



Climate Action Work Plan

Environment Committee



November 8, 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



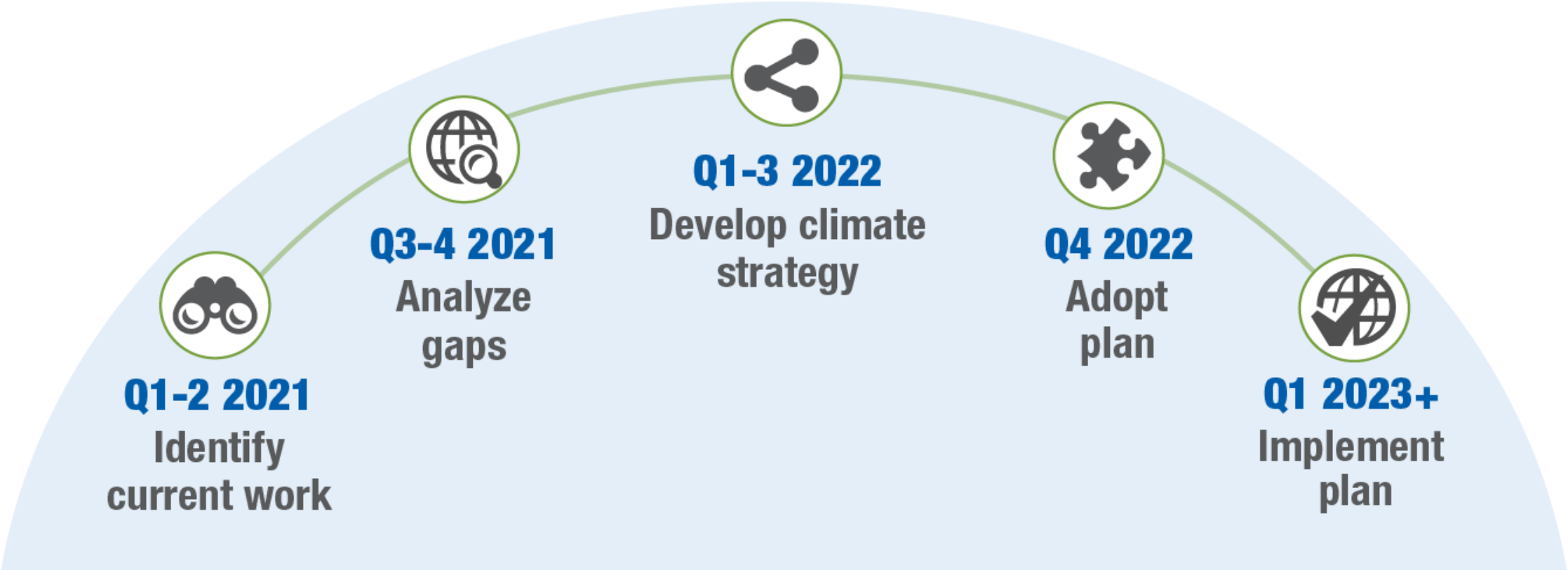
Tools, partnerships, and action

- [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



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 Action Work Plan Commitments

- **Commitment 1:**
We will incorporate environmental justice principles as we plan, implement, and evaluate our climate action work
- **Commitment 2:**
We will accelerate emissions reductions from our operations to achieve carbon neutrality
- **Commitment 3:**
We will accelerate regional emissions reduction through existing and new partnerships
- **Commitment 4:**
We will reduce risks and impacts of climate change hazards to our facilities and services
- **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						

Enabling Mitigation Actions



Priority 1 - High impact, low difficulty

- Plan and implement a continual improvement approach in the **measurement, management, and efficiency of energy use** and other energy management initiatives.
- Establish division and facility-level **energy performance targets and regularly report on progress.**
- Evaluate pathways to **achieve 100% renewable energy purchases** - both thermal and electric such as virtual power purchase agreements, utility-offered green power tariffs, etc.
- Publish an **inventory of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions related to the Council's operations** that reflects current best practices in GHG accounting and includes direct and indirect emission sources.

Enabling Mitigation Actions



Priority 2 - High impact, high difficulty

- Integrate identification, evaluation, & documentation of **energy savings opportunities in facility planning and asset management** business processes.
- Continue pursuit of **energy and resource recovery** from biosolids management.
- For capital projects greater than \$10 million, or otherwise necessary, **prepare life-cycle carbon alternatives analyses** and present results with and without accounting for the social cost of GHGs.
- Develop and implement a research and monitoring strategy to **better quantify wastewater process emissions to inform the evaluation of emissions reduction potential** from these sources.

Enabling Adaptation Actions



Priority 1 - High impact, low difficulty

- Convene partner organizations and residents to **share challenges and best practices, identify gaps and collaboration opportunities and develop a shared regional vision of climate resiliency.**
- Develop a **checklist of climate considerations and best practices to address when conducting agency reviews of local plans and environmental reviews**
- Develop climate mitigation and adaptation strategies to **address current and future climate impacts to regional systems within the 2050 Policy Plans.**

Enabling Adaptation Actions



Priority 2 - High impact, high difficulty

- Develop a climate vulnerability screening tool to **identify and prioritize Council-owned facilities and properties for in-depth climate preparedness reviews.**
- Provide technical assistance to regional partners to **increase the number of climate-resilient green infrastructure and other nature-based adaptation installations** in the Metro.
- Incorporate climate projections and impact analysis into assessments, modeling, and tools to conduct a **regional climate water resource system vulnerability assessment.**
 - Example: Enhance the Council's localized flood mapping tool to **improve risk assessment of localized, riverine, and groundwater flooding.**

Committee Discussion



As you have reviewed the actions:

- Do you have questions about any of the actions?
- Is there anything missing?
- Are there actions that appear to be more critical than others?
- Do you have questions about the capacity and resources needed to execute the actions?
- Other questions or thoughts you want to share?

Next steps for Climate Action Work Plan



Council committee schedule

- Oct. 12 – First presentation to Council
- Oct. 24 – Transportation Committee
- Nov. 7 – Community Development Committee
- Nov. 8 – Environment Committee
- Nov. 9 – Management Committee
- Nov. 16 – Committee of the Whole
- Nov. 30 – Council Climate Work Group
- Dec. 14 – Council considers final plan approval



Thank you

Jen Kostrzewski

Environmental Analyst, Water Resources

Jennifer.Kostrzewski@metc.state.mn.us

David Ponder

Environmental Analyst, Sustainability

David.Ponder@metc.state.mn.us

