

# The Case for a Climate Action Plan

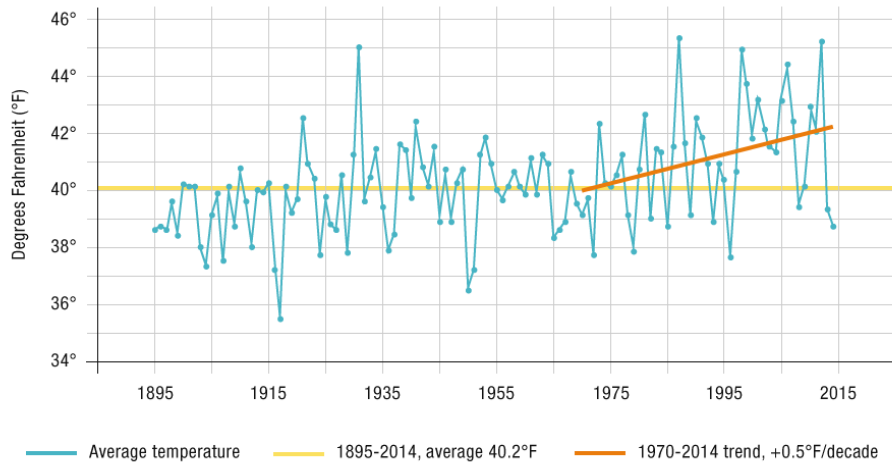
*“Adaptation and resilience is really a **local** issue.”*

--Laura Millberg, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

(from League of Minnesota Cities website)

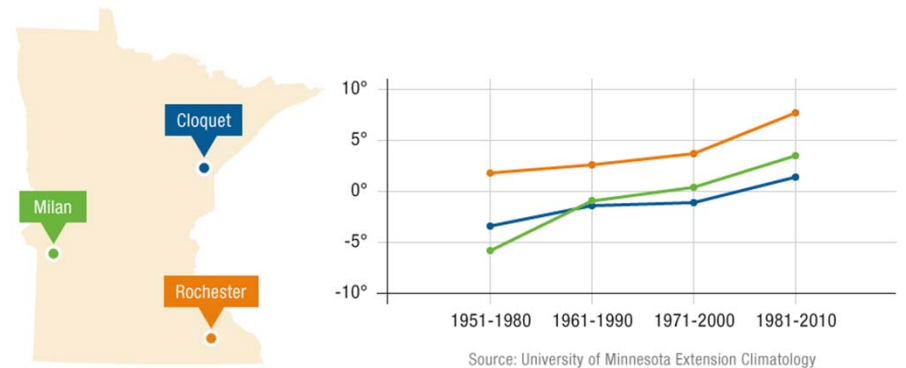
# 1) Minnesota is changing: Warmer winters, hotter summers, and

Minnesota's average annual temperature 1895-2014

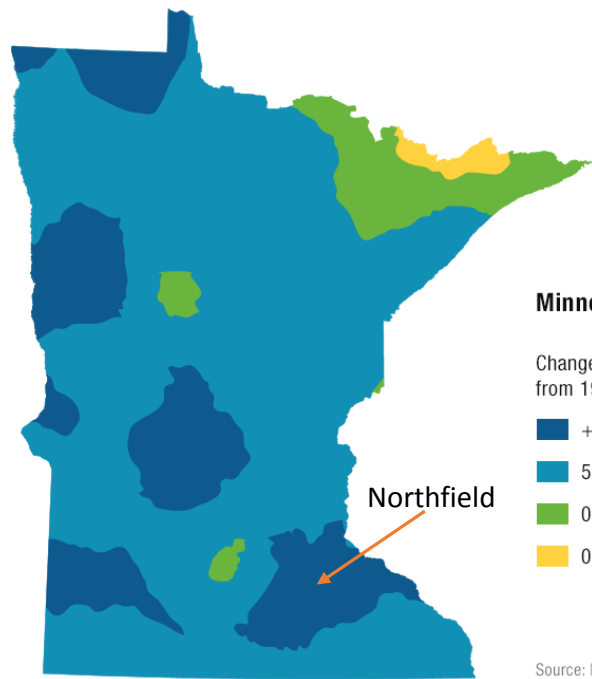


Source: National Climatic Data Center

Average minimum temperature in January for three Minnesota cities



# More and heavier rains



## Minnesota getting more rain

Change in average rainfall  
from 1901-1960 to 1991-2012

- +15% Increase
- 5-15% Increase
- 0-5% Increase
- 0-5% Decrease

Source: National Climate Assessment

## Timeline of Minnesota's historic mega-rain events 1866-2014



## A few things to plan for:

- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Public health impacts
- Protecting water quality
- Changing urban forest
- More or different invasive species
- Increased energy use in summer

**Tornado reported as wind and hail rip through central Minnesota**

--GoMN March 7, 2017

**Lyme-bearing tick species' expansion is especially pronounced in Minnesota**

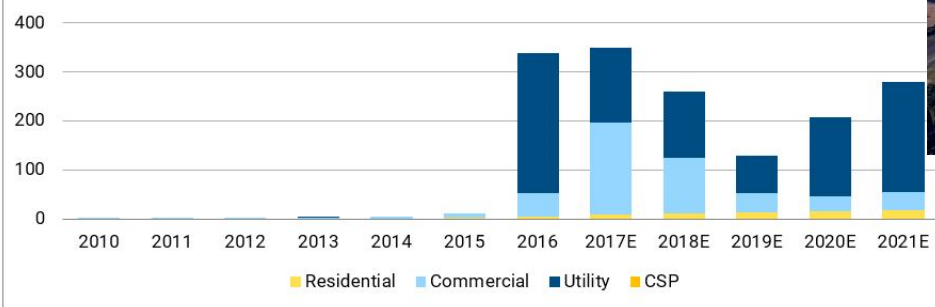
--MinnPost 1/21/2016

# 2) Renewable energy opportunities

Report: Renewable energy fuels 21 percent of Minnesota's electricity  
 BusinessMPR Mar 3, 2016

“Minnesota is a major producer of wind-generated electricity. More than one-sixth of the state's net generation came from wind power in 2016, and the state is among the top 10 states in the nation in both installed wind capacity and net electricity generation from wind.”-- US Energy Information Administration

Minnesota Annual Solar Installations



SEIA, <http://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/minnesota-solar>



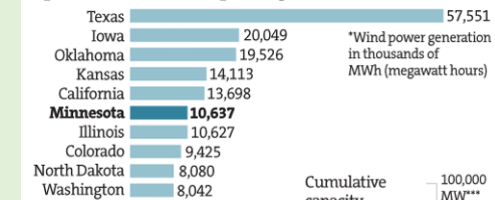
North Star Solar 100-MW project

Star Tribune April 19, 2017

## MINNESOTA A TOP TEN WIND PRODUCER

Minnesota moved up from seventh to sixth in wind power last year.

### Top ten states for wind power generation\*

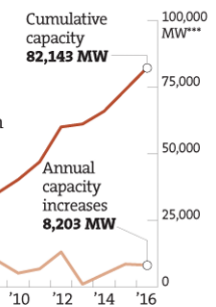


### National production\*\*

The overall U.S. wind industry posted a solid 11 percent growth in new wind power capacity in 2016.

\*\*U.S. annual and cumulative wind power capacity growth (Utility-scale wind power)

\*\*\*NOTE: A Megawatt is a million watts



Source: American Wind Energy Association MARK BOSWELL • Star Tribune

3) This is our home



# Climate Action Planning: Everyone's doing it!

- Rochester: Specific goals
- St. Paul
- Red Wing: Comprehensive vision
- Hastings



# What does Climate Action Planning DO?

- SETS GOALS
- COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

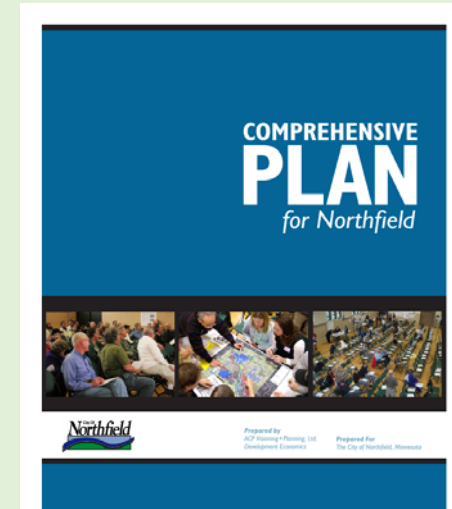
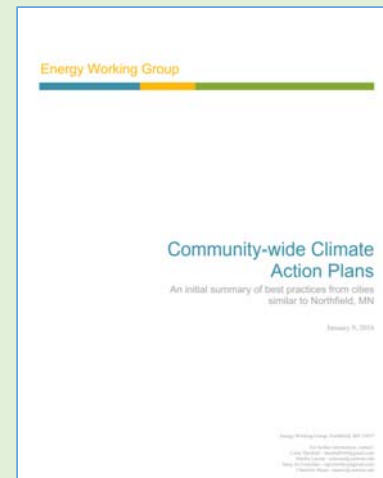




# Foundation

- 2008 Mayor's Energy Task Force Report: *Carbon Free by '33!*
- 2008 Comprehensive Plan
- 2017 Energy Working Group Report
  - Community Energy Profile
  - City Carbon Inventory (in progress)
  - Research research research

Next step:



## Steps:

- Choose a framework (like Compact of Mayors)
- Gather baseline data
- Assess resources: Staff, leadership team
- Engage the community
- Create a plan!



- **OUR GOAL:** Develop a *shared vision* for 21<sup>st</sup> century Northfield

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR REVIEW BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION - March 9, 2017**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA'S CITY COUNCIL, TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING OF A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) TO ENSURE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.**

Whereas, Minnesota is vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate such unpredictable and increasingly severe precipitation patterns along with rising air temperature that will have adverse effects on our residents, water, agriculture, and ecosystem and our economy.

Whereas, Minnesotans are already incurring the costs associated with a changing climate such as increasing insurance rates, heat-related health emergencies, and disruption to farming and other local industries.

Whereas, creating a more environmentally sustainable and resilient community strengthens the social, economic and physical health of Northfield residents, enhancing overall the desirability and quality of life of our community

Whereas, in 2005 the City of Northfield began the process of committing to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by completing the first milestone of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and other environmentally-focused efforts such as the Greenstep Cities program, have continued to reinforce our community's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Northfield City Council will create and implement a climate action plan (CAP) to reduce Northfield's community-wide greenhouse gases, to increase Northfield's community resilience in response to a changing climate and to ensure a livable planet for current and future generations.

## Like this presentation? Thank:

- EQC: George Kinney, Matt Rohn, Alex Miller, Cliff Martin, Kim Smith, Cheryl Culbreth, Janet Petri, Thea Pitsavas, Trey Coudret
- EWG: Martha Larson, Carla Marshall, Mary Jo Cristafaro, Charlotte Mann, Pat Allen, Bruce Anderson, George Kinney