#### City of Minneapolis Comments on Hennepin County’s Draft Climate Action Plan

#### February 27, 2021

#### Lisa Cerney

#### Brian Shelton

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#### **Dear Lisa and Brian,**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Hennepin County Climate Action Plan.   The plan is well written, easy to read and understandable.   The City of Minneapolis and County share many of the same goals on Climate Change, adaptation and resiliency as well as the need to prioritize anti-racism and environmental justice as we transition to a carbon neutral future.   There are several areas where I think the county plan could better support climate action and align with City of Minneapolis climate action goals. It is my hope that this plan can provide the framework to collaborate with cities throughout the county.

Below are my responses to the public official stakeholder survey.

#### **1. Overall, how would you describe the alignment of the county's draft goals and strategies and your organization's goals and strategies for climate action and/or sustainability efforts?**

Very strong alignment

Strong alignment  (X)

Moderate amount of alignment

Little to no alignment

If you wish, please provide more explanation

It would be helpful to better distinguish between what are the Enterprise and what are the County wide goals.

#### **2. What areas of the plan most strongly align with your organization’s goals?**

* Carbon Reduction Goals – Currently they are aligned, however the county should set a goal to be net carbon neutral by 2050 or sooner. The city will be updating its CAP goal soon.
* Minneapolis Racism as a public health crisis
* Social Equity and Environmental Justice
* Stormwater retention and flood mitigation
* Focus on Vulnerable communities
* EV infrastructure and car incentives
* Green Jobs
* Energy Efficiency in buildings.  The state legislative push for the advanced building energy standard has been rebranded.  <https://betterbuildings.squarespace.com/>
* Carbon sequestration and use of biochar
* Organic waste reduction and zero waste strategies
* Operational energy reduction target of 3% (City is at 1.5% through 2025)

### Question Title

#### **3. What specific goals or strategies in the draft plan do you think Hennepin County should prioritize?**

* Health and livability impacts of climate change
* Protecting vulnerable communities,
* Focus on the most vulnerable first i.e [intersectional environmentalism](https://www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com/)
* Green Infrastructure and mitigation of localized flooding
* Building Energy Efficiency
* Partnering with other public entities
* Carbon sequestration and biochar

### Question Title

#### **4. What areas of the plan can be improved or strengthened to better align with your organization’s goals? Is there anything important missing from the plan to achieve this alignment?**

* Hennepin County should set a social cost of carbon price that would be used for internal accounting and procurement decision making.
* Include an overview of the Minneapolis green zones in the vulnerability section and set a goal to prioritize projects and funding to those areas.  Focus increased incentives on green zones in Minneapolis and other ACP 50 communities.
* Establish metrics that use the human centered design process and intersectional environmental principles. Provide an annual review of county wide GHG emissions and performance review of the Climate Action Plan goals.
* Work with the City and MWMO to establish uniform stormwater design standards that serve the cities of Hennepin county not just Hennepin County Enterprise
* Establish an enterprise 100% renewable electric goal by 2023 and county wide by 2030 to be in alignment and support of City of Minneapolis goals.
* Expand on the strategies to support local ag and urban farming.
* Work with the City of Minneapolis to link "cooling centers" with the [Resilience Hubs.](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/06/22/resilience-hubs-can-help-communities-thrive-and-better-weather-disasters)
* Build out more of the sections on housing and human services. They seemed to be missing from the plan.
* Include a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction goal. Minneapolis’ goal is to reduce VMT by 1.8% per year through 2030.
* Include goals that are part of the [complete neighborhoods concept](https://minneapolis2040.com/goals/complete-neighborhoods/)

#### **5. What metrics or datasets would you or your teams find valuable as we partner to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change?**

* Cases of asthma or other respiratory illness percentage over time
* Specific sources of the energy use from the utilities for industrial customers
* Air quality standards achieved throughout the county
* Vulnerability assessment data
* County wide and enterprise specific GHG emissions
* Enterprise annual energy savings

#### **6. How would you describe your organization's interest in exploring countywide partnership driven by mutual and regionally beneficial climate goals?**

Extremely interested

### Question Title

#### **7. Do you have any other feedback that the county should consider in its climate action plan?**

Assess all existing county property for expanded use of sustainable landscapes

Further develop strategies to support local ag and urban farming.

Adopt a sustainable/green building policy

Establish a goal to have 100% renewable electricity county wide by 2030 goal

Support City state legislative and MN Public Utilities Commission Inclusive Financing and advanced energy standards for new buildings. Thanks for shout out on the advanced energy standards in the plan.  You should update the plan since it is now called better building for MN <https://betterbuildings.squarespace.com/>

### Question Title

#### **8. What organization do you represent?**

Kim W. Havey

City of Minneapolis Sustainability