

ACKNOWLEDGING STATE CLIMATE GOALS

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

There are new minimum requirements focused on climate in the 2050 Comprehensive Planning cycle. The first requirement is:

Include an acknowledgement of statewide targets for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions: 50% GHG reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050 from a 2005 baseline.

MEETING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

Each community's comprehensive plan must include an acknowledgement, which can be as brief as:

The Minnesota Climate Action Framework sets statewide goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Communities are encouraged to transition from the acknowledgement to their GHG inventory and reduction strategies. See the [GHG Emissions Reduction Tool](#) for more.

GET MORE OUT OF YOUR PLAN: SETTING TARGETS

While communities are not required to set emissions reduction targets in their plan, setting community-specific targets is a best practice because it captures community ambition and provides a mechanism for accountability. Communities can directly adopt the state targets or create their own.

Creating a target

A basic target structure looks like:

Reduce GHG emissions [percent] below [baseline year] emissions by [target year].

Example: Minnesota will reduce GHG emissions 50% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Best practice is to align baseline and target years with the state goal, but that won't work for all communities. For example, if a community only has an emissions inventory from 2022 (see the GHG Emissions Reduction Tool for a community inventory), the community could use 2022 as the baseline year.

Using the GHG Emissions Reduction Tool to inform targets

The GHG Emissions Reduction Tool models the impacts of implementing climate reduction strategies. By using the GHG Emissions Reduction Tool, communities can create a target that matches the emissions reductions they believe their community will achieve. Once a community goes through each sector of the tool, the final Summary panel will show an estimate of emissions reductions from all the selected strategies.

Digging Deeper

Additional resources on target setting:

- [Explanatory Note accompanying the Global Covenant of Mayors Common Reporting Framework](#) – Look to Chapter 6 on Target and Goal Setting
- [Framework for Long-Term Deep Carbon Reduction Planning from the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#) – Look to Chapter 7 on Setting Goals and Targets

Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

metro council.org

Main: 651.602.1000
TTY: 651.291.0904
Public Information: 651.602.1500
public.info@metc.state.mn.us

