



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](#)

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 adaption policies and projects to meet city and county climate goals on time.

Cities & Climate Change: [BU ISE Energy Fdn Report](#) Supporting Climate Mitigation Strategies at a Regional Scale & [Kresge study](#) **Regional Climate Change Collaboratives: State of the Art**, Institute for Sustainable Communities, Dec 2019 <http://us.sustain.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Regional-Collaboratives-for-Climate-Change-FINAL-1.pdf>

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	RCCs - Key Barriers and Gaps in Capacity
<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 	<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
Key conclusion and recommendation	
<p>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. Full Recommendations Link</p>	



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Resilient Cities and Communities – Mobilizing/Harnessing Local Leadership

We are following the examples of successful Regional Climate Collaboratives across the U.S. that have harnessed local leadership to foster joint action for specialized outcomes by aligned people. Our RCC staff team and leaders are engaging/mobilizing metro area elected leaders, city staff and commission volunteers to participate in the Resilient Cities and Communities Network as a

Generative social impact network - networks of individuals or organizations that aim to solve a difficult problem in society by **working together, adapting over time, and generating a sustained flow of activities and impacts**. Reference: *Connecting to Change the World Harnessing the Power of Networks for Social Impact* by Peter Plastrik, Madeleine Taylor [link](#) [Book link](#)

Eight factors for success in launching a Generative social impact network – 1. Shared Purpose, 2. Membership, 3. Value Propositions, 4. Coordination, facilitation, communication, 5. Resources, 6. Governance, 7. Assessment, 8. Operating Principles.

Seven Essential Capacities for Urban Adaptation

Through convening city environmental commissions and City Teams for peer learning in county cohorts and multi-city implementation teams the RCC network is supporting city leadership teams to develop the Seven Essential Capacities for Urban Adaptation needed for their cities to sustain their work during this vital decade.

¹Source: **Peter Plastrik**, Essential Capacities for Urban Climate Adaptation: A Framework For Cities, March 2017, developed by Innovation Network for Communities for the Summit Foundation <http://lifeaftercarbon.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/City-Adaptation-Essential-Capacities-March2017.pdf>

In a scan of the climate adaptation plans, strategies, and actions of dozens of U.S. cities, INC developed a new framework for understanding what it takes to plan and implement adaptation and how to further develop the emerging field of practice for urban adaptation. We identified seven essential capacities that cities have begun to develop:

- **Scientific Foundation**
- **Communications**
- **Equitable Adaptation**
- **Inclusive Community Engagement**
- **Intergovernmental Alignment**
- **Technical Design**
- **Financial Resources**



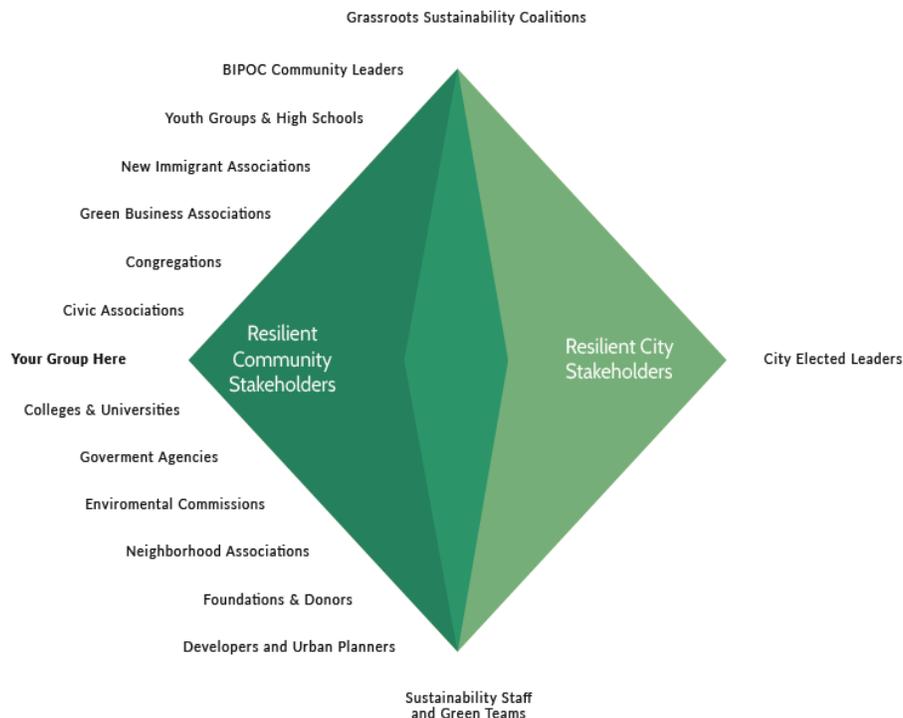
Bridging Relationships. Building Capacity. Acting Together.

The suburban cities where active RCC citizen leaders live in range from being very early adopters to being slow adopters. Over several years RCC staff and peer mentors work with a core group of local leaders in a new RCC city to complete five key steps.

- **Bridging Relationships.** (Step 1) organizing a citizen sustainability coalition (2) build a broader base of support within their community among students, faith communities, BIPOC communities, League of Women Voters, businesses, environmentalists.
- **Building Capacity.** (3) finding a City Council Member and city staff who are open to working on sustainability (4) passing a City Council Resolution to form a City Sustainability commission to guide the cities work and working with leaders to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- **Acting Together.** (5) Recruiting diverse, motivated volunteers to serve on their Sustainability Commission that creates and implements an annual sustainability/resilience work plan in partnership with their City Council and their City Staff Green Team.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Bridging Relationships. Building Capacity. Acting Together.





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The Resilient Cities & Communities network is expanding to support leaders from more than 50 Minnesota cities in achieving their 2030 equity, energy, and resilience goals. Together, powerful peer-learning networks of diverse, local leaders are

- Developing a shared equity action agenda among BIPOC Local Elected Leaders
- Embedding equity in all facets of community planning and implementation through the coordinated work of City Environment, Planning, and Human Rights commissions
- Scaling up implementation of proven high-impact policies and projects through county clusters to meet city, county and Minnesota’s 2030 and 2050 GHG goals.
- Tracking city-wide equity and climate outcomes through [Met Council](#), [Thrive MSP](#), [Regional Indicators](#) and other quantitative dashboards and qualitative community stories.

Through our **County Clusters** <http://rccmn.co/county-clusters/> we are re-engaging the following cities that participated in one or more of our Resilient Cities workshops over the past three years.

Twin Cities	<p>Anoka County – Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Columbia Heights, Fridley</p> <p>Carver County – Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria</p> <p>Dakota County – Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, West St. Paul</p> <p>Hennepin County – Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Bloomington, Champlin, Edina, Eden Prairie, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Richfield, Shorewood, St. Louis Park, Wayzata</p>	<p>Ramsey County – St. Paul, Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Roseville, Maplewood, North Oaks, Shoreview, St. Anthony Village, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake</p> <p>Scott County – Jordan, Belle Plain, Savage, Shakopee</p> <p>Washington County – Oakdale, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Marine on the St. Croix, Scandia, Stillwater, Woodbury</p>
Greater Minnesota	<p>Clay County – Moorhead</p> <p>Cook County – Grand Marais</p> <p>Freeborn County – Albert Lea</p> <p>Goodhue County – Redwing</p> <p>Olmsted County – Rochester</p>	<p>Rice County – Faribault, Northfield</p> <p>Stearns County – St. Cloud</p> <p>St. Louis County – Duluth</p> <p>Winona County – Winona</p>

High Impact Actions for Low Carbon Cities

In early 2020, Resilient Cities & Communities [convened leaders from twenty nine metro cities](#) to identify, prioritize, and plan high impact actions to achieve their 2040 Comprehensive Plan climate goals. A summary of these goals follows.

[Energy Efficiency / High Performance Buildings](#)

Action 1. **Adopt an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance.**

Action 2. **Commercial & Multifamily Engagement** Partners in Energy, PACE, Cost Share Grants

Action 3. **Adopt a Sustainable Building Policy** Performance construction with city investments

Action 4. **New Buildings - Educating Developers** Xcel design assistance, PACE funding

Action 5. **Supporting Legislation or Statewide Policy Improvements** net-zero construction

Action 6. **Truth in Sale of Housing Inspections** Adding an energy audit and energy score

Action 7. **Scale up weatherization of older homes to meet** GHG goals and reduce energy burdens. Expand city, county, state, federal and utility funding and innovative financing tools (i.e. PAYS) to scale up equitable investments in residential energy efficiency improvements and related equitable workforce training and small business development.

Clean Energy Grid

City operations, local solar, community-wide access to renewable energy

Action 1. **Procuring Renewable Energy for City Operations**

Action 2. **Solar Ready Building Construction** City owned buildings, businesses, multifamily

Action 3. **Expanding Rooftop Solar within City** Businesses, Institutions (schools), Residents

Action 4. **Support Legislation to Continue Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards 2021**

Action 5. **Cities commenting on Xcel's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)** to accelerate city-wide access to 100% clean energy, distributed generation, energy storage, demand response and local economic development and prevent the construction of unneeded carbon based power plants.

Action 6. **Support Legislation to Continue Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards Program**

Low Carbon Transportation / Land Use

Electric vehicles, transit investment, bike, walkability, equitable TOD, in-fill redevelopment

Action 1. **Support sustained state, regional & county transit investments** Reprioritize spending

Action 2. **Prioritize pedestrians, bikes, transit in public right of ways** complete streets

Action 3. **Plan for equitable in-fill redevelopment** Net Zero, Equitable, Walkable, TOD

Action 4. **Support increased adoption of Electric Vehicles** City Fleets, E.V. Charging Ordinance

Action 5. **Shared Mobility** Joint powers agreements to regulate shared mobility modes

Innovating High Impact Actions for Resilient Cities

The Opportunity

There are several major areas within cities' Comprehensive Plans that we will convene in future discussions to identify and prioritize high impact actions for [equitable climate adaptation and resilience planning](#), including urban carbon capture, solid waste management, green economic development, and equitable development strategies.

Contact Us

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