



Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan

City of Hopkins

August 2025



Acknowledgments

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- + City of Hopkins Division Managers
- + Dow Towers
- + Hopkins Apartment Managers Association
- + Hopkins Business and Civic Association
- + Youth Advisory Board

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Thank you to each individual who contributed to this plan. Your efforts are appreciated and input invaluable.

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Hopkins Community,

I am proud to introduce the City of Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan — a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen our community's resilience in the face of climate change.

Hopkins has demonstrated leadership in sustainability and is well-positioned to take the lead on climate action. As a walkable, transit-oriented community, Hopkins has the foundation to enhance our amenities and increase the vibrancy and connectedness that makes our community a place people from all walks of life are proud to call home. This plan couldn't come at a more critical time. As we confront the growing impacts of climate change — more intense heat, heavy rainfalls — it is time to take the next step and implement smart solutions that will improve our community and prepare us for future challenges.

The Plan reflects our mission to inspire, educate, involve, and communicate:

- + Inspire change by setting ambitious goals — reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050.
- + Educate and empower residents and businesses to reduce energy use, transition to clean energy, and prepare for climate impacts.
- + Involve the whole community, ensuring diverse voices are heard and that programs are inclusive and accessible.
- + Communicate openly, sharing progress and inviting continued collaboration from across the community.

I am grateful to the community members for creating a vision for Hopkins that outlines our shared responsibility to care for each other, reduce climate risk, and ensure that everyone benefits from a healthier, more resilient community. Success of this plan will require smart investments and a collective effort. I am excited to dig in with residents, businesses, volunteers, institutions, and everyone who visits our community to achieve these goals and build a resilient Hopkins.

I invite you to read the full plan, get involved, and join us in making these goals a reality. Together, we can ensure that Hopkins remains not only a great place to live today, but for generations to come.

Sincerely,



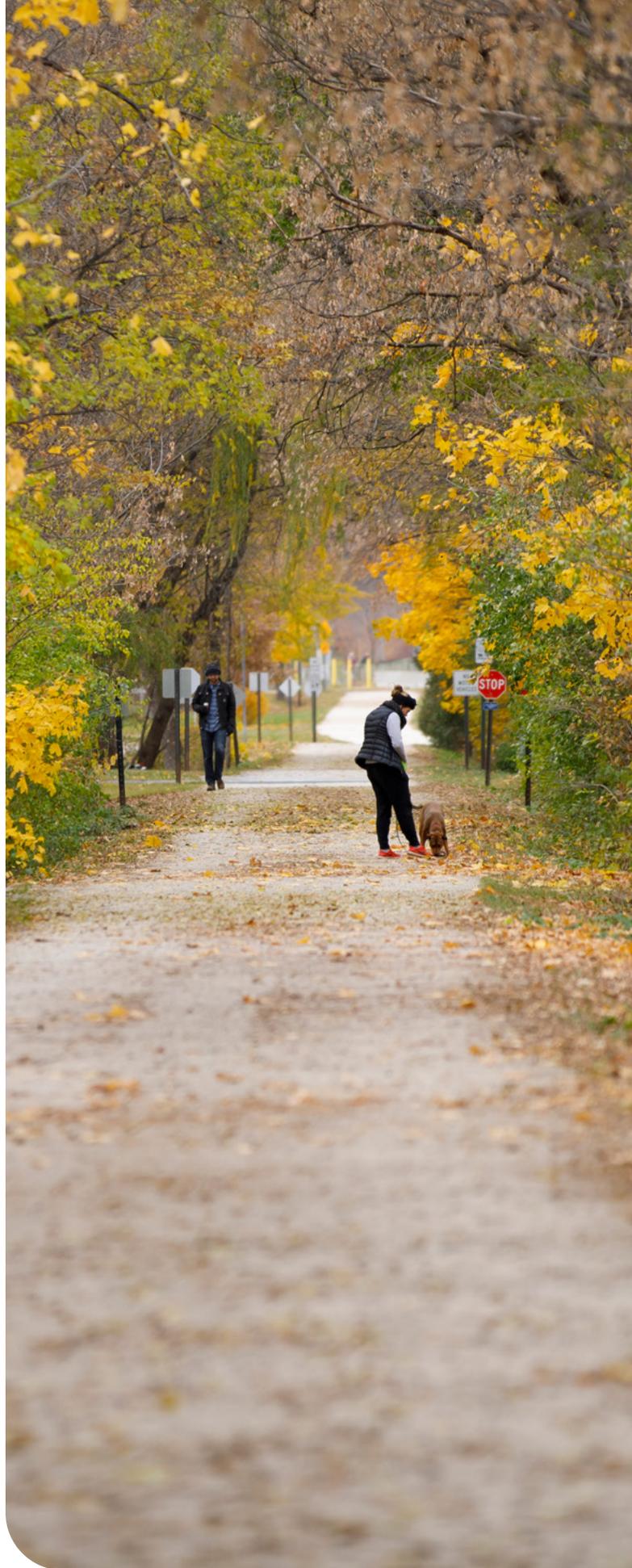
Patrick Hanlon

Mayor

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1

Introduction

Climate change is a global problem that requires transformative action in how we use energy and land — across all levels of government, commerce, and lifestyles. In Hopkins, the effects of climate change are already visible: **extreme heat, intense storms,** and **flooding** have become more frequent due to rising global temperatures. Many residents — due to age, physical ability, income, or other factors — are more likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate hazards and disruptions. Fundamental to the success of this Plan, we recognize that our most disadvantaged community members have the most to gain from an improved quality of life. The actions included in this Plan maximize impact, improve quality of life, and to lessen the burdens of cost, pollution, and hazards on the community, especially for the most vulnerable.

The City of Hopkins has taken many actions to improve sustainability and enhance community resilience. Until now, the City has not had a plan dedicated to comprehensively addressing sustainability, resilience, or climate change more broadly. The Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan (Plan) is the first comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions while adapting to climate change. Shaped by public input, this Plan focuses on what the community can do in the next five years to work toward its climate goals of reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

Community members shaped the vision and helped prioritize actions. Through a partnership with [Change Narrative](#), three community members — Brooke Roper, Jane Hufford Downes, and Julie Marie Muskat — developed and shared personal stories of how climate change affects

their daily lives. Excerpts from each story are featured throughout this Plan and complete stories can be found on the [City's sustainability webpage](#). These stories help to ground the complexities of climate change impacts in our lived experiences and find solutions through common values.

The challenge of addressing climate change can be daunting. By taking productive action toward reducing emissions and adapting to climate hazards, we can lessen the burden of the challenge and work toward a better future. Everyone in Hopkins has an opportunity to contribute to the success of this Plan. Together, we can achieve our climate goals and improve the overall quality of life for everyone in our community.



Hopkins storytellers from left to right: Jane Downes, Brooke Roper, and Julie Muskat.

“ I would obsessively watch the Weather Channel, driven by a need to understand everything I could about thunderstorms, tornadoes, and severe weather. Over time, my fear gradually shifted into fascination, and the more I learned, the less afraid I became. When I reflect on why I care about climate change, I often think back to those early memories—how I transformed my fear into a catalyst for action.

Brooke Roper, Hopkins Resident

“ It seems so simple to dream of a world where everyone has access to nature, clean air, and clean water. When I was young, I saw simple solutions; thinking we only needed to become aware of the problem, to be motivated to fix it.

Jane Hufford Downes, Hopkins Resident

“ I don't expect one dance piece to change the world, but I believe art has a role. I ask myself: How do I seek and create beauty as a necessity for survival in this world?

Julie Marie Muskat, Hopkins Resident

Executive Summary

In the summer of 2024, the City of Hopkins was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to develop the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan. The project began in the fall with a comprehensive review of existing conditions, followed by the launch of a community engagement process in early 2025.

The resulting Plan outlines a long-term goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and strengthen resilience for all residents. This inaugural Plan emphasizes priority actions that can be implemented in the next five years. The work plan reflects a combination of actions where the City has the greatest authority and can be most impactful, as well as where the City can support the community in contributing to the climate goals through education and incentives. These actions reflect the values and priorities expressed by community members and staff through the engagement process.

Existing Conditions

The Existing Conditions Report was completed to provide an analysis of the City's current actions as they relate to climate change. This includes both how the activities within the community contribute to climate change and how climate change affects the community. The report details a profile of the community's characteristics, a review of projected climate hazards and vulnerabilities, an inventory of current and past greenhouse gas emissions, and an assessment of on-going policies, plans, and programs that contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Engagement

The City of Hopkins conducted a comprehensive public engagement process to solicit input on climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Outreach efforts included a kick-off workshop with community members, several focus group discussions, a community-wide webinar, and an online survey. Residents, businesses, City staff, and other stakeholders shared their perspectives on climate solutions and informed the prioritization of strategies and actions through these events. At the final engagement event, three residents shared their climate stories to help provide further inspiration for the implementation of this plan. Excerpts from these stories are embedded throughout this plan.



Photos From Engagement Events

Vision

The vision statement for a climate resilient Hopkins was developed to reflect themes that emerged during the engagement process. The overarching vision states:

The City of Hopkins thrives from decades of investment in integrated climate actions that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and built resilience to climate hazards.

Everyone — especially the most vulnerable — benefits from cleaner air, lower energy costs, zero waste, more active and connected lifestyles, and greater access to natural resources.

Effective use of taxpayer dollars is reflected in the affordability of the community and availability of high-quality public services and facilities.

Community members emphasized the importance of clean energy, green spaces, multiple mobility options, zero waste, and protection from climate hazards. These themes make up the five elements that support the vision and are used to guide the organization of the five-year work plan.



Clean Air



Green City



Active & Connected Lifestyles



Zero Waste & Sustainable Living



Resilience to Climate Hazards

Goals

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world's foremost scientific body that conducts research on climate change. In 2018, the organization issued a special report ahead of the Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris that concluded that global emissions must decline by 45% (relative to 2010 levels) by 2030 and reach net zero by mid-century, to limit warming to 2°C (3.6° F) above pre-industrial levels. Likewise, the State of Minnesota established goals to reduce emissions 50% by 2030 (from 2005) and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This Plan will:

Mitigate Climate Change: In line with international greenhouse gas reduction targets and state goals, Hopkins aims to:

- + **Reduce emissions 50% by 2030** (*from 2019 levels*)
- + **Achieve carbon neutrality by 2050**

Build Community Resilience: Recognizing that climate change is already causing exacerbated weather disruptions and will continue to worsen over time, Hopkins also aims to achieve resilience targets that:

- + **Strengthen infrastructure** to withstand the stresses and shocks of climate hazards
- + Improve **emergency preparedness** for all community members
- + Enhance **environmental and energy resilience**
- + Foster **community connections and well-being**

Five Year Work Plan

The purpose of the five-year work plan is to work toward long-term goals through focused, actionable steps that will be implemented in the near term and achieve 2030 targets. Actions selected for this work plan are based on the City's authority to implement, the impact on emissions, and from public input on priorities. Progress will be tracked against the 2030 targets. A short-term plan allows for adaptability, enabling Hopkins to respond to new opportunities, technologies, or community needs as they emerge, while building momentum toward the long-term goals and vision, as well as improving the overall livability of the community.

2

Existing Conditions

The Existing Conditions Report was completed to provide an assessment of current community characteristics, climate hazards and vulnerabilities, and on-going plans, policies, and programs that support climate action. This assessment provides insight into how well prepared the community might be to manage climate change impacts and how it can build on-going efforts to achieve its targets and goals. Highlights from the report are included below; the full report can be found on the [City's sustainability webpage](#).

Community Profile

Understanding the current demographic, economic, and land-use patterns is useful for identifying climate vulnerabilities and opportunities to strengthen resilience. The following summarizes key findings for Hopkins' community profile. The complete profile can be found in the Existing Conditions Report. All demographic information referenced in this section is from the Minnesota Compass [Hopkins Location Profile](#).

- + **Geography and Land Use:** Hopkins is a four-square-mile city, southwest of Minneapolis with nearly 20,000 residents. The City is fully developed, with 50% of land for residential use, 27% for commercial, industrial, and institutional purposes, and 17% for parks.
- + **Demographics:** The population is 59.3% White, 20.2% Black, 7.6% Hispanic or Latino, 7.1% are two or more races, and 5.2% Asian or Pacific Islander. Hopkins has a growing immigrant population with nearly 11% of the population born outside of the U.S. and 15% of residents speak a language other than English at home.
- + **Income:** Hopkins is generally a low- to middle-class community with a median income of \$71,170 as compared to the median income of Hennepin County (\$96,339). Approximately 9% of residents have incomes below the poverty line.

- + **Housing:** The housing stock consists of about 9,000 housing units where 30% are single-family homes and 64% are multi-family homes with five or more units. Approximately 32% of housing units are owner-occupied, and 62% are renter-occupied.
 - **Cost Burden:** An estimated 36% of Hopkins' residents are considered cost-burdened; 19% of owner-occupied homes and 45% of renters are considered cost-burdened. Cost burdened is when more than 30% of a household's income is *spent on housing-related costs*.
 - **Energy Burden:** The average energy burden in Hopkins is 3% and can be as high as 12% among households with lower incomes. Energy burden is the *percent of income spent on energy utilities*. 6% is considered high energy burden; 10% is considered severe.
- + **Workforce:** Hopkins hosts a diverse workforce with at least 15 different industries present in the community. More than 18,000 people work in Hopkins, earning an average of more than \$40,000 per year.
- + **Commute:** The primary mode of transportation for residents is to drive alone (65%). In addition to driving alone, about 16% work from home, 10% of commuters carpool, 6% walk or bike, and 4% take public transportation. The average commute for residents is about 20 minutes.

Figure 2.1 Hopkins Demographic Overview

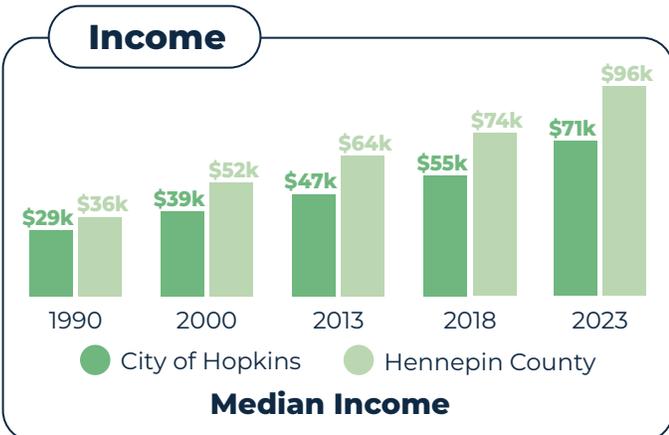
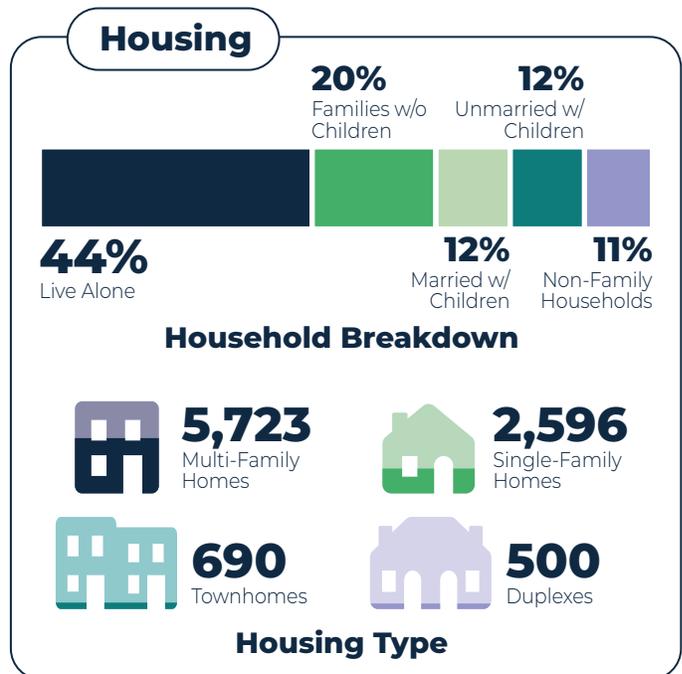
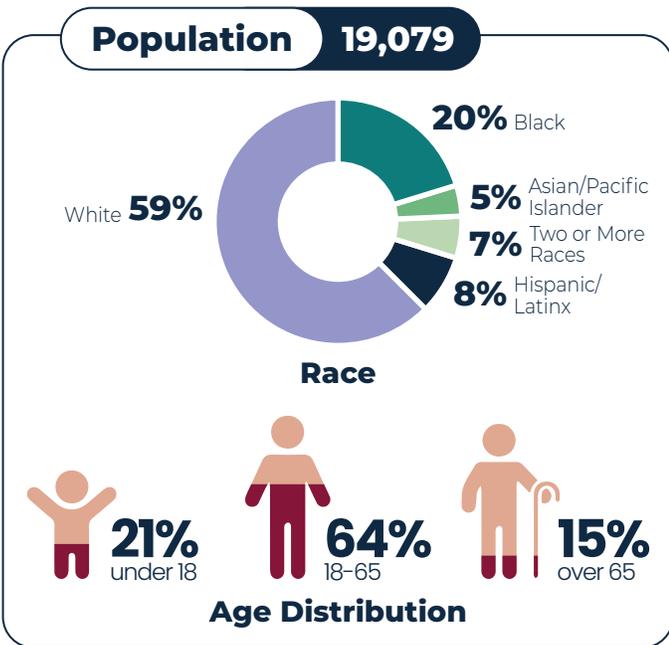
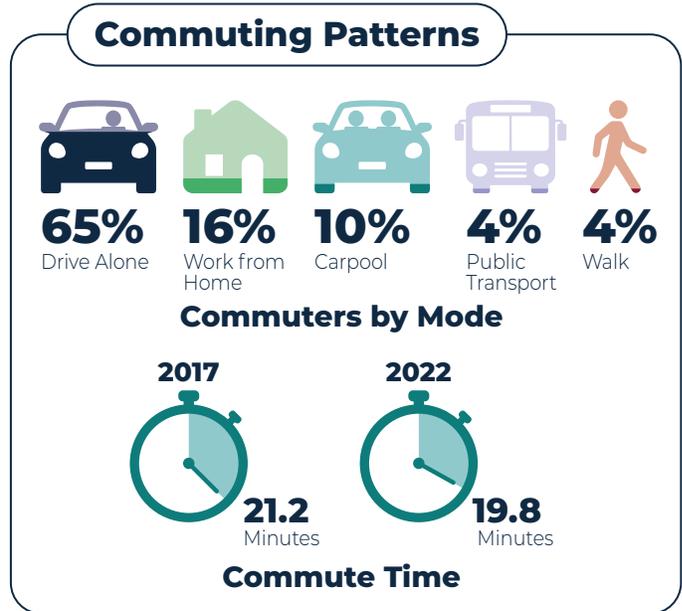
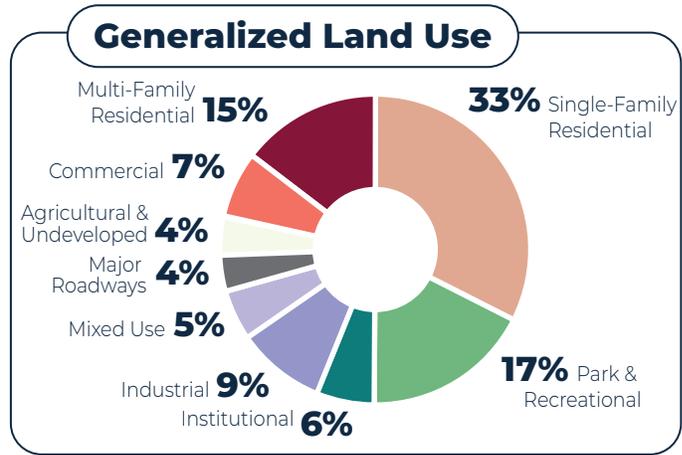
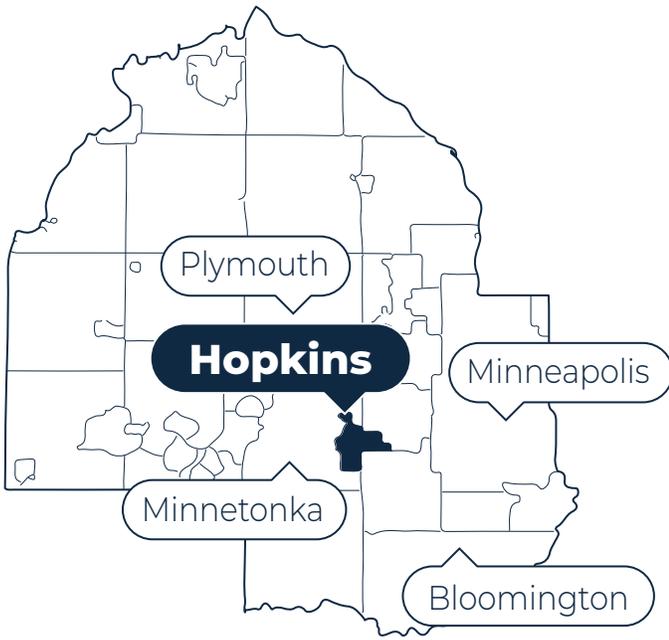


Figure 2.2 Wetter Springs: Mid-century Spring Precipitation Projection for Hennepin County.

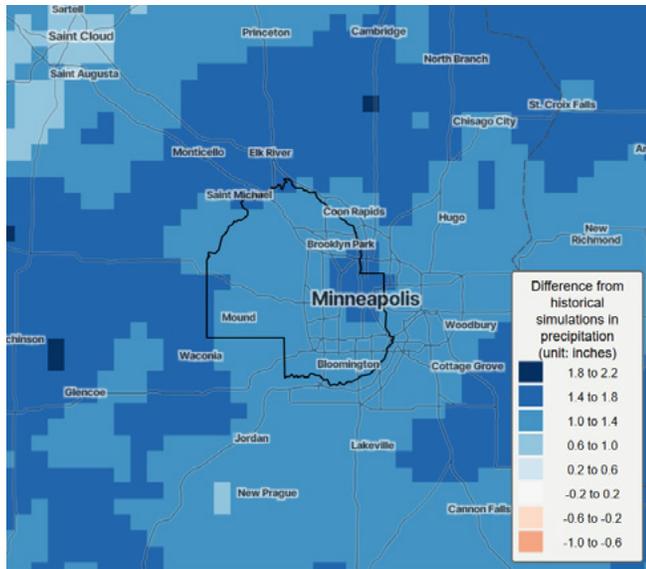
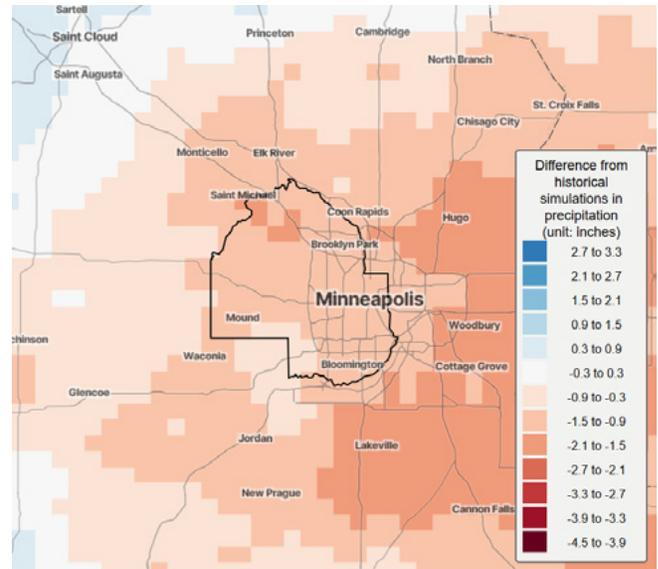


Figure 2.3 Drier Summers: Mid-century Summer Precipitation Projection for Hennepin County.



Climate Hazards

Hopkins is already experiencing the effects of climate change. As global temperatures rise, precipitation patterns have changed, extreme weather events have become more frequent, and both winter and summer temperatures have increased. These hazards pose risks to public health and property, City infrastructure, and natural resources. In recent years there has been an acceleration in global temperatures as well as extreme weather conditions. Using media reports and projections from the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, the following provides a snapshot of what the City has experienced and can expect to see in the future.

+ 2023 and 2024 Notable Events:

- Hopkins experienced 33 days above 90°F in 2023 (more than double the historical average of 13 days).
- Severe storms caused \$1.1 billion in damages across the Twin Cities in August of 2023.
- A record number of air quality alert days, due to Canadian wildfire smoke, occurred in 2023.

- Winter of 2023-2024 was dubbed as the “lost winter” due to being relatively warm and without snow for much of the season.
 - 2024 is the warmest year on record, exceeding 1.5°C (2.7°F) (above pre-industrial levels).
- + Mid-Century Climate Projections [Minnesota Climate Mapping and Analysis Tool, CliMAT](#)
- Winters and summers are expected to warm, especially overnight winter temperatures.
 - Average daily temperatures are projected to be 87.9°F — over five degrees hotter than the historical summer average.
 - Urban heat islands, which can be up to 15°F hotter than surrounding areas, will be a growing concern as summers get hotter.
 - An increase in heavy precipitation events (mostly in winter and spring) with long dry spells during summer and fall are likely.
 - Annual precipitation is projected to increase 1.4 inches under an intermediate scenario.

Vulnerability Assessment

Communities conduct vulnerability assessments to evaluate how climate hazards may impact people, infrastructure, and natural resources based on risk of exposure to the various hazards and vulnerabilities. Certain populations may be more vulnerable due to age, income level, health indicators, housing conditions, and language barriers. In 2021, Hennepin County completed a vulnerability assessment that details the risks that current and projected climate hazards pose to water, transportation, public health, natural systems, and built infrastructure. Figure 2.4 illustrates the County's vulnerability composite score where census tracts in Hopkins score 86 and higher, indicating greater vulnerability.

The following section summarizes climate hazards and their prevalence in Hopkins and potential population vulnerabilities. All demographic information referenced in this section is from the [Minnesota Compass Hopkins Location Profile](#).

Extreme Heat & Urban Heat Island Effect

Hazard: An increase in the number of days above 90°F and prolonged heat waves where urban areas like Blake Road and Excelsior Boulevard absorb more heat due to a high percentage (40.6%) of land cover that is asphalt with limited vegetation (i.e., urban heat island effect).

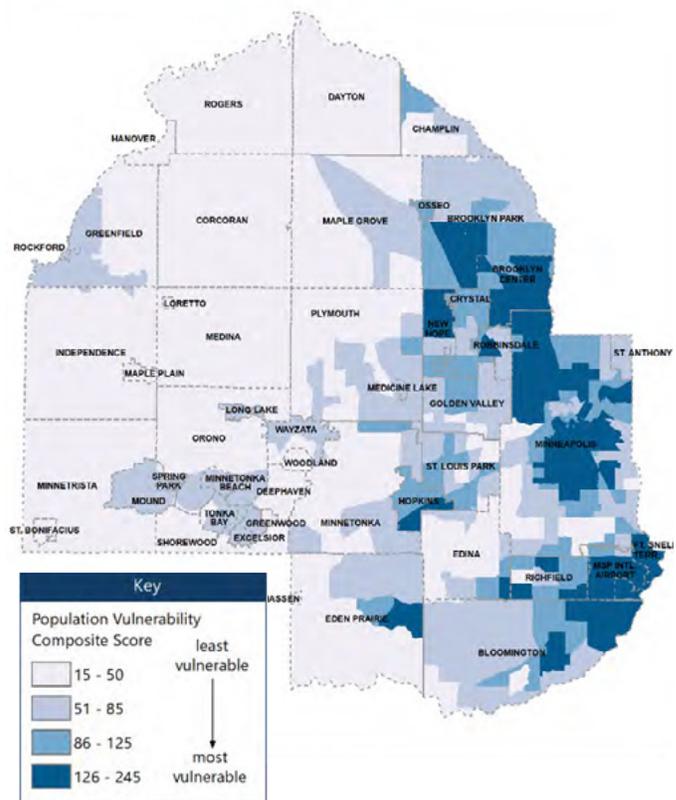
Vulnerable Populations:

- + **Adults over 65 (15% of Hopkins residents):** More prone to heat-related illnesses like heat stroke and dehydration. Those who live alone, lack air conditioning, and/or have limited social support are most vulnerable.
- + **Young children (8% under the age of 5):** Higher risk of dehydration and heat exhaustion when playing outside in excessive heat. Heat is disruptive to the ability to learn when there is not adequate air conditioning.

“ However, the reality of climate change's present-day implications is that marginalized communities are often hit the hardest and are less resourced, which intensifies the burdens we face in terms of our lives, health, and justice. These are hard, but vital, conversations.

Brooke Roper, Hopkins Resident

Figure 2.4 Population Vulnerability Composite.
Source: [Hennepin County Vulnerability Assessment](#).



- + **Low-income households (36% are cost-burdened):** May struggle to afford air conditioners or increased energy bills from running them. Rental housing may lack cooling appliances.
- + **Outdoor workers (2.9% of workers are in construction):** Prolonged exposure to excessive heat increases the risk of heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses.
- + **Non-English speakers (15% speak a language other than English at home):** Language barriers may limit access to adequate heat warnings and cooling resources.

Severe Storms & Power Outages

Hazard: Hopkins may experience increasingly severe storms with high winds, hail, and heavy rainfall, leading to power outages and property damage.

Vulnerable Populations:

- + **Renters in multi-family housing (64% of housing units):** Renters have less control over the resilience of their buildings, risk of extended power outages, lack of access to alternative housing after damaging events.
- + **Seniors (15%) and people with disabilities (16%):** Seniors and people with disabilities may rely on medical equipment that needs power or refrigeration and be less able to evacuate or get to safety.
- + **Low-income residents (10% of residents with income below poverty):** Those with lower incomes may have a limited ability to recover from property damage and to be able to afford emergency preparedness resources.
- + **Non-English speakers (4.6% speak English less than “very well”):** May not understand or receive warnings in time.
- + **People without reliable transportation (11% no vehicle; 16% with a disability):** Those without access to vehicles, bikes, or transit may struggle to reach emergency shelters or resources.

Flooding & Water Damage

Hazard: More frequent heavy rainfall events increase the risk of flash flooding and may more severely impact areas with aging infrastructure and in low-lying land.

Vulnerable Populations:

- + **Residents in flood-prone areas (data not available for Hopkins):** Low-lying neighborhoods and older buildings are at higher risk of water damage. (Figure 2.7)
- + **Low-income households (36% are cost-burdened):** Those with lower incomes may have less financial ability to repair flood damage or relocate if home becomes uninhabitable.
- + **Renters in older buildings (46% of buildings were constructed before 1970):** Renters are less able to repair water damage and greater risk of mold; older buildings may be more susceptible to more years of exposure to weather and substandard ventilation.
- + **Non-English speakers (4.6% speak English less than “very well”):** Some residents may not receive or understand flood warnings that are in English only.

Air Quality & Wildfire Smoke

Hazard: Increased wildfire smoke and/or vehicle exhaust contribute to poor air quality.

Vulnerable Population:

- + **Children (8% under the age of 5) & seniors over 65 (15% of Hopkins residents):** Those more sensitive to poor air quality are at increased risk for asthma attacks and respiratory distress.
- + **People with pre-existing health conditions e.g., asthma, COPD, heart disease (data not available for Hopkins):** Poor air quality exacerbates these health conditions.
- + **Outdoor workers (2.9% of workers are in construction):** Increased exposure to polluted air without proper protective equipment and measures.
- + **Low-income residents (9% below poverty):** Those with lower incomes are less likely to have air purifiers, air-conditioned spaces, or the ability to stay indoors during poor air quality events.

Figure 2.6 Extreme Heat Map Tool

Source: Metropolitan Council. [Extreme Heat Map Tool \(arcgis.com\)](#)

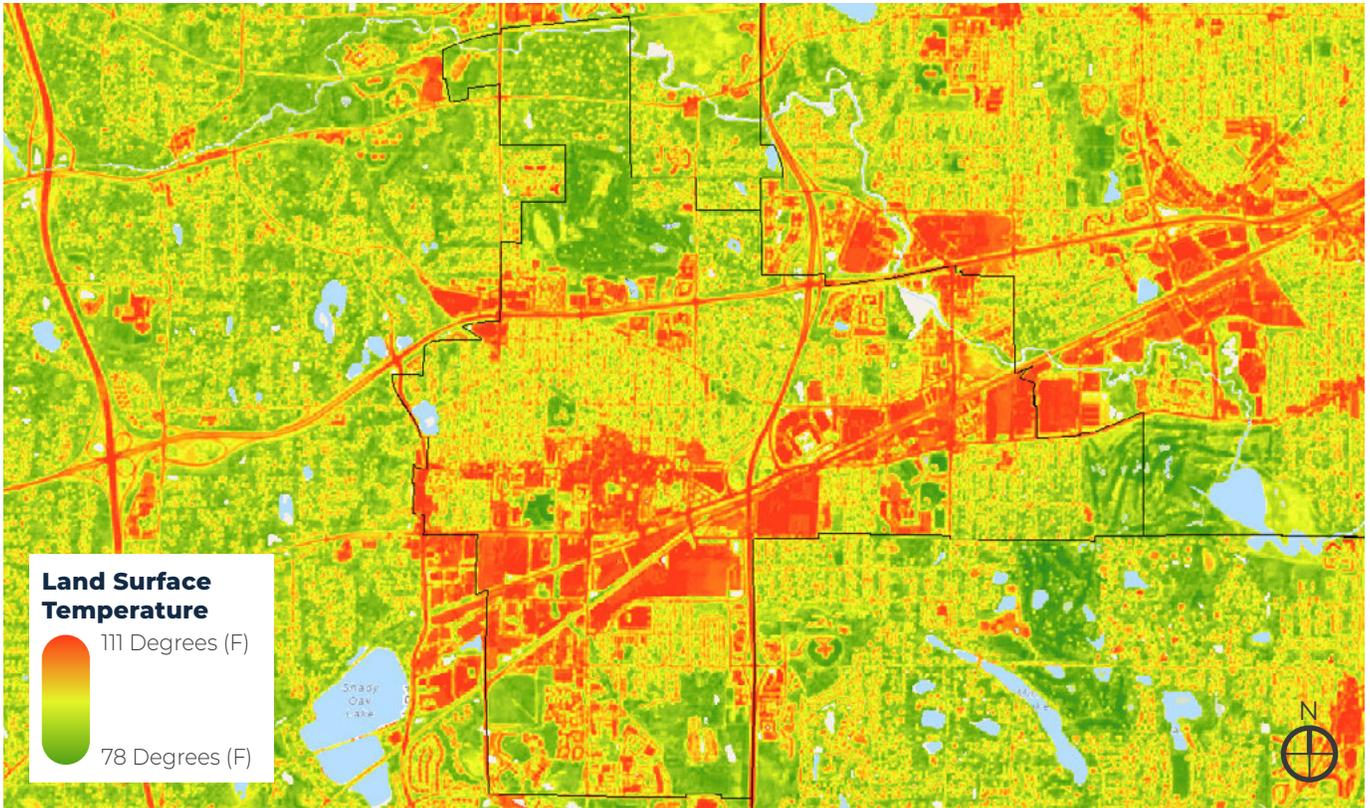
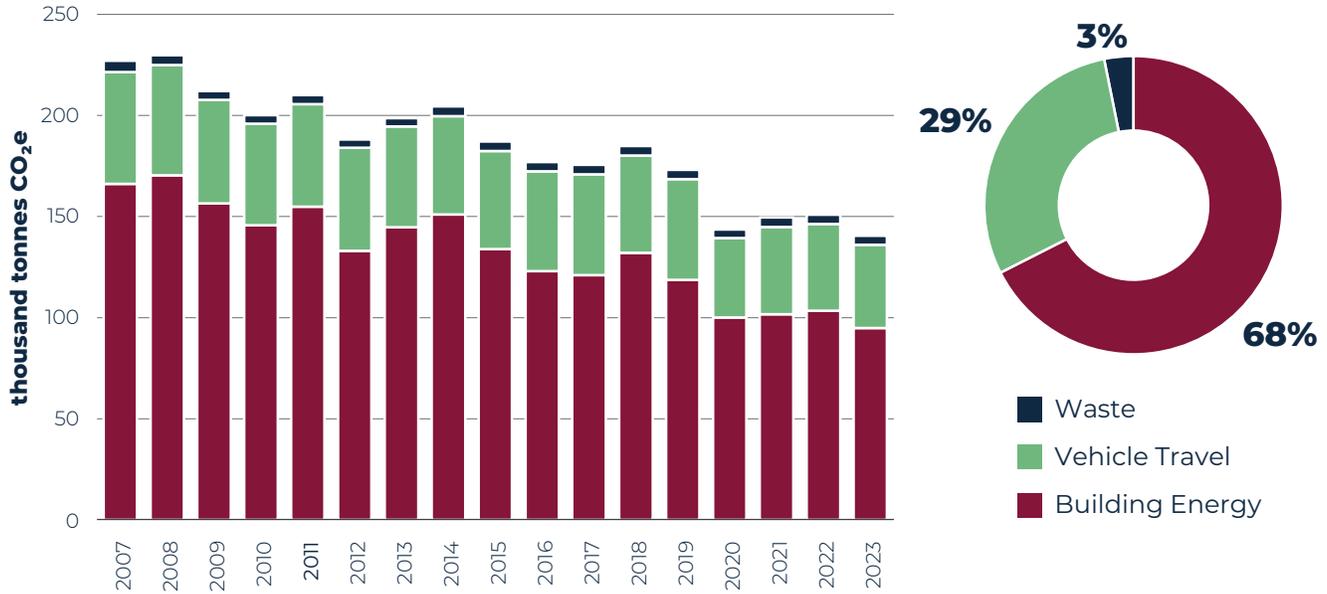


Figure 2.7 Flood Hazards - Localized Flood Map Screen Tool

Source: Metropolitan Council. [Localized Flood Map Screening Tool](#)



Figure 2.8 Hopkins Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2007-2023.Source: [Regional Indicators Initiative](#)

Community-wide GHG Inventory

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are generated from the combustion of natural gas in buildings for space and water heating and cooking, the generation of electricity from fossil fuels, the use of gasoline and diesel for transportation fuels, and from waste disposal. GHG emissions are measured in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), which is a metric to compare global warming potential of different greenhouse gases. In 2023, 68% of emissions in Hopkins came from energy used in

buildings, 29% from travel, and 3% from waste (Figure 2.8).

In 2007, more than 220,000 tonnes of CO₂e were emitted due to activity within the boundary of Hopkins. Since that time, emissions have decreased 38% to less than 150,000 tonnes of CO₂e in 2023. Much of the decrease can be attributed to cleaner generation of electricity provided by Xcel Energy.

Figure 2.9 Hopkins Greenhouse Gas Emissions Percent Change by Sector, 2007-2023.

Source: [Regional Indicators Initiative](#)

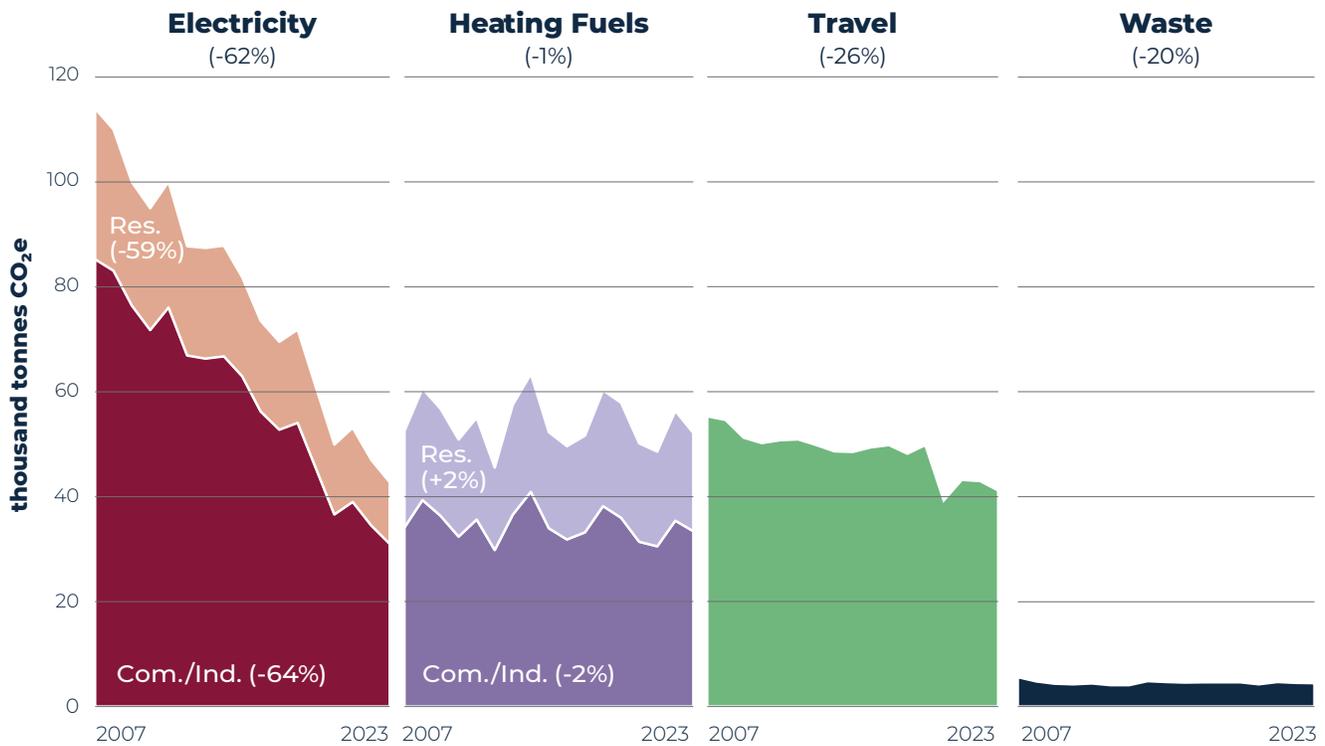


Figure 2.9 illustrates how emissions from each sector have changed since 2007. Both the residential and commercial electricity sectors have sharply decreased emissions and are expected to reach zero carbon by 2040 due to state law. Additional trends are summarized below.

- + Emissions from natural gas tend to follow annual weather patterns, i.e. more gas is used in colder winters and less in warmer winters.
- + Travel emissions decreased substantially during the pandemic and have since rebounded,

though they have remained below pre-pandemic levels.

- + Waste emissions have remained roughly the same with emissions coming from the incineration and landfilling of disposed items.

A complete description of the GHG inventory is included in the Existing Conditions Report, which can be found on the [City's sustainability page](#).



Climate Policies, Programs, Plans with Climate Reference

This Plan builds upon the sustainability efforts in current City plans, polices, and programs. For example, the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, [Cultivate Hopkins](#), prioritizes resilience by including goals on integrating green infrastructure, expanding the urban tree canopy, and reducing urban heat island effect. Additional policies of the Comprehensive Plan support neighborhood and community connection efforts, improve health systems, and prioritize a healthy environment. The [2025 City Council Strategic Plan](#) reinforces these policies with a goal to promote a resilient community by maintaining physical infrastructure, practicing environmental responsibility, and supporting a range of affordable housing options that are connected to multiple modes of transportation.

Additional plans like the [Water Resource Management Plan](#), [Park System Master Plan](#), and [Energy Action Plan](#), go deeper in identifying specific actions for a more sustainable Hopkins. Generally, there is strong support for climate mitigation and resilience incorporated throughout the City's various plans and opportunity to better integrate these plans into the City's policies and budgets.

The City has initiated several projects aimed at reducing emissions and building resilience. With a focus on City operations, the City subscribes to solar gardens that have generated over 14,000 MWh of solar and resulted in more than \$1 million in bill credits. The City is also looking to install more solar energy systems at municipal facilities and complete its transition to 100% LED lighting. In the broader community, the City launched the [Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund](#), which provides rebates to businesses and residents who make energy efficiency, electrification, clean energy, and sustainable transportation improvements. The program integrates strategies from the [Hopkins Heat Vulnerability Study](#) which recommends bonuses for businesses to increase cool surfaces in areas of urban heat island effect. The City most recently announced the launch of its first electric car share hub at Dow Towers as part of HOURCAR's Multifamily Electric Vehicle Pilot Project. Two electric, hub-based vehicles will be available to provide residents and the surrounding community with access to clean, affordable transportation. Additional initiatives can be found in the Existing Conditions Report.

3

Engagement

Engagement for the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan was designed to be inclusive, accessible, and reflective of community priorities. The City employed a variety of engagement methods and opportunities to gather input from a broad range of perspectives across the community. Engagement methods included in-person events, a virtual webinar, several focused conversations with community representatives, and a multilingual online survey. In total, nearly 300 people provided input. These engagement opportunities informed the vision, targets, and priorities of the five-year work plan. More details can be found in the engagement summary, and the process and themes that emerged are summarized below.

Engagement Process

+ **January 25, 2025 Kick-off Event:** More than 40 people attended the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan kick-off at The Depot in Hopkins.

+ **February 5, 2025 Webinar:** Nearly a dozen people joined a virtual webinar to learn about the plan and share input.

+ **January–April Focused Conversations:** The City hosted six conversations with key stakeholder groups throughout February and March to have more focused discussions and gather broader perspectives. The following groups participated in focused discussions:

- Hopkins Business and Civic Association (HBCA)
- Hopkins-Minnetonka Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
- Dow Towers residents
- Hopkins Apartment Managers' Assoc. (HAMA)
- Lunch and Learn at Activity Center
- Hopkins Division Managers

+ **February–March Tabling Events:** City staff tabled at various community events in the City to share the planning process and gather feedback from attendees.

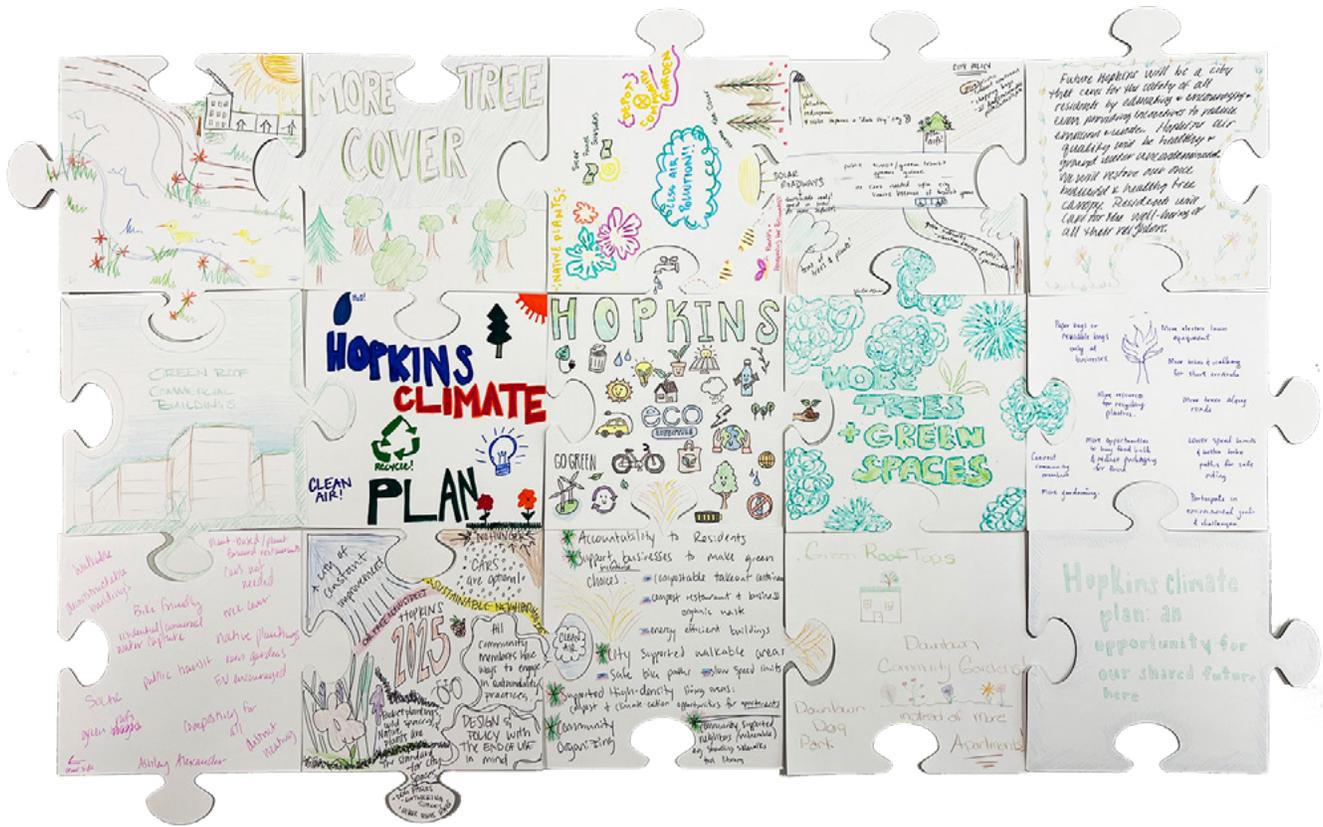
+ **March–April Online Survey:** The City hosted an online survey in English, Spanish, and Somali to gather insight into what community members envision for a resilient City and their priority actions for climate mitigation and adaptation.



Photos From Engagement Events

Figure 3.1 Connected Puzzle of Participant's Vision for Hopkins' Future

THEMES
ENGAGEMENT RESULTS



Themes

At each of these events, City staff shared background information about the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan, then asked participants to share their visions for a future Hopkins that has reduced its emissions and successfully adapted to climate change. Participants were invited to share using written or illustrated images for the future, which were captured on blank, cutout puzzle pieces. Themes that emerged from the puzzle pieces and suggested actions are summarized below:

- + **Clean Energy:** Many people shared images of solar panels and wind turbines. Many would like to see a solar garden on the landfill site as well as more access to solar energy for all residents, especially those with lower incomes.
- + **Nature:** Many of the vision images depicted scenes that incorporated nature into the

City, especially increased trees, native plants, pollinator habitats, green roofs, and clean water and air. These themes were reinforced through survey responses and action prioritization.

- + **Transportation:** There was strong sentiment for multiple transportation options including better transit, improved biking and walking connectivity, and reduced car traffic in downtown. Generally, participants wanted safer, more convenient, and accessible transportation options.
- + **Waste:** Many participants expressed a desire for more education and options for sustainable disposal of waste, especially for organics. Specifically, participants wanted to see workshops that offered education on recycling, and access to organics collection at multi-family housing. There was a strong desire for more options for sustainable waste collection and education at rental housing.

Survey Results

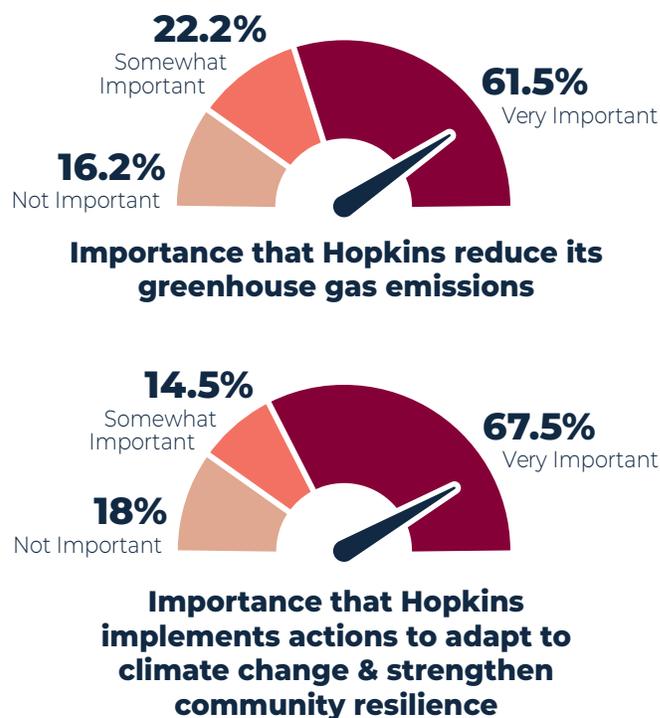
An online survey also captured community sentiment about climate priorities. The survey collected responses from mid-March 2025 through mid-April 2025. While the survey was available in three languages (English, Spanish, and Somali), the English language version was the only one with any responses. In total, 120 people responded to the survey.

The survey included questions about general attitudes toward mitigating and adapting to climate change. Most respondents (67.5%) consider addressing climate change “very important”, while 14.5% said it is “somewhat important”, and 18.0% said it is “not important at all”. Survey respondents were generally positive and enthusiastic about making Hopkins greener, walkable, and community-focused. Themes that emerged were in support of more clean energy and efficiency, expanded green infrastructure and natural spaces, increased transportation options, and community well-being. Some concerns that were expressed included using public dollars for climate action, frustration with mandatory programs like organics recycling fees, and the environmental impact of electric vehicles.

Storytelling

In partnership with local consultant [Change Narrative](#), the City of Hopkins hosted a community event on Earth Day to conclude engagement and shift the focus of the process to developing the work plan. The event featured an overview of the draft vision and supporting elements, insights from community discussions, and climate stories from three Hopkins community members. The climate stories were personal reflections of lived experiences and how they connect to and are impacted by climate change. The stories featured at this event can be found on the [City's sustainability page](#) and excerpts have been woven into the plan.

Figure 3.2 Sample of Survey Results



*Dials represent the weighted average of responses



Photos from storytelling event

4

Vision & Goals



Image source: City of Hopkins



Informed by community input, the long-term vision illustrates a possible future for Hopkins where the City successfully implements actions to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience. The vision statement was developed from the themes that emerged from public input, where the Hopkins community emphasized the importance of access to clean electricity, increased green space, more mobility options, zero waste, and resilience to climate hazards. By reflecting stakeholder input, Hopkins is creating a sustainable future that meets the needs of the community.

The structure of the vision includes a broad statement that helps visualize the future of Hopkins, followed by five elements that support the community-driven themes. These elements are used to structure the five-year work plan and are supported by strategies, objectives, and actions that will help move Hopkins toward its desired future.

Our Climate Vision

The City of Hopkins thrives from decades of investment in integrated climate actions that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and built resilience to climate hazards. Everyone — especially the most vulnerable — benefits from cleaner air, lower energy costs, zero waste, more active and connected lifestyles, and greater access to natural resources. Effective use of taxpayer dollars is reflected in the affordability of the community and availability of high-quality public services and facilities.



Clean Air. Widespread electrification of buildings and transportation have eliminated harmful emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels. All buildings have installed technologies that remove airborne contaminants, maintaining good indoor air quality during times of poor outdoor air quality. Energy efficient buildings and renewable electricity have eliminated the need for fossil fuels, keeping utility bills stable and affordable, especially for households with the highest energy burden. Zero-emissions transportation options reduce pollution along arterial and local roadways.



Green City. A robust tree canopy cools the City, reduces heat islands, improves air quality, and provides wildlife habitat. Native plants in parks, boulevards, and yards cut water use, boost biodiversity, and connect people to nature. Green infrastructure — like rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, and permeable pavement — manages stormwater naturally and enhances public spaces.



Active & Connected Lifestyles. Residents and visitors have access to safe biking, walking, and rolling infrastructure that connects neighborhoods, businesses, parks, and neighboring communities. Reliable, affordable transit reduces reliance on personal vehicles and the high cost of vehicle ownership. Neighbors connect with and support each other through increased opportunities to interact in public spaces.



Zero Waste & Sustainable Living.

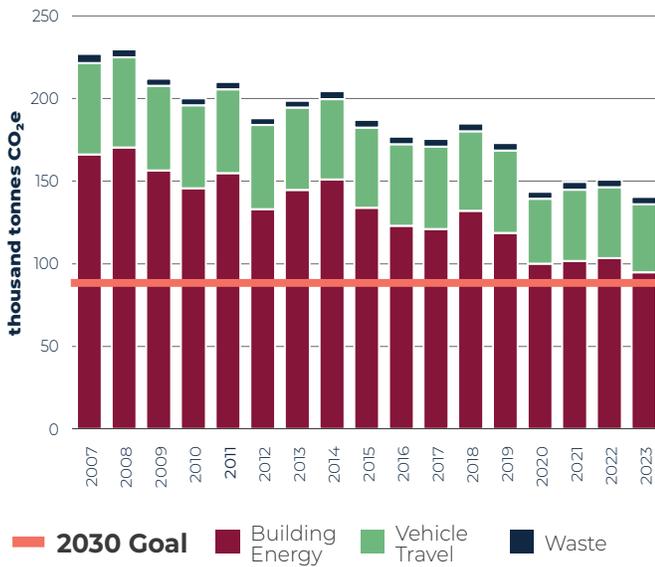
Robust reuse, composting, and recycling programs eliminate the need for landfills and incinerators. Municipal services, businesses, and households embrace a circular economy, reducing excess consumption and prioritizing sustainable purchasing practices. Sustainably-designed housing can maintain affordability while promoting climate resilience. Healthy soils amended with biochar or compost support and abundance of community gardens, fruit-bearing trees, and raspberry brambles that provide greater access to healthy, affordable food while supporting resilient ecosystems and sequestering carbon.



Resilience to Hazards. Flood-resistant infrastructure complemented by natural stormwater management protects against extreme weather. High-quality public services and resilient infrastructure keep taxes predictable and stable. Cooling centers and green spaces reduce heat risks, especially for vulnerable populations. Emergency preparedness programs and resilience hubs ensure community safety and rapid response during disruptive weather events.

Figure 4.1 2030 Goal for Hopkins Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source: [Regional Indicators Initiative](#)



“ I know I am not alone in feeling climate grief and overwhelm about our changing environment. The heaviness of the knowledge of what is happening in our world and my circle of influence sometimes feels so small. I question what I can do as one person, and as an artist. I remember Ms. Judith’s words: “Try, because despite all the challenges, some things are beautiful possibilities worth pursuing.” She taught me not to fear the feeling of not being “big enough” to make a difference.

Julie Marie Muskat, Hopkins Resident

Our Climate Goals

This Plan guides the City of Hopkins toward achieving its goals to reduce emissions and build resilience to current and projected climate hazards. By 2030, the City aims to reduce community-wide emissions by 50% from a 2019 baseline and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement and State goals. Achieving these goals will allow Hopkins to contribute to the global emissions reductions that are necessary to keep temperatures from rising over 2°C (3.6°F). In 2019, Hopkins emitted 173,153 tonnes of CO₂e. In 2023, emissions decreased by 19% to 140,926 tonnes of CO₂e. An additional 54,349 tonnes will need to be reduced by 2030 to achieve a 50% reduction (orange line in Figure 4.1). Some of these emissions will be reduced through continued decarbonization of electric generation, the rest will have to primarily come from changes in how the community uses energy in our buildings and vehicles.

Beyond reducing emissions, the community must also prepare for current and projected climate hazards. These preparations will help the community adapt to various stressors like drought and extreme heat, as well as disruptive weather. In addition to emissions reduction goals, the City also aims to strengthen infrastructure, improve emergency preparedness, enhance environmental and energy resilience, and strengthen community connections and well-being.

The following section includes targets, strategies, objectives, and actions for each of the vision elements to be completed over the next five years.

5

Five Year Work Plan

This work plan is intended to be implemented by City staff with the support of community members over the next five years and is organized by each vision element: Clean Air, Green City, Active and Connected Lifestyles, Zero Waste and Sustainable Living, and Resilience to Hazards. Each vision element includes 2030 targets and strategies to achieve them. Each strategy is supported by broad objectives and specific actions that will be implemented over the next five years. This is not an exhaustive list of the actions necessary to achieve long-term goals but will help Hopkins remain on track to meet those goals.

Implementation

Beyond the strategies outlined under each vision element in the work plan, the City can also ensure the successful implementation of this Plan by securing sustainable funding sources, enacting supportive policies, dedicating staff resources, and establishing processes to measure progress and share success. The strategies outlined below will help guide the City and community through plan implementation.

1. Secure Sustainable Funding Sources

To ensure long-term funding, the City should:

- + Maintain franchise fee funding support for the Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund; continue to prioritize income-qualified households.
- + Include climate action funding in the general operating budget; prioritize spending to improve equity across the community.
- + Review the Capital Improvement Plan to identify gaps and opportunities to incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation into planned and future infrastructure projects, especially in neighborhoods most at risk.
- + Pursue diverse funding streams such as county resources, state grants, federal tax incentives, philanthropic contributions, bonds, or other mechanisms.

2. Enacting Supporting Policies

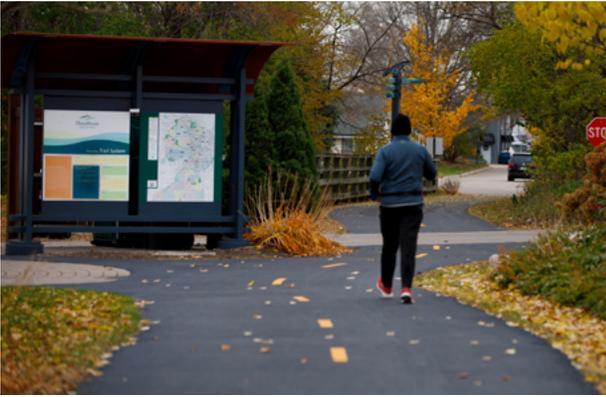
To strengthen the Plan, the City should:

- + Integrate the Hopkins Climate Solutions Plan into the City Council's future Goals and Strategic Plans.
- + In collaboration with the Metropolitan Council, incorporate and build upon elements of this Plan into the next Comprehensive Plan update.
- + Complete an ordinance review of the zoning code to remove potential barriers to sustainable practices (e.g., solar installations, urban agriculture).

3. Dedicating Staff Resources

To ensure capacity for implementation, the City should:

- + Continue to fund and support full-time sustainability staffing and programming.
- + Incorporate additional staff capacity as needed.
- + Ensure the Plan is implemented across City departments.
- + Utilize external resources through partnerships, collaborations, and technical assistance to supplement internal staffing.
- + Partner with institutions, regional governments, the school district, neighboring communities, and others to expand efforts and share resources.



Top left image source: Homes.com. All other images: City of Hopkins

4. Expand Community Participation

To maximize action throughout the Hopkins, the community should:

- + Take action at home, engage with neighbors, and encourage each other to contribute to the success of the plan.
- + Implement climate actions at businesses that encourage employees and visitors to choose climate friendly travel, purchases, and waste options.
- + Show support for the City in its efforts to achieve the goals in this plan.

5. Measure progress and share success

To stay on track and encourage the community, the City should:

- + Develop a reporting platform to share accomplishments and progress toward goals.
- + Develop a recognition program for community partners.
- + Share successes and highlights through the City's communications channels.



Clean Air

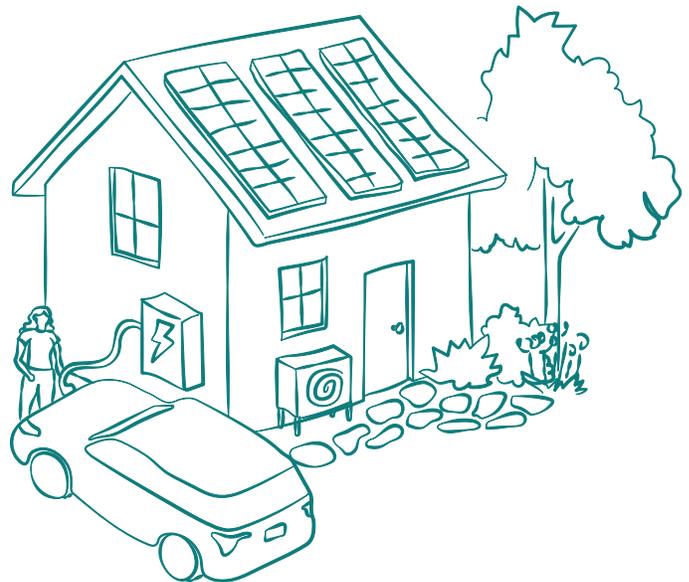
Combustion of fossil fuels contributes to air pollution. Outside, air pollution comes from gas and diesel combustion engines of vehicles and industrial processes. Inside, gas used for cooking and heating appliances contributes to poor indoor air quality. Electrification of both buildings and vehicles allows for the same conveniences and comforts while significantly reducing the amount of emissions and air pollutants.

2030 Targets

-  **20% of registered vehicles in Hopkins are electric or plug-in hybrid**
-  **Five additional public-facing charging stations**
-  **100% participation in clean electricity for City Operations**
-  **All City fleet vehicles are low- or zero-emissions, or are scheduled for replacement**
-  **1.5% of community-wide electricity consumption comes from clean electricity generation within the city or community solar garden subscriptions**
-  **350 cold climate residential heat-pumps installed**

“ I am a fierce champion for health equity and ensuring everyone has access to clean air, water, and food. Fighting for a healthy climate and for students is at the heart of this mission. It became even more personal when my son, at just four years old, had his first asthma attack.

Brooke Roper, Hopkins Resident



Strategy I

Purchase electric and hybrid vehicles, including cars, light-duty trucks, buses, and other heavy-duty trucks and equipment.

Objective A: Reduce emissions from the City fleet through efficient, electric, and right-sized vehicles, and improved idling practices and technology

- Action 1:** Complete a comprehensive fleet replacement and best practice study across all departments.
- Action 2:** Create a vehicle replacement schedule and sustainable operation plan based on the fleet study.
- Action 3:** Incorporate the fleet replacement into the Capital Improvement Plan.



Lead: Public Works: Streets and Fleets; Police Department; Fire Department
Funding Sources: City budget, federal tax incentives, [Xcel Energy rebates](#)
Partners: Xcel Energy, [Minnesota Department of Administration](#), MNDOT ([Evaluate Tool](#))
Supporting plans/policies/programs: City fleet study, Sustainability Work Plan, [Energy Action Plan](#), [Comprehensive Plan](#), [Capital Improvement Plan](#), [Equipment Replacement Plan](#)

Objective B: Provide and/or enable public Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations.

- Action 1:** Assess opportunities for access to public charging stations, including use, location, and utility power supply capacity.
- Action 2:** Identify funding to install public charging stations.
- Action 3:** Work with external partners to procure, install, and maintain charging stations.



Lead: Public Works: Facilities, Engineering
Funding Sources: City budget, federal tax incentives
Partners: Xcel Energy, Minnesota Department of Administration
Supporting plans/policies/programs: Sustainability Work Plan, [Energy Action Plan](#)

Objective C: Provide education and incentives to increase community-wide adoption of electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

- + Action 1:** Utilizing the [Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund](#), continue offering incentives to property managers and landlords to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure to incentivize more charging availability for renters.
- + Action 2:** Utilizing the Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund, continue offering incentives to businesses to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure to incentivize more charging availability for employees and visitors.
- Action 3:** Provide educational materials to businesses and residents about the benefits of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids, as well as available incentives.



Lead: Public Works: Engineering; Communications
Funding Sources: Sustainability budget
Partners: Xcel Energy
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Energy Action Plan](#)

New Action Ongoing Action

**Strategy II****Expand building electrification, efficiency, and clean energy****Objective A: Identify opportunities to decarbonize public buildings.**

- + **Action 1:** Add and maintain a complete portfolio of municipal facilities in B3. Continue identifying opportunities for on-going efficiency improvements.
-  **Action 2:** Complete building audits for all municipal buildings and facilities to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
-  **Action 3:** Begin implementation of the municipal building decarbonization measures.
-  **Action 4:** Design and construct all new public buildings to follow the Sustainable Building Policy.

Lead: Public Works: Engineering, Facilities; Planning and Development

Funding Sources: City budget

Partners: City of Saint Paul (Building Decarbonization Plan), Minnesota B3, Xcel Energy

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Energy Action Plan](#)

Objective B: Initiate at least one geothermal or networked geothermal demonstration project at a City facility or facilities.

-  **Action 1:** Identify at least one suitable City-owned site to install geothermal.
-  **Action 2:** Conduct a feasibility study to determine geologic conditions, engineering analysis, and costs.
-  **Action 3:** Using the feasibility study findings, secure funding through grants, loans, bonding, tax and utility incentives for construction.
-  **Action 4:** Engage relevant City staff, community groups, and others to provide information and updates about the geothermal demonstration project.

Lead: Public Works: Facilities; Administration

Funding Sources: MPCA geothermal planning grants, federal tax credits, [Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority](#)

Partners: Minnesota Department of Commerce, CenterPoint Energy

Supporting plans/policies/programs: Park System Master Plan

Objective C: Maximize clean electricity generation for City electricity use.

- + **Action 1:** Continue subscribing to community solar gardens for City electricity consumption.
- + **Action 2:** Maximize solar energy on public buildings and underutilized land (e.g., landfill).
-  **Action 3:** Assess public buildings to identify where energy storage could be used to reduce peak demand.

Lead: Public Works; Finance

Funding Sources: Federal tax incentives, Solar on Public Buildings Grant

Partners: Xcel Energy, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Community solar garden providers

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Energy Action Plan](#), [Comprehensive Plan](#), Heat Vulnerability Study, Park System Master Plan

 New Action + Ongoing Action



Solar field (Image source: Flickr)

Objective D: Support the decarbonization of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.

- + **Action 1:** Continue to provide financial incentives through the [Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund](#) to businesses and residents for the purpose of increasing efficiency, electrification, and access to clean electricity. Share success and program updates annually.
- + **Action 2:** Utilize City communication channels to share resources about available technologies and incentives to help businesses and residents decarbonize their buildings.
- + **Action 3:** Provide resources with a focus on income-qualified residents to increase community solar garden subscriptions and/or rooftop solar installations.
-  **Action 4:** Host quarterly workshops on relevant topics to engage residents on home energy efficiency, decarbonization, and clean electricity technologies and practices.
-  **Action 5:** Celebrate the implementation of at least one project completed on private property that employs new decarbonization technologies, such as geothermal, thermal energy networks, air source heat pumps, solar and storage, or other technologies, through City communication channels, ribbon cutting, case study, or other recognition.

Lead: Public Works: Engineering; Planning and Development; Inspections

Funding Sources: [MinnPACE](#), tax credits, utility rebates, [Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund](#), Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority (MNCIFA), MN Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES), MN Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR)

Partners: Saint Paul Port Authority, [MNCIFA](#), Energy Smart, Center for Energy and Environment, EnerChange

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Energy Action Plan](#), [Sustainable Building Policy](#), [Comprehensive Plan](#)

 New Action + Ongoing Action



Green City

The City of Hopkins is dominated by impervious surfaces, primarily asphalt and concrete, as well as large industrial buildings. Some areas within the City are nearly 100% impervious land cover, especially downtown and along Excelsior Boulevard. Impervious surfaces complicate storm water runoff management, contribute to urban heat island effect, and negatively impact livability, habitat, and ecological functions.

Prior to European settlement, Hopkins was dominated by wet prairies, wetlands, and oak barrens ([University of Minnesota Natural Resource Atlas](#)). Restoration of native vegetation through green infrastructure installations, depaving practices, turf removal, and tree planting will help to mitigate the negative effects of over paving, strengthen the resilience of the natural environment, and make the City more attractive for residents and visitors.

2030 Targets



Convert and restore at least 5 acres of underutilized (pavement and turf) areas across the community to native wet prairie, oak barren, wetland, or deciduous forest by 2030.



Plant 2,000 (400/year) trees across public and private spaces, prioritizing neighborhoods with a relatively low tree equity score, non-recreational park areas, and new developments.

“ Even as a child, I experienced how combining a love of nature and art could cultivate beauty and connection in the world.

Julie Marie Muskat, Hopkins Resident



Strategy I

Increase tree canopy and convert underutilized paved and turf land cover to functional green space that manages stormwater, supports urban cooling, and provides habitat.

Objective A: Maintain and increase the urban tree canopy on publicly-owned properties to provide more shade and increase cooling.

- + **Action 1:** Increase urban forestry budget to hire additional staff and provide the resources necessary to increase capacity for tree planting and care.
- + **Action 2:** Use the tree inventory to identify high priority tree replacement and new plantings.
- + **Action 3:** Celebrate annual tree plantings each Arbor Day.
- + **Action 4:** Maintain Tree City USA recognition and explore the Growth Award.



Lead: Public Works: Forestry, Engineering
Funding Sources: General Fund, Grants, Tree Sale
Partners: Tree Trust, Hennepin County, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Comprehensive Plan](#), [Park System Master Plan](#)

Objective B: Improve on-site stormwater management with green infrastructure on publicly-owned properties.

- Action 1:** Assess downtown [public parking areas](#) for opportunities to convert pavement to reflective, permeable pavement and/or remove excess pavement and replace it with native vegetation and/or green infrastructure.
- Action 2:** Assess parks for underutilized turf that can be converted to native vegetation, food production (see Zero Waste and Sustainable Living), or green stormwater infrastructure.
- + **Action 3:** Incorporate green and/or white roofs into planned roof replacements in the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Action 4:** Encourage rain harvesting and stormwater management best practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and participation in [“Adopt a Drain”](#).



Lead: Public Works: Engineering, Facilities, Streets and Fleets, Parks; Parks and Recreation; Planning and Economic Development
Funding Sources: MPCA resilience grants, Capital Improvement Plan
Partners: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Hennepin County
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Heat Vulnerability Study](#), [Stormwater Management webpage](#)

New Action + Ongoing Action



Objective C: Enhance public spaces by converting land cover from turf and pavement to pre-settlement vegetation, where appropriate, to improve attractiveness, enhance user experience, and support wildlife habitat.

- Action 1:** Assess park land to determine areas that don't support active recreation activities and can be converted to native prairies species and tree canopy improvements.
- Action 2:** In partnership with the watershed districts and community members, develop a plan to convert the underutilized land identified in the park assessment.
- Action 3:** Identify opportunities and create a plan to enhance streets—with native vegetation and trees—that connect parks, improving aesthetics, ecological function, and user experience.



Lead: Parks and Recreation; Public Works: Parks

Funding Sources: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Cost Share

Partners: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, U.S. Biochar Initiative (USBI), United States Composting Council (USCC), City of Minneapolis

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Park System Master Plan](#)

Objective D: Support the conversion of rooftops, impervious surfaces, and underutilized turf in a manner that improves stormwater management and reduces urban heat island effect on private properties.

- + Action 1:** Continue the annual tree and spring plant sales; offer further discounts or free trees to areas of the City with low tree canopy and/or in environmental justice areas of concern.
- + Action 2:** Continue to offer the green infrastructure bonus as part of the Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund.
- + Action 3:** Evaluate opportunities to include native plants in Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund.
- + Action 4:** Maintain up-to-date resources about native plantings and tree care on the City's website.
- + Action 5:** Add native landscaping and sustainability bonus points to the [Community Image Award Nomination Form](#).
- + Action 6:** Strengthen tree preservation and planting requirements for new development.



Lead: Public Works: Forestry, Engineering; Planning and Economic Development; Communications

Funding Sources: [Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund](#)

Partners: Tree Trust, [Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Seed Lab](#), [Land and Water Partnership Program](#)

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Tree Sale](#), Spring Plant Sale, [102-840 Existing Tree Ordinance](#)



Active & Connected Lifestyles

Hopkins is well-positioned to be one of the most sustainable transportation communities in the state. Five regional bike trails connect within the City, cycling infrastructure continues to improve and expand, the downtown core is walkable, and the light rail extension will add three stations within the community that are already spurring transit-oriented development. The relative density of the community enables improved transit options and justifies the need for more transportation options to reduce congestion and the demand for parking. More access to active transportation and high-quality transit services will contribute to improved health and reduced costs for all residents.

2030 Targets

-  **10% reduction in vehicle miles traveled (reduce about 500 miles per person)**
-  **45% of commutes are non-single occupancy vehicles (35% in 2023)**
-  **1 mile of new bike lanes added**
-  **50 households reduce car ownership by at least one vehicle**

“ The trail system is more to me than a way to get places. I often find ‘community’ along its paths, meeting neighbors and their dogs. Many days, my husband David, an avid walker, will join me, and it’s a place where we can have important conversations. I use the trails year-round, which allows me to witness the changing intricacies of the seasons.

Jane Hufford Downes, Hopkins Resident





Strategy I

Enable a car-optional Hopkins by shifting transportation modes from cars to other options, including biking, walking, shared mobility, accessibility devices, and transit.

Objective A: Expand and enhance active transportation infrastructure that accommodates and improves the safety and experience of biking, walking, and using accessibility devices and shared mobility throughout the community.

- Action 1:** Build protected bike lanes where feasible that can accommodate side by side biking as well as wheelchairs and other mobility scooters.
- Action 2:** Incorporate native landscaping, trees, and green infrastructure to streetscape to improve the user experience.
- + Action 3:** Review the City’s Complete Streets Policy and update to include new transportation modes (e.g., shared mobility), and more explicitly include green infrastructure and vegetation along boulevards.
- Action 4:** Update the City’s Bike and Pedestrian Plan to improve connectivity of routes, enhance user experience, and increase safety.
- Action 5:** Increase the percent of the City’s Capital Improvement Plan budget for active transportation.
- Action 6:** Add secure, substantial, and innovative bike storage at light rail stations (e.g., the 17th Avenue park and ride).
- + Action 7:** Evaluate funding opportunities to increase incentives for income-qualified households to purchase electric bikes or scooters.
- Action 8:** Partner with local businesses and organizations to conduct community bike rides and street closure events.



Lead: Public Works: Engineering; Planning and Economic Development
Funding Sources: City Budget, [Active Transportation Funding](#)
Partners: Active Living Steering Committee, Neighboring cities, Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, City of Minnetonka, Access Hopkins
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Hopkins Pedestrian & Bike Plan](#), [Active Living Project](#)

Objective B: Increase transit ridership through improved bus shelters, last mile options, and rider education.

- Action 1:** Partner with Metro Transit to improve the aesthetics, comfort (including heating and cooling), and safety of bus shelters.
- Action 2:** Add more last mile options by locating shared mobility options near transit stops.
- Action 3:** Encourage community members to sign up to [“Adopt a Stop”](#)
- Action 4:** Share rider tips and transit education through the City’s communication channels.



Lead: Planning and Economic Development; Communications
Funding Sources: City Budget
Partners: Metro Transit, Community Members
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Comprehensive Plan](#)

New Action Ongoing Action



Infrastructure that supports multiple mobility modes (Image sources: City of Hopkins)

Objective C: Expand shared and accessible mobility options throughout the community and in partnership with neighboring cities.

- + **Action 1:** Continue to partner with neighboring communities to contract with electric micro-mobility (bike and scooter) and expand the service area; promote discount programs for income-qualified residents.
- + **Action 2:** Partner with [HOURCAR](#) to expand carsharing options (e.g., [Evie](#)) to at least two more locations, prioritizing environmental justice areas of concern.
- 🛠️ **Action 3:** Promote alternative transportation options on the City's social media sites and other communication channels.
- 🛠️ **Action 4:** Partner with community members to create a [cargo bike library](#) or similar program.



Lead: Planning and Economic Development; Administration; Communications

Funding Sources: City Budget

Partners: St. Louis Park, Golden Valley, Edina, Minnetonka, Hennepin County

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Comprehensive Plan](#)

🛠️ New Action + Ongoing Action



Zero Waste & Sustainable Living

Waste contributes to 3% of communitywide greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the emissions come from the incineration of materials that are not diverted from the waste stream.

Maximizing waste diversion through recycling, composting, reuse, and reducing consumption can help mitigate emissions and minimize broader environmental impacts. Homes that are built to sustainable design standards use lower impact construction materials and feature efficient and clean technologies that enhance indoor air quality, comfort, and long-term affordability. Sustainable land management practices improve soil quality, which has been degraded over time from excessive salt use, polluted runoff, and nutrient depletion.

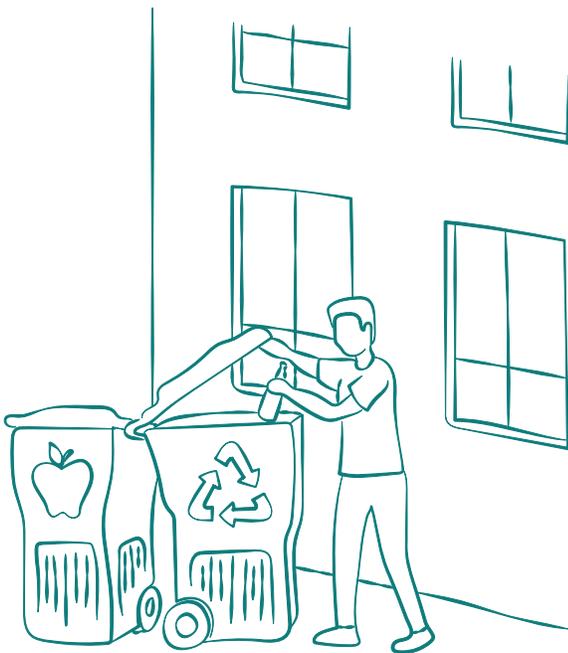
2030 Targets



Recycle or compost 75% of waste by 2030



Expand community gardens and food security programs to serve at least 20% of low-income households.



“ What I want my grandchildren to know most is that I have not given up hope— because I still see so many people who care. I’m especially glad to see that caring spirit alive in the Hopkins community. Perhaps one of the most important actions I can do is introduce my grandkids to the woods, so they can look for and cherish the wonders of the natural world around them. [...] I am confident that if they know how wonderful our Earth is, they will be more apt to try to preserve it.

Jane Hufford Downes, Hopkins Resident





Separated waste streams (Image sources: City of Hopkins)

Strategy I

Establish infrastructure to build toward zero waste and a local circular economy.

Objective A: Minimize waste at City buildings and events by maximizing sustainable purchasing, composting, recycling, and reuse.

- Action 1:** Adopt a City sustainable purchasing policy that prioritizes GHG emissions, reusable and compostable products, and eliminates plastic where possible.
- Action 2:** Provide training and resources for City staff to maximize waste reduction at City buildings and host zero waste community events.
- Action 3:** Adopt a sustainable packaging ordinance.



Lead: Public Works: Engineering, Facilities; Communications; Finance; All City staff
Funding Sources: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [Waste Reduction and Reuse Grants](#), City budget, Hennepin County ([Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Plan](#), [Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan](#))
Partners: Hennepin County, Waste hauler
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Comprehensive Plan](#)

Objective B: Support homeowners, renters, landlords/property managers (of 5+ units), institutions, and businesses to minimize waste by maximizing composting, recycling, reduction, and reuse.

- Action 1:** Expand composting options for multi-family housing (5+ units) and businesses.
- Action 2:** Offer educational workshops and resources to community members, focusing on renters, to encourage more sustainable waste practices.



Lead: Public Works
Funding Sources: [Hennepin County Business Recycling Grants](#), Hennepin County Multifamily SCORE Funds
Partners: Hennepin County ([Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Plan](#), [Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan](#)), Waste Wise, Hopkins Apartment Managers Association (HAMA)
Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Multifamily Housing Made Easier Webinar](#)

New Action + Ongoing Action



Strategy II

Increase climate-resilient, sustainable, and affordable housing development and property management throughout the community.

Objective A: Utilize City tools to encourage developers to incorporate sustainability, affordability, and climate elements into construction.

+ Action 1: Use the [Sustainable Building Policy](#) to encourage developers to incorporate sustainable design principles into new construction.

🔧 Action 2: Implement the City’s Sustainable Building Policy for non-applicable development.



Lead: Planning and Economic Development

Funding Sources: Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund, [Federal tax deduction for efficiency](#), Xcel New Home Construction rebate

Partners: Xcel Energy, property owners and managers, community members

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Sustainable Building Policy](#)

Objective B: Increase or maintain housing affordability and climate-resilient property management of multi-family properties.

+ Action 1: Reach out to property managers, landlords, and tenants to promote the [Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund](#).

+ Action 2: Provide resources to renters to increase access to energy efficiency programs and incentives.



Lead: Planning and Economic Development; Public Works: Engineering; Communications

Funding Sources: Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund, utility rebates, state and federal tax incentives and rebates

Partners: Xcel Energy, property owners and managers, community members

Supporting plans/policies/programs: [Sustainable Building Policy](#)



Apple Trees (Image source: Peter J. Markham)



Raspberry Brambles

Strategy III

Restore urban soil health, sequester carbon, and expand community food production.

Objective A: Improve soil quality and sequester carbon on public land.

- Action 1:** Partner with [Minneapolis](#) and other cities to produce and/or purchase biochar to help amend soil and sequester carbon.
- + Action 2:** Continue to offer compost and mulch to residents.
- + Action 3:** Continue implementing the low salt design checklist through the Sustainable Building Policy; encourage existing properties and non-applicable developments to use the checklist.
- Action 4:** Incorporate soil quality practices into street projects and planting projects.



Lead: Public Works: Forestry, Parks, Engineering; Planning and Development
Funding Sources: City funding, [MPCA Chloride Reduction Grants](#)
Partners: Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Supporting plans/policies: [Low Salt Design Factsheet for Developers](#)

Objective B: Expand healthy community food production.

- Action 1:** Convert underutilized park lands and other rights-of-way to grow fruit (orchard trees, raspberries, blueberries, etc.) and vegetables that are accessible to community members.
- + Action 2:** Continue to encourage community members who don't have their own yard access to participate in City community gardens.
- Action 3:** Encourage and incentivize community members to grow food in their own yards.
- Action 4:** Donate community food through the [ICA Food Shelf](#) or similar programs.



Lead: Parks and Recreation; Communications; Public Works: Parks, Streets and Fleets
Funding Sources: [Lawns to Legumes](#)
Partners: Hennepin County Master Gardeners, Hopkins Schools, ICA Food Shelf
Supporting plans/policies/Programs: [Hopkins Community Gardens](#)

New Action **+** Ongoing Action



Resilience To Hazards

Climate hazards such as extreme heat, heavy rainfall, flooding, and severe weather are already affecting Hopkins. These events are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change, placing increasing stress on infrastructure and vulnerable populations. While the entire community is at risk, climate hazards do not affect everyone equally. Older adults, people with disabilities, households with low incomes, communities of color, and immigrants often face greater risks due to limited resources and access to services. Systemic inequalities can compound these challenges, leaving some residents more exposed to pollution, urban heat islands, and poor-quality infrastructure. By centering equity in climate planning, communities can help reverse historically underserved communities and create a more just, inclusive City that improves quality of life for all.

2030 Targets



75% of residents are signed up to receive emergency alerts



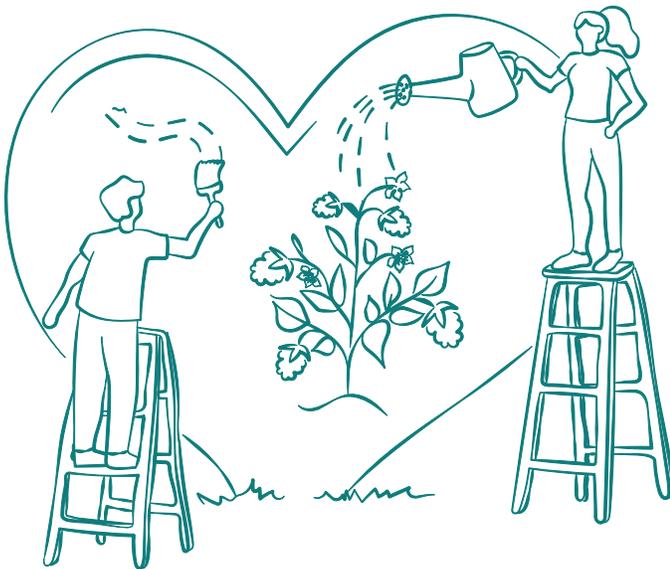
All infrastructure projects in the CIP are reviewed for resilience improvements



Construction of a resilience hub

“ Climate change often feels like a conversation reserved for the privileged, centered on fighting for future generations. The concept of “resilience” can feel loaded, especially when Black people have a long history in this country of fighting just to survive, let alone thrive.

Brooke Roper, Hopkins Resident



Strategy I

Build social cohesion and capacity to respond to severe weather events and power outages.

Objective A: Support community resilience through education, awareness, preparedness, and response.

- Action 1:** Incorporate community climate art, storytelling, and education into public events and spaces.
- Action 2:** Identify new outlets (social media, libraries, laundromats) and utilize effective communication channels to reach more community members during emergencies.
- + Action 3:** Sign-up residents to receive emergency weather alerts through [Smart911](#).
- Action 4:** Assist community members with hazard response and recovery efforts and resources—prioritizing urban heat island areas of concern and homes in flood-prone locations.



Lead: Communications; Administration; Planning and Economic Development; Fire Department
Funding Sources: City budget
Partners: Hennepin County, community members
Supporting plans/policies: [Community Emergency Response Team](#)

Objective B: Create more spaces that offer relief from extreme heat events.

- + Action 1:** Increase the availability of and access to public cooling centers.
- + Action 2:** Complete construction of the resilience hub at Oakes Park.
- Action 3:** Install canopies, awnings, and other structures that provide shade in public areas where trees are not a viable option—prioritize urban heat island areas of concern.
- Action 4:** Retrofit existing buildings to serve the needs of a resilience hub and/or cooling center.



Lead: Administration; Parks and Recreation; Public Works: Parks
Funding Sources: City budget, state bonding, grants.
Partners: Hennepin County, neighboring communities
Supporting plans/policies: [Heat Vulnerability Study](#)

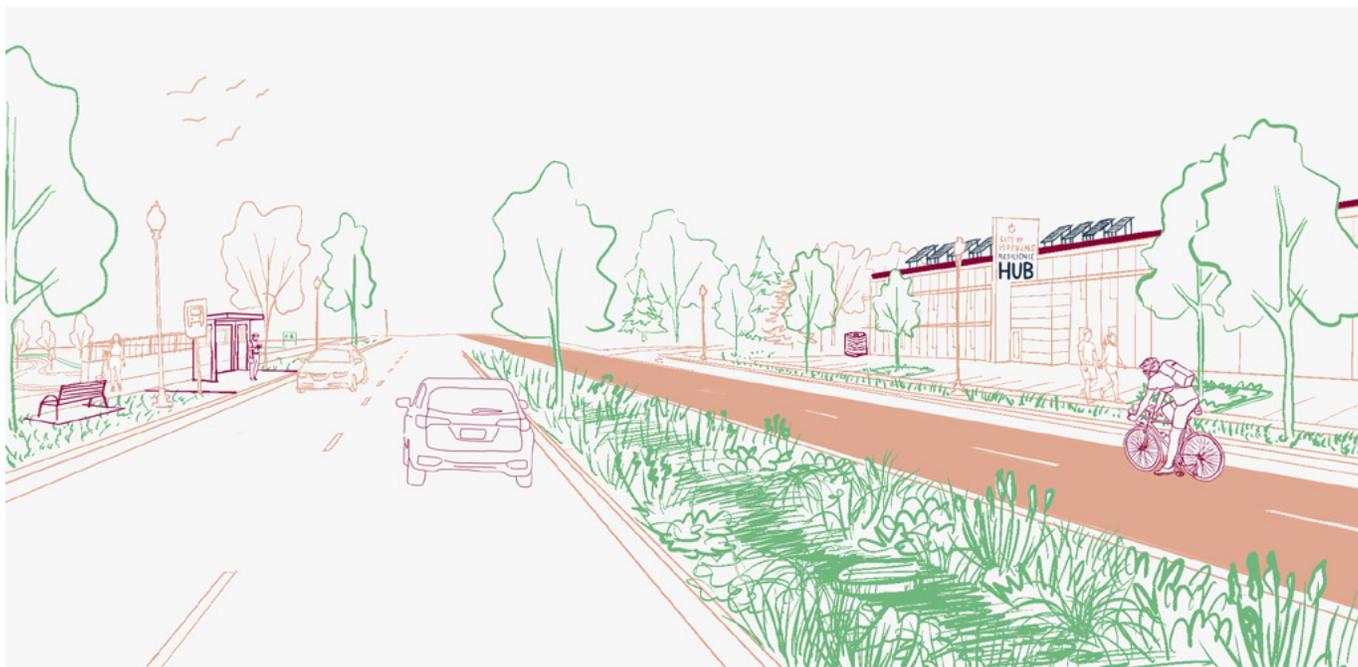
Objective C: Ensure access to safe and reliable back-up power supply during extreme weather events.

- + Action 1:** Install back-up generators that can provide power to water pumps in case of emergency.
- Action 2:** Identify opportunities to add microgrids to critical City infrastructures, prioritizing solar plus storage.
- Action 3:** Create a schedule to replace existing diesel and gas generators with solar and storage, where possible.



Lead: Public Works: Utilities, Facilities, Engineering
Funding Sources: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant, solar and storage tax incentives
Partners: Xcel Energy,
Supporting plans/policies/programs: Heat Vulnerability Study

New Action **+** Ongoing Action



Resilient community buildings and infrastructure (Image source: Hopkins Heat Vulnerability Study)

Strategy II **Improve the resilience of infrastructure, buildings, and facilities.**

Objective A: Integrate climate resilience into the Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) process to sustain function, enhance capacity, and strengthen infrastructure in case of extreme weather events.

- + **Action 1:** During the annual (CIP) review, identify planned projects that could be modified to reduce emissions and/or adapt to climate hazards.
- + **Action 2:** Identify funding gaps for new projects that would help strengthen the resilience of future capital projects.
-  **Action 3:** Create a process to ensure all future CIP planning processes consider the applicability of climate resilience across all capital projects.



Lead: Finance; Public Works: Engineering
Funding Sources: City budget
Partners: Hennepin County
Supporting plans/policies/programs: Capital Improvement Plan, [Goals and Strategic Plan](#)

6

Create Your Own Plan!

The five-year work plan outlined in the previous section primarily focuses on what the City can do to enable climate action across the community and pursue emissions reductions in its own operations. The City effort is critical to the success of this plan, but it cannot be the only piece of the puzzle — residents, businesses, and institutions will also need to take action to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, contributing to the goals of this plan. This section highlights the high-impact actions that can be taken by community members and includes a checklist for individuals to create their own five-year work plan.

High-Impact Actions to Reduce Emissions At Home

1. Reduce Car Use and Emissions

Renters: Encourage landlords and property managers to install secure bike storage and/or EV charging infrastructure.

- + Make fewer trips in combustion vehicles by biking, walking, taking transit, carpooling, or telecommuting.
- + Take advantage of the City's e-bike rebate available through the Climate Solutions Fund.
- + If purchasing a vehicle, consider a hybrid, plug-in hybrid, or all-electric vehicle for your next vehicle purchase.
- + Consider if it's feasible to reduce the number of vehicles your household owns.

Additional Benefits: The [average annual cost](#) of owning a new vehicle in 2024 is more than \$12,000, and is among the largest single household expense. Reducing driving will help alleviate maintenance and fuel costs.

Incentives: [Hopkins Climate Solution Fund](#), [Utility Rebates for Electric Vehicle Charging](#)

2. Home Energy Improvements

Renters: Consider heat-pump window AC units, participate in community solar gardens, change out incandescent light bulbs with LED, use an induction plate for stovetop cooking, share resources with landlords and property managers about how they can improve the sustainability of their property.

- + Air seal and insulate your home.
- + Electrify gas equipment by switching to air-source or ground-source heat-pumps, heat-pump or electric water heaters, heat-pump or electric dryers, and induction ranges.
- + Participate in renewable electricity through rooftop solar panels or community solar gardens.

Additional Benefits: Implementing these actions can help reduce energy costs and improve indoor air quality and comfort. Look into time of use rates and space-heating rates (for electric heating) from Xcel Energy to further reduce costs.

Incentives: [Hopkins Climate Solution Fund](#), [Utility Rebates for Home Energy](#), [Minnesota Home Energy Rebates](#)

3. Minimize Waste

Renters: Most of these actions are available to renters. Currently, renters in multi-family buildings can collect kitchen scraps and drop them off at the Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Center.

- + Purchase fewer goods, especially single-use items; reuse items before disposing of them.
- + Donate goods that can be reused through buy-nothing groups, or local services like Goodwill or Ridwell.
- + Compost food scrap and other kitchen waste.
- + Recycle glass, aluminum, paper, and plastic, per City rules.

Additional Benefits: Reducing consumption can help reduce unnecessary spending and lessen the upstream emissions that result from the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, and transportation of purchased products. Reducing waste also helps lessen pollution from the Hennepin County Energy Recovery Center (HERC) and decrease the amount of space required to maintain landfills.

4. Strengthen Resilience

Renters: Participate in community gardens, grow food in smaller containers, and purchase a [portable power station](#). Where renters don't have the ability or authority to implement actions, encourage landlords and property managers to implement these actions.

- + Landscape for climate resilience: plant native species and reduce impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt and concrete) to manage stormwater.
- + Plant trees to provide more shade and cooling.
- + Utilize yard space to grow fruits and vegetables.
- + Install back-up power using solar and battery storage, or purchase a portable power station that can be used for essential appliances.
- + Install a metal roof for improved storm protection and roof longevity.
- + Create a home emergency kit that includes water, food, first aid materials, flashlights, batteries, and important documents.
- + Get to know your neighbors through daily interactions or structured events.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all actions that can be taken at home, but rather an **overview of some of the highest-impact actions individuals can take**. For more information about what you can do to support emissions reduction efforts and enhance resilience check out resources like [Project Drawdown](#), the [Climate Action Handbook](#) from the Director of the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, Dr. Heidi Roop, among other resources. Use the checklist on the following pages to **create your own action plan** in consideration of your circumstances and what you hope to accomplish in the next five years. **City staff and resources are available** to assist community members in their efforts to implement climate actions.

