

Saint Paul Climate Justice Advisory Board Purpose and Structure (7/9/2020)
(UPDATED 1/11/2021)

Purpose:

CJAB will advise the Mayor and City Council on the development of policies and programs related to the City of Saint Paul's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). The CJAB's focus will be to ensure that the costs and benefits of new programs in clean energy, energy efficiency, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and climate resilience and adaptation, are equitably distributed and address the challenges faced by our most vulnerable populations and neighborhoods.

The City of Saint Paul has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions community-wide 50% by 2030 and down to net zero by 2050. The City recognizes that policies and programs could have negative impacts on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities and under-resourced residents if the needs of and challenges faced by these groups are not explicitly addressed. The transition to cleaner energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions will require significant investment in our communities, and the CJAB will help to ensure that Saint Paul's most vulnerable residents benefit as much or more from these changes as the City's less vulnerable populations.

The CARP also identifies strategies for building climate resilience, and the CJAB will advise the Mayor and Council on the design of policies and programs in this area as well. In this context, climate resilience refers to natural, physical, and social infrastructure that makes our community less vulnerable to negative effects of changes in our climate, such as extreme heat and increased flooding.

Members:

The CJAB will be made up of 13-17 members who will be recommended by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. Of these members, at least one will reside in each of the 7 Wards. At least 2 seats will be reserved for youth representatives (14-19 years old), one (1) seat for a representative of the building/construction trades, one (1) seat for a representative from the business community, and one (1) seat for a representative of academia. No particular expertise is required to serve, but the City will look to appoint people who represent the broad spectrum of Saint Paul's population, and who demonstrate a high level of interest, relevant experience and/or expertise, or both. In particular, the City aspires to strong representation from BIPOC communities that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and already disproportionately experience environmental racism. All members of the CJAB will either reside or work in the City of Saint Paul.

Meetings: The initial regular meeting time will be the 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m. There will be a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 meetings per year. The initial plan is for the Board to meet monthly for the first 3 months and then bimonthly thereafter.

Term of service:

The board will be initially constituted with about 50% of members serving an initial 2-year term and 50% of members serving an initial 3-year term in order to achieve staggered terms of service. Beyond the first term, all additional terms of service will be 2 years, with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms served. Youth members may serve one-year terms.

Applications Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the Mayor's Office and then a recommended slate will be sent to City Council for their consideration and approval.