

Michigan

50 Year Vision



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



“The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

— Marcel Proust

Friends and allies:

A brighter future for Michigan isn't just an abstract idea. It's the overarching goal of the Michigan Environmental Council and the thousands of allied organizations and individuals we work with to ensure that future generations of Michiganders enjoy the blessings of our richly diverse state.

But it's difficult, perhaps impossible, to secure that better future without a shared vision of the future. A future where energy needs are met affordably, reliably and cleanly. Where thriving centers of commerce and entertainment prosper in harmony with the spectacular waters and other resources that are our greatest natural assets. Where neighborhoods are safe, clean and green, and where access to healthy local foods and efficient transportation options buoys our quality of life.

Defining that kind of future is the goal of this document. Michigan 50 Year Vision paints the broad brush strokes of a Michigan circa 2060 that is a safer, healthier, more prosperous place for our children and grandchildren.

We expect this is the beginning of a statewide discussion designed to identify our destination in the year 2060. A road map, if you will, showing how we might reach the Michigan we all want and deserve for those who come after us.

This vision is a living, breathing document that requires shaping and input from every corner of our great state. We, you and I and the thousands of Michiganders striving for a shared vision must share ownership of this vision for it to be successful.

So we ask you to help us shape this future by providing direction and input on this document. Your input will be incorporated into future drafts of Michigan's 50 Year Vision. We hope the final product will be a valuable tool for planners, policy makers and visionaries of today and tomorrow. We want them to use this map to plot their course to a Michigan we can be proud of.

Send us your thoughts and suggestions, either by commenting online, writing to us, or by sending an email message to vision@environmentalcouncil.org.

Friends, this isn't a utopian dream. At MEC we recognize that the road to a better future is littered with pitfalls, dangers and dead-ends. Shaping public policies to arrive at our 2060 destination is grueling, painstaking work. Two steps backward for every three forward is the way public policy works. We're willing to do that hard work. And a shared vision helps keep us all focused on our destination.

We look forward to your comments and to future discussions with everyone who has a stake in, and a love for, this great state we call home.

Thank you,



Chris Kolb, President
Michigan Environmental Council





Energy

VISION 2060

Michiganders live and work in highly efficient homes, businesses and factories that are central to vibrant communities. Electricity from domestic renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro has replaced energy generated by coal and nuclear plants. Carbon dioxide and other pollutants are greatly reduced, energy independence is established and energy service is stable and secure. Michigan is universally recognized as a global leader in clean energy research, design and manufacturing.

GOALS

1 Energy waste is eliminated in new and renovated buildings and industrial operations.

IN 20 YEARS: Super-efficient homes, businesses, factories and public structures are commonplace. Efficiency-based industries and services are major employers.

IN 10 YEARS: Regulations are restructured to make energy savings the strongest profit motive for utility companies. All new structures are highly efficient and passive solar design is the norm. Half of Michigan's pre-2010 building stock has been fully weatherized and renovated to save energy.

IN 2 YEARS: Minimum energy efficiency requirements for 2012 (1.0% annual electricity savings, 0.75% annual natural gas savings) have

been increased to 2.0% and 1.5% respectively. Michigan utilities are required to prioritize investment in cost-effective energy savings as a long-term strategy to protect ratepayers.

2 Renewable energy and storage systems are deployed on scales adequate to meet in-state power and heating needs.

IN 20 YEARS: Renewable energy systems meet over half of Michigan's electricity needs. Utility-scale energy storage, including a rapidly growing fleet of battery-powered vehicles, has replaced the need for centralized base-load power generation.

IN 10 YEARS: At least 20 percent of Michigan's electricity comes from renewable sources, including offshore wind turbines in the Great Lakes. Small-scale wind turbines, solar pan-

els and biomass systems are burgeoning. Industrial and large commercial facilities have been retrofitted for combined heating and power (CHP) to utilize waste heat. Building codes require solar water heaters for new construction and major renovations.

IN 2 YEARS: Utility companies are ahead of meeting Michigan's initial renewable energy standard requirement (10% by 2015) due primarily to significant amounts of cost-effective onshore and offshore wind power. New laws encourage distributed renewable generation including solar PV and small-scale wind systems.

3 Residents, businesses and institutions reduce energy use and generate electricity on-site.

IN 20 YEARS: Energy users actively manage consumption and sell excess electricity to the grid. A majority of families and businesses generate regular income from selling excess power to the grid.

IN 10 YEARS: All new buildings are designed to enable easy installation of integrated renewable energy systems. Long-term agreements allow building owners to collect revenue from excess energy sales.

IN 2 YEARS: Michigan's initial net metering and solar pilot programs are successful. Laws create incentives for small-scale energy generation systems.

4 A utility business model rewards investment in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and a smarter grid system.

IN 20 YEARS: A decentralized energy market rewards cleaner, more local and distributed energy systems that are connected to intelligent networks.

IN 10 YEARS: Regulatory models reward utility companies for embracing a 21st century energy transition. The energy sector is moving briskly away from 20th century technologies and limitations.

IN 2 YEARS: Integrated resource planning is required by all regulated utilities. Smart grid pilot programs are underway and regulatory barriers to them are falling.

5 Coal and nuclear generating plants have been retired and decommissioned in accordance with a comprehensive integrated resource plan.

IN 20 YEARS: Only a handful of large coal and nuclear power plants remain operational in Michigan. These are slated for retirement by 2050 when the energy system will be fully decentralized.

IN 10 YEARS: Coal-fired power plants equivalent to half of Michigan's operational capacity in 2010 have been retired. Detroit Edison's Fermi units are the only remaining nuclear reactors serving Michigan energy users.

IN 2 YEARS: Michigan's governor has placed a moratorium on new coal plant construction as central to Michigan's long-term energy strategy. The MPSC now requires robust integrated resource planning that supports steady retirement of existing baseload power plants.





Water

VISION 2060

Michigan's watersheds are the lifeblood of the greatest freshwater treasure on the planet —the Great Lakes. Michiganders treat the lakes as the spectacular resources they are. Impacts on the ecosystem — from the lakes themselves down to the connecting waters of creeks, ponds and groundwater — are eliminated or minimized. All Michigan waters are swimmable. Most Michigan waters are drinkable. Fish consumption advisories due to contaminants no longer exist.

GOALS

1 High quality surface water and groundwater resources are preserved and degraded water bodies are restored. Impacts from invasive species are minimized. Rivers, lakes and streams are protected and nurtured so that they are fully available for recreational activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.

IN 20 YEARS: 90% of Michigan waters are considered to be available for the full spectrum of recreational opportunities. Measures are in place that virtually eliminate the introduction of new invasive species into the Great Lakes through shipping channels. Toxic chemical use reduction efforts have minimized risks to drinking waters.

IN 10 YEARS: Nutrient runoff from agricultural use is substantially reduced, resulting in measurable improvement in water quality of rivers and

streams across the state. A statewide monitoring network has been established to identify areas with chronic impairment. Drinking water sources are protected because responsible parties have addressed over 50% of the 7,000 leaking underground storage tanks statewide.

IN 2 YEARS: Legislation is adopted that requires the periodic inspection of onsite septic systems. Funding for leaking underground storage tank cleanups is reauthorized and increased funding is dedicated to addressing the 7,000 sites statewide.

2 Water features are the focal point for communities across the state, demonstrating the centrality of water to our lives and providing the foundation for a healthy economy. Land use decisions universally enhance or protect water quality.

IN 20 YEARS: Michigan actively promotes stewardship of water as a method of attracting businesses and people to locate within the state. Communities have revised master plans and make land use decisions with a focus on maximum utilization of water resources.

IN 10 YEARS: Regional efforts have been undertaken on all of Michigan's larger rivers to address nutrient loading and pollution sources. Regional coordination leads to improved quality and coordinated efforts on restoration. Low-impact development becomes the norm and is complimented with restoration projects that improve water quality over time.

IN 2 YEARS: Water quality impacts are integrated into land use decision-making processes. Community efforts are focused on improving water quality and increasing water-based recreational opportunities in communities across the state. The water withdrawal assessment tool is utilized in a growing number of communities to ensure water is available for intended uses.

3 Natural systems are the backbones of our water management philosophy. They control flooding and provide natural filtration of pollutants. These systems are complemented with water treatment systems that virtually eliminate the discharge of sewage into our waterways.

IN 20 YEARS: The state has adopted a no net loss of wetlands policy, and natural ecosystems across the state are being restored to work with

nature for their long-term preservation.

IN 10 YEARS: Dam removals in communities across the state have improved hydrology and restored healthy aquatic ecosystems. Coastal wetlands have been preserved and are only allowed to be filled when significant restoration efforts far exceed the expected impacts. The headwater areas of rivers and streams are mapped and received heightened protection from development pressures.

IN 2 YEARS: The Wetland Protection Act is reauthorized and strengthened, securing state control over the program and long-term funding. Sewer infrastructure investments, utilizing the latest soft path stormwater management techniques, are commenced or continued in Michigan's older urban and suburban areas.

4 Active steps help minimize climate change impacts and bolster natural systems to withstand changes in precipitation, temperature and flow. Water conservation and efficient-use practices help maintain natural lake levels and healthy flows in our rivers and streams.



PHOTO: CARL R. SAMS II

IN 20 YEARS: Michigan is actively monitoring the impacts of climate change on its resources and taking steps to preserve cold-water species and buffer against further disruptions.

IN 10 YEARS: The Great Lakes Compact is fully implemented protecting the lakes from adverse impacts and out-of-basin diversion. Michigan has adopted clean energy policies that are reducing the greenhouse gas output of the state by 3% per year. Michigan maintains healthy flows in 99% of its rivers and streams through local intervention efforts in watersheds of concern. Adoption of best practices in water conservation are required of all large quantity users (above 100,000 gallons a day).

IN 2 YEARS: Michigan's water use regulation program is fully funded and basic information on use and return flow are inventoried and monitored on a consistent basis. Michigan continues on its path to carbon reduction through retiring older coal plants and replacing them with clean energy investments.



Great Cities

VISION 2060

Michigan's largest cities are vibrant centers of culture, history and economic activity where people of all ages and backgrounds live, work and play in healthy neighborhoods with clean air and water. Downtowns are destinations abuzz with commercial and cultural activity, entertainment and recreation. Walkable neighborhoods nurture deep social bonds and spark spontaneous personal interactions that bolster creativity and entrepreneurialism. Michigan's cities help foster greener lifestyles and attract talented people with unique housing options, good jobs, strong schools, mass transit and beautiful parks and open spaces.

GOALS

1 Cities are safe, efficient, diverse, inspiring places. They attract, welcome, and empower all people, regardless of ethnicity, race, age, education or background. Urban neighborhoods offer desirable housing options, strong schools and good jobs.

IN 20 YEARS: Michigan's largest metro regions are more racially, ethnically and economically integrated, and are more similar to successful metropolitan areas like Boston, Austin, Toronto and Madison in terms of racial and ethnic distribution. Both employment opportunities and income levels are distributed more evenly across regions. Urban core neighborhoods host a diverse mix of low-, middle- and high-income residents.

IN 10 YEARS: Regional tax-base sharing is implemented that reduces the concentration of tax burdens. Plans and programs are created to ensure accessibility of housing through regional strategies that improve the development and distribution of affordable housing of all types. School districts are required to rebuild existing schools before building new ones.

IN 2 YEARS: "Live where you work," "pay-as-you-drive," contaminated site clean-up, hospital relocation and school improvement programs are created and have begun to provide more incentives and benefits to people choosing to live in urban areas. Environmental justice policies are being implemented, including a multi-

“The ballet of the good city sidewalk never repeats itself from place to place, and in any one place is always replete with new improvisations.”

— Jane Jacobs



departmental advisory committee at the state level, and these programs have begun to reduce the disproportionate pollution burdens born by members of our poorest communities.

2 Cities have more open space, gardens, parks, greenways, trails and transit options. Any underutilized, vacant space supports community uses such as gardening, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, recreation and other productive uses.

IN 20 YEARS: Every resident of Michigan’s 25 largest cities lives within ½ mile of a public park. Most parks are connected by a linked network of trails and greenways. Urban green spaces are full of trees, rain gardens and other natural features that collect and filter stormwater.

IN 10 YEARS: Good urban design practices have created at least one lively, transit-oriented development project that includes a mix of housing, jobs and retail options in each of the 25 largest cities. All 25 have adopted “complete streets” ordinances; they have revised their zoning to make mixed-use, infill development that solidifies existing neighborhoods or creates new neighborhoods the easiest thing to build.

IN 2 YEARS: Comprehensive mapping and planning have identified the areas of greatest recreational, environmental and urban agriculture opportunity within the 25 largest cities in the state. Some areas, particularly around existing or planned transit stations, have approved specific zoning districts intended to create more convenient, mixed-use, compact land development.

The city, state and local NGOs are partnering to protect and develop these places according to community values.

3 Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids and other cities have become inspiring and aspirational demonstration cities showing what is achievable in rebuilding and “greening” the nation’s distressed cities.

IN 20 YEARS: The 10 largest cities in Michigan regularly appear on national lists of the cities with the lowest per-capita emissions and energy usage levels, the highest transit-ridership, and highest quality of life in the country. Every resident in our core cities who wants a rewarding and life-sustaining job is able to find one or create one for themselves.

IN 10 YEARS: Plans are created and resources are identified that would stabilize and rebuild the basic water, sewer, electrical, transportation and other infrastructure assets in our metropolitan regions. These plans are more sustainable and include more green elements such as soft-path water treatment. Each of the 25 largest cities has at least one LEED-certified (or equivalent) City administrative building located in their downtown business district. Residential and commercial retrofit programs are undertaken on a massive scale in each of the 25 largest cities, and most of the construction is done by locally trained “green jobs” workers. Institutions and

private companies routinely provide access to training and education for residents that focuses on sustainability.

IN 2 YEARS: Municipal governments have undertaken massive green programs to improve city services such as recycling, to maximize efficiency in municipal operations, to increase access to public transit and car-sharing programs, and upgrade lighting and building maintenance. Urban garden programs have beautified thousands of vacant lots and community groups are organized to manage and care for these spaces while providing food and beauty to their neighborhoods.

4 Urban neighborhoods help produce their own electricity with small-scale, community-based renewable energy systems that are efficient, clean and resilient. Municipal buildings including neighborhood schools are community centers that offer more multiple functions to maximize use of space and build community.

IN 20 YEARS: Michigan’s 10 largest cities actively support programs that encourage small-scale micro-grids of renewable energy resources in homes and businesses, and all have created centrally located community hubs that host community-based renewable energy creation, electric vehicle charging stations, community activity and recreation centers, public libraries and other neighborhood-scale public services.

IN 10 YEARS: Michigan’s 25 largest cities have approved ordinances that encourage energy entrepreneurship. Home-owners and businesses install small scale renewable energy generation on homes, schools and municipal buildings, and create small, self-contained micro-grids at the neighborhood level.

IN 2 YEARS: Michigan’s 25 largest cities have undertaken strategic consolidation efforts that are intended to maximize energy efficiency upgrades in school and city operations, reduce waste, update buildings, and offer more neighborhood services to reduce travel commutes for residents and city employees.



PHOTO: JOY VANBUHLER



5 Support for strong schools and lifelong learning opportunities help more residents of Michigan’s core cities secure high school, college and advanced degrees. More highly educated graduates and employers from other areas are inspired to move into cities.

IN 20 YEARS: Funding has enabled urban schools to offer innovative programs that attract new students from outside the district, becoming a desirable option for families across the region to send their children. The number of residents in core cities holding degrees (high school, associates, bachelor’s or better) has increased to be on

par with suburban communities, and the number of college-educated residents in central cities is dramatically higher.

IN 10 YEARS: Urban neighborhood schools are redesigned to function as schools and community education centers, where both children (during school) and parents (after hours) frequently attend classes, community events and other functions related to improving life and job skills.

IN 2 YEARS: The education system in urban areas is redesigned to emulate on a large scale the approach taken in the “Harlem Children’s Zone” model, focusing on success from before birth through college.



Sustainable Communities

VISION 2060

Michigan communities are diverse, close-knit places where people know their neighbors and can reach jobs, schools, parks and grocery stores by walking, biking, or using transit. Effective regional planning ensures that cities, towns and suburbs are all safe and healthy places to live, work and play. Neighborhoods carry a deep sense of place, and development respects their unique natural and cultural identities. Communities are designed specifically to minimize transportation costs, support local businesses and schools, eliminate waste and produce more local food, jobs and renewable energy.

GOALS

1 New development is carefully planned and redevelopment is emphasized to ensure efficient and sustainable use of land, infrastructure and natural resources, and to respect and protect the unique local character and identity of each community and neighborhood.

IN 20 YEARS: Urban growth boundaries or metropolitan service districts have been designated around each of Michigan's 10 largest metropolitan areas, and most new residential development occurs within the boundaries.

IN 10 YEARS: Land use regulations have been implemented that curb pressure on undeveloped lands, including urban services districts that target

public investment in extending water, sewer and transportation infrastructure beyond established boundaries.

IN 2 YEARS: The state has created policies to ensure that critical assets (communities, farmland, recreational land, forests, habitat, etc.) are protected. These include new brownfield cleanup regulations and funds, targeted infill development and redevelopment incentives and programs, and infrastructure maintenance planning requirements.

2 Cities, suburbs and small-town neighborhoods are redesigned and redeveloped to offer transit connections, walkable neighborhoods, and a convenient mix of housing, jobs, recreation and shopping.

IN 20 YEARS: All community residents can access daily needs (work, food, school) with a variety of options, including transit, walking and biking, as all are common, seamlessly connected and easy. Much of the greenspace currently in suburban and small towns supports community uses such as gardening, wildlife habitat, recreation and other productive community uses.

IN 10 YEARS: Good urban design practices have created at least one lively, transit-oriented development project that includes a mix of housing, jobs and retail options in each of the 25 largest cities, and 10 representative small towns. 50 Michigan communities have created downtown revitalization plans that identify the top regional “hubs” of activity and “nodes” of transportation and job linkage, and have targeted resources to these existing areas.

IN 2 YEARS: Legislation is enacted that promotes infill development, defines “complete streets” and transit-oriented development goals and resources and connects economic development and place-making strategies. The 25 largest cities and 10 other representative small towns have adopted “complete streets” ordinances; they have revised zoning to make mixed-use, infill development that solidifies existing neighborhoods or creates new neighborhoods the easiest thing to build.

3 Communities of all sizes are integrated and provide welcoming homes to a wider range of people of different races, ethnicities, backgrounds, ages, education and income levels.

IN 20 YEARS: Urban centers and rural outskirt areas are no longer host to concentrated poverty, while exurban areas host the majority of the wealth. Both opportunity and income levels are distributed more evenly across both metropolitan areas and rural regions.

IIN 10 YEARS: Regional tax-base sharing is implemented that reduces concentration of tax burden. Fair-share housing programs are created that require regional approaches to the development of affordable housing. School districts are required to rebuild existing schools before building new ones in distant, undeveloped green fields or open spaces.

IN 2 YEARS: “Live where you work,” “pay-as-you-drive,” and urban school programs are created that provide more incentives and benefits for living in urban areas.

4 Assets are planned and developed to benefit the entire region. Farmland, scenic lands, parks, forests and headwater areas provide food and ecosystem services to the region. More new development is focused into existing communities and core cities.

IN 20 YEARS: More regional needs are met by regional entities (land use planning, infrastructure development, watershed protection) while local innovation and community spirit is supported and nurtured by neighbors and communities (schools, job training, co-ops). Most urban and suburban residents are directly fed by local farmers and farmland is seen as a regional asset that all support and protect.





IN 10 YEARS: Separate but interdependent urban and rural economies have become more identifiable (food, fiber, recreation vs. service, production, etc). Distinct “rural conservation” regions have emerged in some parts of the state, while “urban metropolitan economies” have emerged around core cities including Detroit/Flint/Ann Arbor, Lansing/Jackson, Battle Creek/

Kalamazoo, and Grand Rapids. Food systems and transportation systems are regional in nature with more urban and suburban residents directly fed by local farmers and linked to neighboring regions.

IN 2 YEARS: The state has determined critical regional assets (farmland, recreational land, forests, habitat, etc.) on a map and has begun to target specific resources for protection, enhancement and sustainability of these areas and their land-based resources. Economic development programs and conservations strategies are tailored to fulfill this vision through new legislative initiatives.

5 Existing networks of road and utility infrastructure are expanded

only when necessary from a regional perspective, and only after the current system is fully functional, utilized and well maintained.

IN 20 YEARS: Transportation systems are planned in conjunction with future land use, housing, community development and economic development strategies. Access management plans

are required at the regional level to reduce the number of new on and off ramps and limit new private access points. The state actively promotes, enables and rewards carpooling, efforts to reduce the length and frequency of single-occupant vehicle commutes, and live-where-you-work programs.

IN 10 YEARS: The state coordinates regional transportation and land use plans. It has created a strategy to increase the availability and connectivity of more modes of transportation, including public transit, walking and biking, and ride-sharing. Regional transportation plans must account for accessibility to jobs, housing and other key destinations, and work to ensure that these daily destinations can be reached using multiple transportation modes,

IN 2 YEARS: The state actively participates in improving the federal transportation reauthorization bill. In doing so, the state also reforms its own funding strategies and enables new tools to ensure that it can afford the long-term maintenance needs of current and future transportation assets, including roads, bridges, rail networks, bike paths and sidewalks. The new funding strategy seeks to reduce the number and length of single-occupant vehicle commutes required for the average resident to live a successful life, and reduces Michigan’s reliance on “bigger and wider road” expansion efforts to relive congestion issues (both people and freight). The state has adopted a more comprehensive approach that includes additional strategies and incentives to:

- Fully integrate land use and transportation planning
- Shift more goods to rail rather than trucking
- Increase the use of public transit, carpooling, biking and walking for daily trips

6 Buildings are thoughtfully designed and retrofit to be energy efficient and to build community connections. Many buildings become community centers that host multiple functions to maximize use of space and foster connections to people and institutions.



IN 20 YEARS: The old electrical grid has been replaced by a resilient network of communities and co-ops that are “energy entrepreneurs,” specializing in optimizing the use of resources at all levels to create a high quality of life.

IN 10 YEARS: Energy self-sufficiency and innovation in sustainability in all its forms has become the norm in job development and economic development.

IN 2 YEARS: Neighborhoods are helping reduce our fossil fuel dependency and improve national security by producing more of their own energy with distributed, renewable sources that are efficient, clean and resilient. Community efficiency becomes a priority in municipal planning, transportation, land use planning and economic development.

“Lasting change happens when people see for themselves that a different way of life is more fulfilling than their present one.”

— Eknath Easwaran,
The Compassionate Universe





Transportation

VISION 2060

Michiganders travel within their neighborhoods, across their cities and throughout their state using a variety of clean, affordable, convenient, and comfortable transit and non-motorized options. Michigan's infrastructure investments focus on moving people and goods efficiently.

GOALS

1 Fast and fuel-efficient statewide high speed railroad networks link residents and visitors from city center to city center and swiftly transport freight throughout the state.

IN 20 YEARS: MEC "Passenger Rail Opportunities" map is largely built. Michigan is knitted together by an expanded passenger rail system that connects passengers to Michigan's small, medium and large communities. Freight trains operate faster service to more locations as a result of track improvements.

IN 10 YEARS: Passenger trains operating on upgraded existing freight tracks connect our northern and southern cities and our west and east coasts – see MEC's near term Passenger Rail Map. Freight trains operate faster service to more locations as a result of expanded and upgraded tracks. Michigan has established a state public transportation agency which plans public transit networks and operates or oversees intercity

passenger rail and bus service. This transit agency has contracted with Amtrak to increase frequencies on existing passenger routes and operate reestablished routes.

IN 2 YEARS: The Grand Rapids – Lansing – Detroit passenger rail service, operated on existing upgraded freight tracks, is in final planning stages and will soon carry passengers. The state department of transportation has contracted with Amtrak for additional passenger rail frequency on two of Michigan's existing passenger routes.

2 Families are connected within their neighborhoods by safe, walkable, and bikeable routes, and across their cities and throughout their state by a variety of comfortable and reliable transportation options.

IN 20 YEARS: Bicycling and walking are fully integrated into Michigan's transportation system which allows travelers to move safely and seamlessly from non-motorized to motorized travel.

Families may conveniently travel by rail from southeast Michigan to Traverse City for vacation and from Grand Rapids to Lansing for work.

IN 10 YEARS: Passenger trains connect our northern and southern cities and our west and east coasts. The miles of bike lanes and dedicated bike and pedestrian paths across the state have doubled since 2010. Michigan has established a state public transportation agency which plans public transit networks and operates or oversees intercity passenger rail and bus service. The State of Michigan, universities and other employers — including MEC leading the way — provide employees free transit passes and have steeply increased parking fees.

IN 2 YEARS: Complete Streets policies are on the books as law at the state-level and in all Act 51-recipient communities. Some components of existing public transportation plans are implemented, such as the Detroit-area Regional Transit Coordinating Council (RTCC) plan, making travel

by public transportation easier, safer and more convenient in metro Detroit. A regional transit authority is established and is coordinating, planning, and contracting for public transportation service in the metro Detroit area.

3 State and federal funding priorities are directed to support reliable transit, passenger rail, and active transportation projects and operations.

IN 20 YEARS: State constitutional transportation funding formulas are removed or altered to balance roads, public transit, passenger rail, and active transportation funding. Federal and state transportation funding is well balanced between roads, public transit, passenger rail, and active transportation projects.

IN 10 YEARS: State constitutional transportation funding formulas are removed or altered to balance roads, public transit, passenger rail, and active transportation funding. Federal and state transportation funding is well balanced between roads, public transit, passenger rail, and active transportation projects. Economic development incentives are directly tied to location efficiency (how close a proposed development is to a public transportation

service and other existing infrastructure). A transit capital fund has been established and capitalized from a dedicated revenue stream that finances new transit projects.

IN 2 YEARS: Michigan funds public transportation capital and operating expenses at sustainable levels. The state has increased funding for public transportation capital projects and operations to a level which will support our existing systems.

4 Michigan produced clean fuel passenger vehicles and commercial trucks which emit little or zero tailpipe pollution are standard throughout the state and across the nation.

IN 20 YEARS: 35% of vehicles sold are considered zero tailpipe pollution vehicles. Most of these are produced in Michigan, in large part because of incentives and consumer demand.

IN 10 YEARS: State tax incentives exist for individual or fleet purchases of electric vehicles. A smart rate has been put into place that provides a significant discount for charging electric vehicles during off-peak hours. The State of Michigan purchases clean fuel passenger vehicles for its fleets.

IN 2 YEARS: Electric vehicles are designed and produced in Michigan — the Chevy Volt. The Michigan legislature has begun work on a “Volt-Ready” legislative package that prepares for a surge of electric vehicles in the field.





Agriculture & Natural Resources

VISION 2060

Michigan has a thriving system of diverse wild and working landscapes where we enjoy our state's natural wonders, grow food, and nurture our natural heritage. Our robust landscape of forests, fields, waterways and wildlife is restored, preserved and managed to offer access to Michigan's rich diversity of native flora and fauna. Natural resources support robust rural communities that are connected to the land through farming, forestry, clean energy, tourism and outdoor recreation.

GOALS

1 Residents import less food and eat more products that are sustainably grown and processed in Michigan. Small, Michigan-owned farms provide a large diversity of food and fiber, and Michigan farmers are known nationally for expertise in unique agricultural products (honey, beer, apples, cherries, etc.). Michigan provides its own residents with a consistent supply of fresh meat and organic produce, and exports a wide range of these goods nearly all year round.

IN 20 YEARS: Michigan produce is commonly eaten in the state nearly year-round, and more people in the state demand to know where their food is grown and what methods are used. The federal Farm Bill better reflects and supports sustainable and local food production methods.

IN 10 YEARS: Foods purchased by state governments and schools are frequently grown locally

with sustainable farming practices, and nearly all are grown in Michigan. Michigan's Good Food Charter is the basis of policy discussions in Lansing, and food is more fairly priced based on life-cycle costs such as transportation, water use, and fertilizer, resulting in more food systems targeting their local communities and local markets.

IN 2 YEARS: The State has developed a successful "Grown in Michigan" labeling program that clearly identifies Michigan-grown and Michigan-made foods, particularly fresh produce, meat and value-added products like wine.

2 Forests, agricultural and wild lands and waters support robust rural communities that help Michigan achieve greater energy security and food independence, create sustainable jobs and build a thriving eco-tourism industry. Habitat protection and native vegetation programs support land- and

water-dependent activities like hiking, kayaking, canoeing, biking, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, skiing and other outdoor pursuits.

IN 20 YEARS: The northern reach of the state and the UP have become nationally and internationally known for recreation opportunities, and the state's rural, agricultural-based regions have become nationally known for key specialty and value-added crops such as apples, cherries, asparagus, meat, wine and beer. A transportation system has emerged that links rural tourism-based and agricultural-based communities with downstate urban centers and markets.

IN 10 YEARS: A eco-tourism-based business sector has emerged to provide northern communities with reliable year-round income. Vital natural assets are identified, protected and marketed nationally and internationally as destination districts, such as the Manistee River Fishery, the Great Lakes Dunes, and the Michigan Fruit and Wine Region.

IN 2 YEARS: The state has developed an "Up North" business attraction and retention program modeled on the "Great Waters" program in the UP. This agency and program helps connect eco-tourism, lodging and hospitality businesses with local environmental protection groups to both support and promote Michigan's natural attractions. Downstate and urban communities have developed tourism plans based on ecotourism and parks.

3 Michigan actively protects its best agricultural land, forests and wild places. These landscapes are valued for their natural beauty and diversity, ecosystem services and for the human livelihoods they support. They are not threatened by unplanned development.

IN 20 YEARS: Planning for infrastructure and land use development is moved to the regional level. Communities maintain unique identities through local ordinances, but rely on regional entities for the management and implementation of planning and zoning decisions that impact infrastructure, transportation loads, schools, etc.

IN 10 YEARS: There is a state-level Smart Growth office responsible for coordinating local land use plans to ensure compatibility with one another, and guide long-term state goals for agriculture, forestry, habitat and recreation. The state approves local infrastructure plans with consideration for their perpetual care and the state's financial ability to support and sustain their infrastructure and support future development.

IN 2 YEARS: A robust state purchase of development rights (PDR) program is established wherein landowners may voluntarily sell the development rights on lands that have significant undeveloped "resource" value, i.e., agriculture, forestry or recreation use.

4 There are more acres of parks and publicly owned lands, and they are more connected by urban and rural trails, bike paths and greenways. Unique landscapes that define Michigan's character and quality of life are permanently protected and publicly accessible, including lakeshore dunes, wetlands, farms, forests and wild recreational lands.

IN 20 YEARS: All Michigan residents living within a city or village reside within ¼ mile of a park or greenspace that is safe, attractive and clean.

IN 10 YEARS: Ecologically significant portions of the state's most unique and/or threatened land-

scapes (critical dunes, headwaters, prime farmland, etc.) have been targeted for acquisition through a public-private partnership between the state and local conservancies. Sustainable management plans have been put into place that ensure the perpetual care, enjoyment and ecosystem health of parks and natural areas.

IN 2 YEARS: The state has identified Michigan's priority areas for future outdoor tourism and recreation and has created a program intended to direct more of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and other fund sources into acquiring and developing these areas in partnership with the private sector.

5 More forests are allowed to mature longer and support a more resilient mix of trees and habitats. Forest management strategies enhance and restore biodiversity and provide wood for high-value, job-intensive products like furniture and building materials.

IN 20 YEARS: The timber industry has shifted from a reliance on low-value lumber like pulp and paper products to higher-value and job-creating furniture manufacturing using Michigan's traditionally high value lumber (white pine, bird's eye maple, etc.)

IN 10 YEARS: More of Michigan's public and privately owned forests are certified as sustainable, and a higher majority are put into longer harvest rotation schedules, and more early successional species like aspen are allowed to transition to native forests of mixed hardwoods and deciduous types.

IN 2 YEARS: The state announces a management plan to increase the amount of state forest managed for biodiversity, rustic recreation and second-growth, old growth timber.



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