

CC11 - Community Visioning

Gold Leaf Challenge Award	Gold Leaf Challenge Action	Leaf Recognition Criteria
Leaf (Action completed)	Community Visioning: Conduct a Community Visioning process (i.e., MN Main Streets, D4CR, etc.) that engages community members through a series of events that include discussion of Minnesota's changing climate and/or community resilience. Hold meetings in diverse and accessible locations and provide translators and interpreters, childcare, stipends, and/or meals for participants as needed.	Per process (1/lifetime); 1+ /year
Gold Leaf (Goal met)	Gold Leaf Award Goals from the Minnesota Climate Action Framework: • By 2030, 100% of Minnesotans live in communities with plans that identify climate risks and actions to build resiliency. (MN CAF, pg 42.) • Increase the diversity of state agencies' leadership to reflect the state's changing demographics. (MN CAF, pg 57.) Gold Leaf Award Goals from Your Community: Find your community/ organization's sustainability goals relevant to this action. Check the Welcome Guide's section on Integrated Goals for more information. You can track these goals on your work plan.	

Related Actions	• Minnesota Climate Action Framework Sub-Initiatives: ○ 1.1.1: Create more opportunities for biking, walking, transit, and telecommuting. ○ 3.1.1: Provide needed technical assistance, tools, and data. ○ 3.3.4: Reduce the urban heat island effects. ○ 5.1.1: Support healthy communities and workplaces. ○ 5.1.2: Protect culturally important activities. ○ 5.2.1: Increase public health capacity and adaptation resources. • GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations BPA: ○ BPA 5.2: Implement the Minnesota Main Street model for commercial revitalization. ○ BPA 8.1: Organize or participate in a community planning/placemaking/design process for the city/a mixed use district, including specific community engagement practices that engage cultural and income diverse community members. ○ BPA 29.3: Increase social connectedness through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents to improve their economic prosperity and
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	resilience to climate change.
Related Goals & Metrics	• GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations Metrics: ◦ Social Vitality Metrics • LEED Certification: ◦ For Cities & Communities - Taking this action can support the following criteria: ■ NS Credit: Resilience Planning ■ QL Credit: Civic and Community Engagement
Potential Outcomes and Co-Benefits	• Pollutants Reduced: ◦ Compact and smart development decreases greenhouse gas emissions. ◦ The “greenest” building is one that already exists. Adaptive reuse of existing buildings means avoiding the combined costs of teardown and replacement, which “embodies” the equivalent of 640,000 gallons of gasoline. • Job Creation: Community visioning processes can include the consideration of job creation if that is a need for your community. • Economic Impact: The Livability Economy (AARP, 2015) report/design guide and infographic shows how livability initiatives contribute to improved economic performance and a more vibrant, desirable and competitive environment for housing and commercial investment. • Community: Community visioning aligns the goals of the private, public, and civic sectors and community members. It is important to involve climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency in the visioning process because having a shared community understanding of these problems and the solutions means everyone will be working together to achieve these goals, accomplishing them faster. ◦ Equity & Environmental Justice: Community visioning processes can include the consideration of equity and environmental justice issues your community is facing. ◦ Community Resilience: Many sustainability best practices are also resiliency best practices, providing co-benefits to reduce risk, enhance public amenities, decrease GHG emissions, strengthen air and water quality, and more. ■ Sustainable communities strive to achieve economic stability, environmental health, and social wellbeing for all without compromising opportunities for future generations to enjoy the same. Resilient communities understand that impacts of climate change are occurring now. ■ Resilient communities prepare for, adapt to, and thrive in the face of abrupt and unforeseen weather, social, and economic changes, while increasing the use of clean energy sources and enhancing local infrastructure to limit risk and accelerate recovery from disaster, now and into the future. ◦ Energy Independence/Security: Community visioning processes can include the consideration of energy independence and energy security issues your community is facing. ◦ Property Values: Preserving and re-using historical buildings maintains the original charm of a community. These often beautiful buildings are an asset to the community and raise the value of the community. ◦ Community Asset: Community Visioning allows a community to come together to identify assets and plan for any gaps.

	○ Community Connection: ■ Engaging community members in visioning sessions for the future helps people understand potential climate impacts and how the community can prepare for them. It makes climate change local, not theoretical, and allows community members to envision how they want to live in the future with these changes. ■ Preserving older buildings retains the historic and cultural character of the community, both in the building itself and in the setting around existing buildings.
Estimated Project Implementation Details	● Time: Community visioning is a longer-term process that needs deep engagement with your community. ● Cost: It depends if you hire a consultant or non-profit to run a visioning project or do these processes yourself. ● Pre-conditions & Considerations: Community visioning should consider all types of projects, regardless of the time and money needed to achieve them. Visioning is not planning and should allow the community to think big!
Resources and Technical Assistance	● Climate Resiliency Advisor: Laura Millberg, Climate Change Resilience Coordinator, MN Pollution Control Agency: ○ 651/757-2568, laura.millberg@state.mn.us, ○ https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/adapting-changing-climate ● Renewable Energy Advisor: Brian Ross, Vice President - Renewable Energy, Great Plains Institute: ○ 612/767-7296, bross@gpisd.net ○ www.betterenergy.org/who-we-are/staff-and-consultants/ ● Adaptive Reuse Advisor: Erin Hanafin Berg, Policy Director, Rethos: ○ 651-293-9047, erin@rethos.org, ○ www.rethos.org ● Community Visioning Programs: ○ Design for Community Regeneration (D4CR) - partners with communities in a process of imagining and planning their resilient future addressing food, water, and energy security while increasing economic opportunities, social cohesion, and finding low-cost housing options; a Minnesota Design Center initiative. ○ Minnesota Main Streets - a program to assist towns, small cities, and urban neighborhood centers maximize both their people and built assets to make their communities more vibrant, livable, and economically stable. ○ University of Minnesota Extension Community Consultation - can help communities choose their future and gather information that helps make critical decisions. Workshops include topics such as: changemakers, economic futures, public value, ag horizons, attracting residents, and more. ○ Minnesota Design Team - uses design and community development principles, to help Minnesota communities- particularly those in rural areas- develop and act upon a shared vision of their future; an American Institute of Architects Minnesota. ● Planning Resources: ○ The Community Co-Design Toolkit helps create opportunities and structure for shared decision-making. ○ UMN Extension's Civic Engagement Model ○ Integrate equitable development principles into your work.

	○ Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) - brings together community and University of Minnesota knowledge and resources to drive sustainability in four focus areas: agriculture and food systems, clean energy, natural resources and resilient communities. ○ Find additional assistance on the GreenStep Cities & Tribal Nations page. ○ Minnesota CliMAT is an interactive online tool that provides highly localized climate projections for Minnesota. ○ Integrate emergency planning and resiliency into your visioning process by identifying vulnerable populations and planning for resilience hubs. ○ Use community visioning to bolster natural infrastructure and green infrastructure in your community. ○ Think about how climate migration may impact your community. ○ Engage your community on green business ideas and net-zero practices so they are positioned to take advantage of these new opportunities.
Examples	● DC4R work in Warren, MN ● Check out examples of Minnesota Main Street communities on their website. ● Golden Valley uses community visioning to inform many decision making processes, like their Comprehensive Plan. ● Faribault's 2040 community vision plan. ● West Central Initiative's Climate Action Plan has numerous community visioning elements in it.
Reporting & Recognition (See reporting instructions in the Welcome Guide)	Leaf Recognition Criteria: 1 Leaf is awarded for each community visioning process completed (1 per lifetime). Multiple leaves can be awarded in a year for separate visioning processes. Gold Leaf Goals: Document the completion of one or more goals related to this action at any time. 1 Gold Leaf is awarded per goal met.
FAQs	The Gold Leaf Challenge is open to many community types. Because of this, the actions are meant to be adjusted to ensure the program works for all participants. Please email us feedback or suggestions so we can continuously improve our Gold Leaf Challenge considerations. What is “community visioning”? Visioning is a process by which a community envisions the future it wants and identifies strategies to get there. The process uses public participation to identify a community's purpose, core values, and vision of the future. A community visioning process is similar to a strategic or comprehensive plan but is often looking further out and allows for bigger ideas that aren't constrained by time or money. Does a Climate Action Plan count as a community visioning process? It doesn't in most cases, although there is likely overlap between the two processes and they can inform each other. For example, if you do a community visioning process that informs a CAP, then that community visioning process would count towards a leaf award. But if you do community engagement as part of a CAP plan, then you wouldn't receive a leaf award under this action. What if our community doesn't typically engage in visioning and planning?

	A community includes people! You probably have people to engage and things to plan for. If you aren't able to take this on yourself, show how you participated in a larger community visioning process or other engagement effort. Discuss why this approach fits your community, whether due to size, limited resources, community will, etc.
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Feedback or Questions? Contact GreenStep@state.mn.us

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