

Washington County City-County Climate Action Conversation

Tuesday May 31 6:30pm to 8pm on [Zoom](#)

Please [RSVP](#)

Audience - Connect with your peers from a dozen cities across Washington County including city commission & citizen coalition volunteers, city/county staff and elected leaders to

Focus - Brainstorm together ways our cities & county can collaborate to achieve our sustainability & climate resilience goals!



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



www.rccmn.co/washington-communities/

Agenda Washington County City-County Climate Action Conversation

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Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5156358735?pwd=K1FMVGdjVHJvVlc5UHhDSHpWNnhjUT09>

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

Agenda

6:30pm - **Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Small Group Introductions**

6:40pm - **City 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

7:00pm - Update on **Washington County Sustainability & Resilience Initiatives** (we are reaching out to staff and commissioners to see who can join us)

- Washington County 2040 Sustainability & Resilience Goals and Strategies [Link](#)
- Green Government - Recycling and Waste Reduction - [Link](#)
- Wellspring Project - A Lifespan Approach to Promote Wellbeing for All People [Link](#)
- Active Living Initiatives [Link](#)
- Land and Water Legacy Program completed 34 land protection project. 15-year anniversary! [Link](#)

7:25pm - **Topic Conversations on [High Impact Actions](#) Energy, Buildings, Transportation, Resilience/Natural Resources and Zero Waste**

Facilitated small group conversations will follow along with **Topic Group Handout** (and google jam board)

- **Top five high impact city actions** (including city operations, ordinances, & programs) for each action
 - **Resource links** and relevant nonprofit and county and met council resource people
 - **State & Federal Funding Update**

7:55 - **Large Group** - Find volunteers to help plan our [Fall City/County Climate Check In Half Day Event](#)

Fresh Energy Action Alert - Tell the Minnesota Legislature to get back to work

<https://fresh-energy.org/take-action/tell-your-legislators-to-build-minnesotas-clean-energy-future>

Last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will funnel a historic \$1.2 trillion into states—about \$7.3 billion of which has been tentatively allocated to Minnesota. These funds could go toward much-needed investments in electric transportation infrastructure, electric transit, weatherization assistance, energy efficiency, power and grid—all of which play a major role in our climate future and as we seek energy independence. However, in order to secure the Federal funding that Minnesotans are entitled to, the Minnesota Legislature must immediately convene a special session and approve state matching funds.

Maximizing federal investments in MN Fresh Energy Action Alert

[Tell your legislators to build Minnesota's clean energy future!](#)

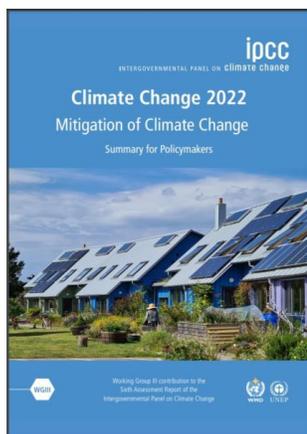
- The Legislature must act in 2022 to avoid missing out on this unprecedented investment in Minnesota's future infrastructure. We need to pursue state matching dollars to ensure that Minnesota fully leverages the historic opportunity presented by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This is a unique opportunity 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.

Powering Up Minnesota: Leveraging federal funds to drive local investment

- **Webinar Recording** <https://fresh-energy.org/event/powering-up-minnesota>
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will funnel a historic \$1.2 trillion into states—about \$6.8 billion of which is headed to Minnesota. These funds will go toward much-needed investments in weatherization assistance, energy efficiency, power and grid, electric transportation, and more—all of which play a major role in our climate future as we seek energy independence.
- But how can local and state policymakers, agency staff, elected officials, nonprofit advocates, thought leaders, and all Minnesotans ensure our state takes full advantage of these federal funds?
- Join Fresh Energy, Aimee Witteman from the U.S. Department of Energy, Minnesota Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold, and special guests to discuss how Minnesota can take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

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're sharing a draft of Minnesota's Climate Action Framework and asking for your input. 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>



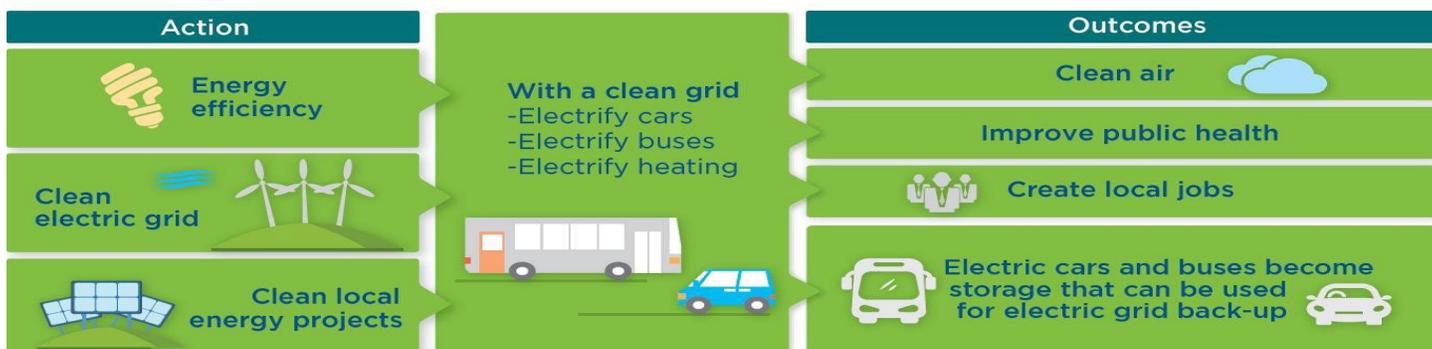
Climate Science Update <http://rccmn.co/climate-science/>

- **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](#)

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





Resilient Cities & Communities

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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 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.



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)

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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 - H2O, natural resources, sequestration, trees	Additional topics - zero waste, green jobs, etc.
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- **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. **Adopt 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, **Inclusive 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://metrotransitm.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://metro council.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) https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/3077/ScenarioPlanningToolpresentation_ceac_minneapolis.pdf/64655/2932/Scenario%20Planning%20Tool%20presentation_ceac_minneapolis
- **Growing Shade** <https://metro council.org/News-Events/Communities/Newsletters/Growing-Shade-app-2021.aspx>
- **Climate Vulnerability Assessment** <https://metro council.org/Communities/Planning/Local-Planning-Assistance/CVA.aspx>
- **Met Council** Fact sheets, best practices, links to effective actions. https://metro council.org/Handbook/Resources.aspx#tab_3
- **Planit Workshop Handouts** <https://metro council.org/Handbook/PlanIt/Workshops.aspx>
- **Expert Articles** <https://metro council.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>

Sustainable Development Code (SDC) <https://sustainablecitycode.org/> is organized into 32 subject areas 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 (good, better, best.)