



# HENNEPIN COUNTY Climate Action Plan

Acting boldly on climate change  
for ourselves and generations to come

Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan serves as a strong foundation for a coordinated approach to planning, policy development, and response to climate change and aligns with the county's disparity reduction work.

## Our goal: Net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

**Interim goal:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030.

The county is focused on reducing emissions in ways that align with core county functions and priorities.



### Buildings and energy use

Lead by example in county operations and support others to achieve carbon-free electricity, continue energy efficiency improvements and electrification of buildings.



### Transportation

Expand transit and transit-oriented development, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and develop electric vehicle infrastructure.



### Waste and material use

Prevent food waste, divert organic material from the trash, and advance zero-waste policies.



### Carbon sequestration

Offset the release of greenhouse gases by planting trees, preserving and restoring natural areas, and improving soil health.

## Adapting to a changing climate

Prepare for impacts such as increased rainfall, extreme weather, and freeze/thaw cycles that will put increased pressure on natural resources and the built environment. Use green and natural infrastructure to manage stormwater, improve water quality, decrease the urban heat island, and sequester carbon.

## Becoming a more equitable and resilient community



Cutting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change will help build stronger communities that can better withstand abrupt and sometimes unforeseen weather, social, and economic changes.

The county's response to climate change prioritizes protecting the most vulnerable residents and advancing equitable health outcomes.

The county recognizes that communities of color and low-income families are more vulnerable to climate change impacts but contribute least to climate pollution. Centering efforts to reduce racial disparities not only helps us adapt to a changing climate but safeguards our residents, our economy, our infrastructure, and the environment.

## Legislative priorities

Support legislation consistent with the state and Hennepin County's Climate Action Plan. Specifically, support investment in:



**Community forestry** by recognizing the role forests play in climate change mitigation and addressing the impact of emerald ash borer and other invasive species



**Increase renewable energy production** by supporting technologies such as anaerobic digestion, biological carbon sequestration, wind, and renewable natural gas



**Vehicle electrification** by supporting the development of long-range electric vehicle batteries, creating a publicly available statewide infrastructure of quick charging stations, and electrifying government fleets



**Food waste prevention and zero-waste policies** including additional SCORE funds to expand organics recycling, support to strengthen local recycling markets, producer responsibility for products and packaging, and state leadership to prioritize the salvage and recycling of building materials

## Our vision for a climate friendly future

Pursuing the strategies laid out in the plan will enable us to create a better future for ourselves and future generations.



## Contact

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