

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 11, 2015

Subject: 2015 Work Plan for Climate Change Initiative

District(s), Member(s): ALL

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Land Planning Act

Staff Prepared/Presented: LisaBeth Barajas, Manager of Local Planning Assistance (651-602-1895)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None. Information item only.

Background

Thrive MSP 2040 identifies Sustainability as one of its five outcomes. In addition, *Thrive* details 7 land use policies, one of which is Building in Resilience. This policy states: “Promote sensitive land use and development patterns to contribute toward achieving Minnesota’s adopted greenhouse gas emission goals at the regional scale, and to develop local resilience to the impacts of climate change.”

Under this Resilience land use policy, *Thrive* identifies roles that the Council will play for the all communities, and more specific roles for different community designations. The 2015 work plan for the Climate Change initiative builds off of the Council roles identified in *Thrive*. For 2015, Council staff will work on the following as part of the initiative.

- Improving technical assistance for local governments around resiliency issues by:
 - Formalizing our partnership with GreenStep Cities
 - Developing resources and technical capacity to support local governments with solar energy and alternative energy installation
 - Working with external partners on the continued data collection and maintenance started by the ULI Regional Indicators project
 - Working with regional partners to develop a climate vulnerability assessment for the region
- Building the data and developing partnerships with state agencies and other regional partners for an Urban Forestry Program
- Working with partners to support the on-going collection of temperature monitoring data across the region

Many tools and resources will be built into our new *Local Planning Handbook*, which is scheduled for completion in September of 2015. These resources will be useful not just in the development of local comprehensive plans, but can also be used today to support the implementation of local plans that have already identified climate change and sustainability strategies.

Another component of our work involves strengthening and developing partnerships with state agencies and other regional partners to accomplish

shared climate change objectives. Many of the outcomes of these partnerships will ultimately result in additional tools, resources, data, and programs for local governments, but the work in 2015 will focus on the development of components that will be made available in future years.