



AFTAB PUREVAL
City of Cincinnati, Office of the Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12th, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT: Jack Willingham, jack.willingham@cincinnati-oh.gov, (513) 833-3155

Cincinnati Selected for Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities Initiative

Cincinnati is one of 25 cities to receive Bloomberg Philanthropies' support to turbocharge local climate action and create more prosperous communities.

Cincinnati – Today, Mayor Aftab and City leaders announced Cincinnati was selected by Bloomberg Philanthropies as one of 25 U.S. cities to join [Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities](#). Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities is a three-year initiative designed to leverage historic levels of federal funding to incubate and implement transformative local solutions to build low-carbon, resilient, and economically thriving communities. Building on the longtime leadership of U.S. cities to confront the overlapping crises of climate change and racial wealth inequity, the \$200 million Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative will provide deep support to selected cities to pursue transformative solutions in the buildings and transportation sectors through partnerships with [Policy Link](#), [Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University](#), and [Natural Resources Defense Council](#).

By participating in Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities, Cincinnati will receive a Bloomberg Philanthropies-funded [innovation team \(i-team\)](#) with up to three dedicated staff with expertise in data analysis, insight development, human-centered design, systems thinking, and project management to bolster City capacity in driving progress on climate mitigation and promoting equitable outcomes. The city will also receive multi-year, in-depth, customized policy and technical assistance in collaboration with community-based organizations to mobilize public, private, and philanthropic investments.

“Bloomberg Philanthropies is once again supporting Cincinnati in making a transformational impact on our future,” **said Mayor Aftab**. “Climate-forward cities, that are investing right now in resiliency, environmental justice, and innovative solutions, will be best-positioned to thrive in the generations to come. The expertise and direct support provided by our innovation team will be an essential part of this work, and we are exceptionally proud to take part in this program.”

Cincinnati was chosen by Bloomberg Philanthropies for Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities based on its leadership and ambition to build resilient, equitable communities. Despite facing significant challenges such as heat disparities, storm events, sewer backups, and landslides, the City has persisted in advancing community prosperity and equitable economic development amid the climate crisis. Mayor Aftab and City leaders have led implementation of the Green Cincinnati Plan and the City's path to carbon neutrality. Since adoption, the City has made significant progress, including solar energy to power homes, cleanup of contaminated sites along the Mill Creek, protected shared-use paths to safely connect communities, and expanded tree coverage in the hottest parts of the city.

"I'm so excited to count Cincinnati as a participating city in the Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities initiative," **said City Manager Sheryl Long**. "Our City Administration, Council, and Mayor all understand both the challenges and the opportunities associated with innovative environmental justice initiatives, and I'm proud to work on ambitious projects that will ensure a sustainable future for our City."

With over \$400 billion in federal funding available to local governments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities aims to help cities access and implement the historic funding for critical local projects, especially in disadvantaged communities historically overburdened by pollution. The Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities grant will strengthen these efforts with a focus on green workforce development in partnership with the Urban League of Southwestern Ohio and Groundwork Ohio River Valley.

"We are focused on climate solutions that benefit everyone, especially communities that need the most help," **said Ollie Kroner, Director of the City's Office of Environment & Sustainability**. "This grant is a major opportunity to deliver on the community vision set forth in the Green Cincinnati Plan and invest dollars in a way that touches peoples' lives."

Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities is the newest Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative to support local climate action in the United States. In 2019, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched the [American Cities Climate Challenge](#) to provide resources and support to 25 of the largest U.S. cities to scale proven high-impact urban climate solutions in the buildings and transportation sectors. With Bloomberg Philanthropies' support, the 25 Climate Challenge cities passed 54 major buildings, energy, and transportation policies and launched 71 new climate programs and initiatives, which are projected to reduce 74 million metric tons of carbon emissions through 2030. In 2022, Bloomberg Philanthropies galvanized a consortium of nonprofit and expert groups to establish the [Local Infrastructure Hub](#), a national program providing more than 1,200 municipalities with pro-bono expertise to navigate historic funding opportunities made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, develop competitive grant applications, and bring investment home to address essential infrastructure needs. To date, participating municipalities have already been awarded more than \$1 billion in federal funding.

##