

Climate Committee Annual Report

Committee charge

The Climate Committee was created by the Board of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to guide and support the agency's climate-related initiatives, the agency's strategic direction, and implementation of the comprehensive regional plan, the ON TO 2050 plan.

Goals and objectives

The Committee seeks to bring a broad, regional perspective to the agency's climate-related initiatives and expand the agency's expertise on specific climate issues and geographies. It serves as a resource on climate issues to CMAP staff, the CMAP Board, the Transportation Committee, the Regional Economy Committee, and other advisory groups, with a special focus on the strategic priorities of:

1. Reducing the transportation system's greenhouse gas emissions
2. Improving the transportation system's resilience to climate change and flooding
3. Ensuring that the region's water resources are protected and sustainably managed.

Summary of work

Work to date

In 2022, the Climate Committee focused on CMAP's strategic direction and its climate workplan. In its inaugural meeting in March, the Committee received a presentation on the draft strategic direction and engaged in a discussion of how it could be adjusted to incorporate what the Committee sees as regional priorities for climate. The discussion included the importance of considering land use, mode shift, and performance measures that help local partners track their climate goals.

Each of the final three meetings in 2022 focused on one aspect of the overall climate program. In May, the Committee discussed CMAP's climate mitigation workplan, including the regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory, transportation mitigation strategies, and the EV charging infrastructure strategy. Members highlighted the need to emphasize the connection between climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, address freight sector emissions, and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

In September, the Committee discussed CMAP's climate resilience workplan, including the Resilience Improvement Plan for the regional transportation system, updating the Flood Susceptibility Index, and incorporating equity in flood resilience investments. Members

discussed related projects that partners are undertaking that present opportunities for collaboration with CMAP and the importance of non-governmental resilience efforts.

In November, the Committee discussed CMAP's water resources work, including water governance, water supply planning, and watershed planning. Ongoing work the discussion touched on included regional water demand forecasting, subregional water supply sustainability planning, and water quality management. Members highlighted the importance of providing planning leadership in the water sector, connections between transportation, salting, and water quality, and opportunities to tie wastewater and stormwater planning together.

Discussion on performance measures

The performance measures the Climate Committee has discussed include the ON TO 2050 indicators associated with climate, water, and the environment, as well as potential measures that could be introduced to assess CMAP's performance in implementing its strategic vision.

Baselines

See the [ON TO 2050 Environment indicators](#).

Current levels

See the [ON TO 2050 Environment indicators](#).

Future work

The Climate Committee will meet in 2023 on January 24, April 25, July 25, and October 24. Many of the projects and programs discussed in 2022 will continue into 2023. Updates on CMAP's transportation mitigation work, transportation resilience planning, electric vehicle infrastructure planning, and water work will be included in future agendas, as will topics such as the Plan of Action for Regional Transit. Further discussion of performance measures to reflect the evolution of the strategic vision will also be included.