

**RCC Comments to Strengthen the City of Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan,** May 2, 2023

* <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/climate-equity/>

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| **Diagram  Description automatically generated with medium confidence** | **CLEAN AIR** – <https://rccmn.co/air-quality/>  RCC supports the addition of these goals and strategies we had suggested.  <https://rccmn.co/indoor-air-quality/>  **Goal**: - Study, mitigate and reduce outdoor and indoor air pollution to improve health outcomes in Minneapolis — with a focus on the Green Zones and other neighborhoods and households experiencing cumulative air quality impacts |

**Strategy 1** Co-convene, quarterly city/county/community air quality working group meetings to maintain mutual transparency & accountability to act on air quality data; reduce & mitigate air pollution; and improve health outcomes (with a focus on Green Zones and impacted Minneapolis neighborhoods.)

* 1. Address cumulative air quality impacts in Green Zones and impacted Minneapolis neighborhoods.
  2. Act on city, state and community air monitoring data to reduce point & mobile source air pollution.
  3. Increase funding for healthy homes outreach and retrofits and neighborhood tree planting on blocks experiencing high levels of outdoor air pollution to improve their indoor air quality, reduce asthma triggers & improve health outcomes.
  4. Implement residential programs to monitor and improve indoor air quality, especially in air areas with higher-than-average asthma rates

**Strategy 2** Address cumulative air quality impacts in Green Zones and impacted Minneapolis neighborhoods.

**Strategy 3** Act on city, state and community air monitoring data to reduce point & mobile source air pollution

**Strategy 4** Increase funding for healthy homes outreach and retrofits and neighborhood tree planting on blocks experiencing high levels of outdoor air pollution to improve their indoor air quality, reduce asthma triggers & improve health outcomes.

4.1 Neighborhood-wide mitigation of air pollution (i.e. tree planting, vegetative buffers, anti-idling, etc.)

4.2 Household-specific mitigation of indoor air pollution with a focus on households with vulnerable members experiencing asthma, etc. (health care access, air sealing, insulation, indoor air filters, reducing the use of fossil gas appliances, mitigate indoor air pollution sources such as mold and pests, etc.)

4.3 Integrate healthy homes / indoor air quality intervention with all in-home touch-points (Regulatory Services, energy efficiency, electrification, etc.)

**Benefits of adding an air quality goal and strategies to the updated climate action plan**

* **Acting on outdoor & indoor air quality challenges to improve health outcomes on the north & south side.**
* **Highlighting the great work of the Minneapolis Community Air monitoring work group.**
* **Securing more long-term funding for healthy homes /asthma outreach & investments** to reduce indoor air pollution for families experiencing asthma & other health effects of poor indoor/outdoor air quality
* **Funding community partners to reach more households experiencing asthma** to improve indoor air quality, health care access and health outcomes (i.e. lead, mold, radon prevention, home air filters, switching away from using fossil gas, etc.)

**RELEVANT Plans, Goals, and Strategies**

* **City of Minneapolis** – Updated **Climate and Equity Action Plan** and **Zero Waste Plan**
  + **Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan** POLICY 66 **Air Quality:** Improve air quality by reducing emissions of pollutants that harm human health and the environment. <https://minneapolis2040.com/search?query=air+quality>
  + **MPLS 2030 Transportation Plan,** <https://go.minneapolismn.gov/minneapolis-streets-2030>
  + Minneapolis **Northside Green Zone** Work Plan, **Southside Green Zone** Plan
* **Hennepin County Climate Action Plan** page 22. [www.hennepin.us/climate-action](http://www.hennepin.us/climate-action)
* [HC Zero Waste Plan](https://www.hennepin.us/climate-action/what-hennepin-is-doing/zero-waste-plan)  [Hennepin Co. Public Health Climate Action Committee](https://www.hennepin.us/climate-action/what-hennepin-is-doing/public-health-climate-committee)
* **Met Council** - **Climate Action Work Plan** <https://metrocouncil.org/Planning/Climate.aspx>

**Resource People we can reach out to help**

**Green Zones and City of Minneapolis Air Quality Monitoring Project**

* Kelly Muellman, Sustainability Program Coordinator (612) 673-3014 [kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov)
* Jenni Lansing Minneapolis Air Quality Monitoring Project612-709-9977. [Jenni.Lansing@minneapolismn](mailto:Jenni.Lansing@minneapolismn).gov

[**Mpls Healthy Homes**](mailto:Mpls%20Healthy%20Homes) **Team** **Lisa Smestad**, **Healthy Homes Manager,** 612-673-3733 [Lisa.smestad@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Lisa.smestad@minneapolismn.gov)

**Sustainable Resources Center**

**Minnesota Dept of Health Healthy Homes Team**

* Joshua Kerber Indoor Air Unit [joshua.kerber@state.mn.us](mailto:joshua.kerber@state.mn.us)
* <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/healthyhomes/index.html>

**Home Performance Strategies** translating building science into comfortable homes A no jargon building science intro: <https://tinyurl.com/4a2bymm4>

* **Kevin Brauer** (612) 868-0365 [kevin@homeperformancestrategies.net](mailto:kevin@homeperformancestrategies.net)
* Kevin worked with a pilot project in Pittsburg to reduce indoor air pollution and builds low cost-effective home air filters <http://outsideinradio.org/shows/in-pittsburgh>

**How to build DIY box fan filters** Corsi-Rosenthal box

The Corsi–Rosenthal Box, is a design for a do-it-yourself air purifier that can be built comparatively inexpensively. It was designed during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of reducing the levels of airborne viral particles in indoor settings.

The filtration units can be **assembled in around fifteen minutes,** last for months, and **cost between $50 and $150 in** materials. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corsi%E2%80%93Rosenthal_Box>

* **ROCIS** (Reducing Outdoor Contaminants in Indoor Spaces) <https://rocis.org/>
* **Clean Air Crew** How to build DIY box fan filters Corsi Rosenthal box <https://cleanaircrew.org/box-fan-filters/> Also known as a Corsi-Rosenthal box, this DIY method of building your own air filter with MERV13 furnace filters and a box fan are an easy and cost-effective way to help clear indoor air from airborne virus particles, wildfire smoke, pollen, dust, and more!

**Building Performance Institute Healthy Housing Principles Certificate**

* Training Weatherization Crews and Contractors on Healthy Homes Principals
* Local test proctor **Kevin Brauer** (612) 868-0365 [kevin@homeperformancestrategies.net](mailto:kevin@homeperformancestrategies.net)

Anyone interested in the connection between human health symptoms and the possible home issues that could be causing them should consider earning the Healthy Housing Principles Certificate. <https://www.bpi.org/healthy-housing-principles>

**Resource Links**

* PurpleAir Map: <https://map.purpleair.com/1/mAQI/a10/p604800/cC0#10.63/44.9718/-92.9972>
* [MPCA Air Quality](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air),
* [MDH Air Quality, Climate & Health](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/climate/air.html),
* MPCA [Interactive Map Areas of EJ Concern](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-and-environmental-justice),
* [MN DOT Sustainability & Public Health](https://www.dot.state.mn.us/sustainability/),
* [City of Mpls Health Dept. Air Quality](https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/environmental-programs/air-quality/)
* [Minneapolis Green Zones](https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/coordinator/sustainability/policies/green-zones-initiative/),
* [Our Streets Minneapolis/i94](https://www.ourstreetsmpls.org/rethinking_i94)
* [Hennepin Co. Climate Action Plan](https://www.hennepin.us/climate-action) (p. 22)
* [Hennepin Co. Public Health Climate Action Committee](https://www.hennepin.us/climate-action/what-hennepin-is-doing/public-health-climate-committee)
* [MN EJ Table](https://www.facebook.com/mnejtable/)/Frontline Communities,
* [MCEA](https://www.mncenter.org/), [Clean Air MN](https://environmental-initiative.org/our-work/clean-air-minnesota/)

**Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan**

**Air Quality references in the Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan**

POLICY 66 **Air Quality:** Improve air quality by reducing emissions of pollutants that harm human health and the environment. <https://minneapolis2040.com/search?query=air+quality>

* Air pollution impacts human health and the environment and the City of Minneapolis is concerned at both the local and regional levels. Locally, the City is concerned about the effects pollutants such as particulate matter (PM), ground-level ozone (O3), carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), lead and air toxins have on human health, the environment and the climate. Health effects include asthma and respiratory conditions, as well as cancer and other serious diseases. The City of Minneapolis performs many functions to improve air quality, such as collecting air samples, analyzing them for pollutants, and using the results to inform policy decisions. The City’s Green Business Cost Share Program focuses on reducing air pollution from small businesses such as dry cleaners and auto body shops by providing funds to switch to nontoxic or low-toxicity chemical alternatives. In addition, the City provides funds to help businesses and multi-family residential units reduce their nonrenewable energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions through energy retrofits, including solar panels.
* Minneapolis and the businesses operating in the city must also meet regional air quality standards or face financial implications. With the passage of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set standards for limiting specific air pollutants, referred to as “criteria air pollutants.” The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) continuously monitors criteria air pollutants statewide; if it identifies a criteria air pollutant above its standard, that area of the state may be declared in “nonattainment” for meeting the standard. The state uses data to determine the specific sources or source categories that are primary contributors to the nonattainment, and it must submit a plan to the EPA for returning to attainment that includes enforceable limits and controls on these sources. If businesses in Minneapolis are identified, they may face financial implications.

**ACTION STEPS** The City will seek to accomplish the following action steps to improve air quality by reducing emissions of pollutants that harm human health and the environment.

* Reduce vehicle-related emissions through transportation and land use policies, and changes to the built environment, that result in fewer vehicle miles traveled.
* Ensure compliance with regional air quality standards for criteria air pollutants (O3, lead, PM, NO2, SO2 and CO) throughout the city through education, outreach, air sampling and data-driven policies, as well as cost-share initiatives that encourage businesses and residents to use greener technologies.
* Eliminate the use of some of the most common industrial volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as tetrachloroethylene (perc, PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), through cost-sharing programs and the promotion of alternative products in industrial sectors.
* Reduce emissions from energy sources, including through cost-sharing programs aimed at increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in Minneapolis.
* Reduce benzene emissions from gas stations through installation of advanced vapor recovery technology.
* Ensure levels of ground-level ozone and particulate matter at or below the lowest levels recommended by the EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.
* Minimize ground-level ozone by monitoring for VOCs and nitrogen oxides (NOx) and using the results to inform programs that locate and effectively reduce emissions from industrial and other sources.
* Improve the effectiveness of air quality initiatives through use of data from 311 complaints.
* Improve enforcement of noise, after-hours work, and dust ordinances.

This policy supports: Goal #1 Goal #5 Goal #10 Goal #11

Related topics: Environmental Systems Public Health

**Hennepin County Climate Action Plan** page 22. <https://www.hennepin.us/climate-action>

**Goal:** Protect and engage people, especially vulnerable communities

**Objective:** The county’s response to climate change prioritizes the protection of the most vulnerable residents and advances equitable health outcomes

**Strategy: Mitigate disproportionate impacts associated with climate change**

* **Reduce air pollution associated with transportation, especially in areas with vulnerable populations.**
* **Reduce the health impacts associated with pollution from the production, packaging, use, and disposal of materials by supporting waste prevention, reuse, recycling, toxicity reduction, and proper management of hazardous waste.**
* **Mitigate the heat island effect**, especially in areas with people most vulnerable to extreme heat, by supporting increased access to air conditioning, increasing the tree canopy, and converting hardscape where possible to green infrastructure.
* Address flooding in housing, especially where people most vulnerable to flooding impacts live, by promoting and providing financial support for preventative measures such as sump-pumps and landscaping to redirect water away from structures.
* Build awareness of expanding flood zones among at-risk residents and businesses and the potential availability of optional flood insurance. Explore options for possible subsidized flood insurance based on financial need.