

# EXPLORE LEXINGTON'S SUSTAINABILITY OPTIONS

*Environmental Quality and Public Works Committee*

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*May 23, 2023*



**LEXINGTON**



## Empower Lexington: A Plan for a Resilient Community

- Stakeholders developed over a 3 year period (2009-2012) – facilitated by LFUCG; supported by Council in 2012
- Focus was on energy efficiency in 5 sectors:
  - 1) *Residential*
  - 2) *Industrial, Commercial, Institutional*
  - 3) *Land Use, Food, and Agriculture*
  - 4) *Transportation*
  - 5) *Waste*
- Plan was flexible / voluntary, with goal to reduce energy use by at least 1% year



## Empower Lexington Plan Update 2023

- New Sectors: Over 50 members; aligns with LEED for Cities
- Core Team (members from previous plan efforts)
- Sectors:
  - 1) *Natural Systems and Ecology*
  - 2) *Transportation and Land Use*
  - 3) *Water Efficiency*
  - 4) *Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
  - 5) *Materials and Resources*
  - 6) *Quality of Life (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)*



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

- Reactivate our community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory
- Track community-wide & LFUCG GHG emissions
  - RFP & Consultant selection completed in May
  - Establish baseline using 2021 emissions
  - Recommend GHG reduction targets
- Set GHG emissions reduction targets
  - Programs, policies, projects, and initiatives to help us reach our targets
- Re-calculate GHG emissions every 2 years going forward



## LEED for Cities

- Lexington was selected as 1 of 13 cities to participate in the Leadership Cohort Program sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) (Colorado Springs, CO; Des Moines, IA; Grand Junction, CO; Lantana, FL; Largo, FL; Lawrence, KS; North Miami, FL; Palm Coast, FL; Plano, TX; San Diego, CA; Scottsdale, AZ; South Bend, IN)
- Program Objective: Obtain LEED\* for Cities Certification
- Program provides peer-to-peer networking opportunities, technical assistance, and access to educational resources; and covers fees for USGBC membership, registration, and certification review

\*LEED = Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

## Solarize Lexington Program

- Partnered with KY Solar Energy Society to provide a vetted process for residents
- Group buying program designed to promote and encourage the use of solar
- Open only to Lexington-Fayette County residents, small businesses, non-profits, and places of worship
- Since launch on March 13<sup>th</sup>:
  - 400 Interest Forms Submitted
  - 51 Grant-eligible (18 waitlisted / on-hold)



**SOLARIZE  
LEXINGTON**



## Solarize Lexington Program

- Council approved \$1 Million from FY22 Fund Balance to offer grants to low-to-moderate income homeowners
- 28 grant-approved contracts signed (average cost per home = \$21,948)\*
- 9 installations complete\*
- \$385,435.80 balance\*

\*as of May 11<sup>th</sup>

*“THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU.  
My system is up and running. Wow it is  
really fantastic. What a wonderful over all  
experience from beginning to end.” -  
Solarize Lexington Grant Recipient*

**LEXINGTON & LOUISVILLE MADE HUGE  
CLIMATE CHANGE ADVANCES THIS WEEK!**

**KYSES AND LEXINGTON FAYETTE URBAN  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARTNER TO LAUNCH  
SOLARIZE LEXINGTON 2023!**

# Questions?

