

Preparing our infrastructure for climate change

January 11, 2023 | Frank Kohlasch, Assistant Commissioner for Air and
Climate Policy



OUR MINNESOTA CLIMATE



Climate change is threatening our infrastructure.

- 155,000 homes, 29,000 miles of roads, and 13,000 businesses at risk of severe flooding
- Local governments must be equipped to manage these changes.

Climate adaptation survey

- 380 responses
- 87% have experienced a climate-related impact
- 42% need financial assistance and technical guidance for upgrades.



About the Climate Action Framework

- Recognizes need to act now
- Opportunity to grow economy, increase resilience, and improve our health, equity, and the environment
- Climate change affects everyone, but some are hit harder
- Creates a bold vision for Minnesota
- Ensures accountability

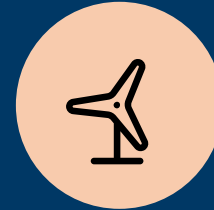


Framework goal areas

Organizing our work



Clean
transportation



Clean energy and
efficient buildings



Climate-smart natural
and working lands



Healthy lives and
communities



Resilient
communities



Clean
economy

Goal: Resilient communities

Vision

- Communities have resources and support to plan for and implement projects to build a more resilient future.
- Physical infrastructure, natural systems, and communities are more prepared for climate impacts and can recover from extreme events.



Three Priorities

- Climate-smart communities
- Healthy community green spaces and water resources
- Resilient buildings, infrastructure, and business



Climate-smart communities

- Provide needed technical assistance, tools, maps, and data
- Deliver necessary funding
- Share best practices through learning networks





Healthy community green spaces and water resources

- Expand tree planting and preservation
- Plant beneficial vegetation on urban land
- Protect and improve water quality and quantity



Resilient buildings, infrastructure, and businesses

- Plan for climate adaptation in residential and commercial development
- Fund resilient infrastructure and critical facilities



Resilient buildings, infrastructure, and businesses

- Expand green infrastructure and stormwater management
- Reduce the urban heat island effects
- Support adaptation for local businesses

Adaptation grants

- Round 1: \$920,000 to 12 grantees.
- 49 applicants
- Round 2: \$345,000 available for communities with populations >10,000





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