

Northfield's Climate Action Plan

What board members and commissioners need
to know

City of Northfield Strategic Priority #6

“A Community that’s Resilient and Sustainable”

Desired Outcomes:

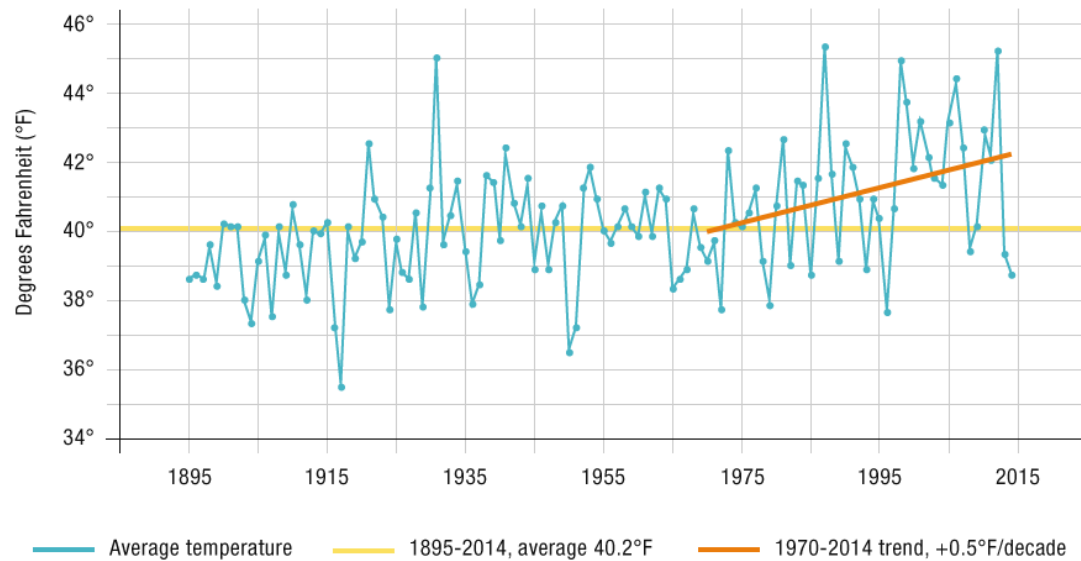
- A clear vision for climate action
- An economy resilient to energy and environment impacts
- Reduced carbon emissions

Action: Develop a Climate Action Plan

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE
AFFECT NORTHFIELD?

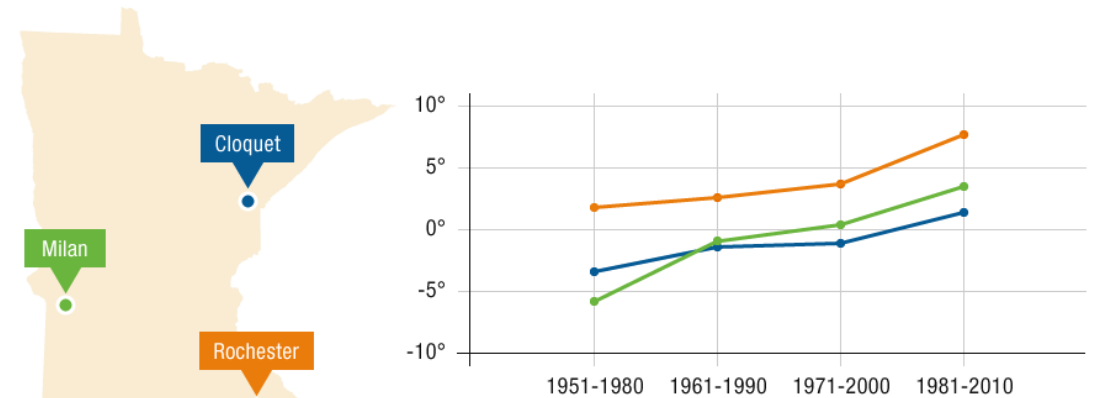
Local Impacts: Minnesota is changing: Warmer winters, hotter summers, and

Minnesota's average annual temperature 1895-2014



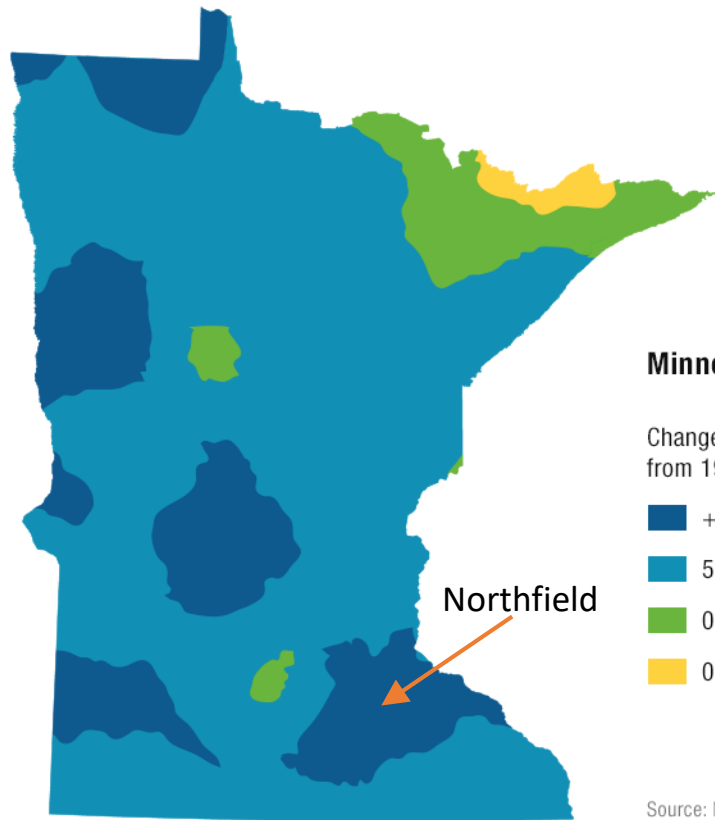
Source: National Climatic Data Center

Average minimum temperature in January for three Minnesota cities



Source: University of Minnesota Extension Climatology

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



Specific threats

- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Tick-borne diseases
- 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

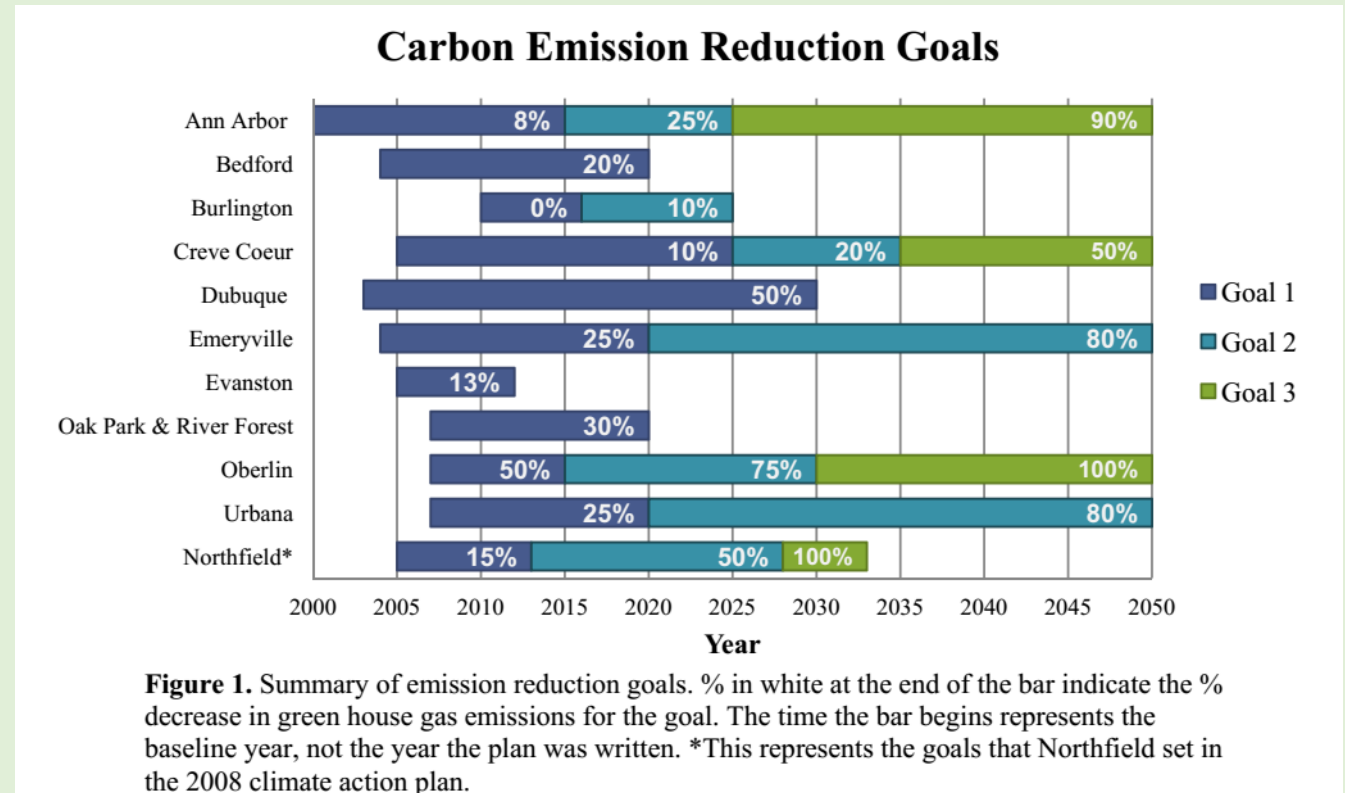
**Lyme-bearing tick species' expansion
is especially pronounced in Minnesota**

--MinnPost 1/21/2016

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING: What can we do about it?

What does Climate Action Planning DO?

- SETS GOALS



Plus: Comprehensive Environmental Planning

- Urban forest and parks
- Water systems
- Food systems
- Transportation
- Housing
- Etc.



HOW IS THIS RELEVANT TO OUR WORK?

Adaptation

Can changes in how we manage the city's resources help protect those resources or Northfield residents from the impacts of climate change?

Mitigation

Can changes in how we manage the city's resources help us reduce GHG emissions or sequester carbon?

Example: Northfield Parks

Threats to parks from climate change:

- Flooding & erosion
- Loss of trees
- Invasive species (wild parsnip!)
- Ticks

Using parks to mitigate climate change:

- Diminish heat-island effect
- Control flooding
- Sequester carbon

Steps to a CAP:

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



We are here