



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Dave Perrault, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Climate Action Roadmap Update

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Source:
N/A	N/A	N/A

For Council Consideration

Council should consider providing direction on a climate action roadmap.

Background

At the last Council work session, the City Council directed Staff to research what other cities are doing as far as a Climate Action Plan or other sustainability efforts. Below are the responses gathered:

- Shoreview: Green Step City 5, no formal action plan. Recently discussed with environmental committee and likely moving towards a formal plan in the next year or two.
- Falcon Heights: No formal action plan, recently passed a climate crisis resolution and developing an action plan is their next step.
- New Brighton: Green Step City 5, working on developing their Climate Action Plan with Pale Blue Dot.
- Little Canada: no formal plan, likely starting one in the next one or two years.
- Mounds View: no formal plan, working closely with Green Step Cities.

As can be seen above, New Brighton is the only City that responded and is formally working on a Climate Action Plan, while a few other cities may be close behind. New Brighton’s development of a Climate Action Plan is approximately \$42,000. While Arden Hills is currently a Green Step City 2, there are no plans currently to pursue additional steps.

The City Council should discuss and provide next steps on what it would like to do regarding a climate road map. Pursuing an action plan would require the assistance of a consultant similar to New Brighton's, and it can be assumed the cost would increase due to inflation and more work would likely be shifted to a consultant as we have less staff available to dedicate to this project.

Council may want to consider other projects or objectives that would be less cumbersome in the short-term, and could potentially be done in-house. One such example would be looking at a sustainable building policy. Groups, like Center for Energy and Environment, provide cities guidance and assistance with developing sustainable building policies that are easy to understand, less staff intensive, relatively easy to implement (The Minnesota Municipal Sustainable Building Policies Guide is attached for reference). Most sustainable policies are tied to a trigger, for example, if new construction requires either a PUD or is seeking financial assistance the project would need to be built meeting established sustainability guidelines. These guidelines usually give the developer flexibility in which method it wants to use for construction, examples are below.

Municipal, Commercial, Mixed-Use, Industrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations; Certified Silver or higher • B3 Guidelines
Multifamily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations; Certified Silver or higher • B3 Guidelines • GreenStar Homes; Certified Silver or higher • Green Communities *
Single-family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEED for Homes; Certified Silver or higher • MN GreenStar; Certified Silver or higher • Green Communities*
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Smart Silver

Council may want to consider other efforts, such as, Single Hauler for trash collection. At a recent Mayor/Administrator meeting, it appeared many of our surrounding cities are at least considering moving towards this option.

Budget Impact

There are no budget impacts on future research but depending on how Council wants to move forward, budget impacts could be minor to significant.

Attachment

Attachment A: Minnesota Municipal Sustainable Building Policies Guide