



Climate Action Plan Advisory Board

Orientation

Draft presentation: Kim Smith and Katie Schroeer, Feb 2018



What's our job?

In short:

- To develop and write a Climate Action Plan and recommend it to the City Council.
- To oversee working groups and work with city staff, boards, commissions, and consultants.



Charge to the Board:

1. Work with city staff to determine the **scope** of the Climate Action Plan (that is, to determine the precise issue areas to be addressed, such as energy, waste, water, transportation, education, etc. in adherence with the Climate Change Impacts section of the City of Northfield Strategic Plan Summary 2018-2020).
2. Develop an **outreach and education strategy** to engage the public in the planning process.
3. Solicit volunteers, appoint and direct **working groups** to help gather data and contribute to the drafting of each section of the proposed Climate Action Plan.
4. Work with **staff** to partner with **consultants**, the **Environmental Quality Commission** and other relevant boards and commissions and civic groups in the development of the Climate Action Plan.
5. **Update the Environmental Quality Commission quarterly** about its activity and progress.
6. **Update the City Council in partnership with staff as deemed appropriate** within the overall reporting of the Northfield Strategic Plan (2018-2020).
7. **Finalize drafts** of each section of the proposed Climate Action Plan.
8. **Write/Review an executive summary** for the proposed Climate Action Plan.
9. **Present** a Climate Action Plan to City Council.
10. The Northfield Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee shall terminate effective upon majority approval of the City Council or on **December 31, 2019**, whichever shall occur first.



What's been done so far?

2007: NETF
recommends
climate action
planning

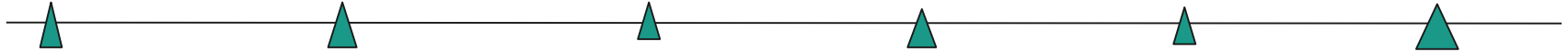
Jan 2016: NEWG report
on community-wide
climate action plans

Jan 2017: NEWG
Report on building
system dashboards

May 2017: NEWG
carbon emissions
inventory

Oct 2017: City
Council adopts
strategic plan

March 2018:
CAPAB
created





Five Milestones

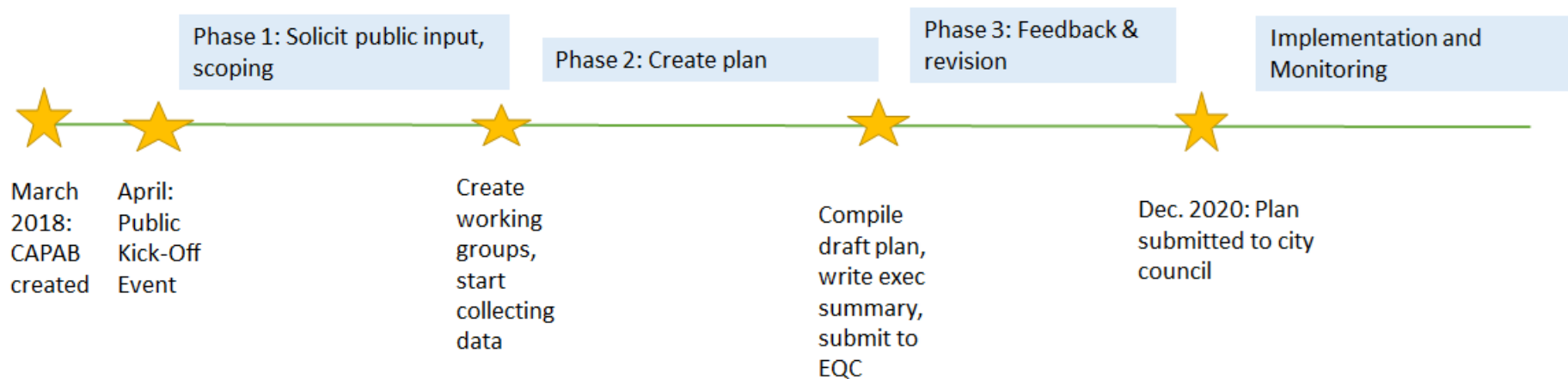
- Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast
- Adopt an emissions reduction target
- Develop a local climate action plan
- Implement policies and measures (city staff can take it from here)
- Monitor and verify results



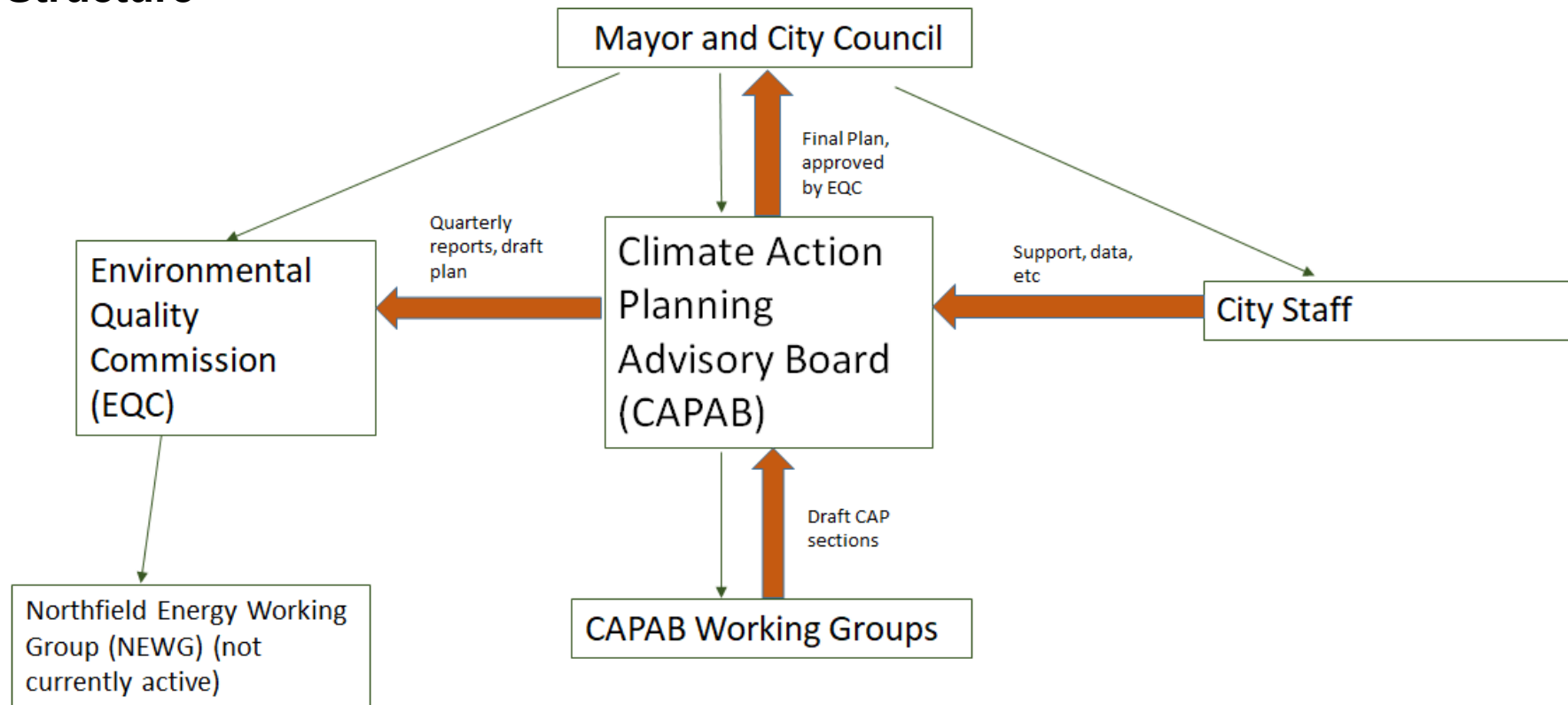
Developing a Plan: Process

- Monthly meetings
 - Develop plan for receiving input from public, staff, boards & commissions
 - Determine scope of plan
 - Appoint working groups
 - Receive drafts from working groups, review, compile
 - Write executive summary
- Quarterly updates to EQC
- Additional updates to City Council

Possible Timeline



Organizational Structure





What is a Climate Action Plan?

- A comprehensive plan for measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other practices that negatively impact the climate.
- Generally includes: inventory of existing emissions, reduction targets, reduction actions/policy recommendations, and implementation strategy.



Basic Structure: Mitigation and Adaptation

Mitigation: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **government operations** and **local community** to [target] by [date]

Adaptation: Identify chief **risks** from climate change and develop policies to reduce those risks



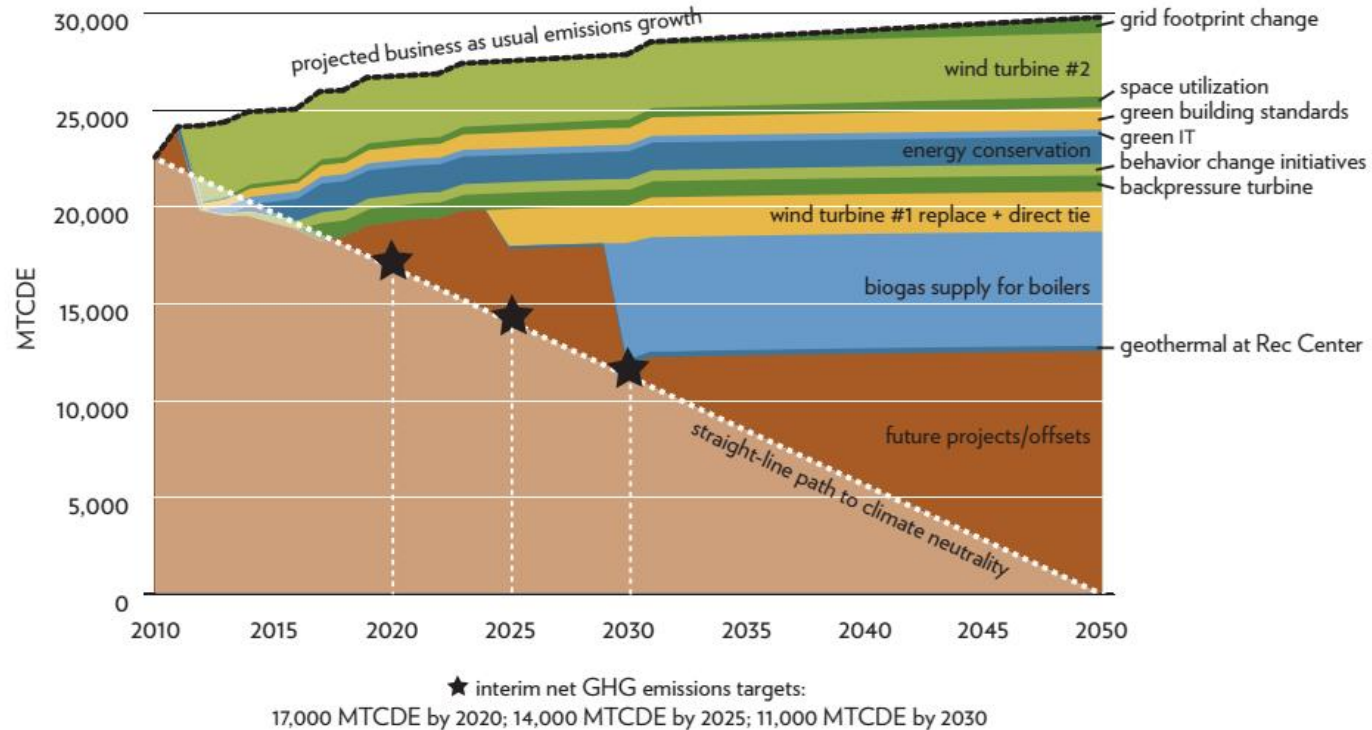
Mitigation

Steps:

- Do an **Inventory**: Gather data on current GHG emissions by government operations **and** by local community (could link to NEWG May 2017 report)
- Set a **Goal**: Carbon-free by 2033?
- **Forecast** how much both sets of emissions will increase by target date if nothing is done to decrease them (Business As Usual forecast)
- Set **interim** emission reduction goals
- Identify **strategies** (policies) to achieve each goal

Example: Carleton College's plan:

FIGURE VI.3: CARBON REDUCTION WEDGE DIAGRAM





Adaptation

- Review **research** on how climate change will affect Northfield area (could link to [GNSC CAP subpage](#))
- Identify major **risks** to Northfield's quality of life (e.g. increased flooding, loss of trees, etc)
- Develop **policies** to reduce risks



Scope: What does a CAP cover?

Essential:

- Set goal for emission reduction from government operations
- Develop policies to reduce emissions from government operations
- Propose strategies to reduce emissions from local community

Other Possible Action Areas:

- Hazard Response
- Water
- Waste Management
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Construction, Green Buildings
- Protecting Urban Habitat
- Education



Examples

[Carleton Climate Action Plan](#)

[Rochester, MN Climate Action Plan](#)

[Ann Arbor, MI Climate Action Plan](#)

[Oberlin, OH Climate Action Plan](#)



Resources

- \$15,000 in city budget
- City staff, consultants, volunteers
- Greater Northfield Sustainability Collaborative:
 - [Website](#)
 - Help recruit volunteers & outreach



A Community Outreach Strategy

- Phase one: Get People Involved
 - Earth Day Kick-Off Event
 - Targeted outreach to stakeholders (business community, health initiative, natural land managers, schools & colleges, recreational interests, etc)
- Phase two: Keep People Updated
 - Regular updates to Northfield News (as well as boards & commissions)
 - Periodic tabling at Riverwalk
- Phase three: Get Feedback
 - Send drafts to stakeholders for comment
 - Open house/gallery walk for general public