

Calumet Collaborative: A Collective Vision for a Thriving Region



Spanning southeast Chicago, south Cook County and northwest Indiana, the bi-state Calumet region boasts proud and diverse communities, important natural ecosystems and a powerful industrial heritage. As the Calumet region builds on these assets toward a vibrant future for people, wildlife and businesses, Calumet Collaborative is fostering a new level of collaboration in sustainable development.

Mission

The Calumet Collaborative is dedicated to achieving inclusive regional prosperity and improving quality of life by focusing attention and resources of diverse stakeholders on priorities and on-the-ground work that integrate community, economic, and environmental values and have regional impact.

Vision

The advancement of a thriving Calumet region through transformative sustainable development.

To achieve this vision, the Collaborative develops synergies with partners across the region with a focus on:

Economic Opportunity

Advance a world-class, inclusive economy that builds on the Calumet region's industrial heritage, while cultivating innovation and resource efficiency

Livable Communities

Support places and identify opportunities that connect people to where they live, work and play

Culture and Heritage

Celebrate the Calumet region's proud heritage and elevate its vibrant cultural scene

Environment

Restore, protect and connect natural areas and improve the quality of land, air and water

How We Will Get There

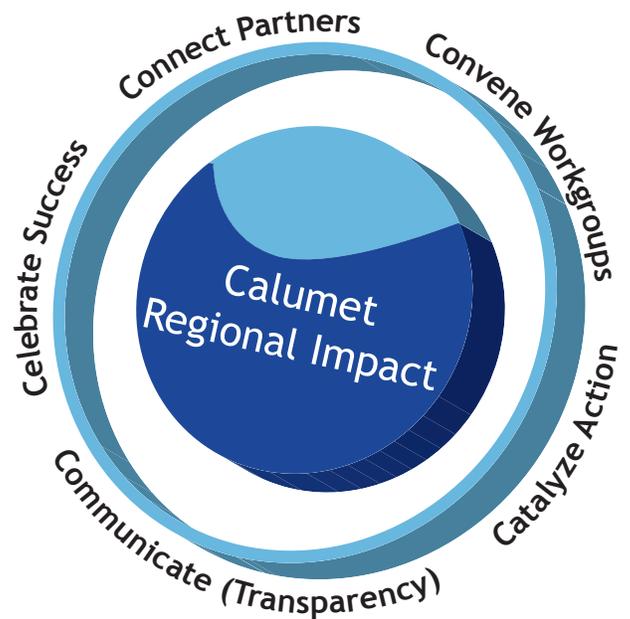
The Calumet Collaborative has worked with partners to determine its core strategic initiatives in the years ahead. They include:

Explore and align bi-state Brownfield redevelopment strategies that build off existing resources including: vacant land, brownfields, productive reuse examples and identify opportunities for action

Advance a bi-state wayfinding system that capitalizes on placemaking opportunities and builds community engagement

Advance the Calumet National Heritage Area to create a comprehensive narrative for the bi-state industrial and cultural heritage of the region

Advance comprehensive bi-state conservation strategies to connect natural areas and recreation for residents and visitors to enjoy



Who's Involved?

This bi-state organization is the first of its kind to focus on sustainable development as it relates to the interconnected facets of economy, environment and community.

The Calumet Collaborative positioned itself with the leadership to take on these challenges. This cross-sectoral collaborative includes lead decision makers from the region's various companies, organizations and community groups.

The Calumet Collaborative Board of Directors includes committed partners from: ArcelorMittal, The Chicago Community Trust, The Field Museum, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Legacy Foundation, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

The Calumet Collaborative Advisory Council is made up of 30 additional regional leaders.

Our Model

Foster stronger collaboration across agencies, organizations, and research institutions utilizing public private partnership (P3) principles to leverage resources and provide greater impact than any one organization could achieve on its own

Establish and promote a shared identity for the region and promote its assets

Leverage the unique sustainable development opportunities to elevate and advance opportunities for regional development - compete as a Calumet region, globally

Empower communities and stakeholders by providing pathways to engage and participate in transforming the region

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