

An aerial photograph of a city street scene in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The image shows several multi-story brick buildings with many windows. In the foreground, there is a transit station with a blue and white canopy. The street is paved and has some parked cars. The overall scene is a mix of urban architecture and public infrastructure.

# Climate/Resilience

**Presentation of FY25 Budget Recommendations to City Council  
September 11, 2024, Russ Stark, CRO**



SAINT PAUL  
MINNESOTA

STPAUL.GOV

Photo courtesy of  
Saint Paul

# Agenda

- Climate Work Overview
- Org Chart
- Challenges & Opportunities
- Grants Overview
- Updates on Recent Initiatives
- Activities Summary
- 2025 Proposal





# Saint Paul's Climate Action Work

- Climate Action and Resilience Plan (2019) is our guide (update work beginning)
- Decentralized Staffing Model
- Leverage external resources and partnerships to advance City climate goals
- Focus on action that benefits disadvantaged communities
- Saint Paul recognized as a national leader (ACEEE, CDP, Bloomberg ACCC)
- Climate Action Dashboard ([www.climateaction.stpaul.gov](http://www.climateaction.stpaul.gov) )
- Climate Justice Advisory Board



## Org Chart

- Chief Resilience Officer –
  - Climate Action Coordinator (OFS)
  - Energy Coordinator (OFS-Real Estate)
  - Clean Energy Manager (PED)
  - EV Charging and Electric Carshare Coordinator (Public Works)
- **Public Works Transportation Planning Division, Solid Waste Team**
- **Parks Natural Resources, Forestry, Design**
- **OFS Real Estate, Grants, Fleet**
- **PED Planning and Housing Teams**
- **DSI Water Resources Coordinator, Building/Energy Code**



## Grants

- **Coordination with OFS and Grants Team on grant-seeking and management**
- **Coordination with Grants Team and Real Estate on Inflation Reduction Act Direct Pay and other incentive programs**
- **McKnight Foundation 2023 Grant – Climate Action Coordinator**
- **USDOE grants supporting EV Spot Network/Envie Carshare**
- **Met Council Regional Solicitation grants supporting Envie, bike, walk, and transit**
- **MPCA planning grant for Climate Plan update community engagement**
- **Unsuccessful USEPA CPRG proposals**
- **USDOE Energy Future Planning Grant for low-income residential weatherization and electrification work**
- **Partnering to pursue USDOE planning grant for next iteration of bikeshare**
- **Partnering with Rondo CLT to pursue EPA Community Change Grant**



## Challenges & Opportunities

### Challenges

- What are the primary challenges your department faces in fulfilling its mission?
  - Climate Action requires that we all start pulling in a somewhat different direction
  - This requires resources, training, changing practices
  - Urgency of climate change vs. the pace that we can move
- Are there any specific ongoing or future risks that should be named (e.g., external factors that could impact your department's operations or budget)?
  - Rollback of federal or state programs

### Opportunities

- Partnerships!
- Grants, Grants everywhere
- Workforce and Business Formation
- Technological innovation everywhere – Flow Env. Systems, Darcy Solutions, Carba
- Community Engagement – CARP Update process will be a great opportunity for expansive engagement



## Updates on Recent Initiatives

- EV Spot/Elvie East Side Expansion
- Geothermal and Efficiency upgrades at Como
- Network Geothermal at The Heights
- Municipal Buildings Decarbonization Plan kick-off yesterday
- Green Cities Accord Partnership
- Ramsey County Earn and Learn Construction/Green Careers
- Partner with Ramsey County/NOAA on Urban Heat Mapping
- CARP Update – Committee Appointments coming soon
- Engaged in Riverview, Purple Line, Network Next projects
- Continued work on Rethinking I-94



# 2025 Proposed Changes: Explanations

- Xcel franchise fee change for 2025 to include residential fees in April and November and fund climate work
- \$1.5 million new revenue
- Requires Council action in October in to begin collecting fees in April
- Power of Home \$300k Year One, \$500k thereafter
- Climate Action Coordinator \$163K
- PED Project Management Tech \$53k (partial funding)
- \$500k Forestry operations for trees
- New PW Snow Operations (one-time)



## Power of Home:

- Weatherize and transition away from fossil fuel use in the homes of energy cost burdened residents to:
  - lower utility bills
  - make homes more comfortable and healthier
  - reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - invest in our housing stock
  - maximize local contracting and workforce development opportunities
- Census block groups with concentration of energy burdened households
- Ramp up new program in 2025, expand in 2026
- Implemented by PED Housing Team
- Learnings from current pilot program and best practices elsewhere



## Questions & Discussion