

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

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

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Climate change is an existential threat that impacts all Minnesotans and our ability to thrive. Communities, farms, and industry face more frequent extreme weather events that threaten the infrastructure that we rely on to connect all parts of our state, cause undue economic stress, and place our communities and environment at risk. By increasing risks from vector-borne diseases and extreme weather, especially for vulnerable populations and individuals with pre-existing conditions, climate change threatens Minnesotans' health and wellbeing.

Climate change is a complex problem, and Minnesota recognizes that the impacts of climate change are disproportionately borne by disadvantaged communities. Disparities exist in Minnesota, including those based on race, gender, geography, and economic status, and they prevent us from reaching our full potential as a state. These disparities can be exacerbated by policies that do not reflect considerations of equity.

By working collaboratively, we can build resilient communities, promote community prosperity, mitigate risk to our farms and businesses, and create a homegrown clean economy. Currently, job growth in the clean energy sector is outpacing job growth in the overall economy. Continued leadership on climate change will position Minnesota for long-term economic success.

Minnesota's 2007 Next Generation Energy Act set statutory goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state by 30% of 2005 levels by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Minnesota fell short of its 2015 goal of 15% and is not on track to meet the 2025 goal. We must redouble our efforts to meet our future goals.

To fulfill Minnesota's statutory goals, avoid the severe economic, health, and ecological impacts associated with a changing climate, and fully realize the benefits of a healthy, sustainable, and resilient state, our state government must work across the enterprise in a coordinated approach to develop equitable strategies that will mitigate climate change and achieve greater resilience.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. A Climate Change Subcabinet (“Subcabinet”) is established.
2. The purpose of the Subcabinet is to:
 - a. Identify policies and strategies that will put Minnesota back on track to meet or exceed our goals, established under Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 216H.02, to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors to a level at least 30% below 2005 levels by 2025, and to a level at least 80% below 2005 levels by 2050.
 - b. Identify policies and strategies that will enhance the climate resiliency of Minnesota’s natural resources, working lands, and communities.
3. The members of the Subcabinet are the Commissioner, Executive Director, or Chair of the following agencies and boards:
 - a. Pollution Control Agency (“MPCA”)
 - b. Department of Commerce
 - c. Department of Labor and Industry
 - d. Department of Management and Budget
 - e. Department of Employment and Economic Development
 - f. Department of Agriculture
 - g. Department of Public Safety
 - h. Department of Natural Resources
 - i. Department of Health
 - j. Department of Transportation
 - k. Board of Water and Soil Resources
 - l. Department of Administration
 - m. Metropolitan Council
 - n. Environmental Quality Board
 - o. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
4. The Commissioner of the MPCA will serve as Chair of the Subcabinet.

5. The duties of the Subcabinet are as follows:

a. **Climate Mitigation and Resilience Policy and Strategy Development.**

- i. Identify policies and strategies that the State may adopt to meet or exceed the economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions goals of the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act and achieve 100% clean energy by 2050.
- ii. Identify challenges and opportunities to mitigate climate change and consider how climate change mitigation policies intersect with the work of the Subcabinet members' agencies or boards.
- iii. Identify policies and strategies that will enhance the climate resiliency of Minnesota's natural resources, working lands, and communities and assist the state enterprise, families, businesses, and local communities to prepare for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated.
- iv. Consider how climate change mitigation and resilience policies and strategies can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy waste; promote economic development, innovation, and job creation; ensure equitable distribution of benefits; and address disparities in current impacts related to climate change.
- v. Submit a written update to the Governor on December 1 of each year, with a first update due by December 1, 2020.

b. **Public Engagement.** Successful policy and strategy development requires that those impacted, including frontline communities, indigenous peoples, industry, and workers, among others, have a voice and the opportunity to participate in the process. The Subcabinet will develop and implement a public engagement framework to ensure meaningful public engagement is conducted by the Subcabinet's agencies and boards. The purpose of the engagement framework is to:

- i. Build partnerships and shared understanding across Tribal Nations; local communities; and sectors including, but not limited to, agriculture, transportation, business, and conservation and environmental interests.
- ii. Provide a platform for dialogue about the strengths and challenges of climate change mitigation and resilience solutions, including policies and voluntary actions, and how these solutions will impact the lives of Minnesotans, including those who have been traditionally underrepresented in policy discussions, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, and are impacted by the transition to a clean energy economy.

- iii. Highlight regional differences across Minnesota regarding the effects of climate change and locally relevant solutions.
 - iv. Share and gather ideas for how Minnesotans can get involved with, and stay informed about, climate change issues that matter to them.
 6. The Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change ("Advisory Council") is established to advise the Subcabinet in its duties.
 7. The Advisory Council will be comprised of up to 15 members appointed by the Governor. The Governor will seek representation from community leaders, individuals with experience in the business sector, agriculture, conservation and environmental protection, and other relevant stakeholders.
 8. The duties of the Advisory Council are as follows:
 - a. Meet up to four times per year to identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the development and effective implementation of policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate change resiliency.
 - b. Promote equity by examining how climate change impacts communities across the state and how potential solutions can address current disparities, incorporating the perspectives of people of color, indigenous people, rural Minnesotans, and other populations who experience disproportionate impacts from climate change.
 - c. Promote a just transition for impacted workers and communities by examining the trade-offs that may accompany policies.
 9. The MPCA, in coordination with other state agencies and boards, will provide staffing and administrative support to the Subcabinet and the Advisory Council.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

Signed on December 2, 2019.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

