

City of New Rochelle  
Department of Development

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
THRU: CHARLES B. STROME, III, CITY MANAGER  
FROM: LUIZ C. ARAGON, COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENT  
CC: NINA ARRON  
DATE: March 10, 2017  
SUBJECT: **GreeNR 2016 Annual Progress Memo**

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**Overview**

This memo outlines 2016 progress of GreeNR broken out by initiative, followed by metrics where available.

**Background**

Progress is most easily made when the GreeNR Initiatives fit within existing City priorities. The recently adopted Comprehensive Plan has further embedded GreeNR goals into standard City policies and procedures through its green goals itemized by chapter.

The GreeNR plan recognizes that recommended actions are “resource dependent” and that “judgments about whether, how and when to proceed will be guided in part by organizational capacity and competing priorities.” As a result, progress on some items is ahead of the timetable anticipated when GreeNR was adopted while progress on others is behind schedule. GreeNR was intended to be an organic plan, so adjustments in the focus and timing of initiatives is entirely appropriate.

Strategies to assist implementation include:

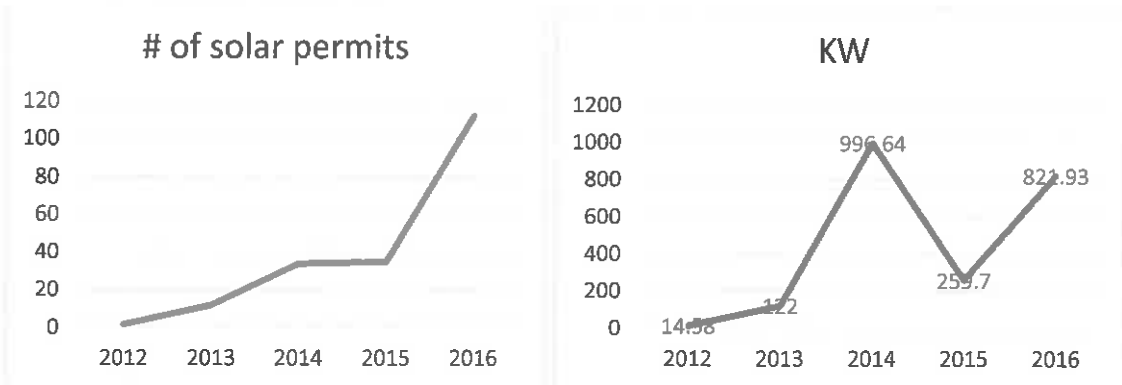
- Further imbed the City’s sustainability goals in policy documents, city code and procedures wherever feasible.
- Build on related initiatives led by other organizations / agencies.
- Partner with other organizations / agencies.
- Develop systems to enable staff to track and measure progress.

These strategies should reduce the resource constraints noted above to assist with ongoing implementation.

## 2016 Highlights

### Solar

112 solar permits were issued in 2016 up from 35 in 2015. Total kilowatts for permits issued in 2016 was 829.93. The 2014 KW spike shown on the graph below the was due to two large commercial installations that year.



### Lighting

LED street lighting is 99.5% complete with an expected energy cost savings of \$638,000 and net savings of \$270,000 annually inclusive servicing the Lumen Solutions loan.

All exterior light fixtures at the Marina were converted to LED this year.

### Grants

The City received a \$55,000 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Long Island Sound Futures Fund for a Green Infrastructure Plan to be developed in 2017.

### Tracking

As noted in last year's report, the GreeNR plan includes progress metrics with 2011 baselines however many of these are not currently tracked or recorded. The city is beginning implementation of Muncicity with full implementation to the Department of Public Works by the end of Q1 2017. Rollout to other departments is anticipated later in the year. Muncicity provides both data tracking and reporting and is expected to greatly improve progress tracking, analysis and reporting.

## Progress

### Part 1: Energy and Climate

Reduce local energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while transitioning to renewable sources of energy and adapting to probable climate change.

**1.1 Green Building Standards.** The New York State initiative to consider new green building standards has not moved ahead. No local action has been taken as it was anticipated we would follow the state's lead.

Green Building Standards	Baseline 2011	GreeNR Projected Progress 2014	GreeNR Projected Progress 2020	Actual Progress 2016
Local Large Green Building Law Adopted	0	0	1	0

**1.2 Exterior Lighting Efficiency.** DPW has substantially completed the LED street lighting replacement program. It is expected that this will reduce annual street lighting costs by \$638,000 with \$270,000 net savings inclusive servicing the Lumen Solutions loan. 2017 will see the completion of this project and the start of LED upgrades at 18 identified affixed locations including neighborhood pillars and underpasses. The city owned parking garages have LED lighting and the parking lots are expected to be inventoried in 2017 to determine cost benefit of updating lighting.

Exterior Lighting Efficiency	Baseline 2011	GreeNR Projected Progress 2014	GreeNR Projected Progress 2020	Actual Progress 2016
Number of exterior light fixtures replaced	<1%	30%	100%	99.5%
CO2 reduction (metric tons)	0	322	1072	1547 <sup>1</sup> (will increase to 1862 annually when project is completed)
Kilowatt hours reduction				2,308,000 <sup>2</sup> (will increase to 2,777,552 when project is completed)
Reduced energy costs for exterior lighting (thousands)	0	\$164	\$547	\$531 <sup>2</sup> (will increase to \$638 annually when project is completed)

<sup>1</sup> Estimate based on kwh reduction and previously projected annual reduction.

<sup>2</sup> Source, Lumen Solutions preliminary estimate, 1/25/17.

### 1.3 Municipal Building Efficiency.

An RFP was issued late 2016 for a solar broker to review municipal buildings and provide recommendations for types of solar installations as many are available including power purchase agreements, leases, community power, and municipal ownership. Eleven responses were received and a broker is expected to be chosen before the end of Q1 2017.

Complete energy audits are planned for the five fire stations in 2017 via NYSERDA, and recreation buildings are targeted for 2018.

Municipal Building Efficiency	Baseline 2011	GreenNR Projected Progress 2014	GreenNR Projected Progress 2020	Actual Progress 2016
Municipal buildings audited (44 total)	3	3	44	3
Suitable municipal roofs painted white and/or solar installed	0	10%	60%	2% Hugh Doyle solar

**1.4 Green Fleet.** Four leased Nissan Leaf electric cars are continually in use by the Development Department. DPW has budgeted \$70,000 for electric vehicles and an EV charging station in 2017. This is likely to yield three new vehicles, either leased or owned, and one new charging station.

There has been interest by multiple companies to install charging stations in New Rochelle as part of broader plans to provide regularly spaced charging stations along the I-95 corridor. These are under consideration by the city.

Excluding police and fire, the City's fleet has improved fuel efficiency by approximately 9.25% since 2010. Better measurement of mileage is expected through the implementation of a Gasboy fleet fueling and management system in 2017.

**1.5 Renewable Energy Generation.** The metric for this initiative is the adoption of a public land renewable energy plan. The City applied for a composting grant including a plan for using the heat produced, however the grant application was unsuccessful. Nothing is planned for 2017.

New Rochelle was the first community in Westchester to be approved for a microgrid funding study under the State of New York's NY Prize initiative back in 2015 however the feasibility study, prepared by Booz Allen Hamilton completed in March 2016, concluded that "the existing distribution infrastructure in New Rochelle, and the distance between [suitable] clusters, limits the microgrid footprint to two virtually interconnected campus-style microgrids". As a result, the city was unable to proceed with a community microgrid at this time.

**1.6 GreeNR Seal.** This initiative is resource heavy both to develop and to administer. There are programs already developed such as LEED that the City promotes through its DOZ form based code and policies. For this reason, the GreeNR Seal will not be pursued.

**1.7 Mid & High Rise Building Campaign.** This initiative is being considered in conjunction with Energize NY. The City has launched an Energize NY homeowners program. This will be followed by launching a commercial buildings program. Fordham students completed a 'toolkit' for mid and high rise property owners and managers which can be utilized in conjunction with the Energize NY commercial program and has been shared with NYSERDA staff.

**1.8 Efficiency and Conservation Loans.** The City is partnering with other organizations/programs including Energize NY and Sustainable Westchester in support of New Rochelle residents. A GreeNR goal is to "encourage at least 500 property owners to fund capital improvements with an average energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reduction for each of at least 25%".

NYSERDA has launched a Clean Energy Communities program that may provide funding for these types of programs once the City has met the certification requirements, expected to be completed in Q1 of 2017.

**Part 2. Resource Conservation & Waste Reduction**

**Cut waste generation, improve recycling rates, encourage conservation and efficient use of water and other natural resources.**

**2.9 Municipal Building Waste Reduction.** The recommendation for this initiative is to establish a City Green Team, this has not been pursued. Recycling rates in municipal buildings are not tracked. No funds have been available to undertake recycling audits of municipal buildings. Recycling bins for bottles and cans are not generally provided. Providing recycling at playing fields attached to school properties is a goal for 2017. This will then be extended to all recreation sites at a later date.

<b>Municipal Building Waste Reduction</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2014</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2020</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2016</b>
Municipal buildings audited	0	44	44	0

**2.10 Residential Recycling Campaign.**

The City does not have the means to weigh recycling and waste, the numbers below have been provided by the county. The total tonnage of leaves hauled was expected to increase from the tonnage reported the previous year due to late leaf fall, and late garden cleanup leading to other yard waste being mixed in with leaves. In addition, the County has acknowledged issues with its data so true tonnage may differ from what is reported.

A scale is in the 2017 program for placement at Beechwood.

Residential Recycling Campaign	Baseline 2011	GreeNR Projected Progress 2014	GreeNR Projected Progress 2020	Actual Progress 2014 data provided by the county	Actual Progress. 2015 data provided by the county (2016 not yet available)
Recycling rate comingled and paper	30%	35%	40%	49% (this includes other categories including e-waste, deposit containers, bulk metal etc.) 5455 tons	49% (this includes other categories including e-waste, deposit containers, bulk metal etc.) 6643 tons
Yard waste	-	-		20,623 tons	20,882 tons
Disposed waste				29,253	28,442 tons

**2.11 Public Area Recycling.** Public area recycling in the Downtown has not yet been implemented. A pilot is in progress at Pinebrook ball field and it was anticipated that this may have been extended in 2016. This did not occur due to the lack of personnel and vehicle for pickup. Future plans may include collaboration between Parks and DPW for the provision of a vehicle.

Bins will be added for specific events such as the street fair in 2017.

**2.12 Municipal Green Purchasing.**

The goal of this initiative is to “reduce the energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, waste, natural resource depletion, and deleterious public health impacts associated with the City’s supply purchase and use while leveraging the City’s purchasing power to promote green practices and production in the private sector.”

Mulch mow practices were implemented at City properties three years ago and are working extremely well. When the program began, the City was trucking 78 to 80 loads of leaves from its properties totaling over 1000 cubic yards. By 2016 this number had been reduced to 38 loads totaling 494 cubic yards, a more than 50% reduction. Also of note is that the 2016 total included a vine clearing initiative at Ward Acres and storm cleanup adding to the volume of green waste. It is estimated that 520 cubic yards were mulched on site. Not only does mulching reduce trucking but also improves the soils of the properties. Chemical use in City parks and streets continues to be reduced.

A Hot-In-Place asphalt pilot makes up 10% of the 2017 \$1.5 million repaving budget. This system rejuvenates existing asphalt on site and, according to an industry white paper, provides up to 40% in cost savings, reduces the carbon footprint by up to 28% versus standard paving methods, reuses existing pavement and burns less fuel compared to heating, hauling and working with new asphalt.

### **2.13 Water Use and Wastewater Reduction.**

Metrics for this initiative are listed as inflow and infiltration (I&I), lateral lines repaired, and municipal water use. Total flow of City I&I cannot be tracked as multiple communities flow into the same facility.

A Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES) is scheduled for completion by the end of 2017. This survey has already identified 30 locations needing repair. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) calculations should be completed by fall 2017.

The City received a \$55,000 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Long Island Sound Futures Fund for a Green Infrastructure Plan to be developed in 2017. This is expected to lead to recommendations and specific projects to be implemented in following years.

**2.14 Household Composting.** An article on home composting is available on the City's website. No composting initiatives are planned for 2017 although a visit to view Scarsdale's new voluntary food scrap recycling program is scheduled. The Scarsdale program has reduced solid waste by 3,000 pounds in the first three weeks of operation with 3% of residents participating.

**2.15 Regional Composting Study.** There is a long-term goal to consider a municipal composting program, however a grant application in 2016 was unsuccessful. This is an ongoing discussion with the county and municipalities.

## **Part 3. Ecology, Biodiversity & Public Health.**

**Preserve New Rochelle's natural beauty, stabilize vulnerable habitats, improve air and water quality, limit or reverse the incident of flooding and deforestation, and promote beneficial lifestyles and practices in order to achieve a healthy ecosystem, healthy neighborhoods, and healthy families.**

**3.16 Sound, Lake and Stream Water Quality.** Fountains in Beechmont Lake, and the Twin Lakes at Huguenot Park are in full service and working well to reduce algae bloom. Bubblers are in place in Glenwood Lake where the pump was replaced in 2016. These initiatives help aerate and improve the water quality in compliance with EPA standards. Dredging of Paine Lake is scheduled for 2017, Beechmont Lake in 2018, and Glenwood Lake in 2019.

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) update has been completed and submitted to the NYS Department of State.

Sound, Lake, and Stream Water Quality	Baseline 2009	GreNR Projected Progress 2014	GreNR Projected Progress 2020	Actual Progress 2015	Actual Progress 2016
Hudson Park Beach Closures (2009 baseline)	39	30	20	2015 figures: 10 both beaches closed 3 days; west beach closed due to high bacterial counts an additional 7 days	Hudson Park closed 13 days. Contamination advisories were issued for an additional 4 days. Total number of actions: 8 as closures were for multiple days per action. (Data from EPA website)

**3.17 Habitat and Open Spaces Preservation.** The Comprehensive Plan 2016 update has multiple recommendations for parks, open space, and natural resources. These include utilizing land use tools to “protect and preserve New Rochelle’s remaining natural habitat”; increase permeable surface by encouraging implementation of green infrastructure such as green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavers, and bioswales; reduce stormwater runoff; achieve a net increase of 10,000 trees on public property; and undertake comprehensive capital improvements and “encourage best practices to improve the Long Island Sound ecosystem and restore the health, beauty, retention capacity and recreational value of local inland water bodies”. GreNR has a goal of “no net loss of land in a substantially natural state on New Rochelle’s mainland” and notes that the City should work with the Westchester Land Trust to encourage conservation easements. Initiative 3.17 has not been actively pursued due to limited resources, however, a citizen driven volunteer invasive vine removal group has assisted the city in reclaiming natural meadows and forest areas by removing vines, increasing life of park trees.

**3.18 Urban Forestry.** 250 trees are required to be planted each year for “no net loss” as per GreNR. To achieve an increase of 10,000 trees on public property requires an estimated 1,500 new tree plantings per year for 8 years. To ensure increased tree planting \$200,000 has been allocated annually for the next 10 years in the capital plan.

The following is from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area and lists why this initiative is important for the health and wellbeing of our city.

**Healthy trees mean:**

- **healthy people.** One hundred trees remove 53 tons of carbon dioxide per year. 430 pounds of other air pollutants per year.
- **healthy communities.** Tree-filled neighborhoods lower levels of domestic violence. are safer and more sociable.



- **healthy environment.** One hundred mature trees catch about 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year.
- **homeowner savings.**1 Strategically placed trees save up to 56% on annual air-conditioning costs. Evergreens that block winter winds can save 3% on heating.
- **better business.** In tree-lined commercial districts, shoppers report more frequent shopping, longer shopping trips, willingness to pay more for parking, willingness to spend 12% more for goods.
- **higher property values.** Each large front yard tree adds 1% to the house sales price. Large specimen trees can add 10% to property value.

For the reasons given above it is clear the value of trees to our community outweighs the cost of planting and maintenance and consideration should be given to formally recognizing trees as assets.

Urban Forestry	Baseline 2011	GreenNR Projected Progress 2014	Actual Progress 2015	Actual Progress 2016
Public Trees planted annually	250	250	50 DPW street trees planted in 2014, 0 in 2015. 50 are planned to be planted in 2016. Parks plants on average 10 new trees per year under its gift catalogue.	50 DPW street trees were planted in 2016. The Parks Department plants an average of 6 to 12 trees per year through its gift catalogue.
Public trees removed annually	=	=	8 removed by Con Edison, 101 removed by the City	Estimated 2016 removals: By city: 100 By Con Edison: 30
Annual net increase/loss	0	0	2015 net loss 99 trees	2016 net loss 80 trees.

**3.19 Flood Control and Mitigation.** The Halcyon Project has been completed. More work is needed in the West End and conceptual drawings have been prepared. The Hutchinson River Project has begun, involving 70 homeowners and four municipalities. Rain gardens and gray water systems have been researched in conjunction with an increased emphasis on landscaping, increasing permeable surfaces, and use of flood control practices during the planning board application review process. Metrics are not currently tracked. A \$55,000 grant

has been received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) under its Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The grant will be used to create a Green Infrastructure Plan which is anticipated to lead to projects designed to reduce flooding.

**3.20 Rain Gardens.** The Ward School rain garden has been completed. The next will be at Lincoln Park per the Park Master Plan in collaboration with Grow-Lincoln Park Community Garden Committee, completion date tentatively set for 2017-18 season.

**3.21 Green Lawns and Garden Care.** The 2014 leaf policy change included a series of leaf mulching demonstrations to encourage residents to keep leaf litter on their properties. Educational outreach continued in 2015 and 2016 with fall leaf mulching demonstrations. The Doyle Center has raised beds “Victory Gardens”, Grow Lincoln Park & Ward Acres Park contain Community Gardens and the Hudson Park Children’s Greenhouse initiative is planning garden related workshops for residents in 2017.

**3.22 Idling Prevention.** A joint initiative by the City and the School District has resulted in the implementation of an anti-idling law near schools. No action is planned for 2017 although a resident has noted that compliance is slipping.

<b>Idling Prevention</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2014</b>	<b>Actual Progress</b>
Municipal idling work rules established	0	1	Policy established 2004 and amended 2011 by Ord. No. 187-2011

**3.23 GreeNR Walking Guides.** Preparing walking guides is a resource heavy initiative. The emphasis has moved to promotion of active transportation through Walk to Work and Bike to Work days. These were both implemented in 2016 with support and participation from the County, Montefiore Hospital, and local businesses. Repeat events are planned for 2017 with a possible addition of a Park(ing) day event.

**3.24 Local Agriculture and Fresh Food.** Ward Acres Community Garden continues to be well subscribed; Lincoln Park Community Garden has expanded to double its plots and 700 linear feet of irrigation has been added. Both Ward Acres and Lincoln have allocated plots for growing food for the broader community. The City now has two successful Farmers’ Markets providing fresh food at Ruby Dee Park at Library Green and Huguenot Park.

<b>Local Agriculture and Fresh Food</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2014</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2020</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2016</b>
Community Garden Plots	88	130	160	148
Community Garden Sites	1	1	3	2

## **Part 4. Smart Growth and Economic Prosperity**

Attract beneficial investment to expand our local tax base, enhance the viability of our commercial centers, and promote green job creation and training. Employ smart-growth principles that strategically encourage density and diverse housing opportunities in areas with ready access to local goods, services, infrastructure, and mass transit, while also realizing the economic and recreational potential of assets such as Long Island Sound.

**4.25 Transit Oriented Development.** The City is actively pursuing TOD development as part of its broader downtown development plan. AKRF in conjunction with Nelson Nygaard completed studies of three areas: a conversion from one way to two way streets in the downtown; changes to traffic patterns around the train station in anticipation of the replacement of the I-95 North Avenue bridge currently scheduled for spring/summer 2018; and changes in traffic circulation around Cedar and River to improve safety and facilitate development in this area. The proposed change to the traffic pattern on Station Plaza North has been implemented and is working well with ongoing monitoring. Main and Huguenot Streets have been included in phase one of a Complete Streets initiative and this will inform the two-way conversion work.

TOD development within half a mile of the train station has moved ahead as predicted in last year's progress report with a total of 158 housing units completed on Burling Lane and North Avenue with 6 new projects receiving planning board approval in proximity to the train station totaling an additional 802 units.

Short term recommendations in the GreeNR plan include updating the Comprehensive Plan

**“to reflect changes in the community and to better articulate a civic vision for future land use and resource allocation”; identifying sites and potential aggregations of property suitable for transit-oriented development; evaluate parking and “explore mechanisms for reducing car ownership among residents in the transit district, through incentives, requirements, or physical design in new structures”; facilitate evening and weekend parking at the transit center garage; “affirm and strengthen zoning and land use regulations aimed at promoting smart growth”; “evaluate public infrastructure needs associated with projected growth”; and “continue to align New Rochelle’s plans with regional transportation, housing and sustainability goals through active participation in regional planning organizations”.**

The Recommended Action Plan joint venture between the City and master developer RDRXR resulted in the implementation of the Downtown Overlay Zone using form based code, and a Fair Share Mitigation program developed through a detailed study of infrastructure, housing and school impacts. The DOZ is spurring downtown development in line with the goals outlined in this section.

GreeNR projected a total of 2500 new housing units by 2030 with “at least 65% ... within ½ mile of the train station”. Approval has already been granted for close to 1000 of these 1625 units with over 150 having completed construction and nearing full occupancy.

**4.26 Waterfront Access and Enjoyment.** This initiative is a large part of the LWRP update completed in 2016 including a plan for Davids Island. A FEMA approved sun deck repair has been completed at Hudson Park and sun shades along with other amenities are planned at the park in 2017. Phase Two of the FEMA funding will include repairs and upgrades to runoff, bulkheads, and parking areas. Final FEMA approved post Sandy restoration projects were largely completed in 2016, with the final phase two at Hudson Park scheduled for completion in 2017-18.

The City is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year of environmental funding for the Marina through the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Grant Award for Federal Clean Vessel Act. Two thousand vessels have taken advantage of this service in 2016 with pump out of over 70,000 gallons of human waste.

The Parks Department received a Westchester Community Foundation Grant to study park fees and access. This study has been completed with a final report filed to city council in January 2017. This will be available on the city’s website and includes recommendations for a simplified fee structure to remove barriers to park entry, and a performance based management system.

LED lights have been installed at the perimeter of the marina and at the main marina building.

<b>Waterfront Access and Enjoyment</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>GreenNR Projected Progress 2014</b>	<b>GreenNR Projected Progress 2020</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2015</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2015</b>
Estimated feet of public access to Sound Shore	21,175	21,175	24,175	No change	No change
City owned waterfront parks rehabilitated	0	2	3	Hudson Park Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 in planning stages via FEMA (sea wall, parking lot) FEMA approved shoreline stabilization and bulkhead restoration of Harrison Island @ Five Islands Park completed	Hudson Park Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 due to be completed in 2017. FEMA approved shoreline stabilization and bulkhead restoration of Harrison Island at Five Islands Park completed.

**4.27 Peripheral Node Planning Standards.** Peripheral nodes and commercial clusters and corridors were studied as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, with community meetings held both city wide and in relevant neighborhoods. Recommendations in the Land Use and Zoning Chapter include “enhancing and supporting the City’s downtown center and neighborhood commercial clusters” and “implementing zoning changes to promote sustainability”. Some zoning changes have consequently been adopted by city council.

**4.28 Green Business and Job Creation.** The city council adopted Resolution #264 in December 2016, to allow the city to enter into an agreement with Westhab to operate a First Source Referral Center, provide job training and prioritize job opportunities for local residents.

**4.29 Workforce Housing.** Building of Affordable Housing is required under the Municipal Code 33 –152 and is included as an incentive in the downtown overlay zone.

<b>New Affordable Housing Units in New Rochelle</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>GreenNR Projected Progress 2014</b>	<b>GreenNR Projected Progress 2020</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2016</b>
Estimated feet of public access to Sound Shore	0	185	200	Constructed: 20 Approved and/or under construction: 106 Total: 126

**4.30 Creative Capital.** 2014 saw the introduction of a Mural competition funded by the Development Department and managed by the Municipal Arts Commission to promote public art. This has continued with a second project completed early in 2016. The Municipal Code has a Private Arts Betterment requirement for any project in excess of 50,000 square feet of Gross Floor Area to further public art amenities, and the code has been amended to allow both on site compliance and/or payment into a fund to allow the city to commission public art. The City has created an arts and cultural district in the downtown area and is encouraging arts related public/private partnerships under the Downtown Overlay Zone through Community Benefits opportunities. The city has entered into an agreement with RXR to provide a black box theater on Main Street, and is exploring opportunities for a virtual reality makers space.

**Part 5. Transportation and Mobility**

**Facilitate and encourage the use of sustainable transportation options, including walking, bicycling, carpooling and mass transit, while also reducing traffic congestion and enhancing the safety and efficiency of transportation routes.**

**5.31 Pedestrian Safety & Mobility.** Pedestrian signals are being upgraded through routine maintenance, damage repair, and as part of new development or infrastructure projects. Sixty-three ADA compliant curb ramps were installed around the City in 2016 and three solar powered flashing LED warning signals are scheduled to be installed in 2017 at high pedestrian

/ vehicle conflict intersections at Eastchester and White Oak; Webster and Glenmore; and Brook and Winthrop.

There was one pedestrian fatality in 2016, and 88 pedestrians injured. Pedestrians made up 25% of all crash injuries in 2016.

By comparison, there were 3 fatal pedestrian crashes in 2015 with a total of 51 pedestrians struck by cars in the first 8 months of the year. 92 pedestrians were struck in 2014 with no fatalities.

**5.32 Bicycle Safety and Mobility.** The Complete Streets project began in 2016 and is nearing the end of phase one, including recommendations for bike lanes. One Complete Streets goal is to create a bike lane network throughout the city.

The bike share program is scheduled to be launched mid-2017. The city held its first Bike to Work Day in 2016 in partnership with the Westchester County office, Montefiore Hospital, and local businesses. A second event is scheduled for 2017 and NR Future is planning a bike night ride for the evening of the same day (third Friday in May).

**5.33 Downtown Access.** The conversion from one way to two-way traffic in the Downtown is scheduled for 2018, and changes to traffic circulation around the Transit Center have been completed in anticipation of the replacement of the North Avenue bridge by the NYS Thoroughway Authority. The form based code adopted under the DOZ rezoning is expected to enhance walkability as development focuses on the public realm more than is customary under most zoning. Placement of bicycle parking in the downtown continues to exceed GreeNR projections and are expected to grow further with upgrading at the Transit Center. The upgrade is under design in 2017 and in the capital budget for implementation in 2018. Additional bike racks are scheduled for placement at some municipal lots in 2017 in response to increased demand, particularly at the train station and the Prospect Street parking lot.

Downtown Access	Baseline 2011	GreeNR Projected Progress 2014	GreeNR Projected Progress 2020	Actual Progress 2015	Actual Progress 2016
Bicycle spaces in Transit/Central Business District	24	40	80	158	158

**5.34 Jitney Service Study.** A NYSERDA grant was secured by BFJ Planning to study the viability of a free downtown circulator shuttle. An interim report has been completed proposing an electric shuttle with a mobile app to assist riders in determining wait times and possibly allowing them to ‘call’ the shuttle. The city has partnered with LQD, now Verizon, to install wifi kiosks at multiple locations though out New Rochelle in 2017. The shuttle information may be available at the kiosks.

**5.35 Green Commuting.** The City has partnered with MetroPool to reduce single occupancy vehicle commuting as part of its multiyear Green Commuter Challenge funded through a

NYSERDA grant. As part of this challenge a transit screen has been installed at City Hall and a second screen has been made available and will be installed at another city location. The city is gathering information about the viability of providing a pretax commuter benefit to city employees. MetroPool's promotion of this benefit and the ability for a city employee to use the benefit for other family members has increased interest substantially.

The number of City employee parking permits rose sharply in 2015 due to a switch to license plate recognition enforcement resulting in compulsory registration of all police and fire personnel vehicles. The number rose again in 2016 after designated parking was removed at City Hall reinforcing the requirement that all vehicles be registered, including police and fire personnel vehicles. This is an example of a change in process nullifying a metric.

Electric charging stations have been installed at New Roc garage, City Hall and the Intermodal Transit Center. More are expected to be installed in 2017.

<b>Green Commuting</b>	<b>Baseline 2011</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2014</b>	<b>GreeNR Projected Progress 2020</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2015</b>	<b>Actual Progress 2016</b>
Number of City Hall Employee Parking Permits Issued. <sup>1</sup>	330	315	290	462	525

<sup>1</sup>Note: this number of permits issued includes both city and board of education employees. Current software does not provide a breakout by employer.

**5.36 Scooter and Motorcycle Parking.** There are currently three parking facilities with scooter and motorcycle parking – the Transit Center, Prospect Street and New Roc. Motorcycle and scooter riders can apply for a permit to park on crosshatched ‘dead’ spaces on the corners of these designated lots. At ITC the number regularly utilizing this parking is between 20 – 30.

## **Part 6 Public Participation and Awareness**

**Empower all residents to obtain information about local challenges and issues, make sensible choices about individual lifestyles and practices, and participate fully in community activities and decision making.**

**6.37 GreeNR Awareness Campaign.** The GreeNR review undertaken last year identified this campaign as duplicative and unnecessary beyond providing external links on the City's website.

**6.38 Informed Social Competition.** Providing residents with comparative usage of electricity may be undertaken via the Community Choice Aggregation iprogram implemented in 2016 if this proves feasible. Nothing further is planned on this initiative.

**6.39 Civic Communication.** The new City website was launched in 2016 and has improved awareness of general civic information, municipal decision making, and community events.

In addition, an Ideally New Rochelle website (<http://www.ideallynewrochelle.com>) has been launched to promote the City.

The transit screen provided by MetroPool includes a space for public service announcements and the city is taking full advantage of this feature to promote events and provide information. Public outreach and education is undertaken for various City initiatives and policy changes such as the new leaf collection policy. The City's Facebook pages and Twitter feed have been re-activated with daily posts. Train station message boards have been in place for 18 months. Print newsletters are scheduled bi-annually and e newsletters have been started and used by specific departments including Parks & Recreation and Development.

**6.40 Sustainability Education Center Study.** The greenhouse at Hudson Park is one of the locations considered under this initiative as a home for a Sustainability Education Center. A community group is currently raising funds to restore the greenhouse and is planning educational workshops in 2017.

**6.41 Outdoor Classrooms.** The Hugh Doyle Center received an NR Futures Grant for a garden program launched in 2016 with plans for expansion in 2017. Ward Acres Park and Grow Lincoln Park continue to run education programs under the Community Gardens initiatives coordinated by Parks and Recreation.

**6.42 GreeNR Tote Bags.** At least 4 Westchester communities, including neighboring Larchmont and Mamaroneck have passed legislation banning the use of thin plastic bags. NYC passed legislation in May 2016 to levy a 5 cent charge for plastic bags however this has been opposed by the state and subsequently has not yet been implemented. GreeNR totes could support a plastic bag ban if sponsorship and/or funding can be found.

**6.43 English Language Proficiency.** This is best undertaken as a community led initiative.

## **In Summary**

Progress has been made in several areas over 2016, mainly where there is strong alignment with broader departmental priorities / programs. The LED lighting initiative is an excellent example of cost savings through improved technology that also helps the City meet its sustainability goals.

Improving progress measurements is dependent on securing funding to hire consultants to annually gather metrics, find and utilize external resources to calculate greenhouse gas emissions and other metrics, and provide a repository for gathered data.

As noted in the overview of this report, it is expected that the completed Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program updates will further embed GreeNR goals into standard City policies and procedures. The planned downtown development is expected to greatly enhance the downtown and improve pedestrian and cycling accessibility, safety, and the general experience of spending time in downtown New Rochelle.