



Resilient Cities & Communities

Visionary People. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

April 22, 2021 - Additional Comments from RCC for Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan

Link <http://rccmn.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-22-RCC-Comments-for-Hennepin-Co-CAP.pdf>

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Visionary Leaders. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

Resilient Cities and Communities (RCC) fully supports the County's net zero by 2050 commitment, stretch goals and VMT reduction, transportation modal hierarchy, fuel switching, carbon-free electricity, zero waste, forestry, carbon sequestration, land conservation & disaster response goals/strategies included in the Climate Action Plan.

Three themes we suggest adding (see below for details)

1. Co-developing regional policies to shape future privately funded shared/advanced mobility options
2. Providing resources to growing edge/rural communities to expand E.V. adoption, mixed use/compact development and mobility options
3. Collaborating with State Agencies/Met Council to anticipate/prepare for welcoming possible future in-migration of domestic and international climate refugee households/communities from coastal, drought stricken, fire-prone and/or heat-stressed areas.

Our recommendations below focus on plan implementation - ways Hennepin County, cities and other external partners can work together to successfully operationalize the climate action plan to meet city, county, regional and state climate goals on time.

RCC fully supports the Hennepin County's Board's approval of the new Director of Climate and Resiliency position! This director-level position (and their staff team) will be key to operationalize implementation of your climate action plan by

- Engaging the energy and ideas of climate action champions within all departments (listed on page 70)
- Prioritizing disparity reduction working with Tonya Palmer, Hennepin County's Executive Diversity Officer
- Focusing on strategy development and aligning resources to priorities by working across Hennepin County departments and with external partners.

RCC Recommends the Director of Climate and Resiliency and their team(s)

- **Support action at all needed levels** – individuals, businesses, cities, counties, Met Council, state agencies, public utilities commission, legislature/state policy change, federal policies/investments.
- **Align all available resources to priorities**, including; department budgets, capital investment & bonding (city, county, met council, state), federal stimulus and infrastructure dollars, utility programs and investments, proposed tariff/on bill energy efficiency financing, Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE), Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC), the new proposed intermediary "MN green infrastructure bank" to channel public/private investments to projects and partner in-kind resources.
- **Operationalize the climate action framework** (Figure 2 on Page 8) **through collaborative GHG emission reduction scenario planning** (page 44) with relevant departments, public entities and external partners
 - o By co-developing action strategies, responsible parties/timelines, and five-year benchmarks/success indicators for all GHG wedges/sectors (page 44) to achieve the needed GHG reductions for each sector (and sequestration improvements) to stay on track to meet new stretch goals (carbon-free electricity, solar, fleets, trees, conservation easements) and county-wide commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and achieving "net zero" emissions by 2050 in Hennepin County operations and geographically.

- Coordinate implementation of your climate action strategies across departments and with external partners by using a **shared strategy management tool to maintain transparency and mutual accountability** for plan implementation. Climate goals → planned actions/strategies for each sector (2-3 years) → responsible parties/ timelines → success indicators/ dashboard
 - o Example: **Insight Vision Platform** - a nationally-recognized, on-line strategy management platform now being used successfully by states, counties and cities across the U.S. www.insightformation.com/insightvision (developed by a St. Paul-based social venture.) Five cities in CA are using the platform to manage implementation of their climate action plans.

RCC Recommends the Director of Climate and Resiliency and their team (relevant to page 11.)

- **Report back to the County Board annually** (or bi-annually) **on actions taken related to each of the Climate Action Plan's Goal Areas** for County Operations, Departments & Inter Departmental Initiatives and for Public Entity and Community Partnerships.
- **We invite Hennepin County to co-host Annual or Bi-annual Climate Action Plan implementation review events** with cities, partner jurisdictions and organizations, community groups and diverse stakeholders. Make the events publically accessible, transparent and participatory. Meet regionally with adjacent cities to **review the actions** taken individually & together, **monitor metro/county-wide indicators** for all goal areas & **adjust strategies/actions** to stay on track to meet GHG & other county-wide indicators/targets.
 - **South** – Edina, Bloomington, Richfield, Eden Prairie, Mpls (District 5 with parts of 4 and 6)
 - **West** – Minneapolis, SLP, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Wayzata, cities around the lake (Dist 3 & 6)
 - **NW suburbs** – Golden Valley, SAV, Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, etc. (Districts 1, 2, 4, 7)

RCC Recommends the Director of Climate and Resiliency and their team(s)

Co-convene cities, county departments, nonprofits and community partners to co-launch initiatives to scale up implementation with cities county-wide of high-impact proven policies & projects from leading cities to expand building efficiency, renewables, low-carbon transportation, workforce development & climate resilience www.rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/

While building toward creating a successful metro-wide **Regional Climate Collaborative** with the Met Council, RCC, NGOs and metro counties and cities to support accelerated implementation. Successful examples; King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, Metro Washington COG www.rccmn.co/regionalclimatecollaboratives


Build on the successful example of [Hennepin County's Efficient Buildings Collaborative](#) to scale up implementation by

- **Co-leading new multi-city implementation cohorts for high impact actions** www.rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/ with county staff, nonprofit partners and mentor cities to support additional cities to implement successful projects/policies other cities have done. Track city adoption of priority ordinances (check list.)
- **Co-Convene Climate Action Planning Sessions with Interested Cities to Co-create sample 3 year climate action work plans for/with each city** covering all sectors while integrating equity. Support the cities to form multi-city implementation initiatives for priority Greenstep actions. Empower city teams (staff, elected leaders, commissions) to easily see and manage their city level and community-wide actions from 2020 to 2030 to meet their Climate mitigation/resilience/equity goals
 - o **High level goals** – we want to achieve – low carbon electricity, buildings, land/use transportation
 - o **Sample strategy maps** that cities can choose, modify and implement
 - o **Stakeholder & strategy management** - who (city staff, partners) is doing what, when (Insight Vision)
 - o **City Operations** dash board – MN OES <https://mn.gov/admin/government/sustainability>
 - o **Community-wide GHG, health & equity progress** using [Thrive MSP 2040](#) and county indicators. Example: Met Council GHG dashboard https://metrotransitm.shinyapps.io/ghg_tool/

- **Collaborative city/county Transportation/Land Use/VMT Reduction Action and E.V. Infrastructure Planning** – (Pages 52 & 54) Convene interested city staff, elected leaders and commission volunteers to a workshop to use the Met Council’s VMT/Transportation/Land Use Scenario Planning tool in partnership with leading cities, the Met Council, RCC and GPI (U of MN VMT wedge analysis tool likely completed by Fall 2021). Discuss GPI’s sample suite of local transportation/land use related policies to require, expand and/or incentivize transportation related Compact Land Use, Energy Efficient Technology, Low Carbon Fuels and Carbon sequestration. Include breakout sessions for **core cities**, **suburbs** and **growing edge/rural** communities. www.rccmn.co/transportation
- **City/County E.V. infrastructure planning and implementation** (Page 53) www.rccmn.co/transportation Cities procuring E.V.s through Hennepin county procurement initiatives ([Cities Charging Ahead](#)) County-wide E.V. infrastructure planning with cities, institutions and large commercial property owners to increase likelihood to secure new federal infrastructure funding. Support low income/renter E.V. access. Support cities to adopt the [SLP or Bloomington ordinance](#) requiring E.V. spots in new developments
- **Shared/advanced mobility** Co-convene cities and regional partners to develop local/regional/state policies to shape future privately funded shared/advanced mobility options to advance equity, safety and electrification while reducing VMT. Build upon MDOT’s [advanced](#) mobility plan & metro [shared](#) mobility action plan to anticipate/develop policies needed to roll out [advanced](#) and [shared](#) mobility regionally in equitable, livable, low carbon ways, including cities exploring a [shared mobility joint powers agreement](#) to regulate shared mobility modes. See U.C. Davis - 3 Revolutions <https://3rev.ucdavis.edu/>
- **Energy Efficiency & Energy Resilience Investments** where energy cost burdens are greatest (page 49) [Housing and Redevelopment Authority](#) – co-develop and implement with Minneapolis, Suburban city HRAs/EDAs and other partners action plans, incentives, equitable financing tools, energy cost [transparency tools](#) and seamless/vetted/quality energy audit, bidding and installation partnerships to accelerate weatherization of homes, multi-family buildings and commercial properties to reduce energy burdens, natural gas use and GHG emissions while preserving naturally occurring affordable housing, increasing access to solar, E.V. charging, and shade trees and enabling property owners to maintain and update properties and add units/density where zoning allows to meet current/future housing needs.
- **Community Works** (page 54) co-develop partnerships that support cities & developers to expand equitable access, life cycle housing & commercial space, while minimizing displacement through inclusive, [walkable, transit-oriented & large site redevelopment](#) net zero buildings, public space & [living streets](#).
- **Hennepin Pathways** – develop partnerships to **expand equitable access** to skills training, jobs, contracting, business development, capital access & bonding related to [solar, energy efficiency](#), clean transportation green infrastructure/soil health/forestry & local/regenerative/agriculture & [food production/hubs/access](#).
- **Energy and Environment – Efficient Buildings Collaborative** (page 49) grow partnerships with cities, building owners and developers, to enable/expand [financing options, incentives, technical assistance, & requirements to expand building benchmarking](#), energy efficiency, solar, storage, demand response, [E.V.s](#) & net zero construction ([design assistance, energy code improvements & optional stretch codes](#))
- **Energy and Environment - Zero Waste** (pages 56 & 57) co-develop/implement action plans with cities & State of MN to expand waste diversion, [organics recycling, product stewardship](#), food waste prevention and demolition waste prevention to reduce GHGs associated with waste/material use to reduce/eliminate landfilling & incineration. RCC supports the goal of Environmental Justice groups that are asking Hennepin County to close HERC by 2025 and will support cities, counties and the State to accelerate the actions and policies needed to eliminate the need for landfilling & incineration to manage waste streams by 2025.
- **Energy and Environment - Trees and Forestry** (Page 39) We support the Plan’s intentions to, "Expand the urban forest canopy by preserving mature trees, planting more trees and addressing barriers associated with maintenance" "Set goals to maintain or increase three canopy cover on county property" **and, we hope it can be county-wide with cities. Explore/expand City-County-State partnerships to set and meet new county-wide, climate resilient, equitable, tree canopy goals. Collaborate to respond cost-effectively to EAB & new infestations. Preserve, replace, diversify and expand tree cover county-wide to manage storm water, improve air quality and reduce heat islands - especially in low-income areas.**

- Energy and Environment - [Natural Resources Management](#) to Preserve/Restore/Regenerate [Agricultural Lands](#) and [Natural Areas](#)** (pages 60 and 61) we appreciate the areas of the Plan that will:

“Plan for and mitigate anticipated ecosystem and open space impacts” [and, we suggest, for the preservation, acquisition, and restoration/regeneration of open spaces/natural areas/habitat/ecosystems]. “Create and preserve affordable [agricultural space](#) for every scale of local food production.” “[Promote BMPs](#) on agricultural land with a focus on practices that build [healthier soils](#) with increased carbon storage & water holding capacity of soils while maintaining or improving long-term crop yields.” “Conduct [education and outreach](#) that helps current and future agricultural producers and their partners understand both the need for and financial benefits of building climate change resiliency” [and lets add [regenerative practices](#)] “into their farming operations and the agricultural economy.”
- Provide resources to growing edge/rural communities to expand E.V. adoption, mixed use/compact development and mobility options to reduce household transportation costs and VMT.** Convene developing edge and rural cities/townships, farmers, developers, home builders, solar developers and ecologists to visit successful example [cluster/conservation developments](#) and explore additional land use, zoning, financing & ownership solutions to preserve natural areas and agricultural land while welcoming a [new generation of farmers onto the land](#) expanding [regenerative farming](#) practices, expanding [affordable housing](#) choices, [permitting/supporting pollinator-friendly solar gardens](#) preserving the character of [rural communities](#), while reducing new [low-density development and VMT.](#)]
- Collaborate with State Agencies/Met Council to anticipate/prepare for welcoming possible future in-migration of domestic and international climate refugee households/communities** from coastal, drought stricken, fire-prone and/or heat-stressed areas.

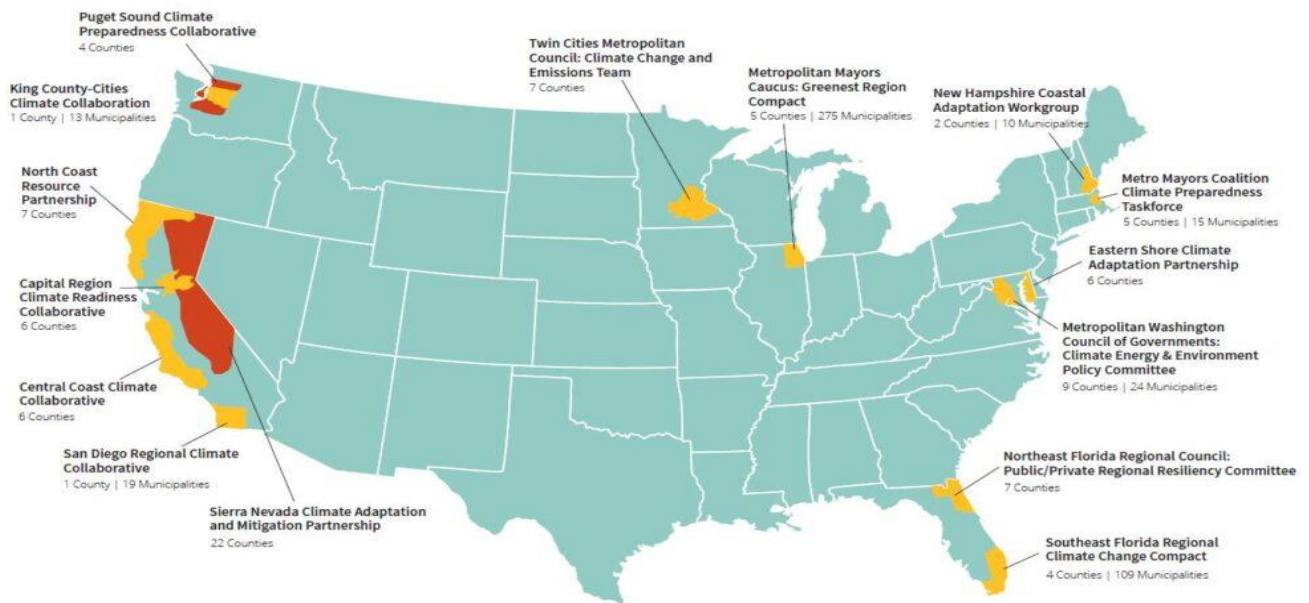


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Resilient Cities and Communities – Big Picture Vision/Focus/Purpose

Resilient Cities and Communities is building and sustaining a powerful, peer-learning network of citizen and commission volunteers, city staff and elected leaders active with 50+ metro cities supporting their cities and counties to work together to implement high impact policies and projects to equitably achieve city, county, metro and state climate goals on time.

This will enable cities, counties, the Met Council and nonprofit and University partners to form an effective **Regional Climate Collaborative** for joint production of equitable climate policies/projects to meet city and county climate goals on time. (Kresge funded ISC national study of 15 RCCs) www.rccmn.co/regionalclimatecollaboratives/



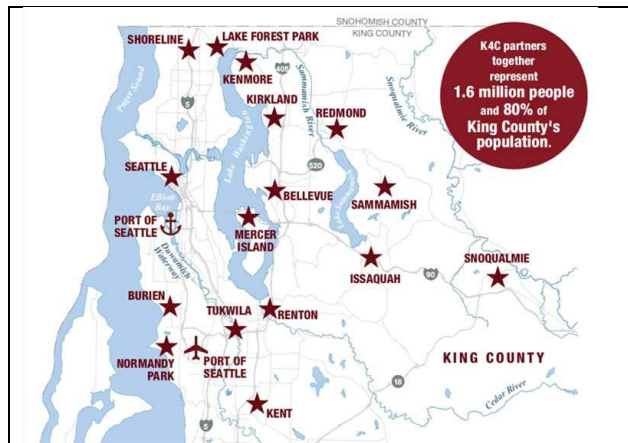
National Studies on Regional-Wide Climate Action

- [Resilient-Cities-Communities-2021-Services-Partnership-Conversations](#)
- [Regional-Collaboratives-for-Climate-Change-FINAL-1](#)
- [CitiesStrategicOptions_Hatch_Cleveland-et-al_Final_3.12.19b](#)

	Connectivity Network	Alignment Network	Production Network
Definition	Connects people to allow easy flow of, and access to, information and transactions	Aligns people to develop and spread an identity and collective value proposition	Fosters joint action for specialized outcomes by aligned people
Desired Network Effects	Rapid growth and diffusion, small – world reach, resilience	Adaptive capacity, small-world reach, rapid growth and diffusion	Rapid growth and diffusion, small-world reach, resilience, adaptive capacity
Key Task of Network Builder	Weaving – help people meet each other, increase ease of sharing and searching for information	Facilitation – helping people to explore potential shared identity and value propositions	Coordinating – helping people plan and implement collaborative actions

While RCCs may be doing connected and aligned work for different activities effectively, **the overall outcomes of regional climate collaboration are best reached through joint production.** Regional Climate Collaboratives as Networks (p. 15.) Reference: Plastrik, Peter, and Madeleine Taylor. 2006. [“Net Gains: A Handbook for Network Builders Seeking Social Change.”](#)

<p>RCCs - Factors of Success</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directly co-creating regional solutions through joint production 2. Ongoing engagement with external stakeholders and communities 3. Ensuring high value in member participation 4. Investing in high-quality training & tools and research & analysis 5. Organizing around strategic and specific climate plans or goals 	<p>RCCs - Key Barriers and Gaps in Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of funding and resources for staffing work, specifically for stakeholder engagement 2. Lack of success in public communication about climate issues and collaborative work 3. Lack of success in integrating climate goals and commitments into operations and investments 4. Gap between current research and analysis and the scale needed to make a regional impact
<p>Key conclusion and recommendation The principal barrier facing RCCs is insufficient resources to fully fund operations and service delivery. Half of the RCCs reported annual operating budgets of less than \$100,000 and one full-time employee or less. Given these resource constraints, we surprisingly found that nearly half of the RCCs (48 percent) are delivering services using a joint production network configuration which is the most time and cost intensive. We can only assume the existing RCCs are deploying limited resources well in leveraging the in-kind time and funding of participants. Co-creative work is time intensive, and collaboratives struggle to find funding for the processes needed to achieve it. Given these cost and leverage efficiencies, we strongly recommend greater philanthropic support for RCC creation and cultivation as well as state and federal policy and funding mechanisms to support the RCC model. Recommendations Link</p>	



King County-Cities Climate Collaboration

- King County and seventeen partners — Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Port of Seattle, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila — are collaborating through the to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee (CEEP) is managing implementation of their regional climate action plan in partnerships with the regions cities to meet regional greenhouse gas reduction goals adopted by the board. [King County Strategic Climate Action Plan 2020 Update](#)

Table ES-1: Metropolitan Washington Priority Collaborative Mitigation Actions

Climate Action Area	Action ID	Priority Collaborative Action
Planning	PL - 1	Advance Climate Planning and Track Progress
Equity	EQ - 1	Enable Equitable Planning Practices
	EQ - 2	Prioritize Sustainable Energy Access for All
Clean Electricity	CE - 1	Advocate for Aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standards
	CE - 2	Accelerate Development of On-Site Renewables
	CE - 3	Accelerate Deployment of Battery Storage
	CE - 4	Accelerate Development of Microgrids for Critical Infrastructure
	CE - 5	Accelerate Development of Large-Scale Off-Site Renewables
	CE - 6	Advocate for and Implement Community Choice Aggregation
Zero Energy Buildings	ZEB - 1	Expand Building Benchmarking Requirements
	ZEB - 2	Accelerate Deep Building Retrofits
	ZEB - 3	Enhance Green Building Codes and Policies to Facilitate Net Zero Energy Building Development
	ZEB - 4	Expand Proper Disposal and Leak Detection of Refrigerants
Zero Emission Vehicles	ZEV - 1	Expand Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Deployment
	ZEV - 2	Accelerate Electrification of Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles
	ZEV - 3	Build Out Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network
Mode Shift and Travel Behavior	MSTB - 1	Invest in Infrastructure that Increases Transit, Carpooling, and Non-Motorized Travel
	MSTB - 2	Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
	MSTB - 3	Enhance Options for Commuters
Zero Waste	ZW - 1	Implement Curbside Organics Recycling Programs
	ZW - 2	Reduce Solid Waste Generation
	ZW - 3	Build Markets for Circularity
Sequestration	SQ - 1	Strategically Plant New Trees on Publicly Owned Land
	SQ - 2	Enhance Regulatory Capacity to Manage Tree Canopy and Forest Protection
	SQ - 3	Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Tree Planting and Preservation on Privately Owned Lands

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

COG’s Climate and Energy Program is one of the nation’s first initiatives to address heat-trapping emissions on a regional level. The program provides a roadmap, tools, and resources to communities seeking more sustainable options for growth and development—including in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy infrastructure, clean vehicle projects and initiatives, resiliency, and more.

The centerpiece of this work, the *Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan* developed by COG’s Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee, outlines collaborative actions the region should take to meet its shared climate mitigation and resiliency goals, including a 50 percent reduction in emissions below 2005 levels by 2030.

- [Metropolitan_Washington_2030_Climate_and_Energy_Action_Plan_Appendices_FINAL2](#)
- [Metropolitan_Washington_2030_Climate_and_Energy_Action_Plan_FINAL3](#)

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