

## City of Duluth Planning Commission

### March 9, 2023 – Annual Meeting – Pickwick Restaurant Meeting Minutes

#### Call to Order

President Margie Nelson called to order the meeting of the city planning commission at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023.

#### Roll Call/Introductions

##### **Attendance:**

Members Present: Jason Crawford, Gary Eckenberg, Jason Hollinday, Samuel Lobby, Margie Nelson, Danielle Rhodes, Michael Schraepfer, and Andrea Wedul

Member Absent: Jason Crawford

Staff Present: Tom Church, Kyle Deming, Jenn Moses, James Gittemeier, John Kelley, Chris Lee, Ryan Pervenanze

#### Presentations

City of Duluth 2022 Climate Progress - Mindy Granley, Sustainability Officer, gave a presentation and talked about projects, plans and partnerships. (See attachment.)

Sustainability in Transportation - James Gittemeier, transportation planner, presented on sustainability in transportation. (See attachment.)

#### Other Business

Election of Officers:

The commission unanimously agreed to waive the paper voting process.

President

**MOTION/Second:** Eckenberg/Rhodes nominated Margie Nelson for President for a second term

**VOTE: (7-0)**

Vice-President

**MOTION/Second:** Wedul/Lobby nominated Jason Hollinday for Vice-President

**VOTE: (7-0)**

Zenith Awards:

Chris Lee gave a presentation regarding Zenith Awards, including purpose of awards, past award, and nominee for 2023, Leijona, 521 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Reuse of a historic building for 33 mixed-income apartments. (See attachment.) Commissioner Andrea Wedul suggested Lake

Superior Brewing. Questions from Commissioner Gary Eckenberg about parking and traffic control. Staff explained that it is a matter that has been under study.

**MOTION/Second:** Schraepfer/Nelson nominated Leijona

**VOTE: (6-1, Eckenberg opposed)**

**MOTION/Second:** Rhodes/Wedul nominated Lake Superior Brewing

**VOTE: (7-0)**

**MOTION/Second:** Wedul/ Schraepfer nominated Blacklist Brewing

**VOTE: (7-0)**

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Ryan Pervenanze – Manager  
Planning & Development



# City of Duluth

# 2022 Climate Progress

## Projects, Plans, and Partnerships

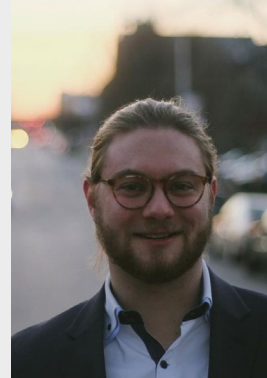
Duluth's Climate Action Work Plan:  
[www.duluthmn.gov/sustain](http://www.duluthmn.gov/sustain)

# Sustainability Office

- **Sustainability Officer** – Mindy Granley
- **City Sustainability Advisory Team:** 18 members across 11 Departments



**Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership Individual Adaptation Award 2023**



**Energy & Sustainability Assistant**



August 2022 – August 2023



**Community Resiliency & Energy Specialist**



August 2022 – July 2023



**Sustainability Communications Intern**



January – June 2023



# City Sustainability Advisory Team (C-SAT)

- Cross-departmental
- Determines high level sustainability goals
- Contributes to and prioritizes climate action
- Shares technical knowledge and skills

## 2022 Membership

Department	Members
Administrative Services	Ben Van Tassel
City Attorney's Office	Steve Hanke
Communications	Phil Jents
Community Relations	Alicia Kozlowski
Finance	Jen Carlson
Fire Department/Life Safety/Emergency Manager	Shawn Krizaj, Jonathan Otis
Parks, Property, Libraries	Jim Filby Williams, Erik Birkeland, Kate Kubiak
Planning and Economic Development	Chris Fleege, Jenn Reed Moses, James Gittemeier
Public Works and Utilities	Jim Benning
Workforce Development	Elena Foshay, Betsy Hill
Sustainability	Mindy Granley, Lydia Peterson, Parker Angelos

# Energy Plan Commission

- Formed to advise the administration and city council on reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions:
  - Develop and recommend policies to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals
  - Review and evaluate the city's Energy Plan progress
  - Promote the use of clean energy
  - Promote community best practices and strategies

Chair: Dr. Alison Hoxie

Robert Reichert

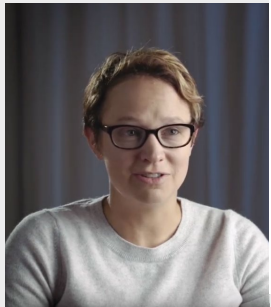
Scott Wishart

Tari Rayala

Brian Hinderliter

Cassie Thiessen

Gary Olson



# Plans



# Climate Action Work Plan: Background

- ImagineDuluth 2035
- St. Louis County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Community-led effort: Citizens' Climate Action Plan (2020)
- Mayor's climate goal: Race to Zero
- Council's climate emergency declaration (2021)

## Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan St. Louis County, Minnesota, 2020



**U-SPATIAL**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, DULUTH  
Driven to Discover

## Key Points from the City of Duluth's COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMAGINEDULUTH2035

<b>Energy &amp; Conservation</b> Encourage community involvement and renewable energy Promote energy use reduction in large buildings & local businesses Meet utility & efficiency targets for city facilities and operations	<b>Housing</b> Increase population density and provide affordable & attainable housing Increase the quality of housing options & neighborhoods Promote original character, diversity, and history	<b>Transportation</b> Use transportation to improve the city Improve conditions & connections Change designs to reduce infrastructure cost and add new types of transportation Protect & enhance regional commercial transportation networks
<b>Open Space</b> Improve resiliency to flood & other natural disasters Remove barriers to creation & add more public-owned open space Make open space more accessible to the community	<b>Land Use</b> Promote neighborhood accessibility, health, and development Encourage mixed land use in zoning Keep land available for preservation & recreation Encourage urban food growth	<b>Economic Development</b> Invest in people & grow what we have Develop our natural wealth & build our strengths and competitive advantages Improve marketing, communication & PR coordination







# City of Duluth

## Climate Action Work Plan

### 2022 - 2027



## 2 PHASES OF CAWP

### Phase I: Build a Foundation

Drive down emissions from City operations, strengthen community resilience, eliminate barriers, enable action, seek financial and workforce pathways, implement shovel-ready and -worthy projects

### Phase II: Accelerate Climate Action

Community Decarbonization

**Climate mitigation and adaptation strategies highlighted in the City's climate emergency declaration:**

**Strategy 1:** Reduce energy consumption in buildings

**Strategy 2:** Increase efficiency and resilience in city utilities

**Strategy 3:** Support low carbon transportation options

**Strategy 4:** Support renewable energy

**Strategy 5:** Improve stormwater management

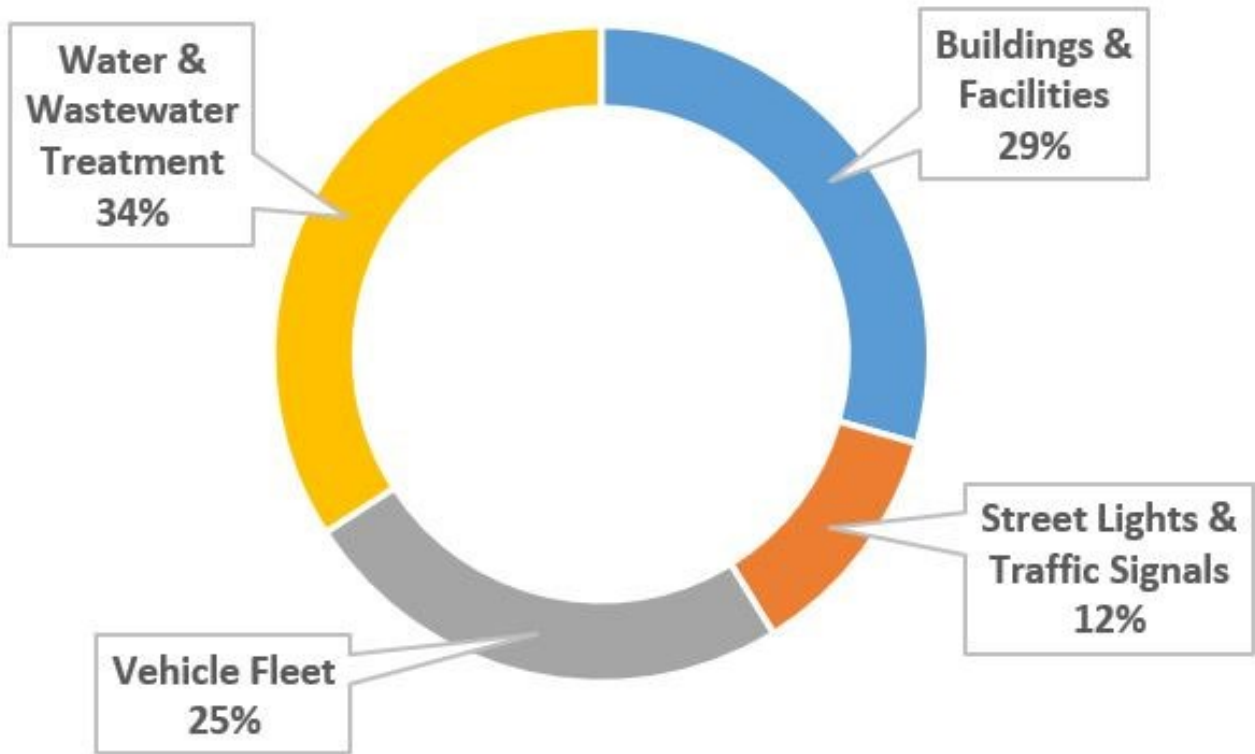
**Strategy 6:** Reduce solid waste

**Strategy 7:** Reduce disparities in public health

**Strategy 8:** Seek sustainability opportunities that support economic growth

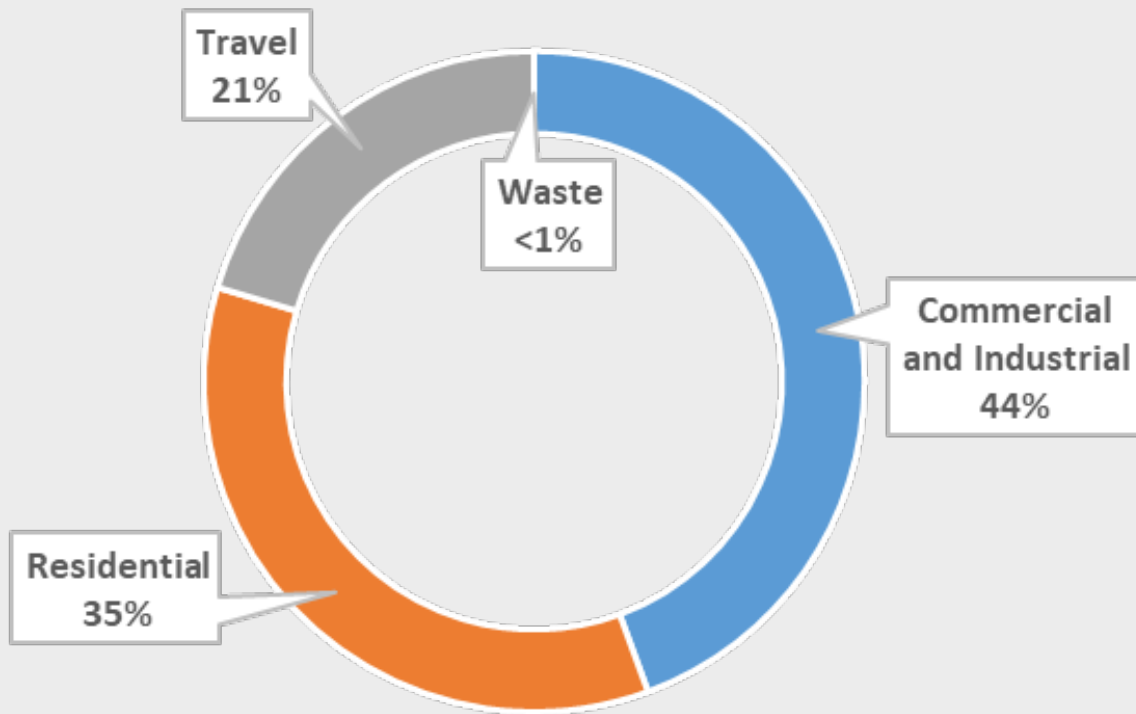
**Strategy 9:** Identify carbon sequestration opportunities

# Municipal GHG Emissions by Sector - 2022



<https://duluthmn.gov/sustain/city-projects-commitments/>

# Community-wide Emissions - Duluth 2018



1,335,757 Tons of Co2e

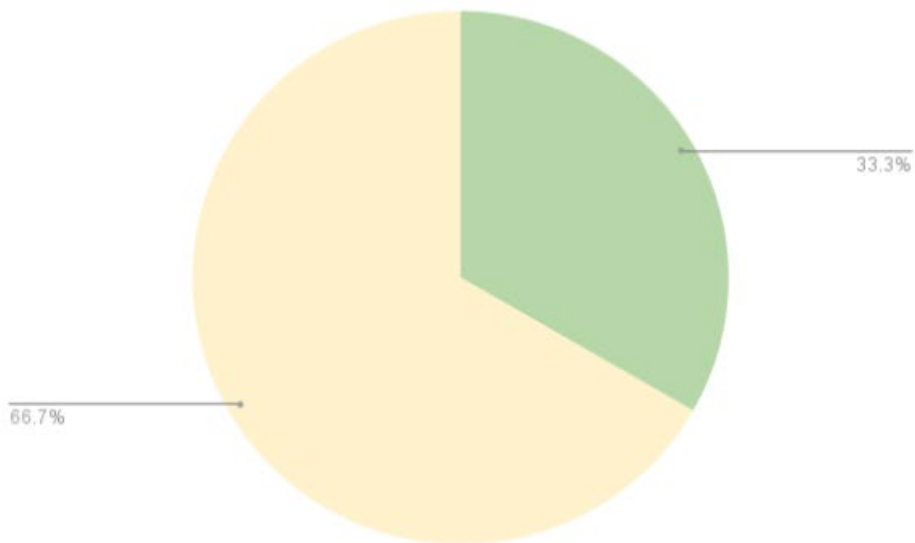
<https://www.regionalindicatorsmn.com/city-summary>

# Projects and Partners

# Objective 1: Drive down emissions from City operations

Actions	Action Leads	Resources Needed
<p><b>S1</b></p> <p><b>1.1 Achieve energy reduction targets for city buildings and facilities to meet 10% emissions reduction goal, per mayoral term (80% by 2050).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete and implement the City of Duluth Energy Plan and share progress with the Energy Plan Commission</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Institutionalize regular benchmarking for all city buildings and facilities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue energy audits and assessments and prioritize improving the performance of buildings with the greatest savings opportunities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Track and publicly share energy use and greenhouse gas emissions for City Operations, annually</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communicate successes and benefits of climate action to further community support for more action</li> </ul>	<p>Property and Facilities Management, Sustainability, and Communications</p>	<p>Energy Analyst</p>
<p><b>S2</b></p> <p><b>1.2 Continue to improve the fuel emissions factor and efficiency for Duluth Energy System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify clean energy resources to replace fossil fuel inputs; eliminate coal in the next 5 years</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage a transition to more efficient hot-water loop for new and existing customers of Duluth Energy Systems</li> </ul> <p><b>1.3 Improve the efficiency of the water plant and distribution system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Set targets and identify opportunities to improve the energy use intensity at the water plant and distribution system</li> </ul>	<p>Duluth Energy Systems, Public Works and Utilities</p>	<p>Infrastructure for transition away from coal</p>
<p><b>1.4 Reduce emissions from city fleet vehicles and employee commute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete an assessment of city fleet to identify</li> </ul>	<p>Fleet, Property and Facilities Management,</p>	<p>Resources for initial fleet planning are in place</p>





## SOME PROGRESS

- 1.1: Achieve energy reduction targets for city buildings and facilities to meet 10% emissions reduction goal, per mayoral term (80% by 2050).
- 1.2: Continue to improve the fuel emissions factor and efficiency for Duluth Energy System
- 1.4: Reduce emissions from city fleet vehicles and employee commute
- 1.6: 1.6 Reduce solid waste from city operations and public events

## SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

- 1.3: Improve the efficiency of the water plant and distribution system
- 1.5: Build upon previous successes and increase installation and procurement of clean energy

# Energy Efficiency and Conservation

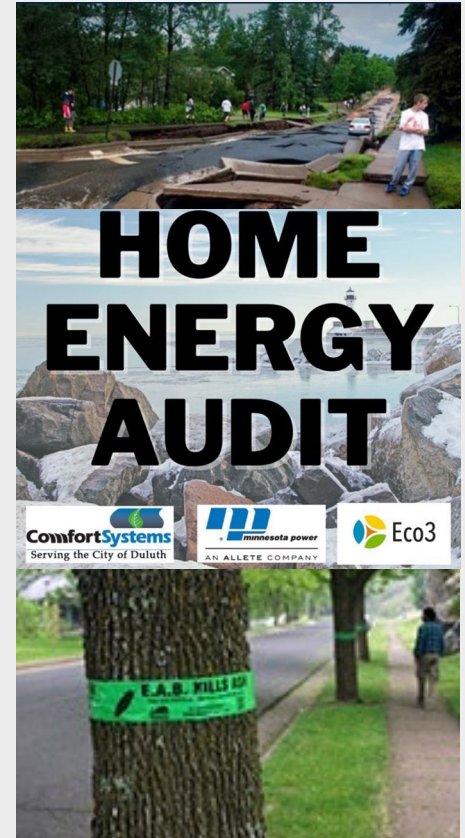
- **Buildings**
  - City Hall HVAC
- **Duluth Energy Systems**
  - 5-year coal elimination plan
  - Thermal grid updates
- **Water Utility**
  - Water main replacements
  - Advanced Metering
- **Fleet**
  - Vehicle Replacement Policy
  - Investments in EVs/Hybrids



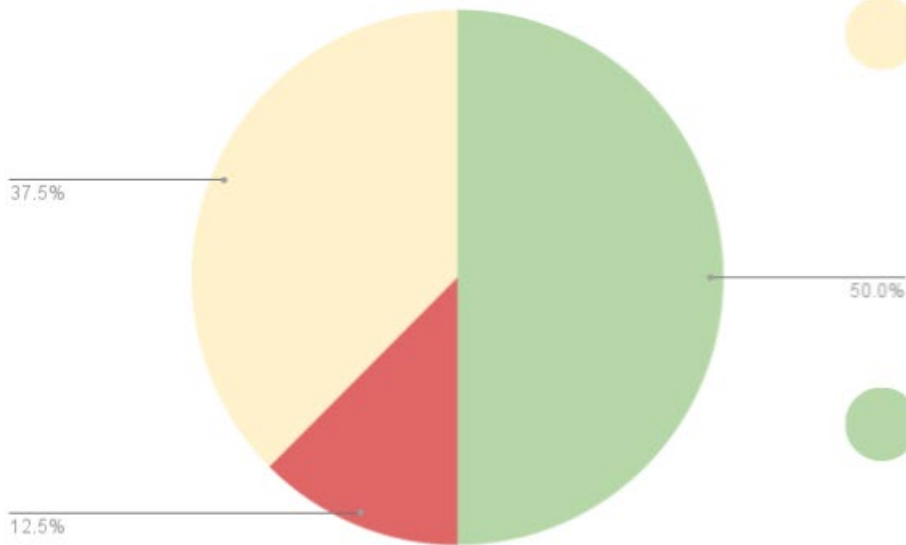
# Objective 2:

## Strengthen community resilience

Actions	Action Leads	Resources Needed
<p><b>S2</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Improve the resiliency of the water plant and distribution system</b> Seek opportunities to improve resiliency of the water plant, including transformer upgrades, burying lines, back-up power, and clean energy procurement options.</p> <p><b>2.2 Complete a citywide assessment of vulnerable built (sidewalks, roads, pipes, etc.) and natural (trees, soil, water, etc.) infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Manage Emerald Ash Borer, implement strategic planting plan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a plan to minimize risk to infrastructure, prioritizing highest risk and infrastructure located in vulnerable communities</li> </ul> <p><b>2.3 Expand current CIP offerings from Comfort Systems for residential and commercial customers</b></p>	<p>Public Works and Utilities, Stormwater, Property Parks and Libraries, Sustainability</p>	<p>Funding request is pending for water plant</p> <p>Funds required for citywide assessment</p> <p>Staff resources are available for CIP expansion</p>
<p><b>S5</b></p> <p><b>2.4 Develop a stormwater management plan that integrates resilience and identifies financing opportunities and includes these elements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of priority parcels for preservation, vegetation quality mapping and repair, inventory natural resource and flood protection opportunities</li> <li>• Prioritization of improvements in high-risk neighborhoods with vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Reduced stormwater runoff flow and volume through green infrastructure and on-site stormwater management</li> <li>• Demonstration of green infrastructure on City property</li> <li>• Recommendations to incorporate green infrastructure into the unified development chapter</li> <li>• Continued collaboration with the Regional Stormwater</li> </ul>	<p>Public Works and Utilities, Engineering, Property Parks and Libraries, Parks Maintenance, Stormwater, Sustainability</p>	<p>Funds needed for stormwater planning and installation of stormwater practices</p>







### MINIMAL PROGRESS

- 2.8: Fully establish the Natural Resource Management Program



### SOME PROGRESS

- 2.3: Expand current CIP offerings from Comfort Systems for residential and commercial customers
- 2.6: Reduce population vulnerabilities and ensure basic needs are met
- 2.7: Reduce environmental hazards and climate risks in vulnerable communities



### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

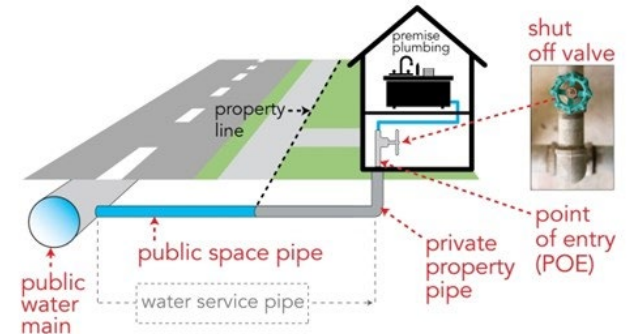
- 2.1: Improve the resiliency of the water plant and distribution system
- 2.2: Complete a citywide assessment of vulnerable built and natural infrastructure
- 2.4: Develop a stormwater management plan that integrates resilience and identifies financing opportunities
- 2.5: Strengthen inclusive and culturally specific community relationships through neighborhood volunteer events

# Infrastructure and Critical Services

- **Water Plant:** \$7.8M FEMA Hazard Mitigation funding; Shoreline stabilization completed
- **Cost reduction for lead water line replacements**
- **Coastal erosion:** Advanced Assistance from FEMA, Park Point study
- **Green infrastructure**
  - Stormwater Resiliency Plan
  - Implementation projects: Keane Creek, Miller Creek, Lincoln Park
  - Code audit: remove barriers in the future, led by Minnesota Sea Grant
- **Legacy pollution** St. Louis River clean-up and access work



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER SERVICE PIPE



# Waterfront Management & Resilience

- Lakewalk reconstruction
- Brighton Beach restoration & retreat
- Water Plant shoreland restoration
- Advanced Assistance: coastal erosion study



# Community Resiliency

- **Affordable housing**
  - \$19M from ARP for affordable housing
  - Duluth Housing Trust Fund
  - Energy Equity with ACEEE
  - Rebuild Duluth
- **Strengthening neighborhoods:** Love Your Block
- **Urban canopy:** Forestry grant for EAB removal
- **Emergency planning**
  - Ready North Network
  - DOE RACER Grant



# Jean Duluth Solar Array



AN ALLETE COMPANY

- 1.6 MW
- City land lease payments to Energy Fund
- Solar power to 300 homes



# Department of Energy Communities LEAP

## Blueprint for a cold climate environmental justice neighborhood



**DOE SELECTS 22 COMMUNITIES TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE TO PLAN AND LEAD CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITIONS**

[www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP](http://www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP)



Stakeholder groups to explore scoping of needs/challenges around energy transition in 6 areas:

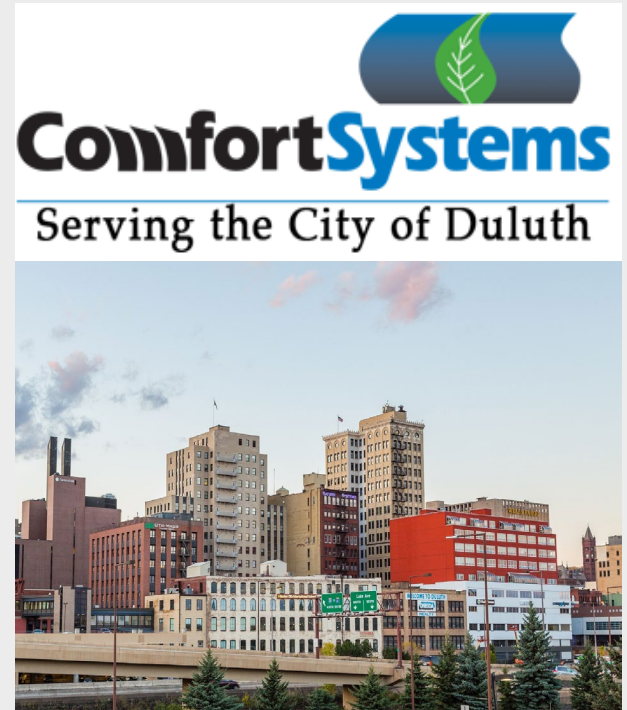
- Transportation, Housing, Commercial/Industrial, Port, Utilities, Clean Energy Groups



THE PLUM CATALYST LLC

# Natural Gas Utility

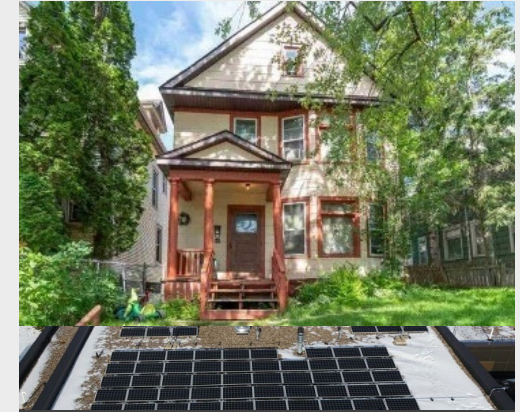
- **Conservation Improvement Program**
- Energy Transition?
  - TBD? Who takes it on?
  - Energy Plan Commission pushing for a plan of action
  - ECO Act provisions for electrification



# Objective 3:

## Eliminate barriers, enable action

Actions	Action Leads	Resources Needed
<p><b>S1</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Accelerate sustainable building design for new and substantially renovated buildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adopt sustainable building guidelines for all new or substantially renovated public buildings and private development that receives public funding or incentives.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Require clean energy and energy efficiency improvements for housing projects that receive City funding assistance to reduce emissions and address high energy burden</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 Adopt a building benchmarking policy for public buildings with a voluntary phase-in for private-sector commercial buildings</b></p> <p><b>3.3 Support state policy and regulatory changes that enable the city to meet its climate and energy goals</b></p> <p><b>3.4 Incorporate climate mitigation, resilience, and justice considerations into city budget planning process</b></p> <p><b>3.5 Incorporate climate and energy actions into TIF district requirements</b></p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Sustainability, Finance, Community Partners</p>	<p>Part-time Benchmarking or Energy Analyst position would be required</p> <p>Utility partners need to prepare tracking and reporting avenues</p>
<p><b>S2</b></p> <p><b>3.6 Integrate resilience in the capital improvement plan and internal policy for all city infrastructure projects</b></p>	<p>Finance, Sustainability</p>	
<p><b>S3</b></p> <p><b>3.7 Reduce per-person, single-occupancy driving citywide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review city code and policy to remove barriers and enable more opportunities for biking, walking, transit, and low-emissions vehicles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enhance and institutionalize complete streets policy to include user experience and green infrastructure, prioritize connectivity for vulnerable communities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gather early input on street projects to increase bike, walk, and wheelchair access along highly-used routes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collaborate with DTA to expand first-mile and last-mile</li> </ul>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Community Partners</p>	<p>Code review requires additional resources</p>



### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan

August 2021

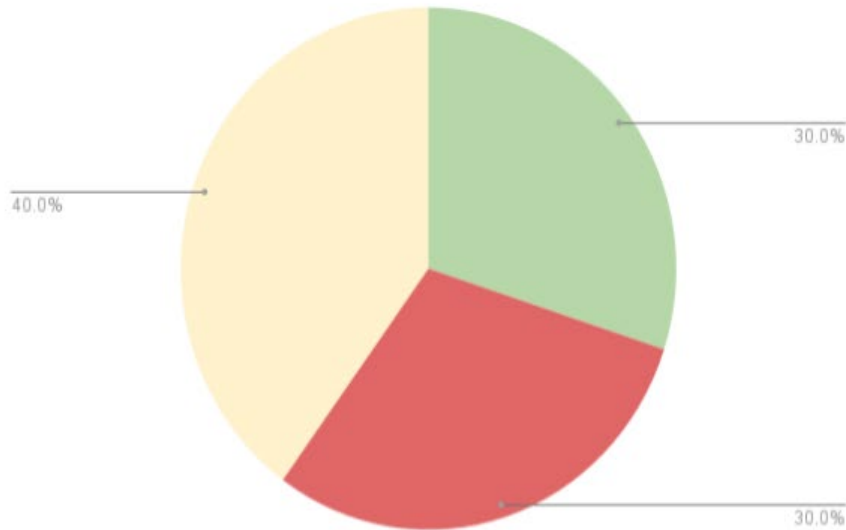


### Duluth's first Natural Resource Management Program Plan

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE  
NOVEMBER 8, 2021







### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

- 3.3: Support state policy and regulatory changes that enable the city to meet its climate and energy goals
- 3.4: Incorporate climate mitigation, resilience, and justice considerations into city budget planning process
- 3.10: Develop a City sustainable purchasing policy



### MINIMAL PROGRESS

- 3.2: Adopt a building benchmarking policy for public buildings with a voluntary phase-in for private-sector commercial buildings
- 3.7: Enable increased installation and procurement of clean energy for residents and businesses
- 3.9: Reduce residential and commercial solid waste through increased diversion



### SOME PROGRESS

- 3.1: Accelerate sustainable building design for new and substantially renovated buildings
- 3.5: Incorporate climate and energy actions into TIF district requirements
- 3.6: Integrate resilience in the capital improvement plan and internal policy for all city infrastructure projects
- 3.8: Enable increased installation and procurement of clean energy for residents and businesses

# Policies

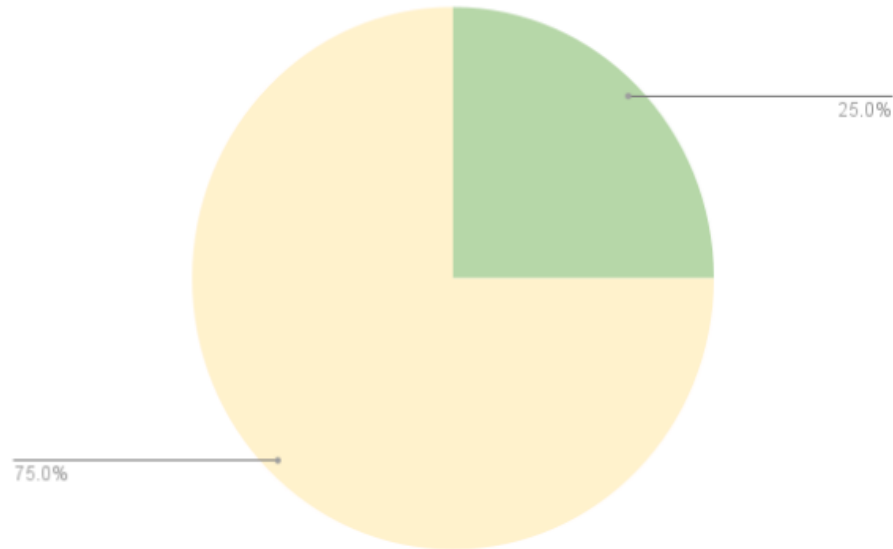
- **Building Owner Performance Requirements** adopted for City projects
- **Residential solar fee schedule** revised: fees reduced
- Parking revisions
- 2021 **LNPK bike lane**
- **Better Bus** program
- Engagement in State policy



# Objective 4: Financing and Workforce

Actions		Action Leads
S1	4.1 Find a sustainable mechanism to support internal energy funds for continued implementation of the City of Duluth Energy Plan	Property and Facilities Management, Finance, Sustainability
S2	4.2 Explore funding/financing mechanisms to reduce emissions from Duluth Energy Systems	Public Works and Utilities, Duluth Energy Systems, Sustainability
S3	4.3 Increase funding for non-motorized transportation and improved connectivity (Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeways Plan)	Planning and Economic Development, Community Partners
S4	4.4 Seek resources and partnerships to catalyze renewable energy development and energy efficiency, especially in vulnerable communities	Sustainability, Property and Facilities Management, Community Partners, Human Rights, Community Relations
S5	4.5 Identify funding and financing opportunities to implement stormwater strategies	Engineering, Public Works and Utilities, Property Parks and Libraries, Sustainability
S7	4.6 Seek funding to engage vulnerable communities in city resilience planning initiatives and implementation	Sustainability, Public Works and Utilities
	<b>4.7 Collaborate with local partners to identify green job opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase the number of sustainability-related jobs in the community through workforce and economic development partnerships</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work with local partners to identify and invest in business opportunities that will support sustainability and create new jobs, including those that can recycle waste streams to create new resource materials</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Support development and expansion of green-focused product and service lines among local businesses</li> </ul>	Workforce Development, Sustainability, Human Rights, Community Relations, Community Partners





## SOME PROGRESS

- 4.1: Find a sustainable mechanism to support internal energy funds for continued implementation of the City of Duluth Energy Plan
- 4.2: Explore funding/financing mechanisms to reduce emissions from Duluth Energy Systems
- 4.3: Increase funding for non-motorized transportation and improved connectivity (Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeways Plan)
- 4.6: Seek funding to engage vulnerable communities in city resilience planning initiatives and implementation
- 4.7: Collaborate with local partners to identify green job opportunities
- 4.8: Plan and prepare to grow the city equitably and sustainably in consideration of future climate migration

## SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

- 4.4: Seek resources and partnerships to catalyze renewable energy development and energy efficiency, especially in vulnerable communities
- 4.5: Identify funding and financing opportunities to implement stormwater strategies

# Internal: Sustainability Fund

- **\$150k** invested for Strategic Facilities Planning
- **\$250k** for City buildings energy efficiency
- **\$200k** in gap funding for hybrid/EV fleet replacement incentives established
- **\$300k** for green infrastructure (biofiltration/native plantings) in Lincoln Park (City Park)
- **\$100k match** for Street Sweeping improvement
- **\$37,500 match** for EAB forestry work
- **\$27,450 match** for hybrid ladder truck
- **\$15,000** Lead for America Fellow - Community Resiliency
- **\$5,000** for Congressionally Directed Spending request preparation

# External Funding

- **\$34M total** for sustainability-related projects
- **Partners include:** FEMA, USDOT, DOE, MN DNR, GLISA, MN GreenCorps, AmeriCorps, MN Lake Superior Coastal Program, MPCA, Healthy Babies Bright Futures, Cities of Service, USDN, ACEEE



# What's Next?

## *2023 and Beyond*

# Department of Energy RACER grant

## Form Follows Function (F3)

### Community energy resiliency planning

- **\$483,497** for City staff salaries + fringe, travel, and indirect costs to plan solar + storage use and develop a toolkit for Dept. of Energy
- **\$494,316** of contractor work, including solar siting and project partners



**Timeline:** 3/1/23 thru 2/28/25

**Outcome:** community resilience plan for solar + storage opportunities

- Technical feasibility
- Economic pathways
- Community desires
- Toolkit for other cold climate, medium-size cities



# Facilities Strategic Planning

## Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant

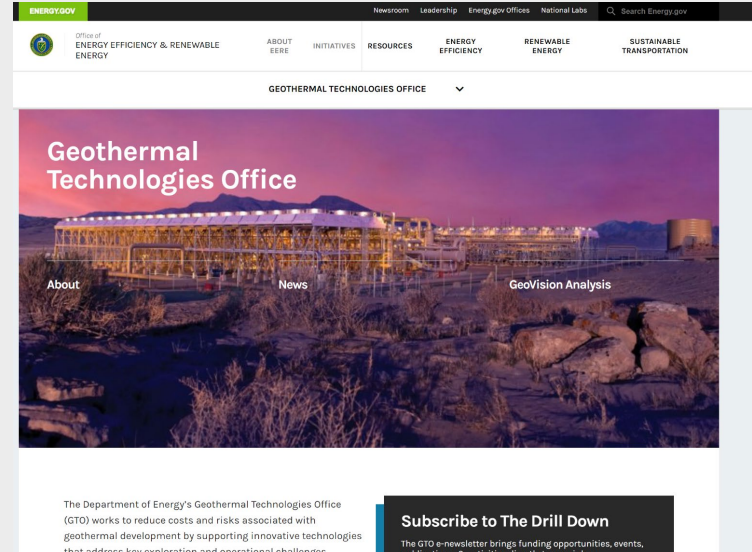
**EECBG Formula Funds (\$144k):**  
plan to apply for voucher, strategic energy planning process/function



# Submitted: Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment

## DE-FOA-0002632 - encouraged to proceed!

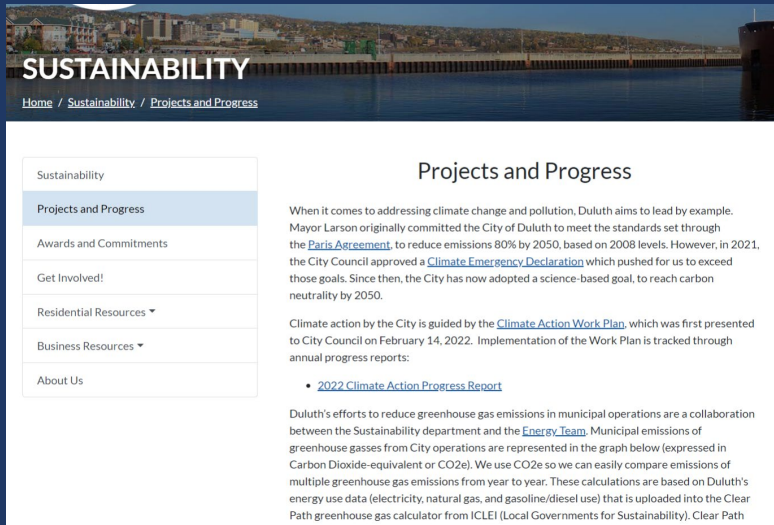
- Phase I: Feasibility study partners
  - City of Duluth (M. Granley, J. Benning, E. Foshay)
  - Ever-Green Energy (feasibility and design)
  - Ecolibrium3/Main Street Lincoln Park (neighborhood engagement)
- Phase II: Construction project application
  - Opportunity to align with West Superior Street 2026 construction



EVER-GREEN  
ENERGY™

# Thank You!

For more: The 2022 Climate Action Work Plan Progress Report may be found on [duluthmn.gov/sustain](http://duluthmn.gov/sustain) under “Projects and Progress”



**SUSTAINABILITY**  
Home / Sustainability / Projects and Progress

Sustainability
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Awards and Commitments
Get Involved!
Residential Resources ▾
Business Resources ▾
About Us

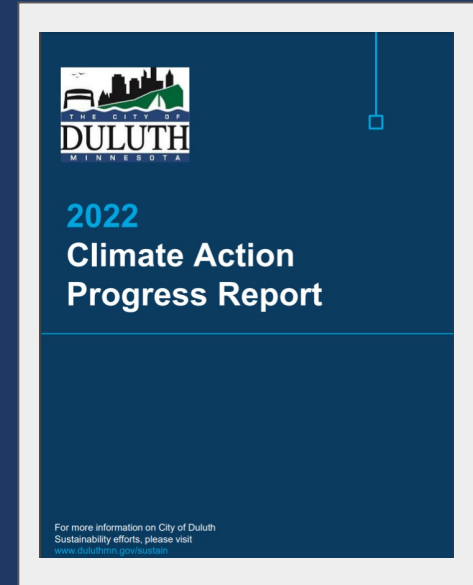
### Projects and Progress

When it comes to addressing climate change and pollution, Duluth aims to lead by example. Mayor Larson originally committed the City of Duluth to meet the standards set through the [Paris Agreement](#), to reduce emissions 80% by 2050, based on 2008 levels. However, in 2021, the City Council approved a [Climate Emergency Declaration](#) which pushed for us to exceed those goals. Since then, the City has now adopted a science-based goal, to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Climate action by the City is guided by the [Climate Action Work Plan](#), which was first presented to City Council on February 14, 2022. Implementation of the Work Plan is tracked through annual progress reports:

- [2022 Climate Action Progress Report](#)

Duluth's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in municipal operations are a collaboration between the Sustainability department and the [Energy Team](#). Municipal emissions of greenhouse gases from City operations are represented in the graph below (expressed in Carbon Dioxide-equivalent or CO<sub>2</sub>e). We use CO<sub>2</sub>e so we can easily compare emissions of multiple greenhouse gas emissions from year to year. These calculations are based on Duluth's energy use data (electricity, natural gas, and gasoline/diesel use) that is uploaded into the Clear Path greenhouse gas calculator from ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability). Clear Path



**THE CITY OF DULUTH MINNESOTA**

## 2022 Climate Action Progress Report

For more information on City of Duluth Sustainability efforts, please visit [www.duluthmn.gov/sustain](http://www.duluthmn.gov/sustain)

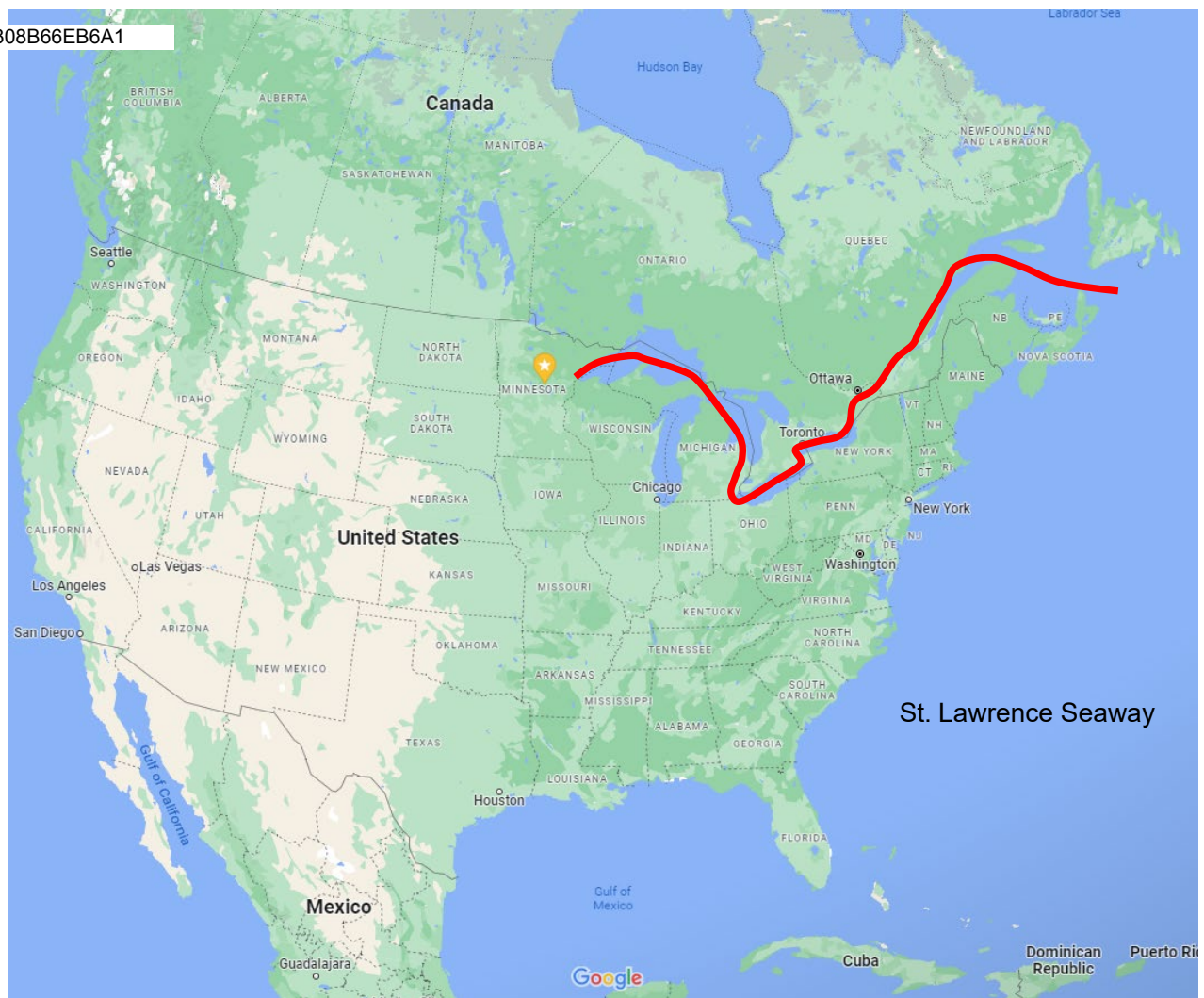
# Sustainable Transportation



Duluth Planning Commission  
March 9, 2023

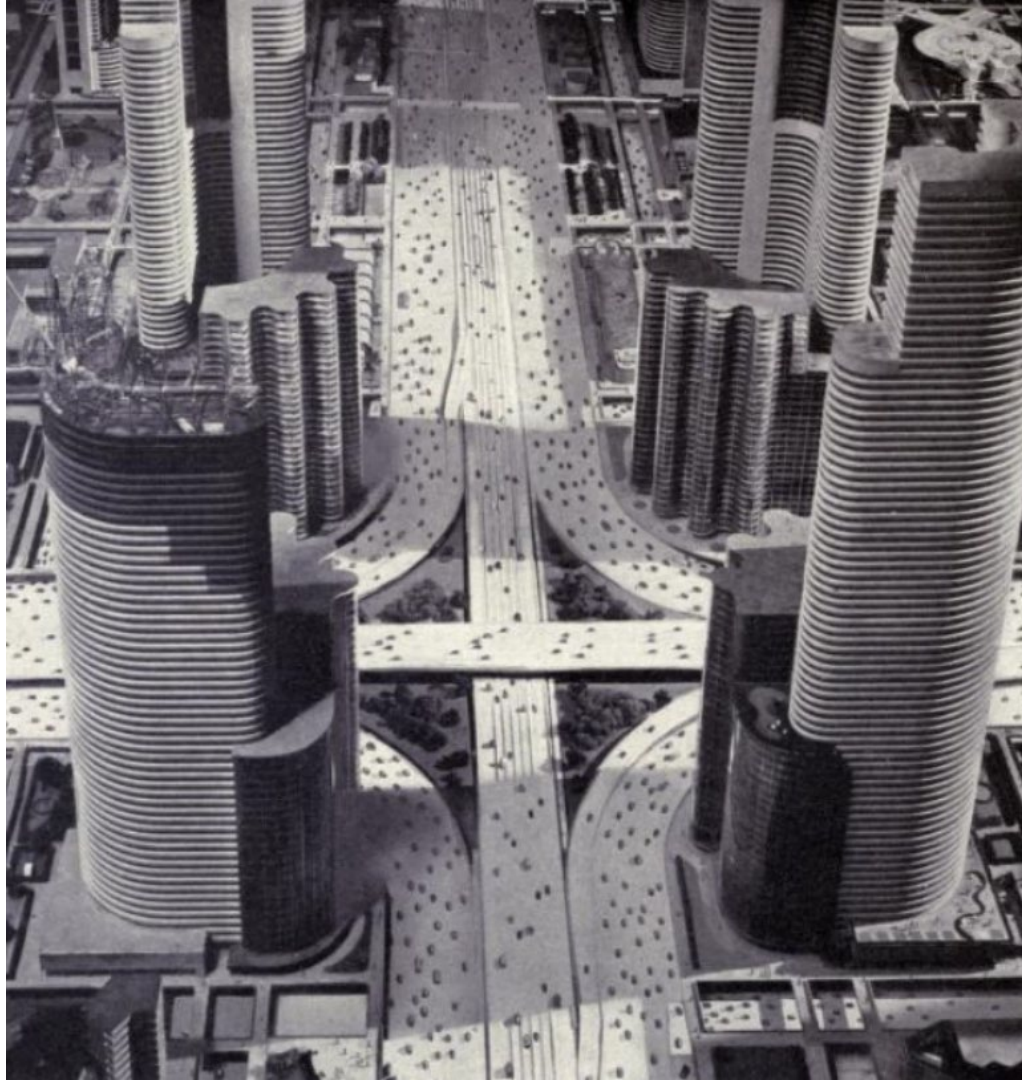


- Cities are shaped by their transportation systems.



## 1939 - Futurama

- Exhibit at the New York World's Fair
- Designed by Norman Bel Geddes
- Sponsored by General Motors
- Looking 20 years into the future





CANAL PARK

DOWNTOWN  
- WATERFRONT

North Shore  
Scenic Railroad  
Seasonal historic train excursions

Lake Superior  
Railroad Museum  
Report-based displays & excursions

Duluth Public Library

600-780 W  
Michigan St Garage

Playfront Park

Amsc



# Big Picture Trends

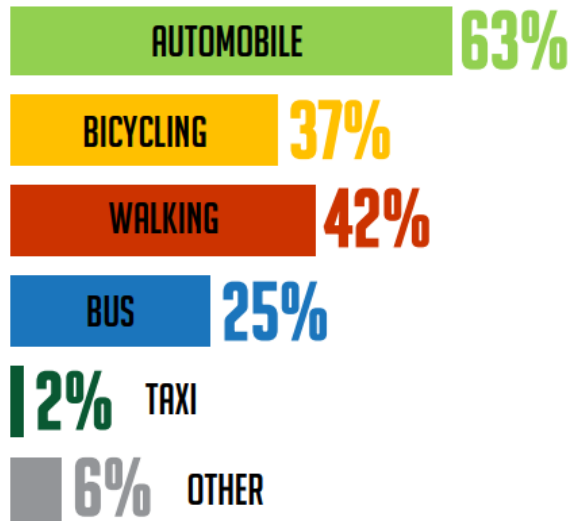
- Expectations of the role and function of streets has changed
- Changes in how we fund roads/streets
- City goals and plans
- New mixed-use developments in Duluth
- E-commerce and telecommuting



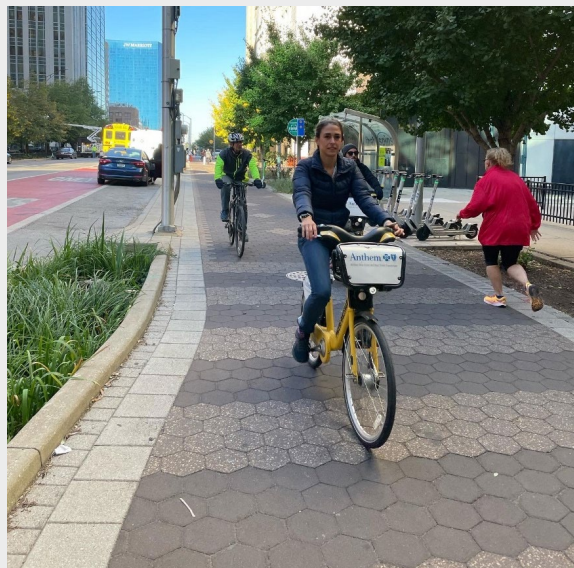
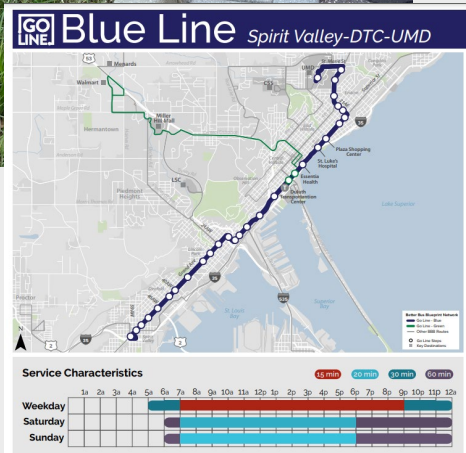


# Multimodal Transportation System

Ideally, what would be  
your preferred method of  
transportation for  
everyday travel?



*Source: Imagine Duluth 2035 Survey.  
Participants could select up to two  
options.*



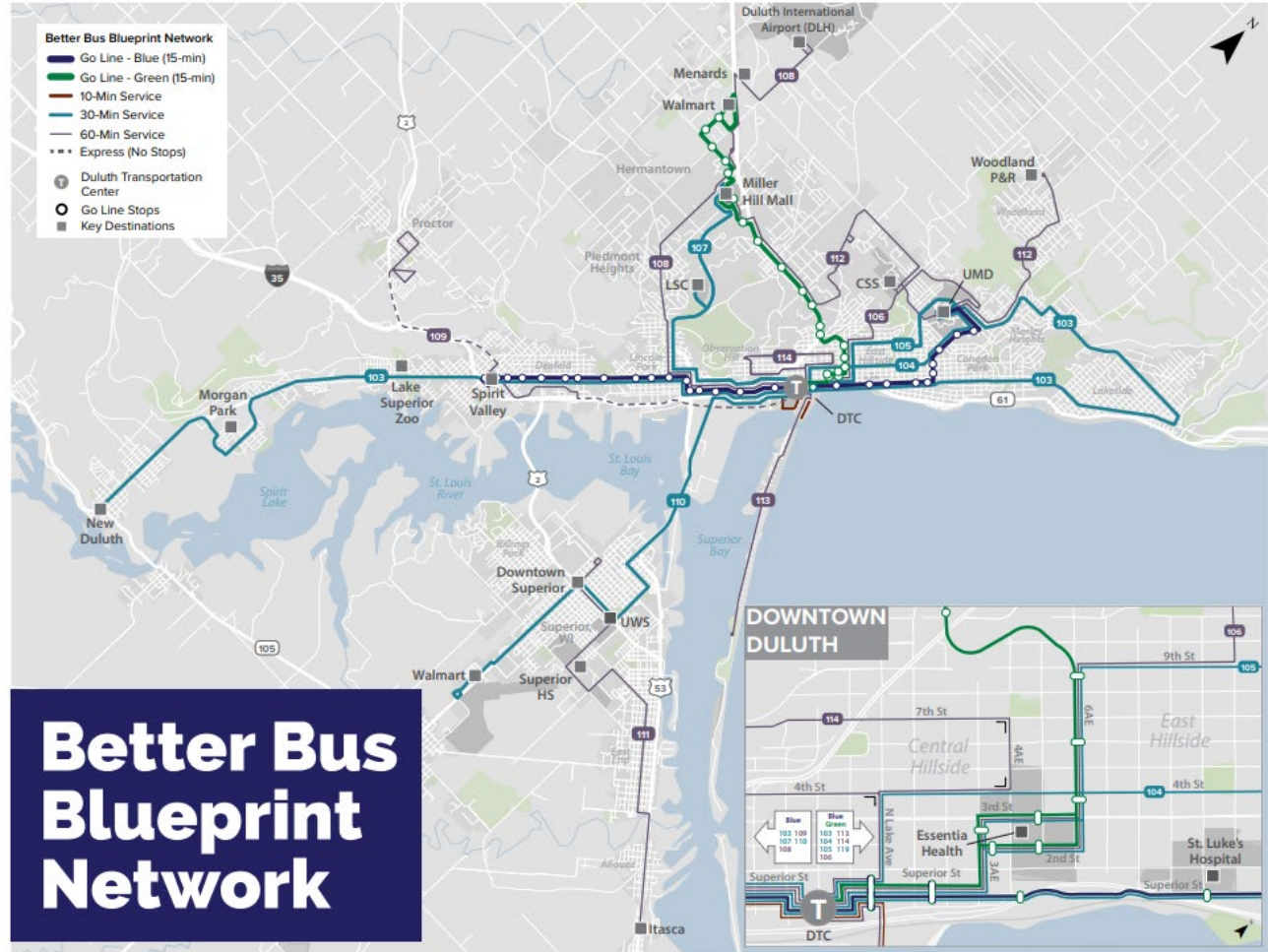
# Plans are in place...

## Multimodal transportation

- Transit
- Bikeway
- Pedestrian

# Duluth Transit Authority (DTA)

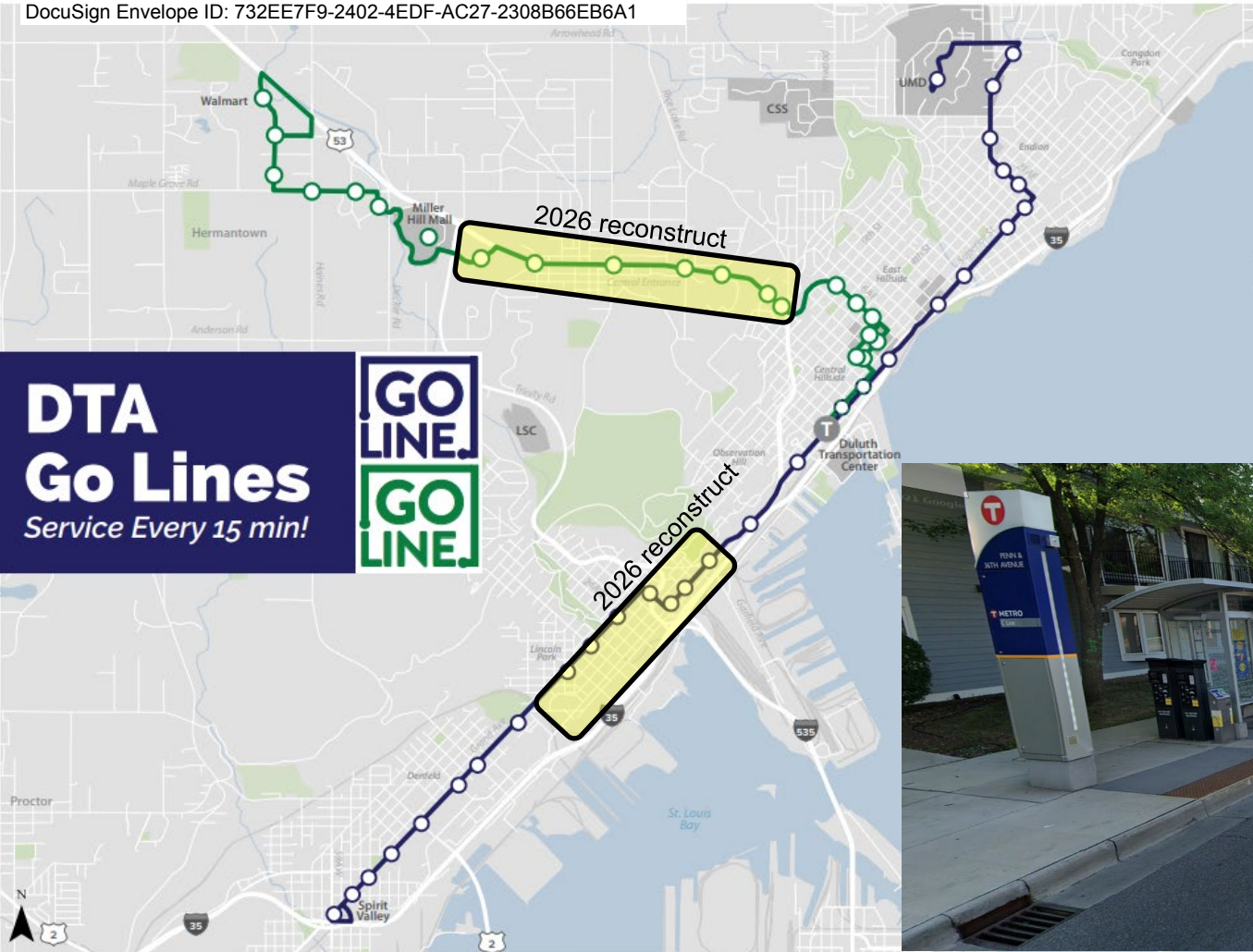
## Transit Network Redesign



**Better Bus  
Blueprint  
Network**

# Bus Rapid Transit

**DTA**  
**Go Lines**  
*Service Every 15 min!*



# West Superior Street: Active Transportation Corridor Project

- **\$25M RAISE** (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) **Grant**
- Business district revitalization – local, small business focus
- Community and City desire a “street of the future”
- Regional Infrastructure with disproportionate neighborhood impacts

## LNPK 156

Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan, August 2022





# Sustainable Transportation



Duluth Planning Commission  
March 9, 2023







# Zenith Award for Plan Implementation - 2023

Duluth, Minnesota

*“Zenith City of the Unsalted Seas”*

- Dr. Thomas Preston Foster, 1868



# Zenith Award for Plan Implementation

*Ze-nith – n. 1. The most successful period of time. 2. The highest point reached in the sky by a celestial body. 3. Culminating point*

- A project that has been built, or a program or event that has been conducted, that supports the goals, policies, or recommendations of a City of Duluth plan or study.
- Chosen by Planning Commission at its Annual Meeting
- Guideline of 1-2 awards each year
- Award winners will be invited to attend a presentation at a Planning Commission meeting

# 2022 Award

## Enger Lofts

*1832 W Superior St*

**Developer: One LLC**

- Former home of Enger and Olson Furniture
- Remodeled to provide 33 apartments
- Provides additional housing in the Lincoln Park Craft District



# 2023 Award Nominee

Leijona

*521 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street*

## **Developer: New History**

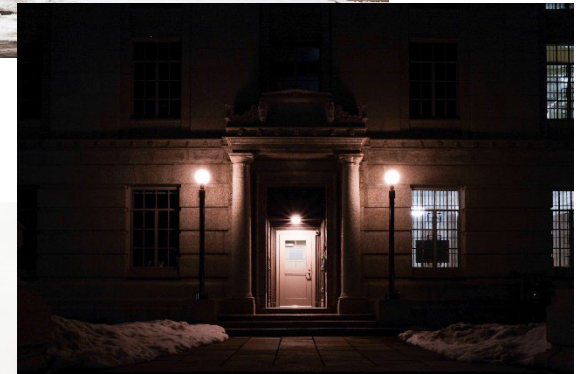
- Former home to thousands of inmates as the St. Louis County Jail
- Remodeled to provide 33 apartments
- Provides additional housing downtown Duluth while reusing a historic building



# 2023 Award Nominee

Supports Imagine Duluth  
2035 Governing Principles  
1, 5, 8, and 9:

- *Reuse previously developed lands*
- *Promise reinvestment in neighborhoods.*
- *Encourage mix of activities, uses, and densities.*
- *Support private actions that contribute to the public realm.*





Do YOU know of a Zenith Award  
Nominee?

