



Resilient Cities & Communities

Visionary People. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures.

Date: December 8, 2023

To: Metropolitan Governance Task Force Members lcc@lcc.mn.gov <https://www.lcc.mn.gov/mgtf/>
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From: **Sean Gosiewski**, Executive Director, **Resilient Cities and Communities**
612 250-0389 sean@rccmn.co Link to our comments <https://rccmn.co/metro-governance/>
2730 East 31st Street Minneapolis MN 55406 Visionary Leaders. Vibrant Places. Regenerative Futures

Subject: How a well-paid & elected Met Council can accelerate Regional Climate Implementation

Let's maintain mutual accountability and transparency to achieve region-wide climate mitigation & adaptation goals on time with state agencies, Met Council, cities, counties & partners.

Verbal Testimony to the task force Dec 8, 2023, from Sean Gosiewski, Resilient Cities and Communities Begins at 1:17:30 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMkfGpVtNU&t=4808s>

An **Elected Met Council** will have both a mandate **from local voters** and the **time needed** to receive new ideas from stakeholders and cities and counties to support breakthrough solutions on complex issues including climate change, transit safety, housing supply and reversing racial wealth gaps and health disparities. Elected Met Council Members would be covering areas larger than county commissioners & should receive commensurate pay, so they can focus on their elected roles.

In addition, we need specific working groups within our current Met Council to maintain focus, momentum and mutual accountability and transparency for climate implementation

- **Met Council Climate Change Working Group**, actively supports and maintains accountability with departments to implement the [Met Council's Climate Action work plan](#) for operations &
- Launch a new **Metro Regional Climate Change working group** – as a joint sub committee of the **Land Use Advisory Committee and Transportation Advisory Board** to implement the new **Region Wide Metro Climate Action Plan**, Met Council staff are currently developing with [EPA CPRG funding](#).
 - o With representatives from implementation experts (nonprofits and businesses) and representatives from metro cities and counties leading on climate

Let's follow the example of dozens of **successful Regional Climate Collaboratives** across the U.S. here in the Twin Cities to scale up **climate-friendly regional investments** and **local policy adoption & projects** by metro cities and counties to achieve our climate goals on time.

See five good national examples <https://rccmn.co/regionalclimatecollaboratives/>

Congratulations on the Met Council's excellent current local climate planning resources created within the Community Development Department <https://metro council.org/Planning/Climate.aspx>

- [GHG Strategy Planning Tool](#)
- [GHG Inventory](#),
- [Growing Shade](#),
- [Flood/Heat Maps](#)

However, current Met Council resources are voluntary for cities and city leaders have few opportunities for groups of cities to meet together to assess their city-wide Green House Gas wedges and to plan and implement policies and projects to address all their city-wide GHG wedges, i.e. reducing natural gas use in commercial and residential buildings, reducing VMT and advancing transportation electrification.

Many city elected leaders, commission volunteers and city staff I am working would like the **Met Council to take a more active role in in guiding and supporting cities to take effective climate actions.**

For example – <https://rccmn.co/buildings/>

to reduce natural gas use in new and existing buildings residential and commercial–

we need to **line up high impact actions** → examples of **successful projects & policies** →

→ **strategy specific funding guidance** to combine MN, federal funding, tax credits, utility \$

Let's advance Collaborative, transparent implementation of the Met Council's \$1 million dollar EPA climate pollution reduction planning grant and future EPA CPRG Implementation grants between

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY for metro cities to become eligible to apply with the Met Council &/or MPCA by April 1 2023 for a Federal IRA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants (\$200 to \$500 million)

<https://rccmn.co/topics/federal-climate-pollution-reduction-grants/>

- **Resilient Cities and Communities** would be glad to partner with the Met Council and metro counties to convene interested cities for meet ups to prioritize actions to include in the Met Council's Climate Action Plan once you receive the planning funds. <https://rccmn.co/county-clusters/>

Benefits

- **Large cities with climate action plans could update their plans** to make the most of opportunities to leverage new IIJA funds and IRA tax credits with the support of [new MN Dept of Commerce staff](#),
- **Builds upon the [Met Council's climate action work plan](#)** for operations to enable additional cities and counties to reduce GHGs in their operations with functional teams (buildings, fleets, geothermal, etc.)
- **Influencing the Met Council's Transportation Policy Plan for 2050** to include VMT and transportation electrification strategies (using [MNDOT's STAC](#) recommendations) & MNDOT Federal IIJA Carbon Reduction Program guidelines to local jurisdictions prioritizing local transportation investments / <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/carbon-reduction-program/>
- **Opportunity to convene interested cities by county to develop climate action work plans** using the Met Council's new GHG scenario planning tool reports ([see RCC proposal](#)) All Metro Cities will be required to include community wide Climate Action Plans as part of their 2050 Comprehensive Plan Updates.
- **Opportunity to convene cities experiencing redevelopment** to plan ways they can support developers to build next zero buildings with network geothermal and mobility hubs ([see RCC proposal](#)) <https://rccmn.co/21st-century-communities/>

Let's manage **collaborative multi-jurisdictional climate implementation** within

ONE open-source collaborative strategy engagement platform to sync up, investments, staffing and resources to implement our **Minnesota, Metro, County and City Climate Action plans**

We can Streamline/Facilitate Collaborative Implementation of Local/Regional Climate Action Plans with city, county & regional teams using the [Insight Vision Strategy Engagement Platform](#) with training/[coaching](#) (nationally-recognized, secure, easy to use, soon to be open source) to track goals → benchmarks → actions → strategy maps → team members → funding sources → project outcomes/case studies → reporting

- **Nationally Recognized [Insight Vision](#) Strategy Engagement Platform**
- <https://www.insightformation.com/insightvision>