

Taking Action to 2030

In the following chapters, CONNECT's goals and a series of objectives with actions are explored for each emissions sector. An "Objective" is an "end result", or target, and an "Action" is a means of realizing the objective. Noted on each objective is its emission reduction potential, and on each action is its [co-benefits](#) among other pertinent information. Links to resources are provided within each action. All community sectors draw on the potential actions of CONNECT, its partners, local government, residents, and businesses to achieve 30% emissions reduction by 2030, and subsequent reductions to 2050. Local governments should use and modify potential actions from these lists to implement in their own communities or climate planning efforts.

Symbol	GHG Reduction
	Small Reduction Potential
	Moderate Reduction Potential
	Large Reduction Potential

Symbol	Co-Benefit
	Supports jobs and economic prosperity
	Advances social equity
	Fosters resource security
	Improves public health and local environmental quality

Actions labeled as a "CONNECT Opportunity"  are considered climate actions that CONNECT may be able to implement in the form of a CONNECT-wide project to reduce our emissions or are actions from which members may find extra benefits when implementing together as a region.

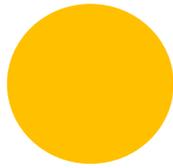
Sectors covered will include:



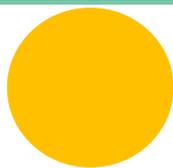
CONNECT Support Actions



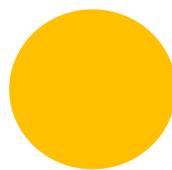
Municipal, Commercial, & Industrial Energy



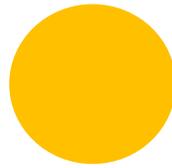
Residential Energy



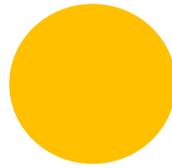
Materials Management



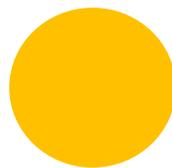
Water & Wastewater Management



Transportation & Mobile Sources



Land Use & Climate Adaptation



Equity

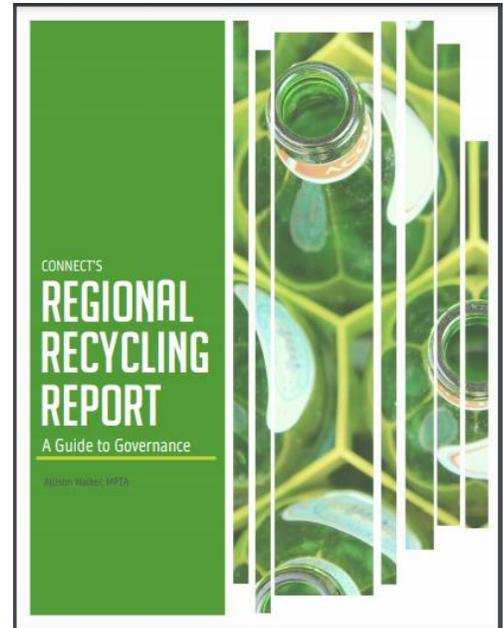
Materials Management

All waste materials that are disposed of to a landfill directly contribute to climate change through greenhouse gases emitted during decomposition, while incineration and the hauling of waste to or from facilities also contributes to total impacts.

As a result of global changes to the recycling market, many CONNECT municipalities saw the removal of glass, paper, or various types of plastic from their bins, despite the materials being listed in contracts. Outdated ordinances, lack of public education, and lack of cohesion surrounding municipal recycling language were found have subsequently led to a decrease in recycling⁸, and undoubtedly an increase in solid waste sector emissions in CONNECT communities since 2013.

Despite municipal solid waste tonnage contributing only about 2% of CONNECT's total GHG emissions in 2018, building up local recycling infrastructure was rated the single-most popular climate action in a survey of CONNECT community residents, and should be considered integral to the long-term sustainability of our region. CONNECT members' solid waste is disposed of at several local and regional landfill locations, however, stakeholders have identified the urgent need for a regional solution to materials management.⁹ Additionally, embodied energy within the items that we throw away might be harnessed through reuse and recycling of materials.¹⁰

It is in CONNECT's long-term interest to pursue a more circular economy; reduce waste at its source, expand recycling facilities, reduce food waste, and enable re-use of materials to lower emissions. This chapter focuses on opportunities to reduce waste, reuse materials, and recycle what cannot be reused.



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The following tables contain CONNECT's objectives and potential actions for materials management.

	Objective	Benefits	Reduction Potential
Goal 3: Bolster CONNECT's resilience through land, water, & materials management by its members	MM1 – Reduce solid waste generation by the municipality and broader community through recycling/reuse of materials		

Objective MM1 – Reduce Solid Waste

Reduce solid waste generation by the municipality and broader community through recycling/reuse of materials



Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?	Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?
MM-1A	Form an exploratory committee to begin the creation and engagement of a central regional materials management entity.		-	MM-1H	Partner with PRC to provide pop-up or permanent glass collection services in the municipality	-	-
MM-1B	Update and ensure standardization in municipal recycling contracts and language across CONNECT communities		-	MM-1I	Remove any code barriers to, and explore options for, a community composting program that reduces yard litter and food waste sent to landfill.	-	-
MM-1C	Support the creation of a regional recycling data collective with CONNECT to better understand community waste and improve municipal waste programs		-	MM-1J	Build and support community gardens , urban farms, and alternative growing platforms like green rooftops in your community.	-	-
MM-1D	Partner with a marketing agency to run a public education campaign around recycling in CONNECT communities		-	MM-1K	Encourage and highlight Sustainable Restaurant Designation in your communities' local eateries.	-	-
MM-1E	Consider recycling ordinances that promote recycling in Multi-family and Commercial Buildings or reuse of building materials during construction/demolition	-	-	MM-1L	Use recycling and composting technical assistance programs to upgrade recycling programs, maximize material recovery, and ensure program sustainability.	-	-
MM-1F	Pursue a PA DEP Section 902 Recycling Program Development and Implementation Grant to create a new recycling program in your municipality	-	-	MM-1M	Use a cooperative purchasing program, such as COSTARS , to procure sustainable local government materials/products at a lower price		-
MM-1G	Use CONNECT's platform to target state development of recycling infrastructure and technology in our region		-	MM-1N	Join Allegheny County municipalities to pass a local ban the use of harmful materials in our communities, such as coal tar.		Y