



Resilient Cities & Communities

Visionary People. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

Thanks so much for joining us for our 1/22/20 Climate Action Conversation with Environmental Commissions in as part of our [RCC Hennepin County Cluster!](#)

We have the opportunity over the next few weeks to lay the foundation for our cities and Hennepin County to **meet our climate goals on time** by reducing greenhouse gas emissions county-wide 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050!

Hennepin County is currently asking for feedback on their Draft Climate Action Plan by Wed March 3.

We are inviting you and your city to take **THREE next steps**

ONE - Share your individual & city feedback [RSVP](#) for Mon 2/22 11:30am or Mon 3/1 4pm & [add comments](#) by 3/3/21

- [RCC Sample Talking Points on County-City Climate Action](#)

TWO - Add your ideas to RCC's Climate Action Recommendations for ways cities and the county team up for action

- **Review** [Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan draft](#) & our [RCC Initial Climate Action Recommendations](#)
- **Add your ideas & suggestions via our [short survey](#)**
- [RSVP](#) to Join us - **RCC Hennepin Co. Cluster Conversation #1 – City-County Climate Action Wednesday Feb 24 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** [Zoom Link](#)

(Commission and community volunteers, city staff and elected welcome)

- o **Large Group** - each commission will share brief highlights of their current priorities and projects
- o **Small Groups** - review [RCC's draft recommendations](#) and the ideas we have received in our survey, discuss, update and prioritize possible action steps cities and the county can take together.
- o RCC will then send in our updated feedback to Hennepin Co. before March 3.

THREE Work with RCC to build strong support to implement the plan within Hennepin County's Senior Leadership

- [RSVP](#) to Join us **RCC Hennepin Co. Cluster Conversation #2 – Building County Support for Implementation Thursday March 4 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** [Zoom Link](#)
- (Commission and community volunteers, city staff and elected welcome)
- o **Planning Zoom Calls with Hennepin County Commissioners to build support** (with volunteers and/or city reps from each district)
 - o **Recommend key elements to include in their Board Resolution when they approve/adopt the plan –** (i.e. GHG goals, targets, key deliverables for departments, reporting requirements)

Please share our invitation with your Environment Commission and other interested commissions (planning, Transportation, Human Rights, etc.) and citizen volunteers, and interested city staff, elected leaders

Thanks so much! Please call or email us with any questions and suggestions! Sustainably, Sean

Sean Gosiewski, Program Director

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www.rccmn.co/hennepin-communities Visionary Leaders. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

See below: [Hennepin County's Feedback Session Invitation](#) & [RCC Sample Talking Points on County-City Climate Action](#)



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Sample Talking Points to Strengthen Hennepin County's Draft Climate Action Plan to Expand City-County Partnerships to meet our Climate Goals on Time

We have the opportunity over the next few weeks to lay the foundation for our cities and Hennepin County to **meet our climate goals on time** by reducing GHG emissions county-wide 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050!

Visit www.rccmn.co/hennepin-communities for updated [Talking Points](#) & [RCC Climate Action Recommendations](#)

1. Set a Climate Goal of Net Zero Emissions County Wide by 2050

Match current scientific consensus and Biden Administration goals by updating Hennepin County's 2007, Cool County (07-8-334R2), Commitments/ benchmarks for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from both the geographic area of the county and from county operations from a 2005 baseline by from **2007 County GHG Commitments** • 15% by 2015 • 30% by 2025 • 80% by 2050 to

- **2021 County GHG Commitments** • 50% by 2030 • 75% by 2040 • Net Zero by 2050

2. We are asking the Hennepin County Board to tell the County Administrator and Department leadership to fully support and empower county department staff to innovate, change "business as usual" practices and develop external public and community partnerships. We need to secure **GHG reduction targets county-wide** while **reducing racial disparities** and **strengthening climate resilience and economic recovery**.

3. When the Hennepin County Board approves the Climate Action Plan - include in their Board Resolution priority deliverables/benchmarks for key departments with reporting requirements and dates (examples)

- We commit to funding the initiatives included in our Climate Action Plan in our 2022 budget.**
- All departments** are instructed to use the county's **Equity Impact and Climate Impact assessment tools** when developing/reviewing plans, projects and capital investments.
- Public Works/Transportation** – co-develop plans to cut Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) county-wide 20% or more by 2030 with cities, nonprofits, community groups & the Met Council.
- Housing and Redevelopment Authority** – develop an action plan and partnerships to weatherize residential buildings county-wide to reduce energy burdens and natural gas use.
- Community Works/Community Development** – develop plans and partnerships with cities to expand affordable housing and commercial space through net zero, equitable, walkable, transit-oriented development and large site redevelopment.
- Energy and Environment** – continue to partner with current and new cities through our energy benchmarking collaborative to engage/support businesses and multifamily owners to accelerate energy efficiency, solar and E.V. adoption to meet county-wide GHG goals.
- Hennepin Pathways** – develop partnerships to expand equitable access to clean energy, transportation and green infrastructure jobs, contracting and business development.
- Zero Waste** – co-develop/implement zero waste action plans with cities & State of MN to expand waste diversion and reduce GHG associated with waste/material use to retire HERC by a date certain.

4. We enthusiastically support the plan's goal for **Hennepin County to partner** in ways that can be most impactful with **public entity partners** (including cities) and with **community organizations**.

Hennepin County's leadership and convening roles with public entities and community organizations to co-create and pursue joint initiatives to meet mutual climate goals will be vital to enabling the 41 cities in Hennepin County to take the effective actions needed to cut county-wide CO2 emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. By convening cities, county departments, nonprofits and community organizations to co-develop & launch shared initiatives, Hennepin County can help scale up implementation of high-impact, equitable, low-carbon, resilient policies & projects county-wide during this vital decade.

**Questions/Comments? Contact Sean Gosiewski, Program Director, 612 250-0389, sean@rccmn.co
Resilient Cities and Communities 2801 21st Ave S. Suite 100 Minneapolis MN 55407 www.rccmn.co
Visionary Leaders. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.**

Hennepin County's Feedback Session Invitation

	<p>Draft Climate Action Plan available for review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hennepin County is pleased to release a draft of our first Climate Action Plan (PDF). <p>This draft is the culmination of a year-long planning effort that involved 57 staff from 20 county departments. The plan was also shaped by community members who shared the impacts they've experienced from climate change and their values, priorities, and vision for a climate-friendly future.</p> <p>Read more about the plan development and previous community engagement efforts at www.hennepin.us/climateaction</p>
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Opportunities to provide feedback

The county will be gathering feedback on the plan through Wednesday, **March 3**.

Online community meetings

The county is holding two online meetings where county staff will present core goals and strategies. Anyone interested in the county's response to climate change is encouraged to attend.

Using online facilitation tools, participants will complete polls about the goals and strategies, offer comments, and ask written questions that will be answered through a moderated process. Meetings will be held:

- Monday, February 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday, March 1 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Both sessions will have the same agenda, so you only need to attend one session.

Please complete the [RSVP form](#) to indicate which session you plan to attend. Information about how to access the meeting will be emailed a few days prior to the event.

Comment form

Individuals who wish to offer feedback on the plan but do not want to attend an online meeting may share their comments through an [online feedback form](#). This form will be available through Wednesday, March 3.

Timeline and next steps

Planned timeline to seek board adoption of the plan:

- **February 2021:** Make draft plan available for public comment and conduct online and virtual feedback opportunities.
- **March 2021:** Summarize and share findings from engagement efforts with the climate action teams and county leadership. Use the findings to make final edits to the plan. Make the updated plan available and communicate it to the county board.
- **April 2021:** Board takes up formal adoption of the climate action plan, which will include a final public comment process.