

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Committee Meeting Date: Multiple

For the Metropolitan Council: December 14, 2022

Business Item: 2022-336

Adopt the Climate Action Work Plan

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Metropolitan Council Strategic Plan, Sustainability Priority; <i>Thrive MSP 2040</i> ; Minnesota Climate Action Framework
Staff Prepared/Presented:	LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director, Community Development (651-602-1895)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Council / Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the Climate Action Work Plan.
2. Direct Council staff to provide annual reports on the implementation of the plan.

Background

At the regular Metropolitan Council meeting on [October 12, 2022](#), Council staff initiated the review process for the draft Climate Action Work Plan. Council staff reviewed the overall structure of the work plan, including the five commitments and strategies to accompany them. The presentation included a high-level summary of what staff have heard so far from external engagement as well as next steps for additional standing committee review of the proposed actions.

Following the initial Council discussion, Council staff engaged each of the Council's standing committees for review of the proposed actions as they pertained to that committee. The review schedule included:

- October 24: Transportation Committee
- November 7: Community Development Committee
- November 8: Environment Committee
- November 9: Management Committee

Council members in each of the committees engaged in discussion on strategies and actions pertaining to each of the committees and provided general support with some suggestions for clarity. Feedback from committee discussion and from external engagement ranged across the following topics:

- Eagerness for collaboration
- Welcomed environmental justice approach to climate action

- Shared enthusiasm for climate work beyond mitigation
- Questions on progress of existing work
- Suggestions for improvements in energy efficiency, cost-benefit analysis, and other operational issues
- Questions on how the Council will measure progress, performance metrics, and reporting

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 16, 2022, Council staff presented a summary of the feedback heard and an overview of the types of revisions to the Climate Action Work Plan. Proposed revisions include:

- Revised priorities in matrix to ensure consistent approach to prioritization
- Consistently characterizing what actions have the highest potential impact for a given level of effort
- Identifying a set of enabling actions that are fundamental to building our capacity to do this work
- Ensuring identified start and end dates are realistic and informed by resource availability
- Reexamined the characterization of staffing and funding requirements for each of the actions
- Added definition of environmental justice earlier in plan text; adjustments to environmental justice section for consistency with other commitments
- Added environmental justice implementation flags to the matrix for additional actions
- Added discussion on cost analysis and importance of service reliability
- New transportation-related actions added to the matrix to be led by the Metropolitan Transportation Services division

Rationale

The Climate Action Work Plan was developed at the direction of the Council in its Strategic Plan. Significant internal engagement and coordination underpins the development of the climate plan. The adoption of the Climate Action Work Plan provides direction to staff across the agency to organize our efforts and prioritize our work. The plan is intended to be a three- to five-year plan with regular reporting on progress and impacts.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Climate Action Work Plan advances the Sustainability and Equity outcomes in *Thrive MSP 2040* which states that the “Council will mitigate its own contributions to climate change by reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions.” The Council’s Strategic Plan further directs staff to “create an agency-wide sustainability plan to streamline, accelerate, and coordinate all the Council's work in this area.”

The Climate Action Work Plan identifies the commitments, strategies, and actions that the Council will take in the next three to five years to reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts experienced today, and support long-range regional planning efforts. Further, the plan applies an environmental justice lens to the actions, identifying actions that require additional environmental justice work during implementation.

Funding

The Council programmed \$250,000 in its 2022 Unified Budget to support the development of the Climate Action Work Plan. The plan includes details on whether staffing or funding is secured or needed for each of the actions in the matrix. Many actions will fall under existing staff work plans, while others will need additional staff or funding. The inclusion of unfunded actions is intended to

prepare the Council for potential funding opportunities that could advance this work.

Attachments

The following documents are included as attachments to this report and are posted as separate links with the agenda to aid in the review and navigation of the materials:

- Final Draft of the Climate Action Work Plan with changes incorporated
- Strategies and Actions Matrix – summarized
- Strategies and Action Matrix – detailed

