

Goal 7: Be proactive rather than reactive in improving and coordinating public infrastructure including City streets, water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as enhanced park facilities, and renewable energy generation and distribution:

Objective 7.4: Establish a City-led consortium of public and private utility providers (Utilities) to coordinate infrastructure upgrades and maintenance with the City's land use plans.

Strategy 7.4.1: Through the consortium, establish ongoing procedures and regular communication mechanisms with the Utilities, including but not limited to quarterly meetings, to coordinate facility maintenance and expansion with local land development.

Strategy 7.4.2: Provide timely effective notice to the Utilities to encourage coordination of public and private utility trenching activities for new construction and maintenance and repair of existing roads and sidewalks.

Strategy 7.4.3: Promote, when reasonably feasible, co-location of new public and private utility distribution facilities in shared trenches and coordination of construction timing to minimize disruptions and reduce the cost of utility delivery.

Strategy 7.4.4: Require the Utilities to provide notification to the City prior to any maintenance or removal of vegetation in City right-of-way.

Strategy 7.4.5: Ensure that all maintenance, repair, installation, and replacement activities by the Utilities are consistent with the City's land use regulations and environmental ordinances.

Strategy 7.4.6: Prior to seeking City approval for facilities, the Utilities are encouraged to solicit community input on the siting of proposed facilities which may have a significant adverse impact on the surrounding community.

Strategy 7.4.7: Encourage the conversion to cost-effective and environmentally sensitive alternative technologies and energy sources while incorporating the latest technologies available into the services provided.

Strategy 7.4.8: New electrical and communication lines should be located underground whenever possible and practical. The City shall encourage the Utilities to convert existing overhead lines to underground lines whenever possible and practical during infrastructure upgrades or improvements.

Strategy 7.4.9: Overhead lines should not be allowed in greenbelt and open spaces as identified in the City's Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Plan when reasonably possible.

Objective 7.5: Pursue opportunities to enhance the use and distribution of renewable energy in the City, and augment the City's efforts to increase energy efficiency and conservation.

Strategy 7.5.1: Engage in efforts to advance the use of microgrids and other future electrical generation and distribution technologies that will increase the reliability and resiliency of the electrical grid used by the City, its residents and businesses.

Strategy 7.5.2: Encourage energy conservation measures in City-led development projects to enhance energy efficiency through combinations of site planning, landscaping, building design and construction practices.

Strategy 7.5.3: Encourage residents and businesses to participate in the Energize Hudson Valley program or other such programs that promote residential and commercial energy efficiency improvements, retrofits or upgrades to reduce the City's overall consumption of electricity.

Strategy 7.5.4: Encourage commercial and industrial property owners to use Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing or other creative financing mechanisms and structures to make energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to their buildings.