



Commitments and Strategies

Commitment 1: We will incorporate environmental justice principles as we plan, implement, and evaluate our climate action work.

Strategy	Why it is important
Develop and adopt an Environmental Justice Framework consisting of qualitative and quantitative assessment tools.	Organizations should perform sustainability and climate work with a focus on equity because climate change will have the greatest effect on our most vulnerable residents. Therefore, we should focus our efforts on building resilience for and with our most vulnerable residents.

Commitment 2: We will accelerate emissions reductions from our operations to achieve carbon neutrality.

Strategy	Why it is important
Adopt a holistic approach to energy management	Implementing opportunities to reduce energy consumption and decarbonize energy use requires a structured, disciplined, approach to measure, manage, and improve energy performance.
Make buildings and processes more energy efficient, and move towards electric energy sources rather than fossil fuel-based sources	Maximizing efficiency is crucial to counteracting increased costs and energy usage due to expanding services with regional growth. Electrified energy sources will have emission reduction impacts far into the future as the electric grid continues to decarbonize.
Purchase and generate renewable energy when cost-effective	Some aspects of our services cannot be fully decarbonized, requiring the purchase of renewable energy to offset emissions to reach carbon neutrality. This approach also decreases energy costs.
Transition Council fleets to electric and alternative fuel vehicles	Switching to electric and alternative fuels will reduce our reliance on fossil fuel consumption, improve regional air quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Commitment 2: We will accelerate emissions reductions from our operations to achieve carbon neutrality.

Strategy	Why it is important
Maximize energy and resource recovery opportunities	Continuing our efforts to recover clean water, nutrients, and energy from wastewater for beneficial use can help reduce both our own and the region’s reliance on fossil fuel energy sources and build a circular economy.
Account and report greenhouse gas emissions	Quantifying and reporting greenhouse gas emissions demonstrates environmental leadership, helps identify reduction opportunities and track progress, and helps keep us accountable to our commitment to achieve carbon neutrality.
Investigate opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions with the highest global warming potential	Targeting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions with the highest global warming potential will have the largest relative impact of reduction of overall emissions and limiting temperature rise.

Commitment 3: We will accelerate regional emissions reductions through existing and new partnerships.

Strategy	Why it is important
Promote reduction of transportation-related emissions	Encouraging VMT reduction, electrification, and public transit use reduces the region’s reliance on fossil fuel consumption, improves air quality, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
Convene and partner with regional stakeholders to expand climate engagement and collaboration related to greenhouse gas emissions.	Knowledge of best practices and opportunities to collaborate expand through conversation and convening with strategic partners.
Track and report greenhouse gas emissions	Quantifying and reporting greenhouse gas emissions demonstrates environmental leadership, helps identify reduction opportunities, and helps hold stakeholders accountable to their emission reduction commitments.
Maximize energy and resource recovery opportunities	Continuing our efforts to recover clean water, nutrients, and energy from wastewater for beneficial use can help reduce both our own and the region’s reliance on fossil fuel energy sources and build a circular economy.

Commitment 4: We will reduce risks and impacts of climate change hazards to our facilities and services.

Strategy	Why it is important
Incorporate adaptation measures into facility and services planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance	Our infrastructure is not immune to impacts from climate hazards. We need to anticipate climate change impacts in our designs and operations to maintain our ability to provide critical services.
Identify opportunities to install and maintain sustainable landscapes on Met Council property	Sustainable, low-maintenance, climate-resilient landscapes are better able to respond to climate change impacts. They also conserve Met Council resources and enhance biodiversity.

Commitment 5: We will support and collaborate with partners to advance regional climate adaptation efforts.

Strategy	Why it is important
Convene and partner with regional stakeholders to expand climate engagement and collaboration	Through meaningful engagement, the Met Council can learn from the experiences of other practitioners to both enhance our own adaptation efforts and to advance climate-related collaboration across the region.
Provide and expand technical assistance, tools, and data for regional and Met Council-specific decision-making	The Met Council provides technical assistance to communities throughout the region, and can expand the climate-related resources, tools, and data that will allow municipalities and the Met Council to improve our abilities to respond to climate change.
Develop new and expand existing regional funding mechanisms for local climate adaptation efforts	Partnerships are key; allow for better access to competitive funding, pooling of resources, and expertise to build resilience for the Met Council and local jurisdictions.
Promote climate connections in regional planning, local plan reviews, and grant programs	Documenting and tracking connections across programs and functions can help reduce duplication and ensure alignment in our efforts.
Monitor and assess water resources to identify climate threats	Ensuring that water quality assessments consider climate change allows us to anticipate issues and establish adaptation measures to reduce potential impacts.

Capacity building is critical

Several of our strategies apply to more than one of the commitments. A key example is a strategy to expand staffing and training related to climate work. We recognize that the commitments in our work plan will require more resources, expertise, and dedicated staff time than we currently have. The plan’s matrix of commitments, strategies, and actions identifies where additional capacity will be needed. A key part of implementation will be allocating existing resources and capturing new funding.