

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop
FROM: Krista Billerbeck , Natural resources manager
DATE: July 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Climate action plan draft scope and goals
ITEM NUMBER: 1.a
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

The council identified a strategic priority to develop a climate action plan to be completed by 2027. Staff was directed to develop a climate action plan that is consistent with Ramsey County's climate action plan, adapted to Shoreview's circumstances. The priority states that the plan should assess risks to public infrastructure and private property; identify opportunities for long-term cost savings for the city, residents, and businesses; and include measurable indicators for success.

Staff has compiled a draft scope and goals for a climate action work plan and requests the council review, discuss, and provide feedback.

DISCUSSION

Through discussions, staff recommend taking a workplan approach with an internal focus on city operations and in-house practices. The workplan will have a five year scope and identify specific actions that each department will aim to complete. As opposed to a long range plan, a workplan will establish actionable steps the city can work on now to make progress on broader goals. This will provide the opportunity for staff to evaluate progress at the end of the workplan timeframe, assess the next best steps and develop new actions for the next phase.

All climate plans include goals to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Mitigation goals are actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions primarily come from energy used for buildings, transportation, and waste. Adaptation goals are steps to plan for the effects of climate change that are already happening and will continue. These actions aim to increase resilience in conditions of higher amounts of precipitation; more intense events, whether rainfall or drought; and warmer temperatures.

In addition to the city council's strategic priority, the Metropolitan Council has new climate requirements for the next comprehensive plan update. The Met Council will require communities to include a greenhouse gas inventory in their plans, as well as strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

To align with the plans of Ramsey County and the State of MN, staff recommend following the

focus areas used by both, adapted to the city level. The focus areas are:

- Clean transportation - connect people to places through a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system. This includes travel options, clean and efficient vehicles, and infrastructure.
- Thriving communities - help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from impacts of climate change. This includes resilient infrastructure, waste reduction, and updating planning and zoning.
- Clean energy and efficient buildings - reduce greenhouse gas emissions in buildings by improving efficiency and renewable use.
- Climate smart natural land - manage city landscapes in a way that increases resilience and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Healthy lives - help respond to the health impacts of climate change. This includes topics such as drinking water and awareness of the impact of climate change on health.
- Clean economy - promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and waste reduction in businesses. This is primarily externally focused and is not as relevant for the internal focus of this workplan.

Based on the proposed scope and focus areas, public works, parks and recreation, and community development created goals that reflect work already taking place and expands existing work. The attached spreadsheet lists draft goals and the corresponding department. Some information still needs to be gathered before being able to make specific, well informed goals. For example, building energy assessments will need to take place before being able to identify specific building improvements that can be made. Some goals reflect other strategic priorities already laid out by council and staff request further direction on these. For example, additional direction is needed on strategic goals of converting maintenance equipment to electric and reducing turfgrass in city parks. The majority of the goals listed have associated costs, many of which are unknown at this point. Staff asks the council to discuss the priority level of goals and within the broader context of city operations and budgets.

Councilmember Gardner provided a memo with suggestions for strategic guidance on the climate action plan which is attached at the end of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the council review the draft scope and goals of the climate action workplan and provide direction.

ATTACHMENTS

[Draft Climate Action Workplan Goals](#)

[Gardner Climate Action Memo](#)