



Resilient Cities & Communities

Visionary People. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

Date: April 13, 2021

RCC Letter Supporting the Hennepin County Board to approve their [updated Climate Action Plan](#) and to launch collaborative implementation initiatives with cities, public entities and communities.

Cities active with the [RCC network](#) are working with other cities to meet their city climate goals together.

We commit our cities and organizations to work with the County & other cities/jurisdictions to achieve these goals together, while advancing racial equity, climate resilience and shared economic vitality.

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Visionary Leaders. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

THANK YOU for updating Section “**Vision for an Impactful Plan**” ([page 10](#)) and to include in the **Board Resolution to be adopted when Commissioners vote to approve/adopt the Climate Action Plan**

- **Match current scientific consensus and Biden Administration goals by updating Hennepin County 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:**
 - **2007 County GHG Commitments** • 15% by 2015 • 30% by 2025 • 80% by 2050 to new
 - **2021 County GHG Commitments** • **50% by 2030** • **75% by 2040** • **Net Zero by 2050**

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**.

Individual cities implementing their climate goals on their own, will likely not scale up implementation fast enough to meet city & county climate goals on time. **Hennepin County’s leadership will be vital to convene cities**, public entities & community organizations to co-create & pursue joint initiatives to meet our climate goals on time.

RCC invites cities and Hennepin County to build on the successful example of [Hennepin County’s Efficient Buildings Collaborative](#) to **accelerate implementation with cities county-wide** of proven policies & projects from leading cities to equitably **expand building efficiency, renewables, low-carbon transportation & resilience** as a true Regional Climate Collaborative ([national study](#)) in partnership with the Met Council, counties and cities active with [RCC metro County Clusters](#) including commission volunteers, staff and elected leaders active with 40 cities.

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. Together the 41 cities with Hennepin County can take the effective actions needed to cut county-wide CO2 emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

We support the County’s “Goal: Partner in ways that can be most impactful with public entity partners and with community organizations. (Pages 49 & 50)

Objective: Explore and pursue partnership models driven by mutual climate change goals.

Strategies: Pursue strategies with the clearest direction forward”

- Foster, long term, integrated planning that includes jointly collecting and analyzing data and modeling with a lens on health and racial equity.
- Reduce localized flooding and coordinate regional storm water resiliency efforts.
- Decarbonize, transportation, buildings [**we would add: & energy supply in ways that strengthen equity, local economies & resilience**]
- **We would add: Expand carbon sequestration, tree canopy, native landscaping, soil health, land conservation**
- Educate and engage the public, [**and institutions and businesses**] in taking collective action.
- Raise a collective voice for climate policy at the local, state [**and federal**] level.”

In addition we ask the Hennepin County Board and staff to include language in your Board Resolution and in the text of the Plan that would:

- **Direct the County Administrator and all Department leadership to support/empower department staff to implement the Climate Action Plan** to meet GHG reduction targets county-wide & regularly report results. Hire a **Chief Resilience Officer** to coordinate implementation of the plan & multi-department initiatives.
- **Prioritize application of a Racial Equity lens and Climate Justice considerations in all facets of the Plan.** Representing 25% of the population in Minnesota, the County should play a lead role in our state to reduce racial disparities and strengthen climate, economic and community resilience. We know that budgets and investments are an expression of our commitment to Equity – we can accomplish this by innovating and changing “business as usual” practices, changing the operating culture within County departments, developing partnerships between public entities and BIPOC community organizations, and funding the Climate Action Plan initiatives in 2022 & future budgets.
- **Include priority deliverables/benchmarks with reporting requirements/dates for County Departments. Co-host Bi-Annual Performance Reviews of the Climate Action Plan Implementation with partners.**

Update baseline metrics, data gathering and reporting systems for [county operations](#) and [county-wide indicators](#) with [partner jurisdictions](#) (with external reviewed.) Also conduct a consumption-based emissions inventory. Use results to create a more comprehensive approach to climate change mitigation. **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)
- **Direct all County Departments to use the county’s Equity Impacts and Climate Impacts assessment tools** (including a social cost of carbon) **when developing/reviewing plans, projects and capital investments.**
- **Add important deliverables for key departments with reporting requirements and dates** (see below for details) including [Transportation](#), [Housing and Redevelopment Authority](#), [Community Works](#), [Hennepin Pathways](#), [Energy and Environment - Efficient Buildings Collaborative](#), [Zero Waste Trees and Forestry](#), [Natural Resources Management to Preserve/Restore/Regenerate Agricultural Lands and Natural Areas](#)

Convene cities, county departments, nonprofits and community partners to launch initiatives to scale up Implementation of High Impact Actions County-wide www.rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/

- **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 County-Wide 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. See an example list of multi-city implementation initiatives supported and tracked by the Washington D.C. Area Council of Governments (COG) in their [2030 Climate Action Plan](#) See [Appendix A – Strategy Summary Tables](#)
- **Support cities to track annual city-wide GHG, health & equity progress** using [Thrive MSP 2040](#) and county indicators. Example: Met Council GHG dashboard https://metrotransitmshinyapps.io/ghg_tool/
- **Collaborative city/county Transportation/Land Use/VMT Reduction Action Planning** – 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.

- [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** – 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](#) with new net zero buildings, public spaces & [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** - continue to 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 - Efficient Buildings Collaborative, Zero Waste** – 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 west metro waste streams by 2025.
- **Energy and Environment - Trees and Forestry** – 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** – 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."
 - [Furthermore, we suggest that the County 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](#).]**

RCC Recommendations *"Protect and engage people, especially vulnerable communities"* p.23 **Good Strategies**

- "Community based strategies to engage, listen and respond with people-centered solutions."
- "Strengthen sustainable access to affordable housing, food, healthcare, transportation and other social determinants of health."
- "Reduce air pollution related to transportation especially in areas with vulnerable populations."
- "Racism is a public health crisis." "Educate and engage the public in taking collective action."
- **RCC addition: Invest long-term in the capacity of local, trusted NGOs/networks** working with vulnerable communities.

RCC Recommendations on “Green Jobs” Page 23. Good strategies

- “Maximize green economic recovery and workforce development opportunities.”
- “Include climate considerations in the development of the 2022 budget.”
- “Develop options for a coordinated green jobs/pathways by 2022 to support county departments as they install and maintain green infrastructure.”

Green Jobs/Workforce & small business development Additional city-county partnership opportunities.

- **Hennepin Pathways** - develop partnerships to expand equitable access to **clean energy, transportation and green infrastructure** jobs, contracting and business development.
- **Workforce and Small Business Development and Contracting** – Hennepin County, the Met Council and cities aim to expand investment in transit, energy efficiency, solar and green infrastructure. Hennepin County and cities can make the most of these new investments to expand diverse hiring, contracting and small business development. New funding tools are available and/or coming soon via utility investments, BRT funds in the bonding bill, performance contracting, tax credits, inclusive financing, and possible new federal infrastructure spending.
- **The Hennepin Workforce Leadership Council and Hennepin-Carver Workforce Development Board** can continue to expand focused partnerships with community colleges and unions, minority business councils, and trade associations to widen access to economic opportunities.

Examples/Resources: Hennepin Workforce Leadership Council [case study](#)

- **North Minneapolis Green Energy Hub**, and CEE's Energy Efficiency Workforce Gap Analysis, [Article](#)
- **CHOICE, PLACE AND OPPORTUNITY** An equity assessment of the Twin Cities region [Report](#)

RCC Recommendations on “Enhance Public Safety” and “Protect our buildings, roads, infrastructure and natural resources” Good strategies.

- **YES** “Coordinate regional storm water resiliency efforts with public entity partners.”
- **YES** “Plan for and mitigate anticipated ecosystem and open space impacts.”
- **YES** “Create and preserve affordable agricultural space for every scale of local food production” AND “Promote BMPs on agricultural land with a focus on practices that build healthier soils...”

Green/Climate Resilient Infrastructure - Additional city-county partnership opportunities.

- **Living Streets = complete streets + green infrastructure** - Partner with cities, neighborhoods and watershed districts well in advance of mill and overlay and road reconstruction projects and during LRT & BRT corridor development to plan and implement community-driven living streets improvements to expand pedestrian, bike & transit access and safety, green infrastructure/ healthy trees to address air quality, heat islands and localized flooding. Richfield Sweet Streets www.richfieldsweetstreets.org/
- **Build upon Hennepin County Trees and Forestry programs** to convene mid-size and smaller cities on assessment and collaborative implementation of EAB response best practices to preserve the economic benefits of large trees and expand tree diversity to and cover especially in lower income areas experiencing heat islands, flooding and/or air pollution.
- **Resource: [Model EAB Management Plan](#)** (MNSTAC: 2015), which provides direction to cities on how to deal with EAB through adopting landscape-based management policies and practices. The Plan is based upon minimizing total life-cycle costs of the EAB infestation. Written by RCC Advisor Michael Orange
- **Convene NW suburban cities on the developing edge to reduce their long term infrastructure maintenance costs** while expanding affordable housing choices, preserving agricultural land and permitting solar gardens using a Strong Towns approach, & cluster/conservation development. Share metro examples of net zero, E.V. ready planned unit developments with good solar orientation, tree preservation, sustainable landscaping, etc. Resources: GSC [Best Practice No. 10](#) Design for Natural Resource Conservation:
 - Strong Towns analysis <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81884>
 - MDA [Farmland Preservation Resources](#). [Steve Elkins editorial](#) highlighting needed policy improvements
 - EQB CSEO Policy Documentation for GHG reduction benefits of keeping 75% of metro urban growth within the urbanized boundary www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/climate-change

RCC Recommendations: **Hennepin County Operations** “Reduce emissions in ways that align with core county functions and priorities” **YES** “Objective: Transition to renewable energy sources and reduce energy use overall in county operations. Good strategies. Additional RCC recommendations

- Look for ways to collaborate with/ make the most of joint initiatives with the **MN Office of Enterprise Sustainability** (with their comprehensive dashboard tool) and the Met Council that is now has an [RFP to](#)

[hire an engineering firm](#) to do a depth assessment and strategy prioritization to reduce the GHG emissions and increase the resiliency of Met Council Operations.

- Maximize opportunities for cities to benefit from/participate with Hennepin County procurement efforts for community solar gardens, rooftop solar, EV fleet purchasing and EV charging stations, bare root trees, pollinator-friendly ground cover seed mix, etc.
- Continue to diversify county hiring, procurement and contracting in operations and public works.

Achieving County-Wide GHG Reductions

- **Convene/support cities to implement high impact actions** in zoning, land use, ordinances and projects and capital investments with county staff, nonprofit partners and mentor cities supporting new cities, <http://rccmn.co/resources/High-Impact-City-Actions-RCC-Updated-Oct-2020>

Efficient Buildings: YES “Objective: Support Hennepin County Communities to reduce GHG emissions due to energy use.” **Good strategies.**

- Determine the approach and level to which the county encourages residential and commercial energy efficiency and renewable energy, focusing on:
 - Training contractors and building operators on new energy technology and efficient building construction and operation.
 - Supporting affordable adoption of renewable energy and conservation for energy consumers, including small businesses and low-income households.”
 - “Establishing and funding programs to promote equitable clean energy and efficient housing.”
- Become more engaged in:
 - “Developing benchmarks and strategies for the state Conservation Improvement Program (CIP), which is a program funded by ratepayers and administered by utilities that helps households and businesses use electricity and natural gas more efficiently.”
 - “Advancing a statewide Advanced Energy Standard (stretch code) for a building code that would require net zero buildings by 2036, along with other regional efforts.”
- *Encourage energy benchmarking of buildings and expand the [Hennepin County’s Efficient Buildings Collaborative](#).” Engage additional cities in the county’s business and multifamily energy benchmarking collaborative to accelerate energy efficiency gains, expand solar and E.V. charging to meet GHG goals.
- “Explore a uniform, county-level green building policy that cities could adopt, or advocate for B3/LEED standards and protocols above and beyond when state funding comes in for facilities and infrastructure.”
- “Engage with municipalities to develop strategies that encourage switching to a less carbon intense fuel source for commercial and residential buildings, such as electrification.”

Efficient Buildings: www.rccmn.co/buildings Additional city-county partnership opportunities

- [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.
- **Support additional cities to adopt - Sustainable Building Policies** - requiring performance construction
- **Support additional cities to adopt Truth in Sale of Housing Inspections** – Adding an energy audit & score
- **New Buildings – Educating Developers Affordable Housing/Energy Efficiency** – Xcel design assistance, PACE funding and new energy efficient building methods, and pathways to building electrification.”
- **Conservation Improvement Program** – legislation requiring utilities to double investments in multi-family and low income energy efficiency programs – see the proposed 2020 [MN Energy \(ECO\) Act](#).
- **Cities/counties supporting the [Inclusive Financing docket and pilot project](#)** at the PUC with the City of Minneapolis and with CenterPoint enabling the program to expand to more cities.
- **Combine multi-family Energy Improvements with 4d Affordable Housing Tax Incentives. [4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program](#) [Green Cost Share \(PDF\)](#)** 4d solar and energy efficiency grants

- The Met Council is [using solar as an incentive to expand affordable housing](#) by seeking building owners who are interested in solar and open to increasing the number of units eligible for Section 8 vouchers
- [Minneapolis Forward: Rebuilding Resilient](#) - energy efficiency grants to businesses that are rebuilding.

Clean Energy - YES Transition to renewable energy sources & reduce energy use overall in county operations P. 38

- Prioritize conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy in policies and programs.
- Invest in renewable energy through utility sources, community solar gardens, and onsite solar.
- Develop strategies to convert Hennepin County buildings from natural gas to electric fuel sources
- Maximize centralized energy sources that incorporate renewable technologies

Clean Energy <http://rccmn.co/energy/> [city-county partnership opportunities](#).

- **Procuring Renewable Energy for City/County Operations** - opportunity to make use of the MN Office of Enterprise sustainability master contract/RFP that prioritizes diverse hiring/contracting.
- **Solar Ready Building Construction City owned buildings, businesses, multi-family and PUDs**
- **Expanding Rooftop Solar within City Businesses, Institutions (schools), Residents**
- **Support Legislation to Continue Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards**
- **Cities and counties commenting on Xcel's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)** to expand grid scale renewables, distributed generation and demand response
- **Cities and counties collaborating with the City of Minneapolis to [secure 100% clean energy](#) city wide by 2030** from Xcel Energy

Carbon Sequestration on County Owned property (and county-wide) YES "The county sequesters carbon on county-owned property, including along county road rights-of-way and tax-forfeit properties." **Good actions**

- "Reassess policies and practices to increase carbon sequestration on county-owned properties"
- "Develop goals, accounting strategies & guidelines to help staff advance carbon sequestration on county projects. Prioritize trees and native plants over turfgrass in landscape designs on new projects. "
- "Convert from turfgrass to other landscape types where appropriate to improve carbon sequestration."
- "Use compost and biochar as a soil amendment on county projects."

Carbon Sequestration/Resilience www.rccmn.co/resilience/ [City county partnership opportunities to explore](#)

- **Adopt urban tree canopy coverage & diversity goals that increase over time** {GreenStep Action 16.3}
- **Local Food Networks (BPAs 10.2, 10.3, 10.6, 16.5, 27.1)** The Local Foods ordinance focuses on land use standards that protect food production businesses in agricultural areas under development pressure. The ordinance is geared to suburban and ex-urban communities where residential development and small commercial agriculture occupy the same area.
- **Model Landscape Ordinance for a Municipal Zoning Code (BPAs 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 7.5, 10.4, 10.6, 16.5)** Language here, developed by ORANGE Environmental and reviewed by state organizations, regulates the review process for new developments. Based upon Burnsville and Minneapolis code, topics covered include soil and tree health, biodiversity, water infiltration, irrigation, sun and wind orientation, parking lots, and industrial buffer yards.

Transportation/ Land Use - YES "GHG emissions associated with transportation use are reduced to meet state/county climate goals." Page 41 **Good actions**

- Advocate for the buildout of planned transit routes.
- Expand transit-oriented development and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Advocate for strategies to reduce travel demand, such as expanding park-and-ride lots and promoting flexible work schedules.
- Manage the road system to minimize pollution by leveraging additional technologies.
- Support increased & more efficient transit on county roadways in coordination with transportation partners.
- Operationalize opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled through transportation capital and maintenance projects and programs.

RCC recommendations - Hennepin County should adopt a goal to cut VMT county-wide 30% or more by 2030 and shift county investments and projects accordingly.

- The Plan should remove Level of Service (LOS), a transportation engineering measurement that disproportionately favors moving vehicles rather than people. Alternatively, transit, bicycling, and walking LOS must be equal to or better than private vehicle LOS.

- Road projects must prioritize safety over speed and insure communities who are often left out are included in the design and construction process. Plan & partner with cities on Living Streets implementation during mill and overlays and street reconstruction to expand safety, walking, biking, trail connections, transit, green infrastructure and climate resilience.
- Set a 100% electric vehicle county fleet goal. Convene cities and partners to expand regional transit, E.V. infrastructure and shared & advanced mobility regionally.

Transportation www.rccmn.co/transportation additional city county partnership opportunities to explore

- **Collaborative city/county planning/action to reduce VMT** – convene interested cities, Met Council & partners to co-develop and implement plans to cut VMT county-wide 20% or more by 2030 and shift county investments and projects accordingly. 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 (wedge analysis tool likely completed by Fall 2021) in partnership with leading cities, the Met Council, RCC and GPI. Discuss GPI's sample suite of local transportation/land use related policies to require, expand and/or incentivize Compact Land Use, Energy Efficient Technology, Clean Energy Supply and Carbon sequestration. Include breakout sessions for core cities, suburbs and growing edge/rural communities.
- **Transit investment** - Advocate for sustained state, regional & county transit investments and **reprioritize spending** of state, metro, county and city transportation spending.
- **Continue LRT and BRT corridor planning with cities** and add bike/pedestrian improvements/ net zero construction and resilient/green infrastructure in transit-oriented-development.
- **Convene Cities to build on 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
- **Living Streets Implementation cohort** – partner with cities, watershed districts, RCC, Bike MN, Our Streets Minneapolis, Hennepin County Public Works and Active Living Hennepin Communities Plan & partner with cities on Living Streets implementation during mill and overlays and street reconstruction to expand safety, walking, biking, trail connections, transit, green infrastructure and climate resilience. Convene partners and review a five year calendar of mill & overlay & road reconstruction projects and LRT & BRT corridor improvements to plan and implement community-driven living streets improvements to expand pedestrian, bike & transit access and safety green infrastructure and trees to address air quality, heat islands and localized flooding. Follow up on Board recently approving adding green infrastructure/living streets policies to the county's Complete Streets Policies.
 - **Active Living Hennepin Communities** <https://www.hennepin.us/activeliving>
 - **Richfield Sweet Streets** www.richfieldsweetstreets.org/ **Our Streets** – [County Streets for People](#)
 - **Hennepin County Public Works 2040 Multi-Modal Transportation Plans**
 - **Living and Complete Streets BPA 11.1** Adopt a complete streets policy, or a living streets policy, which addresses landscaping and storm water - **BPA 11.4** Identify, prioritize and remedy complete streets gaps and lack of connectivity/safety within your road network by, for example, adding a bike route/lane, truck route, sidewalk or mid-block alley. [Edina's Living Streets Policy & Plan](#)

Transportation/E.V.s: "Promote electric vehicle infrastructure regionally." Page 42 **Good Actions**

- Engage with regional and statewide efforts to advance electric vehicles.
- Work with electrical utilities to install charging stations.
- Develop electric vehicle and infrastructure guidelines at county buildings.
- Assess existing county fleet vehicles and infrastructure for electrification opportunities and develop an electrification plan to guide the procurement of electric vehicles and charging station locations.
- Educate residents about proper vehicle maintenance and electric vehicle options, and support incentives for low-income residents, such as a scrappage incentive for vehicles in areas of higher air pollution or low-interest loans to income-qualified households, to increase participation.

Transportation/E.V.s: www.rccmn.co/transportation additional city county partnership opportunities to explore

- 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 attract funding
- Cities adopting the [SLP or Bloomington ordinance](#) requiring E.V. spots in new developments

Transportation/T.O.D. “Strategy: Use transportation investments to support broader community goals including reducing disparities, improving health, enhancing livability and growing the economy.” Page 43 **Good actions.**

- Link transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and road projects to housing, jobs, and recreational opportunities.
- Prioritize vehicle emissions reductions strategies in areas with the residents experiencing high health burdens.
- Provide convenient, affordable access to destinations, especially for residents experiencing high transportation and housing cost burdens.
- Create healthy and livable communities by including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities as well as green boulevards in roadway projects.
- Strengthen the connection between land use planning and transportation to promote orderly growth and development.

Transit Oriented Development/Land Use - additional city/county partnership opportunities to explore

- **Convening city community development staff to share examples** as they update land use, add mixed use/TOD zoning, explore inclusionary zoning, reduce parking requirements and reprioritize use of right of ways to create inclusive, complete neighborhoods
- **Reduce or eliminate parking minimums;** add parking maximums; develop district parking. GSC BPA 14.1 Advisor Barb Thoman 651 500-5958 thomwell@bitstream.net
- **Equitable TOD & Large Site Redevelopment** – Convene cities to share lessons for equitable net zero, mixed-use walkable, community-led transit oriented development and large site redevelopments (including re-purposing old shopping malls.) Hennepin County has included net zero building criteria in TOD grants and has stepped in to help with site acquisition and re-development management. At [Hiawatha & Lake](#) Hennepin County enabled/supported robust community engagement, required sustainable design and construction and ensured a mix of market rate and affordable units.
 - Organize or participate in a community planning/placemaking/design process for the city/a mixed use district - [Greenstep BPA 8.1.](#)
 - Report that a (re)development meets a city/community-determined minimum point threshold under the Equitable Development Scorecard or LEED-ND (Neighborhood Development) - [Greenstep BPA 8.4.](#)

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

RCC 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 participating cities, counties, the Met Council and nonprofit and University partners to form an effective **Regional Climate Collaborative** ([Kresge study](#)) for joint production of equitable climate mitigation and adaptation policies and projects to meet city and county climate goals on time. **Regional Climate Change Collaboratives: State of the Art**, Institute for Sustainable Communities, [Kresge study](#) Dec 2019

Applying a Network Lens TABLE 1. Regional Climate Collaboratives as Networks (page 15.) Reference: Plastrik, Peter, and Madeleine Taylor. 2006. "Net Gains: A Handbook for Network Builders Seeking Social Change." <https://networkimpact.org/downloads/NetGainsHandbookVersion1.pdf>.

- 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**.

	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

RCCs - Factors of Success

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

RCCs - Key Barriers and Gaps in Capacity

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

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](#)



Resilient Cities & Communities

Visionary People. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

Resilient Cities and Communities Menu of Deliverables 2021 and 2022

Resilient Cities and Communities – Vision/Focus/Purpose www.rccmn.co

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. Based on our stakeholder interviews (with CERTS, GPI, MPCA) with sufficient funding **RCC can contribute several key missing pieces** to our current ecosystem of climate/energy/resilience work of cities and their partners

- Sustained grassroots (& elected leader) support for action
- Communication/ coordination among groups working with cities
- City/county collaboration for implementation
- Annual city/county climate action review conversations (transparency)

Partners and Potential Funders

McKnight, Bush,
Energy Foundations
Met Council
Metro Counties
State Agencies
Business Sponsors

Voluntary Annual
City Membership
Contributions

1. Convening regular coordination calls among all groups working with cities in the metro area

Convene, facilitate quarterly coordination calls (and support follow up) among MN nonprofits and state agencies working with cities (i.e. Met Council, MPCA/GreenSteps, CERTS, GPI, CEE, Conservation MN, Sierra Club, IKEYs, U of MN, etc.) to share updates on our work/next steps with specific cities and identify gaps/needs and match cities with the resources they are seeking to

- expand/sustain community, commission and city climate leadership commitments and capacities &
- adopt & implement priority climate/resilience/equity plans, policies and projects with adjacent cities

2. Developing sustained grassroots support for action and effective city teams

- [City Environmental Commissions](#) – Supporting teams to launch effective sustainability commissions – especially in larger population cities like Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Maple Grove, Savage, etc.
- [Effective City Teams](#) – coaching/support for Environmental Commission Chairs to strengthen their relationships with City staff in multiple departments and with their City Council. Supporting city teams to establish annual review meetings to monitor & adjust implementation of their climate action work plans to stay on track to meet 2030 and 2050 climate goals on time.
- [BIPOC Elected Leaders Network](#) – facilitating peer learning calls among 30 or more BIPOC local elected leaders in MN. The BIPOC leaders are approaching the resilience work in their cities in ways that strengthen community partnerships with diverse residents & stakeholders while achieving more equitable outcomes in housing, transportation public health, etc.
- [Youth/Student City Leaders Network](#) – Youth serving on Environmental Commissions supporting one another to advance equitable climate solutions with their cities, RCC & Climate Generation co-hosting.
- **Whole System Regenerative Learning/Action Cohorts** – with citizen leaders, BIPOC elected leaders

3. [County Clusters](#) - Launching and supporting city/county collaborative implementation initiatives (Year 1) Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota Co. (Year 2) adding/activating clusters in Anoka, Carver, Scott, Washington Co.

- **Convening city leaders by county to prioritize [high impact actions](#) they want to take together**
- [Supporting counties](#) to adopt climate goals/action plans and to co-develop initiatives with cities.
- **Incubating new [multi-city topic-specific](#) implementation cohorts** Co-designing cohorts with mentor cities, county staff and topic resource groups. Interested cities will learn from experienced cities as they adopt/implement high impact policies and projects (i.e. Transportation/Land Use/VMT reduction, Community Engagement, forestry, resilient infrastructure/living streets, scaling up residential weatherization, etc.) See examples in our [feedback to staff](#) on [Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan](#)