

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: November 12, 2025

Business Item: 2025-298

Authorize submittal of the Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

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)
Staff prepared/presented:	Gillian Greenberg, Senior Climate Planner, 651-602-1726 Peter Wilfahrt, Principal Researcher, 651-602-1066
Division/department:	Community Development Division

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Accept the public comment report for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
2. Authorize Council staff to finalize the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, including making non-substantive edits for plain language, accessibility, and consistency and submit the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Background

In 2023, the Met Council received a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 May 2027.

Notably, through agreement with the EPA, the regional 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 four of them opting in.

The CCAP is the largest deliverable of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. It 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.
 - The 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 a community benefits analysis, implementation authorities, metrics for tracking progress, and potential funding sources.
- A workforce planning analysis looks at existing workforce patterns and potential changes in climate-related industries and occupations.

Public Comment Process and Response to Comments

A public comment period for the CCAP occurred from September 25, 2025, to October 17, 2025. During that time, the Council received 39 public comments from residents, local governments, community organizations, regional partners, and more. Comments were received through an online portal, over email, and through community workshops.

Posted with the Council's agenda is the public comment report for the CCAP. Overall, comments reflected strong support for regional climate action efforts and emphasized the need for clarity, collaboration, and equitable implementation.

Updates to the draft CCAP resulted from public comments. The plan is clearer and more reflective of the different community types across the region. A new transportation strategy was added, greenhouse gas emissions accounting was clarified, and new metrics for tracking progress were added across strategies. Responses to each public comment and specific adjustments to the plan are outlined in the public comment report. A revised draft CCAP, including both a redlined version and a clean version, are posted with the agenda.

Rationale

After extensive engagement, data analysis, and plan development, the CCAP is ready for the Council's authorization to submit the plan to the U.S. EPA ahead of the December 1, 2025 deadline. Through the public comment process, the CCAP has become clearer and more responsive to regional needs. The CCAP includes all the required components and reflects Council priorities as laid out in Imagine 2050.

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 advance 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.

