



2023 Policy Committees Start in July

Metro Cities 2023 policy committee meetings will begin the week of July 24th. Committees review and recommend legislative policies for Metro Cities. If you have not yet signed up and would like to participate, information and schedules are on Metro Cities' [website](#). Participation is open to member city officials and staff.

Committees will be chaired this year by Heather Butkowski-City Administrator, Lauderdale (Housing and Economic Development), Mike Thompson-Public Works Director, Plymouth (Transportation and General Government), Gary Hansen-Councilmember, Eagan (Metropolitan Agencies) and Dana Hardie-City Manager, Victoria (Municipal Revenues).

Please be sure to [sign up](#) for the committee(s) in which you would like to participate. We look forward to seeing you!

Newly Funded Housing and Urban Development Program

The Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) is a program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act which passed in August of 2022. This program provides owners of HUD-assisted multifamily housing with capital resources to reduce carbon emissions, make utility efficiency improvements, incorporate renewable energy sources, and make properties more resilient against the effects of climate hazards. Eligible owners include owners receiving HUD rental assistance under Section 8 project-based rental assistance, Section 202 supportive housing for low-income elderly, and Section 811 housing for low-income persons with disabilities. There are three paths of funding available to meet the needs of properties at all stages of development. Visit [HERE](#) to learn more about the program.

If you have any questions, please contact Ania McDonnell at ania@metrocitiesmn.org.

Metropolitan Council Greenhouse Gas Strategy Planning Tool

Staff from the Metropolitan Council presented information at Wednesday's Council meeting on their Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the development of a greenhouse gas strategy planning tool.

The grant from the federal government has three objectives:

1. Encourage states, air agencies, municipalities, and Tribes to work together to create comprehensive pathways for reducing pollution and ensuring that investments maximize benefits, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities.
2. Provide state, local, and Tribal partners with flexible planning resources to assess and prepare to deploy resources to develop new state and local laws and policies to maximize emission reduction.
3. Drive transformative and scalable decarbonization efforts in key sectors by enacting innovative policies and programs that can scale across jurisdictions.

The greenhouse gas strategy planning tool is an analytical model that quantifies how specific strategies may reduce future greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 2018 levels) at the local level. The tool is intended to help local governments better understand what actions they should take to reduce emissions. The tool can inform the development of climate action plans as well as local, data-based decision making. The Council hopes that by developing this tool, local governments can spend more time and resources on engagement, outreach, and implementation rather than technical analysis.

This work by the Council is especially timely given recent statutory changes contained HF 2887/SF 3157 (Chapter 68), which requires the Metropolitan Council to include climate mitigation and adaptation content in their regional development guide including goals and strategies that meet or exceed the greenhouse gas emissions-reduction goals established by the state and transportation targets established by MnDOT. The Council is directed to work with cities on how that content will be incorporated into local comprehensive plans.

Click [HERE](#) to view the full presentation from Council staff on their GHG strategy planning tool. Click [HERE](#) to explore the tool itself on the Metropolitan Council's website.

Contact Mike Lund at michael@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003 with any questions.

MCES Wastewater Rates Adopted by Environment Committee

On Tuesday, Ned Smith (Director of Pretreatment and Finance at MCES) presented the proposed 2024 wastewater rates and charges for the Environment Committee. The discussion covered information on the rate setting schedule, Council-hosted engagement efforts, and other MCES budget insights including a peer comparison placing MCES among other metropolitan areas in the nation.

The proposed budget includes a wastewater charge increase of 6.8%, no increase for sewer availability charges (SAC), and an average increase of 6.8% for industrial permit fees. The Metropolitan Council held virtual customer forums on May 25 and June 8 to discuss the proposed budget with municipalities. The webinars saw attendance from 45 different communities. This [action item](#) will be before the full Metropolitan Council on July 26. The preliminary operating budget adoption is scheduled to take place on August 23. Click [HERE](#) to view the full presentation from Tuesday's meeting.

Contact Mike Lund at michael@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003 with any questions.

Transportation and Water Supply Plan Updates

Staff updates were provided to members of the Metropolitan Council's Transportation and Environment committees this week regarding ongoing efforts to update regional plans.

Metropolitan Transportation Services staff gave committee members an update on work being done to develop the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan. The presentation materials include major themes coming out of engagement efforts with regional stakeholders. Some identified themes include safety and security, climate mitigation, and equity. This work is heavily informed by the 2050 TPP [Technical Working Group](#) and the 2050 TPP [Advisory Work Group](#). Both groups have city representation. The 2050 objectives presented to Transportation committee members will continue to be refined throughout the Summer. This Fall, work on policies and actions for the plan will be restarted with a focus on these objectives. Work on performance measures will begin in

August and continue into early 2024. Click [HERE](#) to view the slides from this week's Transportation committee and [HERE](#) to view Draft 2025 Transportation Policy Plan Objectives.

Water Resources staff presented information on the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan, plans for subregional engagement, and draft content from chapters one and two of the plan. Using input from Council staff and Environment committee members, staff will begin to revise the draft content presented at Tuesday's meeting. Summer engagement efforts are planned to support subregional chapters in the plan. MAWSAC and the Technical Advisory Committee will continue to offer their feedback on water policy development activities and associated projects. This work will culminate in the eventual adoption of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Plan. Click [HERE](#) to view the slides from this week's Environment committee.

Contact Mike Lund at michael@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003 with any questions.

MPCA Webinar on PFAS Treatment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is hosting a webinar on PFAS treatment and destruction costs for municipal wastewater and landfill leachate on **Wednesday, July 26th, from 2:00PM to 3:00PM**. The webinar will cover technologies capable of treating and destroying PFAS in wastewater and landfill leachate, cost estimates for those technologies, and the MPCA's pollution prevention strategies. Attendees will also hear about the results of a [study](#) commissioned by the MPCA on PFAS treatment and destruction. Click [HERE](#) to register for this webinar.

Contact Mike Lund at michael@metrocitiesmn.org or 651-215-4003 with any questions.

Metro Cities News is emailed periodically to Metro Cities member mayors, councilmembers, city managers/administrators, and city staff to keep officials and staff abreast of important metro city issues.

If you'd like to sign up to receive Metro Cities News, please email newsletter@metrocitiesmn.org and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you!

Metro Cities (Association of Metropolitan Municipalities)
145 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55103-2044
Phone 651-215-4000 · Fax 651-281-1299 · www.MetroCitiesMN.org