

Background

How best can Ramsey County help its cities to be successful in moving towards a sustainable future?

As sustainability and resiliency become more recognized as important in managing both cities and counties, the highly urbanized metropolitan area of Ramsey County will need to adapt and strategize to help the cities within it achieve this goal without drastically increasing costs.

Ramsey County is the densest county in Minnesota, containing 13 separate cities. Home to the state's capital, St. Paul, the county prioritizes environmentally-friendly policies that contribute to its public perception as a progressive and equitable place to live, and one that cares about the future of its inhabitants.

City Collaborations

Our team coordinated with seven Ramsey County cities, conducting interviews with city officials from each, ranging from resiliency officers and planners, public works directors, natural service coordinators, and city administrators.

Cities:

Falcon Heights
Maplewood
Shoreview
St. Paul
Roseville
Vadnais Heights
White Bear Lake

What do we suggest?

Recommendation 1

Goal: Better coordinate energy reduction efforts for within cities

Action from County: Create incentives for cities to create a permanent role devoted to sustainability.

Strategies:

- Encourage reallocation of resources
- Reshape role as retirements occur

Recommendation 3

Goal: Reduce emissions from buildings in a cost effective manor.

Action from County: Coordinate a group purchase for rooftop solar panels for all public schools within the county

Strategies:

- Mitigate cost through
 - State and federal tax incentives
 - Third-party ownership of panels
 - Economy of scale of purchase

Recommendation 5

Goal: Coordinate resiliency efforts across the county

Action from County: Establish a County Resiliency Board

Strategies:

- Representatives (Ideally a sustainability position) from each city, the county, and any other significant stakeholders
- Listed and funded as a county board/committee

Recommendation 2

Goal: Increase communication across and within cities

Action from County: Develop a standard communication platform to foster collaboration

Strategies:

- Recruit members of government bodies and commissions to be apart of network
- Small number of participants makes social media groups perfect
- Create media in multiple languages
- Push programs like Green Steps

Recommendation 4

Goal: Increase commercial participation in energy efficiency and carbon reduction goals.

Action from County: Provide an energy efficiency consultant free to businesses to give advice on improvements

Strategies:

- Copy framework from *Biz Recycling*
- Advertise cost savings opportunities
- Reallocate funds from other parts of county

Recommendation 6

Goal: Reduce city emissions from transportation

Action from County: Coordinate fleet analysis assessments of all non participating cities

Strategies:

- Utilize Great Plains Institute initiative Clties Charging Ahead
- Offer coordination and scheduling assistance

Data

Where, how, when and what type of assistance would you be interested in?

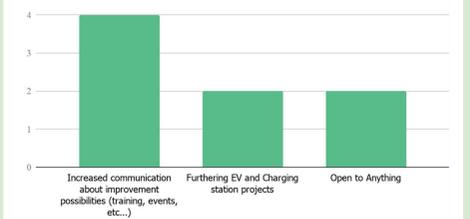


Chart 1: Common answers to the question "Where, how, when and what type of assistance would you be interested in?" Full interview summary in **Appendix A** in final essay.

Where can the county assist in internal operations?

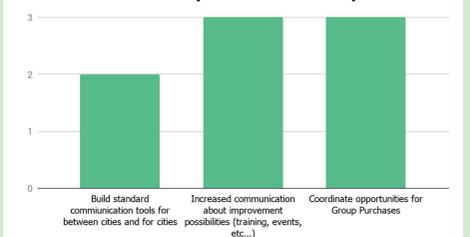


Chart 2: Common answers to the question "Where can the county assist in internal operations?" Full interview summary in **Appendix A** in final essay.

How can the county assist with external operations?

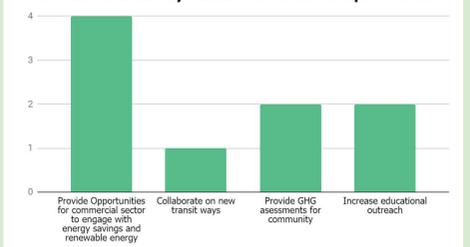


Chart 3: Common answers to the question "Where can the county assist in external operations?" Full interview summary in **Appendix A** in final essay.

Collaborations Referenced in RCP Study

