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**Let’s meet our State’s Climate goals, while building racial equity & shared prosperity!**

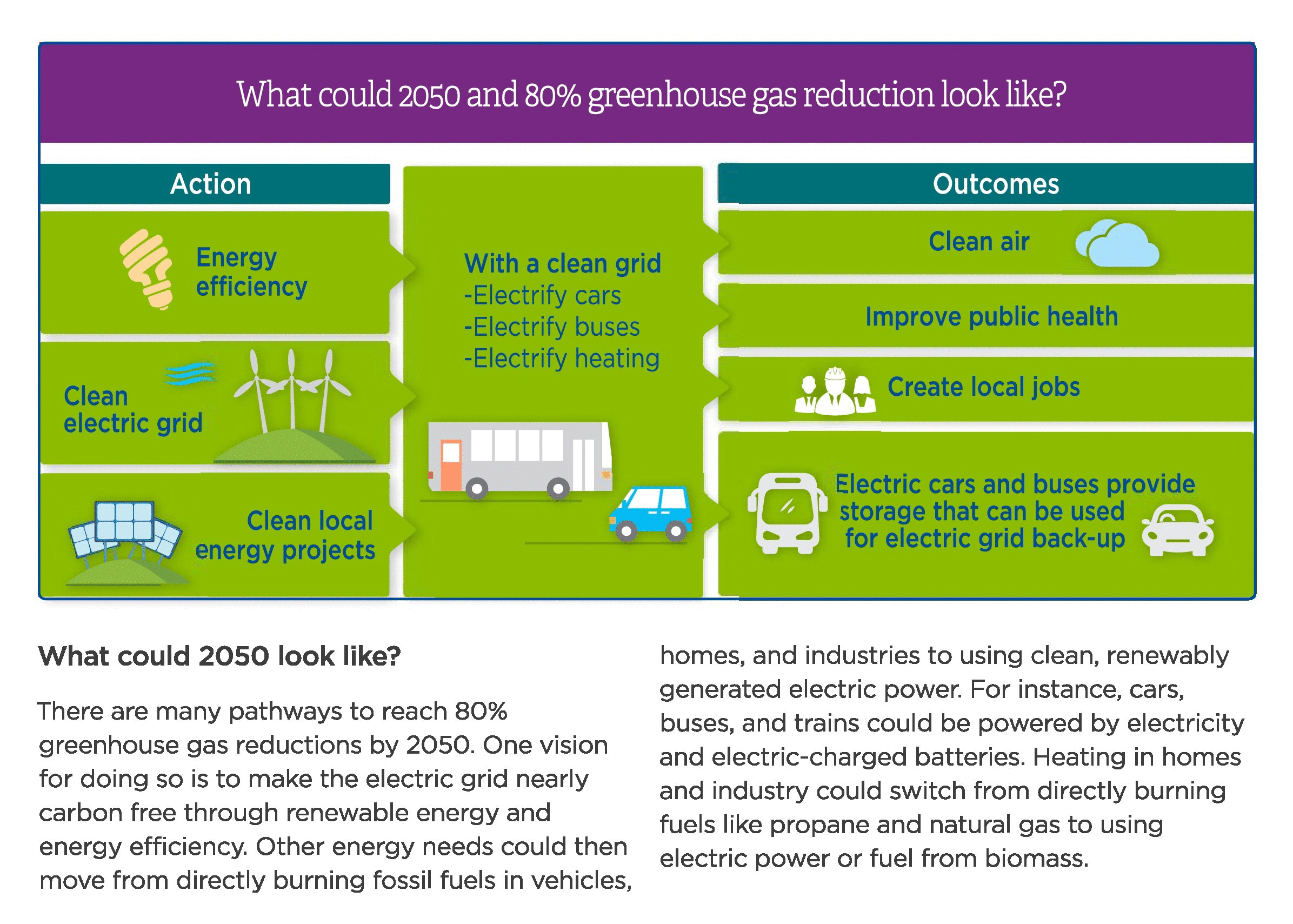
**MN Has a goal and plan to reduce CO2 by 80% by 2050** – while strengthening our economy

* **CSEO Report** <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/documents/CSEO_EQB.pdf>
* **The Met Council has adopted this goal** and is encouraging metro cities to do the same <http://metrocouncil.org/Handbook/Plan-Elements/Resilience.aspx>
* **This will create good paying jobs** Minnesota's Clean Energy Economy /MN DEED Report <https://mn.gov/deed/data/research/clean-energy-economy>
* **But we still need to make progress on equity** Racial Disparities in Employment Outcomes After College <http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/graduate-employment-outcomes/race-geo.jsp>

**Levels of action – reducing CO2 – with**

1. **Your congregation’s building**
2. **Your congregation’s members**
3. **Your Community –** other congregations and your city
4. **Our state, nation and world**

**From our MN State Climate action plan** [www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/climate-change](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/climate-change)



**ONE - Reduce CO2 with your congregation’s buildings**

1. **Maximize energy efficiency**
2. **Purchase affordable renewable electricity**
   * **Wind source**
   * **Explore roof top solar options**
   * **Community Solar gardens**
3. **Heating and Cooling –** reduce costs, be ready long term to switch from natural gas to electricity
   * **Efficient equipment, efficient appliances, zones**
   * **Carbon offsets for natural gas use**
   * **Long term – replacing natural gas with electricity**
4. **Maximize energy efficiency**

**Call for a free energy assessment for your congregation’s building -** EnerChange is funded through the Conservation Improvement Program and is able to offer its services at no charge. Schedule afree Energy Assessment for your congregation:call Michael T’Kach, Energy Efficiency Manager, EnerChange 952-562–8697 [mtkach@enerchange.org](mailto:mtkach@enerchange.org) , [www.enerchange.org](http://www.enerchange.org)

**How to find out your congregation’s Usage & Demand Charges -** ask your congregation’s financial manager [www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xe/Marketing/Managed%20Documents/all-states-my-account-energy-consumption-guide.pdf](http://www.xcelenergy.com/staticfiles/xe/Marketing/Managed%20Documents/all-states-my-account-energy-consumption-guide.pdf)

**CEE’s Lighting Audits One-Stop Efficiency Shop® Lighting Retrofits** A full-service lighting rebate program available to small businesses in Xcel Energy's MN service territory with an electric demand of 400 KW or less. <http://mncee.org/Find-Programs/One-Stop-Efficiency-Shop-Lighting-Retrofits> Call Cindy Kelly, 612-244-2427 [ckelly@mncee.org](mailto:ckelly@mncee.org)

**EPA Energy Star Guide for Congregations** This 39-page guidebook provides congregational facility owners and managers with actionable guidance to improve energy efficiency easily and cost-effectively, with links to numerous resources that are available both from ENERGY STAR and a wide variety of other organizations. These resources are available to help you through the process of completing an upgrade. This guidebook breaks down the major activities that are involved in carrying out an energy improvement project.[www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/putting-energy-stewardship-energy-star-guide-congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/putting-energy-stewardship-energy-star-guide-congregations)

**Benchmark your congregation’s energy use to prioritize improvements** using the free EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool [www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/use-portfolio-manager](http://www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/use-portfolio-manager)

1. **Purchase affordable renewable electricity**

**Wind source –** purchase 100% wind power for your **congregation** & members [www.xcelenergy.com/windsource](http://www.xcelenergy.com/windsource)

**Roof Top Solar Options**

* + **Find out if you have a good location for solar** MN Solar Suitability Map <http://solar.maps.umn.edu/>
  + **Your roof needs to last longer than the life expectancy of your new panels**
  + **Made in MN Incentives - application** **due dates** Jan 1 to Feb 28 [www.mn.gov/commerce/energy/topics/resources/energy-legislation-initiatives/made-in-minnesota](http://www.mn.gov/commerce/energy/topics/resources/energy-legislation-initiatives/made-in-minnesota)
  + **Tax Credits** – Your congregation can lease your rooftop solar from a private company that uses **investor tax credits** to reduce the costs
  + **Financing** - Possible low cost or zero interest loans from the Center for Energy and Environment
* **Lease to own Roof Top Solar Projects** (zero down) save 10% on electricity – need 10,000 square feet of good roof top space to make it viable – good contractors include Sun Dial Solar [www.sundialsolarenergy.com](http://www.sundialsolarenergy.com) and Novel Energy. [www.novelenergysolutions.com](http://www.novelenergysolutions.com)

**Community Solar** – might provide a more affordable choice, if your roof is not suitable

* + - Subscribe first with your building and then encourage members to subscribe
    - Zero down, 10% electricity savings, no insurance or maintenance
    - www.[allianceforsustainability.com/communitysolar](http://allianceforsustainability.com/communitysolar)

**MN IPL Community Solar – in partnership with Cooperative Energy Futures**

<http://mnipl.org/what-we-do/teams-2/mnipl-solar-team.html>

<http://mnipl.org/justcommunitysolar.html>

**TWO – Engage your congregation’s members to take action at home**

**MN Energy Challenge/ Congregations**

<http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/Actions/Bring-the-Challenge-to-Church.aspx>

**Home Energy Conservation with Members at Home**

* **Enhanced Home Energy Squad visits –** free energy saving presentations for congregations,[Emma Struss](http://mncee.org/Who-We-Are/The-Faces-of-CEE/Staff-Directory/Emma-Struss/) Community Outreach Specialist 612.335.5828 [estruss@mncee.org](mailto:estruss@mncee.org) <http://mncee.org/What-We-Do/Program-Design-and-Delivery/Congregations-Saving-Energy>

**Wind source –** 100% wind power - encourage members to sign up. [www.xcelenergy.com/windsource](http://www.xcelenergy.com/windsource)

**Community Solar Gardens -** Encourage your members to join a community solar garden www.[allianceforsustainability.com/communitysolar](http://allianceforsustainability.com/communitysolar)

**Community Solar Gardens**

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|  | 1. **Join our Community Solar Garden!**  * **Help MN move toward a future with 100% renewable electricity!** * **Save 10% on your monthly electricty bills.** * **Partner with us!** Your community group will **receive** a **$50 donation** for each household that joins our solar gardens through our landing page.   **Sign up today to begin reserving your spot in our Solar Garden at**  [**www.mncommunitysolar.com/sustainablecommunities**](http://www.mncommunitysolar.com/sustainablecommunities)  **MN Community Solar** is great local company that helped develop our State’s Solar Legislation that is committed to the pollinator pledge and diverse job training & placement and received **Good Neighbor** and **Community Leader** in the **Consumer-Friendly** **Guide** - <http://fresh-energy.org/communitysolarpledge/>  The Alliance is partnering with the **Lake Street Energy Challenge** and neighborhoods & congregations along Lake Street to sign up 500 households!  www.[allianceforsustainability.com/communitysolar](http://allianceforsustainability.com/communitysolar) |

**THREE – Take action with your Community –** other congregations and your city

**Join a cluster of congregations in your city with creation care teams –** [www.afors.org/congregations](http://www.afors.org/congregations)

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|  | **Ask your City Council to include a Climate Resilience Action Plan,**  **Equity, Active Living & Food Access, in your City’s comprehensive plan by June 2017**  Learn how and meet others from your city at one of our **free Workshops in October** for community volunteers & members of Environmental Commissions & Planning Commissions. Free, Register [www.afors.org/sustainablecommunities](http://www.afors.org/sustainablecommunities)  Met Council<http://metrocouncil.org/Handbook/Plan-Elements/Resilience.aspx> |

In October 2016 the Alliance for Sustainability will work closely with the MN EQB, county and nonprofit resource partners, watershed districts and utilities to convene *Resilient Cities Clusters* of 5 or more cities in **Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott** & **Washington** County for **city staff** & **commission** volunteers to meet at an **October** launch with EQB staff & in **January** by county to share their draft comp plan goals & strategies. Find **practical resources** for your city to include **resilience themes** in your **Comprehensive Plan** <http://metrocouncil.org/Handbook/Plan-Elements/Resilience.aspx>

Meet with your peers from other cities in your county and with technical resource experts to

* **Share and compare plan language, goals and strategies**
* **Connect with resources to map existing conditions,** energy usage, climate vulnerabilities, etc.

**Learn from cities that have developed action plans** & implementation strategies through **Xcel’s Partners in Energy, LoGoPep** the **Mayors Compact or MN GreenSteps** to help meet our MN CO2 reduction goals.

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| **October Metro Wide Workshop – Planning for Resilient Cities** – Learning from the MN Climate Action Plan.  At this workshop co-sponsored by the Alliance for Sustainability and MN Environmental Quality Board, city staff, elected leaders and citizen volunteers can meet with expert staff from State Agencies find simple ways to include goals and strategies from the MN Climate Solutions & Economic Opportunities Action Plan into their City’s Comprehensive plan –   * **Mitigation** - Conserving Energy and moving toward renewable energy * **Adaptation** – Helping your city infrastructure & residents be ready for extreme weather * **Health/Equity/Economy** – improving the health & economic status of diverse and/or vulnerable citizens including **active living** and **healthy food access** strategies. |
| **Follow Up Cluster Meetings – January 2017 –** organized by the Alliance for Sustainability with host cities and counties in **Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington County**  City staff would meet up to share their sample plan language and strategies and could meet up with relevant county and watershed district staff. |

**July 20 Event Page – MN EQB forum on the MN Climate Action Plan**

[www.environmental-initiative.org/our-work/environmental-policy/climate-solutions-economic-opportunities](http://www.environmental-initiative.org/our-work/environmental-policy/climate-solutions-economic-opportunities)

**MPR Story** - Elizabeth Dunbar – July 21, 2016, Minnesota must do more to cut greenhouse gas linked to climate change [www.mprnews.org/story/2016/07/21/minnesota-climate-change-goals](http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/07/21/minnesota-climate-change-goals)

**Alliance Blog Link** - <http://allianceforsustainability.com/cseo>

**Planning for Resilient Cities Metro Wide Workshop (Oct 2016)** and **Resilient Cities Cluster Meetings (Jan 2017)** <http://allianceforsustainability.com/sustainablecommunities>

**FOUR – Take action for climate solutions in our state, nation and world**

**Minnesota** [www.mepartnership.org](http://www.mepartnership.org) , [www.fresh-energy.org](http://www.fresh-energy.org) [www.afors.org/takeaction](http://www.afors.org/takeaction)

**National** -Federal Policy for a fee and dividend <http://www.citizensclimatelobby-mn.org/>

**Global – U.N. Paris Climate Agreement** <http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf>