

# Ann Arbor Affordability Themes

Here's a summary how the key plan value of affordability intersects with important topics, based on feedback from the Ann Arbor community.

What's missing? What would you modify?  
What should this mean in Ann Arbor?

## Housing

- **Housing cost relative to income:** housing costs, whether for rent or mortgage, should not exceed a certain percentage of income, typically around 30%.
- **Diverse housing options:** types and price points to accommodate different income levels, including affordable single-family homes, apartments, and co-ops.
- **Property taxes:** a barrier to affordability, with many calling for lower taxes to make living in Ann Arbor more sustainable.
- **Workforce housing:** people who work in Ann Arbor, including service workers, teachers, and public safety personnel, can afford to live in the city.
- **Sustainable development and zoning:** allow for higher density and mixed-use.
- *Other themes: Varied housing types for intergenerational and non-traditional households, density increases in and around downtown and campuses, tax burden and landlord regulation.*

## Economy + Education

- **Affordable goods and services:** cost of living extends beyond housing to include groceries, utilities, and other daily necessities.
- **Impact of the University of Michigan:** The influence of the University of Michigan on housing demand and prices, with some suggesting the university should contribute more to local taxes or housing solutions.
- *Other themes: Affordable rents for small businesses / start ups, and pre-K*

## Transportation

- **Public transportation and car-free living:** The importance of reliable and affordable public transportation options to reduce the need for car ownership, which can be a significant expense.
- *Other themes: affordable transportation and food, insurance*

## Green Space + Public Places

- *Themes to consider or from additional outreach: Affordable access to parks and open space amenities, affordable community centers*

## Infrastructure + Systems

- *Themes to consider or from additional outreach: Affordable utility services, Public support of infrastructure to help reduce development costs*

## Arts + Culture

- **Community and social well-being:** Fostering a sense of community, ensuring social equity, and maintaining the cultural character of the city.

## Social Systems

- **Support for low-income and vulnerable populations:** adequate housing and support services for people with low incomes and fixed incomes.
- **Equity & inclusion:** ensure that people from all walks of life, including marginalized communities, can live in Ann Arbor.

A large vertical rectangular area with a blue border and rounded corners, containing a blue pencil icon at the top right. This area is divided into eight horizontal sections by thin blue lines, serving as a space for handwritten notes or feedback.

# Ann Arbor Equity Themes

Here's a summary how the key plan value of equity intersects with important topics, based on feedback from the Ann Arbor community.

What's missing? What would you modify?  
What should this mean in Ann Arbor?

## Housing

- **Affordable housing:** Many respondents emphasized the need for affordable housing options to ensure that people of all income levels can live in Ann Arbor.
- **Mixed-income neighborhoods:** Promoting the development of neighborhoods that include a mix of income levels to reduce economic segregation.
- *Other themes to consider or from additional outreach: diversity of housing location, balanced homeownership and rental options*

## Economy + Education

- **Quality of life:** Ensuring that all residents can enjoy a high quality of life, including safe neighborhoods, good schools, and recreational opportunities.
- **Access to services and amenities:** Ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential services such as healthcare, education, public transportation, and recreational facilities.
- *Other themes to consider or from additional outreach: Support for locally owned business, income equality; opportunities for underrepresented businesses; educational outcomes*

## Transportation

- **Public transit and mobility:** Improving public transportation and making the city more accessible for those who do not own cars.
- **Access to services and amenities:** Ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential services such as healthcare, education, public transportation, and recreational facilities.
- *Other themes to consider : Safe routes, affordability of public transportation, access to amenities such as parks and basic necessities regardless of transportation mode*

## Green Space + Public Places

- **Quality of life:** Ensuring that all residents can enjoy a high quality of life, including safe neighborhoods, good schools, and recreational opportunities.
- **Access to services and amenities:** Ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential services such as healthcare, education, public transportation, and recreational facilities.
- *Other themes to consider or from additional outreach: Comfortable public spaces for all; equitable enhancement of property values, access to amenities such as parks and basic necessities regardless of transportation mode*

## Infrastructure + Systems

- **Access to services and amenities:** Ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential services such as healthcare, education, public transportation, and recreational facilities.
- *Other themes to consider: Affordable utility services, equitable distribution of infrastructure investments, digital inclusion*

## Social Systems

- **Economic diversity and inclusion:** Promoting a diverse community where people from various economic backgrounds can thrive and contribute.
- **Fair treatment and non-discrimination:** Ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and without discrimination based on race, gender, income, or other factors.
- **Community engagement and representation:** Ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.
- **Support for marginalized groups:** Providing additional resources and support to historically underserved and marginalized communities.
- **Addressing historical inequities:** Recognizing and addressing the historical injustices and systemic inequalities affecting certain groups.

A large vertical rectangular area with a blue border and rounded corners, containing five horizontal sections for handwritten feedback. A blue pencil icon is positioned at the top right corner of the first section.

# Ann Arbor Sustainability Themes

Here's a summary how the key plan value of sustainability intersects with important topics, based on feedback from the Ann Arbor community.

What's missing? What would you modify?  
What should this mean in Ann Arbor?

## Housing

- **Affordability and equity:** Ensuring initiatives do not disproportionately impact low-income residents and that housing remains affordable.
- **Environmental protection & climate action:** Emphasizing the need to reduce carbon emissions, transition to renewable energy sources, and protect natural resources.
- **Reduction of car dependency:** Advocating for better public transportation, bike lanes, and walkable neighborhoods to reduce reliance on personal vehicles.
- *Other themes to consider: weatherized and energy efficient homes, home maintenance and repairs*

## Economy + Education

- **Education and public awareness:** Increasing public education on sustainable practices and encouraging community participation.
- *Other themes to consider: economic sector diversity, balance in commercial and industrial land uses, entrepreneurship*

## Transportation

- **Reduction of car dependency:** Advocating for better public transportation, bike lanes, and walkable neighborhoods to reduce reliance on personal vehicles;
- **Environmental protection and climate action:** The need to reduce carbon emissions, transition to renewable energy sources, and protect resources.
- *Other themes to consider : more affordable housing and public transit to increase access to daily needs and reduce car dependence, more pedestrian and bike infrastructure, quality road infrastructure*

## Green Space + Public Places

- **Green spaces and urban planning:** Preserving and expanding green spaces, parks, and natural areas.
- **Environmental protection and climate action:** The need to reduce carbon emissions, transition to renewable energy sources, and protect resources.
- *Other themes to consider : recreation-friendly rivers and waterways; Increased green infrastructure and protection of natural features; biodiversity in public spaces*

## Infrastructure + Systems

- **Energy efficiency and renewable energy:** Supporting the use of solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources, and improving energy efficiency in buildings.
- **Waste reduction and recycling:** Promoting robust recycling and composting programs and reducing overall waste.
- **Public power and energy independence:** Advocating for municipal control over energy sources to ensure reliability and sustainability.
- **Environmental protection and climate action:** Emphasizing the need to reduce emissions, transition to renewable energy sources, and protect resources.
- *Other themes to consider : water conservation sustainable energy and buildings*

## Arts + Culture

- **Community and social well-being:** Fostering a sense of community, ensuring social equity, and maintaining the cultural character of the city.

## Social Systems

- **Community and social well-being:** Fostering a sense of community, ensuring social equity, and maintaining the cultural character of the city.
- **Affordability and equity:** Ensuring that sustainability initiatives do not disproportionately impact low-income residents & that housing remains affordable.
- **Long-term planning and resilience:** Making decisions with future generations in mind, focusing on long-term impacts and resilience to climate change.

A large vertical box with rounded corners and a blue border, containing a blue pencil icon at the top right. The box is divided into seven horizontal sections, intended for handwritten notes or feedback.