

Water Supply: System Statements and Minimum Requirements



Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee | Steve Christopher, Lanya Ross | June 18, 2025

Imagine 2050: Regional goals



Our region is equitable and inclusive.

Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and every person feels welcome, included, and empowered.



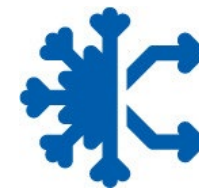
Our communities are healthy and safe.

All our region's residents live healthy and rewarding lives with a sense of security, dignity, and wellbeing.



Our region is dynamic and resilient.

Our region meets the opportunities and challenges faced by our communities and the economy including issues of choice, access, and affordability.



We lead on addressing climate change.

We have mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient to climate impacts.



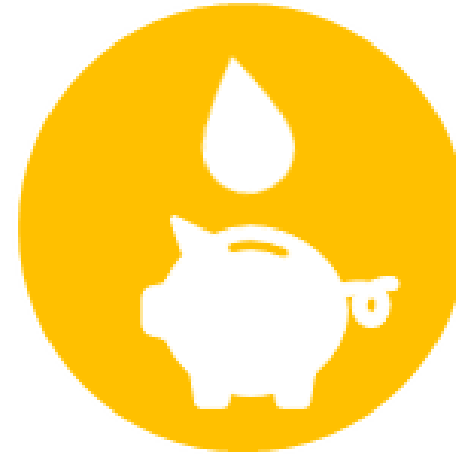
We protect and restore natural systems.

We protect, integrate, and restore natural systems to protect habitat and ensure a high quality of life for the people of our region.

Imagine 2050: Water Policy Plan



CLIMATE: The region's waters and water services are protected from and made resilient to the ongoing and future effects of climate change.



INVESTMENTS: Water protection, planning, management, and infrastructure investments are optimized to ensure public and ecosystem health are fully protected now and for future generations.



HEALTH: Natural waters, source waters, water services, and infrastructure are managed, restored, and enhanced to protect public and ecosystem health that ensures a high quality of life in the region.



EQUITY: The benefits of clean and abundant water and water services are defined by local needs and environmental context, accessible, and justly shared by all residents and communities.

Connecting regional policy to local planning and implementation

| System statement | Minimum requirements | Get more out of your plan | Helpful resources |
|--|--|--|---|
| A succinct statement of what content should be included in local plan updates | A checklist of specific elements for each system statement topic, that the Met Council will use to evaluate local plan updates | A list of options that communities can incorporate into their plans, to go beyond the minimum requirements | Resources that can be used to develop content for minimum requirements and “get more” recommendations |
| Includes information about how each community is affected by policies for regional systems | These are required by statute or regional policy, or are needed to evaluate elements that are required by statute or policy | These are not required by statute or policy, but they are good practices that have demonstrated benefits | These include a range of resources that the Met Council and other organizations have developed |

System Statements

Long-range comp plans for regional systems

- Transit, highways, and airports
- Wastewater services
- Parks and open space

What's included?

- Community designation(s)
- Forecasted population, households, employment through 2050
- Guidance on appropriate densities to ensure regional services and infrastructure are provided efficiently
- Affordable housing need allocation

System Statements (cont'd)

Information specific to the community

- Transportation, including metropolitan highways, aviation, and transit
- **Water Resources, including wastewater, surface water, and water supply planning**
- Regional parks and trails

Water resources information

- WPP overview
- Regional sewer service, forecasts and flow projections
- Wastewater service, Inflow & Infiltration, Private/SSTS systems
- Surface water
- Water supply

Minimum requirements

What must be included in a comprehensive plan update for the Met Council to authorize?

- **Wastewater:** Information that allows us to serve existing and planned development (including location and timing)
- **Surface water:** Identified content from MN Statute and Rule that is part of the local water management plan (required part of city's comp plan)
- **Water supply:** Identified content from MN Statute that is part of the local water supply plan and additional information to ensure a sustainable water supply for the current and future needs of the region.

New minimum requirements related to water supply

Updated regional policies led to new requirements

- More detailed expectation for source water protection
 - In the past, “regulatory and management areas” were referred to, but now DWSMAs are specifically mentioned
 - New expectations are coordinated with land use policy
- More specific recognition of privately owned wells and nonmunicipal water supplies
 - In the past, we asked for “information about water supply sources” but not for private well information specifically
- More information requested about current and planned water supply service areas
 - New expectations are coordinated with land use policy



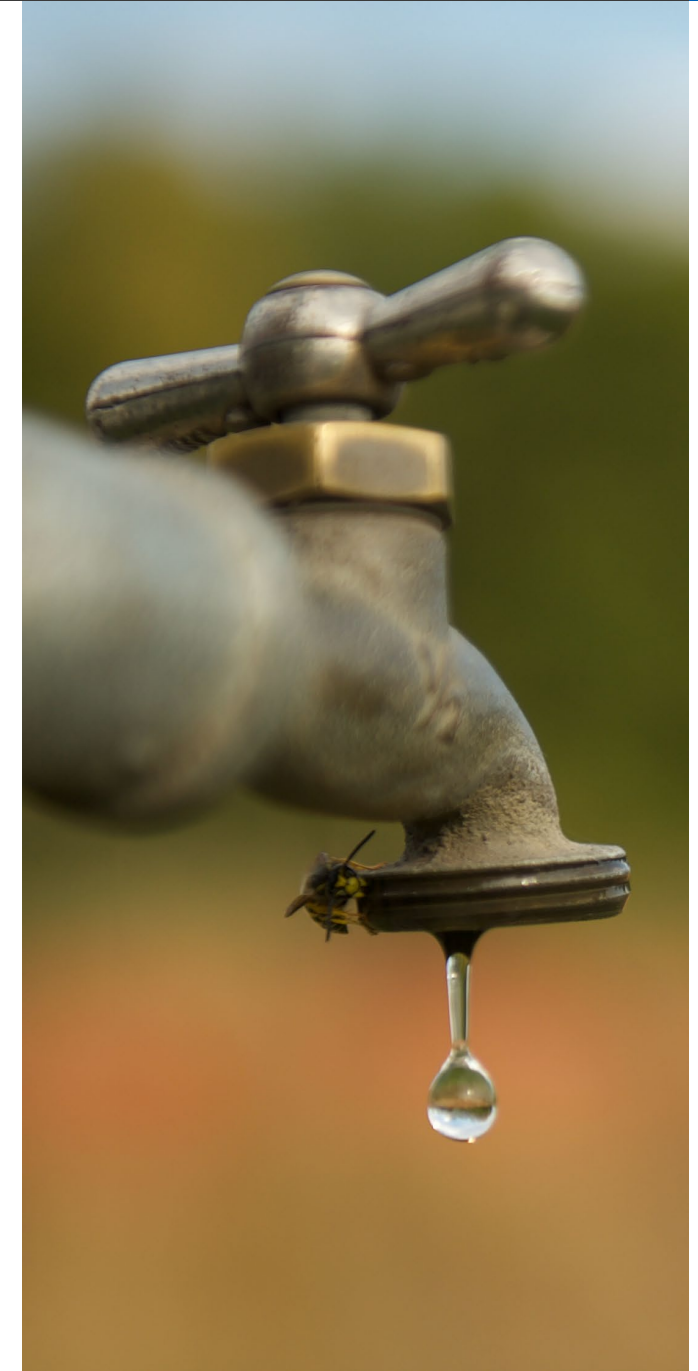
Continued minimum requirements related to water supply

Requirements that stayed the same

- Attach the DNR-approved local water supply plan

Clarifying language

- Minimum requirements are better customized by different community water supply situations
- Minimum requirements are described more detail to improve transparency, communication, and consistency
 - Example: highlights that Met Council will look at goal, policy, and strategy content in addition to forecast-related content



Removed minimum requirements related to water supply

- Redundant language was removed
 - For example: 2040 Water Conservation & Reuse requirements are now addressed by the requirements for Municipal Community Public Water Supply Systems
- Requirements that were found not to be effective as a local plan requirement (better addressed through other means) were removed
 - For example: 2040 Sub-regional Collaboration is being supported through a new Met Council engagement program



Thank You

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