

Metropolitan Council

Climate Action Plan

Committee of the Whole
April 21, 2021





Today's discussion

- Foundations for the plan
- Project purpose and integration
- Climate change in MN and key terms
- Project approach and timeline
- Current state process and consultant
- Facilitated discussion

Sustainability

Building a resilient region that mitigates its adverse contribution to climate change – with a focus on degraded air and water quality – and meets the challenge of the climate crisis.

Regional Planning Objective

Collaborate with regional leadership and state agencies and convene local governments and the broader community to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Investment Objective

Accelerate the reduction of the Metropolitan Council's per-capita greenhouse gas emissions.

Council Operations Objective

Create an agency-wide sustainability plan in 2020 and 2021 to streamline, accelerate, and coordinate all the Council's work in this area.



Sustainability

Council Operations Objective

Create an agency-wide sustainability plan in 2020 and 2021 to streamline, accelerate, and coordinate all the Council's work in this area.

Develop **emissions and infrastructure targets and goals** for Council wastewater, transit, and general operations.

Develop direction and strategies integrating the Council's climate-related research and analysis to **support future regional planning efforts**.

Integrate **climate adaptation goals and strategies** into the Council's operations, infrastructure investments, and regional planning principles.

Identify and implement actions for meeting and exceeding **air and water quality standards**.

Research the **role of the regional parks and open space system** in mitigating climate change and contributing to a more resilient region.

Purpose



The Climate Action Plan

will unify our efforts across the Council to reduce our climate impacts and prepare for a changing climate.

It will define strategies that will strengthen our ability to plan and deliver services to the region through leadership, collaboration, and stewardship.

- **Purpose** – Unify climate action efforts across the Council
- **Why a climate plan** – Climate impacts Council infrastructure, operations, and planning
- **What is included** – Current efforts and commitments to future actions
- **Who is involved** – All Council divisions
- **Timeframe of the plan** – 3 to 5 years

Integrates with Council policies and initiatives



Sustainability

- Protecting our regional vitality for generations to come
 - Lead by example in operations
 - Partner with customers and stakeholders

Equity

- Recognizing institutional and systemic barriers and creating access and opportunities that benefit all.
 - Environmental justice



Climate change in Minnesota

<i>Climate Changes</i>	<i>Projections Through 2099</i>	<i>Confidence in Projected Changes</i>
Warming winters	Continued loss of cold extremes and dramatic warming of coldest conditions	Highest
Extreme rainfall	Continued increase in frequency and magnitude; unprecedented flash-floods	
Heat waves	More hot days with increases in severity, coverage, and duration of heat waves	High
Drought	More days between precipitation events, leading to increased drought severity, coverage, and duration	Moderately High
Heavy snowfall	Large events less frequent as winter warms, but occasional very large snowfalls	Moderately Low
Severe thunderstorms & tornadoes	More “super events” possible, even if frequency decreases	

“The region has gotten much wetter and warmer, driven by more frequent heavy precipitation and warmer winters.”

- K. Blumenfeld, Senior Climatologist, MN Dept of Natural Resources



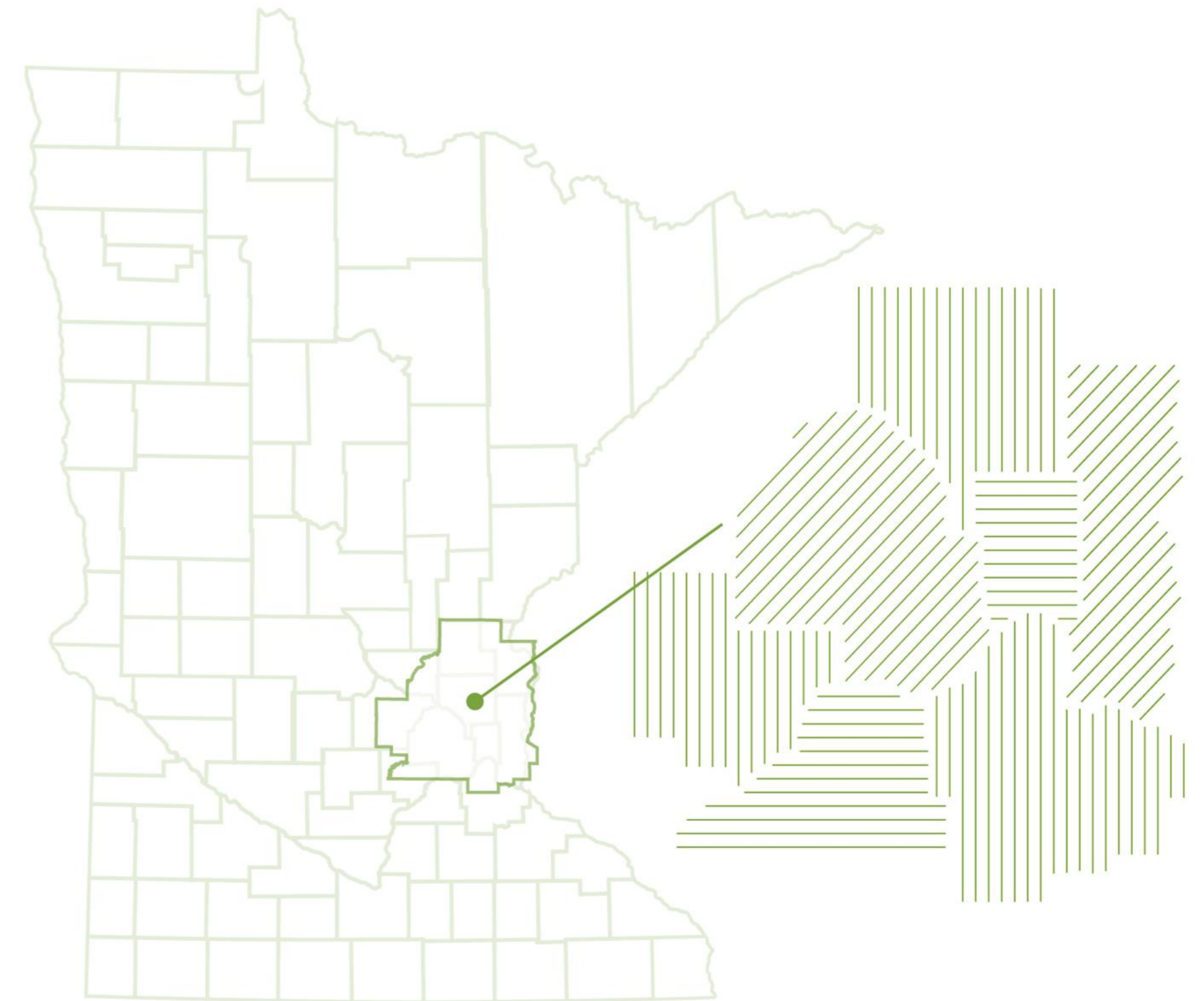
Key terms

Actions

- **Mitigation** – actions that reduce the rate of climate change
- **Adaptation** – the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects

Outcome

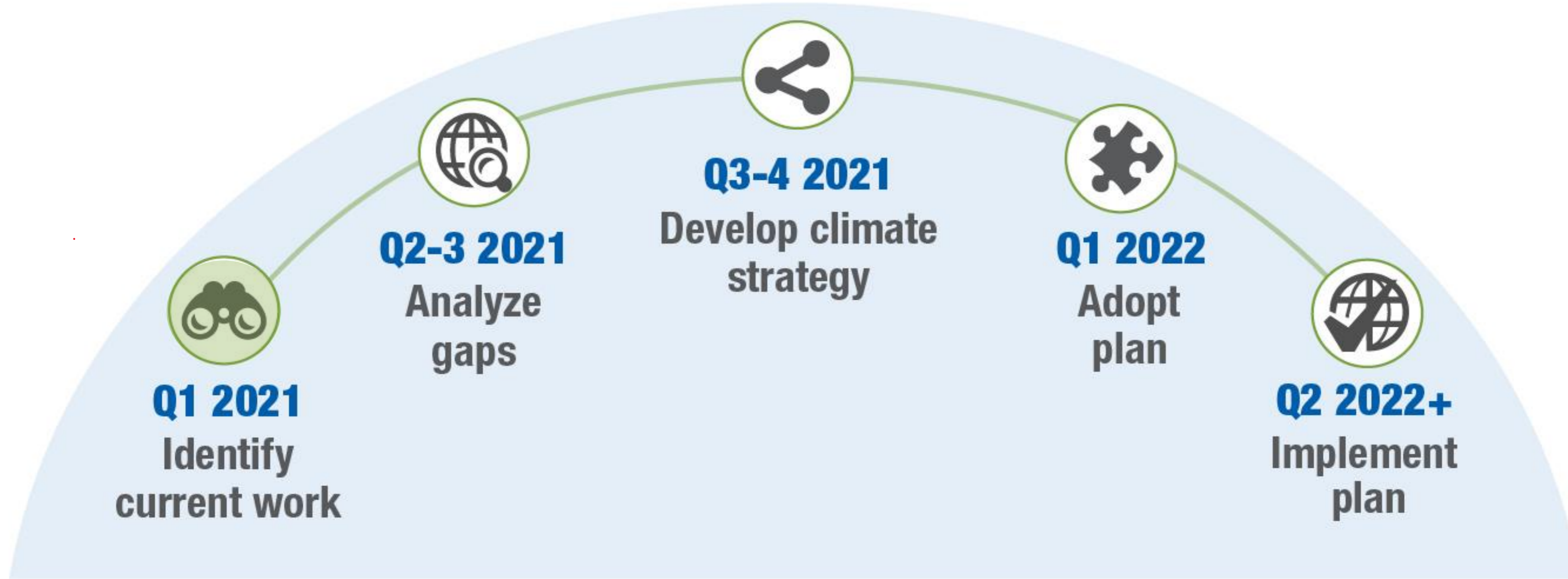
- **Resilience** – outcome that increases our flexibility to thrive regardless of how climate change develops



Project Phases



PROJECT TIMELINE



Current state information

- CAP Project Team is conducting work group interviews across all divisions of the Council:
 - Document current climate change work
 - Identify current partners
 - Detail the drivers of the work within different divisions
- Current state purposes:
 - Identify gaps in our work, potential for new and continued commitments
 - Establish foundation for plan strategies

Mitigation – Environmental Services

Planning, Infrastructure, and Operations

Reduce emissions and energy use

- *Process optimization*
- *Building optimization*

Energy recovery and renewable

- *Combined heat and power*
- *Steam and digester gas*
- *Heat recovery from effluent*
- *Solar*

Electrification: *Electric vehicles*



Regional Partnerships, Tools, and Resources

Local Government Community Solar Collaborative
Green partnership with Xcel Energy



Adaptation – Transportation Services and Metro Transit

Designing and constructing new facilities

- Metro Transit Police facility
- New Minneapolis bus garage

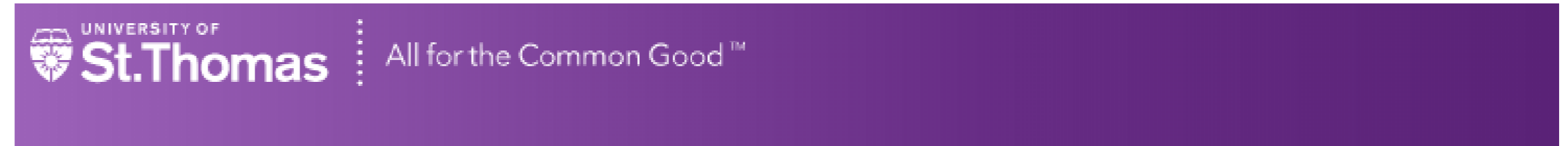
Route planning

- Utilization of adaptation tools – example: avoiding flood prone streets



Resilience – Community Development

- Building in technical assistance to local communities related to resilience
- SolSmart technical assistance
- Facilitated community resilience workshops
- Collaboration with University of St. Thomas Sustainable Communities Partnership



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

Metropolitan Council (2017-present)



Consultant support

- Assist with **project administration, technical assistance, and integration of an environmental justice framework** into the plan
- Support the Council with the scope, formulation, goal-setting, feedback, and adoption of an organization-wide, results-focused Climate Action Plan
- Start May 2021 until plan adoption in Quarter 1, 2022

How to find information on the project

- Talk to project team members
- Track progress on the Council MetNet page
- Follow Council internal communications
- Participate in future information-gathering and engagement sessions (to be scheduled)

Facilitated Discussion

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How would you like to be informed and engaged with on this project?

What does a successful Council Climate Action Plan look like in the short and long-term?

QUESTIONS?

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