, and universities.

Who We Are: Formed in 2015 as a partner network of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), GLCAN is a member-driven peer network that integrates leading cities and counties across the Great Lakes region to address issues of community sustainability.

How We Work Together: GLCAN seeks to establish network connections and identify network priorities through bi-monthly conference calls and yearly face-to-face meetings. GLCAN members share resources and updates through a variety of online methods.

GOVERNANCE MODEL

GLCAN is a member-driven peer network. Network membership is limited to local government staff and partners. Each year the network will identify two co-chairs to assist in agenda setting and event coordination. As the network grows, the network may create a Steering Committee to assist with governance.

All members are encouraged to maintain active participation in the network. This includes participating in regular network calls, attending the annual virtual or face-to-face meeting, and sharing information with members. Members not actively engaged may be asked to leave the network.

USDN HIGH IMPACT PRACTICES

USDN members developed this list of High Impact Practices (HIPs), which are the priorities in which USDN programming is helping members take impactful actions to advance equity, GHG reduction, and resilience. These are practices where USDN members are leading and counting on USDN to support their learning, collaboration, and action.

Foundational Practices

- Take a People-Centered, Equity-Focused Approach
- Build Relationships and Collaborate with Community Partners
- Institutionalize Sustainability Goals and Resources
- Influence Key Leverage Points Beyond Local Authority
- Take an Interdisciplinary Approach and Work Across Borders of Geographies, Institutions, Levels of Government, and Fields
- Build Personal and Professional Competencies and Capacity

Pathways

- Manage Climate and Environmental Risk and Reduce Exposure Disparities
- Accelerate the Transition to Clean, Accessible, Resilient, and Equitable Mobility Systems
- Catalyze the Construction and Retrofit of Healthy, Resilient, Zero-Carbon Buildings
- Accelerate an Equitable Transition to Clean and Resilient Energy Sources
- Invest in Ecosystem Regeneration and Access

GLCAN GOALS, TARGETS, AND ACTIONS

The following goals were adapted from the previous GLCAN workplan and re-prioritized by GLCAN members at the 2021 annual meeting.

<p>Goal 1: Produce inventory of Great Lakes climate adaptation and sustainability work <i>GLCAN creates a baseline inventory of climate adaptation and sustainability progress, common metrics, and innovation and scaling opportunities across the network, with a particular emphasis on innovation in the equity space.</i></p>
<p>Target: Draft inventory of GLCAN member municipality sustainability progress by Q3 2021</p>
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Survey GLCAN members to develop qualitative and quantitative inventory of Great Lakes adaptation and sustainability work across network with clear focus on equity and public health <input type="checkbox"/> Use the GLISA website to share climate adaptation success stories <input type="checkbox"/> “Map” partners with common achievements and common opportunities
<p>Goal 2: Identify and pursue collaborative grant opportunities <i>GLCAN seeks funding to provide network operating support and to fund member driven collaborative projects.</i></p>
<p>Target: Raise \$100,000 by 2022 for network support and member projects</p>
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop list of potential funders and GLCAN member contacts <input type="checkbox"/> Identify GLCAN member priority areas for funding <input type="checkbox"/> Work with regional funders to share GLCAN member priorities <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute GLCAN one-pager to different levels of potential partners
<p>Goal 3: Increase access to climate and socioeconomic information <i>GLCAN members have access to the best available climate information to support decision making.</i></p>
<p>Target: TBD</p>
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Connect members (annually) to existing GLISA climate information (e.g., climatologies) through GLISA site <input type="checkbox"/> Support use of existing tools from USDN and others (e.g., Game of Floods, Vulnerability Assessment Template, Neighborhoods at Risk, Equity Toolkit and Trainings) <input type="checkbox"/> Explore strategies to expand climate adaptation knowledge and expertise to other municipality staff beyond core sustainability staff

Goal 4: Support GLCAN members in integrating racial equity into all projects

GLCAN members are equipped to communicate about race and disparate impacts in climate conversations and to center equity in planning and implementation.

Target(s): TBD

Actions:

- ☐ Ensure that GLCAN members are partnering with tribal communities and local organizations to transfer power of planning, implementation and resources, and incorporate the wisdom of local leaders in racially diverse and higher vulnerability communities.
- ☐ Use Equity Foundations trainings provided by USDN
- ☐ Connect with USDN equity consultants to support GLCAN member priorities
- ☐ Be intentional so that race and disparate impacts are central in GLCAN climate planning and conversations
- ☐ Support GLCAN members in developing adaptation projects with intentional focus on first serving people and communities who are both highly exposed to climate risks because of the places they live and have fewer resources, capacity, safety nets, or political power.

Goal 5: Increase network participation, learning, and collaboration

GLCAN strengthens network communications that enable peer-learning and resource sharing.

Target(s): TBD

Actions:

- ☐ Hold bi-monthly conference calls
- ☐ Develop and implement leadership transition plan for the network
 - ☐ Maintain two municipal sustainability leaders to lead the network
 - ☐ Identify funding to support a network coordinator
- ☐ Expand network to include new local and Tribal governments
- ☐ Increase participation in bi-monthly calls
- ☐ Obtain grant funding to support network activities and collaborative projects
- ☐ Hold annual meeting
- ☐ Organize virtual or face-to-face peer exchanges based on member priorities
- ☐ Host guest presentations and municipal member panels on topics of interest and expertise
- ☐ Host smaller “design charrettes” for members to workshop project ideas
- ☐ Make information and resources accessible to members through email listserv and GLISA City Resources website

IMPACT

- GLCAN was established in 2015
- **First face-to-face GLCAN meeting - October 2015**
 - 11 communities attended and focused on honing the scope for the network.
 - Interest from partner organizations including Great Lakes Commission, University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute, National Wildlife Federation
 - Partnered with UM Climate Center to host and fund event
- **Climate Fact Sheets** - Produced climate fact sheets for a number of member communities
- **Urban Sustainability Directors Network Regional Network Pilot** - Participated in the pilot program participant.; currently a USDN Partner Network.
- **2016 Annual Meeting - October 2016 at the Great Lakes Adaptation Forum (GLAF)**
- **2017 Annual Meeting - May 2017 at the National Adaptation Forum (NAF)**
- **Vulnerability Assessment Pilot - Five Cities** - Secured funding through the 2017 USDN Innovation Fund to support five GLCAN member cities' work with the Huron River Watershed Council to develop a vulnerability assessment template common to Great Lake cities. Participants included Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Cleveland, Evanston, and Indianapolis. Partners included Headwaters Economics and GLISA. Template was used in 2018 planning efforts by Cleveland, Evanston, and Indianapolis.
- **Scaling Up Vulnerability Assessment Project - 12 Cities** - GLISA secured NOAA funding to provide vulnerability assessment templates and training to 12 GLCAN cities based on the pilot USDN project.
 - Panel presentation about the project at 2018 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum (GLAF).
 - Overall, 17 vulnerability assessments were developed for cities with customized climate and socioeconomic information and a focus on stormwater adaptation.
 - GLISA is in the process of scaling up to serve more local governments around the nation.
- **Neighborhoods at Risk** - Headwaters Economics linked its national set of curated socioeconomic data with a growing set of climate vulnerability data to create a mapping tool for neighborhoods at risk as part of a 2018 USDN Innovation Fund grant. Neighborhoods at Risk is now available for all areas of the country.
- **2018 Annual Meeting - September 24, 2018 at the Great Lakes Adaptation Forum (GLAF) in Ann Arbor, MI.**
- **2019 Annual Meeting - April 23, 2019 at the National Adaptation Forum (NAF) in Madison, WI.**
- **COVID-19 Response** - At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, GLCAN decided to meet every two weeks in the spring to work together to respond to the common challenges they are facing during the pandemic, including resilient recovery plans, ideas for shovel-ready projects, and a brief on the value of sustainability and adaptation planning as it relates to pandemic recovery.
- **2021 GLCAN Annual Meeting - February 2, 2021 (virtual).** 19 members attended the 2021 annual meeting via Zoom, where the network prioritized strategies for the 2021-2023 workplan, discussed opportunities for pursuing funding and collaboration, and provided input on ways to increase network engagement.

2020 PROGRESS

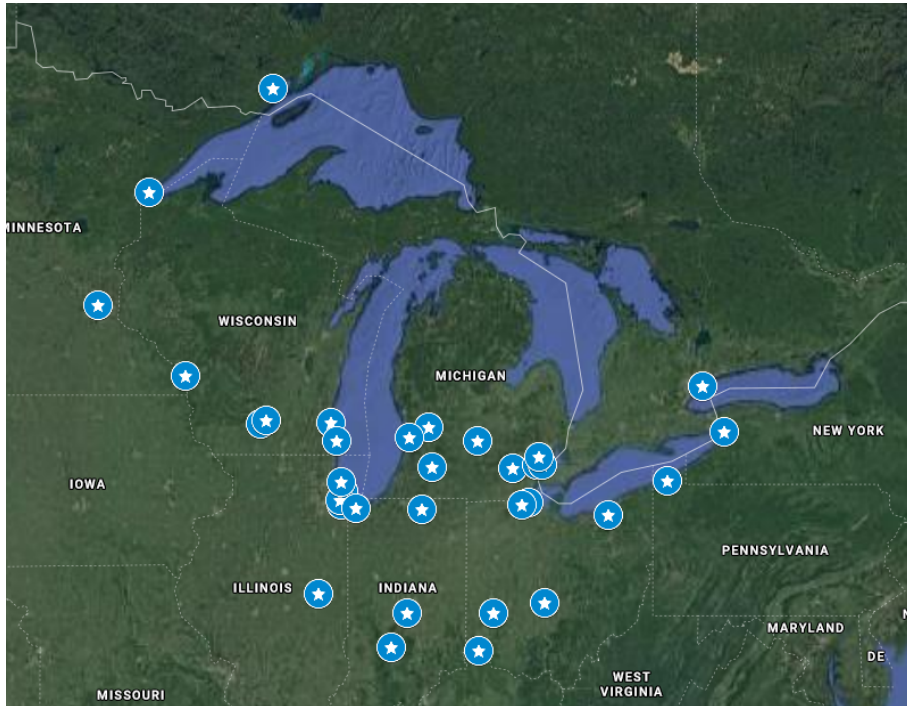
- Updated GLCAN [2-page flyer](#)
- Started list of potential funders

- Ann Arbor hosted a GLCAN city electrification convening with the support of a \$5,000 USDN grant.
- Invited a tribal liaison to join the GLCAN calls and gauge interest for other tribal networks and individuals
- 17 communities utilizing vulnerability assessment template
- Held more frequent meetings to support cities in the midst of COVID-19

APPENDIX

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Participating Local Governments and Partner Organizations:



USDN members listed in bold

- **Ann Arbor, MI**
- **Bloomington, IN**
- **Buffalo, NY**
- **Chicago, IL**
- **Cincinnati, OH**
- **Cleveland, OH**
- **Columbus, OH**
- **Cook County, IL**
- Cuyahoga County, OH
- Dayton, OH
- **Dearborn, MI**
- **Detroit, MI**
- **Duluth, MN**
- **Evanston, IL**

- **Ferndale, MI**
- Gary, IN
- Goshen, IN
- **Grand Rapids, MI**
- **Holland, MI**
- **Indianapolis, IN**
- Kalamazoo, MI
- La Crosse, WI
- **Lansing, MI**
- **Lucas County, OH**
- **Madison, WI**
- **Milwaukee, WI**
- **Minneapolis, MN**
- **Racine, WI**
- Shaker Heights, OH
- Thunder Bay, ON
- Toledo, OH
- **Toronto, ON**
- Urbana, IL

Other organizations with GLCAN members:

- American Society of Adaptation Professionals
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Freshwater Future
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- Ohio State University
- University of Buffalo
- University of Michigan - Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA)