Good news! The U.N. Climate Science Panel Report on April 4 shared many ways our cities can rapidly reduce their carbon pollution. http://rccmn.co/climate-science/

Please RSVP to join us tomorrow night on zoom and invite others to connect with city commission & citizen coalition from 12 cities to share updates on what our cities are working on and learn about County resources and initiatives

RCC Dakota County Cluster

City-County Climate Action Conversation Please RSVP

Thursday May 19 6:30pm to 8pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5156358735?pwd=K1FMVGdjVHJvVlc5UHhDSHpWNnhjUT09

Dial in +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 515 635 8735 Passcode: 392261

http://rccmn.co/dakota-communities/

Agenda

6:30pm - **Welcome** and **Land Acknowledgement**

6:40pm - **City/Community Updates** - City teams will share a brief update on their current projects & on how their Environmental Commissions coordinate their annual work plan with their City Council & other commissions

- **Updates from our Ramsey, Hennepin and Rice County Clusters**

7:00pm **Growing/Deepening our Dakota Co Cluster of Environmental Commissions & Citizen Coalitions Brainstorming our next steps to**

- **Strengthen our local citizen coalitions, city environmental commissions**

- **Support our cities to set & achieve science based climate goals** by implementing annual work plans

- **Explore possible city-county collaborative next steps** based on the exciting Dakota County initiatives we heard during our April 8 2021 Dakota Co. Commissioners Panel Discussion (April 8 Notes and Next Steps) related to energy & buildings, equity, green jobs, transportation, land conservation, local food, water and zero waste. High Impact Actions

7:30 - **Possible Fall Half Day Event?** Who can help plan a Fall City/County Climate Check In Half Day Event

Questions? Please call

Sean Gosiewski, Executive Director Resilient Cities & Communities 612 250-0389 sean@rccmn.co or

Maria Tomczik, Member Engagement Coordinator, RCC 651 279-5790 tomczik.maria@gmail.com
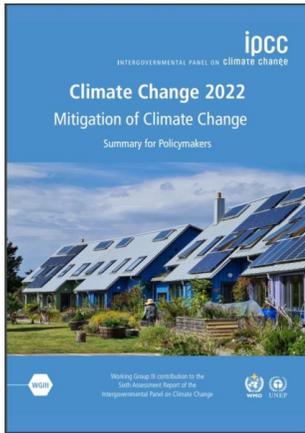
Climate Science Update http://rccmn.co/climate-science/
- **Cities can play a big role in quickly reducing carbon emissions**
- **The next few years are critical**. The thousands of pages in the report can be summed up in a few words: We need to take action starting now.

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Working Group III report, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change was approved on April 4 2022, "**Cities and other urban areas also offer significant opportunities for emissions reductions**. These can be achieved through
- **lower energy consumption** (such as by creating **compact, walkable cities),**
- **electrification of transport in combination with low-emission energy sources,**
- **and enhanced carbon uptake and storage using nature.** There are options for established, rapidly growing and new cities. Full Report

Metro Clean Energy Resource Teams Annual Event
May 19, 2022 | 4:30-7 p.m. Como Park Picnic Area (near the baseball fields), 1199 Midway Pkwy, Saint Paul MN 55103
https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/metro-cert-annual-event-1

State Policy Updates for Cities & Communities - take action!
Read more at http://rccmn.co/policy-team/ and https://fresh-energy.org/legislative-update-mid-session-status-check

Increase SCORE funding for cities & counties to meet challenging recycling goals
- Support HF 2661 Zero-waste grant program created, reports required, and money appropriated.
- Support SF 1531 to amend solid waste management tax allocation PWE Letter Supporting the Bills
- **2022 Legislative Platform** Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington
  https://recyclingandenergy.org/legislative-platform/

Updating Minnesota's commercial energy code
- Buildings are a top source of carbon pollution—both globally and in Minnesota—contributing 40 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. And while Minnesota's electricity and transportation sectors are getting cleaner, pollution from buildings continues to grow every year. One of the solutions to this problem is updating Minnesota's energy codes. https://fresh-energy.org/code-advancements
- **Sahan Journal Article** People of color are more likely to live in multifamily housing with high heating bills. Modernizing MN building codes to improve energy efficiency would save them money & help the environment.

Maximizing federal investments in MN Action Alert Tell your legislators to build Minnesota's clean energy future!
- The Legislature must act in 2022 to avoid missing out on this unprecedented investment in Minnesota's future infrastructure. We need to pursue state matching dollars to ensure that Minnesota fully leverages the historic opportunity presented by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This is a unique opportunity to advance everything from electric school buses to a more resilient electric grid. Some of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds—as much as 40 percent—will come in the form of competitive grants over the next five years.

Expand Passenger Rail in MN: Support state investment to win competitive federal funds.
Call your State Senator and House Representative to urge their support for HF1393/SF2365! MNDOT Passenger Rail Plan
- MN Passenger Rail Initiative Action Alert https://mnrail.org/ Contact Suzie Nakasian, suzienakasian@gmail.com

Minnesota Climate Action Framework - read the draft and share your feedback
- A catalyst for climate action across all sectors and set forth a plan for taking immediate, near-term steps towards Minnesota's climate goals. We want feedback on how the priorities in this plan align with the needs of your community. https://climate.state.mn.us/minnesotas-climate-action-framework

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan Survey share your input in this survey to help shape MNDOT's plan

https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/ev-infrastructure-plan/survey_tools/electric-vehicle-infrastructure-plan-survey
- As part of the bipartisan infrastructure law, the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program was created to provide funds for states to install fast chargers for electric vehicles (EVs). Minnesota expects to receive around $68 million from this program over five years, along with a 20% non-federal match. To be eligible for the federal program, we need to submit a Statewide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan by Aug. 1, 2022.

Resilient Cities & Communities
Visionary People. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

As a social impact network, Resilient Cities and Communities is supporting citizen & city leaders across MN to work together to achieve our local, state & U.N. climate goals on time.

- We all have key contributions we can make - city staff, elected leaders, commissions & citizens volunteers.
- Here are fun ways to learn how to harness & focus everyone's energy!

May 2022 City-County Climate Action Conversations

(on Zoom 6:30 to 8pm) http://rccmn.co/county-clusters/

Please RSVP to join us to share and find resources with your peers from other cities in your county

- Anoka Co Cluster **Wed May 18** 6:30pm to 8pm RSVP
- Dakota Co Cluster **Thurs May 19** 6:30pm to 8pm RSVP
- Hennepin Co Cluster **Wed May 25** 6:30pm to 8pm RSVP
- Ramsey Co Cluster **Tues May 10** 6:30pm to 8pm RSVP
- Rice Co Cluster **Tues May 24** 6:30pm to 8pm RSVP
- Washington Co Cluster May 31 6:30pm to 8pm RSVP

Fall RCC County Cluster City-County Climate Action Check In Events

http://rccmn.co/city-county-climate-action-check-in-events/

Goal - maintain mutual accountability & transparency during implementation to stay on track to meet their 2030 & 2050 city and county climate, sustainability, equity, natural resources and zero waste & other comprehensive plan goals on time   Fall-City-County-Climate-Action-Check-Ins-Sample-Agenda

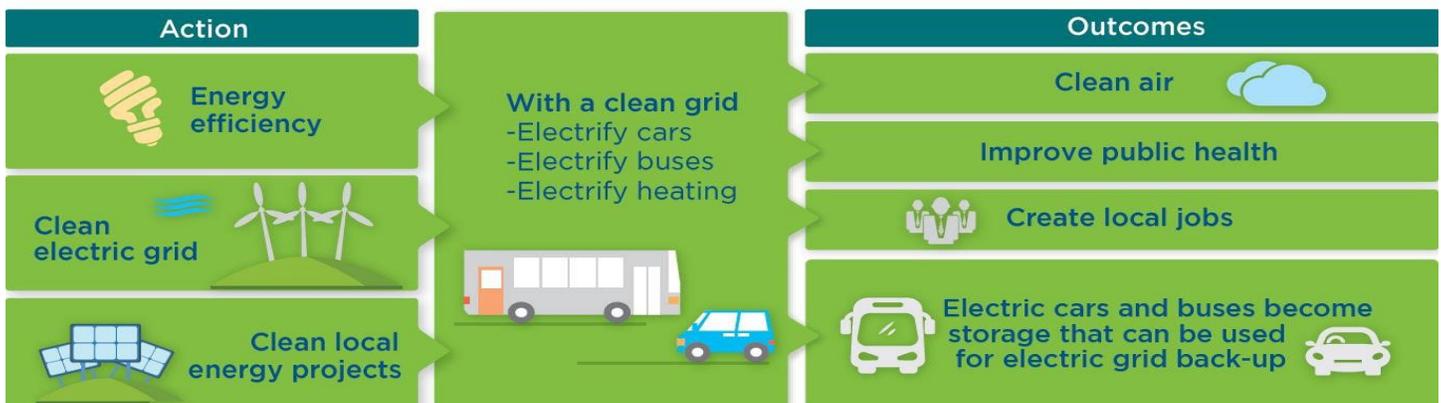**Who - Interested Cities** with climate &/or sustainability goals (city staff, commissions, elected leaders) meeting with interested **County Leaders** (Commissioners, Dept. staff) **partners** (Met Council, Watersheds, Utilities, businesses)

When - Fall 2022 and annually from 2022 through 2030

How - Each County Cluster will have a planning team that will

- **Plan their event agenda, choose topics to cover and speakers** (Topic Teams can help)
- **Schedule their hybrid event** (in person & on line) Secure space & needed resources, & invite speakers and
- **Invite** city, & county staff, commissions, elected leaders, partner groups and interested residents, citizen coalitions and community groups.

What could 2050 and 80% greenhouse gas reduction look like?

Action

Energy efficiency

Clean electric grid

Clean local energy projects

With a clean grid
-Electrify cars
-Electrify buses
-Electrify heating

Outcomes

Clean air

Improve public health

Create local jobs

Electric cars and buses become storage that can be used for electric grid back-up

Sample Agenda - Fall 2022 City/County Climate Action Check-In Events

http://rccmn.co/city-county-climate-action-check-in-events/

Contact **Sean Gosiewski,** RCC, 612 250-0389 sean@rccmn.co to sign up to attend &/or to join an event planning team

Annual Fall City/County Climate Action Check In Events

Goal - maintain mutual accountability & transparency during implementation to stay on track to meet their 2030 & 2050 city and county climate, sustainability, equity, natural resources and zero waste & other comprehensive plan goals on time

Who - Interested Cities with climate &/or sustainability goals (city staff, commissions, elected leaders) meeting with interested **County Leaders** (Commissioners, Dept. staff) **partners** (Met Council, Watersheds, Utilities, businesses)

When - Fall 2022 and annually from 2022 through 2030

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- **Secure space & needed resources, & invite speakers**
- **Invite city, & county staff, commissions, elected leaders, partner groups and interested residents, citizen coalitions and community groups.**

Sample Agenda - Fall 2022 City/County Climate Action Check In Events (half day)

Pre-event - participating cities and county department will send in short summaries of the actions they have taken and plan or hope to take in the future, related to achieve their 2040, climate, resilience &/or sustainability goals

Plenary

- **Welcome and County update** from leaders
- **City updates - city representatives will share short highlights of actions their city has taken and are planning**
- **How are we doing? -** Update to science-based GHG targets, carbon budget & timeline to meet 1.5 degree goal
    - County, Met Council and/or Regional Indicator staff will share recent GHG data & climate impacts by sector - clean energy, buildings, transportation, natural resources, waste management, (green jobs, health, housing)
- **Panel Presentation** on current highlights of trends/innovation & high impact opportunities for city, county & MN (mitigation, adaptation, equity) energy, buildings, transportation/pipes, natural resources, zero waste, jobs

Topic Break Out Conversations - with topic resource people and city, county and community representatives

Clean Energy - grid scale and local solar	Commercial & Residential Buildings	Transportation EVs, transit, VMT, bike ped	Adaptation - H20, natural resources, sequestration, **trees**	Additional topics - zero waste, green jobs, etc.

- **Review relevant GHG emissions data &** current trends/innovation & high impact action opportunities
- Report on city & county actions taken during the year
- Plan next steps using the Met Council's new Climate Action Scenario Planning Tool
- Identify priority actions resources cities and county departments will need to take these steps
- **Brainstorm ways to secure the resources** - forming new topic-specific multi-city implementation teams, applying together for competitive state or federal funds, needed state policy changes.

Plenary

- Topic Groups will share highlights of their priority actions, barriers, new resources and next steps

Small Groups - City Teams will meet to share the actions they are inspired to do and plan next steps to advance them

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High Impact Actions for Low Carbon Cities

www.rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/

Sean Gosiewski, **Resilient Cities & Communities** Executive Director 612 250-0389 sean@rccmn.co

Energy Efficiency / High Performance Buildings – related resources www.rccmn.co/buildings

Buildings Group Packet

New building construction and existing building retrofits

Action 1. **Adopt an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance** (energy transparency) for larger commercial & multifamily properties - add Green Business Cost Share Grants to incentivize private investment

Action 2. **Adopt a Sustainable Building Policy** (requiring action) for new developments with city investment, TIF &/or PUDs

Action 3. A**dopt Truth in Sale of Housing Energy Inspections & score** (energy transparency) w/ home buyer implementation follow up

Action 4. **New Multifamily - Educating Developers** (promotion & incentives) to make use of Xcel design assistance, PACE, Tax Credits, MN Housing Green Communities grants for nonprofit development

Action 5. **Existing Residential** & **Commercial Building Improvements - join Partners in Energy** (promotion & incentives) Support residents and businesses to make the most of utility program incentives through outreach campaigns, business blitzes & recognition. Maintain participation with Partners in Energy.

Action 5. **Existing Residential - Low Income & Rental Home Outreach** (remove barriers) help more households apply for and receive Federal energy assistance and free home weatherization. City matching funds. **Eco-Act** follow up to remove barriers to improve Low-Income/Multi-Family CIP participation

Action 6. **Existing Multi-Family Building Outreach** (promotion & incentives) PACE, Cost Share Grants, 4D & Section 8 Energy Efficiency incentives and technical assistance

Action 7. **State Policy - Commercial Energy Building Code Improvement** & **Optional Stretch Building Code** requiring new developments meet the SB 2030 net-zero construction standards

Action 8. **State Policy - Securing state matching $$** for Federal ILJA weatherization funds, I**nclusive Financing Pilot** (TOB) CenterPoint/Mpls PUC docket

Clean Energy - related resources www.rccmn.co/energy **Energy Group Packet**

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

Action 1. **Procuring Renewable Energy for City Operations -** solar garden subscriptions, WindSource, etc.

Action 2. **Expanding Rooftop Solar within City** Businesses, Institutions (schools), Residents - Set city-wide local renewable energy production goal. **Sol Smart City Certification** Promote **Bulk-Buy Solar Programs**. Give businesses custom **solar feasibility reports.**

Action 3. **Adopt a Sustainable Building Policy** requiring **Solar & E.V. Ready Building Construction** for new City owned, commercial, multi-family buildings

Action 3. Action 4. **Support Legislation to Continue Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards** program

Action 5. **Cities collaborating to access new renewable power generation.** One megawatt of distributed solar is included in Xcel Energy's new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Low Carbon Transportation / Land Use - related resources www.rccmn.co/transportation

Transportation Group Packet

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

Resilience & Natural Resources   - related resources https://rccmn.co/resilience/

Action 1. **Adopt urban tree canopy** coverage & diversity goals that increase over time   {16.3}

Action 2. **Agriculture and Forest Protection District** (BPAs 10.2, 10.3, 10.6, 16.5, 27.1)

Action 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.

Action 4. **Model Landscape Ordinance for a Municipal Zoning Code** (BPAs 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 7.5, 10.4, 10.6, 16.5)   soil and tree health, biodiversity, water infiltration, irrigation, sun and wind orientation, parking lots, and industrial buffer yards.

Zero Waste http://rccmn.co/zero-waste/

Green Jobs http://rccmn.co/green-jobs/

Resources

Indicators

- **Met Council GHG Indicator Reports** - City-wide GHG reports updated annually for all metro cities https://metrotransitmn.shinyapps.io/ghg_tool/ Mauricio León, Senior Researcher, Met Council, Regional Indicators 651 602-1146 mauricio.leon@metc.state.mn.us
- **Regional Indicators Initiative-** city specific GHG data - shows change over time. https://www.regionalindicatorsmn.com/ Becky Alexander, LHB, Project Researcher (612) 752-6933 becky.alexander@lhbcorp.com
- **Thrive Indicator Dashboard** Stewardship, Prosperity Equity, Livability and Sustainability https://metrocouncil.org/Planning/Projects/Thrive-2040/Thrive-Indicator-Dashboard.aspx
- **Xcel Energy – Community Energy reports (community wide annual energy use data** https://www.xcelenergy.com/working_with_us/municipalities/community_energy_reports

Action Planning Resources -

- **Met Council** Climate Action Scenario Planning Tool (available in Sept)
- **Growing Shade** https://metrocouncil.org/News-Events/Communities/Newsletters/Growing-Shade-app-2021.aspx
- **Climate Vulnerability Assessment** https://metrocouncil.org/Communities/Planning/Local-Planning-Assistance/CVA.aspx
- **Met Council** Fact sheets, best practices, links to effective actions. https://metrocouncil.org/Handbook/Resources.aspx#tab_3
- **Planit Workshop Handouts** https://metrocouncil.org/Handbook/PlanIt/Workshops.aspx
- **Expert Articles** https://metrocouncil.org/Handbook/PlanIt/Expert-Articles.aspx

Urban Sustainability Directors Network:

- *High Impact Practices* https://www.usdn.org/projects.html

Drake University Sustainable Development Code Project

https://libguides.law.drake.edu/c.php?g=151009&p=6764030

Ordinance Research Tips https://libguides.law.drake.edu/c.php?g=151009&p=992721

Sustainable Development Code (SDC) https://sustainablecitycode.org/

is organized into 32 subject areas (called subchapters), such as climate change, wind energy, energy conservation and efficiency, urban forestry, and coastal hazards. For each subchapter, the SDC lists 30-40 concrete policy actions local governments can take to become more sustainable in that particular area. The policy actions are listed in a three-by-three grid and are categorized by: creating incentives; removing obstacles; & filling regulatory gaps (listed as good, better, best.)
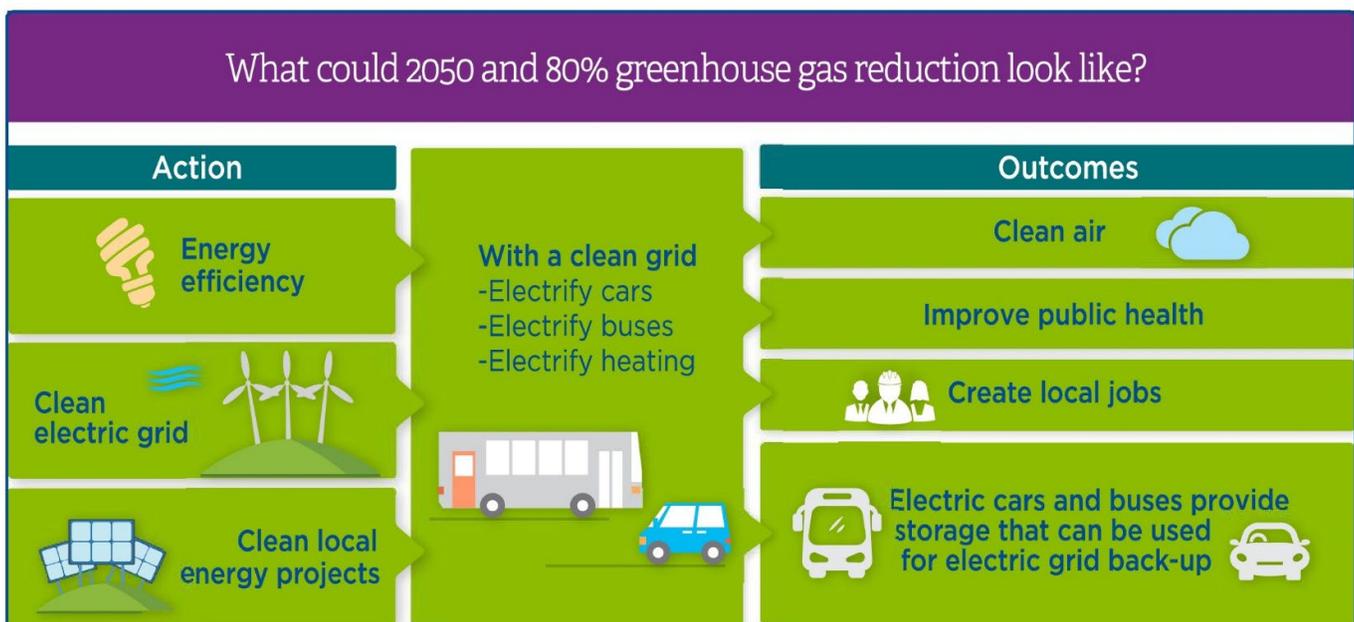
What could 2050 look like?

There are many pathways to reach 80% greenhouse gas reductions by 2050. One vision for doing so is to make the electric grid nearly carbon free through renewable energy and energy efficiency. Other energy needs could then move from directly burning fossil fuels in vehicles, homes, and industries to using clean, renewably generated electric power. For instance, cars, buses, and trains could be powered by electricity and electric-charged batteries. Heating in homes and industry could switch from directly burning fuels like propane and natural gas to using electric power or fuel from biomass.