



Water Policy Plan Update

Policy discussion and direction



Jen Kostrzewski

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Regional Values, Vision, and Goals

Values

Values are core beliefs or principals that guide the work of the Council, our expectations of partnerships, and our policy and program development.

Vision

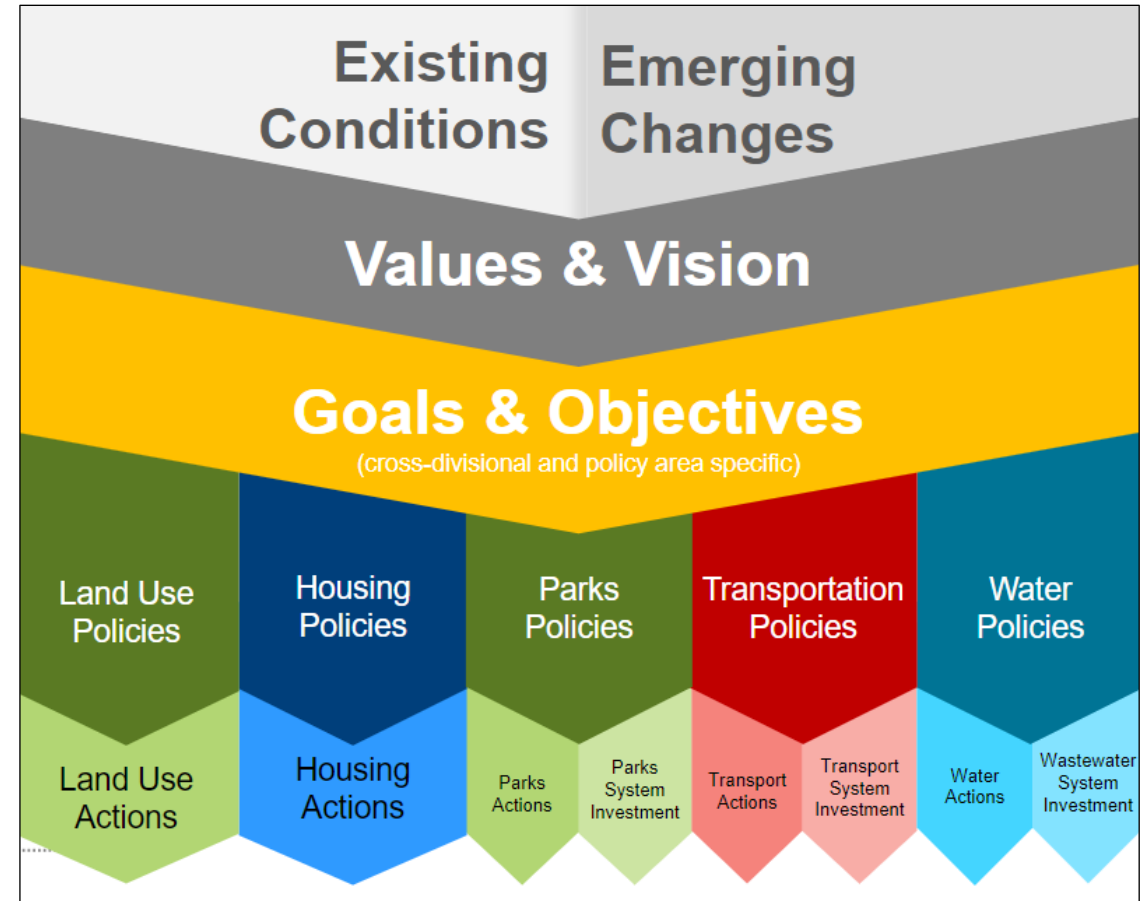
Our vision is what we want to achieve for the region through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships.

Goals

Our goals broadly describe the desired outcomes that we want to achieve for the region.

Cross-Cutting Goals

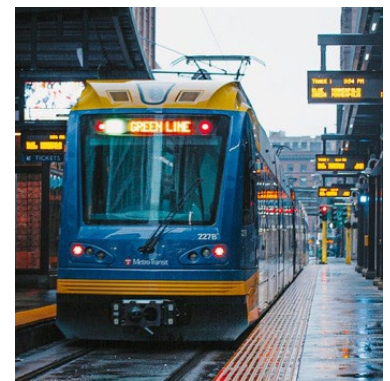
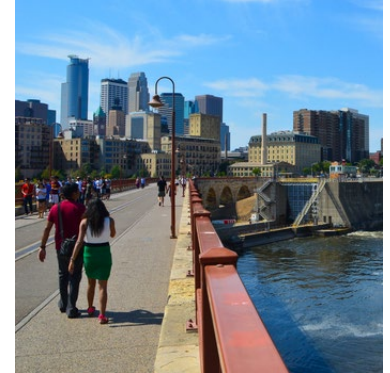
Goals that require special collaboration across policy and work areas.



Water Policy Plan (WPP)

Plan Purpose

- Met Council is developing the 2050 Water Policy Plan, which **focuses on ensuring sustainable water resources in the region**. It is a part of and informed by the Regional Development Guide.
- The WPP provides a **framework for integrative water planning** (wastewater, water supply, and water resources) the Metro Area Water Supply Plan, and the Wastewater System Plan.
- It contains water **policies, strategies, and actions** for both the Met Council and our 180+ local governments within the seven-county region.
- WPP policies **will commit the Council** to take action in the areas of long-range visioning and planning, regional system investments, facility management, technical assistance, research and assessment, and partnerships.



Draft WPP objectives



CLIMATE: Create climate-resilient water sources, ecosystems, and water infrastructure through mitigation, innovative design, and adaptive planning.



INFRASTRUCTURE: Optimize regional water protection, planning, and infrastructure investments.



HEALTH: Protect public and ecosystem health to maintain, restore, and enhance a high quality of life, regional waters, and water services across the region .



EQUITY: Water benefits and services are accessible and shared amongst all residents and communities.

Policy template

Topic Area

Narrative language to set context for policy.

Regional Water Policy

The policies are intended to apply for the whole region, knowing that there are many agencies, organizations, and people connected by water.

Desired Outcomes:

Statements that describe specific changes that will result of the policy.

Connected Objectives:



Example Actions:

PARTNER

- Actions that require collaboration with other organizations to enact.

PLAN

- Actions that plan to create, protect, maintain, enhance, and restore regional waters and water infrastructure.

PROVIDE

- Actions that help the Met Council deliver our water planning and treatment services to the region.

Draft policy topics



- Integrated Water Policy
- Equitable Water Outcomes Policy
- Water Monitoring, Data, and Assessment Policy
- Water and Climate Resiliency Policy
- Water and Land Use Connections
- Water Stewardship and Sustainability

More policies to come...

Water and Land Use Connections Policy



Desired Outcomes:

- The quality and quantity of source and recreational waters is protected and restored.
- Recharge areas are protected and enhanced.
- Natural system, water treatment, and distribution risks and limitations are accounted for and addressed in development and redevelopment planning.

Example Actions:

- Support preservation of regionally significant ecologic areas as rural areas develop through engaging stakeholders, technical assistance, outreach to local governments, and plan review.
- The Metropolitan Council will analyze the impact of land practices on water quality and quantity, including the vulnerability of source water areas and water supplies.

Sustainable and Efficient Water Use Policy



Desired Outcomes:

- Recharge areas are protected and new technologies are implemented to enhance the rate of groundwater replenishment.
- Efficient use and water conservation practices are prioritized and invested in at the local and regional level to help optimize infrastructure investments.

Example Actions:

- The Met Council will work with partners to support efforts that encourage residents, businesses, and water utilities to incorporate new technology and behaviors, where feasible, as a means of achieving water sustainability and energy efficiency in the region.
- Co-create and develop funding requests for water infrastructure projects and feasibility studies that benefit multiple communities.
- The Met Council will implement water conservation and efficiencies in the operation of the regional wastewater collection and treatment system.

Breakout discussion



- **What are your first impressions?**
- **Are we on the right path?**
- **Should we modify the policies?**
- **Did we miss an action?**

Break



5 Minute Break

Water Reuse Policy



Desired Outcomes:

- Stormwater reuse guidelines for the state and region that balance the needs of implementors, state agencies, public health, and financial cost, while furthering sustainable waters.
- Wastewater reuse is implemented where it is economically feasible and appropriate.

Example Actions:

- Metropolitan Council staff will work with agency partners to better define agency roles and responsibilities for reuse in Minnesota.
- The Metropolitan Council will promote and invest in stormwater and wastewater reuse as viable alternatives to augment non-potable water uses to support regional growth when economically feasible.
- The Metropolitan Council will continue supporting our partners in their water reuse projects through financial and implementation support.

Water Contaminants Policy



Desired Outcomes:

- The Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention section (Pretreatment) of the Met Council partners with industry and is authorized to set and review permit limits.
- The Met Council partners with other state agencies in determination and review of state water plans, permits and regulatory limits through convening assistance and technical support.

Example Actions:

- The Met Council will continue to engage with stakeholder groups in the development of the Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy and other state water plans.
- The Council will engage in pollutant trading or off-set opportunities of pollution when cost-effective and environmentally beneficial.
- The Met Council will develop risk-based priorities for accelerated actions for PFAS source reduction, like focused source reduction at wastewater treatment plants with land application programs.

Breakout discussion



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Thank you

Jen Kostrzewski

Assistant Manager, Water Planning and Policy
Jennifer.Kostrzewski@metc.state.mn.us

Steve Christopher

Environmental Analyst, Water Planning and Policy
Steve.Christopher@metc.state.mn.us

Judy Sventek

Water Resources Manager
Judy.Sventek@metc.state.mn.us

Kyle Colvin

Manager, Wastewater Planning and Community Programs
Kyle.Colvin@metc.state.mn.us

