

**Regional Collaboratives for Climate Change — A State of the Art**, April - 2019. Institute for Sustainable Communities. The report was created with support from the Kresge Foundation.

<http://us.sustain.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Regional-Collaboratives-for-Climate-Change-FINAL-1.pdf>

Our RCCC leadership team is currently working to expand our partnerships with our long-term collaborators to strengthen the **Twin Cities Regional Collaborative for Climate Change**. We are inviting and exploring partnerships with many possible partners - Metropolitan Council, MN Green Step Cities, MPCA, EQB, Great Plains Institute, Center for Energy and Environment, research partners at the University of Minnesota, and Wilder Foundation/ MN Compass, state policy partners and grassroots leadership partners.

<b>Factors of Success</b>	<b>Key Barriers and Gaps in Capacity</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Directly co-creating regional solutions through joint production</b></li> <li>2. <b>Ongoing engagement with external stakeholders and communities</b></li> <li>3. <b>Ensuring high value in member participation</b></li> <li>4. <b>Investing in high-quality training &amp; tools and research &amp; analysis</b></li> <li>5. <b>Organizing around strategic and specific climate plans or goals</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Lack of funding and resources for staffing work, specifically for stakeholder engagement</b></li> <li>2. Lack of success in <b>public communication</b> about climate issues and <b>collaborative</b> work</li> <li>3. Lack of success in integrating climate goals and commitments into <b>operations and investments</b></li> <li>4. Gap between current research and analysis and the <b>scale needed</b> to make a regional impact</li> </ol>

**The Role of Regional Climate Collaboratives in Equity**

1. Collaboratives have not yet made high impact on addressing equity issue
2. Collaboratives see themselves as well-positioned to address inequalities in their region
3. Representation of social justice organizations in collaboratives' relates to overall equity impacts
4. In order to do equity work regionally, most collaboratives need technical assistance, and funding

**Key conclusion and recommendation**

The principal barrier facing RCCs is insufficient resources to fully fund operations and service delivery. Half of the RCCs reported annual operating budgets of less than \$100,000 and one full-time employee or less. Given these resource constraints, we surprisingly found that nearly half of the RCCs (48 percent) are delivering services using a joint production network configuration which is the most time and cost intensive. We can only assume the existing RCCs are deploying limited resources well in leveraging the in-kind time and funding of participants. Co-creative work is time intensive, and collaboratives struggle to find funding for the processes needed to achieve it. Given these cost and leverage efficiencies, we strongly recommend greater philanthropic support for RCC creation and cultivation as well as state and federal policy and funding mechanisms to support the RCC model. **Full Conclusions and Recommendations** [Link](#)

RCCC support (events, webinars, one on one coaching) will enable teams of leaders in RCCC cities to **Develop [Seven Essential Capacities for Urban Adaptation](#)**:

<sup>1</sup>Source: Peter Plastrik, Essential Capacities for Urban Climate Adaptation: A Framework For Cities, March 2017, developed by Innovation Network for Communities for the Summit Foundation <http://lifeaftercarbon.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/City-Adaptation-Essential-Capacities-March2017.pdf>

In a scan of the climate adaptation plans, strategies, and actions of dozens of U.S. cities, INC developed a new framework for understanding what it takes to plan and implement adaptation and how to further develop the emerging field of practice for urban adaptation. We identified seven essential capacities that cities have begun to develop:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Foundation</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Equitable Adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive Community Engagement</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Alignment</li> <li>• Technical Design</li> <li>• Financial Resources</li> </ul>
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# Resilient Cities and Communities Coalition

Cities and communities collaborating to achieve (and live) a resilient future. [www.afors.org/resilientcities](http://www.afors.org/resilientcities)

In 2020 we are supporting leaders from 50+ cities to launch our **Resilient Cities and Communities Coalition** to collaborate to achieve their 2030 climate, energy & resilience goals together through

**Goal 1: Innovating Solutions** - Supporting cities and communities in addressing their self-identified needs, challenges and opportunities for resilience

**Goal 2: Collaborating for Impact** - Convening cities to learn from each other, share best practices and collaborate to leverage resources and further each of their own efforts while creating (advancing?) proven, (effective) win-win-win solutions that accelerate and scale our impact together.

**Goal 3: Engaging Community Stakeholders** - Helping establish and mentor sustainability commissions in working with their cities and communities and partnering with residents, businesses and institutions in practicing and achieving community-wide resilience.

**Goal 4: Shaping Public Policy** - Cities and communities advocating together for state policies needed to accelerate local resilience.

**Goal 5: Modeling Resilience** - Modeling resilience to catalyze change regionally, nationally and globally

## Ways you and your city can become active with the RCCC

**City Teams** - Join or help form a volunteer team or environmental commission to support my city to take next steps toward sustainability & resilience. Hosting a community education event at a library, congregation, etc.

**County Teams** – help us bring together cities in your county to find ways cities and your county can work together to achieve your community-wide climate, energy and resilience goals.

**Topic Teams** – start or join a topic-specific work team with several cities to learn from and support one another – i.e. adopting sustainable building policies, low carbon transportation, etc.

**Policy Team** – help us monitor county, metro and state policy developments and help interested cities to make their voices heard on topics they care about, in partnership with allied NGOs & LMC

**RCCC Steering Committee** – Meet quarterly to guide the future development of county teams and topic teams to support cities to achieve their resilience goals together and engage additional cities.

Minnesota city leaders are designing and launching the RCCC to become a

**Generative social impact network** - networks of individuals or organizations that aim to solve a difficult problem in society by working together, adapting over time, and generating a sustained flow of activities and impacts. [link](#) Reference: *Connecting to Change the World Harnessing the Power of Networks for Social Impact* by Peter Plastrik, Madeleine Taylor [Book link](#)

**Eight factors for success** in launching a Generative social impact network –

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Purpose,</b></p> <p><b>2. Membership,</b></p> <p><b>3. Value Propositions,</b></p> <p><b>4. Coordination, facilitation, communication,</b></p> | <p><b>5. Resources,</b></p> <p><b>6. Governance,</b></p> <p><b>7. Assessment,</b></p> <p><b>8. Operating Principles</b></p> |
|---|---|

## Let's Create Sample Strategy Maps for Cities to Achieve Their Climate & Resilience Goals

### Opportunities/Needs

- **Cities want to take deeper actions** – starting in 2020 - at least 30 metro cities, plus Northfield, Faribault, St. Cloud, Duluth, Rochester, Winona, Redwing, etc. want to deepen the actions they are taking in 2020 to get on track to achieve their new city-wide **2040 comp plan resilience goals**
- **Metro cities will receive their community wide GHG data in 2020** from the Met Council (electricity, natural gas, VMT, water use, solid waste, etc.) <https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Committee-of-the-Whole/2019/05-01-19/Creating-tools-for-Climate-Change-PPT.aspx>
- **Sample Strategy Lists for metro cities are coming in 2021** – This is a current priority for the Met Council's Board under their strategic priority on sustainability. This is also a deliverable in the work plan with the Met Council and the Center Healthy Sustainable Cities to develop a VMT scenario planning tool [www.sustainablehealthycities.org/](http://www.sustainablehealthycities.org/)
- **Executive Order 19-1** One MN Equity Council and three **climate related executive orders** in 2019

Let's also be ready to provide MN cities with easy to use on line dashboard tools to empower city teams (staff, elected leaders, commissions) to easily see and manage their city level and community-wide actions from 2020 to 2030 to meet their resilient goals → planned actions 3 years → who (city staff, partners) is doing what, when → outcomes & impacts (building upon GreenStep Cities, B3 and Energy Star)

Let's explore using the **Insight Vision Platform** <https://www.insightformation.com/insightvision>  
**Insight Vision** <https://www.insightformation.com/insightvision> (developed by a St. Paul-based social venture) is a nationally-recognized, on-line strategy management platform

**WHO CAN HELP** - GreenStep advisors and state agency, NGO and U of MN staff helping cities to develop their climate/adaptation/resilience goals strategies and action plans

- **State Agencies** – MPCA GreenSteps, Met Council, MN Dot Office of Sustainability, etc.
- **NGOS** – GPI (Brian & Abby) AforS (Sean G. & Jim Erkel), Blue Dot (Ted) CEE Partners in Energy, etc.
- **U of MN** – CERTS, Energy Transition Lab, Climate Smart Municipalities, Resilient Communities Project, Healthy, Sustainable Cities, Center for Changing Landscapes, Center for Sustainable Building Policies,
- **Interested cities** that have a lot of momentum
- **Interested Counties** (Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington)

### Current Resources we can compile the sample strategy maps for cities

- **GreenStep City Best practices** [www.mn greensteps.org](http://www.mn greensteps.org) and **Equity Analysis** to dovetail with EO 19-1
- **Greensteps Ordinance directory** <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/ordinances>
- **Legislative requirement** for the MN EQB to updated model sustainable development ordinances for MN cities every ten years. <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/sustainable-development-act-1996>
- **EQB CSEO and Adaptation reports** – categories for action [www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/climate-change](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/climate-change)
- **LoGoPEP energy scenario planning wedge tools** <https://www.regionalindicatorsmn.com/energy-planning>
- **Partners in Energy** [https://www.xcelenergy.com/working\\_with\\_us/municipalities/partners\\_in\\_energy](https://www.xcelenergy.com/working_with_us/municipalities/partners_in_energy)
- **MNDOT low carbon pathways Study** <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/sustainability/pathways.html>
- **U of MN 2008 Study low carbon transportation strategies for MN**  
<http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/ResearchReports/reportdetail.html?id=1626>
- **New EV resources for cities from GPI** <https://www.driveelectricmn.org/communities/>
- **Resilient Cities and Communities Coalition (RCCC)** Cities teaming up by county to implement their energy/ climate/resilience action plans together in partnership with County staff and NGO topic advisors  
[www.allianceforsustainability.com/resilientcities](http://www.allianceforsustainability.com/resilientcities)
- **Planning for Resilient Cities Workshop Resources Thursday, June 20, 2019, Roseville**  
<http://allianceforsustainability.com/resilientcities-> Resource Guide [June20ProgramResilientCitiesResources\\_Final](https://www.allianceforsustainability.com/June20ProgramResilientCitiesResources_Final)  
- [HighImpact Policy Options for Low-Carbon Cities1](https://www.allianceforsustainability.com/HighImpactPolicyOptionsforLowCarbonCities1) (developed by Phil Muessig)
- **Met Council 2040** – resilience <https://metro council.org/Handbook/Plan-Elements/Resilience.aspx>
- **Climate Vulnerability Assessment** tools (heat maps, flooding, <https://metro council.org/CVA>)

**Resilient Communities Project** - Connects local government agencies in Minnesota with University of Minnesota faculty and students to advance community resilience and student learning through collaborative, course-based projects. <https://rcp.umn.edu/>



## Climate Resiliency & Clean Energy Collaboration

### Cities of Ramsey County

Spencer Gressen, Sophia Gilleland, Samantha Schnoll, Connor Ward, Lukas Zumwalt  
SUST 4004 – Sustainable Communities



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#### Background

How best can Ramsey County help its cities to be successful in moving towards a sustainable future?

As sustainability and resiliency become more recognized as important in managing both cities and counties, the highly urbanized metropolitan area of Ramsey County will need to adapt and strategize to help the cities within it achieve this goal without drastically increasing costs.

Ramsey County is the densest county in Minnesota, containing 13 separate cities. Home to the state's capital, St. Paul, the county prioritizes environmentally-friendly policies that contribute to its public perception as a progressive and equitable place to live, and one that cares about the future of its inhabitants.

#### What do we suggest?

##### Recommendation 1

**Goal:** Better coordinate energy reduction efforts for within cities

**Action from County:** Create incentives for cities to create a permanent role devoted to sustainability.

**Strategies:**

- Encourage reallocation of resources
- Reshape role as retirements occur

##### Recommendation 2

**Goal:** Increase communication across and within cities

**Action from County:** Develop a standard communication platform to foster collaboration

**Strategies:**

- Recruit members of government bodies and commissions to be apart of network
- Small number of participants makes social media groups perfect
- Create media in multiple languages
- Push programs like Green Steps

##### Recommendation 3

**Goal:** Reduce emissions from buildings in a cost effective manor.

**Action from County:** Coordinate a group purchase for rooftop solar panels for all public schools within the county

**Strategies:**

- Mitigate cost through
  - State and federal tax incentives
  - Third-party ownership of panels
  - Economy of scale of purchase

##### Recommendation 4

**Goal:** Increase commercial participation in energy efficiency and carbon reduction goals.

**Action from County:** Provide an energy efficiency consultant free to businesses to give advice on improvements

**Strategies:**

- Copy framework from *Biz Recycling*
- Advertise cost savings opportunities
- Reallocate funds from other parts of county

##### Recommendation 5

**Goal:** Coordinate resiliency efforts across the county

**Action from County:** Establish a County Resiliency Board

**Strategies:**

- Representatives (Ideally a sustainability position) from each city, the county, and any other significant stakeholders
- Listed and funded as a county board/committee

##### Recommendation 6

**Goal:** Reduce city emissions from transportation

**Action from County:** Coordinate fleet analysis assessments of all non participating cities

**Strategies:**

- Utilize Great Plains Institute initiative Cities Charging Ahead
- Offer coordination and scheduling assistance

#### Data

Where, how, when and what type of assistance would you be interested in?

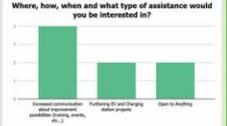


Chart 1: Common answers to the question "Where, how, when and what type of assistance would you be interested in?" Full interview summary in **Appendix A** in final essay.

Where can the county assist in internal operations?

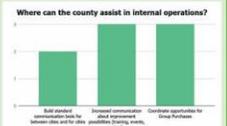


Chart 2: Common answers to the question "Where can the county assist in internal operations?" Full interview summary in **Appendix A** in final essay.

How can the county assist with external operations?

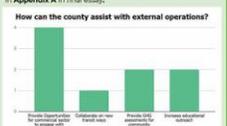


Chart 3: Common answers to the question "Where can the county assist in external operations?" Full interview summary in **Appendix A** in final essay.

Collaborations Referenced in RCP Study

City	County
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

This project was completed as part of SUST 4004: Sustainable Communities, a course at the University of Minnesota offered in Spring 2019, with support from the Resilient Communities Project (RCP). RCP is a program of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA). To learn more about RCP or this project, visit [rcp.umn.edu](http://rcp.umn.edu).

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**Course instructor:** Arnie Healy, College of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences  
**Project lead:** Mary Tkach, Ramsey County Energy and Sustainability Planner

## Theory U – Presencing Institute

[https://www.presencing.org/assets/images/theory-u/Theory\\_U\\_2pageOverview.pdf](https://www.presencing.org/assets/images/theory-u/Theory_U_2pageOverview.pdf)

When leaders develop the capacity to come near to that source, they experience the future as if it were “wanting to be born” – an experience called “presencing.” That experience often carries with it ideas for meeting challenges and for bringing into being an otherwise impossible future. Theory U shows how that capacity for presencing can be developed. Presencing is a journey with five movements

1. **CO-INITIATING: Build Common Intent**  
stop and listen to others and to what life calls you to do
2. **CO-SENSING: Observe, Observe, Observe**  
go to the places of most potential and listen with your mind and heart wide open
3. **PRESENSING: Connect to the Source of Inspiration, and Will**  
go to the place of silence and allow the inner knowing to emerge
4. **CO-CREATING: Prototype the New** in living examples to explore the future
5. **CO-EVOLVING: Embody the New in Ecosystems** that facilitate seeing and acting from the whole