

## **Envision Cambridge Focus Area Working Groups: Housing, Economy, Climate and the Environment, Mobility**

### **Background**

Envision Cambridge is a community-wide process to develop a comprehensive plan for a more livable, sustainable, and equitable Cambridge. With input from the community, Envision Cambridge will create a shared vision for our future that will result in recommendations on a broad range of topics. The plan is organized by six key focus areas – housing, economy, climate and the environment, mobility, urban form, and community interaction. Strategic goals, targets, and strategies will be developed for each focus area to help realize our shared vision.

Focus area working groups were formed to develop recommendations on four of the six focus groups: housing, economy, climate and the environment, mobility. The Envision Cambridge Advisory Committee, which helps set priorities for the plan, will be tasked with developing recommendations on the other two focus groups, urban form and community interaction.

### **Description of Focus Area Working Groups**

The **Housing Working Group** addresses issues specific to housing, including housing affordability, supply and production, universal design, homelessness and emergency housing, and housing health and safety, among other priority topics.

The **Climate and Environment Working Group** addresses Cambridge's environmental concerns, such as greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, low carbon energy supply, environmental justice, landscape and ecology, air and water pollution, flooding, extreme heat and weather events, urban tree canopy, and solid waste, among other priority topics.

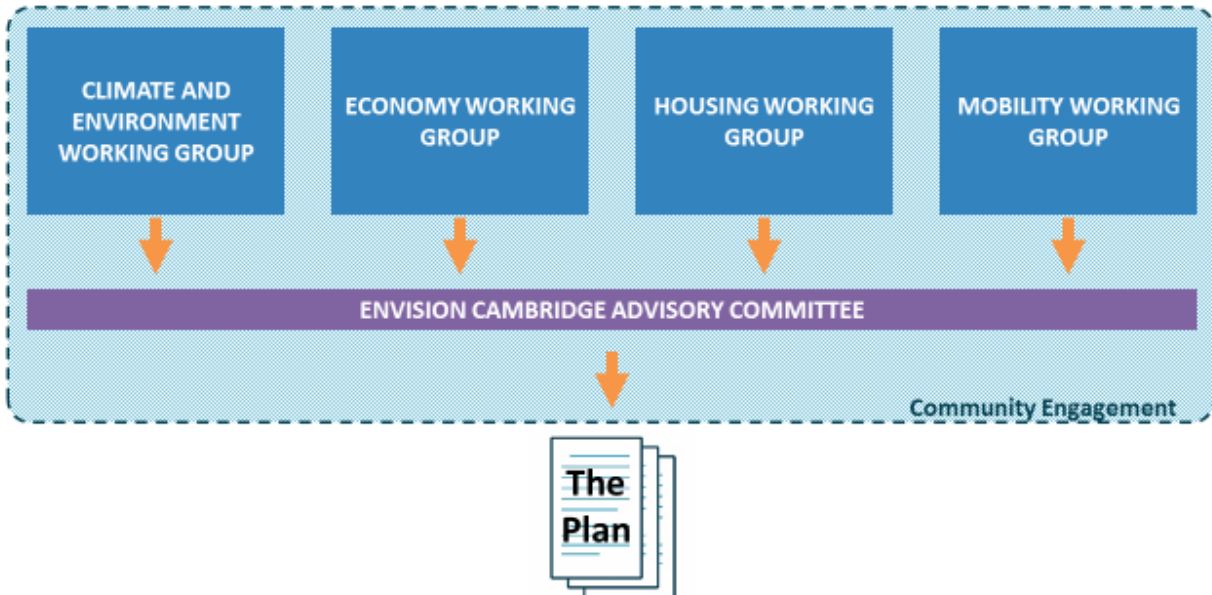
The **Economy Working Group** addresses issues of business, labor, entrepreneurship, economic mobility, business mix and industry diversification, workforce training, and commercial real estate, among other priority topics.

The **Mobility Working Group** addresses urban mobility, transportation mode-share, multimodal network design, transit accessibility, traffic, and automobile and bicycle parking among other priority topics.

## Objective of Focus Area Working Groups

The focus area working groups are tasked with developing recommendations on topic-specific goals, indicators and targets, and strategies (see section on planning definitions).

Recommendations will be presented to the Envision Cambridge Advisory Committee and considered together with other planning topics.



Note. Envision Cambridge includes two other working groups: the Alewife Working Group and Engagement and Communications Working Group. The Alewife Working Group guides the Alewife district planning. The Engagement and Communications Working Group provides guidance on how the citywide plan can best engage the entire community and ensure that dialogue is representative of the city's diversity.

## Planning Framework

The focus area working groups are an important part of the Envision Cambridge process as the plan moves from high-level aspirations to specific methods of implementation. In the first year, the community developed a shared vision and set of core values to guide the planning process. Moving forward, the community, with the guidance of the focus area working groups and the Envision Cambridge Advisory Committee, will develop strategic goals, identify indicators and targets, and develop strategies.



## Working Group Schedule

Each focus area working group will hold three meetings in the spring/early summer and two in the fall of 2017. The schedule is outlined below:

- Meeting 1 (May): Develop topic-specific goals that align with our core values
- Meeting 2 (June): Develop strategies and targets to achieve goals
- Meeting 3 (July): Develop strategies and targets to achieve goals
- Meeting 4 (Fall TBD): Revise strategies and targets as needed
- Meeting 5 (Fall TBD): Finalize strategies and targets as needed

## Envision Cambridge Planning Definitions

### Core Values

Guiding principles that define what is important to us as a community.

#### *Livability*

We value a vibrant built and natural environment and support sustainable transportation with affordable and convenient access to daily needs and recreational resources

#### *Diversity and Equity*

We are a welcoming community that celebrates our diversity and ensures access to affordable housing choices and opportunities to succeed

*Economic Opportunity*

We provide opportunity and stability through access to quality jobs, workforce development and training, and livable wages that support a high level of services

*Sustainability and Resilience*

We take responsible action to reduce our impact on the environment and build a resilient city and strong community

*Community Health and Wellbeing*

We promote healthy and active lifestyles in a supportive, safe community with diverse opportunities to connect with our neighbors and engage in civic life

*Learning*

We embrace lifelong learning and celebrate the pursuit of knowledge and our culturally rich and creative community

Focus Areas

Key planning topics that structure our analyses: Housing, Economy, Climate and Environment, Mobility, Urban Form, and Community Interaction.

Goals

Aspirational statements of what we want to achieve. Aligned with our vision statement and core values.

Indicators

Quantitative measures used to assess our performance towards targets.

Strategies

Policies and tools adopted to meet specific targets, and thus accomplish specific goals and work toward our shared vision.

Targets

Quantifiable, specific, concrete, and time-bound objectives, which are tied to measurable indicators. May respond to one or several goals.

Vision

The broadest aspirational statement; the summation of what Cambridge will be in the future:

*“Cambridge is a forward-thinking, welcoming, and diverse city. We enjoy a high quality of life and thrive in a sustainable, inclusive, and connected community.”*