

# Information Item

Metropolitan Council



Meeting date: August 27, 2025

## Topic

Update on the regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act (Public Law 117-169, title VI, Aug. 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 2076)
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	Gillian Greenberg, Senior Climate Planner, 651-602-1726 Peter Wilfahrt, Principal Researcher, 651-602-1066
<b>Division/department:</b>	Community Development

## Background

In 2023, the Met Council received a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create a regional climate action plan. There are two phases of the grant which include two primary deliverables – the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) which was submitted by March 1, 2024, and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due by December 1, 2025. The grant also requires ongoing status reports through 2027.

Notably, through agreement with the EPA, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant applies to 11 counties in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, and Washington counties in Minnesota along with Pierce and Saint Croix counties in Wisconsin. Counties within the MSA but outside of the Council's 7-county jurisdiction were invited to join this process, with 4 of them opting in.

The plan builds on existing climate policy and data work at the Council and supports the development of new and updated tools and technical assistance for the region.

## Key Plan Elements

The Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) contained the following elements:

- Updates to the regional greenhouse gas inventory.
- Identification of emissions reduction strategies.
- Preliminary analysis of benefits and co-benefits of the emissions reduction strategies.
- Preliminary analysis on the roles and abilities to implement those strategies.

The CCAP expands upon and updates the elements that were included in the [Priority Climate Action Plan](#), and also consists of a few additional key elements, as defined in the grant agreement:

- A more detailed region-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory shows emissions sources and sequestration from all sectors in the region. The inventory data is also broken down by county. The inventory includes data from 2005 through 2022, the most recent year all data is available.

- GHG emissions projections show how emissions will change in both the short- and long-term. Projections are shown for three scenarios:
  - “Business as Usual” assumes emissions will continue based on past patterns and takes into account existing policies including the state’s Clean Electricity Standard of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040.
  - Accelerated Policy Pathway shows an intermediate pathway reflecting the current changes at the federal level and known state and local actions that can still be taken to reduce emissions.
  - Net-zero shows the necessary policies and actions to achieve very low emissions offset by sequestration by 2050.
- GHG reduction measures propose actions for reducing GHG emissions across all sectors. Content about each measure includes metrics for tracking progress, potential funding sources, community impacts, and an estimate of GHG emissions reduced.
- An analysis of workforce needs to implement the identified emissions reduction strategies.

## Engagement

As discussed at the [May 7, 2025, Committee of the Whole](#) meeting, Council staff have been engaging a variety of local government and community stakeholders throughout the development of the CCAP. The Steering Committee consists of city and county staff from across the 11-county region covered by this plan. They meet quarterly to provide feedback on the plan to ensure it best supports climate action in the region, review and refine emissions reduction inventory and strategies, and advise on engagement plans for the CCAP process, among other topics.

Council staff have also established a Workforce Work Group, consisting of representatives from local governments, non-profit organizations, labor organizations, and private sector representatives engaged in clean economy and workforce issues. The Work Group ensures that the workforce analysis prepared for the CCAP aligns with their on-the-ground experience and explores ways that the analysis products can support workforce organizations and the private sector in the clean economy.

Beyond local government and organizational stakeholders, Council staff have established the Community Climate Collaboration, which is a partnership with 8 community-based organizations across the 11-county region that work with underrepresented communities. Each organization was responsible for recruiting 10-15 contributors to participate in 10 hours of workshops, which explored climate actions and climate impacts. Each group developed a final project with their key findings. These efforts inform the overall CCAP strategies and benefits analysis.

## Next Steps

Posted with these materials is an 80% draft of the CCAP. Council staff will review progress to date and seek Council feedback to continue to refine the CCAP to bring back a 90% draft to the September 24 meeting. At that point, Council will open a public comment period from September 25 to October 17. During that time, Council staff will reengage with community organizations who participated in the Community Climate Collaborative so they can see how their work shaped the plan. On November 12, staff will return to Council with the final CCAP for authorization to submit to EPA.

