# 2050 Comprehensive Planning Technical Assistance Overview

Community Development Committee

**Emma Dvorak, Gillian Greenberg, and Angela R. Torres**

August 2025

# Today’s Agenda

## Technical Assistance Overview

### Sector Representatives and Technical Teams

### Local Planning Handbook Update

- Plan Elements
- Community Pages
- Checklist of Minimum Requirements
- GHG Strategy Tools and Climate Action Toolkit
- Natural Systems Planning Tools
- Housing Interactive Tool and Housing Toolkit

### Planning Assistance Grants and Small Communities Planning Program

### PlanIt Program Update

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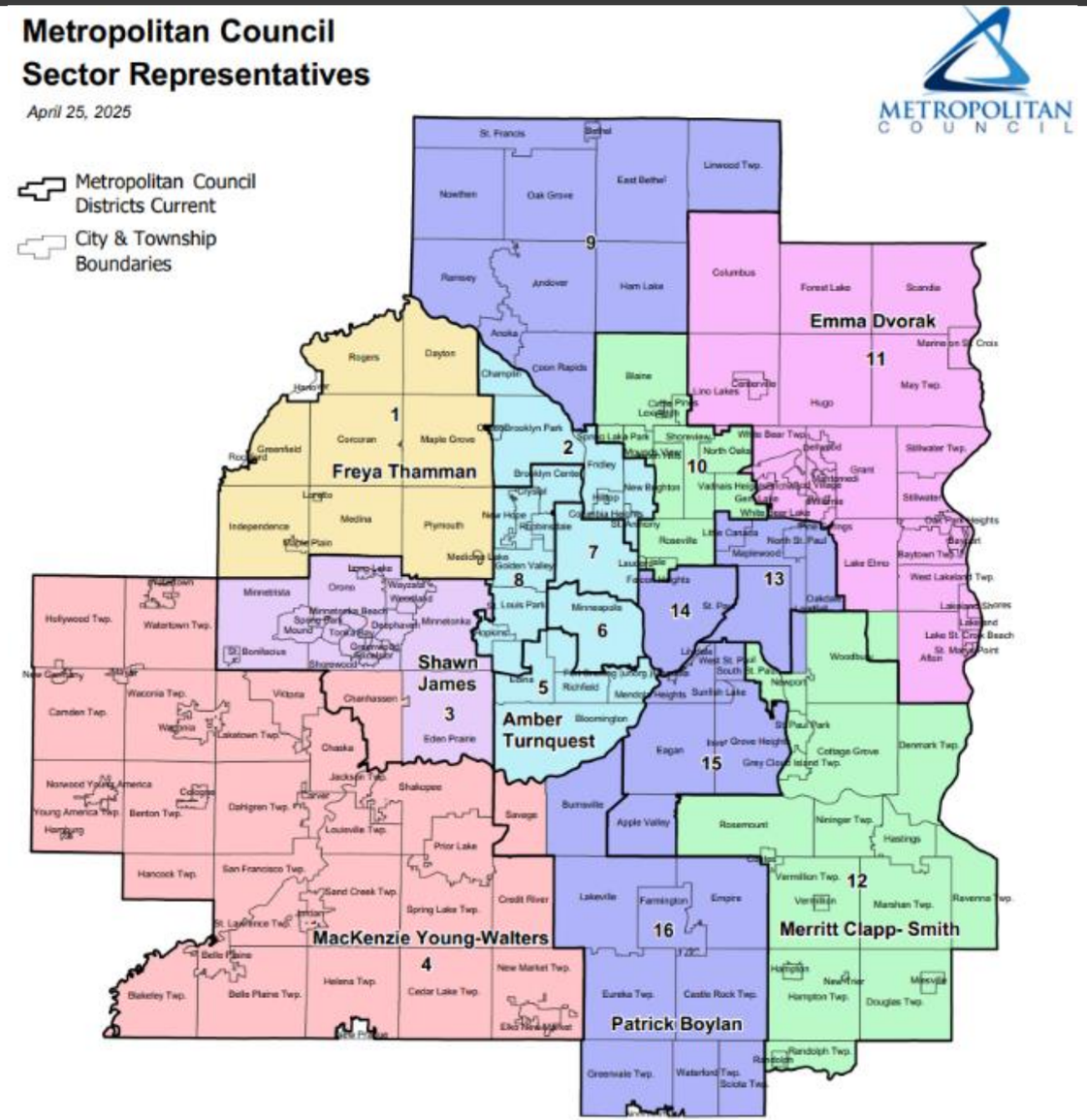
# Sector Representatives and Technical Teams

# Sector Representatives

## Sector Representatives

- Communicate across boundaries and work units
- Provide technical assistance to local governments
- Coordinate the Council's review process
- Develop and implement regional policy

- Link to Current Sector Representatives Map



# Training for Technical Reviewers

## Comprehensive Plan Review Training and Criteria Development

**Training program for technical reviewers**

- Prepare for the 2050 process
- Develop and hold periodic “refresher” events
- Train and onboarding new staff throughout the process.

**Goals**

1. **Shared understanding**: knowledge of the standards and criteria for conducting reviews
2. **Communicate**: share reasoning behind review determinations internally
3. **Efficiency and Transparency**: Identifying the errors and how to best communicate to local governments

# Supporting Process Updates

## Analyze, review, and revise process guidance as needed

- Most recent update (November 2022):
  Administrative Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- Program Updates
  - Plat Monitoring Program

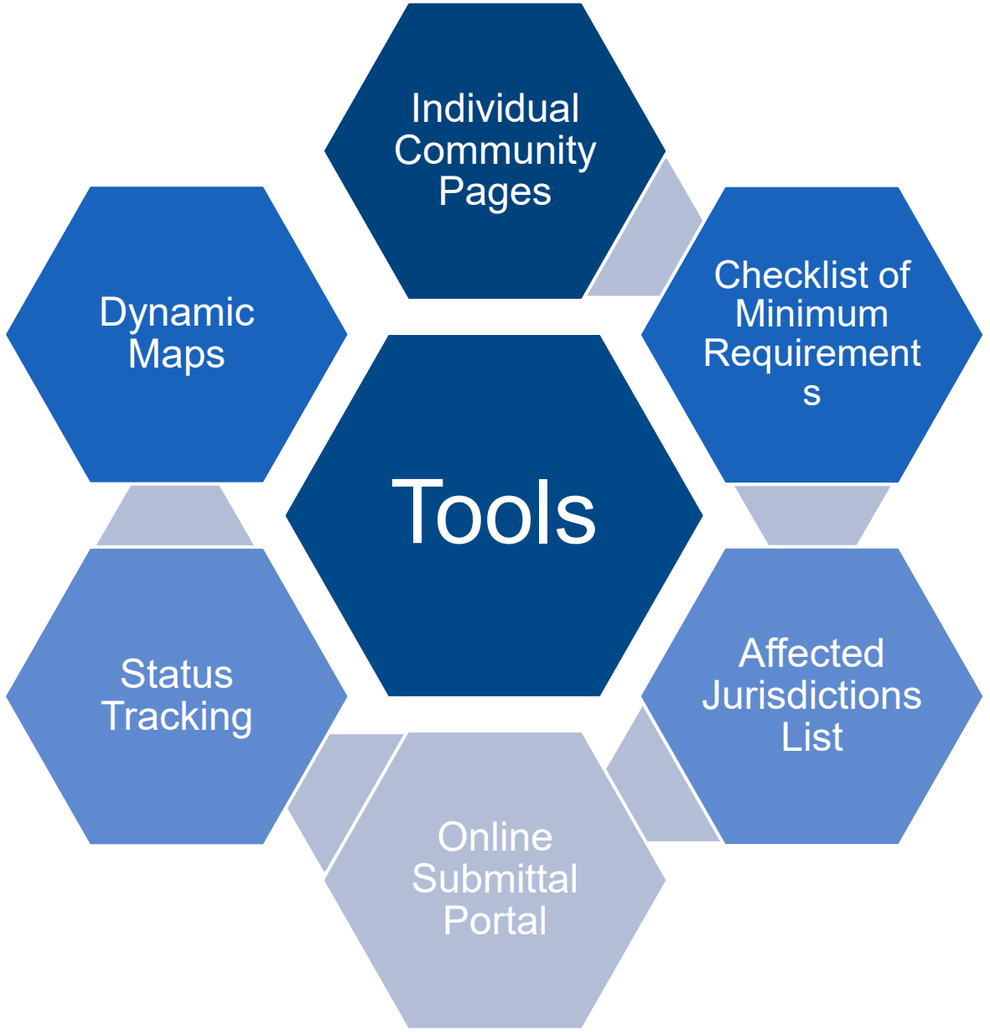
- Updates to Process and Guidelines (planned or underway)
  - MUSA Implementation Guidelines
  - Flexible Development Guidelines
  - Preliminary Plan Review Process
  - Comprehensive Plan Review Process

# Local Planning Handbook Update

# Local Planning Handbook

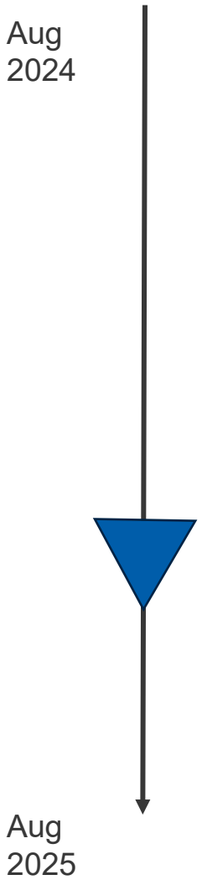
## The One-Stop-Shop for Comprehensive Planning

- Designed to support communities with the update of their local comprehensive plans.
- Clear guidance on minimum requirements and how to meet them
- Tools, maps, resources, and technical assistance
  - To help meet minimum requirements
  - To get more out of their local planning process
  - To help with a variety of planning issues of interest to communities across the region
- Community-specific information and checklists
- Training and resources beyond the minimum requirements



# 2050 Local Planning Handbook Update

## Process and Timeline




- Internal scoping and planning
- Test the user experience (current site)
- Engagement with local governments on clarity and comprehension of minimum requirements checklists, user testing of website, and overall functionality feedback
- Internal content audit and coordination
- Update tools, content, and online platform to reflect Imagine 2050 policy direction
- Test user experience on new platform
- Launch the updated Local Planning Handbook in August 2025

# Plan Element Pages

## Landing page for each required chapter

- Explore minimum requirements and related resources
  - Dynamic tools
  - Factsheets
  - Templates
  - Policy Plan Summary
  - Links to External Resources

- Get More Out Of Your Plan
  - Information and resources to help communities go beyond the minimum requirements.

**Land Use Minimum Requirements: All**

Select a community: All | Policy topic: All | New requirements for 2050: All 2050 Requirements | Clear Filters

| Policy topic | Ref No. | Minimum requirement description | Resource(s) for this requirement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 1.0 | Include a table of forecasted population, households, and employment for 2030, 2040, and 2050, consistent with the Met Council's forecasts. | How to Request a Local Forecast Change Fact Sheet |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 1.0 | Include a table of forecasted population, households, and employment for 2030, 2040, and 2050, consistent with the Met Council's forecasts. | See Community Page |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 2.0 | Met Council forecasts must be used consistently throughout your entire comprehensive plan. | |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 2.1 | Your transportation plan needs to utilize allocated forecasts to transportation analysis zones (TAZs) as published by the Met Council. | TAZ (Official TAZ System w/3,030 Zones) with Current Forecasts - Resources - Minnesota Geospatial Commons |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 2.2 | Your water and wastewater plans need to reflect forecasts to plan for urban services. | See Community Page |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 2.3 | Your land use plan must reflect and accommodate your forecasts. | See Community Page |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 3.0 | Include a map acknowledging your regional Community Designation(s) and state the overall density expectations for your Community Designation(s). | Imagine 2050 Community Designations - Resources - Minnesota Geospatial Commons |
| Forecasts and Community Designations | 3.0 | Include a map acknowledging your regional Community Designation(s) and state the overall density expectations for your Community Designation(s). | See Community Page |
| Existing Land Use | 4.0 | Provide an Existing Land Use Map with a land use legend. | Fact Sheet- 2016 Generalized Land Use Definitions |
| Existing Land Use | 4.0 | Provide an Existing Land Use Map with a land use legend. | Generalized Land Use 2020 - Resources - Minnesota Geospatial Commons |
| Existing Land Use | 4.0 | Provide an Existing Land Use Map with a land use legend. | Visit your Community Page |
| Existing Land Use | 4.1 | Show existing regional parks, park reserves, and special features with a land use of "Park" (or your equivalent) on your Existing Land Use Map. | |
| Existing Land Use | 5.0 | Provide an Existing Land Use Table. Calculate total acres and percent of total acres for each land use category. | Visit your Community Page |

# Community Pages: Personalized Content

**Regional interactive Map**

**Key Contact Info**

**Downloadable Data:**
- Population Forecasts
- Affordable Housing Need Number
- Sewer Allocation Forecasts

## Anoka

Use the interactive mapping tool to explore Met Council's 2050 planning and policy layers:

View Anoka interactive map


2050 Comprehensive Plan - Get Started | Maps | Resources | Submittal Status

### Get started with these resources:

- Regional Development Guide
- System Statement for Anoka
- Checklist of Minimum Requirements for Anoka
- How to Submit

**Ready-to-Go Maps**

**System Statements**

**Minimum Requirements Checklist**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sector Rep** | Patrick Boylan |
| **District** | 9 |
| **Council Member** | Diego Morales |

### Forecasts and Community Designations

The Council updates its long-range forecasts at least once per decade. Forecasts indicate when, where and how much population, household and job growth the region and its communities can expect. Forecasts are used to help plan infrastructure needs and weave consistent growth expectations throughout your plan. These are your recent adopted forecasts.

**Anoka** is designated as **Urban Edge**.

**Anoka Population, Households and Employment Forecasts**

| Forecast | 2020 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population | 17,921 | 18,400 | 19,400 | 21,200 |
| Households | 7,578 | 7,900 | 8,500 | 9,300 |
| Employment | 13,415 | 14,500 | 15,500 | 15,700 |

*data current as of 2/12/2025*

Download as CSV

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# Checklist of Minimum Requirements

## One of the most critical resources in the Handbook

- The ***Minimum Requirements Checklist*** is a key resource in the Local Planning Handbook and must be clear and user-friendly.

- Each community (188 total) will receive a customized checklist

- Focus groups convened to:
  - Improve clarity and accessibility of requirements
  - Identify resource gaps

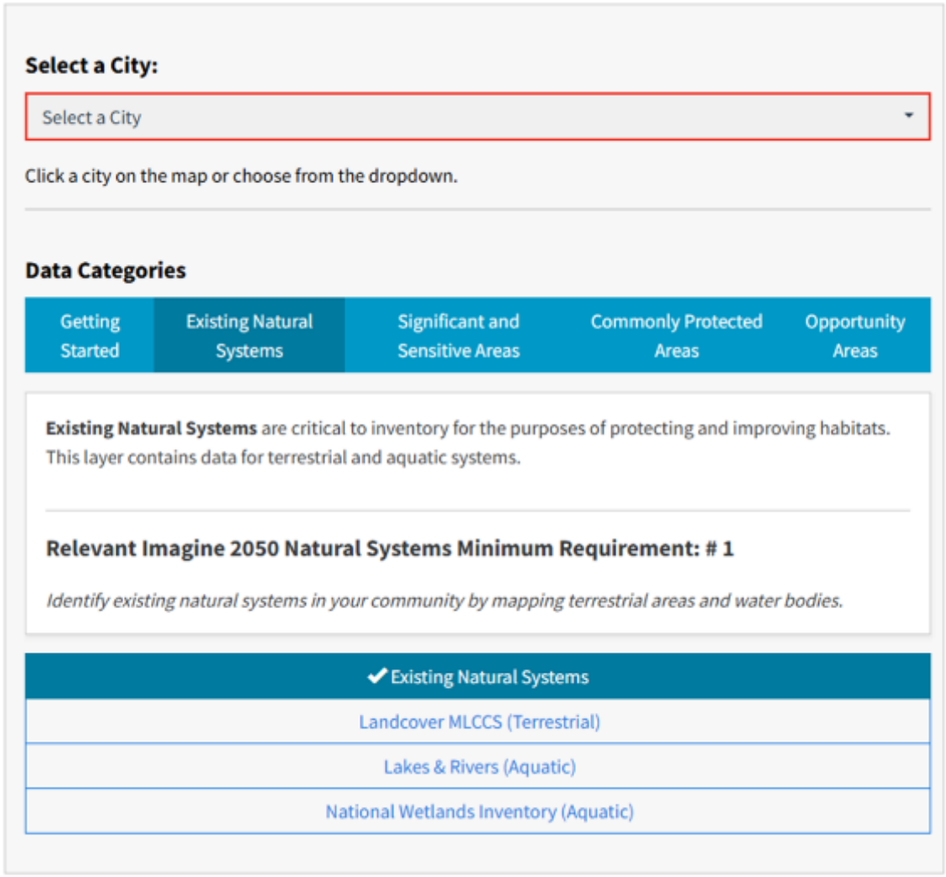
# Natural Systems Planning Tools

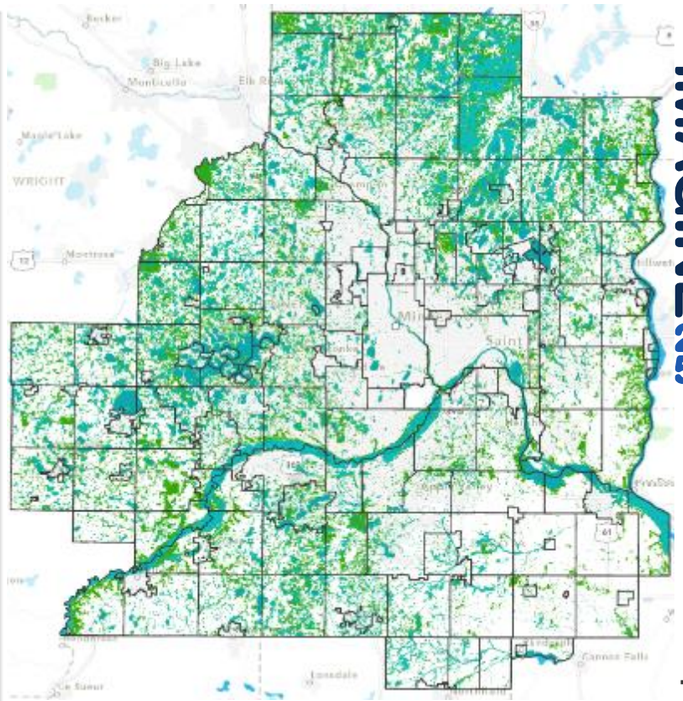
## Providing a natural systems regional planning framework

A mapping tool will help cities meet their requirements by connecting data to planning concepts.

A story map will provide context for the mapping tool.

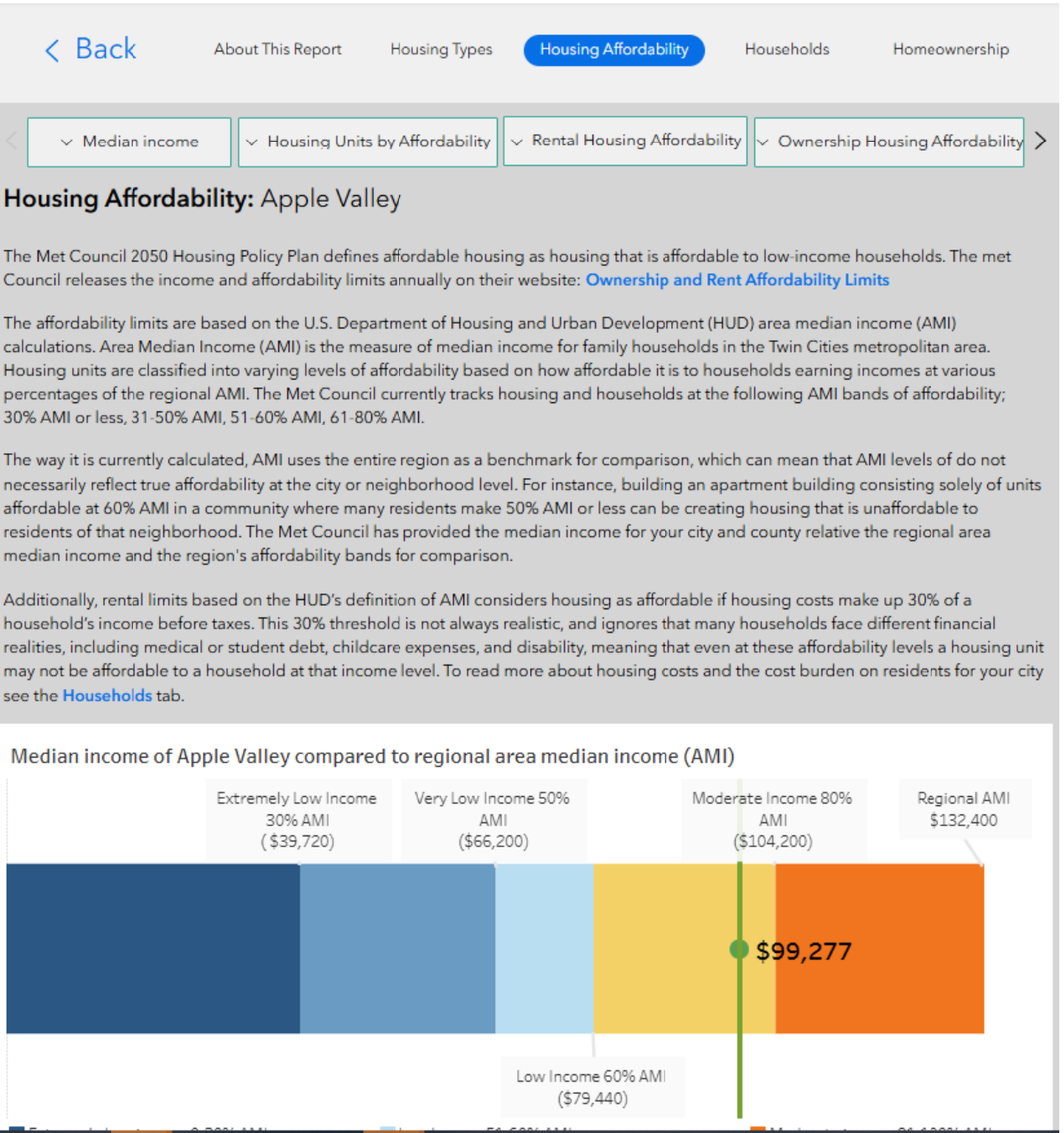
Natural systems strategies will be part of the climate action toolkit.



Natural Systems Planning Tool Demo: [Natural-systems-mapping-tool-test]

# Housing Interactive Tool




## Local housing data

- Comprehensive plan requirements include an assessment of existing housing conditions
- Met Council will provide all required data as well as:
  - historical trends
  - downloadable charts
  - explanations about how the data can be used to determine local housing needs
  - connections to local and regional housing policies

# Housing Toolkit

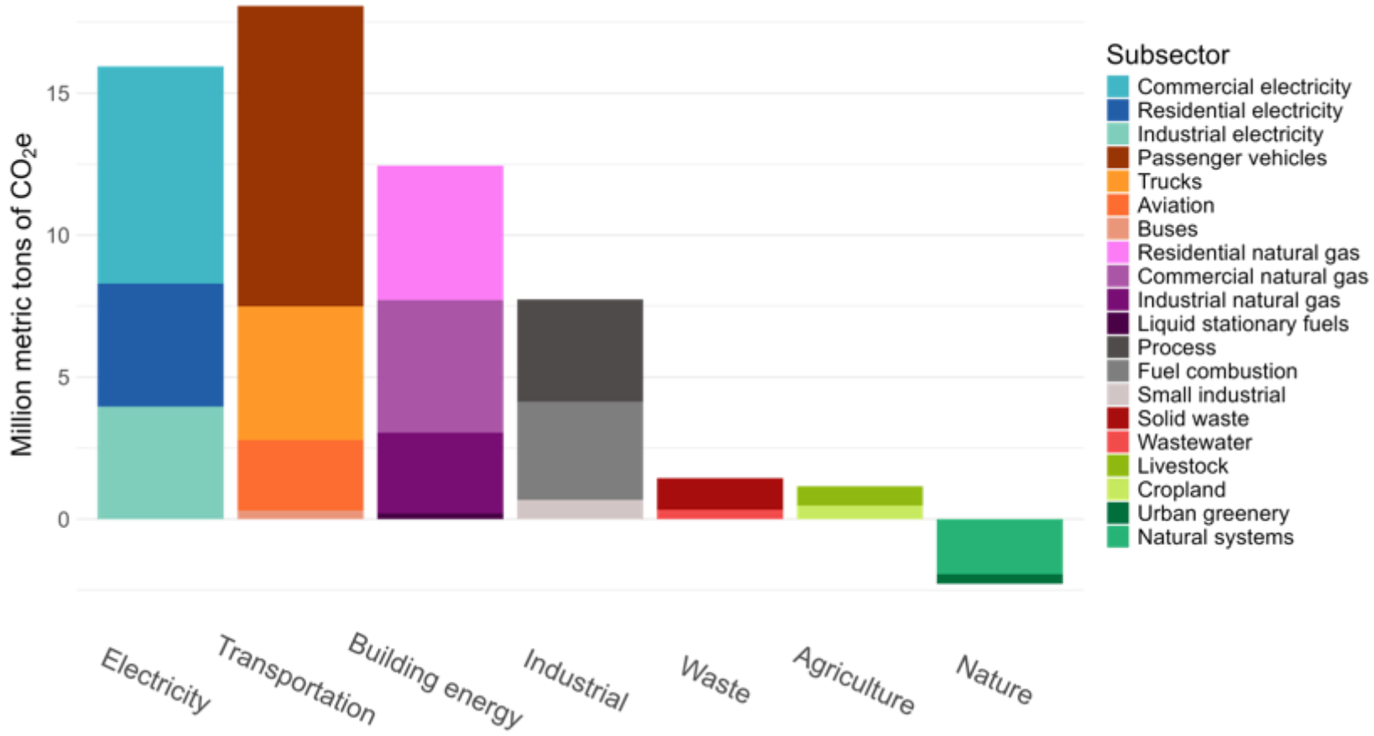
## Assisting local governments identifying implementation strategies

- Purpose: Provide a technical resource to assist local government partners in identifying housing actions for their comprehensive plans
- Toolkit of housing policies, programs and fiscal devices connected to various local and regional housing needs, each tool will have:
    - Considerations for implementation
    - Local examples
    - Best Practices
    - Ease/barriers to implementation
    - Met Council funding availability (LCA and HUD PRO funding)
    - Additional resources

# GHG Strategy Planning Tool

## Meeting new climate requirements

- The tool will have a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for each community
- It will also allow communities to project the emissions impacts of GHG reduction strategies



**Planning Tool**

GHG Inventory | Land Use | Building Energy | Transportation | Natural Systems | Summary Panel

Building Emissions Introduction

## Why Building Energy Matters

Building Energy is one of the highest GHG emissions sources in the region. Buildings use both electricity and natural gas to provide light, heating, cooling, and to run appliances. Addressing GHG emissions from building energy comes from lowering overall energy use through energy efficiency measures and, when combined with a decarbonized electric grid, moving any natural gas powered uses to electricity.

We calculate residential building energy demand based on your municipality's housing characteristics, such as number of housing types (e.g. single family detached, multifamily units), average building age, and average square footage of living space. Emissions are calculated based off known greenhouse gas emission factors from fossil fuel combustion. Electricity emissions are based on current and future estimates of the Minnesota electricity grid mix. Minnesota has statutory requirements for a carbon-free grid in 2040 and this is modeled here.

## Your Housing Profile (2022)

| Building Type | Total Dwellings in 2022 | Total Expected Dwellings in 2050 |
|---|---|---|
| Multifamily units | 10400 | 13200 |
| Single family attached | 6200 | 6600 |
| Single family detached | 14400 | 15500 |
| Manufactured homes | 0 | 0 |

Building data explained

These numbers are the estimated number of housing units in each building type as of 2022 and forecasts for 2050. Housing forecasts are based on Metropolitan Council modeling that considers land use plans, existing building stock, and other demographic characteristics.

For attached and multifamily houses, dwellings represent household residential units, not buildings

Building types combine owner-occupied and rental units, which are assumed to have the same energy profiles.

Data source: Metropolitan Council housing estimates derived from various datasets.

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Residential building emissions inventory and projections

Planning Tool

GHG Inventory | Land Use | Building Energy | Transportation | Natural Systems | Summary Panel

Building Emissions Introduction

Residential building emissions inventory and projections

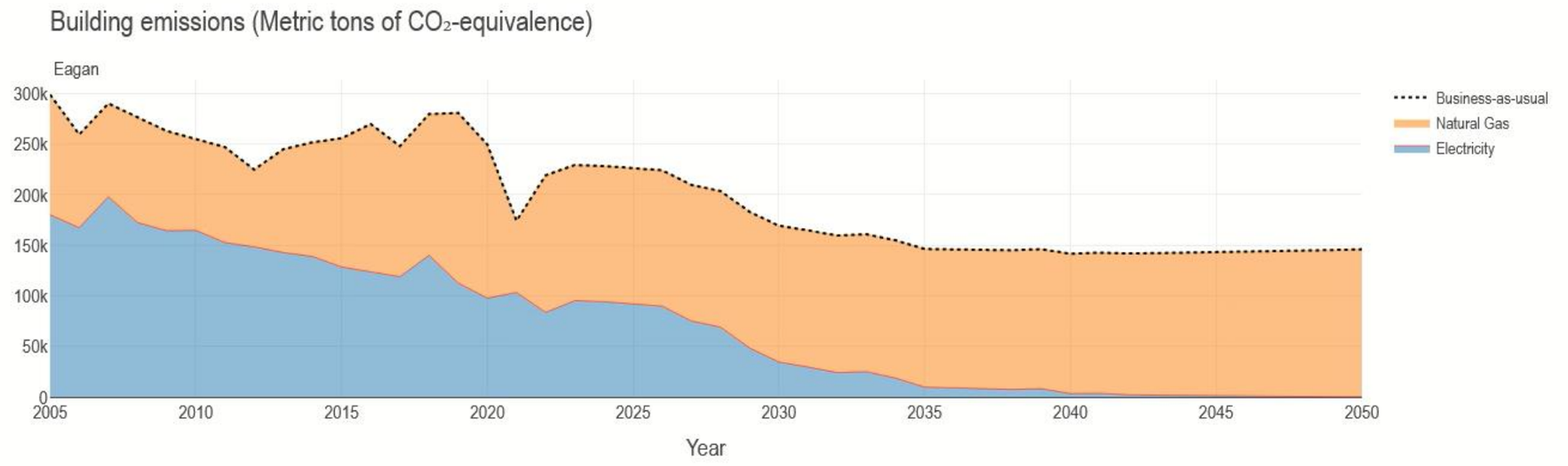
## What to know

This is the residential emissions profile for your city from 2005 to 2050 projections.

Emissions are expected to decline through 2040 without any local action due to the state-mandated decarbonization of our electrical grid.

Below you can select strategies to reduce projected emissions and see the cumulative impact of your choices at the bottom of this module.

Residential emissions through time

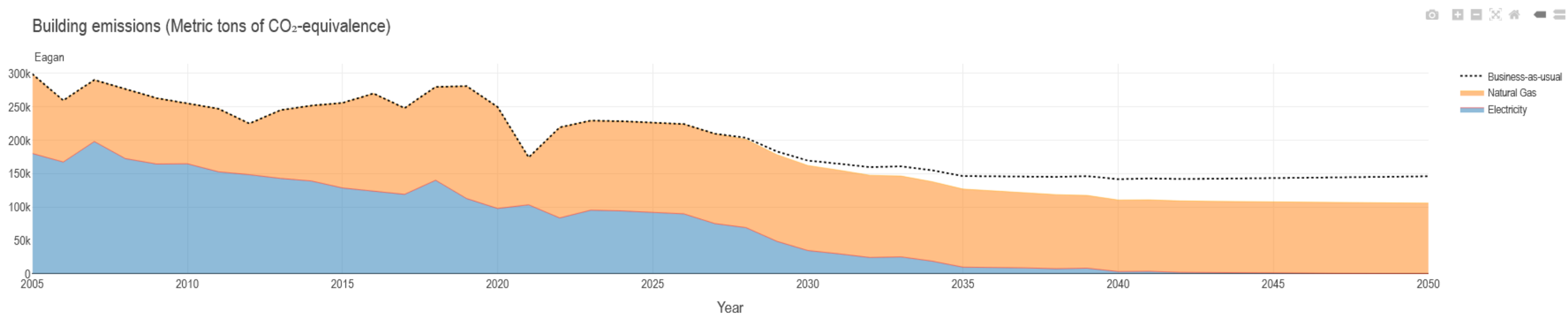



Strategy 1: Efficient New Buildings

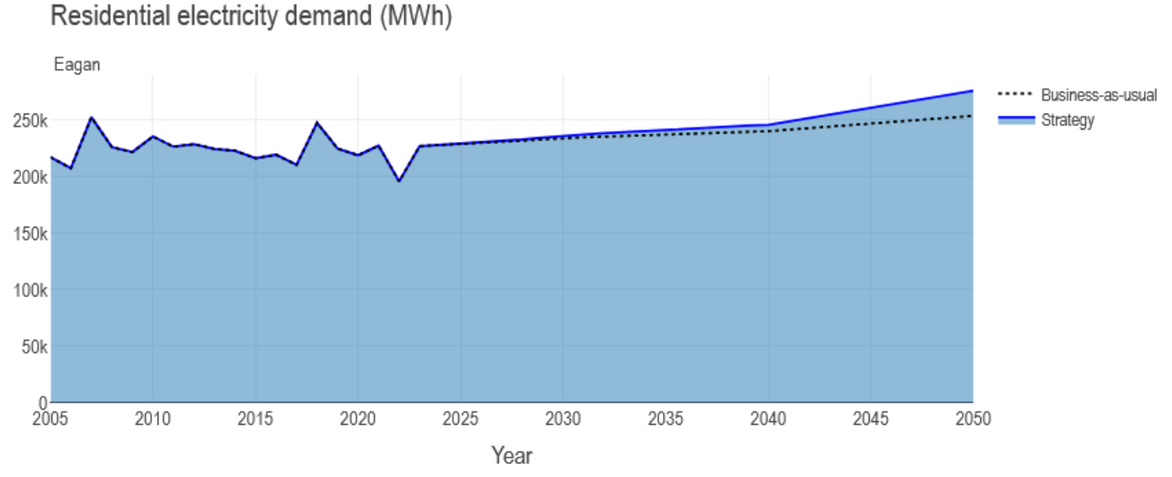
Strategy 2: Retrofit Existing Buildings

Run All Strategies

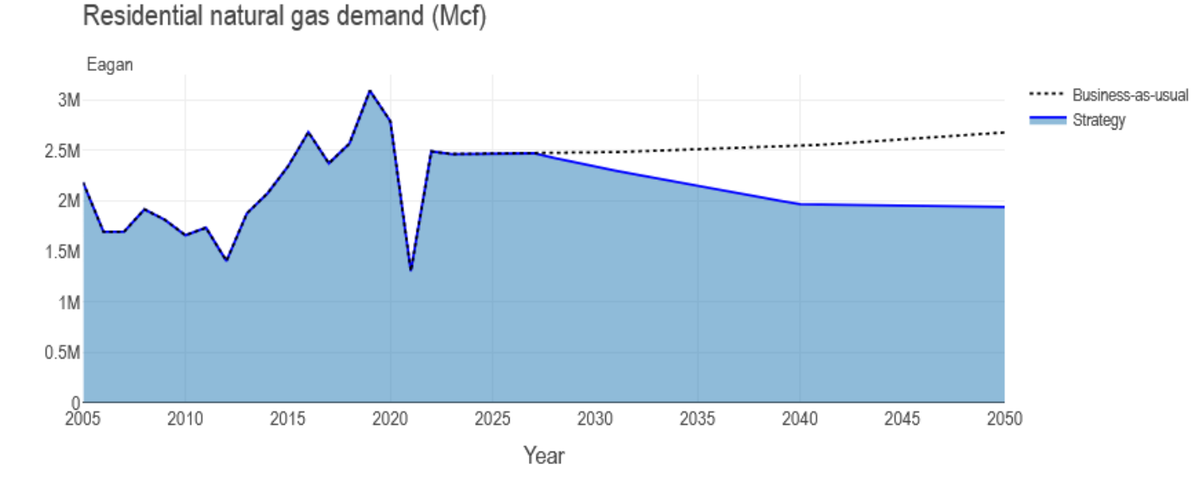
Residential emissions through time




Electricity Activity




Natural Gas Activity



Strategy Impact Summary

## Understanding the Results

The summary table on the right compares business-as-usual (BAU) projections with the outcomes from your selected climate strategies.

### Key Impact Metrics

2030 Emissions Reduction:

• 7221 metric tons CO2e (4.3% reduction from BAU)
2050 Emissions Reduction:

• 40167 metric tons CO2e (27.5% reduction from BAU)
Comparison to 2005 Baseline:

• 2030 BAU: 43.4% reduction from 2005

• 2030 with strategies: 45.8% reduction from 2005

• 2050 BAU: 51.2% reduction from 2005

• 2050 with strategies: 64.6% reduction from 2005

Key metrics include:

- **MWh:** Megawatt-hours of electricity consumption
- **MCF:** Thousand cubic feet of natural gas consumption
- **Emissions:** Greenhouse gas emissions in metric tons CO2 equivalent

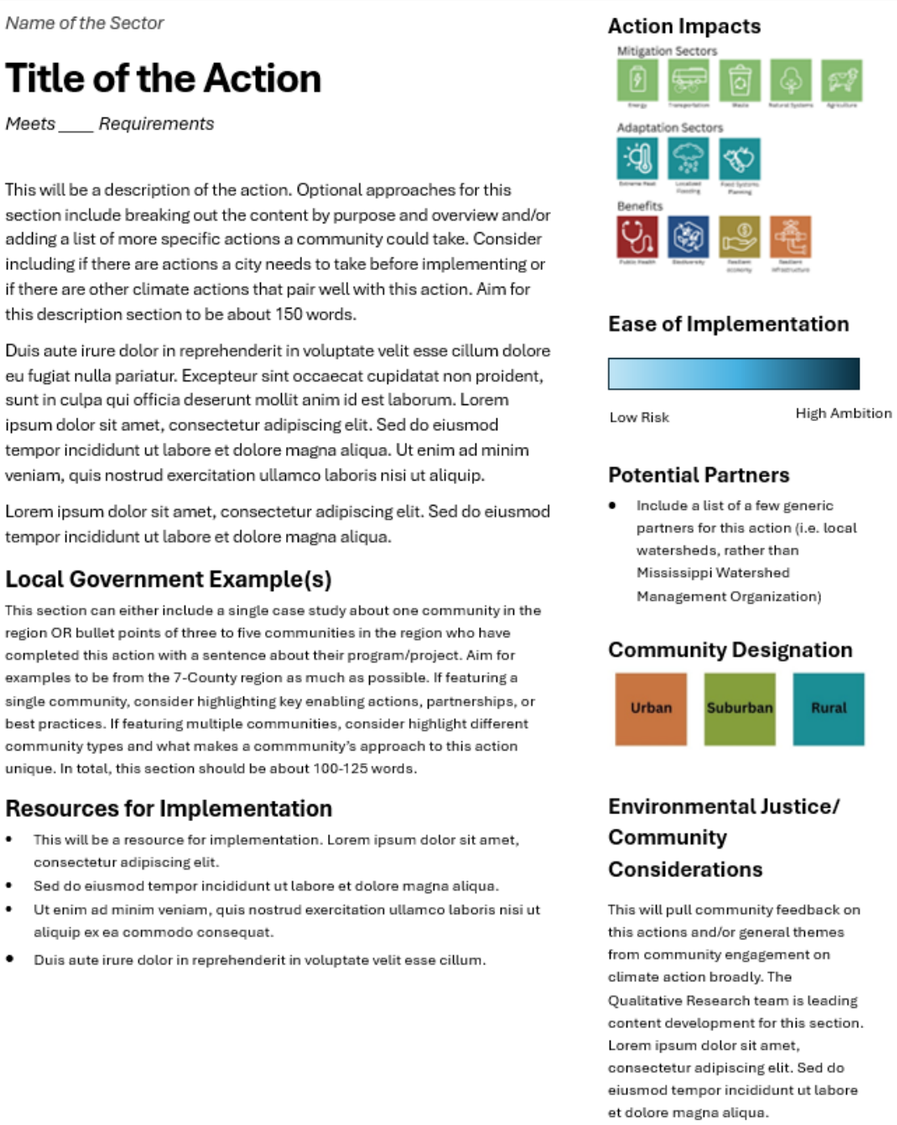
The table shows projections at 5-year intervals from 2025 to 2050, allowing you to track the cumulative impact of your strategies over time.

Summary Table: BAU vs Selected Strategies

Download Results

| Year | MWh (BAU) | MCF (BAU) | Electricity Emissions (BAU) | Natural Gas Emissions (BAU) | MWh (Scenario) | MCF (Scenario) | Electricity Emissions (Scenario) | Natural Gas Emissions (Scenario) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | 228718 | 2466788 | 92208 | 134292 | 228718 | 2466788 | 92208 | 134292 |
| 2030 | 233850 | 2476183 | 34545 | 134803 | 235794 | 2338273 | 34832 | 127296 |
| 2035 | 236849 | 2508636 | 9773 | 136570 | 241140 | 2147155 | 9950 | 116891 |
| 2040 | 239863 | 2540577 | 3306 | 138309 | 245506 | 1966508 | 3384 | 107057 |
| 2045 | 246615 | 2608847 | 1018 | 142026 | 260343 | 1955016 | 1075 | 106431 |
| 2050 | 253368 | 2677117 | 253 | 145742 | 275665 | 1938881 | 276 | 105553 |

# Climate Action Toolkit



*Name of the Sector*

**Title of the Action**

*Meets ___ Requirements*

This will be a description of the action. Optional approaches for this section include breaking out the content by purpose and overview and/or adding a list of more specific actions a community could take. Consider including if there are actions a city needs to take before implementing or if there are other climate actions that pair well with this action. Aim for this description section to be about 150 words.

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Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

**Local Government Example(s)**

This section can either include a single case study about one community in the region OR bullet points of three to five communities in the region who have completed this action with a sentence about their program/project. Aim for examples to be from the 7-County region as much as possible. If featuring a single community, consider highlighting key enabling actions, partnerships, or best practices. If featuring multiple communities, consider highlight different community types and what makes a commmunity's approach to this action unique. In total, this section should be about 100-125 words.

**Resources for Implementation**

- This will be a resource for implementation. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
- Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.
- Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.
- Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum.

**Action Impacts**

Mitigation Sectors

Adaptation Sectors

Benefits

**Ease of Implementation**

Low Risk — High Ambition

**Potential Partners**

- Include a list of a few generic partners for this action (i.e. local watersheds, rather than Mississippi Watershed Management Organization)

**Community Designation**

Urban | Suburban | Rural

**Environmental Justice/ Community Considerations**

This will pull community feedback on this actions and/or general themes from community engagement on climate action broadly. The Qualitative Research team is leading content development for this section. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

## Profiling example climate actions

- Purpose: Provide a technical resource to assist local government partners in identifying climate actions for their comprehensive plans
- Toolkit of climate actions covering all required mitigation and adaptation sectors, detailing:
  - Action impact
  - Case studies or examples
  - Community considerations
  - Ease of implementation
  - Additional resources

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# Planning Assistance Grants and the Small Communities Planning Program

# 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program

## Program Status Update

- Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) started review of 2050 eligibility criteria in January 2025. LUAC is currently working through:
  - eligibility criteria recommendations
  - considerations for award categories
  - funding scenarios for award amounts
  - overall budget considerations
  - options for incentive programs
- Focus on community population and net tax capacity per capita
- Priorities include:
  - serving as many communities as practical
  - providing similar or better levels of financial support as previous cycle
- Program is not intended to fund the full cost of statutory planning requirements but to supplement the local government's responsibilities.

# Small Communities Planning Program


## Program Status Update

- LUAC started review of proposed program in January 2025 and is currently working through:
  - eligibility criteria recommendations
  - funding and overall budget considerations
  - options for local cost-sharing
- Focus on net tax capacity per capita and community population
- Priorities include:
  - serving as many communities as practical
  - reducing burden of comprehensive plan updates for the communities with the least capacity to manage them
- Estimated capacity to assist approximately 30 communities with their comprehensive plan updates to meet planning minimum requirements, including planning services and targeted engineering service needs.

# Draft Criteria for 2050 Planning Assistance Grant Program

## Draft 2050 Grant Criteria

County with land use planning authority for townships within their jurisdiction

**OR**

Consortium of 5 or more Dakota County communities in the Rural Service Area working collaboratively on their comprehensive plan updates*

**Note: Participants in the Consortium forego participation in other planning assistance programs.*

## Draft 2050 Grant Criteria

Current population 2,500 – 14,999

&

Net Tax Capacity per capita less than or equal to 125% metro median

**OR**

Current population 15,000 – 35,000

&

Net Tax Capacity per capita less than or equal to 100% metro median

## Draft 2050 Small Communities Program Criteria

Current population under 500 & NTC/capita <= 175%

**OR**

Current population 500 - 999 & NTC/capita <= 150%

**OR**

Current population <= 1,000 to 2,500 & NTC/capita <= 125%

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# PlanIt Program Update

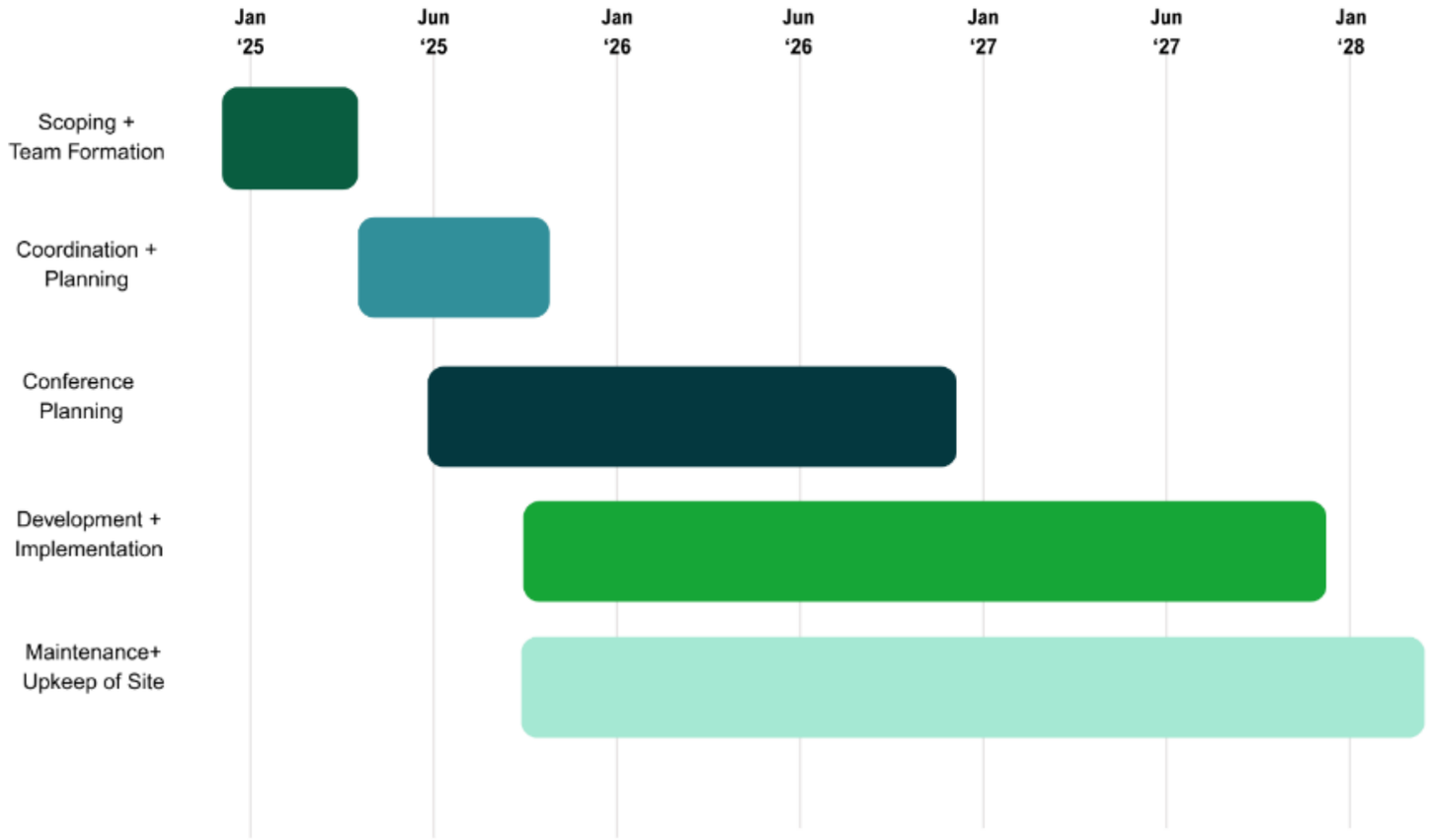
# 2026 – 2028 PlanIt Program: Comprehensive planning technical assistance

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Conference
- Tutorials/Demos
- News blasts

# PlanIt Program Updates

## Planning Kickoff

- Objectives of PlanIt
  - Create new content
  - Improve branding
  - Improve user experience
- Five Phases (see graphic)
- New PlanIt Leads

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# Thank you


**Angela R. Torres, AICP**

Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance
angela.torres@metc.state.mn.us
(651) 602-1566

**Emma Dvorak**

Senior Planner, Local Planning Assistance
emma.dvorak@metc.state.mn.us
(651) 602-1399


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