



## Birmingham Sustainability Plan

# BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TOGETHER

### What is the Birmingham Sustainability Plan?

The Birmingham Sustainability Plan is a citywide effort to create a long-term roadmap for a healthier, more resilient, and more prosperous Birmingham. This plan will help the city tackle challenges like air quality, energy costs, flooding, and extreme heat while creating new opportunities for jobs, cleaner neighborhoods, and a stronger local economy.

The plan will be built with the community, for the community. Birmingham’s sustainability efforts will focus on equity-driven solutions, ensuring that all neighborhoods—especially historically underserved communities—have a voice in shaping the city’s future.



### What is Sustainability?

Sustainability means taking care of what we have today so that future generations can thrive. It’s about making sure our communities have clean air, safe water, reliable energy, and access to good jobs—all while protecting Birmingham’s unique culture and history.

### Why Now?

Birmingham has always been a city of transformation. Known as “The Magic City,” it has a long tradition of innovation, perseverance, and strong community ties. Today, the city is embracing new challenges:



#### Hotter Summers

Extreme heat affects public health, especially in vulnerable communities.



#### Flooding & Stormwater Issues

Heavy rains are impacting neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure.



#### Rising Energy Costs

High utility bills are making it harder for families to afford cooling and heating.



#### Environmental Justice Concerns

Some communities face greater pollution, fewer green spaces, and higher energy burdens.

This plan isn’t just about the environment—it’s about improving daily life for all of Birmingham. Together, we can:

- ✓ **Save money by using energy and water more efficiently.**
- ✓ **Protect our natural resources like the Cahaba River.**
- ✓ **Create a healthier, stronger, and more connected city.**

## What You Can Expect?

This is just the beginning! The development of the plan will involve multiple opportunities for public input to ensure that the plan reflects community priorities and values.

Here is how to learn about our events:

- Subscribe to our email list to receive event invites and engagement opportunities.
- Follow us on social media
- The calendar of events will appear on our project website [www.bhamsustainabilityplan.com](http://www.bhamsustainabilityplan.com)

We can't wait to invite you to our series of events in the next several months!

Here are the types of events you can look forward to:

- Pop-up events
- Community workshops
- Surveys and Polls



Together, we can honor Birmingham's resilient history while building a sustainable future. Join the conversation today!

## What Will the Plan Focus On?

The Birmingham Sustainability Plan will include strategies to address key challenges and create a more sustainable future.

- **Air Quality** – Reducing pollution and improving overall health.
- **Built & Natural Environment** – Preserving green spaces, increasing tree cover, and promoting sustainable development.
- **Community Health** – Reducing the impacts of pollution and extreme heat on communities.
- **Waste & Recycling** – Expanding access to recycling and reducing waste in our communities.
- **Economic Prosperity** – Creating good jobs, supporting local businesses, and building a resilient economy.
- **Equity, Environmental, and Social Justice** – Working towards clean air, drinkable water, and healthy soil for all, and improving access to parks, greenspaces, and resource distribution.
- **Soil Contamination** – Reducing exposure to harmful toxins and ensuring safe land use.
- **City Operations** – Using resources like water and energy responsibly or exploring the electrification of the City vehicle fleet.
- **Nature-Based Solutions** – Restoring and protecting natural systems to solve ecosystem and climate-related problems.
- **Sustainable Neighborhoods & Business Practices** – Helping businesses and neighborhoods save money, water, and energy, and thrive using local-sourced items and/or eco-friendly products.
- **Energy & Resource Use (Energy Efficiency)** – Helping homes and businesses lower energy bills and use solar, wind, or hydropower to protect against power outages.
- **Transportation** – Making Birmingham safe and easy to bike, walk, or take the bus to get to day-to-day activities.
- **Water Quality & Efficiency** – Ensuring access to clean drinking water and protecting water sources.
- **Water Resources** – Managing stormwater and reducing flooding impacts.