



Climate Action Work Plan

Funding and Programming



October 20, 2022

Climate Action Work Plan



Purpose of the plan

- Builds on our existing climate work and unifies our efforts across the Council
- Defines commitments, strategies, and actions that will strengthen our ability to deliver services to the region
- Moves us forward on a pledge we made in *Thrive MSP 2040* to become a climate leader

Past and current climate work



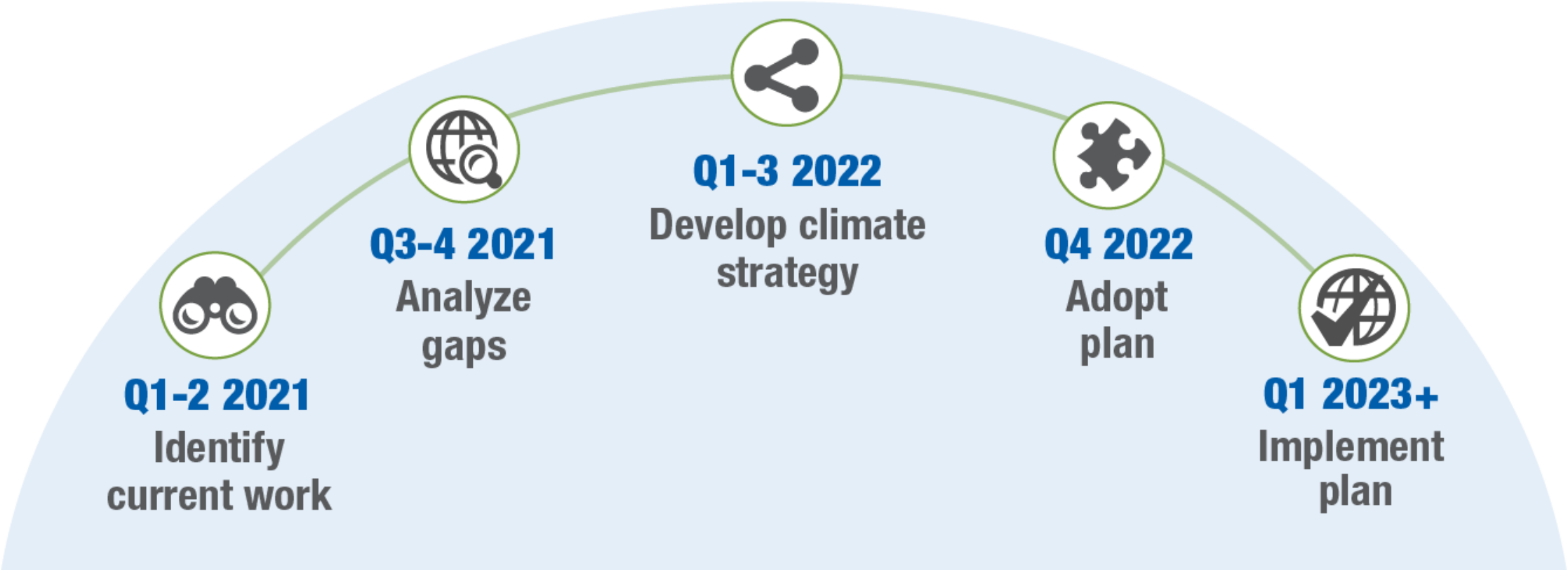
Tools, partnerships, and action

- [Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#)
- [Twin Cities Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)
- [Solar-for-Vouchers program](#)
- [Growing Shade](#)
- [Improving energy efficiency in our wastewater operations](#)
- [Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan](#)
- [Laying the groundwork to accelerate electric vehicle adoption](#)

Developing the plan



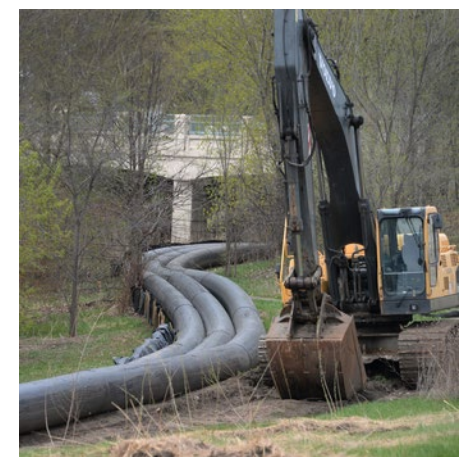
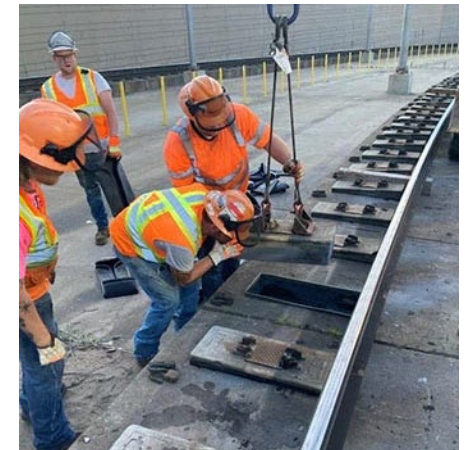
PROJECT TIMELINE



Why a climate plan?

Climate change is already impacting our operations

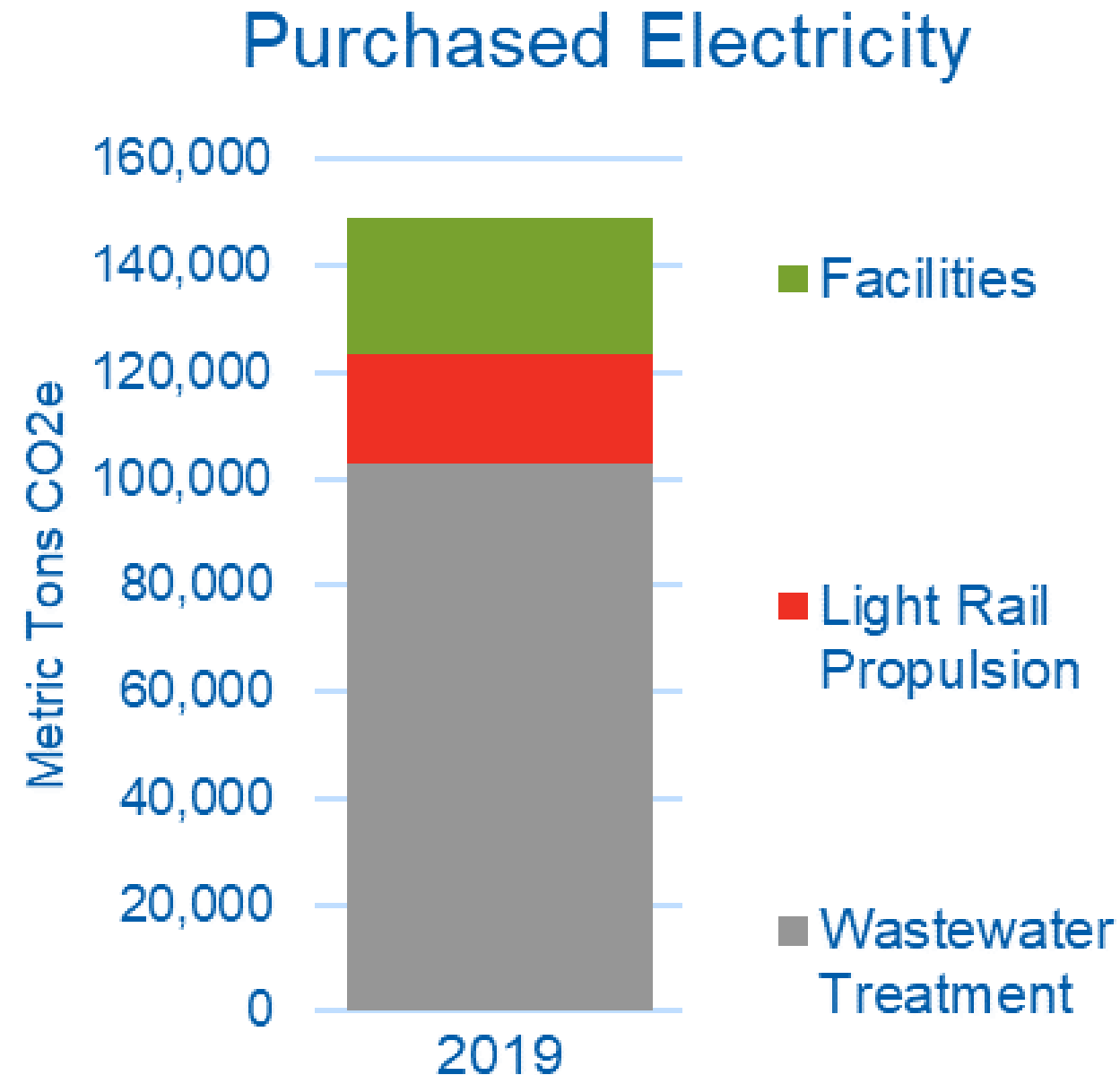
- Extreme heat and increased freeze/thaw cycles damages streets and highways
- Flooding causes facility relocation, like sewer pipes and regional trails
- Transit vehicles and systems lose operational reliability in extreme heat
- Reducing emissions from our operations and assisting local governments to reduce theirs will help meet the state vision for carbon neutrality



Our emissions: Purchased electricity

Leading source of our emissions

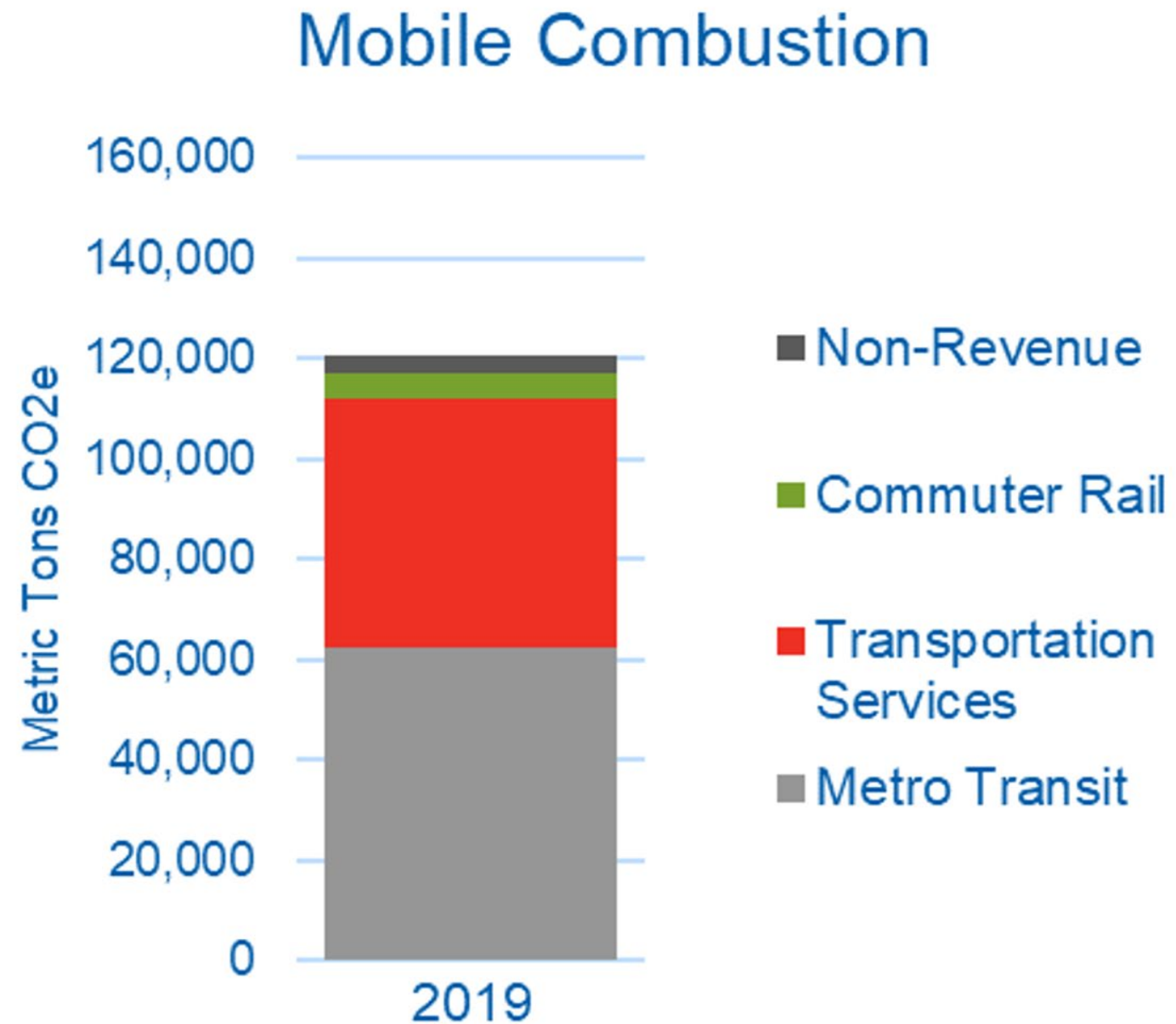
- Electricity powers our wastewater treatment plants, bus garages, light rail operations, and administrative offices.



Our emissions: Mobile combustion

Fossil fuels power our vehicle fleets

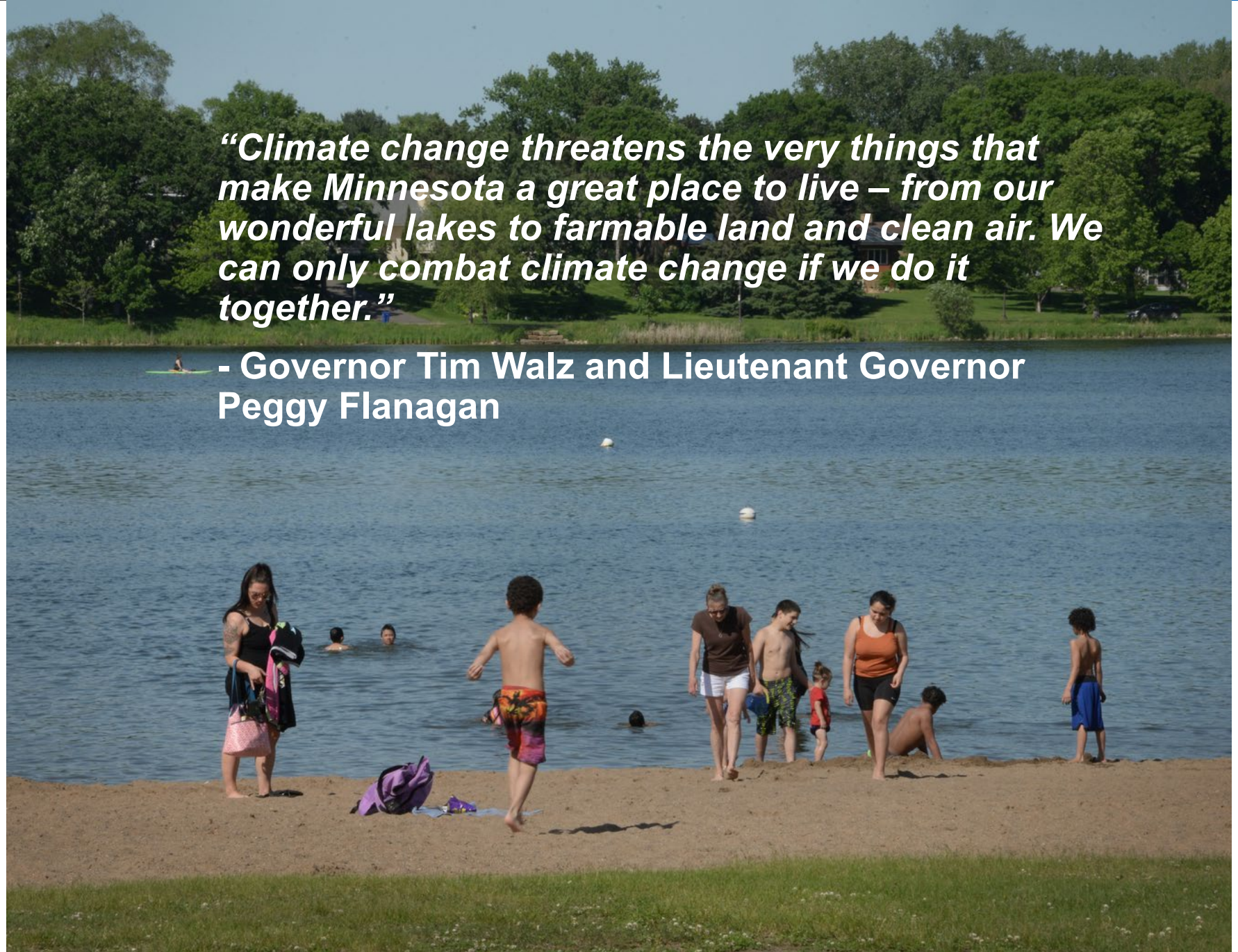
- Metro Transit and Metro Mobility buses
- Commuter rail
- Nonrevenue vehicles, such as maintenance trucks



Climate plan basics

Part of effort across state agencies

- Dovetails with Minnesota Climate Action Framework
- Internal to our planning and operations; it is not a regional climate action plan
- Five-year time frame
- Lays the groundwork for more action beyond 2027
- Organized by commitments, strategies, and actions



“Climate change threatens the very things that make Minnesota a great place to live – from our wonderful lakes to farmable land and clean air. We can only combat climate change if we do it together.”

- Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan

Commitments and strategies



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

Mitigation: Reduce Council emissions

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



Mitigation: Reduce regional emissions



**Commitment 3:
We will accelerate regional
emissions reduction through
existing and new
partnerships**

Adaptation: Reduce risks and build resiliency at the Council



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

Adaptation: Reduce risks and build resiliency in the region

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



Core of the plan: Matrix of actions

ID	Council Commitment	Council Strategy	Action	Equity Considerations & Implications	Lead	C	E	M	MTS
1.1.1	Support and collaborate with partners to advance regional climate adaptation efforts	Convene and partner with regional stakeholders to expand climate engagement and collaboration	Convene and participate in conversations with partners organizations and residents to share challenges and best practices, identify gaps and collaboration opportunities, and develop a shared regional vision of climate resiliency.		CD + ES	X	X		X
1.1.2	Support and collaborate with partners to advance regional climate adaptation efforts	Convene and partner with regional stakeholders to expand climate engagement and collaboration	With regional partners, completing a climate vulnerability assessment of regional transportation systems including highways, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian systems.		MTS	X		X	X
1.1.3	Support and collaborate with partners to advance regional climate adaptation efforts	Convene and partner with regional stakeholders to expand climate engagement and collaboration	With cities, counties, MnDOT, MPCA, and others around roles and responsibilities in coordinating climate work, including exploring the development of a regional Transportation Climate Action Plan.		MTS	X		X	X
1.2.1	Support and collaborate with partners to advance regional climate adaptation efforts	Provide and expand technical assistance, tools, and data for regional and Council decision-making	Document and share climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and guidance for counties, cities, and townships to adopt into local policy, planning, or programs.	Yes.	CD	X	X		X
			Develop qualitative research to support effective climate-related technical assistance through						

Environmental justice assessment

Recommendations will strengthen our plan

- The EJ Task Force applied the draft framework to our climate action work plan
- Recommendations: Edit three current actions in the plan and add six actions under Commitment 1 (environmental justice)
- We updated the current draft to reflect the assessment
- Key recommendation: Recharter the Environmental Justice Task Force



Engaging our partners

External engagement

- Met with two groups of peer agencies in late September
- Met with environmental thought leaders/nonprofits in early October
- Partners are eager for collaboration
- Environmental justice approach to climate is welcomed
- Shared enthusiasm for climate work beyond mitigation



MTS Planning Actions



Priority 1

- Develop **prioritization criteria and supporting data sets** for where and what type of **public charging is needed** to advance electric vehicle ownership within the region.
- Implement **improved greenhouse gas estimates** in **regional solicitation** project selection process so that evaluations can better consider climate mitigation and **evaluate** how greenhouse gas estimates might be included in the **4-year Transportation Improvement Program**
- Work with MnDOT and other transportation partners to create a **framework and process to allocate regional federal funds in the Carbon Reduction program** in order to maximize carbon reduction.

MTS Planning Actions



Priority 2

- With cities, counties, MnDOT, MPCA, and others, **explore development of regional climate actions.**
- Consider adoption of regional **Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction target and the development of supporting policies and strategies** when completing the next regional Transportation Policy Plan to support state's adopted target and strategies.
- Convene regional partners to identify **opportunities to collaborate on the pursuit of State and Federal funding** opportunities that accelerate regional emissions reductions.
- Climate vulnerability assessment?

Next steps for Climate Action Work Plan



Council committee schedule

- Oct. 12 – First presentation to Council
- Oct. 13 – TAB Transportation Policy Working Group
- Oct. 20 – TAB Funding and Programming Committee
- Oct. 24 – Transportation Committee
- Nov. 2 – TAB Technical Advisory Committee
- Nov. 8 – Environment Committee
- Nov. 9 – Management Committee
- Nov. 16 – Transportation Advisory Board
- Nov. 16 – Committee of the Whole
- Dec. 14 – Council considers final plan approval



David Ponder

Environmental Analyst, Environmental Services

Eric Wojchik

Planning Analyst, Community Development

Jeff Freeman

Senior Project Coordinator, Metro Transit

