

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting date: August 4, 2025

Topic

2050 Comprehensive Planning Technical Assistance Overview

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Minn. Stat. §473.191
Staff prepared/presented:	Emma Dvorak, Senior Planner (651) 602-1399 Gillian Greenberg, Senior Climate Planner (651) 602-1726 Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager (651) 602-1566
Division/department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

Statutes direct the Council to provide planning assistance to communities to accomplish the purposes of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. Now that the Council has adopted Imagine 2050, and work on the regional policy plans shift to implementation, the Council must focus on how to assist communities in addressing regional goals as well as meeting minimum planning requirements.

The Council has several roles in the local comprehensive planning process:

1. Establish policies through Imagine 2050 with the regional system and policy plans
2. Review local comprehensive plans and amendments to ensure conformance, consistency, and compatibility with regional system plans and regional policies
3. Provide technical assistance with local comprehensive plan development

At its meeting on August 4, 2025, the CDC will be introduced to the many forms of technical assistance that are available, under development, or being updated to assist local governments throughout the 2050 comprehensive planning process, including a demonstration of the GHG Strategy Planning Tool.

Although the Council provides technical assistance in many ways, all the time, (i.e. Sector Representatives and technical teams), the Council focuses technical assistance efforts when communities update their local comprehensive plans through the Local Planning Handbook, and its many tools and resources. Within the Handbook are interactive planning tools related to minimum requirements, GHG emissions and climate actions, natural systems planning, housing, and others. Also within the Handbook is information on each required Plan Element: Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Water Resources, Parks and Trails, Climate, Natural Systems, and Plan Implementation. A resource library houses many sources of information to make the most of the decennial planning effort and encourage local governments to move beyond the basics.

For the 2050 planning cycle, financial support through the Planning Assistance Grant Program will be paired with direct professional services for small communities through the new Small Communities Planning Program.

The Council also creates a training and educational program called PlanIt, which provides educational opportunities like webinars, workshops, a planning conference, and other events to support local governments through the planning process.