CONSTRUCTING A LAND-USE SIMULATION
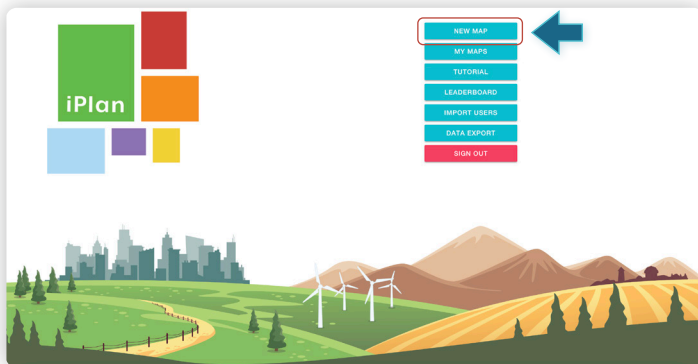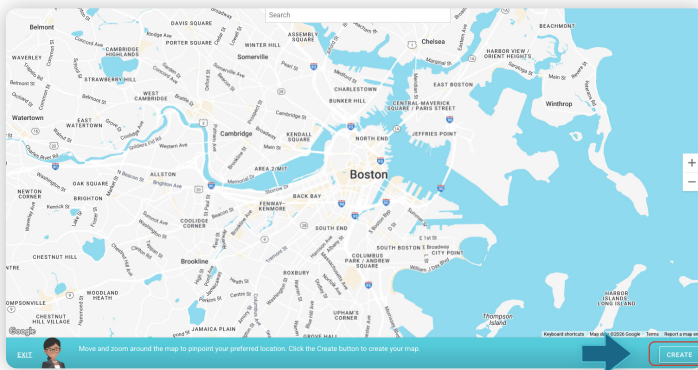
iPlan

Step 1: New Map

Using Chrome, Firefox, or Safari, go to: https://app.i-plan.us/

Select **New Map** to begin the simulation construction process.

*(Note: If you have never used iPlan before, you may want to begin with the **Tutorial**.)*

Step 2: Choosing a Location

If you allow location access, the map will display your current location; if you do not, the map will display the default location (Madison, Wisconsin).

iPlan uses a **Google Maps** interface, so to choose a location for your land-use simulation, you can either search for it in the search bar at the top of the screen, or you can move the map to the desired location. The land-use map the system creates will have approximately the same boundaries as what is visible on your screen, so zoom in or out and pan the map as needed to get the desired location. Currently, iPlan can only make land-use simulations in the contiguous United States.

Once you have the desired region in view, select **Create**.

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Step 3: Happy with Your Map?

In most cases, you will see the map color-coded to indicate the land-use classes. The map will have 200 parcels regardless of the size of the region you choose. If you are happy with your map, select the **Check Button** to continue. If not, you can select the **Back Arrow** to change the region and try again.

In some cases, the system will indicate that a suitable land-use map cannot be made of the region you have selected. You will be prompted to go back and try a different region.

Usually, this happens because the map is zoomed in too far (and thus the total area is too small); zoom out a little and try again.

Step 4: Choosing Indicators

Once you have created a land-use map, you will be prompted to choose five **Indicators** to model.

The indicators—measurable outcomes of land-use—are divided into environmental and socio-economic categories. You must choose at least one indicator from each category and five total. Select the ⓘ button for more information on the indicators.

Note that some indicators may not be available for a given map. Once you have chosen five indicators, select the **Forward Arrow**.
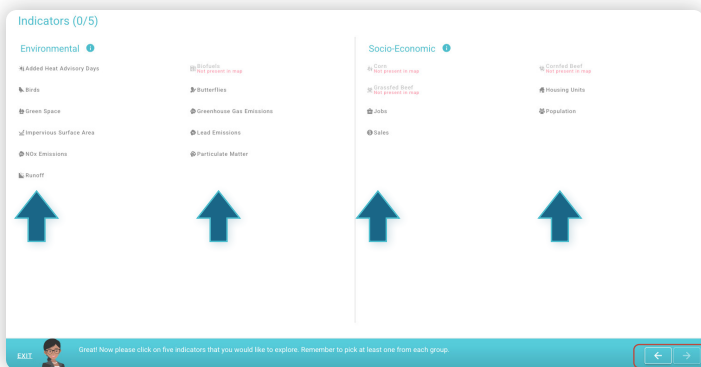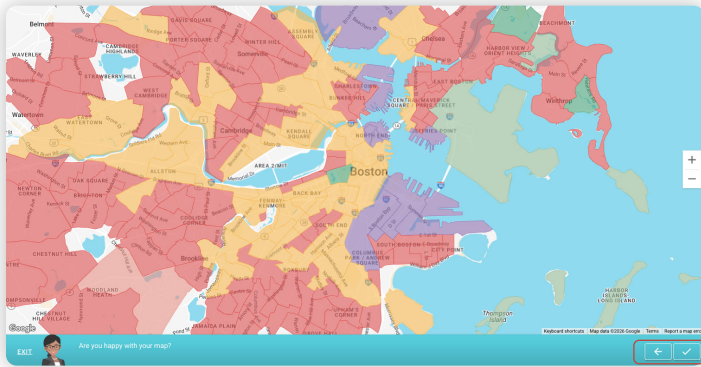
Step 5: Choosing a Difficulty Level

iPlan has three **Difficulty Levels**. Note that the difficulty settings are based on the number of times that the player can get feedback from stakeholders on their proposed land-use plans, so this also influences how long it will take to finish (a hard simulation is shorter, an easy simulation is longer).

Select the **Forward Arrow** to continue.

Step 6: Completing Simulation Construction

To complete simulation construction, the system will prompt you to **Name Your Map**.

Choose a name that reflects the simulation you have constructed.

Note that you can always change the name later by accessing **My Maps** from the main menu.

Select the **Create** button to save your simulation, which will allow you to share it with others or use it yourself.

Step 7: Map Completed

With your map completed, you are ready to share it with others or start playing it yourself.

Note that you can share a map even if you have already played it. Sharing creates a unique copy of the simulation for someone to play from the beginning.