

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: September 24, 2025

Business Item: 2025-253

Release Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Public Comment

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act (Public Law 117-169, title VI, Aug. 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 2076)
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Division/department:	Community Development Division

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council release the regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for a public comment period from September 25, 2025, to October 17, 2025.

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.

CCAP Elements

The CCAP expands upon and updates the [Priority Climate Action Plan](#), and also includes additional elements, as defined in the grant agreement:

- A 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.
 - The Potential Policy Pathway shows a scenario reflecting the recent changes in federal policy and known state and local actions that would position the region substantially closer to its GHG emissions reduction goals.
 - A 2050 net zero marker shows the ambitious emissions reduction needed 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. A Steering Committee of city and county staff provided feedback throughout the plan development to ensure it supported regional climate action. Additionally, a Workforce Work Group ensured that the workforce analysis aligned with the experience of people working at the intersection of climate and workforce development. Finally, Council staff led a Community Climate Collaboration to engage with residents across the region on climate actions and community impacts.

Updates since the August draft

On [August 27, 2025](#), Council staff presented an 80% draft of the CCAP. Since then, Council staff have updated and added elements to the 80% draft, resulting in the draft posted with this business item. Changes to the plan include:

- Emission projections for Business as Usual and Potential Policy Pathway scenarios have been added. These projections show how emissions may change between 2025 and 2050 with and without action.
- A net zero marker at the year 2050 is added to all projections to highlight the need for ambitious and innovative action.
- A workforce planning analysis has also been added. A more in-depth data analysis and methods section related to workforce is included in the appendix as well. The workforce planning analysis is led by partners at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and is informed by the feedback of the Workforce Work Group.

Next Steps

During the public comment period, an online portal for feedback will be available on the Council's website. Additionally, Council staff are re-engaging with the organizations involved in the Community Climate Collaboration and meeting with the Steering Committee. Council staff will also share the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program staff as they have offered to review and ensure the plan meets grant requirements. Finally, Council staff continue to refine the data behind the emissions projections, compile a detailed methodology, and review available funding sources to reflect a changing funding landscape.

Rationale

After extensive engagement, data analysis, and plan development, the CCAP is ready for public comment ahead of the Council's final authorization scheduled for November. The Met Council committed to including a public comment period in the plan development in its scope of work for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Additionally, the public comment period will be an opportunity for Council staff to engage with organizations, residents, and local government staff who were engaged during previous phases of the project and solicit their feedback.

Thrive lens analysis

On February 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in

Thrive MSP 2040. The CCAP advances the Imagine 2050 goal of “We lead on addressing climate change.” Through the CCAP planning process and with additional grant resources, the CCAP and its related tools and resources are a significant component in driving the Council’s commitments to advances the State of Minnesota’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 and to support local government comprehensive planning to advance emissions reductions.

Funding

Funding for this project comes from the Council’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Small business inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with the proposed action.

