

HOW TO INCLUDE CLIMATE ACTION

within a Comprehensive Plan?

More communities in Minnesota are considering integrating their climate action policies into their comprehensive land use plan

Advantages

- ✔ Comprehensive plans are existing, recognized legal instruments for implementing and enforcing policies and strategies
- ✔ Comprehensive plan implementation is usually linked to specific departments, providing ownership and accountability
- ✔ Synergies with other issue areas can be captured and potential conflict resolved
- ✔ Complete integration of climate action strategies in community planning documents may become standard



Plan Integration

Climate action goals, policies, and actions should be incorporated across the various elements of a community's comprehensive plans rather than into a single element



LAND USE

- ✔ Discourage auto-dependence
- ✔ Discourage low-density development
- ✔ Promote mixed land use
- ✔ Promote higher density in core areas and transit nodes
- ✔ Promote affordable housing
- ✔ Promote smart growth
- ✔ Promote bicycle-and-pedestrian friendly infrastructure



HOUSING

Balance job and housing availability to reduce vehicle miles traveled

Include policies on energy conservation or green building, resilience to projected impacts, and renovation



TRANSPORTATION

- ✔ Discourage vehicle miles traveled, specifically travel by single-occupancy motor vehicles
- ✔ Encourage the use of mass transit, bicycling, walking and telecommuting
- ✔ Accommodate all modes of transportation
- ✔ Fund the necessary infrastructure for transit
- ✔ Plan for complete networks of bikeways
- ✔ Ensure that streets have safe and inviting sidewalks



CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote energy, water, and other resources efficiency

Identify opportunities for expanding the resilience of natural resources and systems



OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURE

Address the protection of agriculture, forests and woodland

Expand urban parks and street tree programs



NATURAL HAZARDS OR SAFETY

Climate change may increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters such as wildfires, flooding, droughts, and heat emergencies