



HIGH-IMPACT ACTIONS FOR LOW-CARBON MN CITIES

Updated August 2022 <http://rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/>

Comments, questions or suggestions? Please Contact:

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City County Climate Action Conference rccmn.co/city-county-climate-action-check-in-events/

RSVP to join us & bring a team of 3-5 or more! <https://Oct6City-County-Climate-Action.eventbrite.com>

Meet with teams from 40 cities & find practical support for your city's next steps to implement high impact actions for low-carbon buildings, energy, transportation, resilience, equity, green jobs & zero waste

Thursday, October 6 Two Options: **In-Person** at the Minneapolis Central Library or & **Virtual Event on Zoom**

- **Two Options** - **Afternoon** 11am to 4:30pm &/or **Evening** 4:30pm to 8pm **to attend in person or on-line**
- **Audience** City & county staff, elected leaders, commission & community volunteers and community, nonprofit, business, utility, watershed and university implementation partners.

During Topic Break Outs on Oct 6 - for each High Impact Action -

- Experienced cities will share how they approved & are implementing the actions
- Resource people will share current resources & multi-city teams available to support cities
- Together we'll brainstorm ways to overcome barriers that would prevent cities from taking the actions

HIGH-IMPACT ACTIONS FOR LOW-CARBON MN CITIES

- **BUILDINGS** (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Multi-Family, Public) www.rccmn.co/buildings/
- **TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE** www.rccmn.co/transportation/
- **ENERGY SUPPLY & SYSTEMS** www.rccmn.co/energy/
- **GREEN JOBS** (equitable workforce & small business development) www.rccmn.co/green-jobs/
- **RESILIENCE/ ADAPTATION, CARBON SEQUESTRATION & HEALTH** www.rccmn.co/resilience/
- **WASTE REDUCTION/ ZERO WASTE** www.rccmn.co/zero-waste/

BUILDINGS www.rccmn.co/buildings/

- **Now** - built environment = 47% of annual CO2 emissions (building operations 27% & building materials & construction 20% (embodied carbon) [RMI Report](#) [E21 Decarbonizing MN's Natural Gas End Uses](#)
- **Goal** - Cut carbon pollution from buildings 50% by 2030 & become net zero by 2050
- **How** - [Retrofit existing buildings](#) insulation, air sealing, efficient HVAC, heat pumps, updated appliances. [Construct low-carbon new buildings](#) - low carbon/net zero design, materials & fuels.
- **New Opportunities** - Fed IIJA increased LIHEAP \$. FED IRA'22 Tax Credits for heat pumps. MN Eco-Act Policies are expanding access to utility energy efficiency (CIP) programs. Large site redevelopment.
- **Co-Benefits** - Comfort & affordability. Climate resilience. Expanded green job & business opportunities.

Local Policies

Existing Public Buildings

Action 1. Efficient Public Buildings - Use the State's B3 public building benchmarking tool to target energy-efficiency improvements. (**City Operations**) **Resources B3** www.b3mn.org/ [GSC BPA 1.1](#)

Existing Commercial Buildings

Action 2. Adopt an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance - for large commercial & multifamily buildings. Join the **Multi-City Team** - [Efficient Buildings Collaborative](#) Hennepin Co. & CEE [GSC BPA 2.3](#) [City of St. Paul Policy](#)

New Commercial & Public Buildings

Action 3. Adopt a Sustainable Building Policy - Require SB2030 for city and/or private new buildings receiving city financial/regulatory support. **Multi-City Team** [Efficient Buildings Collaborative](#), Hennepin Co. & CEE

- **Resources** - [SB 2030](#) Public Buildings, [GSC 3.1](#) Schools [GSC 3.2](#), Commercial Buildings [GSC 3.3](#)

Existing Residential Buildings

Action 4. Require residential Truth in Sale of Housing Inspections & reporting that includes energy data.

- **Resources** - TISH/Energy Disclosure www.mncee.org/energy-disclosure [Minneapolis](#) [Bloomington](#)

Existing Commercial & Residential Buildings

Action 5. Dedicate 1-stop Residential/Commercial improvement funding for Energy Efficiency, Heat Pumps, Solar, Electric Panel Upgrades, E.V. Chargers, etc.

- **Resources** [City of Minneapolis Green Cost Share](#) & [4D Affordable Housing Incentive](#) /Green Cost Share
- **One Stop Follow Up - Support property owners to make recommended energy improvements** with partners (follow up, financing, list of approved contractors) [Home Energy Squad Follow Up Resources](#),
- **PACE** - Engage businesses to have energy audits and to use PACE to make improvements [MinnPace](#)
- **Maximize Use of Federal IRA'22 Tax Credits** - Educate/Engage home owners, commercial and residential building owners & developers to use new federal tax credits to weatherize buildings and install air source heat pumps, electrical panel upgrades, efficient lighting, solar, E.V. charging
 - o **Resource** [Fresh Energy Overview](#) climate-friendly tax credits in Federal Inflation Reduction Act Tax

Existing Residential Buildings

Action 6. Remove Barriers/Increase Access for Low Income Households & Renters to make energy Improvements - insulation, air sealing, appliance and HVAC replacement, heat pumps, access to E.V.s

- **Collaborate with CAP agency & partners to engage more low-income households & renters with Energy Efficiency & Assistance Programs** - Utility based & expanded Federal/State Energy Assistance,
- **Resources** [MN Community Action Partnership/Directory](#) [CEE Multifamily Buildings](#) [MN Energy Assistance Program](#) [MN Citizen's Utility Board](#)
- **Participate in Centerpoint's Tariff on Bill Energy Efficiency Pilot** (if approved by PUC) to expand renter EE Participation in your city. Contact [City of Minneapolis Sustainability Office](#)/Clean Energy Partnership

City/County Coordinated Investments

New Commercial & Residential Buildings

Action 7. Make the most of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Large Site Redevelopments to advance affordability & equity, complete neighborhoods, net zero construction, district energy, ground source heat pumps, solar, transit, bike/ped, shared E.V.s, storm water/ecological restoration, community spaces

- **Resources** [MN Design Center](#), [Guide Addressing the Sustainability Gap in the Development Review Process](#)
- **Large Sites** - Ford Site, Hillcrest, Rice Creek Commons, Towerside, Brooklyn Center Opportunity Site, etc.
- **TOD Corridors** - BRT: A Line, Orange Line, Red Line LRT: Green Line, Blue Line **Passenger Rail** corridors

Advancing State & Federal Policies **New Commercial & Large Multi-Family Buildings**

Action 8. Support Improvements to State Building Efficiency Standards & optional local stretch building code

- **Support Legislation requiring MN state level energy building standards to upgrade every 3 years** to match new model standards **Better Buildings for MN** (6 cities) www.betterbuildingsmn.org/ [Blog Post](#)
- **Support legislation allowing Cities to adopt a Stretch Building Code** for Commercial Buildings [Link](#)
- **Update Intl. model energy codes** - City Building Inspectors participating w ICC every 3 years [MEEA Blog](#)