



Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024-2030

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Climate Action Plan for Camp Friedenswald 2024-2030

Rationale

Camp Friedenswald (CF) acknowledges that climate change and other interconnected environmental and social crises (a [polycrisis](#)) happening today are threatening human and non-human life across the globe. Collective action must happen at personal, communal, and planetary scales to address these crises and preserve life.

As a faith-based Mennonite organization, Camp Friedenswald views broken connection with self, God, others, and nature as a spiritual root of the polycrisis. It is from a deep commitment to peace, justice, and spiritual wholeness that Camp Friedenswald will continue to play its part in the collective global effort to stop climate change. Camp Friedenswald is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and working to engage staff, campers, and guests in climate actions. In order to meet the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, as described in the [Paris Agreement](#), climate science calls for reducing GHG emissions 50% by 2030 (from a 2005 baseline) and reaching net-zero by 2050 ([IPCC](#)).

The state of Michigan recently passed laws implementing the [Michigan Healthy Climate Plan](#), which includes the goal of the state reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. CF supports this state-wide effort and will voice its support of state and local policies that help reach this goal. For the purposes of this climate action plan, the focus will be on GHG reduction goals by 2030.

CF GHG reduction targets:

- 75% GHG reduction by 2030 against baseline year of 2015 for scopes 1 and 2
- Reduce indirect scope 3 emissions through purchasing, waste, food, and education strategies.

Camp Friedenswald has improved its energy practices in the last five years. The electricity mix from our local utility, Midwest Energy and Communications (MEC) has also become cleaner, increasing its percentage of carbon free energy significantly since 2015. With these changes combined, as of 2022, CF's GHG emissions for scope 1 and 2 combined have already fallen 65%.

The relationship between this climate action plan and the CF Strategic Plan for 2023-2025

[Climate action plans](#) are focused on addressing, mitigating and adapting to climate change in ways that fit the communities for which the plans are written. A suite of common themes exist in climate action plans. This plan focuses on concrete actions resulting in direct measurable GHG reductions for Camp Friedenswald as well as goals in education and land stewardship. This plan is meant to complement CF's 2023-25 strategic plan, which includes pillars of place, formation, justice, and resilience. These pillars encompass many other environmental and social benefits, such as DEI work,

local food partnerships, staff wages, and education deepening the connection guests and campers have with God, themselves, others, and nature.

It is important to note that climate change will not be solved through the implementation of climate action plans alone but will require a significant shift in our societal values and worldviews. Solving climate change and the [polycrisis](#) of our day requires an understanding of the way humans and the earth and all its creatures are interconnected. It requires a move away from a worldview based on colonialism, dominance, and extraction to one of collaboration, justice, repair, and relationship. Camp Friedenswald aims to create formation experiences that empower humans to make this shift in their thinking. Our [strategic plan 2023-25](#) is a testament of our approach to that work and more.

Camp Friedenswald Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

Calculating Emissions/Scope 1

Camp Friedenswald calculates its total scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions using the [EPA's Simple Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator](#). CF used 2015 as the baseline year for emissions. Scope 1 includes emissions from fuel burned directly on site or used by CF vehicles, except for wood. Wood is in a supplemental category titled "Biomass Emissions from Stationary Sources", and NOT included in scope 1 emissions. CF roughly estimates 57 metric tons of CO₂ emissions result from burning wood each year at Camp.

Scope 2: Market-based or Location-Based Emissions?

Electricity use makes up all scope 2 emissions at CF. CF reports market-based emissions for scope 2 emissions. Market-based emissions are calculated using the [fuel emissions factors](#) provided by CF's utility, Midwest Energy and Communications. While not reporting on location-based emissions, location-based emissions are part of CF's official GHG inventory. Location-based emissions are calculated based on the CF's geographic location on the grid. CF's market-based emissions are lower than the location-based due to the cleaner fuel mix from MEC's power supplier, Wolverine Power.

Scope 3: Indirect Emissions

As defined by the EPA, scope 3 emissions are:

...the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by the reporting organization, but that the organization indirectly affects in its value chain. Scope 3 emissions include all sources not within an organization's scope 1 and 2 boundary. The scope 3 emissions for one organization are the scope 1 and 2 emissions of another organization. Scope 3 emissions, also referred to as value chain emissions, often represent the majority of an organization's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. ([EPA, 2023](#))

Scope 3 emissions for Camp Friedenswald could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Category 1 - Purchased Goods and Services
 - Food
 - Operations purchases
- Category 5 - Waste Produced at Camp
- Category 7 - Employee Commuting
- Category 4 Upstream Transportation and Distribution AND Category 9 - Downstream Transportation and Distribution
 - Campers/guests traveling to location
 - Transportation of operations purchases (deliveries)

Scope 3 GHG emissions are difficult to calculate and are not included in the GHG Inventory. It is important to note they often make up the majority of emissions for an organization. CF scope 3 goals serve the overall purpose of reducing emissions, but metrics will not be in GHG emissions. Future scope 3 efforts could include financial screening tools for calculating scope 3 estimates, such as [Change Climate's Business Emissions Evaluator](#).

Camp Friedenswald Summary Scope 1 and 2 GHG Emissions

Year	Scope 1 Metric Tons CO2E	Scope 2 Metric Tons CO2E	Total Metric Tons CO2E	Percent lower than baseline
2015	92	303	395	
2022	71	69	140	65%
2023	82	68	150	62%
2024	64	71	135	66%

Four Strategies for Camp Friedenswald

Strategy 1: Reduce Scope 1 and 2 GHG Emissions 75% by 2030

Strategy 2: Reduce Scope 3 (Indirect) GHG Emissions

Strategy 3: Increase Education and Engagement for Climate Action

Strategy 4: Conserve and Restore Land and Water

Strategy 1: Reducing Scope 1 and 2 Emissions

Fuel directly burned/used by CF and utility-based electricity

Goal 1: Increase energy efficiency in buildings

Energy efficiency is a key strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CF has made improvements to energy efficiency of some facilities, but there is still room for improvement.

Actions: Plans to continue to increase energy efficiency at CF:

- The new Fenwood Duplex will be super energy efficient with double stud walls - perhaps earning LEED Gold certification
- All renovations will upgrade the energy efficiencies in each building, focusing on tighter buildings, taking steps such as adding insulation and sealing leaks
- All buildings renovated as part of Sustain Friedenswald will be updated with electric heat pumps and heat pump water heaters or energy efficient on-demand propane water heaters, all of which are more energy efficient than their standard holding-tank propane fueled counterparts.
- Annually review energy use guidelines with staff and continue building an ethic of energy conservation into the culture of CF.

Metrics/Reporting Mechanisms:

- Annual use of propane at Camp Friedenswald/GHG emissions associated with propane
- Annual use of electricity at Camp Friedenswald/GHG emissions associated with electricity
- Annual use of electricity and propane at the new Fenwood duplex and renovated buildings as is possible (will need to add meters to Sycamore, Peace House, and Family Suite) (from the Sustain CF campaign)

Goal 2: Transition from propane to electric

There is a push in the climate/energy sector to “go electric” in order to reduce GHGs, with the idea that the electric grid will continue to become cleaner from the addition of more renewable energy and elimination of fossil fuels. Also, electricity is already a much cleaner energy source than propane for CF. Electricity sourced from our local utility,

Midwest Energy and Communications (MEC), is 60% carbon free ([MEC fuel mix](#)). When our own on-site and community solar is added to this mix, the electricity at CF is about 70% carbon free. CF has the goal of transitioning from propane to electric equipment as it needs to be replaced.

Update as of summer 2024: MEC announced they will be [carbon-free by 2030](#) due to planned additional nuclear (a re-opening of a nuclear facility) and utility scale renewables.

Actions: Continue to transition to electric energy. Changes we hope to make by 2030:

- With the Sustain Friedenswald campaign, energy systems in the new Fenwood Duplex, Peace House, and Triplex will be transitioned to all electric. Sycamore and Tamarack will be transitioned to all electric except for an on-demand efficient propane water heater.
- A plan for transitioning the Dining Hall to electric will be developed. Currently we cannot add more electric demand to the Dining Hall due to capacity limits. The first step then will be to change the Dining Hall from a two-phase electrical system to a three-phase system. In order to do that, we will need to enlist the services of an electrical engineer.

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Metrics/Reporting Mechanisms:

- The number of propane fueled furnaces replaced with heat pumps.
- The number of propane stoves replaced with electric stoves.
- The number of propane water heaters replaced with heat pump water heaters.
- Annual use of propane at CF/GHG emissions associated with propane
- Annual use of electricity at CF/GHG emissions associated with electricity

Goal 3: Install more solar on-site

We have an opportunity to add solar on-site for Lakeview Lodge, and possibly also Tamarack Lodge. Solar is a zero GHG emissions energy source, and so any additional solar will help us reduce our GHG emissions.

Action:

- Make a plan for installing solar for Lakeview Lodge and implement it. As part of the plan, investigate whether it makes sense to put solar there for Tamarack as well.

Metrics/Reporting Mechanisms:

- Number of kWh the panels produce each year

Goal 4: Reduce use of gasoline and diesel fuel

As of 2022 (against the baseline year 2015), CF reduced its consumption of gasoline by 41% and diesel fuel by 69%.

Actions:

- When replacing gasoline or diesel fueled equipment, explore options for purchasing electric instead.
- Continue to reduce the amount of diesel used for magic dust by offering alternative kindling options for both program and guest group use
- Replace diesel fueled torches in Mosquito Hollow with electric lamps
- Be sure volunteers know to use the electric chainsaw, leaf blower, and string trimmer as a first priority (rather than gasoline/diesel). Consider reducing the frequency of blowing off sidewalks, etc.
- Make a mowing plan that prioritizes reducing fuel use while also balancing providing welcoming spaces for guests.
- Consider reducing use of motorized boats through reducing tubing activities and/or pontoon rides while balancing desire to allow guests to experience fun on the water.
- Consider not selling gasoline to guests for their own motorized boating experiences. Note: this will only reduce the emissions from CF - and not emissions in total, as guests will likely bring/buy their gasoline from other places.
- Encourage staff to walk/bike/use golf carts and the electric gator for getting around camp (versus their own gasoline fueled vehicle or camp owned diesel/gasoline vehicles)
- Factor fuel use into decision making around trips to town and camp trips in general. Consider whether trips can be combined or if alternative online options will suffice. Possibly incentivize fewer trips with friendly competition/planned celebrations.
- By 2030 - purchase an all-electric Camp car and possibly also all electric Camp truck.

Metrics/Reporting Mechanisms:

- Annual diesel usage (as recorded on fuel tank fills chart)/GHG emissions associated with diesel
- Annual gasoline usage (as recorded on fuel tank fills chart)/GHG emissions associated with gasoline

Strategy 2: Reducing Scope 3 (Indirect) GHG Emissions**Scope 3 Goals**

Calculating the total for scope 3 emissions is not realistic for an organization the size of CF. In lieu of that, we chose scope 3 proxy measurements - measurements that make sense for CF and have opportunities for improvement when they receive attention. Measurements will NOT be in GHG emissions, but in forms accessible to Camp staff to calculate and evaluate.

- Meat purchases

- Local foods
- Food waste
- Waste/Circular economy
- Guest, campers, and staff transportation

Meat purchases

GHGs from meat purchased is a metric CF tracked from 2017-2023. Due to time constraints and changes in purchasing reports, CF stopped this calculation in 2024. While calculating the amount of GHG emissions from food at camp is not realistic, [meat is widely known as one of the most carbon intensive types of food](#). CF will continue to prioritize minimizing meals with beef and maximizing lower carbon meats and vegetarian meals.

Goal 1: Reduce the amount of beef served

[Beef is one of the highest GHG emitters](#) in terms of meat consumption (lamb is comparable, but CF rarely (if ever) serves lamb). In order to reduce the amount of GHG connected to meat consumption, reducing beef has the biggest potential for impact.

Actions:

- Serve one beef meal or less per week of summer camp.
- Continue to serve ground turkey in place of beef for taco bar meals
- Prioritize vegetarian, chicken and turkey over beef

Metric:

- Amount spent on beef
- Number of meals during a summer youth camp week served with beef

Goal 2: Increase the number of vegetarian meals served at Camp

Actions:

- Explore serving more vegetarian meals to summer camps
- Include education about eating vegetarian in OE and summer program
- Kitchen will first consider vegetarian meals for groups that choose a “Chef’s choice” meal

Metric:

- Number of vegetarian meals served per week of summer youth camp

Local Foods

Purchasing local foods helps support the resilience of the local foods system. Depending on a variety of factors, local foods raised/grown in sustainable ways may also help reduce the GHG emissions for food served at CF.

Goal 1: Spend at least 8% of the food budget on local food from partners/producers/growers within 100 miles

Actions:

- Fully utilize current local food partners
- Seek additional local food partners in areas currently lacking
- Prioritize purchases from Gordon's regional food partners over other similar Gordon's purchases

Metric:

- Dollar amount of food purchased from local partners as a percent of total food budget

Food waste

Estimates report that 8-10% of all global GHG emissions come from food waste ([UNEP 2021](#)). Many agencies, including the United Nations, the EPA, and the state of Michigan have recognized [the importance of addressing food waste](#) for multiple reasons, including climate change, food security, and resilience of our food system (USDA, 2022). While all the food waste at CF is composted, according to the [EPA WARM software](#), *eliminating* food waste is over four times better than composting it, in terms of reducing GHG emissions.

Goal 1: Reduce leftovers that end up in compost by 20%**Actions:**

- Begin weighing any food going to compost when cleaning out the cooler in order to get more specific information on production amounts (keep track annually)
- Reference kitchen production notes from previous year for returning groups.
- Research possible partners to take leftovers (especially in the summertime)

Metrics:

- Number of compost cubes filled each year
- Pounds of food sent to compost from cleaning out cooler compared to baseline

Goal 2: Educate campers and guests about food waste**Actions:**

- Continue to weigh food waste for some program groups and interested guest groups
- Perform a food waste skit and/or give information to campers and OE groups about food waste and why it is important to reduce it.

Metric:

- Amount of food wasted by groups that weigh their food waste
- Number of groups in "Zero Food Waste Club"

Waste/Circular Economy

Reducing waste and moving to a circular economy is key to solving climate change. Measuring emissions from the waste produced at CF is beyond the scope of our work, but incorporating best practices is still a high priority.

Goal 1: Maintain the current level of waste diversion opportunities for staff and guests.

Actions:

- Continue providing the following recycling areas: single stream, styrofoam, plastic films, e-waste, toothbrush waste
- Continue composting all food waste and napkins.
- Continue utilizing Habitat for Humanity and Goodwill/The Depot for items no longer needed at Camp but still in good condition
- Continue offering composting and single stream recycling in lodges

Metric:

- Number of waste diversion opportunities available and encouraged at CF

Goal 2: Identify and utilize any additional waste diversion opportunities for CF

Action:

- Staff will stay up to date on any additional waste diversion opportunities for the region
- Staff will continue to evaluate best practices for informing guests and campers on its waste diversion practices

Metric:

- At minimum, one staff member will do an annual evaluation of waste practices at CF and waste diversion opportunities in the region

Goal 3: Reduce waste produced at Camp

Action:

- Staff utilize Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines whenever possible with goal of reducing waste and increasing circularity of purchases
- Explore the possibility of more sustainable/reusable packaging with regular suppliers (such as GFS)?
- CF communicates waste reduction as a priority with guests as is appropriate and in line with hospitality goals

Metric:

- Annual review of Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines
- Number of dumpsters and times dumpsters are emptied at CF

Guest, camper, and staff transportation

Transportation is likely the largest producer of GHG emissions for CF. While it is beyond the scope of CF to measure total GHG emissions from transportation with accuracy, the following goals are important to the CF climate action plan.

We also recognize that the camp experience can have long-lasting positive impacts that promote and enable life-long changes in people's lives. These changes can, and do, act as a catalyst for behavioral change long after they have left CF. We suggest that this is an acceptable trade-off for travel emissions to CF, while not wanting to ignore the tension inherent in travel.

Goal 1: Reduce emissions from guest and camper travel to and from camp

Actions:

- Increase number of EV charging stations at CF
- Encourage carpooling for campers
 - Offer carpooling web platform for campers to offer and find rides to camp, such as <https://www.groupcarpool.com/>
 - Cultivate culture of trust and collaboration among campers and their families to help them feel comfortable carpooling
- Offer an efficient bus to CF for summer campers (partial or full trip) by 2027

Metrics:

- Number of EV chargers available to guests and campers at CF
- Number of kWh used annually by EV chargers at CF
- Number of people using web platforms to find rides to camp
- Number of buses bringing campers to camp (not OE buses)

Goal 2: Reduce emissions from staff travel

Actions:

- Encourage sharing rides by cultivating culture of trust and collaboration among staff
- Encourage staff to walk and/or bike for transportation - both on and off site
- Incentivize EV ownership by:
 - Providing free EV charging for staff
 - Install EV charging stations in staff homes at CF as needed

Metrics:

- Number of staff driving EVs

Strategy 3: Increase Education and Engagement on Climate

Action

Camp Friedenswald touches the lives of thousands of people each year through its programming and hospitality. The potential for a ripple effect from camp experiences is great. Educating and engaging guests and campers is one of the best strategies available to CF for contributing to collective climate action.*

*The goals and actions listed here are in flux and may change as we work on our Strategic Plan 2023-25 Goal 3: To clearly define our objectives and goals for programming and craft a compelling and fresh vision for programs in collaboration with stakeholders.

Goal 1: Incorporate climate action education into programming at Camp

Actions:

- When working on goal three from CF's Strategic Plan 2023-25, prioritize ways formation at CF can address ecological overshoot and ways of being part of "[The Great Turning](#)" (as described by Joanna Macy)
- Continue offering Sustainability Camp, sustainability church retreats, and restoration retreat and work to increase the number of participants in these programs.
- Include a script for hosts and program staff who introduce mealtimes to make a brief announcement about compost, food waste, etc. at the start of each meal.

Metrics:

- Annual number of participants in programs with a focus on climate change, ecological overshoot, the Great Turning, or related themes
- Use of script for guest groups

Goal 2: Create new programming or classes specifically designed to both educate campers about the impacts of climate change and empower them to be change agents

Actions:

- Frame a summer program with a theme that prioritizes education about ecological overshoot, the Great Turning, sustainability, nature as kin, and/or climate change.
- Add sustainability camp classes to regular OE curriculum and market to teachers
- Create an outdoor education class or activity about climate change and/or related topics.

Metrics:

- See actions

Goal 3: Build climate change literacy into the culture of camp

Actions:

- Develop or continue practices at CF that are designed to reduce camp's contribution to climate change as part of how programs are run at camp.
- Include education materials or initiatives with campers and guest groups to communicate the reasonings for certain cultural practices. This may be through signage, printed material in lodges, and policies that specify what is accepted at camp or not and the reasoning behind it.

Metric:

- Surveys of campers and guests on whether they understand climate and/or sustainability to be a priority for CF.

Strategy 4: Conserve and Restore Land and Water

Six different unique ecosystems are present within the physical boundaries of Camp Friedenswald. All these areas sequester significant amounts of carbon, particularly our wetlands. Without Camp's commitment to conservation, these areas could be threatened with development. Camp Friedenswald commits to tending the land and water in ways that conserve, preserve, and restore ecosystem health for the health and well-being of all the creatures that live and visit this space. Maintaining and improving the quality of these ecosystems will build resilience to climate change and continue to sequester carbon for generations to come.

Goal 1: Maintain a minimum of 500 work hours dedicated to land stewardship each year**Actions:**

- Through the employment of contractors, volunteers, summer staff, and year-round staff, Camp will continue to log at least 500 work hours stewarding the land each year

Metric:

- Number of work hours on land stewardship

Goal 2: Maintain high quality Mitchell's satyr habitat**Actions:**

- Send at least one year-round staff member to Mitchell satyr working groups meetings (spring and fall)
- Keep invasive species out of MSB habitat through employment of professional contractors and knowledgeable staff/volunteers.

Metrics:

- Attendance of staff at MSB working group meetings
- Percentage of invasive species cover in MSB habitat
- Number of MSB in annual surveys

Goal 3: Ensure successful reforestation of 16-acre tree planting area**Actions:**

- Staff visit the site regularly (at least quarterly) to evaluate the health of trees
- Attend to any needs, such as replanting or staking, as they arise

Metric:

- Mortality rate of trees

Goal 4: Use current best practices and climate-adaptive practices in land stewardship

Actions:

- Staff involved in land stewardship seek advice (at a minimum annually) from professional land managers, field experts, ecologists, and Indigenous Peoples on how best to steward the land
- Staff involved in land stewardship stay up to date and expand their knowledge base with professional development through webinars, conferences, and reading vetted sources on best practices

Metrics:

- Number of professional development opportunities (broadly speaking) taken by staff for land stewardship

Goal 5: Ensure commitment to preservation of the natural acreage of Camp Friedenswald.**Actions:**

- Explore ways to solidify preservation of current natural acreage into perpetuity

Metric:

- Additional language and/or documentation of Camp's commitment to preservation of natural acreage, i.e. a conservation easement.

Addendum**A word about CF's tree planting:**

The sixteen-acre tree planting (9000 trees) that took place in 2023 is work CF did to sequester carbon that is additional. The previous land use for that acreage was conventional agriculture and CF changed the land use to increase wildlife habitat and sequester more carbon. Because of that, CF may start to factor in the carbon sequestration of the 16-acre planting once the planting is 5 years old (This is based on research that states trees begin being carbon positive after five years of growth. The carbon used in the planting itself has all been replaced by the trees' growth up to that point in time). The amount of carbon an acre of forest sequesters varies widely. It is estimated that CF's tree planting should sequester between one and 3.5 metric tons of carbon per acre each year. CF's tree planting could offset CF's GHG emissions 16-48 metric tons each year, starting in 2028. More research is needed, and third-party verification should likely happen, before CF claims these offsets.

Reaching 75% Reduction Target

Estimated GHG reductions resulting from switching from propane to electric in the Sustain Friedenswald Campaign should be approximately 15 metric tons CO₂. 2022 is already 65% below the 2015 baseline, and so the hope is the change to electric in some buildings along with efficiency improvements will allow us to reach 69% reduction from our 2015 baseline.

The last 6% reduction will come from the solar array at Lakeview, reduced use of gasoline and diesel, energy conservation behaviors from both staff and guests and the

movement by our utility towards a cleaner grid. These, when combined with either carbon sequestration from the tree planting at CF and/or other efforts to increase the renewable portfolio for CF (possibly reclaiming the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) currently owned by MEC when our solar contract is up - approximately 20-25,000 clean kWh/year), should allow us to reach our target of 75% GHG reduction by 2030.

Update for 2024: If MEC does have a carbon-free portfolio by 2030 (as they have stated), then we should exceed our goal, and the priority to transition to electricity as the energy source for Camp will be even higher.

For Camp Friedenswald to reach scope 1 and 2 net-zero emissions, larger systemic changes will need to take place. The Dining Hall will need new electric capacity to transition to electric and adding that capacity is a large undertaking. The Dining Hall is by far our largest user of propane, accounting for 64% of all CF propane usage in 2022. Making the transition to increased electric capacity in the Dining Hall will be essential to achieve a net-zero Camp Friedenswald for scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Further Resources and References:

[Second Nature Examples of Climate Action Plan Structures](#) (Second Nature)

[Huron-Clinton Metro Parks Climate Action Plan](#) (Huron-Clinton Metro Parks, 2023)

[Science based targets initiative](#) (World Resources Institute)

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: The Evidence is Clear: the time for action is now. We can halve emissions by 2030.](#) (IPCC, 2022)

[Carbon Offsets in Michigan State Forests](#) (University of Michigan and Nature Conservancy, 2019)

[The carbon sequestration potential of terrestrial ecosystems](#) (Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, 2018)

[Assessing the carbon capture potential of a reforestation project](#) (Nature, 2021)