

## EE – 7 Expanding Local Food Access















**Description:** Increasing food access, production, and security in Northfield and surrounding communities to provide all residents — no matter their economic background — and businesses with a wide variety of healthy, affordable, and sustainable food choices will help improve local resilience while supporting local farms, community gardens, grocers, and restaurants.

### Recommended Actions

	General	GHG Impact
EE 7.1	Utilize the food map created by St. Olaf students to help inform residents about where they can get local food; post on the One-Stop-Shop site	CO <sub>2</sub>
EE 7.2	Provide educational materials to residents about growing food in their yards, including food-bearing trees, vegetable gardens, and fruit	CO <sub>2</sub>
EE 7.3	Partner with schools to create afterschool programming and curriculum that includes growing your own food	CO <sub>2</sub>





Photo Credit: Growing Up Healthy

<b>PP 5.2</b>	Establish a zero-waste policy to be achieved by 2030 and eliminate 100% of organic materials from the waste stream by 2025 through a robust composting program <i>GSC best practice 22</i>	 
<b>PP 5.3</b>	Develop a zero-waste packaging ordinance and support local businesses to transition <i>GSC best practice 22</i>	  
<b>PP 5.4</b>	Coordinate with local waste and recycling haulers to offer curbside compost pick-up for residents and businesses that will be delivered to a local waste processing facility (EE 2.3 and IN 3.11)	  
<b>PP 5.5</b>	Make composting and recycling available in public spaces with appropriate signage <i>GSC best practice 22</i>	  
<b>PP 5.6</b>	Encourage businesses to collaborate on sustainable and resilient products, e.g., facilitate a bulk buy of compostable products (cups, straws) and ensure proper recovery is available <i>GSC best practice 22</i>	  









### PP – 6 Increasing local food production

**Description:** Expand opportunities for more local food production in and around the community. This can be led by a volunteer entity in partnership with City staff.

Recommended Actions		
	General	GHG Impact
<b>PP 6.1</b>	Create an urban forage program that encourages people to share excess food grown in their yards with people willing to collect that food	
<b>PP 6.2</b>	Partner with local schools and farmers to create a farm-to-school program where students can learn more about where food comes from	

### PP – 7 CAP Policy Integration

**Description:** Ensure full implementation of existing City plans that relate to climate to institutionalize the plan across all City operations and actions.

Recommended Actions		
	General	GHG Impact
<b>PP 7.1</b>	Integrate the Climate Action Plan into policy and plan updates including, but not limited to, the comprehensive plan, Land Development Code, complete streets policies, and others	 
<b>PP 7.2</b>	Integrate the Climate Action Plan into budgetary decisions including, but not limited to, the City operating budget, capital improvement plan, and the purchasing policy	 
<b>PP 7.3</b>	Update and adopt the Urban Forestry Asset Management Plan to include climate mitigation best practices for carbon sequestration in vegetation and soil. Include incentives for tree planting and soil enhancements throughout the community	 
<b>PP 7.4</b>	Engage decision-makers, including local members of boards and commissions, county officials, as well as state and national representatives, around elements of the climate action plan.	 

# Climate Resilience Strategies

Building community resilience to changes in climate events is crucial to climate action and to ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. Strategies for increasing community resilience and addressing community vulnerabilities to climate hazards are divided into three main categories: improve population resilience, enhance built infrastructure resilience, and enhance natural infrastructure resilience. Improving community resilience presents many other opportunities, including addressing inequities within Northfield’s population that can exacerbate climate vulnerabilities.

## RS – 1 Improve Population Resilience

**Description:** Improve community resilience by enabling community members to prepare for and recover from climate-related impacts through education, ensured food security, safe housing conditions, and emergency preparedness.

### Recommended Actions

#### Preparedness and Response

- Lead and support emergency preparedness measures: [GSC best practice 29](#)
  - Aid in response to food scarcities due to extreme weather
  - Support a local, healthy food shelf [GSC best practice 27](#)
  - Develop and support plans for evacuation measures, particularly for populations vulnerable to hazards and within flood zones and those with limited mobility considerations
  - Ensure that emergency alerts are available in Spanish and can be received through a variety of channels
  - Provide education materials on the health impacts of air pollutions and extreme heat [GSC best practice 24](#)
  - Partner with community organizations to reach vulnerable populations
- Support active living through mobility options that are equitably available and accessible throughout the community, especially in underserved communities [GSC best practice 12](#)
- Establish a food coordinator position to lead local food programming to support locally produced foods and businesses [GSC best practice 27](#)

#### Education and Resources

- Develop educational materials about warming temperatures, increased precipitation events, and potential health impacts to help residents become more resilient to climate impacts

#### Equity

- Incorporate climate considerations and resilience strategies into Racial Equity Action Plan; ensure climate and equity are integrated into the comprehensive plan update [GSC best practice 6](#)
- Increase affordable housing, emergency and transitional housing in Northfield, and ensure safety of these homes [GSC best practice 7](#)
- Strengthen community connectedness across cultural groups through more inclusive community events and more intentional engagement with underrepresented groups [GSC best practice 29](#)
- Consider climate migrants (unexpected growth in population) in City planning efforts [GSC best practice 29](#)
- Ensure access to local, healthy food to all residents through partnerships to improve food security
- Ensure sidewalks are well-maintained and accessible for those who have difficulty walking or use wheelchairs

#### Housing

- Explore opportunities to require energy improvements for quality affordable housing that is safe and energy efficient

## RS – 3 Natural Infrastructure

**Description:** Protect and enhance natural infrastructure to ensure resilience to climate hazards and ability to mitigate impacts from climate hazards

### Recommended Actions

#### Education

- Host workshops to provide opportunities for interested parties to learn about actions they can take to improve resilience including: *GSC best practice 24*
  - Soil remediation best practices
  - Increasing tree canopy and caring for existing trees on private property
  - Changing landscaping practices to consider beneficial plantings and practices that provide stormwater benefits, improve soil health, and increase pollinator habitat
  - Water conservation measures to reduce consumption of potable water and treatment of wastewater
- Incorporate food education and farming programs into Northfield school districts *GSC best practice 27*

#### Urban Forest and Vegetation

- Update and adopt the Urban Forestry Asset Management Plan *GSC best practice 16*
- Incentivize expansion of boulevard gardens on private property; expand boulevard gardens and rain gardens on City-owned lands, and incorporate pollinator gardens in all parks and encourage / incentivize them on private property *GSC best practice 11*
  - Increase tree canopy through City-sponsored program to plant trees *GSC best practice 16*
  - Prioritize tree replacement and plantings in areas of low canopy coverage to reduce the impact of Emerald Ash Borer damage
  - Proactively pursue increased canopy coverage to improve long-term resilience
  - Encourage the planting of fruit-bearing trees; support programs that harvest fruit
- Pursue pervious pavement alternatives
- With the development of City parks and green spaces, ensure accessibility for all residents through connected trails, proximity to low-income neighborhoods, and signage in English and Spanish

#### Soil, Agriculture, and Food

- Create Advisory Board that represents agricultural sector in Northfield, supporting best practice models for carbon reduction farming and equal access and affordability of sustainable food *GSC best practice 16*
- Enable and encourage more community gardens throughout the City *GSC best practice 16*
- Incentivize and reward soil best management practice for urban lawns, gardens, landscaping, parks, open spaces, prairies, environmentally sensitive areas, and agricultural land uses *GSC best practice 16*
- Support creation of local compost process facilities and systems to deliver organic material *GSC best practice 22*
- Increase conversation with agricultural producers to support local food systems and ensure sustainable agricultural land use practices, learn with and from community to better improve and achieve community resilience *GSC best practice 27*