Minnesota's Climate Initiative

In December 2019, Governor Tim Walz signed **Executive Order 19-37**, describing the size and scope of the climate crisis, and the need to protect all Minnesotans from the most severe economic, health, and ecological impacts.

Guided by the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act, Minnesota has existing goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state by 30% by 2025 (from 2005 levels) and by 80% by 2050.

Minnesota did not meet its 2015 goal of 15% GHG reduction, and we're not on track to meet our 2025 goal, either. The Executive order recognizes that *we must redouble our efforts to meet Minnesota's future goals.*

Climate Change Subcabinet

The Executive Order established a Climate Change Subcabinet, executives from 15 state agencies and boards, and chaired by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Laura Bishop, the purpose of the Climate Change Subcabinet is to:

- ✓ Recommend policies and strategies to bring Minnesota back on track to meet or exceed our GHG reduction goals, enhance the climate resiliency of Minnesota's natural resources, working lands, and communities, and help our state prepare for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated

- ✓ Engage with Minnesotans on these important topics, build partnerships, and incorporate the perspectives of people who experience disproportionate impacts from climate change — including communities of color, indigenous people, and rural Minnesotans

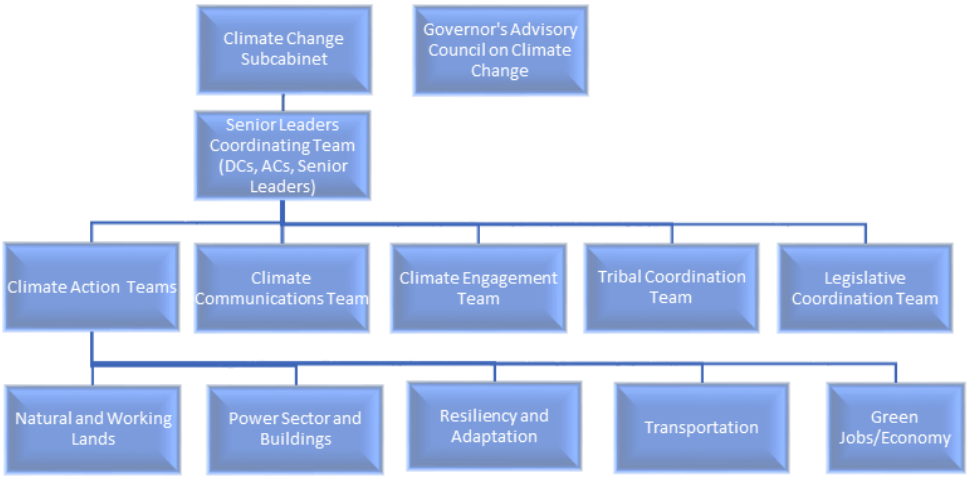
- ✓ Promote equitable policy solutions that can reduce current disparities in Minnesota

The Subcabinet also will consider how these policies can encourage economic development, innovation, job creation in our state, and how to promote a green economic recovery.

What is the process for identifying these policies?

To develop initial policies and strategies for consideration by the Climate Change Subcabinet, five sector based of "Action Teams" were formed to pull together subject matter expertise from across state agencies and gather deep knowledge about specific areas of our economy and society to inform our climate solutions.

The Action Teams cover natural and working lands, power sector and buildings, climate resilience and adaptation, transportation, and green jobs and economy. The teams are responsible researching and gathering ideas; and identifying a range of policies and strategies for the Subcabinet and the Governor's Advisory Council[1] to consider, evaluate and implement.



They are working together to ensure that agencies named in the Climate Change Executive Order consider initial climate change strategies in their preparations for the 2021 legislative session. This work also involves identifying and advancing policies, projects and partnerships beyond the timeframe of the upcoming legislative session, recognizing that some ideas and opportunities will take longer to develop. Action teams are also responsible for engagement with communities, partners and stakeholders.

Why engagement is important

Successful climate policy development must include meaningful involvement by the communities most impacted by climate change, as well as communities historically under-represented. An inclusive approach is critical to success.

The Walz-Flanagan Administration is committed to a robust engagement process starting with the Action Teams connecting with thought leaders, partners, community groups, and other stakeholders to initiate new relationships, build upon existing ones, and actively seek input and feedback on climate policy proposals for Minnesota.

This is an invitation to participate in a climate conversation and to help create climate policy solutions together. We anticipate that there will be additional opportunities for other public participation going forward, and we will be sharing updates about the Subcabinet's work in the coming months.

[1] The Governor's Advisory Council is a citizen's board appointed by the Governor to advise the Subcabinet.

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