



Sample Talking Points to Strengthen Hennepin County's Draft Climate Action Plan to Expand City-County Partnerships to meet our Climate Goals on Time

We have the opportunity over the next few weeks to lay the foundation for our cities and Hennepin County to **meet our climate goals on time** by reducing GHG emissions county-wide 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050!

Visit www.rccmn.co/hennepin-communities for updated [Talking Points](#) & [RCC Climate Action Recommendations](#)

1. **Set a Climate Goal of Net Zero Emissions County Wide by 2050**
Match current scientific consensus and Biden Administration goals by updating Hennepin County's 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 from **2007 County GHG Commitments • 15% by 2015 • 30% by 2025 • 80% by 2050** to
 - **2021 County GHG Commitments • 50% by 2030 • 75% by 2040 • Net Zero by 2050**
2. **We are asking the Hennepin County Board to tell the County Administrator and Department leadership to fully support and empower county department staff** to innovate, change “business as usual” practices and develop external public and community partnerships. We need to secure **GHG reduction targets county-wide** while **reducing racial disparities** and **strengthening climate resilience and economic recovery**.
3. **When the Hennepin County Board approves the Climate Action Plan - include in their Board Resolution priority deliverables/benchmarks for key departments with reporting requirements and dates** (examples)
 - a. **We commit to funding the initiatives included in our Climate Action Plan in our 2022 budget.**
 - b. **All departments** are instructed to use the county's **Equity Impact and Climate Impact assessment tools** when developing/reviewing plans, projects and capital investments.
 - c. **Public Works/Transportation** – co-develop plans to cut Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) county-wide 20% or more by 2030 with cities, nonprofits, community groups & the Met Council.
 - d. **Housing and Redevelopment Authority** – develop an action plan and partnerships to weatherize residential buildings county-wide to reduce energy burdens and natural gas use.
 - e. **Community Works/Community Development** – develop plans and partnerships with cities to expand affordable housing and commercial space through net zero, equitable, walkable, transit-oriented development and large site redevelopment.
 - f. **Energy and Environment** – continue to partner with current and new cities through our energy benchmarking collaborative to engage/support businesses and multifamily owners to accelerate energy efficiency, solar and E.V. adoption to meet county-wide GHG goals.
 - g. **Hennepin Pathways** – develop partnerships to expand equitable access to clean energy, transportation and green infrastructure jobs, contracting and business development.
 - h. **Zero Waste** – co-develop/implement zero waste action plans with cities & State of MN to expand waste diversion and reduce GHG associated with waste/material use to retire HERC by a date certain.
4. **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**.

Hennepin County's leadership and convening roles with public entities and community organizations to co-create and pursue joint initiatives to meet mutual climate goals will be vital to enabling the 41 cities in Hennepin County to take the effective actions needed to cut county-wide CO2 emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. 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.

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