

# Information Item

Metropolitan Council



**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2022

## Topic

Prioritization and Refinement of Climate Strategies

Crucial Conversations

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	Council Member Climate Action Work Group
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Climate Action Plan
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Eric Wojchik, Planning Analyst, Community Development, 651-602-1330 David Ponder, Environmental Analyst, ES, 651-602-8369 Jeff Freeman, Senior Project Coordinator, Metro Transit, 612-451-5024
<b>Division/Department:</b>	All

## Background

At the last Council Member Climate Action Work Group meeting on April 6, 2022, Council staff provided an update on the progress with the Climate Action Plan. During this update, Council staff highlighted the process and early findings coming from internal focus group meetings held in February and March of 2022. Staff then communicated the next steps of a second round of focus group meetings in March and April to identify draft strategies for refinement and prioritization.

The second portion of the meeting was dedicated to providing some history and context for environmental justice. Council staff then presented on the creation of the Environmental Justice Task Force and its scope and role in relation to the Climate Action Plan. Council staff then asked two questions for Council Members –

1. How do you think the Metropolitan Council can incorporate environmental justice into our climate work?
2. How would you define environmental justice when you think of the Metropolitan Council's roles and responsibilities?

## Prioritization and Refinement of Climate Strategies

For this meeting, we want to ask the Council Members about how they would like to see the strategies identified in the second round of focus group meetings prioritized and refined for their review.

1. What factors would Council Members like staff to use to prioritize strategies?
  - a. These factors may include effort versus impact, staff capacity, financial considerations, etc.
2. Can you speak to the importance of these factors and why you think they are important?

## Crucial Conversations

We want to start to talk to Council Members about what we are calling 'crucial conversations' – conversations we need to have to move the Climate Action Plan forward. Some of these crucial conversations address our role, potential barriers, and some unanswered questions. Examples include

the following:

1. Funding and resource allocation – How do we determine appropriate investment in climate change strategies?
2. Environmental justice – How do we prioritize underserved communities to benefit the most from our climate strategies?
3. Compliance – How do we start to plan for potential changes in our regulatory regimes considering climate change?
4. Regional leadership – How far are we willing to go? No one wants to “go first,” and there’s a need for strong, unified leadership. The Council is well positioned to step into this role. What is our desire to do so?
5. Evaluating success – How do we assess potential impact of our actions, and how do we measure the impact after our actions?

