



THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE & EQUITY PLAN

THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE & EQUITY PLAN envisions a Minneapolis in which every person – regardless of zip code, race, or ability – lives in an equitable, healthy neighborhood and a safe climate. No matter what we look like, where we come from, or how much money we have – we want transformational change to make all our futures better.


For too long, polluting corporations and the politicians that protect them have told us we can't create this future. They have worked to keep us dependent on outdated fuels that harm our families. They have told us that a Minneapolis in which every person has what they need to thrive is not possible. They're wrong. By joining together, we can secure safe, clean, locally-made energy that will ensure our wellbeing now and for future generations.

The People's Climate & Equity Plan is not simply asking for what we think is possible. We are demanding what is necessary to create a thriving, environmentally healthy city that works for everyone, no exceptions. We want to:

- Make every building in Minneapolis comfortable, affordable, and carbon free by 2030
- Build community wealth and eliminate economic disparities/the racial wealth gap
- Ensure every person has a safe, healthy and climate-resilient neighborhood connected by accessible, carbon-free transportation
- Create a robust dedicated funding stream to make bold climate justice policy a reality

The City of Minneapolis is updating their climate plan this year. We see the People's Climate and Equity Plan as complementary to the City's, and ultimately as enabling the City's climate goals by creating a strong and sustainable funding stream for this work.

The People's Climate and Equity Plan was drafted by the Just Transition Fund Coalition, who's members include Black Visions, Community Power, Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF), Environmental Justice Advocates of MN (EJAM), MN Renewable Now, MN350 Action, Sierra Club North Star, and Unidos MN. This is a living document, the beginning of a conversation with the city and the people of Minneapolis, which must center the voices of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and other marginalized communities.



EVERY BUILDING IN MINNEAPOLIS IS COMFORTABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND CARBON FREE BY 2030.

WHAT WE WANT: Deep energy retrofits and electrification for all buildings by 2030

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- City-wide residential energy upgrade program (everyone gets benefits, starting with Green Zones, affordable housing and other low-income/BIPOC communities).
- Create easy access to weatherization/conservation/electrification services, partnering with trusted community organizations to make sure people can easily get the needed work done in their homes. Ensure staff are multi-lingual and/or that translation services are provided.
- All improvements reduce cost burdens (save more on energy costs than participants have to pay), with no upfront cost, no loans/personal debt that creates a personal financial burden or requires credit/income qualification.
- Leadership, education and implementation from community-based organizations as navigators, with local workforce and contractor development support.
- Expansion of Green Business Cost Share program to bring in commercial sector
- Invest heavily in natural systems to amplify savings (e.g. tree canopy, passive solar, green roof gardens), deepen GHG and pollution sequestration, increase quality of life and lessen effects of heat exhaustion and urban heat island impact
- Avoid using typically regressive tools like credit score, upfront cost, loans, or rebates that rely on upfront payment for low-income households.

WHAT WE WANT: Maximize local clean energy to enable stability in the face of severe weather and build community wealth and control and to lower energy costs for burdened communities

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Rooftop solar is a free shared resource; all solar-capable roofs (residential and commercial) will get solar

- Direct energy upgrade program for residents and small businesses
- Support to design and finance solar for direct use (for businesses that want to own and self-consume solar on their roof)
- Community solar hosted on large commercial buildings where the building owner does not want to own and finance solar themselves.
- Embed batteries/storage in community centers to create resiliency hubs that can provide emergency medical, communications, cooling/warming, and food distribution centers for times of crisis.
- District ground-source/aquifer geothermal to heat and cool large buildings and whole neighborhoods using energy from the ground and aquifers to replace expensive and unhealthy gas heating.
- Develop community microgrids evenly/equitably spaced throughout the city so that all neighborhoods are able to keep the power on in their local area during larger grid failures using energy storage, local solar, and smart devices that help manage energy use to match clean energy supply.
- The above solutions will be structured to:
 - Enable personal participation for BIPOC/low-income residents through debt-free personal financing and incentives.
 - Enable cooperative ownership for residents who rent or where shared ownership is more cost effective than individual systems to ensure the profits of local clean energy go to the people that use them.

WHAT WE WANT: Eliminate the energy cost burden for every residence

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Expand access to the existing programs that cap energy costs at 3-4% of a household's income for gas & electricity. These are funded by everyone's utility bills but are currently only available if you are income-qualified based on state and/or federal definitions.

BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH AND ELIMINATE ECONOMIC DISPARITIES/THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

WHAT WE WANT: Create intentional and equitable pathways for communities of color, to access union careers in the energy and construction sectors.

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Create site specific “pre-apprenticeship” programs set in BIPOC neighborhoods, concentrating on elevating local BIPOC residents into quality, lucrative union careers, doing the work in their own communities.

WHAT WE WANT: Nourish local and sustainable economies by investing in BIPOC worker-owned cooperatives and sustainable entrepreneurship

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Invest in opportunities for communities to practice self determination, including access to land and decisions regarding re-development
- Equitable public investment strategies that shift away from high pollution products and production processes toward those that are low-emission and sustainable. This also includes investments in innovative and worker-supported economic organizations such as cooperatives and other community wealth-building strategies (EJCP, 2021)
- Set quotas in public investment of entrepreneurship and small businesses support - how many are circular, how many are sustainable, how much is going to “green” businesses.

WHAT WE WANT: Developers that receive city funding/financing must either (A) work with contractors that hire union labor/pay prevailing wage or (B) participate in the Building Dignity and Respect Standards program.

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Mirror the hiring model used by organizations like CEF (50% BIPOC, women, etc.) minimum, in order to receive City \$\$\$

- Source at least 50% of labor utilized for the work (on-site and project administration directly charged to the work, including subcontractors providing such labor and administration) from workers who are African-American, Native American, Latinx, Asian Pacific, Asian Subcontinent Americans or members of similarly recognized racial or ethnic minority groups in the United States, women, or formerly incarcerated individuals

WHAT WE WANT: Invest directly in the economic opportunities of building a carbon-free economy in Minneapolis Green Zones as directed by Green Zones residents, workers, small businesses, and community institutions

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Community-based governing body sets goals with information from Clean Energy Partnership, CPED, and DEED regarding BIPOC workforce development goals
- Workforce diversity is a criteria for funding eligibility for contractors and programs
- Fund program(s) promoting clean energy jobs education in Minneapolis Public Schools. Schools in Greenzones and low income census tracts are prioritized.

EVERY PERSON HAS A SAFE AND HEALTHY AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTED BY ACCESSIBLE, CARBON-FREE TRANSPORTATION

WHAT WE WANT: Make sure every neighborhood has healthy air, water and land by reducing cumulative impacts of pollution

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Require facilities polluting the water, air, and land located in/near EJ/BIPOC communities, where impacts tend to be concentrated, to reduce emissions and transition to healthier practices
- Impacts of pollution tend to increase alongside low-income and BIPOC communities, for example, near the HERC incinerator
- Increase capital for community investment in designated green spaces, including:
 - Parks
 - Tree canopy
 - Local food-production with resources and information on how to utilize non-GMO plants and crops that are climate-stabilizing
- Reduce impacts of single-occupancy vehicles, high traffic corridors and polluting and energy/resource-intensive industries
- Increase equitable public access to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout our city.
- Fund community waste educators to facilitate/host community workshops informing and educating community members on the impacts of recycling, composting and what it means for plastics/recyclables to be thrown in the trash; Set goal for zero waste city by 2050.

WHAT WE WANT: Create a climate adaptation and resilience plan that puts the ability of vulnerable communities to adapt and thrive at the center

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Protect all Minneapolis neighborhoods from increased flood risk and extreme heat, focusing this work in communities that have historically been under-invested in

- Update City's climate vulnerability analysis
- Make sure economic security and self-determination are a foundation of how we understand and build climate resilience
- Invest in tree canopy to reduce heat accumulation and draw down carbon

WHAT WE WANT: Make it easy to go about daily life without the need to drive

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Invest in public infrastructure to increase affordable, accessible, and convenient public transportation powered by local energy from the wind and sun
- Make sure all transportation funding aligns with the Mpls Transportation Action Plan so that the Plan's priorities are implemented as actual projects
- Advocate to MNDOT and the Met Council to align metro-wide transportation planning with the Mpls Transportation Action Plan
- Apply a racial justice and harm reduction lens to transportation while ensuring traffic stops and transit fare checks do not result into entry into the carceral system
- Include anti-displacement measures in transportation planning

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY SAY WE WANT GOOD THINGS TO HAPPEN.

WE ARE ASKING THAT THE CITY CREATE A ROBUST DEDICATED FUNDING STREAM TO MAKE BOLD CLIMATE JUSTICE POLICY A REALITY.

WHAT WE WANT: Minneapolis Climate Action Plan goals require funding in order to be implemented on a time frame that matters. That funding stream, recovered from polluter or corporate profits, would be managed with direct governance by a community-based and accountable body to ensure benefits are equitably distributed

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Create a transparent grants committee made up of community members charged with reviewing proposals and selecting grant recipients for clean energy projects that will benefit communities of color and low-income households. Subject area experts and translation services will be provided for any knowledge gaps or language barriers on the Committee.
- Representation from:
 - BIPOC members in super majority (60-75% of committee as minimum to invert white supermajority of 63% based on demographics of City), including Anishinaabe and Dakota nations, African American and members of the Hispanic and Latinx community
 - Renters from Ward 5, Ward 4, Ward 9, Ward 6; public housing; multi-lingual

WHAT WE WANT: Focus investment in communities of color and low-income communities to advance justice in the transition to climate solutions, recognizing historic injustice in economic opportunities and environmental burdens

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Concentrate no less than 60% clean energy investments and workforce recruitment in Green Zones and low census tracts
- Work with neighborhood organizations, community development organizations, public housing developers and affordable housing advocates for program outreach and participation
- Create a specific program for BIPOC owned businesses

WHAT WE WANT: Proactively structure the funding mechanism to avoid negative cost impacts on low-income/otherwise burdened communities, and use funds collected to mitigate any economic burdens that are unavoidable.

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Concentrating on polluter pays and corporate taxation models will ensure that BIPOC and Frontline Communities are not burdened by the transition from the consequences of bad corporate decision-making to better public decision-making.
- This transition must be based in justice, we must regulate those who caused the issues we're dealing with (those who profited from those exploitations), rather than again foisting the costs on the communities who were not responsible for the causes, but were without the resources and access to prevent that exploitation."

WHAT WE WANT: Percentages of fund investment based on:

- 1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in a way that both maximizes reductions in other local pollutants and increases equity, livability and community connectedness**
- 2. The ability of the city to regulate that sector without intervention from the state or regional government.**

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Weatherization, Local clean energy, Building electrification, (including any pre-weatherization measures) = 50-60%
- Workforce and small enterprise development = 15-25%
- Safe, healthy and climate-resilient neighborhoods connected by accessible, carbon-free transportation = 10-20%
- Innovative Community Solutions = 5-10%

