



Climate Action Work Plan Annual Report Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole

May 21, 2025



Climate change impacts all Met Council services



Transportation



Parks



Wastewater



Housing

Our climate vision

We reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions in the region and **make our services and facilities resilient** to the impacts of climate change.



Climate Action Work Plan structure

A five-year plan (2023-2027)

6 commitments: Directional statements that describe the desired end states for climate action in our operations and planning services.

20 strategies: Overarching tactics to achieve commitments. The strategies are often cross-divisional in nature.

73 actions: Specific actions and projects with defined timelines, outcomes, and divisional responsibilities.

Our core commitments



1. We will incorporate **environmental justice principles** as we plan, implement, and evaluate our climate action work.



2. We will **accelerate emissions reductions from our operations** to achieve carbon neutrality



3. We will accelerate **regional emissions reduction** through existing and new partnerships.



4. We will **reduce risks and impacts of climate change** hazards to our facilities and services.



5. We will support and collaborate with partners to **advance regional climate adaptation efforts**.



6. **Cross-cutting:** Expand staffing and training dedicated to climate work

2024 Theme: Focusing on the region



Regional policy leadership

Imagine 2050 goal:
“We lead on addressing climate change.”



Interconnected planning

Aligning multiple climate plans:

1. Imagine 2050
2. Climate Action Work Plan
3. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant)

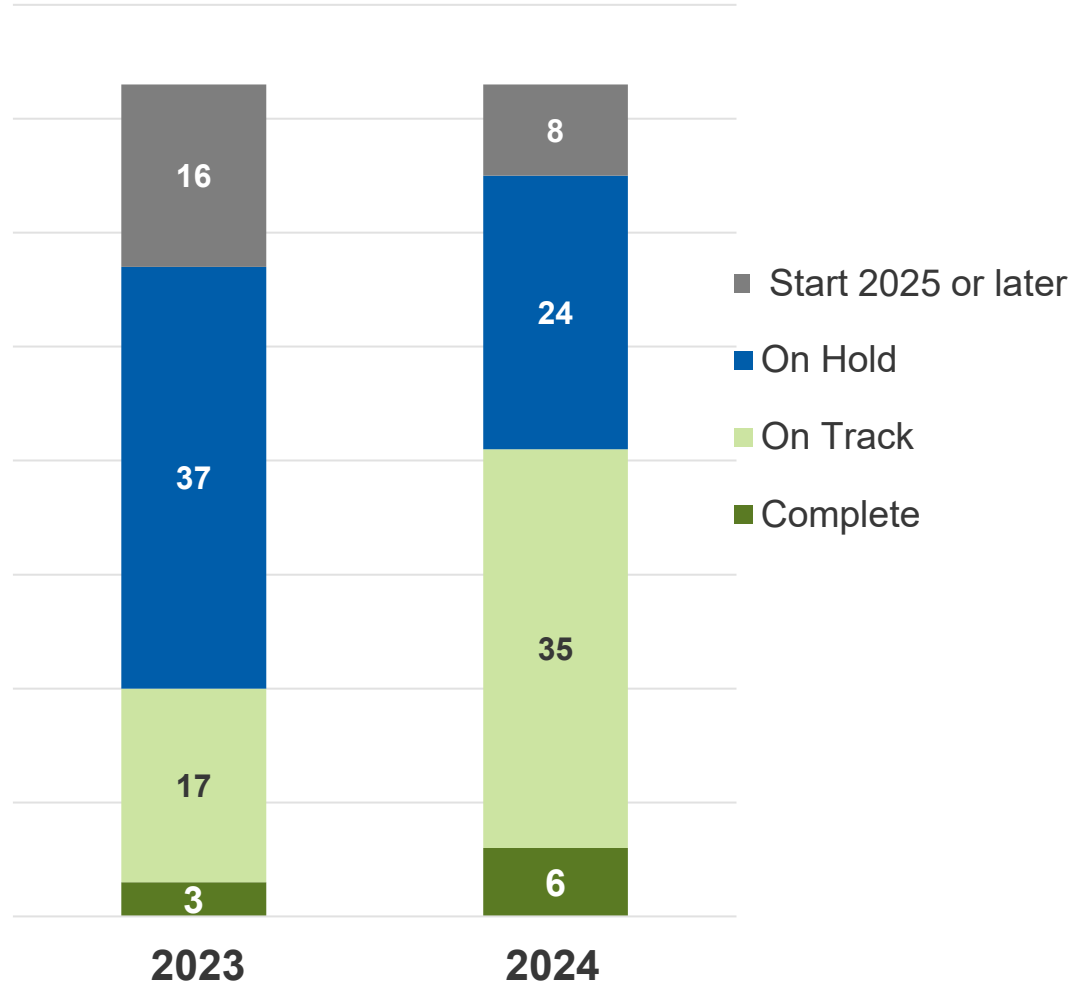


Staffing focus

- Develop a clear understanding of gaps in our climate workforce
- Create recommendations to fill gaps

2024 Theme: Focusing on the region

Overall Action Progress: 2023 - 2024



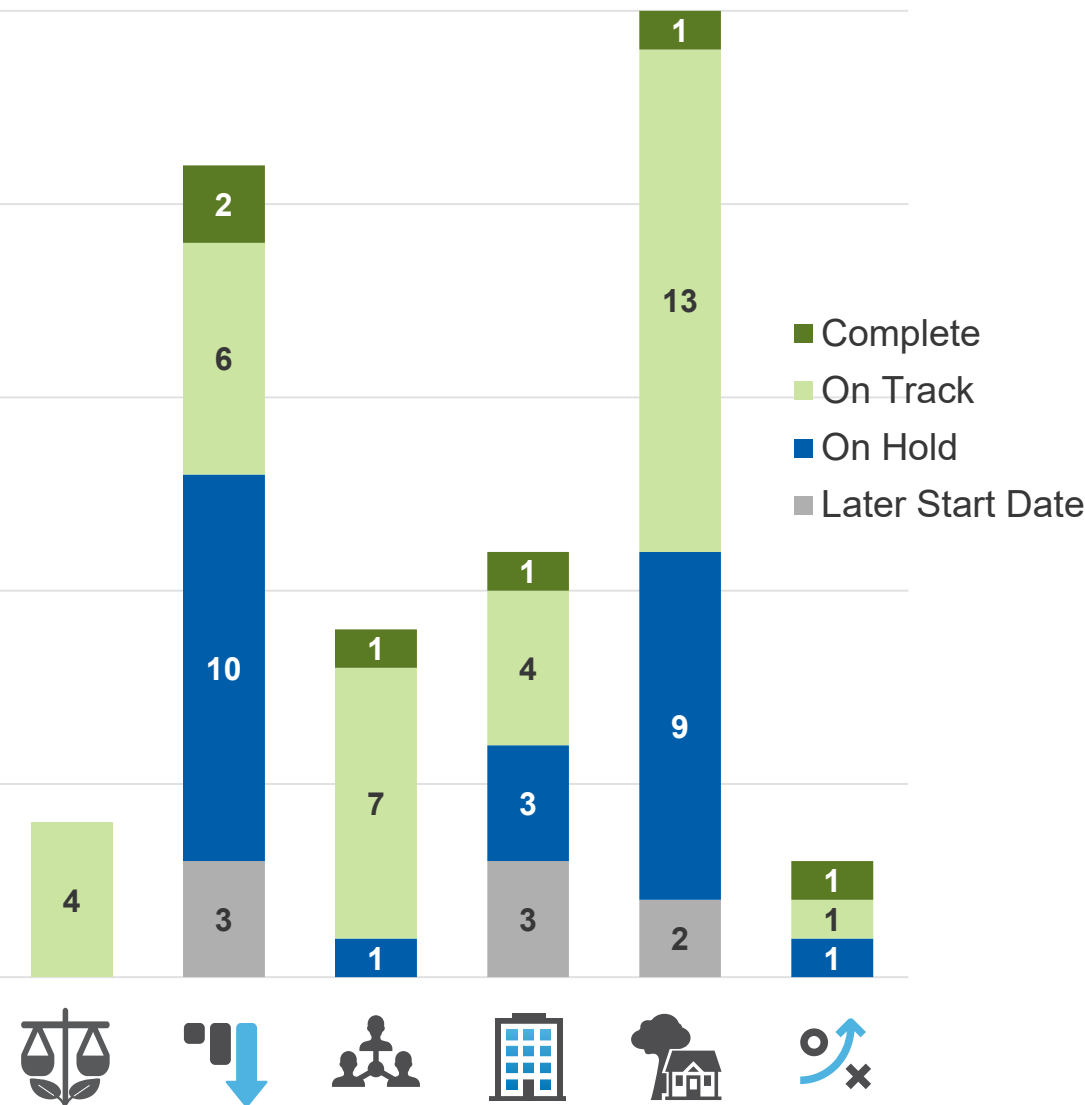
Over half of the 73 CAWP actions are on track or complete

Examples

- **Complete:** Develop climate strategies within the 2050 Policy Plans (Housing, Water Resources, Transportation, Parks).
- **On track:** Document and share climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for local governments to adopt into policy, planning, or programs.
- **On hold:** Reestablish the cross-divisional work group on energy management.
- **Start 2025 or later:** Develop processes to ensure capital projects maximize lifecycle GHG emissions reduction opportunities.

2024 Theme: Focusing on the region

Action Status by Commitment: 2024



We've made significant progress on regionally focused commitments



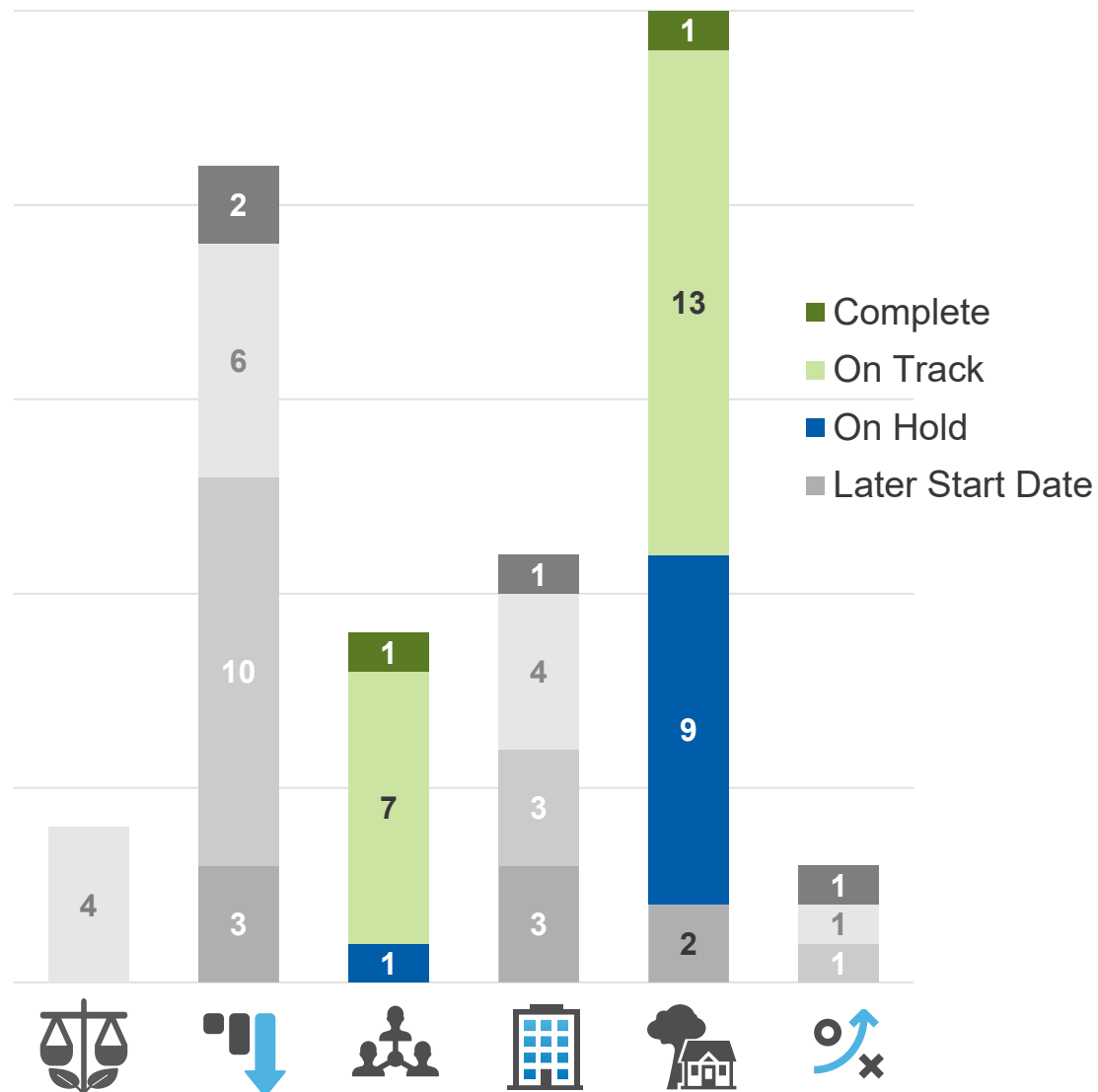
Commitment 3: “We will accelerate **regional emissions reduction** through existing and new partnerships.”



Commitment 5: “We will support and collaborate with partners to **advance regional climate adaptation efforts**.”

2024 Theme: Focusing on the region

Action Status by Commitment: 2024



We've made significant progress on regionally focused commitments

Commitment 3: "We will accelerate **regional emissions reduction** through existing and new partnerships."

- **89%** of actions are on track or complete

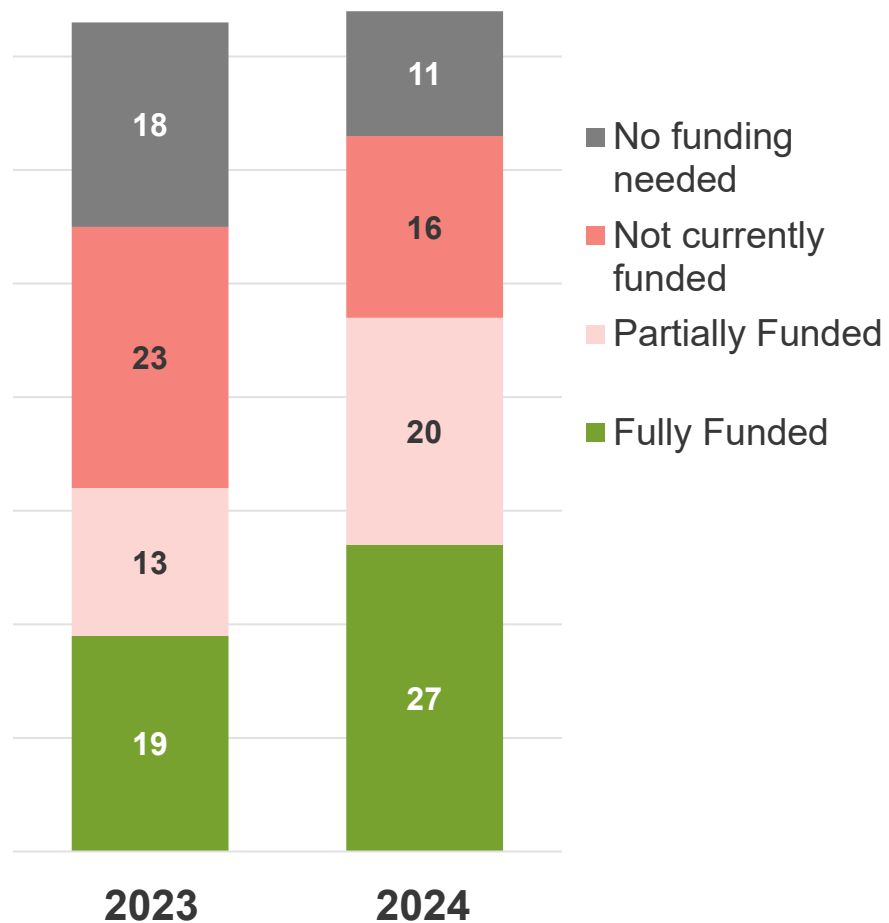
Commitment 5: "We will support and collaborate with partners to **advance regional climate adaptation efforts.**"

- **56%** of actions are on track or complete

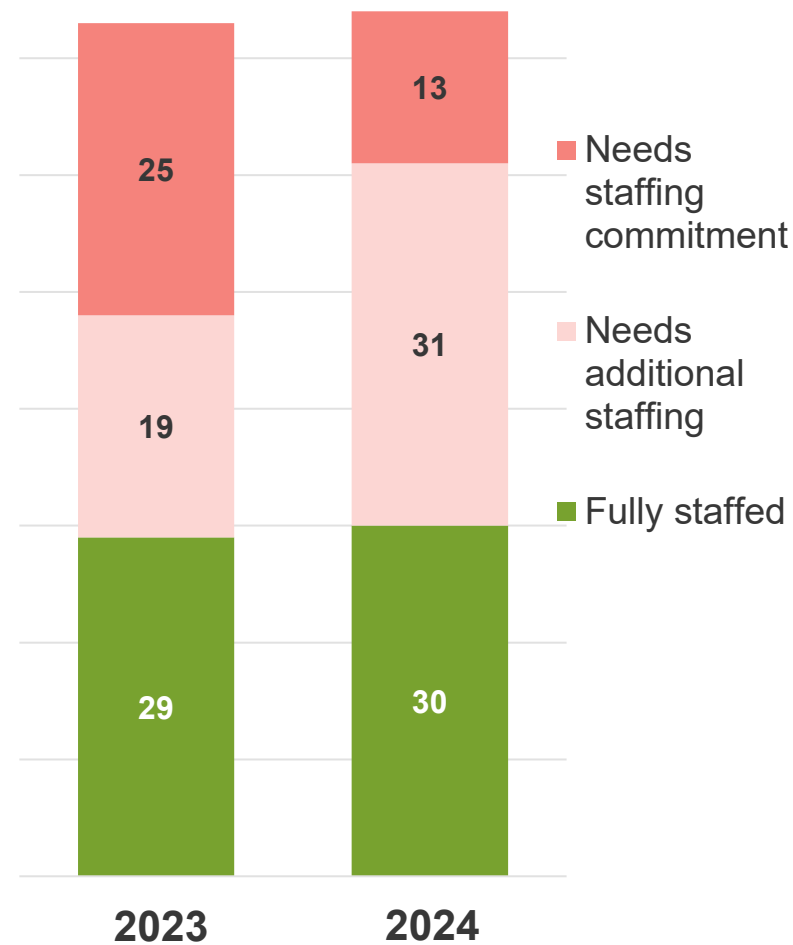
Remaining actions for each commitment above are related to implementing Imagine 2050.

2024 Theme: Staffing gaps are ongoing

Action Funding Progress



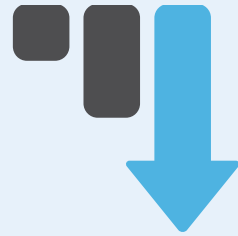
Staffing Progress



While many CAWP projects have funding sources, others are missing staff to lead and implement key actions.

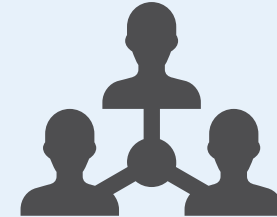
- Approximately **52%** of CAWP actions are fully or partially funded.
- However, just **41%** of CAWP actions are fully staffed.
- Only 1 additional action has become fully staffed in the past year, while **8 are now fully funded.**

Commitments 2 and 3: Reducing emissions



Commitment 2:

We will **accelerate emissions reductions from our operations** to achieve carbon neutrality.



Commitment 3:

We will accelerate **regional emissions reduction** through existing and new partnerships.

Met Council emits a large amount of greenhouse gases

2024 Total Met Council Emissions:
~375,000 metric tons CO₂e



OR



~51,000 homes'
energy use for
one year

*Using 2.5 people per
household; slightly larger than
Carver County*

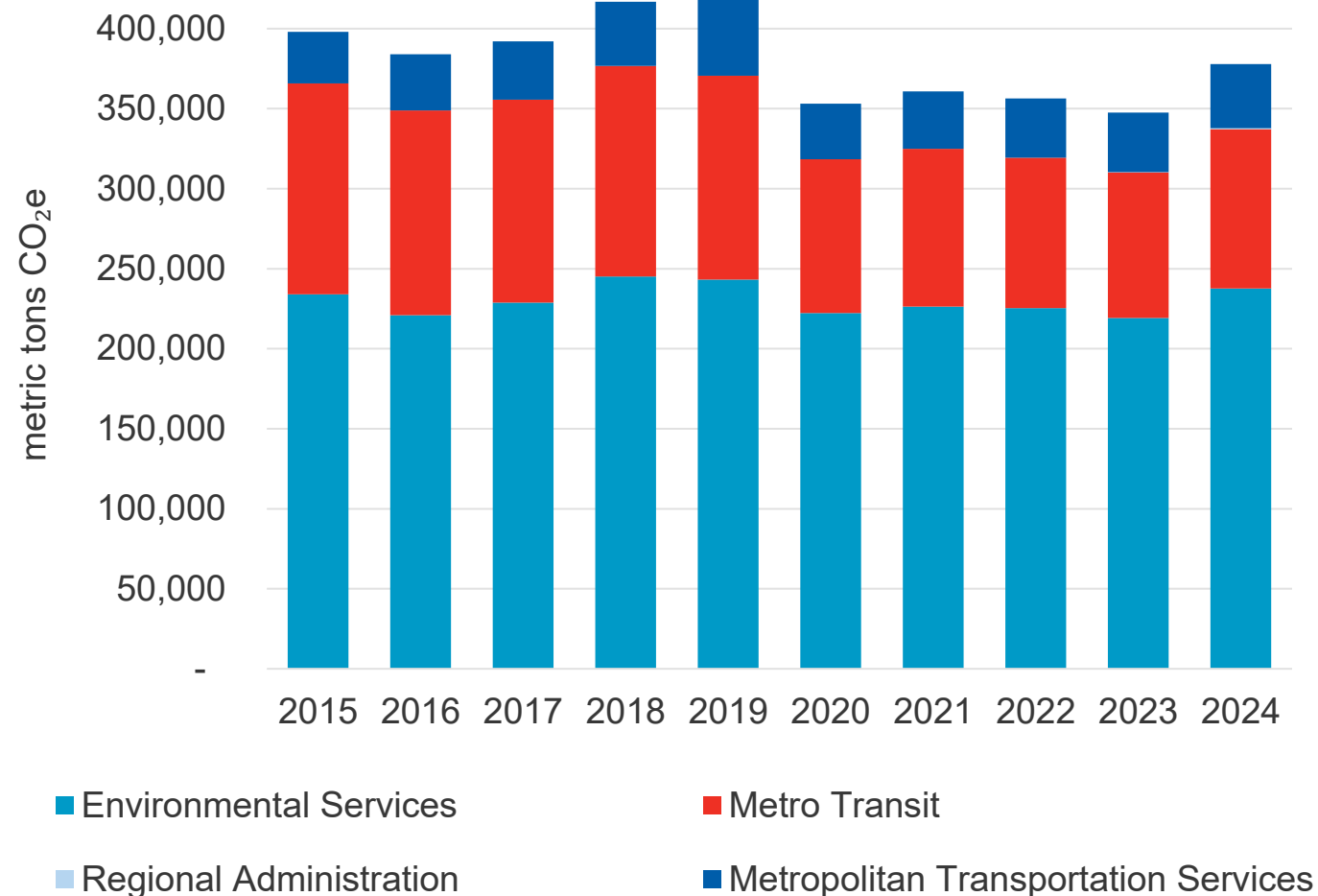
~88,000 cars
driven for one year

*Using 2 cars per household;
slightly larger than
Bloomington, MN*



Council GHG emissions slightly up

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Division

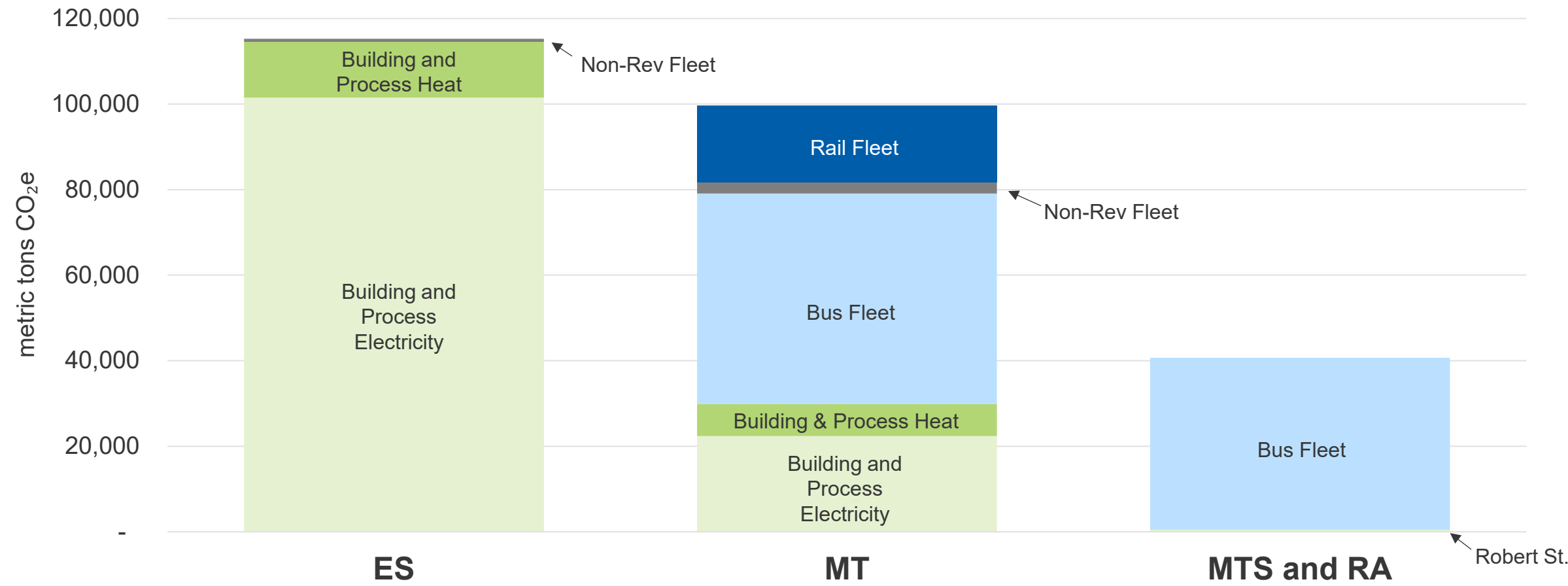


By division, ES and Metro Transit are the largest emitters

- Most of **ES'** emissions come from energy used in the wastewater treatment process.
- Emissions from **Metro Transit** include bus service, light rail propulsion, and facility operations.
- Emissions from **RA and CD** come from operating 390 Robert Street, which is a very small portion of total Council emissions.

2024 emissions: A closer look

2024 Met Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions



**Note: Selected wastewater emissions are omitted due to variability and confidence in calculated CO₂e for nitrification/denitrification, effluent emissions, and incineration. Subsequent slides address next steps.*

Understanding our emissions: Metro Transit

Emissions metrics scaled to reflect our operations



- The **more miles we can travel** before one ton of is CO₂e emitted, the **more efficient** we are.
- This metric accounts for all of Metro Transit's operations: bus and light rail as well as garages, offices, shelters, and additional facilities.
- This metric uses total miles traveled, rather than service miles.
- This new metric can be used regardless of service changes.

Understanding our emissions: MTS

How many miles can MTS vehicles travel before emitting 1 metric ton of CO₂e?



- The **more miles** we can travel before emitting one ton of CO₂e, **the more efficient** we are.
- This metric accounts for **MTS's fleet emissions and 390 Robert St.**
 - Does **not** include emissions information for garages or maintenance facilities owned and operated by contractors.
- This metric also uses total miles traveled, rather than service miles.
- This new metric can be used regardless of service changes.

Forthcoming greenhouse gas metrics

We are in the process of developing additional metrics that are scaled to our levels of service

Draft metrics include:

1. Total emissions **per passenger mile traveled**
 - Emissions by **type of service**: Bus, light rail, etc.
2. Setting **targets for facilities** based on historic and predicted energy consumption
3. Emissions **by process** in wastewater treatment systems
 - We are continuing to pursue the most effective methods to analyze carbon outputs for wastewater operations.



Project highlight: Regional emissions reductions

We committed to "lead on addressing climate change"

Integrated climate mitigation and adaptation strategies into each policy area (housing, land use, parks, transportation, water resources) of Imagine 2050.

1. Reduce the region's emissions 50% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and **achieve net-zero emissions by 2050**.
2. Plan, build, and operate infrastructure to address present and anticipated climate challenges and **increase regional resilience**.
3. Acknowledge and **remedy historic and ongoing environmental injustices** to provide environmental benefits for all.

Project highlight: Energy efficiency for HRA residents



Established HRA and CEE (Center for Energy and the Environment) partnership

- Completed **home energy audits** for 9 single-family units
- Types of installations include:
 - LED bulbs
 - Efficient showerheads
 - Smart thermostats
- Ongoing seasonal engagement to enroll additional households
- **Goal:** Reduce costs and energy use for residents

This is a big step forward in embedding energy efficiency measures across housing operations

Project highlight: Energy efficiency at Metro Transit's facilities



Metro Transit is updating its Building Automation Systems (BAS) to improve energy efficiency

- **BAS systems control HVAC systems** in buildings from a central control, **creating a “smarter” building.**
- BAS controls ensure that temperature settings are maintained in zones and that ventilation requirements are met based on occupancy, indoor air quality, and space use.
- **21 Metro Transit facilities**, including all service garages and major support facilities, use BAS controls.

State of Good Repair improvements are key to maintaining and increasing the Council's energy efficiency.

Project highlight: Energy efficiency for wastewater treatment

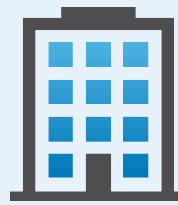


Low Dissolved Oxygen Demonstration Project

- Low DO operation involves lowering the amount of air going into the aeration system **without impacting our treatment capabilities.**
- Nutrients like ammonia and phosphorus in the wastewater can be removed while **reducing aeration energy cost by 40%.**
- Recognized with the Resource and Recovery Energy (R2E) Award from the Central States Water Environment Association for contributing to energy savings in wastewater treatment across the region.

This study provides groundbreaking fundamental understanding of emerging innovation.

Commitments 4 and 5: Adapting to a changing climate



Commitment 4:
We will **reduce risks and impacts of climate change** hazards to our facilities and services.



Commitment 5:
We will support and collaborate with partners to **advance regional climate adaptation efforts.**

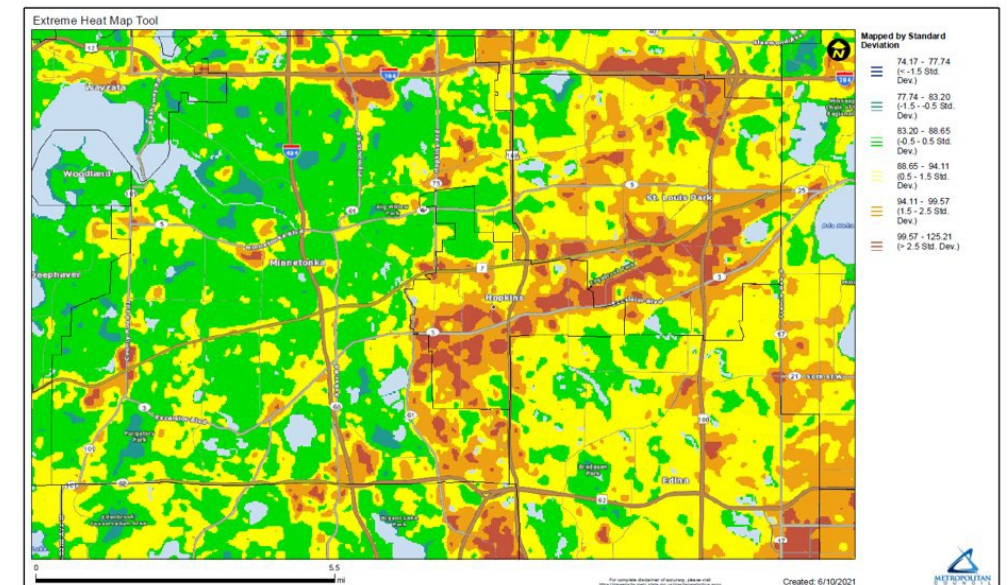
Project highlight: Regional adaptation

Climate minimum requirements for local comprehensive plans

- Strategies to address social, built, and natural systems vulnerabilities for:
 - Extreme heat
 - Localized flooding

Extreme Heat Mapping Tool

- Mapping tool depicts differences in land surface temperature across the region.
- Used by communities to identify land use and built environment strategies to mitigate extreme heat.
 - Hopkins and St. Louis Park were early adopters



Project highlight: Sustainable landscapes



Environmental Services is advancing resilient and restorative landscapes

- **11 sites across ES**, from wastewater recovery facilities to lift stations, have transitioned to sustainable landscapes.
- Improvements include:
 - Native plantings, including prairie, bee lawns, and native trees
 - Wetland enhancements
 - Green infrastructure, such as infiltration basins and rain gardens
- Additional sites are planned for future years.

Transitioning to sustainable landscapes improves the Council's, and the region's, climate resilience.

Commitment 1: Environmental justice



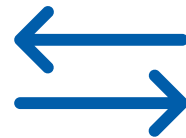
We will incorporate
**environmental
justice principles** as
we **plan, implement,
and evaluate** our
climate work.

Embedding environmental justice in our work

Alignment of regional and operational environmental justice

Climate Action Work Plan Environmental Justice Commitment

We will incorporate environmental justice principles as we plan, implement, and evaluate our climate action work.



Imagine 2050 Environmental Justice Framework



People-centered,
data-driven
decision making

Contextualized



Prioritized
engagement with
overburdened
communities

Community-centered



Community
benefits beyond
harm mitigation

Reparative

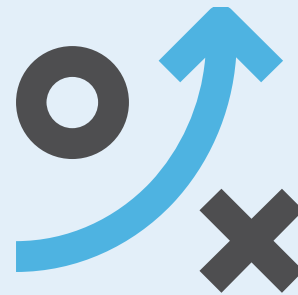
Project highlight: Environmental Justice Framework

Environmental Justice Framework developed as part of Imagine 2050

- Imagine 2050's community engagement affirmed the critical importance of centering environmental justice for overburdened communities.
- CAWP and Imagine 2050 Environmental Justice teams are re-launching as one team to implement the environmental justice components of both plans



Commitment 6: Cross-cutting efforts



Central strategy:
Expand staffing and
training dedicated to
climate work.

Project highlight: Workforce development



We are expanding training and capacity to achieve our ambitious climate commitments

1. Provide **training** for ~120 existing staff
 - Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Training: 40 participants in Cohort 1
2. **Assessing gaps** in existing workforce structure
 - Workforce survey: Over 60 respondents
 - 9 peer agency interviews
3. Developing **recommendations** based on gap assessment

We are on track to meet our commitment to identify internal workforce development needs

Looking ahead: 2025-2026



Accelerating and sustaining our climate work

- Accelerating our work
 - Continued funding streams
 - Additional dedicated staff
 - High-level staff accountability to our commitments sustaining our work
- We are 2.5 years into a 5-year plan
 - Ready to think about **CAWP version 2.0**, which we would anticipate in late 2026.
 - 2.0 will continue and enhance actions in the current plan

Continued action at the regional level is key to advancing Minnesota's climate work

Climate Action Work Plan Team Members

We're on this together

Community Development

- LisaBeth Barajas*
- Heather Giesel
- Zhu Gong*
- Gillian Greenberg
- Paul Hanson
- Sam Limerick
- Stephanie Paulsen
- Kevin Phan
- Kenny Smith
- Terri Smith
- Angela Torres*
- Lucy Tschida
- Peter Wilfahrt
- Zoey Yandell

**Action or Working Group Leads*

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- Walter Atkins
- Amanda Cerne
- John Chlebeck
- Steve Christopher
- John D. Clark
- Craig Edlund
- Laura Fischer
- Terry Gilchrist
- Andrea Kaufman
- Ben Keenan
- Jen Kostrzewski*
- Chuck LaPierre
- Sam Paske*
- Trevor Prater
- Deborah Rose
- Emily Schon
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- Dan White
- Eric Wojchik*
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- Chelsey Palmateer
- Marilyn Porter
- Kristin Thompson
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Metropolitan Transportation Services

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- Heidi Schallberg
- Amy Vennewitz*

Regional Administration

- Lisa Belland
- Becky Grams
- Richard Hammonds
- Kelly Jameson
- Melissa Johnson
- Jeanne Landkamer*
- Kathy Matter*
- Greg Kaslow

Questions?



What else would you like to know?

- Additional metrics that we have not shared?
- Projects that are of interest?
- Greenhouse gas emissions updates?

Partnerships:

- Are there additional people we should connect with in this work?
- Are there external partners or activities to be aware of as we proceed?



Thank You

Climate Action Work Plan Coordinating Team

LisaBeth Barajas - Community Development

Jeff Freeman - Metro Transit

Kathy Matter - Regional Administration

Sam Paske - Environmental Services

Jen Kostrzewski – Environmental Services

Amy Vennewitz - Metropolitan Transportation Services

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