**RCC’s Theory of Change – Pathway for Strengthening City Climate Action Capacity**

**Where are you, your city and county on this continuum? What steps would you like to take in 2023?**

**1. Build City Capacity for Climate Action**

1. A. **Strength bottom-up community support** and establishing long term relationships with diverse stakeholders, community groups and residents. <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81734>

* **RCC Directory of MN Citizen Climate Coalitions** <https://rccmn.co/community-coalitions/>
* [Equitable Community Engagement](https://mngreenstepcities.blogspot.com/2021/09/in-this-webinar-presented-live-on.html) [2021 Green Team Guide](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-09/GreenTeamGuide_2021_BP24_0.pdf)

1. B. **Develop City Leadership Team** – City Council, Commission, Community, Multi Department Staff Green Team

* GSC Best Practice 24 Sean Gosiewski, BP Advisor <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-detail/81734>
* [**How City Commissions Can Advance Sustainability**](https://mngreenstepcities.blogspot.com/2021/10/how-city-commissions-can-advance.html)

1. C. **Prioritizing areas to work on**

* **Start with related City Comp Plan and City Council Goals**
* **Use Citywide GHG Inventory** Met Council GHG city reports, <https://metrotransitmn.shinyapps.io/ghg_tool/>
	+ **LHB Regional Indictors**, <https://lhbcorp.com/projects/regional-indicators-initiative/>
	+ **Xcel Energy Community Energy Reports** <https://www.xcelenergy.com/community_energy_reports>
* **Join MN GreenStep Cities** <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/>
	+ **Green Step Gold Leaf** (Pilot Phase in 2023) 10 cities <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/gold-leaf-pilot>
* **MN Energy Benchmarking for City Buildings** <https://mn.b3benchmarking.com/>
* **Join Partners in Energy** apply by Jan 15, April 15, July 15, and Oct 15 <https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/partner-resources/municipalities/partners-in-energy>
* **Climate Action Work Plans** Met Council Scenario Planning tool, customized city reports, RCC Workshop?
* **Climate Action Plan in a box?** (Lola at GPI) Sustainable New Jersey <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/>
* **Develop full Climate Action Plans** – Mitigation and Adaptation, (option) Pale Blue Dot, GPI, CEE, etc.
1. D. **Identify Funding & Staffing for Priority Next Steps**
* **Hire a full time City Sustainability Coordinator –** cities have used general funds and utility franchise fees
* **Mn Green Corps** <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/minnesota-greencorps>
* **Federal Funds** - RCC Listing of MN State Agency Contacts for cities to access Federal IIJA funds and IRA tax credits <https://rccmn.co/expanding-funding/>

**2. Implement High Impact Local Actions** <https://rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/>

2. A. **City Operations**

2. B. **City Ordinances** <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/ordinances>

2. C. **New Development & Large Site Development** [Adopt Sustainable Building Policies](https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/efficient-buildings-collaborative)

* New Guide [Addressing the Sustainability Gap in the Development Process](https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/node/101656)

2. D. **Engage residents, businesses to act** (retrofits)

2. E. **Join Multi City Implementation Teams** in county or state-wide<https://rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/>

2.F. **Develop and Use Strategy Maps to guide action** <https://www.insightformation.com/insightvision> Please register for RCC Webinar with Bill Barberg **InsightVision: A Strategy Engagement Platform for Resilient Cities Thurs Jan 12**, 2023 12:30 PM <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2447682634453058064>

2 G**. Maintain mutual accountability and update action plans to achieve goals on time**

* **Annual Fall City County Climate Action Conference** <https://rccmn.co/city-county-climate-action-check-in-events/>

**3. Align regional & state policies & Investment**

3. A. **Align city, county, state infrastructure investments** to be low-carbon, equitable, resilient

3. B. **Met Council creates regional development guide** for cities to be low carbon. In 2025 cities begin updating their Comprehensive Plans for 2030 to 2050 to be low carbon, equitable, resilient. <https://metrocouncil.org/News-Events/Planning/Newsletters/2050-planning-July-2022.aspx>

3. C. **Coordinated State Legislative & MN PUC Advocacy** – <https://rccmn.co/policy-team/>

|  |
| --- |
| ***Resilient Cities and Communities Network Focus*** Connecting & supporting teams of citizen, city and county leaders to implement high impact local actions together to achieve climate goals on time while building equitable & resilient communities [rccmn.co/the-network/](http://rccmn.co/the-network/)  |
| 1. **Cultivating grassroots support for city and county action and effective city teams**
* **Maintaining a Directory** of Local [Citizen Coalitions](http://rccmn.co/community-coalitions/) and [Sustainability Commissions](http://rccmn.co/county-clusters/)
* [**Mentoring**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSean%5CDocuments%5C2021_RCC%5CSteering%20Committee%5CNov%2015%5Crccmn.co%5Ccommissions%5C) new Citizen Coalitions, Staff Green Teams & Sustainability Commissions
1. **Hosting** [**County Clusters**](http://rccmn.co/county-clusters/)  to support city/county collaborative implementation.
* **Networking calls** citizen coalition & city commission volunteers sharing successes
* **October City/County Climate action Conference** – citizens, cities, counties & topic teams sharing their actions & accomplishments, tracking GHG emission reduction & planning city/county next steps to stay on track to meet 2030 climate goals.
1. **Maintaining a** [**Clearinghouse**](https://rccmn.co/resources/) – to support more cities to adopt proven actions
* **Peers sharing resources**, best practices & examples among **citizen groups, commissions** **& cities** – case studies of innovative projects, sample ordinances, webinars, tours, state and federal funding opportunities.
* **Topic-resource people**supporting cities to take [high impact city actions](http://rccmn.co/high-impact-actions/), for
* [Clean Energy](http://rccmn.co/energy/) [Efficient Buildings](http://rccmn.co/buildings/)  [Low Carbon Transportation](http://rccmn.co/transportation/) & [Resilience](http://rccmn.co/resilience/)
* **Multi City Implementation Teams** - Supporting more cities to join currently available and to launch new multi-city, topic-specific implementation cohorts.
* **Encouraging cities to join Partners in Energy and MPCA Gold Leaf program**
* **Annual Fall City County Climate Action Conference**
* **Connecting** the [MN BIPOC Local Elected Leaders](http://rccmn.co/bipoc-elected-leaders/)  & [Youth](http://rccmn.co/youth-leader-network/) & [Commission](http://rccmn.co/commissions/) networks
 | **A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generated**Minnetonka Climate Initiative**A group of people sitting in chairs  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Empowering citizens**A group of people wearing masks  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**[MN BIPOC Local Elected Network](http://rccmn.co/bipoc-elected-leaders/)Diagram  Description automatically generated[Efficient Buildings Collaborative](https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/efficient-buildings-collaborative) |

**Resilient Cities & Communities** [**County Clusters**](http://rccmn.co/county-clusters/)  will support city/county collaborative implementation through

* **Quarterly calls** with citizen coalitions, commissions, city & county staff & commissioners on to work on share priorities together
* **Align city, county, state infrastructure investments** to be low-carbon, equitable, resilient
* **Annual city/county climate action check ins** – (in 2022) citizens, cities, counties & topic teams sharing their actions & accomplishments, tracking GHG emission reduction & planning city/county next steps to stay on track to meet 2030 and 2050 climate goals.

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