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# Greenest Region Compact

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## OVERVIEW & UPDATE

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MAY 2, 2019



# Overview

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- Building the GRC
  - Achievements inventory
  - Sustainability plan review
- The GRC in 3 parts
  - Compact
  - Framework
    - Schaumburg example
  - Collaborative Programs to advance GRC goals
    - SolSmart

# GRC Goal

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*To align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve greater environmental sustainability.*



COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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# Building the GRC

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**Greenest  
Region  
Compact**

COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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# Building the GRC2

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1. What is already underway in the region?
2. What existing programs will be helpful?

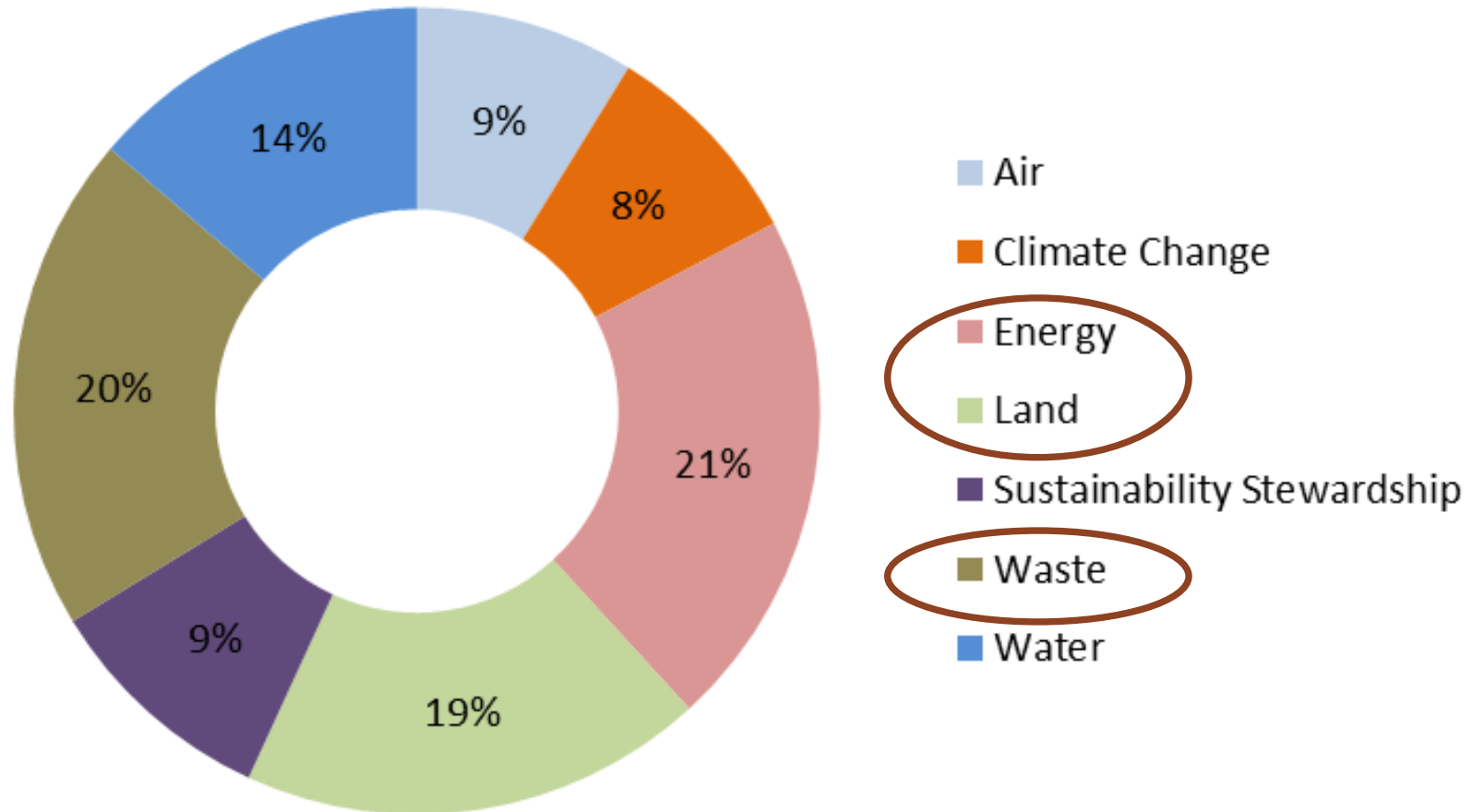
*TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS -*

➤ Inventoried environmental achievements  
for every municipality

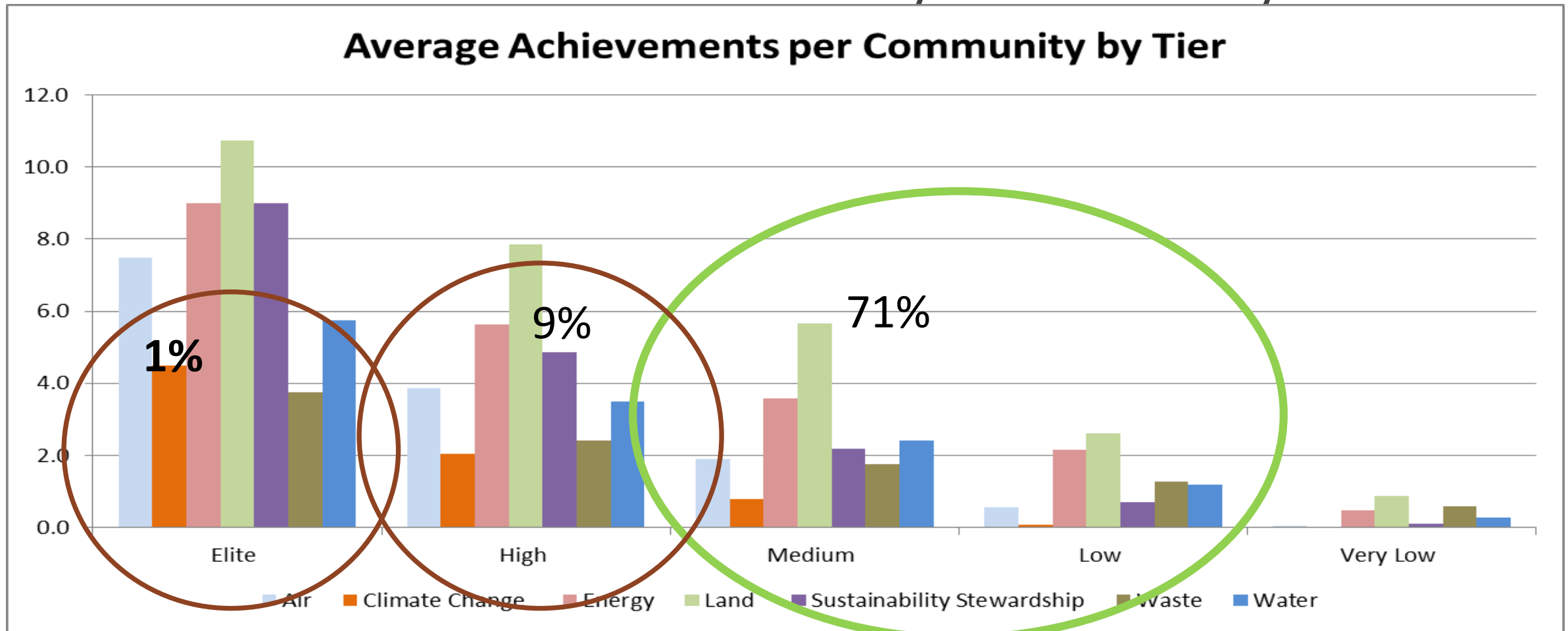


# Community Achievements by Category

(normalized)



# Where are efforts already underway?



# Building the GRC2

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1. What is already planned?
2. What are common priorities?

*TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS -*

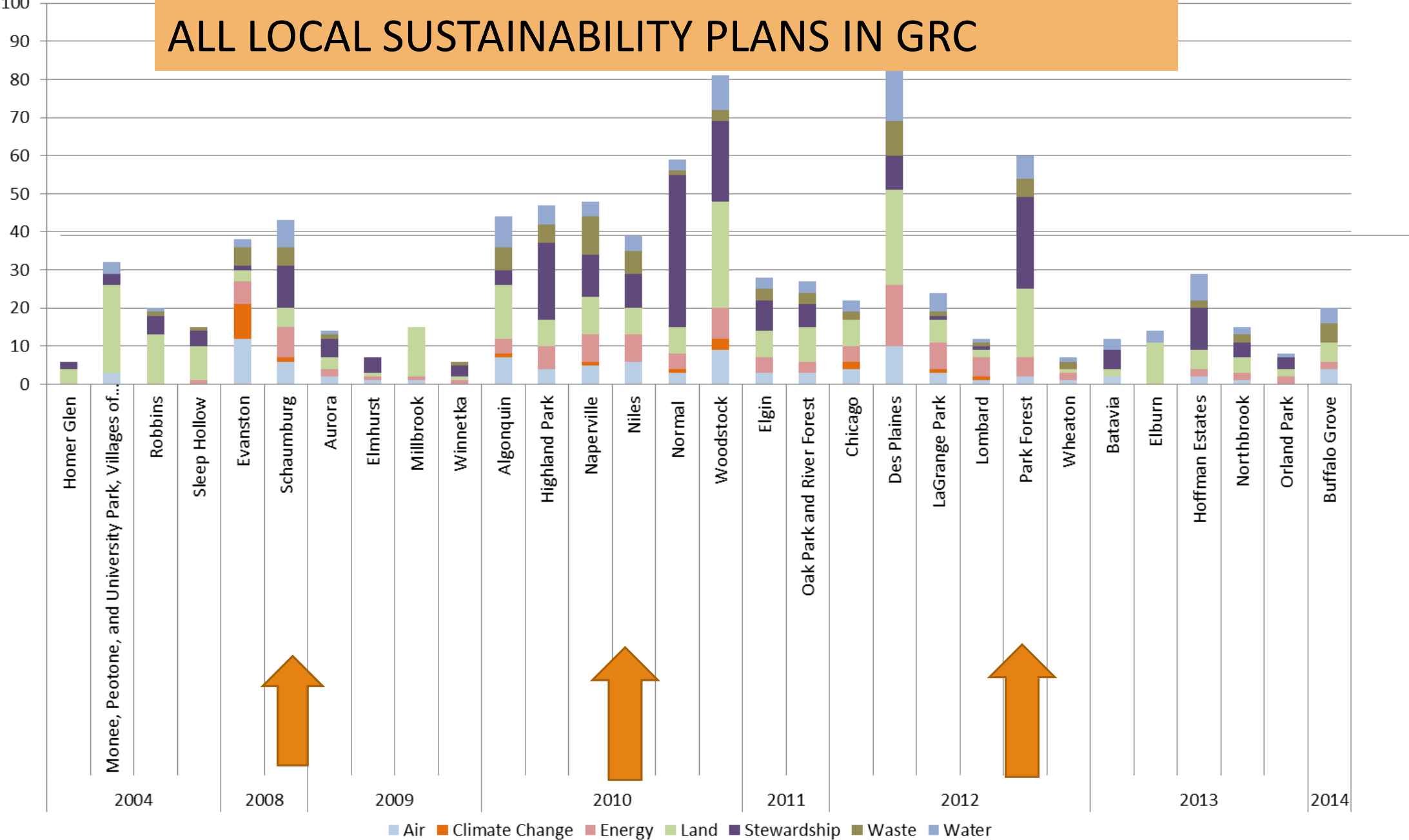
## ➤ Analyzed existing sustainability plans

- 30 local plans
- 9 regional/national plans
- 1149 specific sustainability goals



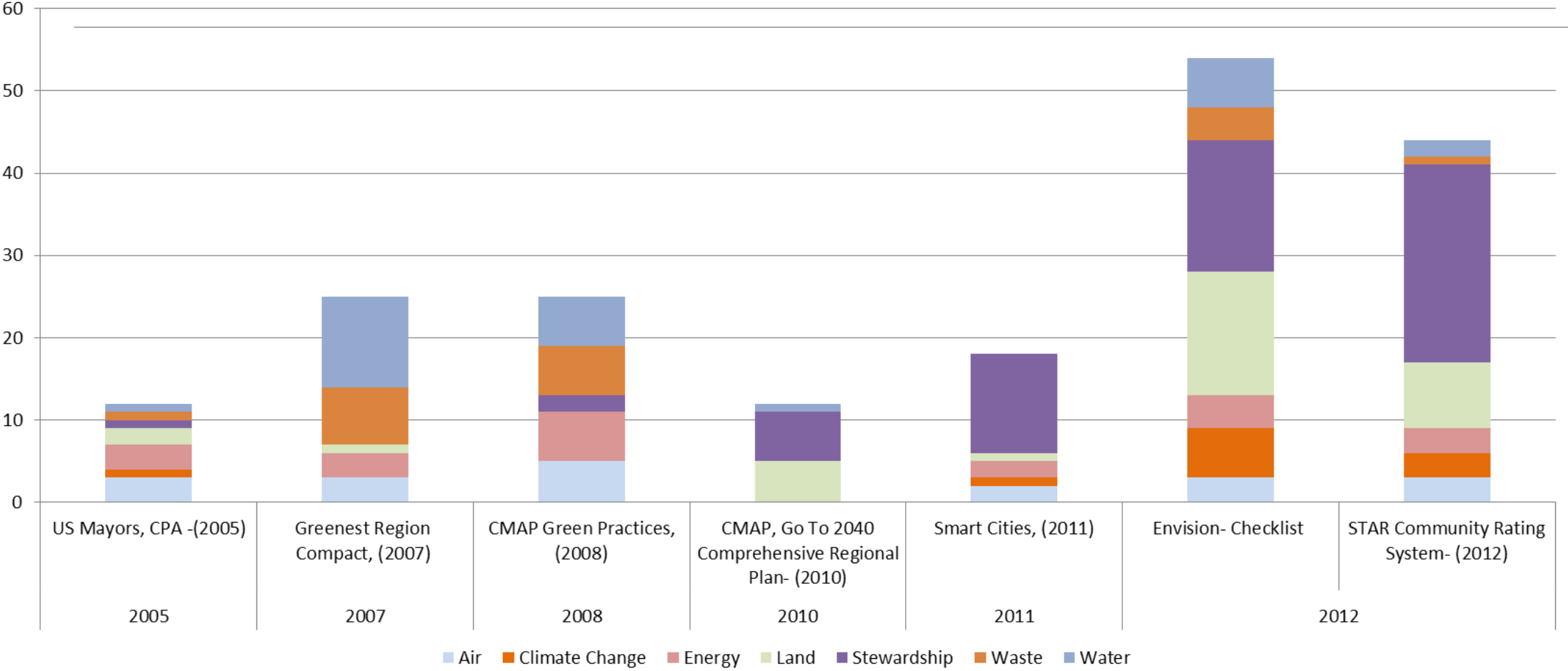


# ALL LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANS IN GRC



\*based on GRC+2 categories

# Results— State and Regional Plan Review



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# Putting it all together

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CONSENSUS GRC GOALS



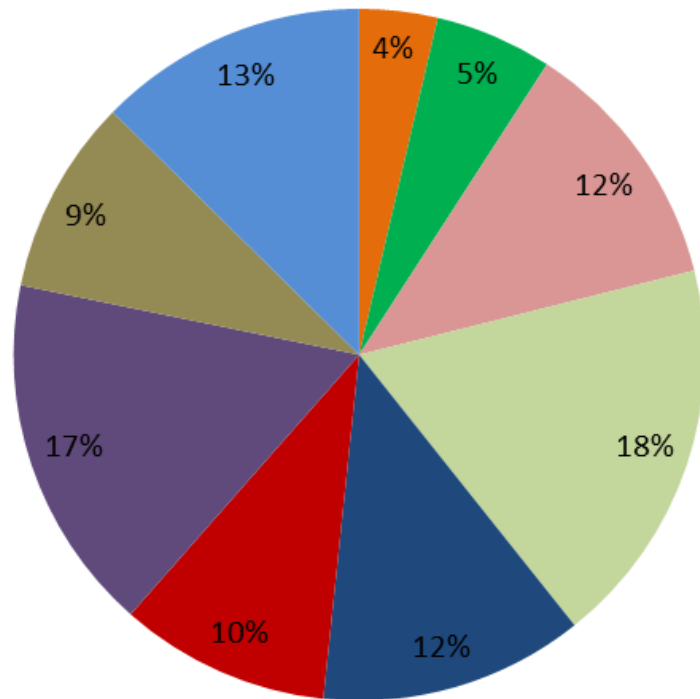
# Consensus GRC Goals

From ALL Sustainability Goals



To GRC2 Goals

## 1149 Municipal Sustainability Goals Analyzed



- Climate
- Economic Development
- Energy
- Land
- Mobility
- Municipal Operations
- Sustainable Communities
- Waste & Recycling
- Water



# The Greenest Region Compact

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*Consensus Sustainability Goals in 10 Categories*



Climate



Mobility



Economic Development



Municipal Operations



Energy



Sustainable Communities



Land



Water



Leadership



Waste



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# Greenest Region Compact

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ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN COMMUNITIES AND THE REGION

IN THREE PARTS



# Part 1 - Greenest Region Compact (GRC)

## The Compact – Just Goals



COLLABORATING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The member municipalities of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus seek a vibrant, sustainable future for their communities and the greater Chicago region. The consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact aim for enhanced quality of life for residents; protection and stewardship of the environment and sustainable economic vitality.

To become the most sustainable and successful region in the United States, they, therefore, support the following consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact and agree to work to achieve them, both in their own communities and in collaboration throughout the region:



#### Climate

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Maintain clean and healthful air
- Develop resiliency to climate change impacts
- Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation



#### Economic Development

- Promote innovation and a competitive workforce
- Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses



#### Energy

- Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently
- Advance renewable energy
- Reduce energy consumption
- Enact policies that support clean energy
- Engage the community in clean energy practices



#### Land

- Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles
- Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems
- Support networks of accessible, well-used, and enjoyable parks
- Sustain a robust urban forest canopy
- Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services
- Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies
- Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community



#### Leadership

- Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership
- Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2
- Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region



#### Mobility

- Support safe and effective active transportation
- Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network
- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations
- Promote public and sustainable transportation choices



#### Municipal Operations

- Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices
- Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations
- Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet
- Collect and manage data to advance sustainability



#### Sustainable Communities

- Promote cultural vibrancy in the community
- Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness
- Increase access to sustainably grown local food
- Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable
- Promote a sustainable identity for the community
- Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability
- Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability



#### Waste & Recycling

- Support sustainable material management
- Recycle materials across all sectors
- Divert waste from landfills
- Enact policies that cause sustainable material management
- Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling



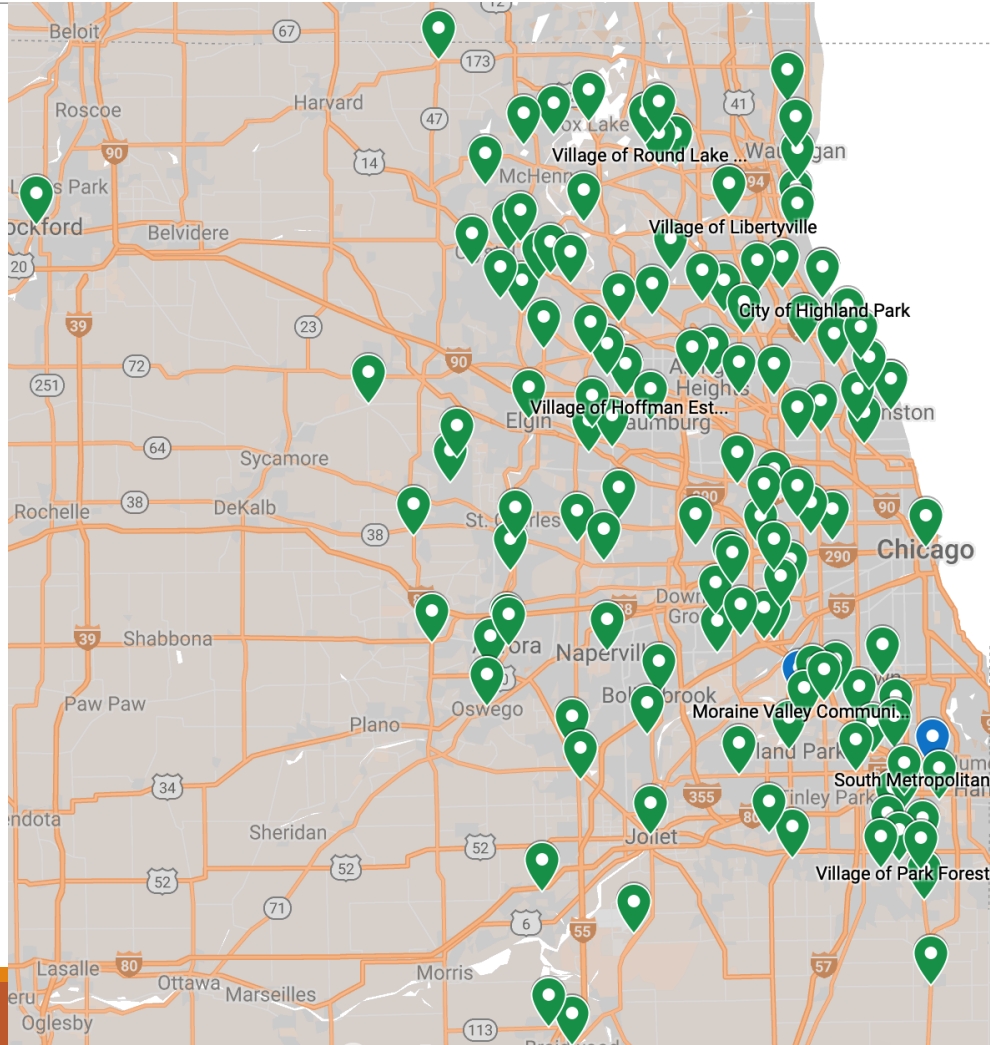
#### Water

- Use and distribute water efficiently
- Protect and improve water quality
- Manage water system assets sustainably
- Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater
- Practice stewardship of water resources
- Enact policies to protect water resources
- Engage the community in water stewardship



MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING GOALS Y  
PASSES A

# GRC Adopters



**117 municipalities**  
**10 COGS**  
**Kane County**  
**5.8 million residents**

Barrington Area Council of Governments  
Lake County Municipal League  
McHenry County Council of Governments  
Metro West Council of Governments  
Northwest Municipal Conference  
South Suburban Mayors & Managers  
Southwest Conference of Mayors  
West Central Municipal Conference  
Will County Government League  
DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference



## Part 2 - The GRC *Framework*

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### **Compilation of all Common Objectives, Strategies**

- From all plans
- Aligns with regional, national, global objectives
- Links to resources & existing programs
- Offers steps to achieve GRC2 Goals
- **Can be the Framework for your own sustainability plan**
- **No reporting or commitment required**

Your plans for each



**OBJECTIVE**

> STRATEGY

+ ADVANCED STRATEGY

Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Contact Initials	Notes	Link to Resource
									<a href="#">Y</a>
									<a href="#">Y</a>

GRC2 goal

Category

**GOAL**

Lead by Example

*Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices*

MO1  
MO2  
MO4  
MO6  
MO6a  
MO6b

**Support or create an interdisciplinary team to coordinate internal sustainability efforts**

**Dedicate staff to direct sustainability initiatives**

**Educate and train staff on sustainability practices**

**Formalize sustainability goals and plans**

>Adopt the Greenest Region Compact 2

>Use the GRC2 Framework to create a sustainability plan and formally adopt it

GRC2 objectives/ strategies

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## Environmental Planning in Schaumburg:

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Comprehensive Plan in 1961

Environmental Committee

Biodiversity Plan and Regulations

Comprehensive Green Action Plan

Comprehensive Plan Update

Comprehensive Green Action Plan Update

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# Align with Regional Environmental Planning

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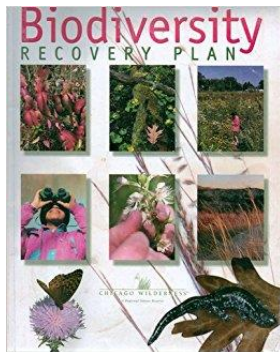
Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan - 2001

USCM Climate Protection Agreement - 2005

Greenest Region Compact 1 - 2007

Greenest Region Compact 2 – 2016

Supports the directives in CMAP's GO TO 2040 and ON TO 2050 Plans



# New Opportunities

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Climate

*Economic Development\**

Energy

Land

*Leadership\**

Mobility

Municipal Operations

*Sustainable Communities\**

Waste and Recycling

Water

# Process

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- Green Team: Steering Committee
  - Inventory of Existing Conditions
  - Key Recommendations
  - Draft the plan
- At each milestone status updates will be presented to:
  - Green Team
  - Environmental Committee
  - HHS
- Final Plan
  - Village Board





## Part 3 –GRC *Supportive Programs*

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### Collaborative programs to realize GRC2 goals *regionally*

- Leverage municipal consensus
  - VW mitigation funds
- Grants
  - Collaborative grant seeking
    - SolSmart
    - AmeriCorps
  - Preferred to receive grants
- Collaborative programs



# GRC2 Framework Solar Energy Example



## OBJECTIVE

> STRATEGY

+ ADVANCED STRATEGY

Already achieved

In Progress

Planned for next 6 months

Planned for next 12-18 months

Interested in pursuing

Not planned

Not relevant

Contact Initials

Notes

Link to Resource

Category

GOAL

Renewable Energy

*Advance renewable energy*

E13

**Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies in the community**

E13a

>Adopt codes and permitting practices that support renewable energy systems in the community

E16

**Develop renewable energy capacity targeting underutilized public properties (i.e. brownfields)**

E+17

+ Collaborate to provide access to community solar

**Sol Smart – MMC Cohort**

**Future Energy Jobs Act - \$650 million for solar**

Policy

*Enact policies that support clean energy*

E25

**Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (i.e. solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes**

E+29

+ Negotiate franchise agreement with utilities to exercise lump sum payment option to finance clean energy

[Y](#)

ENERGY

# SolSmart

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- MMC led cohort earned SolSmart
  - 12 municipalities
  - 3 counties
- Second cohort 20 municipalities & counties
- Streamline codes & policies to promote solar development



# Solar Success

## SolSmart Silver Designation

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### Single Family

60 Active or Complete Applications

455.84 KW

Average Size 7.60 KW



VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG



# GRCorps



- GRC goal- *MO2 (municipal operations)*
  - Dedicate staff to direct sustainability initiatives
- MMC received AmeriCorps grant
- 8 communities (+NGO) host a GRCorps member
- Cost share & collaborative recruitment & training



## Part 3 – GRC *Supportive Programs*

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### Planned programs to realize GRC2 goals

- Track achievement of specific goals
- Regional greenhouse gas tracking & reporting
- Tiered recognition program



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