

Planning Grants for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience

Application

FY 2026

Doc Type: Grant Application

Instructions: Read the complete *Request for Proposal (RFP)* and other associated documents before submitting this application.

Check the [SWIFT Supplier Portal](#) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) [Planning Grants for SWC Resilience](#) webpage for the most recent updates.

Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. Central Time (CT) on December 11, 2025.

Submit Application, Workplan, and Budget (as Microsoft Word and Excel documents) per the instructions listed in Section 7 and 8 of the RFP. **Projects submitted without all three documents will be deemed ineligible.**

1. Project information

Organization name:	City of Saint Paul							
Organization address:	25 W 4 th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102							
City:	Saint Paul	State:	MN	Zip code:	55102	County:	Ramsey	
Contact name:	Liz Boyer	Title:	Climate Action Coordinator					
Phone:	651.266.8840	Email address:	liz.boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us					
Organization type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal government <input type="checkbox"/> Local/Regional government (plus select one below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Town/Township <input type="checkbox"/> Soil and Water Conservation District <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Management Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed District <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Development Commission <input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan Planning Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public School District 							
Project focus area (check all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Resilience Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Resilience Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Resilience Planning							
Project Title:								
Grant requested:	\$ \$80,000	+ Matching funds:	\$ 8,000	= Total project cost:	\$ 88,000			
							Yes	No
1.	Is applicant the sole source of matching funds for this project?						X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If no , is supporting documentation of commitment for cash or in-kind matching funds from outside organizations involved in the project attached?						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	If no , explain:		
2.	Is applicant in compliance with Minnesota’s tax and environmental regulatory requirements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If no , explain:		

2. Project Details

1. Project Summary: Provide a brief narrative description of the project including the intent of the project and what deliverables will be completed (limit of 250 words):

Through the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) update engagement process—funded in part by an MPCA resilience grant in FY24—the City of Saint Paul heard a clear and consistent message: residents want more communication from the City about climate impacts, opportunities, and resources, and they want more opportunities to connect with their neighbors about climate change in ways that feel approachable, culturally relevant, and community-led.

Residents also shared that simply coming together to talk about climate change—without pressure, jargon, or technical complexity—was meaningful, valued, and helped strengthen community connectedness. This project proposes a *next phase* of community-wide climate adaptation planning that builds on these findings.

The City will develop accessible, multilingual communication materials for the updated CARP; share the plan with residents across the city; and conduct a summer 2026 engagement process focused on understanding:

- What communication about climate change residents want from the City
- What “connection with neighbors around climate” means in practice
- What supports, spaces, or structures best enable equitable participation, especially in environmental justice communities

Engagement could include pop-up conversations, small-group dialogues, culturally specific gatherings, youth-led sessions, and an arts-based component that helps people express climate concerns, hopes, and priorities.

The final deliverable will be a community-led Climate Communication & Connection Plan that identifies communication strategies, engagement structures, and responsible parties to support equitable climate adaptation and future CARP implementation.

- Co-benefits to stormwater and wastewater:** If the project is a stormwater project to address localized flooding that will meaningfully benefit the wastewater system, or a wastewater project that will meaningfully benefit the stormwater system, explain those co-benefits here:

2. Project Need: Describe the identified need for this project and severity of the problem. How does this project address a much-needed resiliency planning issue in the community? How have public safety and human health issues been considered?

Through the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) update engagement process—funded in part by an MPCA resilience grant in FY24—the City of Saint Paul heard a clear and consistent message: residents want more communication from the City about climate impacts, opportunities, and resources, and they want more opportunities to connect with their neighbors about climate change in ways that feel approachable, culturally relevant, and community-led.

Residents also shared that simply coming together to talk about climate change—without pressure, jargon, or technical complexity—was meaningful, valued, and helped strengthen community connectedness. This

project proposes a *next phase* of community-wide climate adaptation planning that builds on these findings.

2. **Lasting Impact: How are final deliverables from the proposed planning project expected to have a positive impact on the community's preparedness for Minnesota's changing climate?** The final deliverable will be a community-led Climate Communication & Connection Plan that identifies communication strategies and engagement structures to support equitable climate adaptation and future CARP implementation. Expected outcomes include:
- A community-informed Climate Communication & Connection Plan, identifying strategies, actions for ongoing communication and engagement.
 - Increased public awareness of the updated CARP, including resources relevant to households, neighborhoods, and organizations.
 - Development of multilingual, plain-language, and visual communication materials that support climate literacy.
 - Strengthened social cohesion through climate conversations and shared community experiences.
 - Greater participation from environmental justice communities, whose lived experiences will shape communication strategies.
 - A clearer understanding of what climate information residents need, how they want to receive it, and what forms of community connection support resilience.
3. **Use of Climate Data:** (answer a, b, or c, as applicable, and the questions following)
- a. For stormwater projects, what climate change data and design storms will be used to design future implementation projects? (limit of 250 words):
 - b. For wastewater projects, how will rainfall data or groundwater level data be used in the planning process, if applicable? (limit of 250 words):

For community resilience projects, how will climate data be used in the community planning process or to design future implementation projects? (limit of 250 words):

The updated CARP incorporates Minnesota-specific climate data from the Minnesota State Climatology Office, the U of M Climate Adaptation Partnership, the National Weather Service, and Minnesota Climate Trends. These data show clear trends for Saint Paul:

- Rising average temperatures
- Increased extreme heat days
- More frequent intense rain events
- Higher urban flooding risk
- Worsening air quality and humidity
- Winter warming and variability

These local projections and climate impact analyses will guide discussions with residents, helping them connect climate data to lived experiences—such as heat stress and air quality events.

Climate data will be used to:

- Provide accessible context during engagement events
- Shape visuals, infographics, and multilingual CARP summaries
- Identify the climate topics communities most want to understand
- Ground the final communication and connection plan in climate risk realities
- Ensure adaptation planning prioritizes those most vulnerable to climate impacts

Plain-language explanations and visual depictions of this data will make climate science approachable, supporting meaningful participation from residents across cultures and languages.

How will climate data be used to increase the community's climate resiliency?

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- Shape visuals, infographics, and multilingual CARP summaries
- Identify the climate topics communities most want to understand
- Ground the final communication and connection plan in climate risk realities
- Ensure adaptation planning prioritizes those most vulnerable to climate impacts

Plain-language explanations and visual depictions of this data will make climate science approachable, supporting meaningful participation from residents across cultures and languages.

How will data about current Minnesota climate trends and projections of future climate conditions be used in the methodology of this planning project?

Plain-language explanations and visual depictions of this data will make climate science approachable, supporting meaningful participation from residents across cultures and languages.

4. **EJ Areas of Concern:** Using the [MPCA's criteria and interactive mapping tool](#), will the geographic area in which the project is located and/or which is directly benefitted by the proposed planning project include one or more MPCA identified areas of concern for environmental justice (EJ areas of concern)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: Exhibit B: Resources on climate equity and environmental justice contains resources to incorporate climate equity and environmental justice into a resilience planning project.

If yes (proposed project includes EJ areas):

- a. Will the planning to be undertaken by this project yield direct benefits for communities within these EJ areas of concern? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - i. **If yes, describe these communities and how they will benefit:** A significant portion of Saint Paul's neighborhoods are identified as environmental justice (EJ) areas where residents, including people with low incomes, people of color, and residents with limited English proficiency, face disproportionate climate risks. These communities experience greater exposure to extreme heat, air pollution, flooding, and energy burden.
 - ii. If yes, describe how the planning completed for this project will benefit EJ communities specifically compared to other communities in the area covered by the project: This project directly responds to those needs by centering community knowledge and experience in developing climate communication strategies.
- b. Will these communities be provided the opportunity to have a voice in decision-making through meaningful engagement as part of the planning completed for this project? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - i. If yes, describe specifically how this will be done; if no, explain why not: Benefits to EJ communities include:
 - i. Multilingual, culturally relevant communication materials
 - ii. Pop-up and small-group engagement hosted in EJ neighborhoods
 - iii. Arts-based and storytelling approaches that reduce language barriers

- iv. Partnerships with trusted cultural organizations
- v. A final plan shaped heavily by EJ community voices and lived experiences

5. Potential Barriers: Describe any potential barriers to successful completion of the planning project and the methods that will be used to overcome them: No harmful impacts are expected; instead, the project addresses existing barriers and helps ensure climate adaptation efforts equitably benefit those most impacted by climate change.