



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

April 8, 2025

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

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## MINUTES

### **Call to Order**

Chair Klemz called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Aaron Klemz  
Sam Stoxen  
Avonna Starck  
Justin Foell  
Heidi Ferris

Absent: Dustin Norman  
Mark Hansen

Others Present: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner  
Representatives from the Park Plaza Cooperative  
Representatives from the Metropolitan Council

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Ferris to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Starck. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of March 11, 2024 Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Starck to approve the March 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

2. Presentation by Park Plaza Cooperative on Climate Planning Workshops

As part of planning efforts for the regional climate action plan, the Metropolitan Council has been engaging with community organizations to identify local climate priorities. Park Plaza Cooperative

recently completed a workshop series and presented their results to the commission. The representatives presented on themes of building trust and increasing access to programs. The group recommended:

- 1) No drive days
- 2) Solar panel recycling
- 3) Tree planting

The Commission discussed:

- 1) Upcoming tree planting at Park Plaza
- 2) Increasing outreach
- 3) Filing public comment on utility's triennial plans to improve access to energy rebates for manufactured housing residents.

PowerPoint attached. No action was taken.

3. GreenStep Cities Annual Report

Ms. Workin shared that the GreenStep Cities annual report was included in the packet for review.

No action was taken.

### **Old Business**

4. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin shared that the City submitted a grant application to the Met Council to retrofit toilets in Park Plaza.

5. Energy Action Plan updates

Ms. Workin shared that the HRA program open house went well. She also said that the City will be moving forward to develop contracts with Cedar Creek for the Commons Park solar array and Apadana for the Public Works solar array.

6. Outreach and Event updates

Ms. Workin shared that the seed swap was very successful. She also encouraged commissioners to bring toys for the Community Toy Swap at the Environmental Fun Fair.

### **Other Items**

7. Informal Status Reports

Ms. Workin asked Commissioners to RSVP for the commissioner dinner on 4/21 if they haven't already done so.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Klemz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Stoxen. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rachel Workin

Environmental Planner

# Climate Change in our Community

Presented by: Angel, Lerroy &  
Sebastian

Representing Park Plaza Cooperative



# Introduction

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Park Plaza Cooperative, Fridley

Our passions are:

- Climate awareness
- Emissions reductions
- Saving energy



# Presentation Overview

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- Data sources
- Key themes
- Recommended actions



# Data Sources

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The information was gathered through interviews and discussions focusing on the following areas:

- Energy savings in buildings and homes
- Improving transportation efficiency
- The effects of climate on plants and gardens
- Extreme weather conditions

# Primary Themes

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**Trust:** Ensuring that program leaders, as well as government officials, honor their commitments, allowing our community to confidently collaborate with them.

**Access:** Ensuring that the program effectively serves and meets the needs of those it is intended to assist and benefit.

# Trust

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## **Why is this theme important to our community?**

We want to feel secure and comfortable in who is working with us. In the past, the community was misled with a program that made us lose trust.

## **Why does it matter?**

Not having trust could lead to hesitation from people in our community and we might lose out on opportunities.

# Trust

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- Previous experience with home energy audits
  - Audits found things to fix but there were no resources to do the fixes
  - This resulted in people losing trust with these programs



# Access

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## **Why is this theme important to our community?**

Access is really important to us because if we have the right resources it could help struggling families, elders, and those in the lower income community.

## **Why does it matter?**

If resources are not accessible, we lose out on opportunities that might help our community reduce costs and reach our climate goals.

# Access

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- Cost: Many actions related to climate cost money, like solar panels and electric cars.
- Type of program: There are programs that don't always work in Park Plaza because we have a manufactured home community.



# Recommended Actions








# Require No Drive Days

Have days only certain cars can drive to reduce carbon emissions. If cars still continue to drive on no drive days have them pay a fine.

For reference Mexico City does something similar in order to reduce the country's pollution and carbon emissions.



Day	Last number of license plate	
Monday	5  6	1st Saturday of current month
Tuesday	7  8	2nd Saturday of current month
Wednesday	3  4	3rd Saturday of current month
Thursday	1  2	4th Saturday of current month
Friday	9  0	5th Saturday of current month

# Solar Panels

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Exploring recycling old solar panels as a way to reduce the cost of acquiring solar panels.

Develop a class focused on the fundamentals of solar energy, designed to educate the community and raise awareness about sustainable energy solutions.

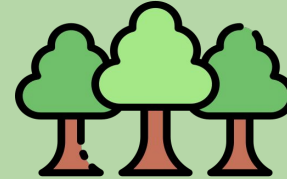
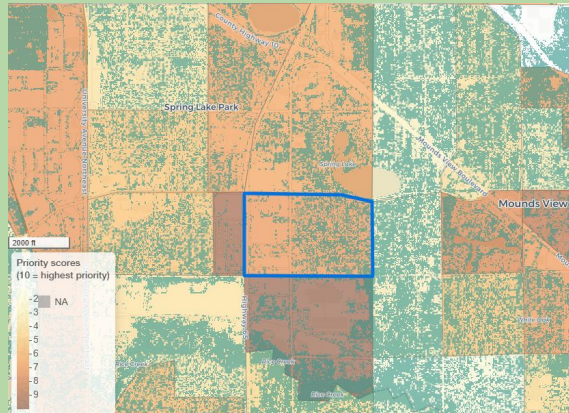


# Plant More Trees

Plant more trees all over Fridley to help combat climate change. According to Metropolitan Council's Growing Shade [map](#), our neighborhood is a high priority area for tree planting.

Trees have a strong effect on keeping our environment cool.

Planting more trees can improve air quality, provide more shade, reduce energy use and support wildlife.



# Reflection

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- The project provided an opportunity to understand how other people in the community are thinking about climate change.
- We recognize the need for greater community climate change awareness through educational classes and reliable information sources.
- Additionally, people are interested in taking action on efficiency and renewable energy if cost wasn't an issue.



Questions?

Thank you

