



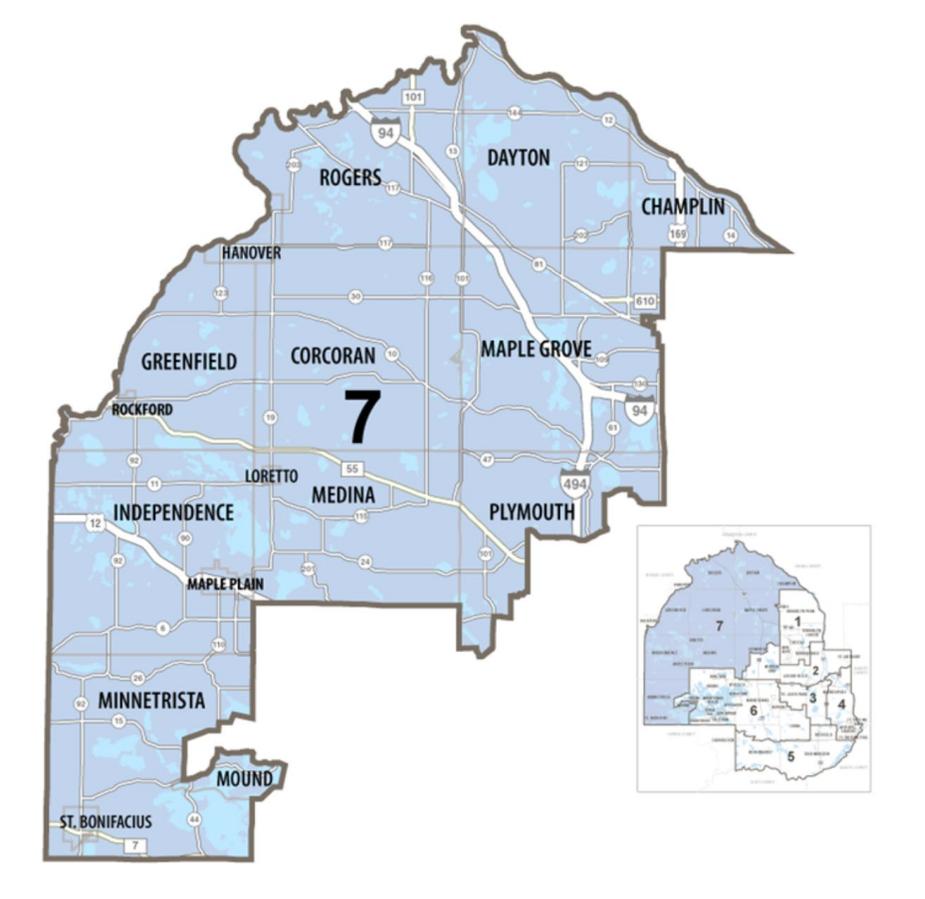
Thanks for joining us today!

Welcome:

- As the meeting begins, please introduce yourself by entering your **name and organization** in the **chat box**.
- Does your organization have a climate action plan? What does it cover? Go to www.menti.com and use the code **6695 1628** (or click the link in the chat) to let us know.



Kevin Anderson, Commissioner, District 7





ALHC Community Conversation #4

Taking on climate change at the local level:
Local Climate Action Planning

Active Living Hennepin County Partnership meeting, December 3, 2021





Agenda

10:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductory Remarks:

- **Denise Engen**, Active Living Hennepin County
- **Kevin Anderson**, Commissioner, District 7, Hennepin County

10:05 a.m. Presentations

- **GreenStep Cities: Best Practices & Resources**
Diana McKeown, Metro CERT Director, Great Plains Institute
- **Partnering for action**
Diana Chaman Salas, Director of Climate and Resiliency, Hennepin County
- **Local government steps up**
Emily Ziring, Sustainability Manager, City of St. Louis Park
- Q & A

10:50 a.m. Sharing local experiences

11:00 a.m. Soft break, continue Q&A and discussion as you are available

11:15 a.m. Adjourn



Minnesota
GreenStep



GreenStep Cities

Diana McKeown

Active Living Hennepin Communities Partnership

Thursday, December 3, 2021



CERTs Overview

Helping Minnesotans build clean energy



MISSION

We connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects



How does CERTs help?



Hands-on assistance

For cities, counties, utilities, farmers, businesses, and other organizations looking to make a change



Practical steps to clean energy

Resources for getting started, moving forward, and completing projects



Learning opportunities

We host events, create resources, and highlight clean energy stories and jobs

CERTs
Partners

Regional Sustainable
Development Partnerships
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE



m1 **COMMERCE**
DEPARTMENT

How does CERTs work?



STAFF

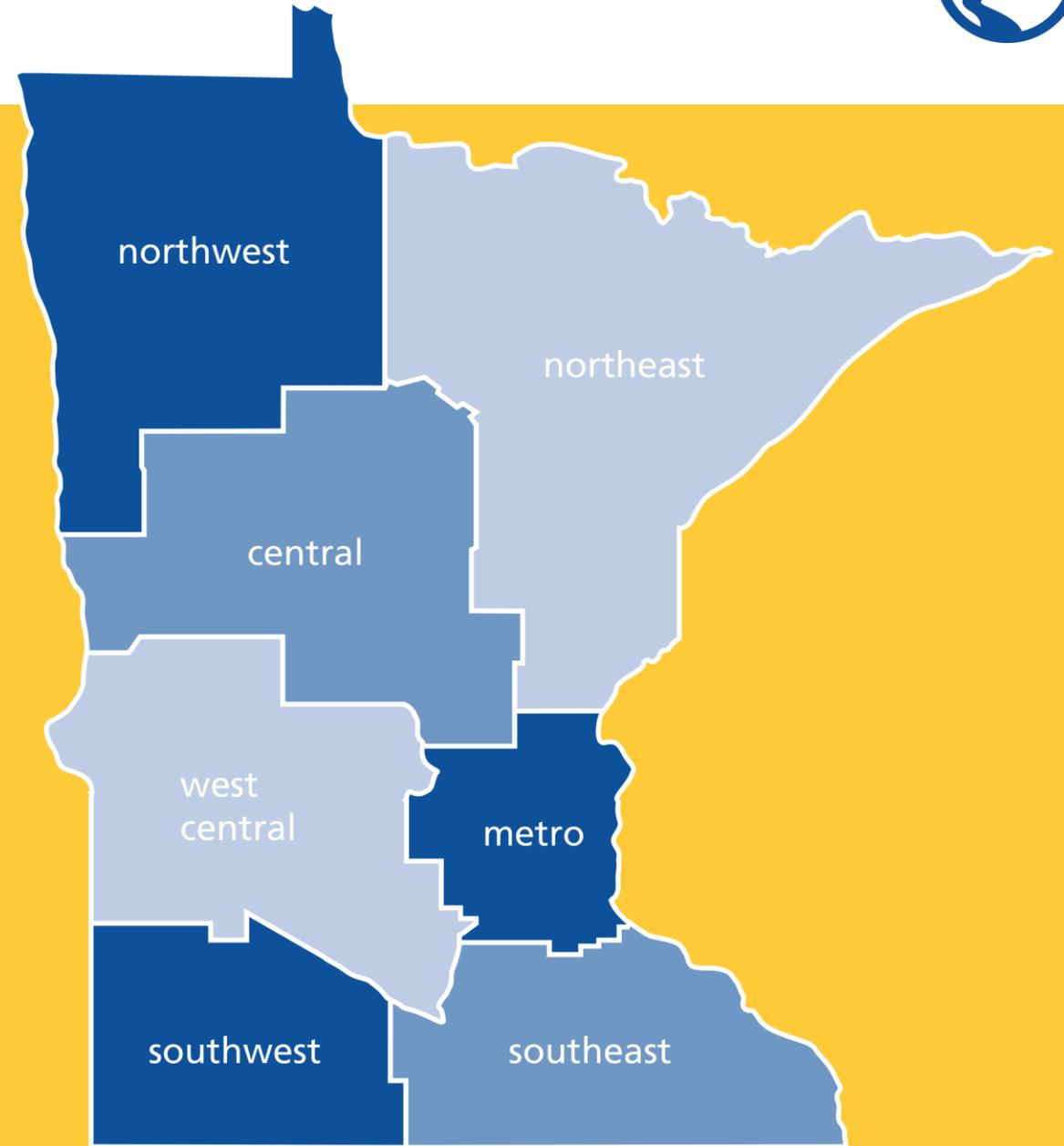
Regional coordinators and statewide support

STEERING COMMITTEES

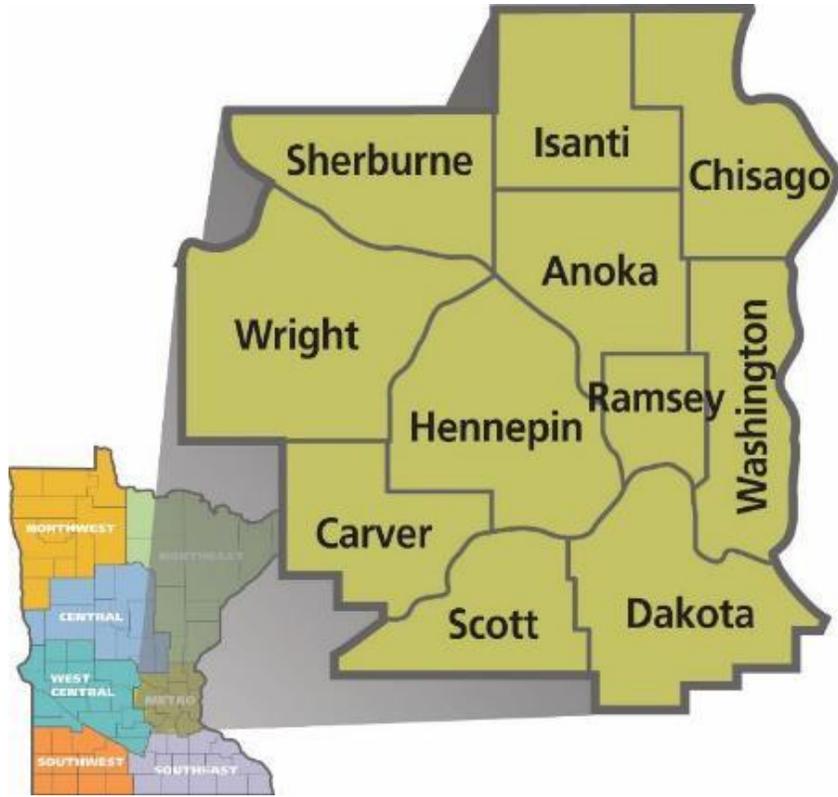
One per region; governing body for regional team

REGIONAL TEAMS

Anyone can join; broad range of skills, interests, and backgrounds



Metro CERT Region



How we help cities & counties



- Assistance in understanding options
- Support for advancing your goals
- Tools you need to get projects done



PHOTO

Electric vehicle charger ribbon cutting in Red Wing



Minnesota
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GreenStep Cities Overview



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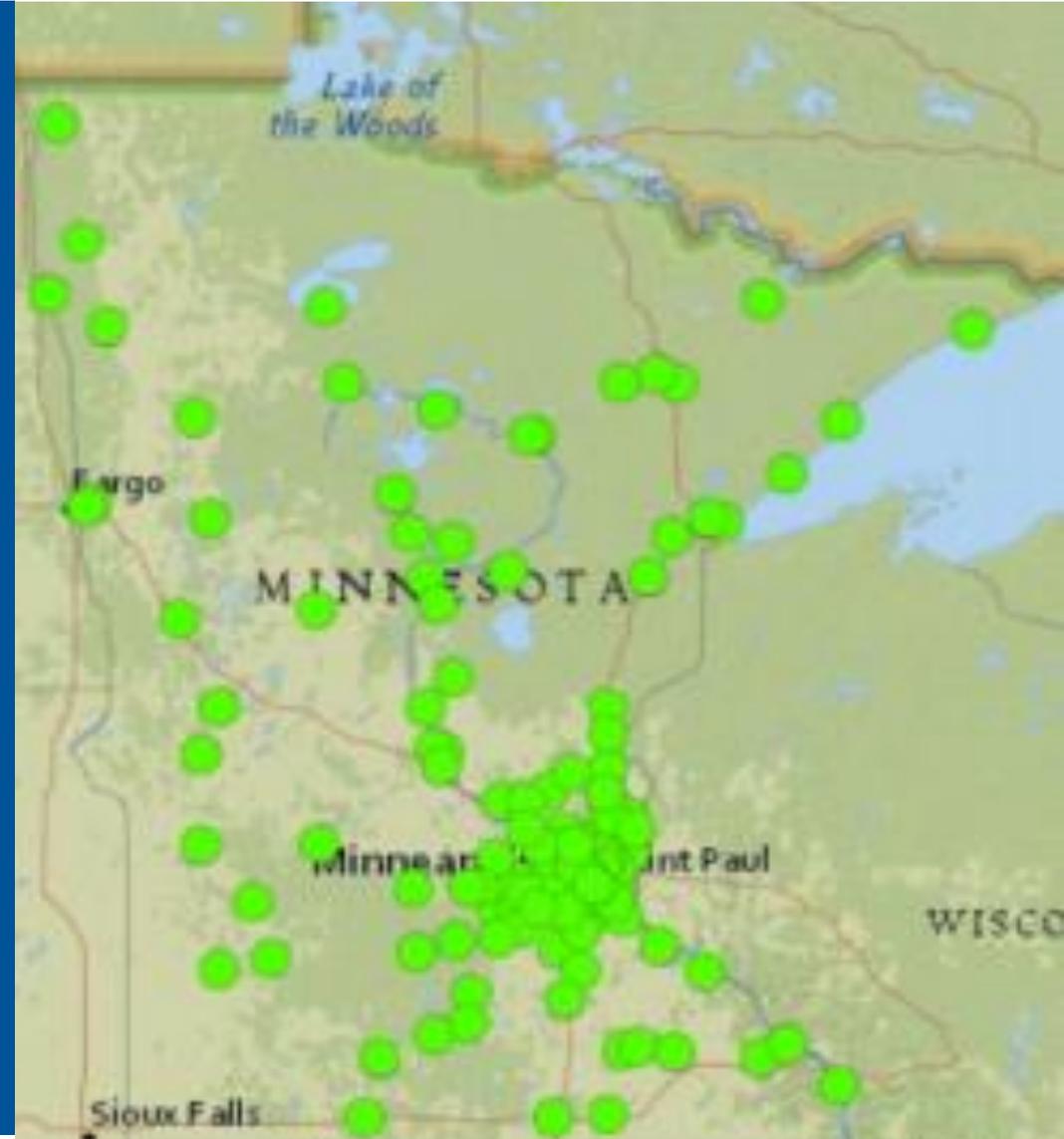
What is GreenStep Cities?



Taking Action with Proven Best Practices

Action-oriented and voluntary program offering a cost-effective, free, peer-focused path to sustainability work.

Currently **144** Participants including four Tribal Nations





Award-Winning Partnership



Environmental Initiative Annual Awards 2012



GreenStep Partners



**GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE**



Main Partners:

- League of Minnesota Cities
- 3 State Agencies: MPCA, EQB, Commerce
- Great Plains Institute
- Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)
- 3 other non-profits:
 - Izaak Walton League – MN Division
 - Urban Land Institute – MN, & Regional Council of Mayors
 - Rethos (Formerly the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota)



Key Program Elements



- Voluntary; self-paced, city-directed
 - Free to join
 - Founded by Minnesotans, for Minnesotans
 - Non-partisan
 - Technical assistance provided
 - Recognition annually at LMC conference
 - Opportunities for continuous improvement
 - 170+ possible actions grouped into 29 best practices
- Actions rated: 1,2,3 Stars [good, better, best]



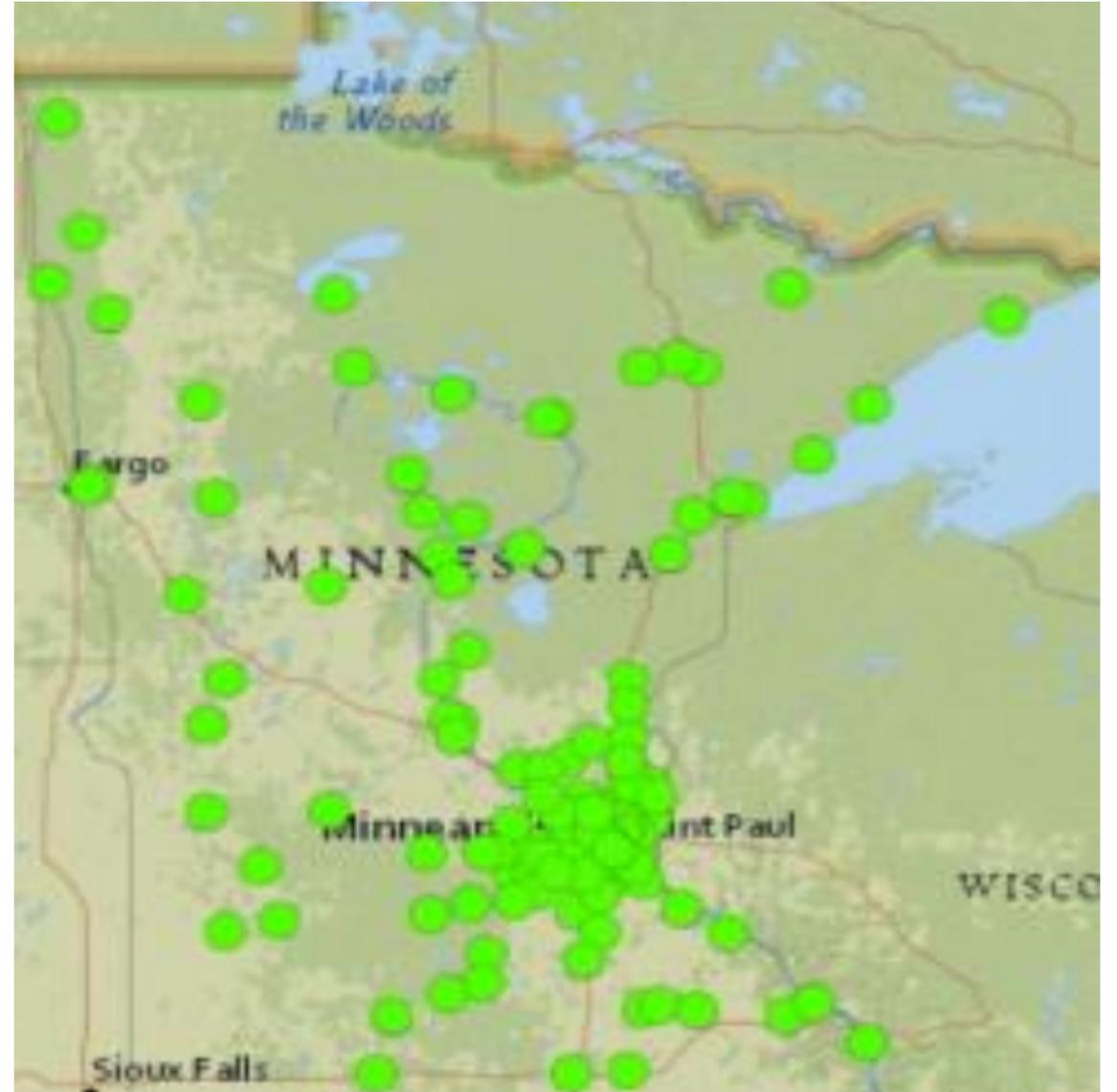


Minnesota
GreenStep

GreenStep Has Broad Uptake



- 140 cities, 4 tribes: > 35% of MN cities over 5,000 are a GS city
- Over 50% of MN's population
- Big (300,000) & small (260)
- Politically non-partisan
- Urban and rural
- 4,500 best practice actions recorded
- \$5.5M/yr. savings (19 cities)





Hennepin County GreenStep Cities



- Bloomington
- Brooklyn Center
- Brooklyn Park
- Chanhassen
- Crystal
- Golden Valley
- Hopkins
- Eden Prairie
- Edina
- Maple Grove
- Minnetonka
- New Hope
- Richfield
- Rogers
- Robbinsdale
- Saint Louis Park





Minnesota
GreenStep

GreenStep Cities Benefits



- Claim credit, be transparent & invite citizen/business participation
- Special attention paid to GreenStep Cities
- Access 40 hours of free consultant help and intern support
- Learn from other cities
- FREE Technical workshops on best practice topics
- 1-stop shop for the most up-to-date information



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Recognition at LMC Conference





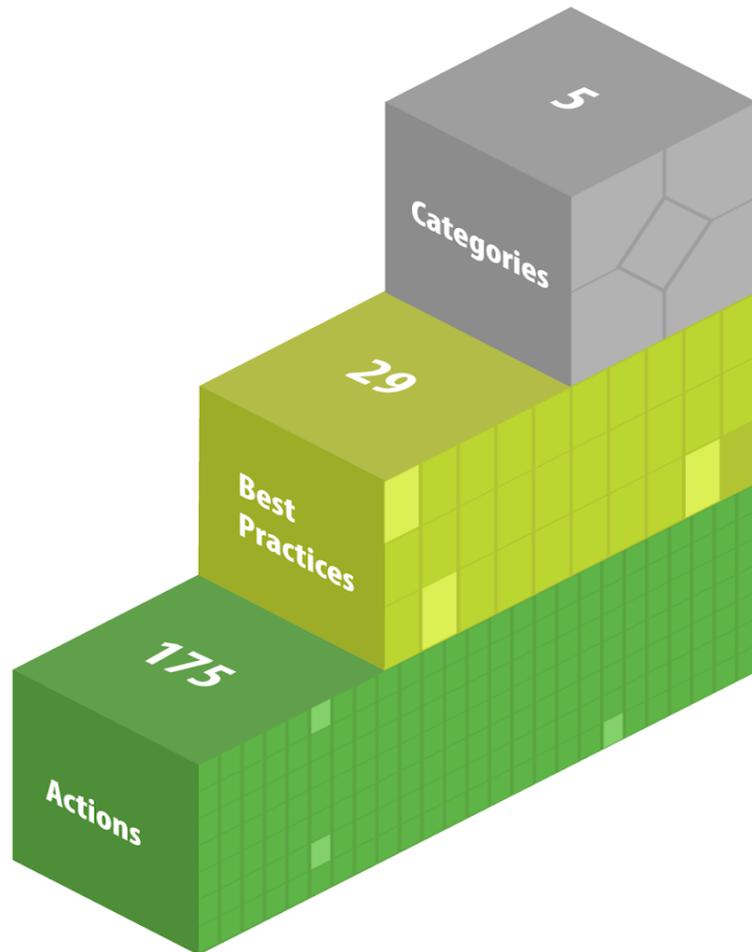
Minnesota
GreenStep



How GreenStep Works



Best Practices



Best Practice Categories



Buildings and Lighting



Land Use



Transportation



Environmental Management



Resilient Economic & Community Development

Best Practice examples

1. Efficient Existing Public Buildings
22. Solid Waste Prevention and Reduction
29. Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience

Action examples

- 1.6 Improve the operations & maintenance of city-owned/school buildings by using a customized online energy efficiency tool, asset management tool, or a green building framework
- 22.5 Arrange for a residential and/or business/institutional source-separated organics collection/management program
- 29.2 Integrate climate resilience into city or tribal planning, policy, operations, and budgeting processes

The Steps



Recognition levels:

- Step 1: join
- Step 2: complete any 4-8 BPs [8 for A cities]
- Step 3: complete 16 BPs with a few high priority ones
- Step 4: report city performance metrics
- Step 5: show metric improvement



City categories [capacities]: A, B, C



A few other tidbits



GreenStep Structure and Funding

Partner organizations make up the steering committee, meeting monthly to determine program improvements

Funding:

Partner organizations are independently funded, and self-determine how their GreenStep Involvement is funded. Funding sources include:

- State agency appropriations
- Membership association dollars
- Grants
- Private donations

Regional agencies like the Metropolitan Council are not partner organizations, nor do they contribute funding



What the program isn't:



- **It's not international.** GreenStep Cities is a Minnesota-specific program, and it will remain a Minnesota-specific program. Founded by Minnesotans for Minnesota Cities.
- **It's not mandatory.** Participation is voluntary and cities select their best practices and go at their own pace. Cities can leave the program.
- **It's not a tool for requiring certain regulations/ordinances.** Cities choose their path and best practices that work for their community. The reason there are so many best practice actions is because that is the feedback we got from cities as we developed the program. Cities are not forced to adopt any best practice if it doesn't fit their community.

Why do Cities join?



- Framework for their sustainability efforts, including best practices used by their peer cities
- Save energy, water & other resources
- Improve quality of life in their cities
- Increase economic vitality
- Save taxpayer money in their city
- Access to technical assistance
- To provide transparent information to their community about sustainability efforts.
- Recognition by their peers

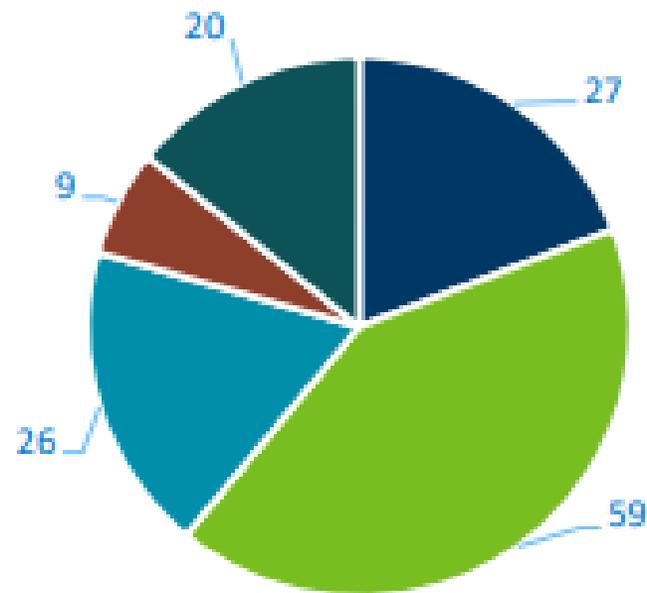




Communities by Step Level



2020 GreenStep Community @ Steps



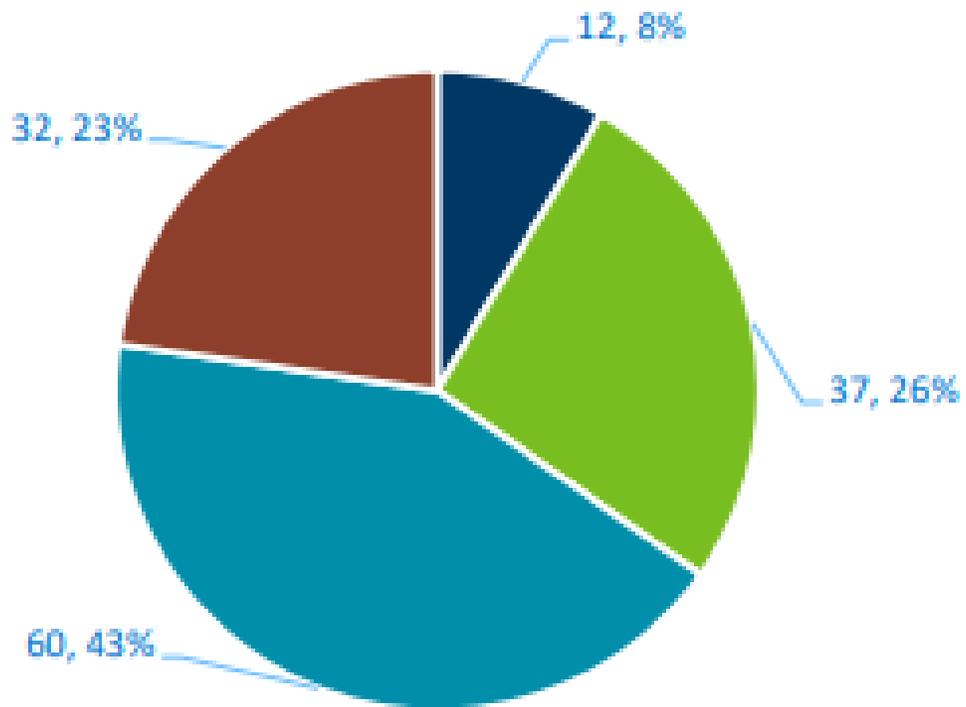
■ Cities @ Step 1 ■ Cities @ Step 2 ■ Cities @ Step 3 ■ Cities @ Step 4 ■ Cities @ Step 5



Participants by Population



GreenStep Communities by Population



■ Under 1000 ■ 1000-5000 ■ 5001-25000 ■ More than 25000

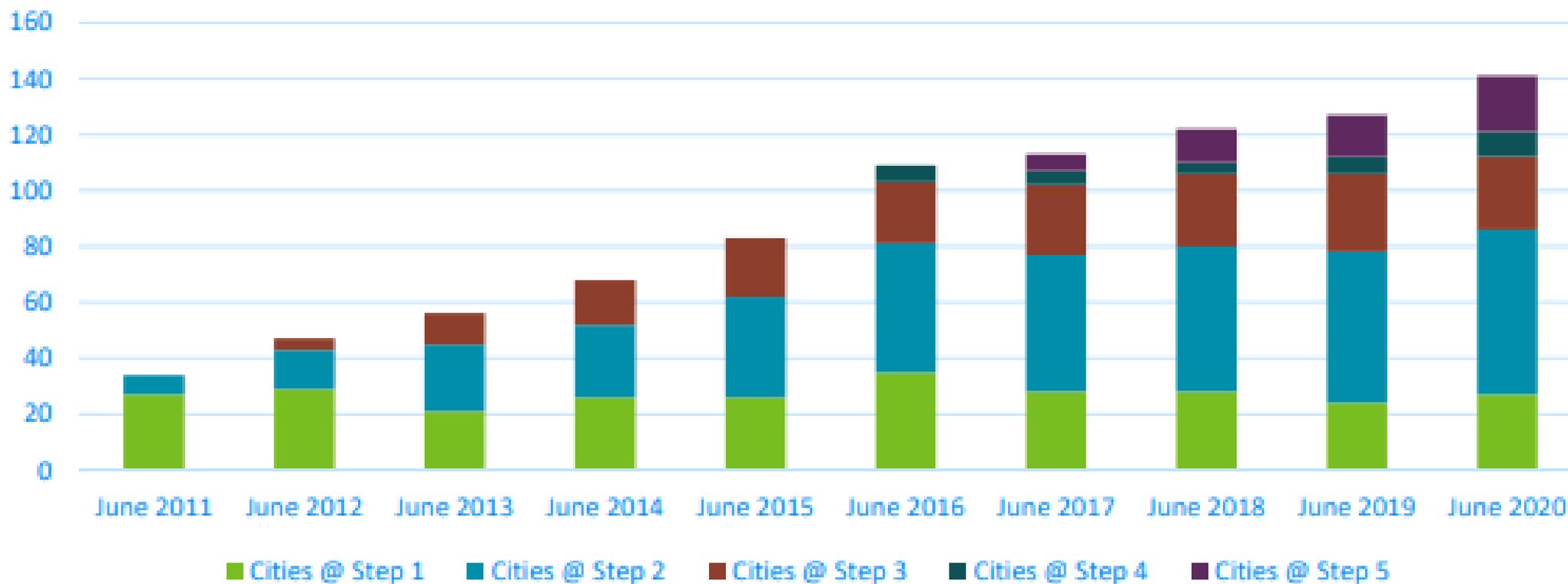


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Communities by Step over time



Total Greenstep Communities by Step





Minnesota
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How Essential is GreenStep Cities?



Mounds View: It provides the roadmap and resources we need. Absent it, we would be floundering, wandering in the wilderness. Aimlessly careening about the universe!

Apple Valley: The program is a great indicator of progress to share and measure over time

Hackensack: This program gives our City and Community Area a focal point to work from and a method for providing regular reporting through our local newsletter.

Inver Grove Heights: This is often discussed as the foundation of our sustainability programming commitments. It helps our city built on sustainability initiatives and add related programs to our workplan.

EV-Ready Communities Pilot Program

- Technical assistance and certification pilot program
- Will support Tribal Nations and cities to achieve their EV-readiness goals
- **Six main categories of action:**
 - EV policy, goals, and metrics
 - Regulation
 - Utility engagement
 - Education and incentives
 - Public sector leadership
 - Shared mobility
- **Launching in early 2022**



**GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE**

Better Energy.
Better World.





Questions, Comments



Diana McKeown
Metro CERT Director
Great Plains Institute
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612-278-7158

A decorative graphic consisting of several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the top of the page, separating the dark blue header from the white main content area.

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA



Foster climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts focusing on building a resilient and equitable Hennepin County

Climate and
Resiliency
Department

Hennepin County Climate Action Plan

Cut greenhouse gas emissions

Prevent the problem from getting worse

Adapt to climate change

Prepare for the projected impacts

Results in a more equitable and resilient Hennepin County

HENNEPIN COUNTY

Foundational strategies



Strengthen individual and community resilience



Transition to renewable energy sources and reduce energy use overall



Cut greenhouse gases from transportation



Prevent food waste and divert organic material from the trash



Design infrastructure, buildings and property to future climate conditions



Build and maintain green infrastructure and sequester carbon on all county-owned properties



Decrease the heat island effect, especially in areas with the highest vulnerability



Climate and Resiliency department priorities

- Develop and strengthening our internal team
- Operationalize our Climate Action Plan
 - Investing in scalable innovations
 - Investing in research for greenhouse gas reduction
 - Expanding our tree canopy
 - Developing an EV strategy
- Focus on processes and tracking outcomes across lines of business
- Foster partnerships and build community relationships



CR Updates and Highlights



County-wide strategic planning



VMT reduction scenario planning



Green Strategy for EV county fleet



Urban Agriculture Youth program – UofM Extension



GIS Climate vulnerability dashboard / Climate and Resiliency Hub

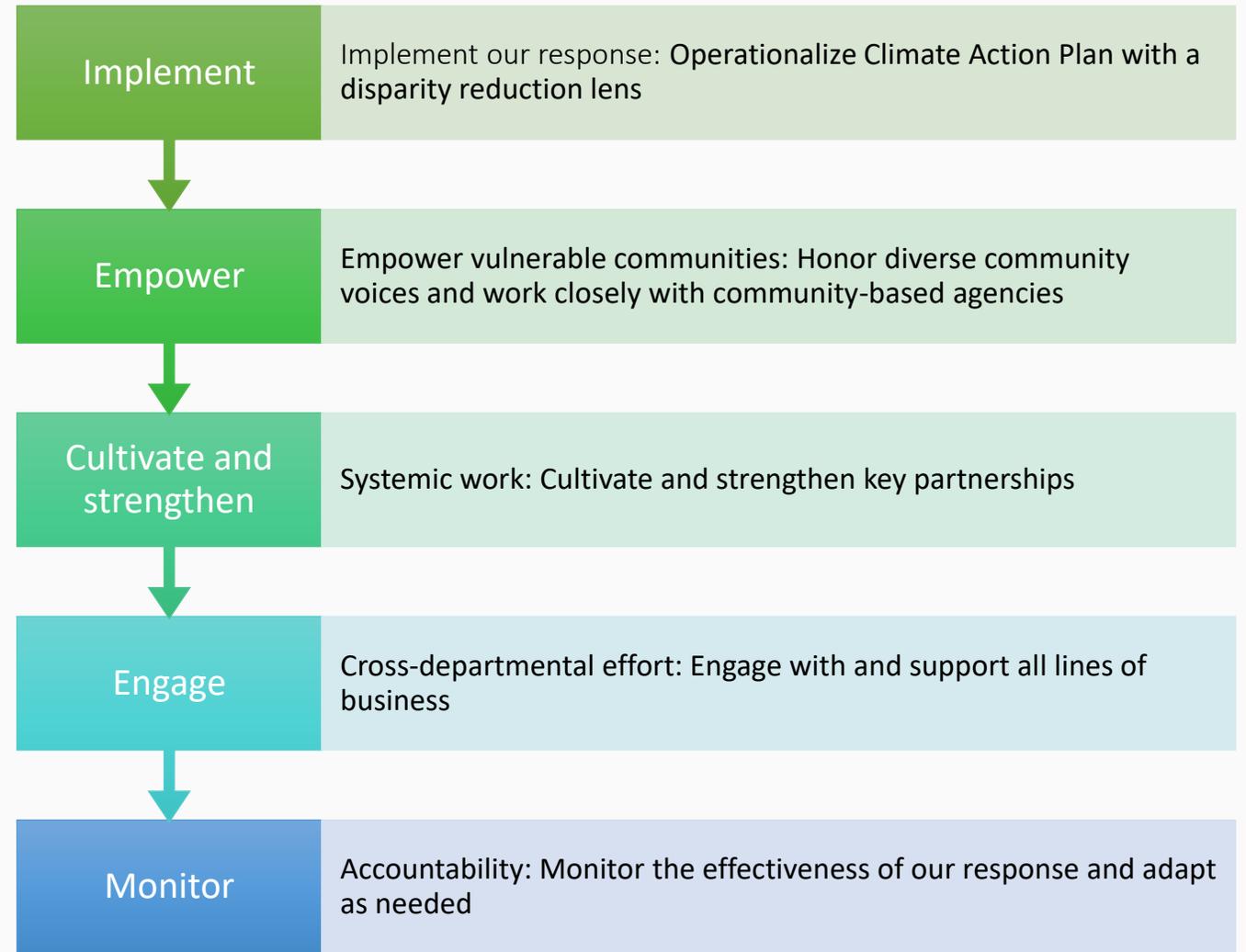


Green House Gas Emissions operations PowerBI dashboard



25+ partnerships

A shared vision for Climate Resiliency



Progress on fleet electrification

- Replaced 30 vehicles with hybrid in 2021
 - 51 hybrids, 4 EVs in fleet
- Expanded to 10 fleet charging spots
- Partnerships established
- Developing Green Fleet Strategy



Key metrics

- 50% hybrid and 20% electric for entire light duty fleet by 2030
- Achieve net zero emissions by 2050

Increase the resilience of the built environment and protect natural resources

- Increase the tree canopy. Ex: Tax forfeited land and juvenile diversion program.
- Acquire and restore conservation easements



Key metrics

- Plant 1 million trees by 2030 through partnerships with cities, Three Rivers Park District, and other community partners
- Acquire 6,000 additional acres of conservation easements by 2040

Getting to a zero-waste future

- Advance anaerobic digestion
- Developing zero-waste future RFP
- Prevent food waste and expand food rescue
- Improve access to recycling and organics services in multifamily locations

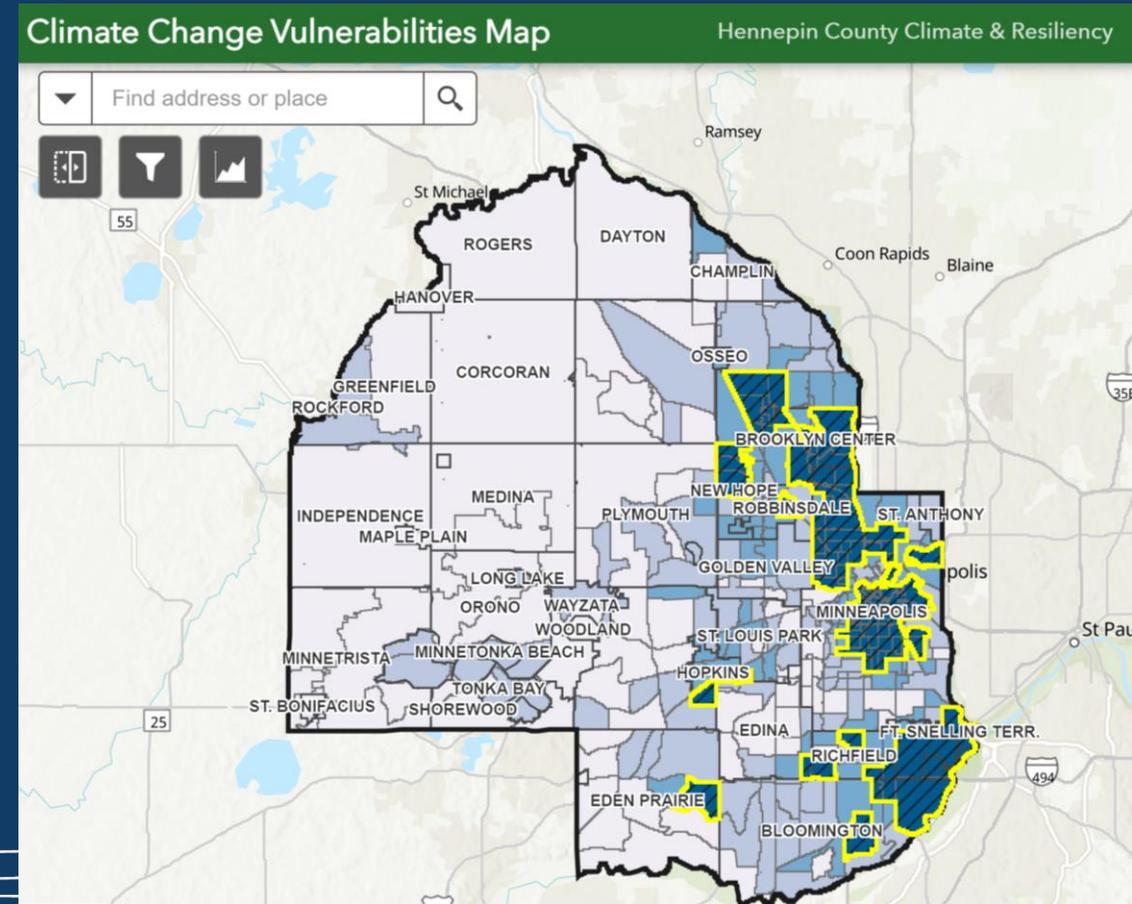


Key metrics

- Recycle 75% of waste and send zero waste to landfills by 2030

Opportunities for collaboration

- Tree canopy expansion
 - *Investing in green jobs*
 - *Land use/access to additional space*
- Education and community engagement
- EV strategy across Hennepin County
- Data repository for Climate Action
- Disparity reduction lens



Thank you

- Diana.ChamanSalas@Hennepin.us



Local government steps up

- *Emily Ziring, Sustainability Manager, City of St. Louis Park*

St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan

February 2018

2040

Setting a course toward carbon neutrality

The Story of the Climate Action Plan

2015-2016: Partners in Energy and the Energy Action Plan

- In 2015, Environment and Sustainability Commission encouraged city to participate in Xcel's Partners in Energy (PiE) program to drive community energy reductions
- Community team was formed to develop an Energy Action Plan (EAP)
- The Energy Action Plan was completed in 2016. It included four priorities:
 - Create a climate action plan with a goal of carbon neutrality by 2040;
 - Push for more energy-efficient businesses;
 - Increase the purchase of renewable energy;
 - Create a partnership with local youth.

March 21, 2016: St. Louis Park gets graded by local high school students

Report Card

Zero Emissions Plan: D-

Renewable Energy: A-

Waste: A+

Carbon Removal: A

Overall Grade for St Louis Park: B-

The screenshot shows a news article from StarTribune. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Local, Sports, Business, Opinion, Variety, Obituaries, and Classifieds. The article is categorized under 'WEST METRO'. The main headline is 'St. Louis Park gets B- on students' climate report card'. Below the headline is a sub-headline: 'High school club gives the city low grades on some environmental efforts.' The byline reads 'By Beena Raghavendran Star Tribune | MARCH 22, 2016 — 9:46PM'. A video player is embedded in the article, showing a group of high school students in a meeting room. The video title is 'St. Louis Park report card'. Below the video player, there is a video description: 'Video (01:50) : St. Louis Park High school students are doling out grades on whether their city is doing what it can to protect the environment.' To the left of the video player, there are social media sharing options: AA TEXT SIZE, a speech bubble icon, a Facebook icon, a Twitter icon, and an EMAIL icon. The main text of the article begins with 'The leaders of tomorrow aren't easy graders when it comes to the future of the planet.' and continues with 'St. Louis Park High School students became the teachers Monday evening, filling out a climate change report card on the St. Louis Park City Council during its regular meeting. And many of the grades wouldn't place it on any honor rolls.' The article concludes with 'The council got a D-minus for its zero emissions plan, the teens announced. Carbon removal? Only a C.'

Climate Inheritance Resolution

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Louis Park City Council commits to working constructively, using ingenuity, innovation, and courageous determination to create a St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan for consideration that significantly reduces St. Louis Park's greenhouse gas emissions to levels that would protect our community's children and grandchildren from the risk of climate destruction. (May 2016)



Climate Action Plan (CAP) – Adopted February 2018



SLP Roots & Shoots
Environmental Club



iMATTER

From city halls to the State Capitol, Minnesota youths lead the charge in climate crisis

Across Minnesota, students are springing into action to combat climate change — and pushing their local governments to do the same.

By **Hannah Covington** Star Tribune | NOVEMBER 30, 2018 — 6:04PM

Don't bother with the default excuses.

Olya Wright, 13, has heard them all before: No time. No money. No technology.

When it comes to confronting climate change, she isn't buying them.

“Some adults get stuck on certain things that are roadblocks,” said Wright, who lives in Grand Marais. “No’ is not acceptable. We need to act.”

Across Minnesota, students like Wright are springing into action to combat climate change — and pushing their local governments to do the same. Youthful advocates are leading rallies, gathering petitions and taking daring climate resolutions to city halls and County Board rooms, prodding local officials to get serious about cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Many are working with a youth-driven organization called iMatter, a [national nonprofit](#) based in the Twin Cities that's focused on climate change and the role young leaders play in the fight for solutions (imatteryouth.org).

So, what's in the Climate Action Plan?

St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan

February 2018

2040

Setting a course toward carbon neutrality

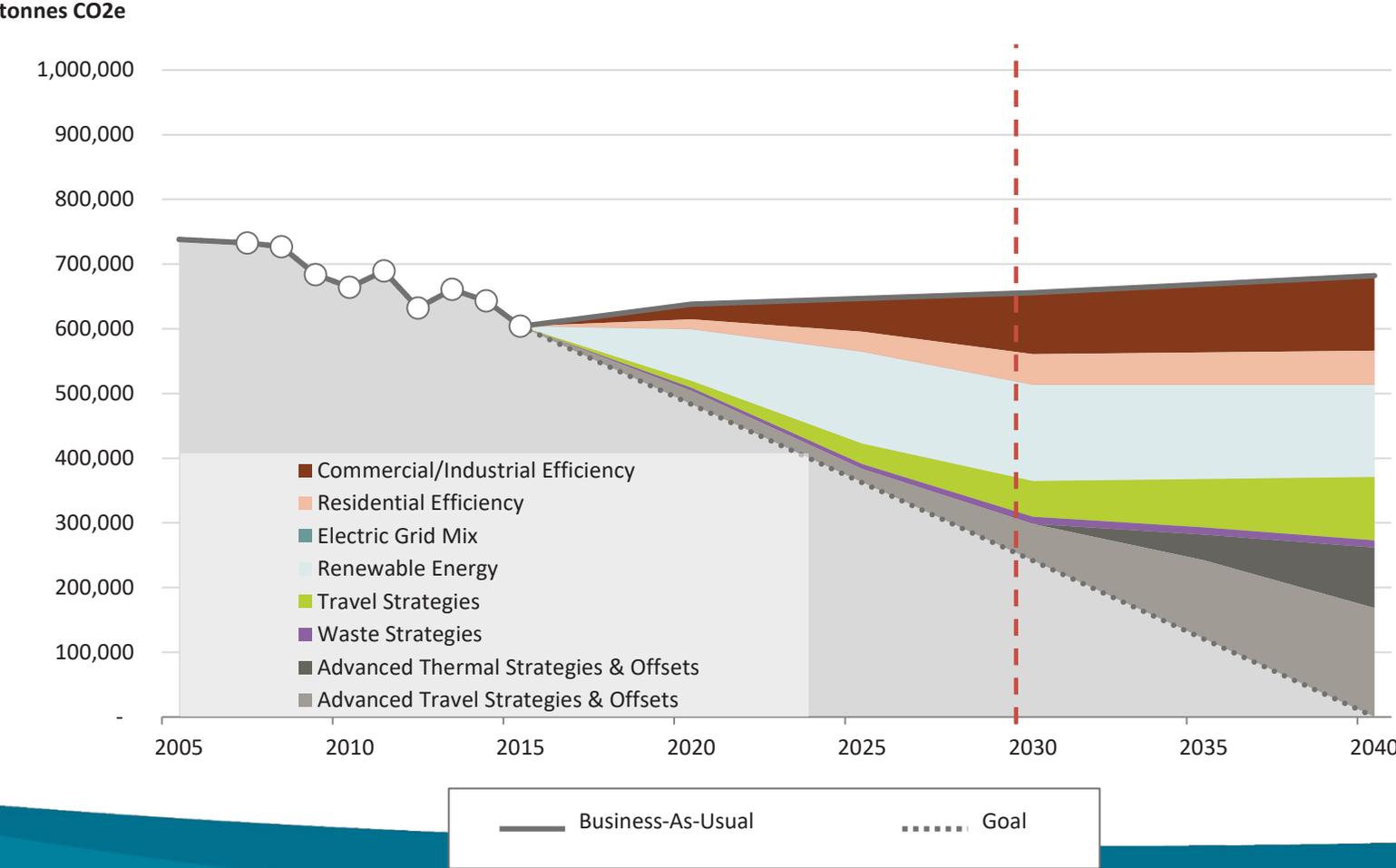
 **St. Louis Park**
MINNESOTA
Experience LIFE in the Park.



 MINNESOTA

Climate Action Plan

PLANNED EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS BY SECTOR



22-year plan containing:

- 3 kick-start projects
- 7 mid-term goals
- Advanced strategies

CAP 2030 Mid-Term Goals

Impact

Goals

Building Energy Efficiency
21.7%

1. Reduce energy consumption in large commercial buildings 30%
2. Reduce energy consumption in small to mid-size commercial buildings 30%
3. Design all new construction to be net-zero energy
4. Reduce energy consumption in residential buildings by 35%

Renewable Electricity
23.3%

5. Achieve 100% renewable electricity

Travel
8.4%

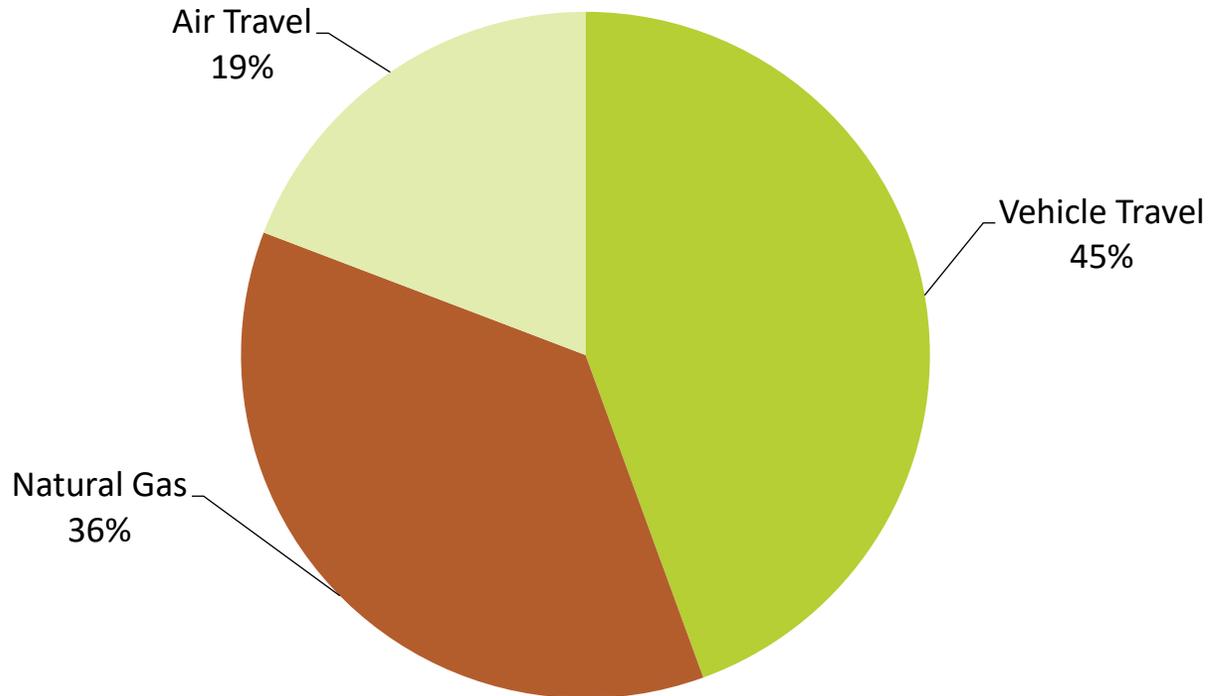
6. Reduce vehicle emissions 25%

Solid Waste
1.1%

7. Reduce solid waste emissions 50%

Advanced Strategies – post 2030

REMAINING EMISSIONS AFTER 2030



- A. Identify opportunities for thermal energy grids
- B. Explore opportunities for combined heat and power
- C. Anaerobic digesters for waste heat and compressed natural gas
- D. Fuel switching
- E. Carbon offsets
- F. Emerging technologies
- G. Scope 3 emissions

What can cities do to reach their climate goals?



ENGAGE

Motivate action through education, experiences, and influence of trusted messengers



INCENTIVIZE

Offer funding, financing and public recognition to spur community action



LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Demonstrate commitment to community and to peers



REGULATE

Require or encourage sustainability through policy



ENGAGE: Motivate action through education, experiences, and influence of trusted messengers

- Education
 - Workshops on solar, electric landscaping equipment, understanding utility bills
 - Promotion of Home Energy Squad, other assessment programs
 - Promotion of income-qualified energy assistance programs
 - Campaign around idling reduction
 - Resources on conservation, efficiency, and renewables on website, including solar suitability map
 - COMING SOON: Climate Equity Map
- Events
 - Tabling at community and neighborhood events
 - Ride & Drives
- Trusted messengers
 - Leveraging local leaders, success stories to spur others to take action

ENGAGE

Success: Home Energy Squad Challenge

- St. Louis Park won the 2020 HES Challenge
- Councilmember testimonial video, social media, e-newsletters, flyers, and Energy Efficiency Day proclamation increased participation



Challenge: Ride & Drives

- In 2019, Environment & Sustainability Commission hosted EV Ride & Drive
- COVID safety concerns in 2020 and 2021
 - *Adapt:* for National Drive Electric Week, created short videos of SLP EV drivers



INCENTIVIZE: Offer funding, financing and public recognition to spur community action

- Funding
 - Promote utility rebates
 - Offer financial “sweeteners” to motivate action
 - Climate Champions
 - Solar Sundown
 - Building Operations Champions
 - Energy efficient rebates to homeowners
 - Electrification
 - Tree planting
 - Rainwater Rewards
 - WaterSense rebates
- Financing
 - Requiring sustainable buildings in exchange for TIF funds
 - PACE, CEE loans, property tax assessed energy improvements
- Recognition
 - Climate Champions window clings, public recognition in city publications

INCENTIVIZE

Success: Solar Sundown cost share

- Helped more than double the amount of rooftop solar across the city
- So far, has resulted in 32 new residential installations and 3 new business installations

Challenge: Business Outreach

- Local business owner focus is elsewhere: supply chain disruptions, employee and customer safety, COVID-19 economic impact
- Navigating split incentives, especially when property owner is out of city or state



Roof of Minnetonka Park Mall, now home to 102 solar panels!

LEAD BY EXAMPLE: Demonstrate commitment to community and to peers

- Go 100% renewable
 - Install rooftop solar
 - Subscribe to green power tariff
- Install EV chargers
- Retrofit facility and street lighting
- Purchase electric vehicles for fleet
- Replace gas-powered landscaping equipment with all electric
- Set example with internal policies (e.g. sustainable purchasing, idling reduction, compost use in street projects, deconstruction of old facilities)

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Success: Westwood Hills Nature Center

- The interpretive center, opened in 2020, is one of the first commercial buildings in Minnesota designed to achieve net-zero energy
- Solar, geothermal wells, passive design, stormwater management, and more are part of the interactive visitor experience

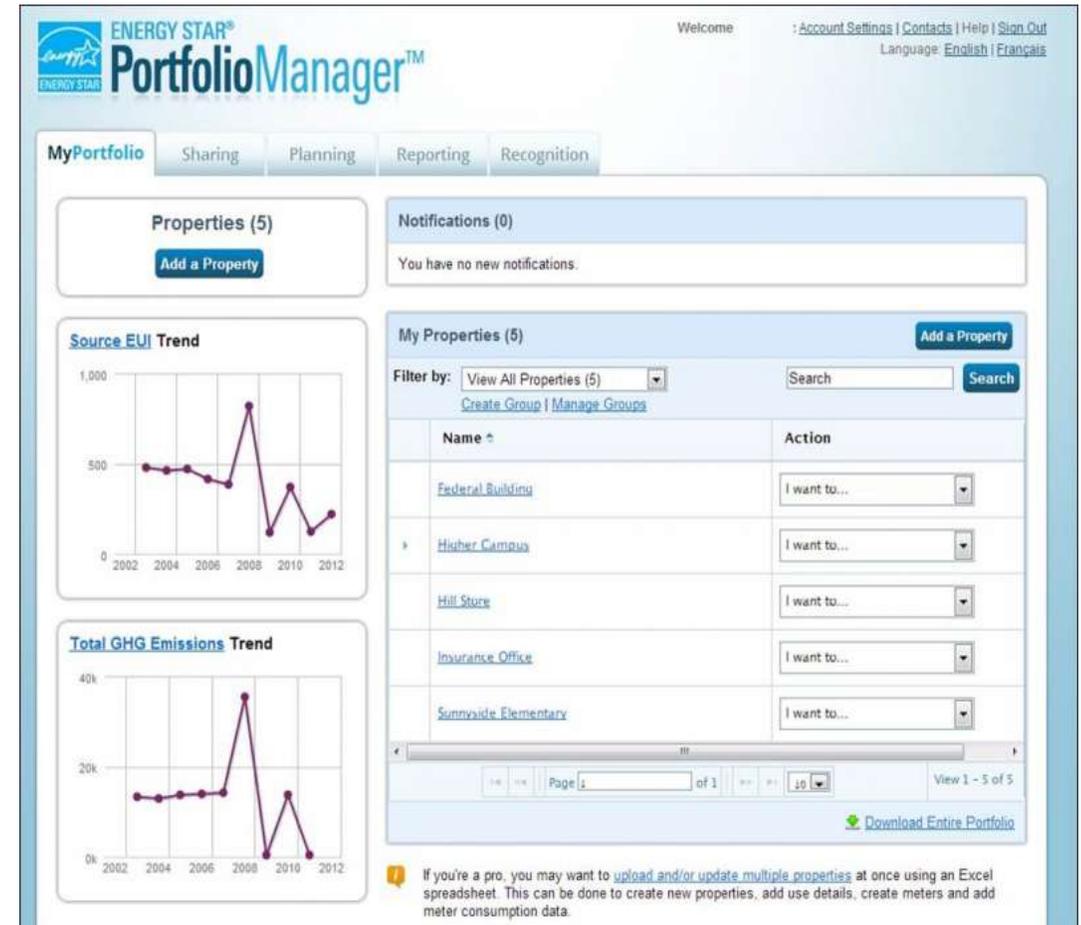


Challenge: Funding

- Future infrastructure demonstration projects, such as solar + storage or municipal DC Fast Chargers, are costly and grant funding is competitive

REGULATE: Require sustainability through policy (limited by law, state and federal policy)

- Benchmarking ordinance informs property owners of their buildings' energy use intensity and comparable buildings
- Electric Vehicle Service Equipment ordinance requires new or reconstructed parking structures or lots to be EV-ready



REGULATE

Success: EVSE ordinance

- Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment ordinance (2019) has led to dozens of new chargers in private developments and parking lots

Challenge: Business relationships

- Time and education needed to build familiarity and comfort with new regulations
- Remind businesses of ongoing requirements (benchmarking reporting is required annually)

Commitment to environmental justice

- Consider equity in all aspects of programs and policies:
 - Inclusive involvement and engagement
 - Policy and program design
 - Additional funds to program applicants who meet specific geographic, demographic or other criteria
 - Consider populations who are more likely to benefit or be burdened
 - Communications
 - Partner with community organizations to get message out

Thank you!

Emily Ziring
Sustainability Manager
eziring@stlouispark.org
952.924.2191

Q&A

What are your questions for the presenters?



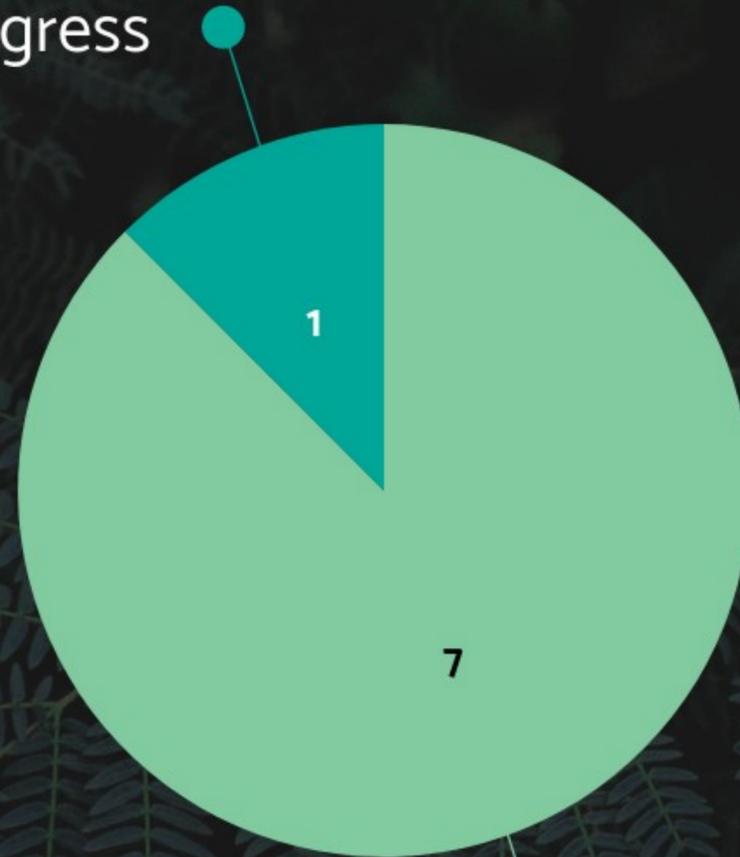
Sharing local experiences

- What are your challenges, concerns, stories, or questions – for each other or the panelists?
- How are you integrating sustainability with resilience and climate action? Does your organization have a climate action plan? What are your challenges? What is going well?



Does your organization have a climate action plan?

In progress



Yes

Which topic areas does your plan address?



How much interest are you hearing from your community / residents on addressing climate change?

I am hearing a lot of interest from both community and other partners, particularly in the area of environmental justice

Not much, unfortunately. I have heard very little from the community regarding climate change/sustainability.

It is split: there are people that are very passionate and interested advocates, but I'm not sure we are going beyond the choir yet.

Hennepin County Active Living

Denise Engen, Denise.Engen@hennepin.us

Robb Luckow, Robert.Luckow@hennepin.us



Funding for this project was provided from the Minnesota Department of Health through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). SHIP supports community-driven solutions to expand opportunities for active living, healthy eating and commercial tobacco-free living.



ALHC Community Conversation #4

Taking on climate change at the local level:
Local Climate Action Planning

Active Living Hennepin County Partnership meeting, December 3, 2021

