



# Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience: Proposed Policy Direction

For confirmation August 28, 2013

## Overall direction

---

The Metropolitan Council will explicitly address issues connected to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in *Thrive MSP 2040* by using climate impacts as a lens through which to examine all of its work. The Council has already made significant strides in addressing climate change impacts through its operational sustainability policy; with *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Council will incorporate climate change impacts more systematically and intentionally in its planning work, including both *Thrive MSP 2040* itself and the *Thrive* systems and policy plans.

With this lens, the Council will look for opportunities to use both its operational and planning authorities to plan for and respond to the effects of climate change, both challenges and opportunities. This will include, but not be limited to, parks and open space, transit, transportation and land use, wastewater treatment, and water supply.

## Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals

---

*Thrive MSP 2040* will reference the state's goals for greenhouse gas reduction that were adopted in 2007. The Council will explore how to monitor regional greenhouse gas emissions to identify opportunities to encourage greenhouse gas reductions.

The Council will create incentives to reward local governments that set and make progress on local greenhouse gas reduction goals. The Council's approach will focus on positive approaches unless and until:

- the region is at foreseeable yet avoidable risk of falling out of air quality attainment status with the Environmental Protection Agency; or
- the collective financial cost to the region of non-action would justify the Council taking a stronger approach of mandating changes in local behavior; or
- further analysis identifies a critical need for additional regional action.

## Information and technical assistance to support regional and local climate change planning

---

The Metropolitan Council will expand the information and technical assistance it provides to local governments to support regional and local climate change planning and assist local governments:

- The Council will develop expertise in developing, collecting and disseminating information about climate change, including energy and climate data, the next generation of the Regional Indicators data, and a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- The Council will also provide technical assistance to the region's local governments, including identifying risks, best practices and model ordinances for climate change mitigation and adaptation and working in partnership with the MPCA's statewide Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

The Council will provide information to local jurisdictions about the risks of not responding or preparing for climate change and encourage local governments to plan and prepare for climate change, including incorporating climate change planning into their local comprehensive plans.

Additionally, the Council will collaborate with regional leadership and convene local governments and the broader community to address climate change mitigation and adaptation within the region. These expanded roles in information and technical assistance will help the Council be a resource to both local governments and the region at large. The Council intends to be a prominent player in elevating this important issue that affects the long-term viability of the Minneapolis-St. Paul region.

***Additional detail about climate change risks, mitigation, adaptation and resilience will be developed and adopted in the Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan, the Transportation Policy Plan, the Water Resources Policy Plan, and the Water Supply Master Plan.***

Revised August 22, 2013