

# City of Chicago Environmental Justice Action Plan 2024 Progress Report Summary

## What is the Environmental Justice Action Plan?

Developed in 2023, the City of Chicago Environmental Justice (EJ) Action Plan is the first of its kind for Chicago, representing the City's commitment to environmental justice and equity by identifying specific goals and actions that the City will take to address the impacts from cumulative exposures in certain neighborhoods. Developed by the Department of Environment (DOE), the EJ Action Plan reflects data and input from nine City departments that make decisions that affect the environment; community organizations; local residents; and technical experts.

## 2024 Departmental Highlights

### Department of Public Health

- Purchased 150 air monitors as part of the Community Air Monitoring expansion.
- Initiated creation of the Community Air Monitor Governance Board which will provide input on air sensor placement, recommendations for data management and dissemination and community-focused education.



### Department of Transportation

- Implemented the area's first Neighborhood Greenway cycling route on Rockwell between 35th and 48th. Implementation for two additional corridors in the 12th ward is anticipated in 2025.
- Greencorps recruited 57 individuals with barriers to employment and trained 161 youth, including individuals from historically-disinvested and/or EJ communities.

### Department of Housing

- Launched Green Homes Chicago, a new single-family retrofit program that funds whole-home electrification and weatherization measures in low- and medium-income households.
- Completed the Department's first multifamily retrofit grant, enabling a 60-unit senior-living building to be redeveloped as a nearly-all electric facility with rooftop solar array.



### Department of Planning and Development

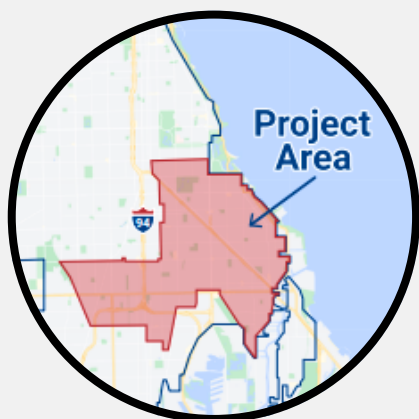
- Drafted engagement plan for the Calumet Area Land Use Plan and Design Guidelines update with the input of the Calumet Connect Partnership and Calumet Area Industrial Commission. Engagement plan will be leveraged during development draft land use framework and design guidelines in 2025.
- Updated the City's Sustainable Development Policy, which includes new and revised strategies to help improve environmental performance and mitigate negative impacts of industrial projects on surrounding communities.

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## 2024 Departmental Highlights (Continued)

### Department of Streets & Sanitation

- Increased access to the City's Food Scrap Drop-Off program by expanding the program to five additional locations, bringing the city total to 20 drop-off sites.
- Distributed over 2,200 free backyard compost bins and gathered over 4,100 unique requests for bins.
- Planted 11,492 trees citywide, with 45% planted in equity priority communities with less tree canopy.



### Department of Water Management

- Completed preliminary design for the Far South Side Overflow Tunnel Project, which includes a deep tunnel of approximately 9.7 miles long. Work will continue into 2025 and the final project is expected to reduce basement flooding and help manage stormwater in communities such as Chatham, Avalon Park, Roseland, Pullman, and nearby areas.

### Department of Procurement Services

- Initiated project with Department of Environment to develop the City's first-ever environmental review process for City contracts prior to solicitation, including the development of an environmental impact screening tool for departments that issue contracts.

### Department of Fleet and Facility Management (2FM)

- Conducted 734 environmental reviews, of which more than half are located in environmental justice communities.
- 72% of monetary spending on environmental sampling occurred in environmental justice communities.

