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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT RELEASES THE CHICAGO BUILDING DECARBONIZATION
WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**

*Report recommends equitable solutions to address the nearly 70% of emissions that
come from buildings in Chicago*

CHICAGO — Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot released the Chicago Building Decarbonization Working Group (CBDWG) report, which recommends equitable solutions to address the nearly 70% of total citywide greenhouse gas emissions that come from buildings in Chicago. The report release comes as Mayor Lightfoot continues to make progress on the City of Chicago's Green Recovery Agenda, a plan to combat climate change by drastically reducing the City's largest sources of emissions, reducing the city's reliance on fossil fuels and driving green economic opportunities for residents.

"My administration launched the Green Recovery Agenda at the height of the pandemic to achieve an equitable and environmentally-just economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Lightfoot. "This set of bold recommendations in the Chicago Building Decarbonization Working Group Recommendations Report, developed with and for all Chicagoans, provides a suite of strategies that can help Chicago meet its Climate Action Plan goals equitably and ensure that no one community is left behind and that we prioritize clean, healthy, and efficient buildings for all."

The report was developed by the Mayor's Office in partnership with Elevate and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), through the American Cities Climate Challenge. The team engaged in months of research to analyze best practices in decarbonization from 12 North American cities. The research was followed by a yearlong effort to engage stakeholders across the city via focus groups and in-depth interviews with leaders citywide. The team then transitioned to forming CBDWG, that was comprised of 53 technical experts, civic leaders, and community stakeholders across many sectors.

"I'm proud of what this working group has done to center equity in our conversations and hear from diverse stakeholders all across the City to inform these



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recommendations,” said Anne Evens, CEO of Elevate. “Reducing carbon emissions is a necessity, and we can start by bringing its benefits to those who need it most.”

The CBDWG divided into three sub-groups — Existing Buildings, New Construction, and Financial and Technical Assistance. The report assesses each subject area and identifies concrete policies and actions to:

- Equitably advance decarbonization for all, particularly homeowners, community anchors, and local businesses in Chicago’s historically underserved communities.
- Drastically reduce fossil fuel use and establish the highest efficiency standards for new construction.
- Improve building energy use and performance through energy retrofits, advancement of renewable energy, and the electrification of existing buildings.
- Identify financial and technical support and resources to ensure the successful decarbonization of Chicago’s building stock.

The report highlights 26 strategies, recommended by the working group, which include specific policy changes, programs, and studies to complement the City’s interim goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 62% citywide by 2040.

“The City of Chicago is primed to decarbonize our buildings while delivering equitable co-benefits for every resident,” said Angela Tovar, Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago. “The report’s findings prove that the benefits of building decarbonization extend far beyond emissions reductions; these proposed strategies can create healthy buildings that improve indoor air quality and support wealth-building opportunities for disenfranchised communities in the green economy. As we continue recovering from the pandemic, equitable building decarbonization will be a critical tool for both reducing emissions and improving the lives of all Chicagoans.”

The CBDWG recommendations will serve as a guide for future policy development by Mayor Lightfoot to advance decarbonization across all building typologies in the City of Chicago. Decarbonization efforts are expected to generate thousands of green jobs and improve health outcomes for Chicagoans.

Concrete investments in the Green Recovery Agenda include \$31 million already dedicated to retrofit residential buildings and community anchor institutions. Additional actions taken by the Lightfoot administration include the April release of the 2022 Climate Action Plan, a recently announced partnership for a new energy supply agreement that will source 300 megawatts of solar power to help the City achieve 100% renewable energy for its operations by 2025, and the September passage of the Energy Transformation Code, the City’s updated energy efficiency



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construction code aimed at saving energy and reducing the carbon footprint for both residential and commercial buildings.

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