

## Sustainability and Public Health Division 2020 Strategic Plan

The MnDOT Sustainability and Public Health (SPH) Division was created in December 2019 to address the climate crisis and work to improve public health to all Minnesotans, especially in our most vulnerable populations. The 2020 Strategic Plan clarifies our priorities and guides the division and agency in these priority areas. A more detailed description of specific tasks and timeline is included in the annual work plan on the [MnDOT SPH website](#)<sup>1</sup>.

### Mission

Improve public health, reduce carbon pollution, and increase climate resilience in Minnesota's transportation system. We collaborate with stakeholders to track and report progress toward goals, identify and elevate low-carbon solutions, and empower MnDOT staff to champion new ideas.

### Vision

Minnesota's transportation system equitably supports the health of people, the environment, and our economy by connecting communities with safe, convenient, low-carbon, and innovative transportation options to support resilient communities today and for future generations.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Integrity

Stewardship

Curiosity

Leadership

Collaboration

### Guiding Principles

- **Integrity:** Ensure transparency and accountability in all sustainability and public health decisions
- **Stewardship:** Work to support the needs of current and future Minnesotans
- **Curiosity:** Don't be afraid to ask hard questions and explore new and different ideas
- **Leadership:** Position MnDOT as a leader with communities we serve, transportation stakeholders, and other state DOTs
- **Collaboration:** Pursue creative and innovative solutions and partnerships and include diverse perspectives in decision making

### Guiding Statutes and Regulations

- MN statute 216H *Next Generation Energy Act*
- MN statute 174.01 *Department of Transportation Creation; Policy*
- Executive Order 19-25 *Advancing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs for Minnesota's Public Buildings*
- Executive Order 19-27 *Directing State Government to Conserve Energy and Water, and Reduce Waste to Save Money*
- Executive Order 19-37 *Establishing the Climate Change Subcabinet and the Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change to Promote Coordinated Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Strategies in the State of Minnesota*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/sustainability/>

# Strategic Goals



## Lead by Example through MnDOT Sustainability Efforts

- Lead efforts to achieve Next Generation Energy Act (NGEA) emissions reduction target for agency facilities, fleet, and construction operations: 30% reduction in agency emissions 2025.
- Empower MnDOT staff to track, communicate, and achieve agency sustainability goals.
- Consider equity impacts in planning and decision-making about sustainability goals and initiatives.

### Example Actions

- Track and share progress towards sustainability goals in the annual MnDOT sustainability report.
- Help staff identify and remove barriers to progress towards sustainability goals.
- Coordinate fleet and energy reduction action plans.
- Provide updates on sustainability standards to leadership and support increased compliance.
- Annually report fuel, energy, water, waste, procurement, and GHG data to the Dept of Administration.
- Lead renewable energy efforts on MnDOT property and through community solar garden agreements



## Reduce Transportation Carbon Pollution

- Lead agency and statewide efforts for Minnesota to meet legal GHG emissions reduction goals.
- Support VMT reduction efforts in MnDOT planning and project development.
- Ensure that climate solutions benefit all Minnesotans, especially people most impacted by climate change.

### Example Actions

- Facilitate the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council (STAC).
- Support the Governor's Climate Change Subcabinet and other statewide efforts.
- Lead state and regional planning to reduce transportation carbon pollution.
- Coordinate with state, national, and international partners to develop and share best practices to reduce transportation carbon pollution.



## Support Transportation that Improves Public Health for All Minnesotans

- Embed public health and equity metrics and practices into MnDOT decision making.
- Make non-single occupant vehicle options more attractive and accessible to support healthy and sustainable communities.
- Develop and strengthen relationships with public health partners.

### Example Actions

- Develop transportation and public health policy and educational materials.
- Build a culture of public health at MnDOT by contributing at District, program, and functional group meetings and participating in MnDOT advisory groups.
- Identify, support, and track public health measures, including the utility of health impact evaluation tools.
- Lead Complete Streets policy update and implementation.
- Partner with state agencies and public health influencers to build relationships, align goals, and foster collaboration.



## Improve Resilience of the Transportation System

- Identify and communicate risks to the transportation system as climate science evolves.
- Factor future climate risks and social vulnerability into MnDOT decision making.
- Support and coordinate with regional, statewide, and national resilience initiatives.

### Example Actions

- Develop tools and resources for MnDOT to incorporate climate vulnerability into decision making.
- Prioritize resilience investments for populations most vulnerable to climate change.
- Identify and track resilience performance measures.
- Facilitate and coordinate climate vulnerability projects and research.
- Regularly update internal and public facing resilience information and reports.
- Coordinate with state, national, and international partners to develop and share best practices to improve transportation resilience.



## Expand Communication and Engagement on Sustainability and Public Health

- Increase awareness of MnDOT sustainability and public health efforts, internally and externally.
- Translate technical information into transparent and accessible communication products.
- Incorporate outside ideas and expertise into OSPH work products.
- Ensure that engagement includes under-represented communities.

### Example Actions

- Develop engagement and communication plans to support strategic efforts.
- Create website content related to sustainability and public health.
- Shape the public health, sustainability, and climate resilience narrative at MnDOT.
- Coordinate with partners to develop trainings and educational materials.
- Prepare external outreach materials.
- Serve on external committees to learn and share best practices.
- Track and share coordination with internal and external partners.