



# Application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

Business Item 2023-87



Community Development Committee

April 17, 2023



# Today's Discussion



## Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Opportunity

- Overview of grant opportunity
  - What it entails
  - Timelines
- Alignment with Regional Planning Efforts
- Seek Council authorization to apply for grant



# Climate Pollution Reduction Grants



- Phase 1: \$250 million – noncompetitive planning grants
- Phase 2: \$4.6 billion – competitive implementation grants

\$1 million available for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



# Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, EPA



## Objectives of the Grant

1. Encourage states, air agencies, municipalities, and Tribes to **work together to create comprehensive pathways for reducing pollution** and ensuring that investments maximize benefits, **especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities.**
2. Provide state, local, and Tribal partners with **flexible planning resources to assess and prepare to deploy resources** provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, American Rescue Plan, and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act, and to develop new state and local laws and policies to maximize emission reduction.
3. Drive **transformative and scalable decarbonization efforts** in key sectors by enacting innovative policies and programs that can scale across jurisdictions.



# Grant Requirements for MSA Plans



- Regional coordination
- Collaborate with local governments
- Identify priority measures that can be implemented by collaborators
- Conduct public and stakeholder engagement
- Can use State Climate Action Framework and existing local climate planning efforts as foundation
- Informs and connects to 2050 Development Guide

# Grant Application Timeline

April 28<sup>th</sup>

- Submit Notice of Intent to Participate (NOIP)

May 31<sup>st</sup>

- Submit application, along with workplan and budget

Summer 2023

- Planning grant funding awarded

Late 2023

- EPA issues notice of funding opportunities for implementation grants

First quarter 2024

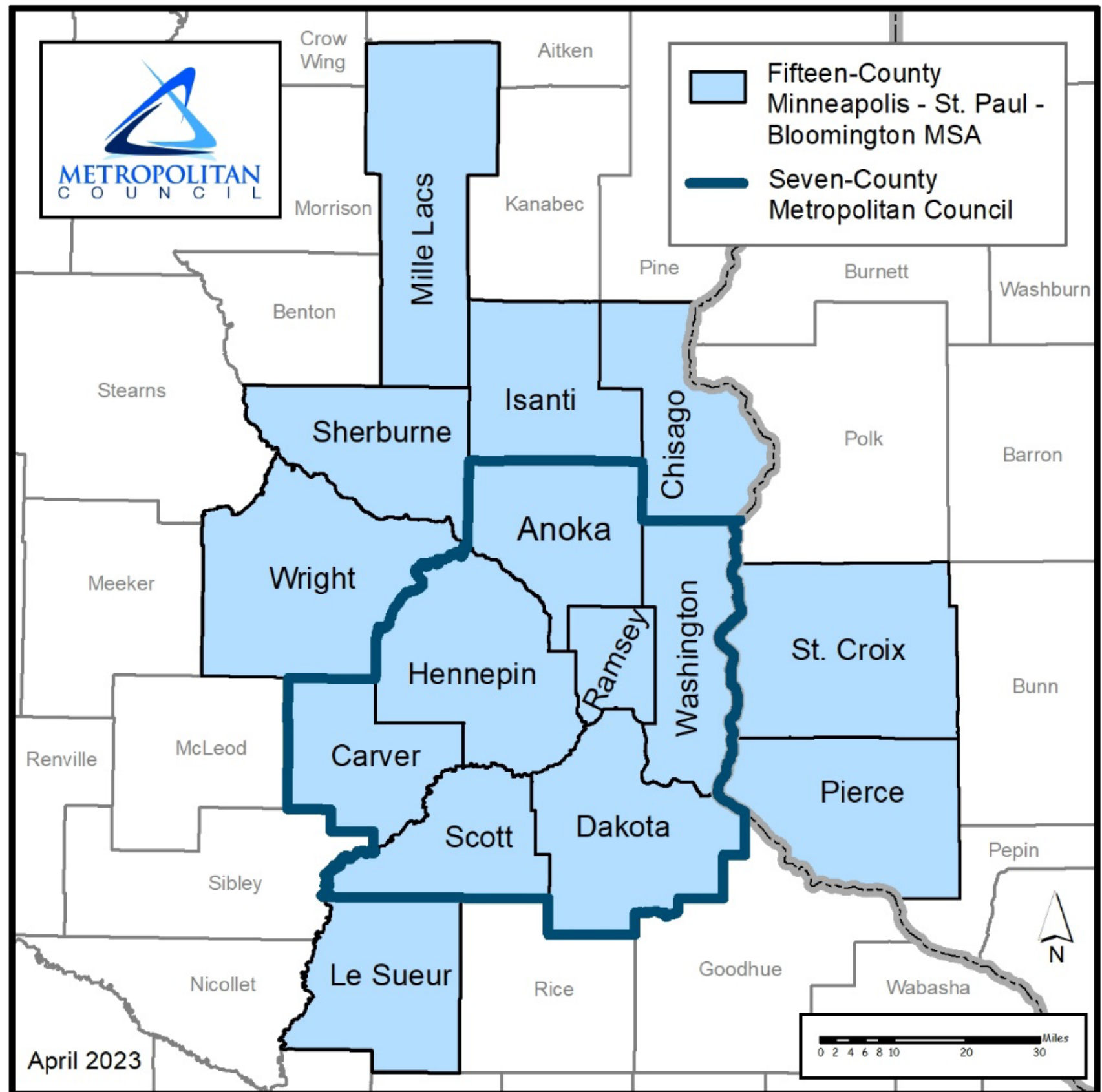
- Applications for implementation funds due



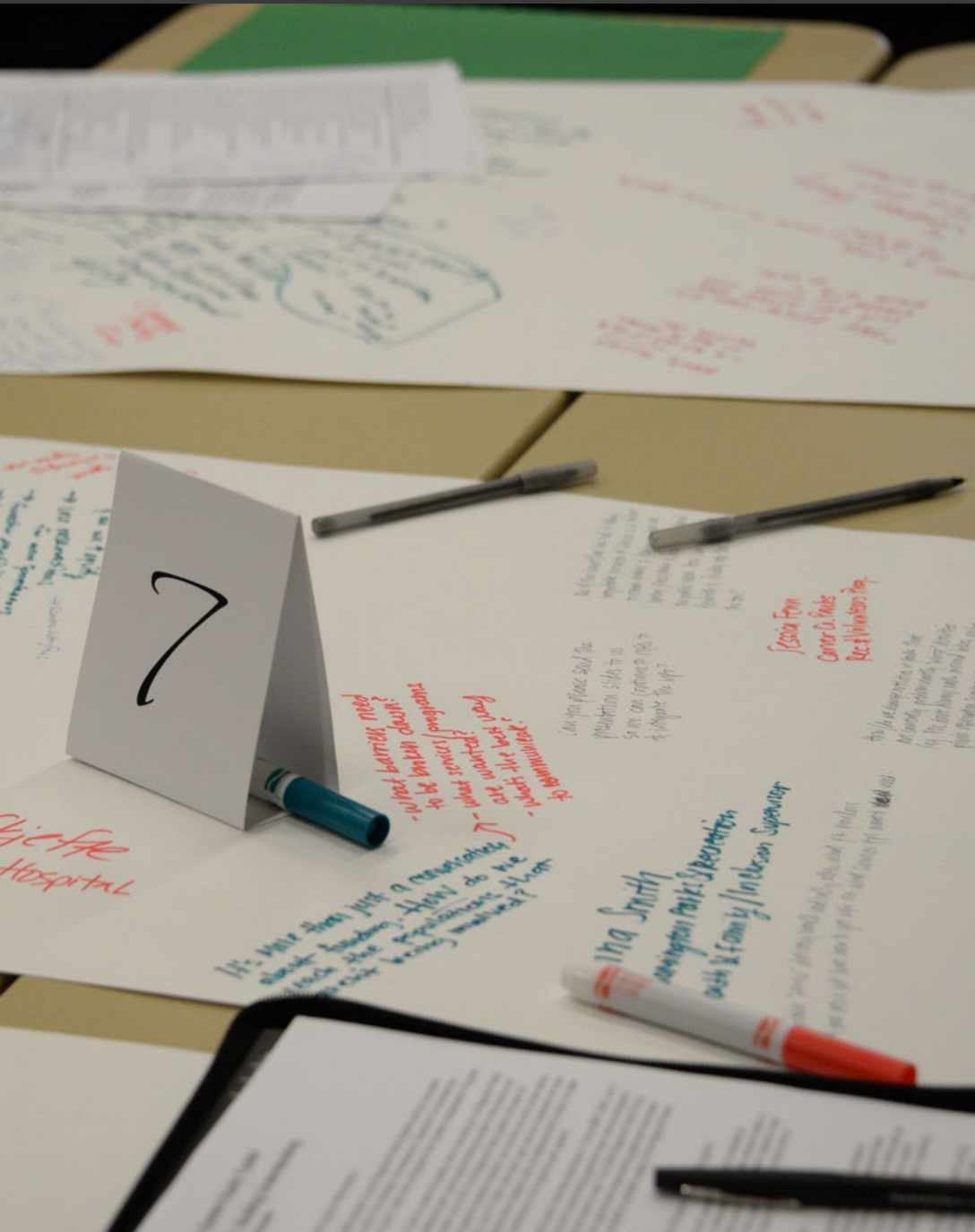
# Geographic Scope

Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area

Coordination with the State planning grant effort



# Coordination Efforts



## Engaging with Jurisdictions Across the 15-County MSA

- Pollution Control Agency
- Agencies as a part of the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate Change
- Bloomington, St. Paul, Minneapolis
- Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Sherburne County
- Region 9 Development Commission
- East Central Regional Development Commission
- Climate Cities Coalition
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Upcoming scheduled meetings with:
  - Wisconsin state and county representatives
  - 7-county metro counties
  - Additional MSA counties



# Planning Grant Deliverables

## Deliverables build on one another

### Priority Climate Action Plan

- Due March 1, 2024
- Near-term, high-priority, action-ready greenhouse gas reduction measures
- Prerequisite for implementation grant

### Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

- Due summer-fall 2025
- Near- and long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and strategies
- All sectors

### Status report

- Due summer-fall 2027
- Updated analyses and plans
- Progress and next steps for key metrics



# Priority Climate Action Plan

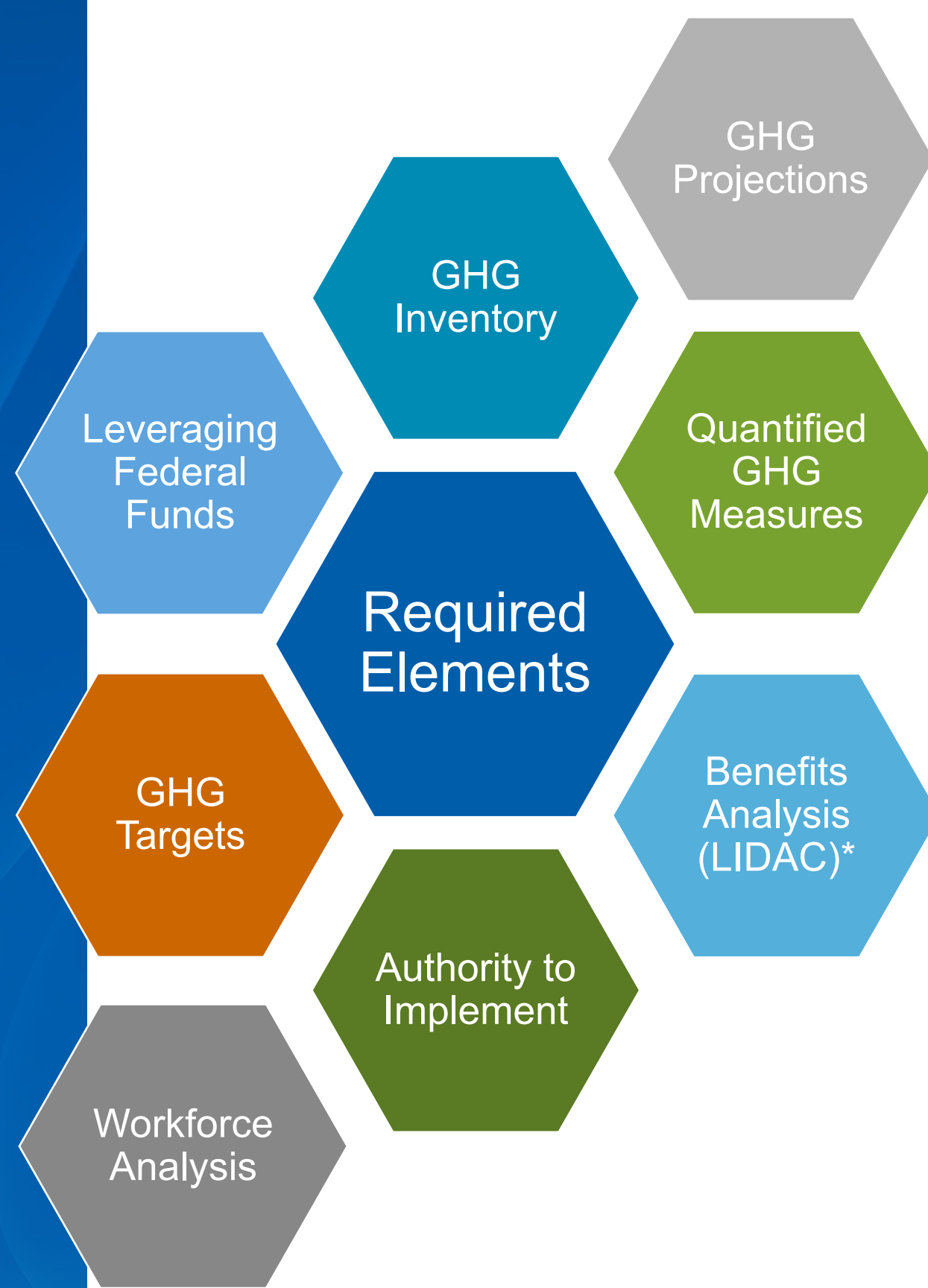


- Due March 1, 2024
- Identifies near-term action items to prepare for implementation grants
- Can focus on specific sector(s) or sources
- Limited set of requirements that set foundations for informed decisions
- May build on previous climate planning efforts

\* Low Income and Disadvantaged Community



# Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

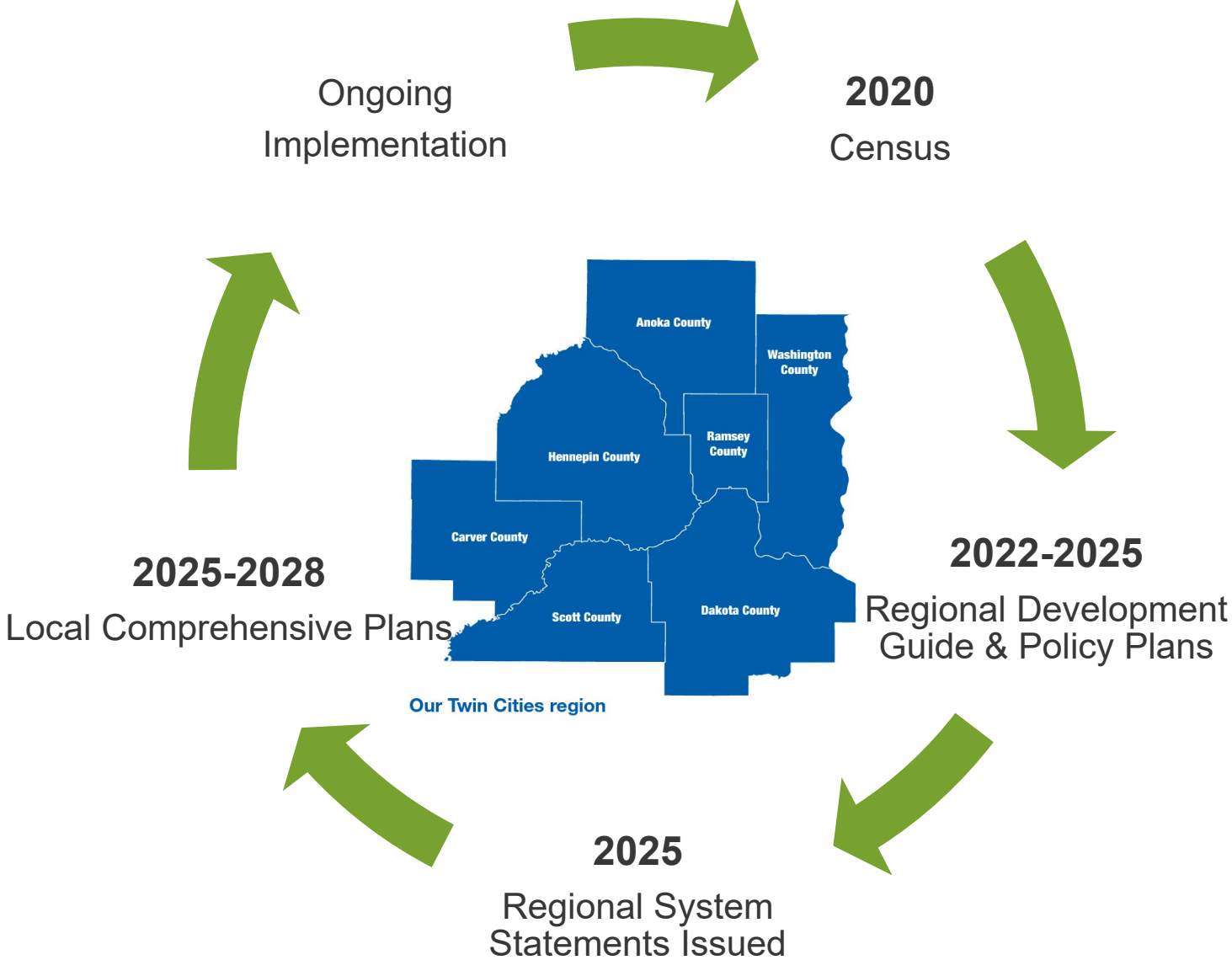


- Due 2 years from the date of award (~summer 2025)
- Covers GHG reduction measures across **all significant sources/sinks and sectors**
- Establishes near-term and **long-term** GHG emission reduction targets
- Adds required analyses to support robust implementation

\* Low Income and Disadvantaged Community



# Connection to 2050 Regional Planning





# 2050 Regional Planning – Draft Vision

## **Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming**

Our quality of life is high by national standards but not all communities share in this. We envision a future where inequities and injustices have been eliminated and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.

## **Our Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant**

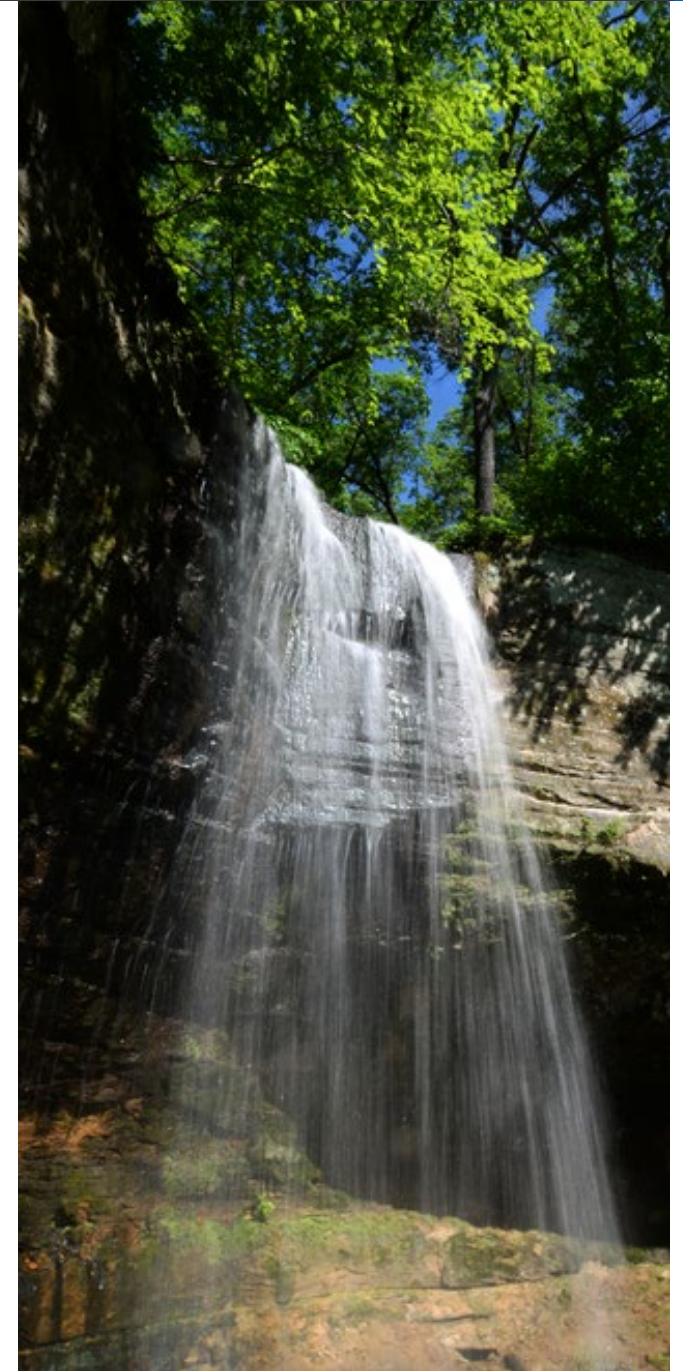
The wellbeing of our region depends on the strength and inclusiveness of our economy as well as the quality, safety, and reliability of our public infrastructure and services. We envision a future where all our region's residents can live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, agency, and wellbeing.

## **We Lead on Addressing Climate Change**

Our region leads on the critical issue of climate change. We envision a future where we have eliminated or mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient.

## **We Protect and Restore Natural Systems**

Our region has world class parks and abundant natural resources. We envision a future where natural systems are increasingly protected, integrated, and restored to ensure a high quality of life for our growing region.





# Findings



- Alignment with climate policy work for the 2050 regional development guide
- Alignment and existing of efforts underway or completed
  - Council has completed some required elements already
  - Build on local climate action plans
  - Connection with State Climate Action Framework and State grant efforts
- Advancing the Sustainability outcome in *Thrive MSP 2040*
- Consistent with Council Policy FM 15-1
  - Consistent with Council's mission and priorities



# Proposed Actions



That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Executive Director of the Community Development Division to:

1. Develop and submit a Notice of Intent to Participate as the lead agency, a grant application, and related materials for the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program.
2. Negotiate and execute the cooperative agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency.





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