Ready to Go Green

A roadmap for public agencies

Sourcewell

Introduction

Welcome to "Ready to Go Green," a comprehensive roadmap designed to assist public agency leaders in guiding their organizations toward sustainability. Whether your agency is motivated by a proactive commitment to sustainability or driven by regulatory mandates, you'll find actionable steps and strategies to make eco-friendly decisions and optimize spending.

Phase 1:

Setting the foundation

Phase 2:

Implementing and managing potential sustainable projects

Phase 1:
Setting the foundation

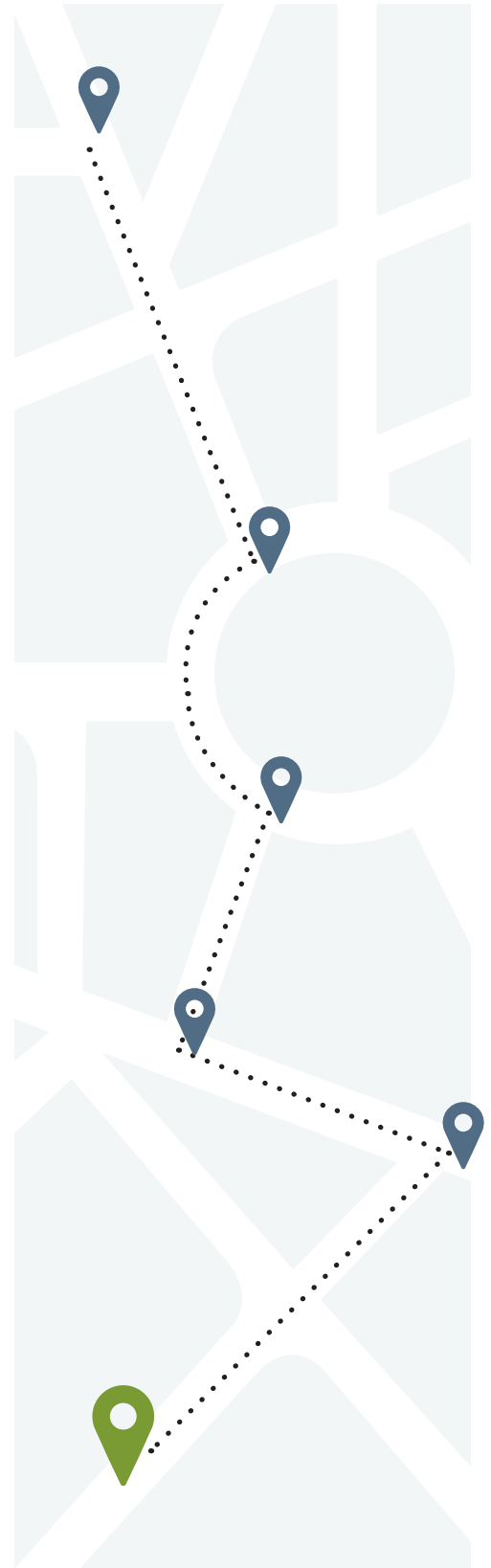## 1. Establish clear sustainability goals (examples)

- Define sustainability goals using recognized frameworks such as the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence.

- Develop a carbon budget to track and manage both operational and embodied carbon emissions.

- Create internal standards and guidelines for high-performance buildings and sustainable materials.

2. Develop targeted policies

- Engage with the community to understand their needs and gain support for new sustainability policies.

- Implement specific policies for energy efficiency, carbon reduction, and building performance disclosure.

- Use a combination of incentives (e.g., rebates, fast-track permitting) and regulations (e.g., zoning updates, performance bonuses) to drive desired behaviors.

3. Align systems and processes

- Assess existing resources and processes to ensure they support new sustainability goals.

- Identify and resolve conflicts within current policies that may hinder sustainability initiatives.

- Train staff on new sustainability goals and processes, incorporating role-playing scenarios for practical understanding.

Implementing and managing projects

1. Manage capital projects

- Conduct space needs and vulnerability assessments to ensure new construction or upgrades are energy-efficient and resilient.

- Hire experienced design and construction teams committed to sustainability.

- Develop project-specific roadmaps and use Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) documents to outline and track goals throughout the project lifecycle.

- Perform Post-Occupancy Evaluations (POE) to assess and improve performance over time.

2. Manage private development

- Utilize zoning tools and planning strategies to facilitate large-scale sustainability initiatives.

- Combine incentives and regulations to encourage private sector participation in sustainability efforts.

- Require detailed pre-project analyses and post-occupancy tracking to ensure ongoing improvement and adherence to sustainability goals.

3. Consider additional areas for sustainability initiatives

- Review and refine policies and practices to support established goals and remain adaptable to future opportunities.

Resources

Public agency leaders can access a range of valuable tools, data, and frameworks to help public agencies incorporate sustainability into their operations. From improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprints to fostering health and well-being, these resources support the development of resilient, sustainable, and community-focused environments.

CBECS Database

The Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) by the U.S. Energy Information Administration provides detailed data on energy usage patterns in commercial buildings. Public agencies can use this resource to benchmark energy consumption, identify opportunities for efficiency improvements, and track progress toward sustainability goals.

Learn more: eia.gov

AIA 2030 Commitment

This initiative by the American Institute of Architects encourages architecture firms to commit to achieving carbon-neutral designs by 2030. It offers tools like the Design Data Exchange (DDx) for tracking and reporting measurable progress. Public agencies can partner with committed firms to ensure sustainable and environmentally responsible practices in building design.

Learn more: 2030ddx.aia.org

New Buildings Institute

The New Buildings Institute provides extensive tools and guides for achieving zero-energy buildings. Public agencies can access research, case studies, and strategies to design and operate energy-efficient facilities, contributing to long-term sustainability goals.

Learn more: newbuildings.org

Rocky Mountain Institute

The Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) offers research and reports focused on achieving net-zero energy. Public agencies can utilize these insights to implement innovative energy solutions, reduce emissions, and support resilient energy systems in their operations.

Learn more: rmi.org

AIA Framework for Design Excellence

This framework outlines key principles for sustainable, high-performance building design. Public agencies can leverage these guidelines to ensure projects meet both environmental and community-focused objectives.

Learn more: aia.org

Green Leases

Developed by the Institute for Market Transformation, green leases encourage energy efficiency and sustainable practices in leased spaces. Public agencies can use these templates and resources to align lease agreements with their sustainability policies.

Learn more: imt.org

WELL Standard

The WELL Building Standard focuses on optimizing building environments to support health and well-being. Public agencies can adopt WELL principles to create healthier, more sustainable spaces for employees and the community.

Learn more: wellcertified.com

Final insights

Embarking on significant projects presents an opportunity for municipalities to lead by example. With clear goals, strong relationships, and the right support, successful outcomes are within reach. Sourcewell stands ready to support you.

How Sourcewell can help

Sourcewell provides access to a wide range of competitively awarded contracts and comprehensive solutions tailored to support municipal projects. While Sourcewell offers valuable resources and expertise to help identify project needs and procurement options, the execution and planning of projects remain under the agency's direction. Utilize Sourcewell's offerings to navigate complex procurement processes and achieve your sustainability goals.

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