

Environment & Energy

Greenhouse Gas Reductions Boosted in Minnesota Climate Framework

By Zach Bright

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- Accepts IPCC goal to cut emissions 50% by 2030
 - Outlines legislative and executive actions
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Minnesota is set to ramp up climate change action with stronger targets under a new strategy announced by Gov. Tim Walz.

The Climate Action Framework, unveiled Sept. 16, outlines legislative and executive actions that would have Minnesota accept and work toward the goal set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

“To maintain the things we love about Minnesota—our pristine lakes, incredible wilderness areas and state parks, and outdoor economy—we need to act in a collaborative, bipartisan, and forward-looking way,” Walz (D) said. “That’s what this plan aims to do.”

The IPCC, the United Nations body that assesses climate science, said in its most recent report that drastic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are needed to avoid the worst effects of global warming. Minnesota’s current goals are for cuts of 30% by 2025 and 80% by 2050.

“Minnesota is not on track to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals,” said Katrina Kessler, commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. “The Climate Action Framework includes dozens of steps we must take to meet these objectives together.”

Fulfilling specific goals in pursuit of the IPCC 50% greenhouse gas emissions cut requires efforts from Minnesota state agencies and policy passed by the Legislature, according to the Climate Action Framework. The state Legislature is under split party control, with Democrats heading the House and Republicans leading the Senate.

Under the plan, state investments—coupled with funds from this year’s federal tax and climate law (Public Law 117-169) and last year’s infrastructure law (Public Law 117-58)—would open funding to lower transportation emissions, boost clean energy, and promote building efficiency, among other climate-related actions.

The framework's most significant goals include 2040 goals to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity and 55% renewable electricity and reduce transportation emissions by 80%.

Other targets include cutting emissions from existing building in half by 2035, reaching 20% of electric vehicles on the road by 2030, boosting the amount of natural carbon sequestration by 25% by 2035, and creating a "clean fuels standards" that uses less carbon-intensive biofuels.

Under the plan, at least 40% of benefits of state and federal climate investments would be in disadvantaged communities by 2025. All Minnesota communities will have to adopt plans by 2030 to identify climate risks and resiliency actions.

To contact the reporter on this story: Zach Bright at zbright@bloombergindustry.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Renee Schoof at rschoof@bloombergindustry.com

Documents

Document
[Climate Action Framework](#)

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