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St. Louis Park City Council adopts Climate Action Plan

Plan provides road map to achieving carbon neutrality by 2040

At its Monday, February 5, meeting, the St. Louis Park City Council unanimously adopted a Climate Action Plan with the ambitious goal of the community achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

The impetus for the plan began two years ago when a group of St. Louis Park students presented their concerns about climate change to the St. Louis Park City Council. Since then, St. Louis Park youth with the Roots and Shoots and iMatter organizations; the Environment and Sustainability Commission; city staff and other community volunteers have partnered in development of the Climate Action Plan

“Adopting this Climate Action Plan is only the start of a challenging journey that will present us with many unknowns in the years to come,” said St. Louis Park Mayor Jake Spano. “That said, the students who have pursued this effort for the past two years have made it clear that the time is long past to begin this effort, no matter how difficult it may be.”

“Now comes the hard part of doing the work to achieve this aggressive goal, and we’ll look to these students to continue to bring their passion, work ethic and values to this ongoing effort, along with city staff, Environment and Sustainability Commission members, and most importantly the businesses and residents of St. Louis Park,” Mayor Spano concluded.

“We are proud of St. Louis Park and the City Council for this Climate Action Plan and for supporting environmental stewardship,” wrote Lukas Wrede in a letter from the youth of St. Louis Park, included in the Climate Action Plan. “We envision St. Louis park as a resilient and healthy city for generations to come, and for this to happen, all of us have to be involved.”

The Climate Action Plan begins with three kick-start projects in 2018 designed to catalyze engagement with the community and build momentum for change, followed by several intermediate climate goals to keep on track for reaching both city and state climate goals.

“We applaud the City of St. Louis Park and its youth for championing such a bold and transformative climate action plan,” said Abby Finis, Senior Energy Planner with Great Plains Institute and lead consultant on the Climate Action Plan. “It’s the leadership and vision of cities enacting meaningful and sustainable changes that will be so critical to the future of our environment. Not only will this spur transformation within their city, but St. Louis Park can serve as a model that brings about more action at the local, state, and national level.”

The City of St. Louis Park is already helping lead the way toward carbon neutrality with its own buildings. In 2017, solar arrays were installed on the Municipal Service Center and on Fire Station 2. Four city buildings are now 100% electrically powered by renewable energy – city hall, the police station and both fire stations.

For more information visit www.stlouispark.org/our-city/climate-action-plan.