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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

# Climate Action and Resilience Planning

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- Built on Strategic Framework for Community Resiliency – 2016
- Net zero greenhouse gas emissions community-wide by 2050
- Net zero in City operations by 2030

# SAINT PAUL CLIMATE ACTION & RESILIENCE PLAN

A FRAMEWORK FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE



**DECEMBER 2019**

City of Saint Paul Mayor  
Melvin Carter

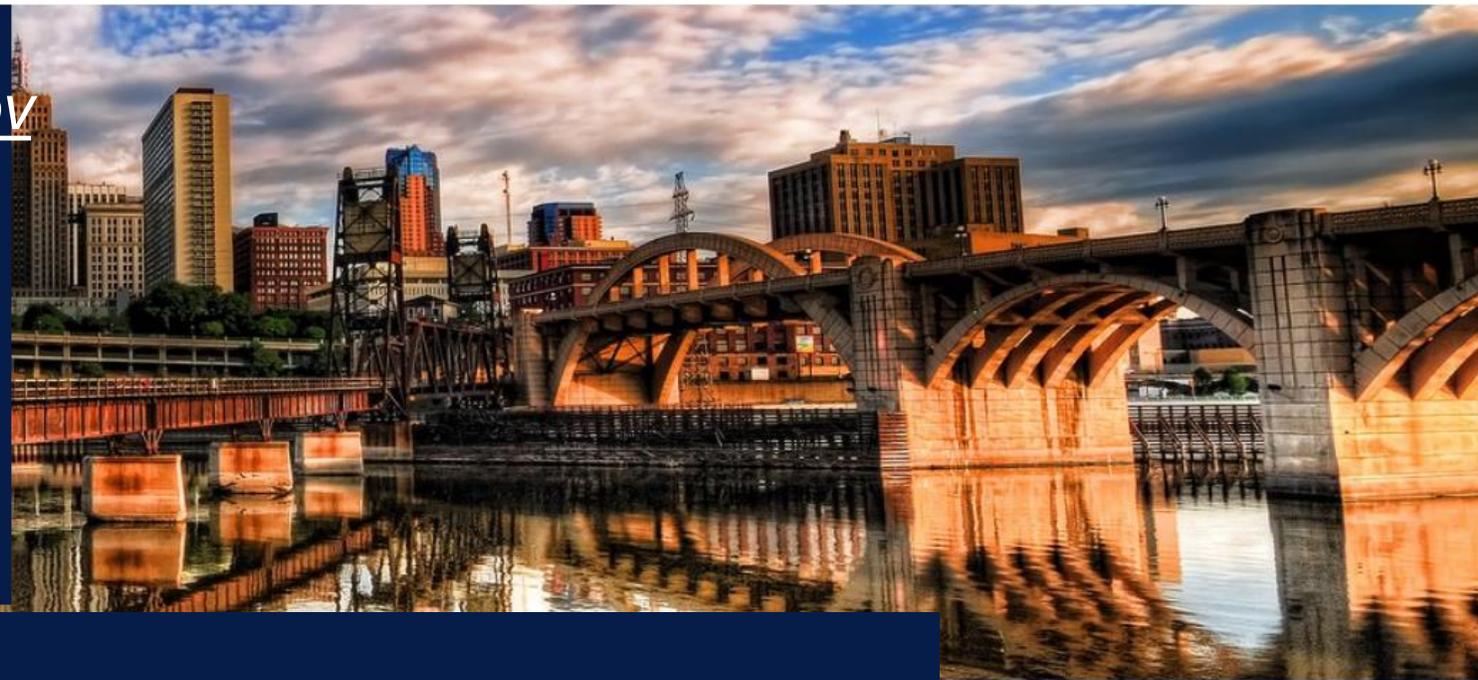


# Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Saint Paul

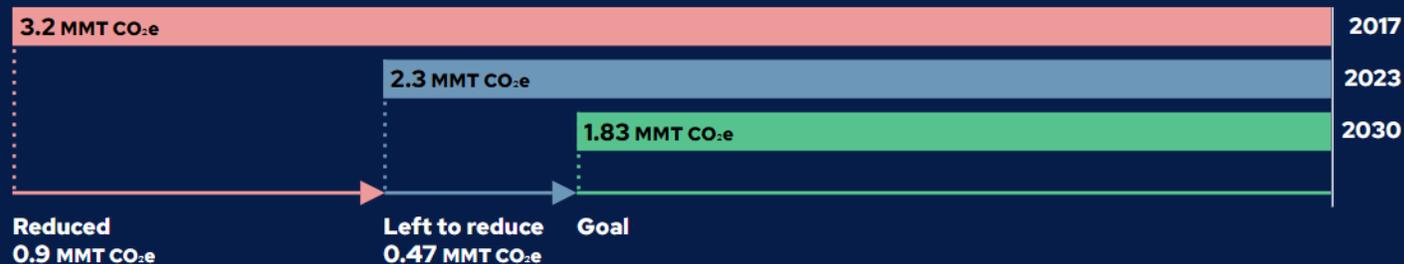
## Saint Paul Climate Action Dashboard [climateaction.stpaul.gov](https://climateaction.stpaul.gov)

The City of Saint Paul is determined to fight climate change in an equitable and inclusive manner. The Climate Action & Resilience Plan (CARP) aims to achieve carbon neutrality in city operations by 2030 and citywide by 2050.

This Dashboard was created to showcase the comprehensive and inclusive efforts being undertaken by the City and its partners. It's a powerful example of how local action can make a global impact.



## Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory





# City Buildings & Operations Decarbonization

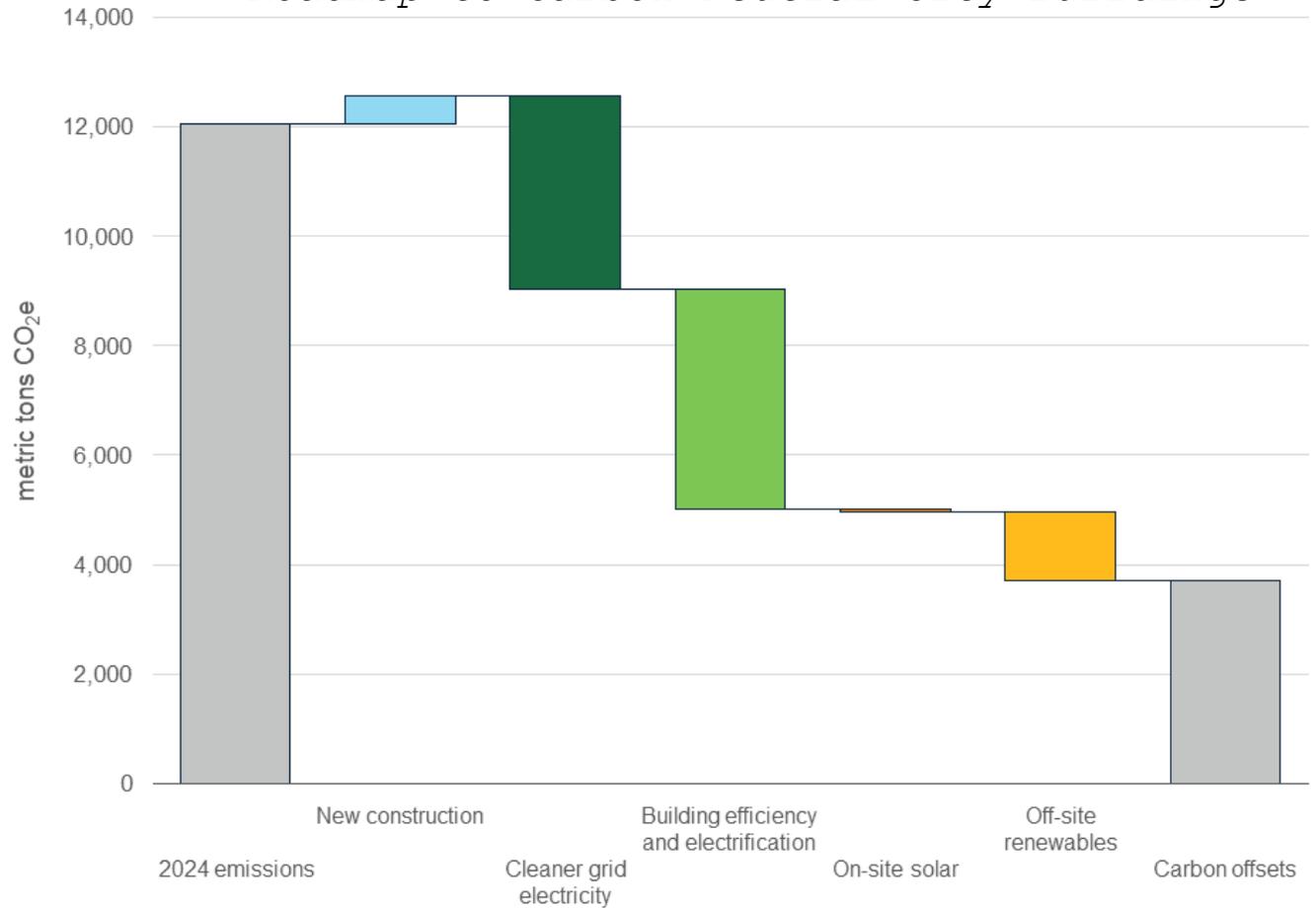
**Decarbonation Plan:** Completed in Oct. 2025 to define an actionable pathway to carbon neutral operations for City-owned & operated facilities

**Progress:** 46% emissions reduction as of 2024 (from 2015 baseline)

## Next Steps (2026-2030):

- Implementing electrification plans for 11 priority buildings
- Adding 650-kW of new on-site solar
- Investing in more energy efficiency projects for existing buildings & improving capital maintenance process
- Continuing to implement the master plan for geothermal

*Roadmap to Carbon Neutral City Buildings*





# City Buildings & Operations Decarbonization

## Project Examples

**Como Zoo – Phase 1 Geothermal:** Converting Primates & Polar Bear Buildings to geothermal; Energy efficiency upgrades across zoo campus

**Efficient New Construction & Renovations:** Geothermal & solar at North End Community Center and Hamline-Midway Library; Dual-fuel heat pumps at Fire Station #3 and Animal



*Geothermal well drilling at Como Center*



*Geothermal wellhead at Hamline Library*



*40-kW rooftop solar at North End Community*



# City Fleet Conversion

**Electric Fire Engine:** The State's first all-electric fire engine was put into service by Saint Paul Fire in 2025 (and our 2nd is in the works!)



**EV charger infrastructure:** Installing level 2 chargers at several City locations to accommodate EV fleet vehicles.



**Fleet Decarbonization Plan:** Received a grant from MPCA to complete a comprehensive plan for converting the City's fleet to EVs.



# City-wide Building Efforts

## Power of Home & Healthy Homes

- Weatherize and electrify homes of energy cost-burdened homeowners
- New Climate funding in 2025 included \$300,000/year for Power of Home Program
- One-time \$800k for Healthy Homes program (originally ARPA \$)



## The Heights

- All-electric heating and cooling
- State's first networked geothermal energy system
- First ever loan from MnCIFA
- LEED for Communities Platinum



## Sustainable Building Ordinance:

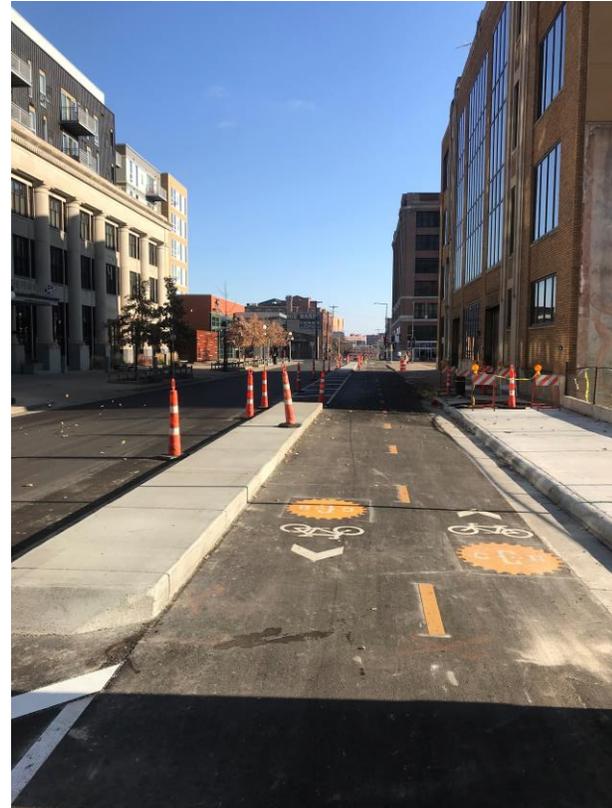
- Applies to new City buildings, new private buildings receiving more than \$200,000 in public funds.
- Originally adopted in 2009 and applied to over 100 projects
- Updating in 2026 to require all-electric new construction



# Transportation

## Evie Carshare and EV charging network

- Largest Municipally owned electric carshare in the U.S.
- Over 10,000 members taking 500 affordable emissions-free trips each day in Saint Paul and Mpls
- 80 public charging space and 75 charging spacing for Evie Carshare



## New Bikeways

- 54+ new miles of bikeways
- Completion of the Saint Paul Grand Rounds and near completion of Capital City Bikeway





# Climate Justice Advisory Board (CJAB)

**Focus on ensuring equity and inclusion are centered in implementation.**



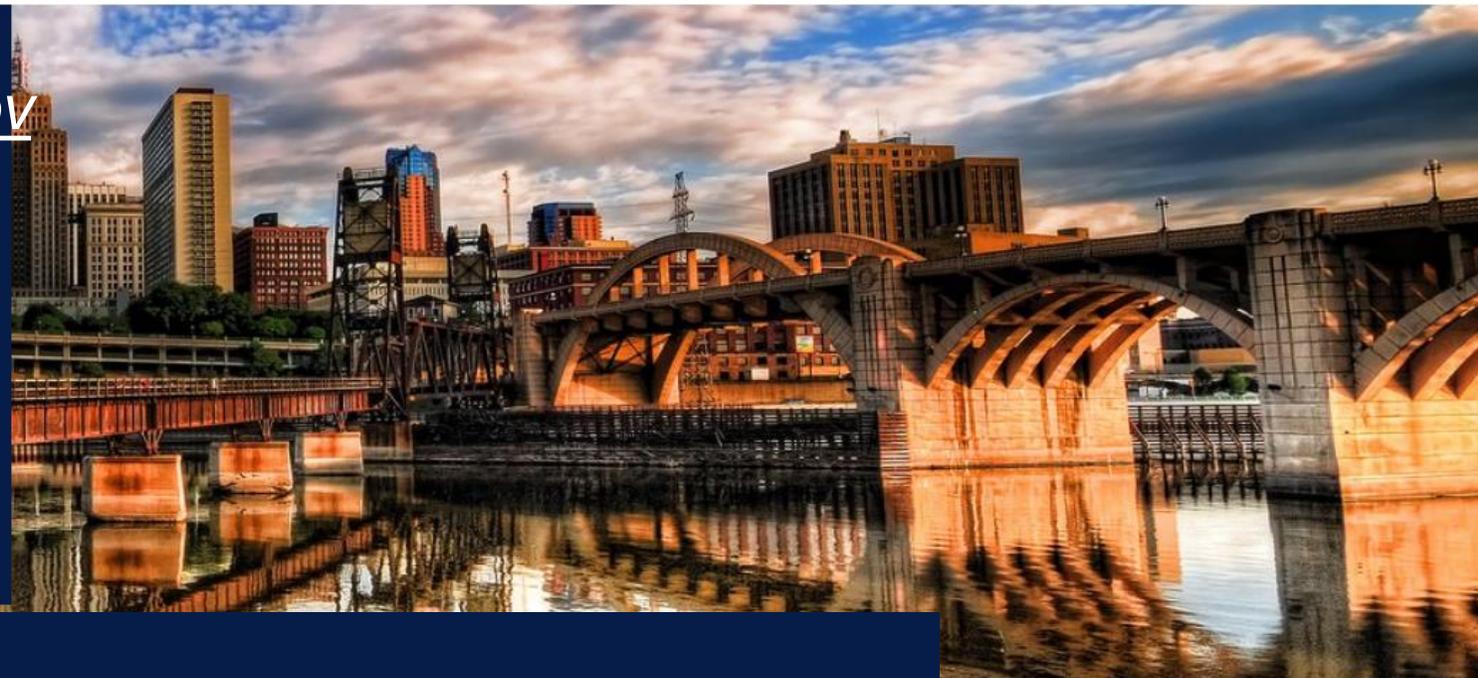


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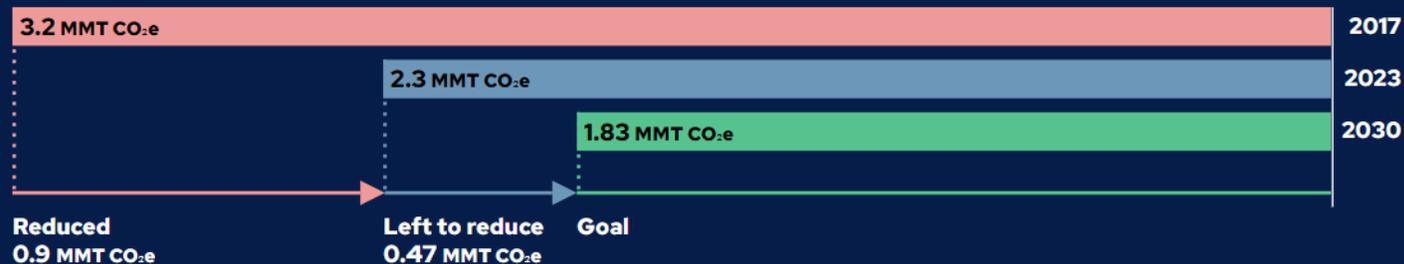
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## Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory





# CARP 2.0

## **Refine and refresh plan**

- Updates in climate science and emerging technologies

## **Focus on a five-year action plan**

- Priorities for next five years
- Include strategies to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience
- Prioritizes vulnerable populations

## **Technical support:**

Local Climate Solutions

## **Community Engagement support:**

Wilder Research





# CARP 2.0 – Community Engagement

## Overview of Engagement Activities

- Web survey
- Engagement activities at community events
- Listening sessions
- The 2025 Climate Forum
- The Community Conversation toolkit



## CJAB's CARP update advisory committee

- Held 10 meetings between Oct '24 and Nov '25
- 26 members plus CJAB members
- Learned, advocated, guided and

- What impacts are people already experiencing or concerned about in future?
- What do community members want in a sustainable city?
- What exists in our communities and if/how could City support?
- What should be prioritized in 5-year action plan?
- What does the City control vs influence





# Community Engagement – Key Takeaways

## **Prioritize Healthy Communities**

- Air quality and extreme heat impacts on health
- Support for active transportation, walkable/bikeable neighborhoods, green space and tree canopy—especially in vulnerable areas

## **Resilience & Preparedness**

- Financial impacts of extreme weather and recovery
- Support for resilience hubs, community-led initiatives, and stronger neighborhood networks
- Communications

## **Clean & Efficient Energy**

- Interest in clean energy and efficiency upgrades, particularly for lower-income households
- Help with upfront costs for solar, insulation, and clean appliances

## **Low-Impact Transportation**

- Strong support for improved public transit safety and service
- Interest in EV infrastructure and expansion of carshare programs

## **Waste & Materials Management**

- Demand for expanded composting options
- Reducing waste and single-use plastics
- Helping businesses adopt sustainable practices



# CARP 2.0 – Overview

- **Context**, Background, Progress since 2019 Adoption
- **2050 Vision**
- **Overview** of causes of climate change in our region
- **Projected** local impacts
- **Climate hazards and vulnerabilities**
  
- **Objectives, Targets and Actions** including Equitable Outcomes
  - Implementation, Funding and Partnerships
  - Energy Use in Buildings (Residential, Multifamily, Commercial)
  - Transportation and Mobility (Land Use and Decarbonization)
  - Waste Management
  - Water Services and Wastewater
  - City Buildings and Operations
  - Community Resilience and Emergency Preparedness
  - Nature-Based Solutions
  
- **Five-Year Action Plan** (25 Priority Actions)



# CARP 2.0 – Five-Year Action

## Plan

**Organized by the same categories that are found in the main Plan and includes the following details:**

- **City's Authority to Implement:** This indicates the City's ability to implement the initiatives by noting the City's ability to "control" and/or "influence" the outcomes.
- **Project Location:** Geographic location in the City, noting where some initiatives are citywide or will occur in specific areas of the City.
- **Department Lead:** The City department that is dedicated to lead the initiative, although other departments and partners may support efforts.
- **Type:** Initiatives vary in terms of duration (ongoing vs. one-time) and type (project, program, plan, or policy).
- **Brief Summary:** Includes a high-level overview of each of initiative.
- **Anticipated Funding Need:** The funding needs are either derived from existing programs or the estimated funding needed for new initiatives. Funding can be expenditures (e.g., capital expenses, consulting fees) or staff time.
- **Anticipated Funding Sources:** Describes internal and external funding sources that are available to support the various initiatives.
- **Project Partners:** Initial list of potential partners who can help implement specific initiatives. These lists are not meant to be exhaustive.
- **Timeframe:** The timeframe the initiative is anticipated to be implemented. On-going programs



## Implementation and Funding

### Initiative 1: Grow the City's Climate Fund

**City Authority:** Control

**Project Location:** Citywide

**Department Lead:** Office of Financial Services

**Type:** Ongoing program

**Brief Summary:** The City currently uses Franchise Fee dollars to fund part of its climate efforts. The City has a target to spend at least 1% of its budget directly on climate actions. While this funding will be supported by other capital expenditures, it is critical to grow this fund to adequately address climate change in the City. Staff will explore and pursue various funding sources to equitably grow the climate fund to sustain its climate work.

**Anticipated Funding Need:** \$8,800,000 (based on the projected 2026 budget)

**Anticipated Funding Source(s):** Franchise Fee, state and foundation grants, other sources

**Project Partners:** State of Minnesota, potential funders

**Timeframe:** 2026-2031



# CARP 2.0 – Five-Year Action Plan

## 25 Priority Actions

### Implementation and Funding

- Grow the City's Climate Fund
- Climate Communications and Engagement Plan

### Building and Energy Use

- Decarbonize Downtown
- Mt. Airy Geothermal Study
- Implement Residential Energy Programs
- Complete a Citywide Thermal Energy Plan
- Update the Sustainable Building Ordinance
- Develop a Data Center Policy

### Transportation

- Zoning for Transit Investment
- Transit Improvements
- Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements
- Regional Bikeshare System
- Expand Transportation Safety Improvements
- Transportation Education
- Increase Publicly Accessible EV's and Charging

### City Buildings and Operations

- Decarbonize City Buildings
- Complete a Municipal Fleet Decarbonization Plan

### Community Resilience

- Prepare Residents and Businesses for Climate Hazards
- Heating/Cooling Centers and Resilience Hubs
- Air Quality Sensors

### Nature-based Solutions

- Increase Tree Canopy Coverage
- Promote Climate Resilient Landscaping

### Waste

- Food Scraps Pickup Program
- Provide Waste Education and Resources
- Create a Furniture Re-Use Center



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