

Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan is a roadmap with solutions that individuals, communities, and organizations can implement now to take action on climate and build our region's climate resilience.



Making a Difference: Your Actions Shape Our Region's Climate Resilience

By engaging in community climate action—whether through personal efforts, family initiatives, or simply checking in on neighbors during extreme weather—we help build a stronger, more resilient community. It's about supporting one another and protecting our region for generations to come.



► **Climate Action Champion**
Fergus Falls resident Beth Monke is moving climate action forward in her community by leading a local chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby—a national bipartisan grassroots lobbying organization.

Here are five ways you can make a difference now:

- 1. Drive Less:** Transportation has a huge impact on pollution. Pick a day to walk or bike to work, school, or around town.
- 2. Compost:** Keep the planet cool by composting food waste to reduce methane emissions. It's a win-win for the environment and your soil.
- 3. Support Local Food Producers:** Purchase local food to reduce the distance it travels and support your community.
- 4. Improve Efficiency:** Weatherize your home by sealing leaks and adding insulation. Save money and help the climate.
- 5. Mow Less:** Save time and reduce climate impacts by mowing your lawn less often. It's healthier for your grass, saves water, and supports wildlife habitat.



DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AND COLLABORATE

Scan to register and explore upcoming Sustainable Communities Network Events!

WANT TO DO MORE?

The Climate Action Plan outlines 40 strategies and 273 actions across eight key areas, offering practical steps for immediate impact. By taking action, we can build a thriving, sustainable future for west central Minnesota.



Scan to read the full plan.



TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Transportation significantly influences climate change. These impacts can be reduced by reducing travel distances, supporting active transportation methods such as walking or biking, and improving connectivity through broadband access.

- Drive an electric or hybrid vehicle.
- Attend meetings virtually to reduce drive time.



BUILDING & ENERGY

Buildings contribute to nearly 40% of global carbon emissions and are vulnerable to damage from extreme weather events.

- Keep your thermostat 2 degrees cooler in the winter and 2 degrees warmer in the summer.
- When buying new appliances, invest in heat pump water heaters, dryers, and heating and cooling systems.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste contributes to climate change primarily through methane emissions from organic matter in landfills and fuel from transport. Making less waste starts with thoughtful purchasing and reusing, recycling, and composting.

- Swap single-use items for reusable/refillable items.
- Recycle and compost everything you can.
- Adopt a 'secondhand first' lifestyle.



WATER & WASTEWATER

Climate change impacts water quality and availability and will increase the need for a variety of water conservation measures.

- Capture rainwater for gardening with rain barrels.
- Replace part of your lawn with native prairie plants that require less water and less mowing.
- Install WaterSense low flow fixtures and toilets.



LOCAL FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Changes in climate will greatly impact agriculture and food security, but moving toward sustainable farming practices and supporting local food producers will increase the resilience of our food systems.

- Grow some of your own food.
- Eat meat raised using sustainable practices such as rotational grazing.



GREEN SPACE & TREES

Trees and native vegetation can help improve air and water quality, reduce climate impacts, and support mental health.

- Plant a rain garden with native plants to help capture storm water that replenishes aquifers.
- Plant trees to provide shade and cooling in the summer heat.
- Landscape with drought-tolerant native plants.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Climate change will increase the frequency of extreme weather events and affect vulnerable populations with underlying health issues such as asthma or allergies.

- Have an emergency preparedness kit ready for your household in the event of evacuation or power outages.
- Check on neighbors or relatives who may be vulnerable to heat stress or who live alone.



ECONOMY

Taking action on climate can support economic development, create jobs, and safeguard against future costs that will increase as climate change intensifies.

- Shop at small locally owned businesses.
- Support businesses that have sustainable practices.
- Encourage people in your life to consider career paths that align with the growing climate economy.

► **Contact Cedar Walters**, Director of Climate and Sustainability Programs, at **800-735-2239** or **cedar@wcif.org**