

# SUSTAIN KANE

economy • environment • people

## CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN NEWSLETTER

Kane County has made significant strides in advancing sustainability through the implementation of the Climate Action Implementation Plan. The following highlights our recent achievements and ongoing initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering a healthier, more sustainable future for our communities.



# Health and Safety

Action H2-6: Educate and encourage community members to take steps related to increasing their safety in the face of climate change such as improving emergency, extreme weather and temperature preparedness, and an awareness of relevant existing state, county, municipal, and other alert systems to stay informed.

Kane County has been awarded \$10,000 in funding for the installation of flashing, solar-powered flood warning signs. The systems will provide real-time visual alerts to motorists and pedestrians, enhancing public safety and situational awareness during flood events.



## Powering Safe Communities

### 2025 Grant Recipients

- Brookfield Police Department
- City of Harvey
- DuPage County
- Dwight Fire Protection District
- Flossmoor Police Department
- Forest Park Fire Department
- Fox River Valley Public Library District
- Johnsborg Police Department
- Kane County
- Lake Villa Police Department
- Manhattan Police Department
- Rainbow Beach Park Advisory Council
- Village of Berkeley
- Village of Burlington
- Village of Glendale Heights Police Department
- Village of Lynwood
- Village of Lyons
- Village of Morton Grove
- Village of South Chicago Heights
- Village of Summit Police Department
- Village of Thornton
- Village of Waterman
- Winnebago Community Unit School District 323

Four informational brochures are available to educate residents about extreme weather events in alignment with the newly adopted Natural Hazard and Mitigation Plan.

Visitors to Kane County Government Center will notice a new display that provides real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) information for both indoor and outdoor conditions. Residents may also access current air quality updates anytime through the Kane County Air Quality Dashboard online.



**HOW EXTREME WINTER STORMS AFFECT KANE COUNTY**

**WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS**  
in Kane County

**Got questions?**  
Kane County Environmental and Water Resources  
630-232-3497

Kane County Government Center, 719 Batavia Avenue, Building A - 1st Floor, Geneva, IL 60134

**FEMA NRI Expected Annual Loss Estimates for Kane County**

Annualized Frequency	Building Value	Population	Agriculture Value	Total	Expected Annual Loss Rating
1.3 events per year	\$663	\$1,442,223	\$191,648	\$1,644,513	Relatively High
0.8 events per year	\$76,684	\$134,494	N/A	\$211,178	Relatively Moderate
3.6 events per year	\$17,029	\$169,000	\$865	\$186,094	Relatively Moderate

The Arctic is warming 4 times faster than the rest of the planet due to climate change. This will lead to the disruption of the polar vortex and an increased frequency of extreme cold events.

What is the Air Quality in Kane County today?

Air Quality Index	Level of Hazard	Precautions
0-50	Good	Enjoy the outdoors
50-100	Moderate	Sensitive people: Limit strenuous activity
100-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive People	Sensitive people: Reschedule strenuous outdoor activities
150-200	Unhealthy	Everyone: Avoid strenuous activity
200-300	Very Unhealthy	Everyone: Avoid physical activity outdoors
300-500	Hazardous	Everyone: Avoid being outside

# Buildings and Energy

Action BE1-1: Promote existing incentives for improving energy efficiency and renewable energy (e.g., insulation, energy-efficient windows, electric heat pumps, solar panels) in new construction and retrofit for residential and commercial properties.

Beginning in mid-October, Kane County will offer rebates to local farmers who complete weatherization improvements to their homes. Eligible participants may receive up to \$800 from the County, in addition to a federal tax credit of up to \$1,200 through the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (25C), which is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2025.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the 25C tax credit before it expires.

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# Water and Wastewater

Action W1-1: Establish and promote a program supporting the installation of low-flow water fixtures in residential homes and commercial businesses as well as opportunities for real-time water and energy metering that may help customers better understand and reduce their water and energy consumption.

- Visit [Conserve Water for Kane](#) to access a wide range of resources and practical tips for using water more efficiently. Through funding provided by the American Rescue Plan, eligible residents may apply for a \$100 rebate toward the purchase of WaterSense-labeled high-efficiency toilets (1.28 gallons per flush).
- Residents with sprinkler systems who experience high summer water bills (over \$300) are invited to participate in a pilot program supplying residents with smart sprinkler systems that optimize watering schedules based on real-time weather data and the specific conditions of each yard.
- Contact [HinshawSarrah@kanecountyil.gov](mailto:HinshawSarrah@kanecountyil.gov) if you are interested in participating.



# Greenspace and Ecosystems

Action G6-1: Establish a program to give away trees on an annual basis for residents to plant on their property. Potential program concept: grow seedlings and give to homeowners once per year, or sell at a discount.

Planning to purchase a home next year? Kane County, in partnership with The Conservation Foundation, has been awarded a \$5,000 Nicor Environmental Stewardship Grant.

This grant will support a program providing free native trees to new homeowners next year. The initiative aims to promote sustainable landscaping practices, enhance environmental health, and improve quality of life throughout Kane County neighborhoods.



Action G4-4: Explore establishing a lighting control ordinance to protect native plants, species, biodiversity, and improve night sky quality.

In 2024, the Kane County Forest Preserve District adopted a Responsible Outdoor Lighting Policy designed to improve lighting quality within the district's natural areas while conserving energy. These guidelines are also designed to minimize harm to wildlife habitats, as well as to migrating birds and insects attracted to light sources."

To celebrate the importance of dark skies, Kane County partnered with the Forest Preserve District to host an evening dedicated to experiencing wildlife under a naturally dark sky. The event featured educational activities on the impacts of light pollution on wildlife, a guided night hike, and, of course, s'mores by the fire.

We look forward to hosting additional events next year.

# Waste Management

Action WM2-5: Establish a pilot organics diversion and composting program. Explore the potential for compost pickup as well as on-site composting programs.

Kane County was awarded \$396,109 by USDA to implement a pilot program focused on food waste separation and collection at four major institutions:

- Kane County Adult Justice Center
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Kane County Cougars (NW Medicine Field)
- Sherman Hospital (Advocate Health)

This program will:

1. Prevent 2.12 million lbs. or 1,060 tons of food from entering a landfill.
2. Keep 1,010 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e of GHG emissions from entering the atmosphere. This is equivalent to the annual energy usage of 132 homes.

Action WM 1-1: Create a comprehensive community-wide communication campaign to provide standardized information and communication on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and organics collection options and promote existing resources, services, incentives, and programs.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has partnered with several Chicago area jurisdictions, including Kane County, to launch Feed the Cart, a marketing campaign to promote and improve recycling. The campaign, funded by a \$2 million U.S. EPA grant, aims to increase the collection of recyclable materials by 15% region-wide, while reducing contamination within the recycling stream.

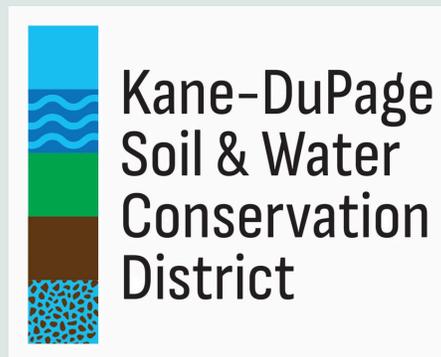
Kane County's Recycling Program worked with Recycle Coach to develop a powerful "what goes where" web tool and mobile app. Residents can use Recycle Coach to answer their recycling questions, set curbside collection reminders, and find local drop-off locations and events.

Meet Loop,  
your friendly  
recycling cart.



# Local Organizations

We sincerely appreciate the dedication of our CAIP team and valued partners. To learn more about our collaborators and stay informed about upcoming environmental initiatives and community events hosted by local organizations, please click on the logos below.



The next round of research for the Climate Action Implementation Plan will take place in early 2026.

Volunteer with us to help create a more sustainable Kane!

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Phone: 630-208-8665

Environmental and Water Resources Department

[Sustain Kane Facebook Page](#)

[Sustain Kane Instagram Account](#)