

TAKING ACTION

There is no magic bullet to stop climate change. To prepare for it, we can work together to implement thoughtful strategies that build Minnesota's resiliency, reduce future risks, and provide benefits for our economy, health and natural resources.

Shifting to cleaner, low-carbon energy sources is one part of the equation. Tracking our greenhouse gas emissions and identifying strategies to significantly decrease (or mitigate) them is another. Weaving in efforts that address how our health and natural resources are being harmed by climate change—and implementing ways to adapt—is also critical.

Some Progress, with More Work to Be Done

On the emissions front, between 2005 and 2010, Minnesota experienced modest reductions of 3%. Minnesota will miss its first greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 15% by 2015.



However, due in large part to Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard and energy efficiency efforts, **our electric utility sector is on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2025 by 33% below what levels would be without these programs**, demonstrating that Minnesota's aggressive energy laws and programs are working.

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board coordinates interagency work and efforts across local, state and federal government to create long-range plans and review proposed projects that would significantly influence Minnesota's environment. The Board is leading efforts to address climate change in Minnesota and to ensure that all our communities are resilient to future risks and changes associated with our evolving environment.

The following pages showcase what Minnesota has been doing to address climate change, what's happening next, and how you can help.

WHAT IS MITIGATION + ADAPTATION?

MITIGATION Reduce emissions to lessen future climate change impacts.

EXAMPLE ACTIONS

- Conserve energy
- Use renewable energy (wind, solar, biofuels)
- Drive energy-efficient vehicles
- Bike, walk and take public transit

ADAPTATION Prepare for climate change impacts happening now.

EXAMPLE ACTIONS

- Plan for storms and heat waves
- Build resilient roads and bridges
- Improve stormwater management systems
- Protect waterways from erosion

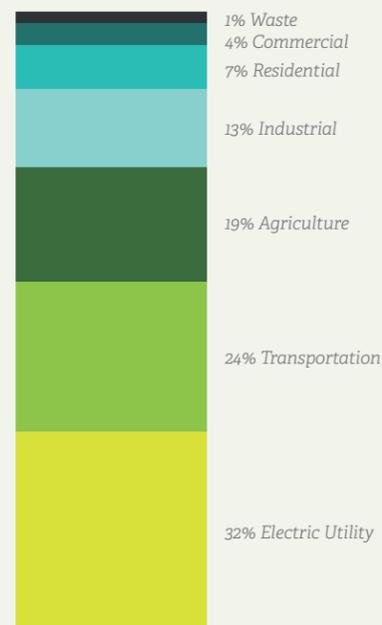
BOTH Mitigation and adaptation often work together.

EXAMPLE ACTIONS

- Use water wisely
- Install "green infrastructure"
- Plant urban trees
- Use sustainable building practices

WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

Minnesota's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources



Our Actions

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION PROGRAMS, POLICIES, LAWS AND INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Core Metrics

3%

Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2005-2010. Minnesota will miss its goal of a 15% reduction by 2015.

NEARLY 20%

The amount of renewables used for electricity generation annually is almost 20%, up from just 5.8% in 2000.

NEARLY 15%

Clean energy employment grew 14.5 percent from 2012 to 2014, far faster than the 5.3 percent growth of the Minnesota economy overall.

Sector Highlights

10

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BUILDINGS

The number of medium-sized power plants that Xcel Energy has not needed to build thanks to efficiency programs in place since 1992.

HEALTH



1,255 ER Visits

The number of heat-related emergency room visits in 2011 statewide.

TRANSPORTATION



Driving Less

After decades of near constant growth, vehicle miles traveled stopped increasing in 2004 and leveled, despite population growth.

5.8 Billion Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide

NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota's forests store the equivalent of about 5.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide.

\$8.5 Billion in Economic Activity

Minnesota's value-added recycling manufacturers generated approximately \$8.5 billion in total economic activity, including sales, compensation and tax revenue, and supported nearly 37,000 jobs in 2011.

WASTE

AGRICULTURE

10%

The amount of gasoline used by Minnesotans that's now displaced by corn-based ethanol.