

# CLIMATE conversations

Understand how your friends and neighbors are thinking about climate change in Minnesota.

Share ideas on what needs to be done, who would do it, and how you can help.



OUR MINNESOTA CLIMATE

Thanks for trying this.

Thank you for volunteering to host a Climate Conversation. Climate change threatens the very things that make Minnesota a great place to live, from our magnificent 10,000 lakes to our farmable land and clean air. Our climate is changing rapidly, and these shifts are already impacting our economy, our cities and towns, our unique and cherished ecosystems, and our health and well-being.

## What's the purpose?

We must act now to protect our health and economy today and for our children. Solving the climate crisis requires participation from all parts of the state, from every social and economic class, and from the public and private sectors. Reducing climate impacts and adapting to climate change could also be an opportunity to make our communities more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable. Talking about shared goals and priorities is an important way to involve more Minnesotans in **climate action**. By hosting a conversation, you are helping build Minnesota's climate action and protect our future.

**Climate action**  
simply means doing  
something about climate  
change or preparing for its  
consequences.

# How to host a climate conversation

1

**Think about your own connection to climate action.** What motivates you? What concerns you? Read the full guide and explore the resources as needed.

2

**Do you have friends or family that you talk to about climate change** or other environmental concerns? Do you attend a house of worship or participate in a community organization? Are you connected to your community through a school, library, or sports team? Any of these groups may be good candidates for climate conversations.

3

**Invite people you know to a climate conversation.** You want to hear from everyone, so try to keep the group small (5-10 people). If you want to include more people, consider splitting into smaller rooms or tables. Conversations can be in-person or virtual, and you can host them at your home, a park, or anywhere else you have access to space. Plan on 60-90 minutes for the conversation to give everyone time to speak, but your group may need more or less time. If you are able, providing food or beverages can help people feel welcome. A potluck can help build a sense of connection and community as well. A sample invitation can be found on the last page of this PDF. Modify to make it your own!

4

**Host the conversation.** Your role is to make everyone feel welcome and ensure everyone has a chance to participate. You don't need to be a technical expert or a judge of climate solutions. Everyone is here to learn from one another.

- Welcome everyone and identify what inspired you to host a conversation about climate change and invite these people.
- Do introductions if needed.
- Share a song, poem, or blessing to set the tone if you wish.
- Guide the group through the questions below. It can be helpful to give everyone a few minutes after each question to think and jot down notes or draw a picture before they begin sharing.
- Thank everyone for their time and participation. Ask them if they have any closing thoughts to share. If any participants wish to host their own conversation or learn more about Minnesota climate action, direct them to the resources below.



5

**During or after the conversation, please share your story with other Minnesotans here:**

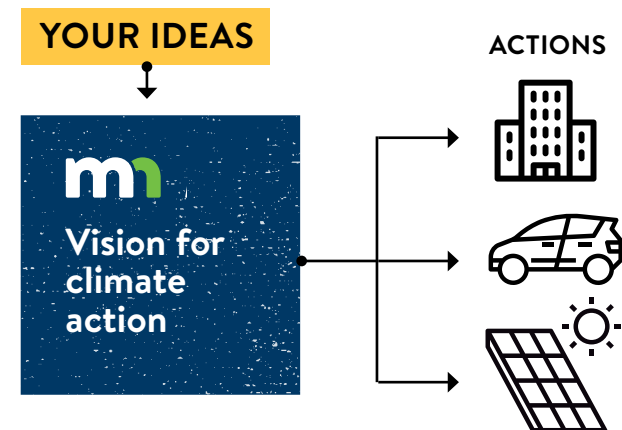
[Minnesota Climate Conversations web site](#)

**Put a pin in the map** to show that conversations are happening in your community and share your concerns, your vision for the future of your community, and your ideas for solutions.



If you're hosting a virtual climate conversation, this website can be used as an interactive conversation guide to share ideas not only with your conversation group, but also the wider community.

The stories and solutions submitted to this site will influence the development of a vision for a resilient future and plan for collective climate action across the state.



# Guiding questions



Think about something in your community or elsewhere in Minnesota that you value. It could be a place, an event, or a hobby. How will climate change affect it? How do you picture yourself or other people experiencing it in 2050?



Can you think of something in your current life that could be improved as Minnesota takes action on climate change? How? For example, bicycle and pedestrian pathways could reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and make it safer and easier to get around without a vehicle.

These are the pollutants that cause climate change.



How do you talk to your friends and family about climate change?



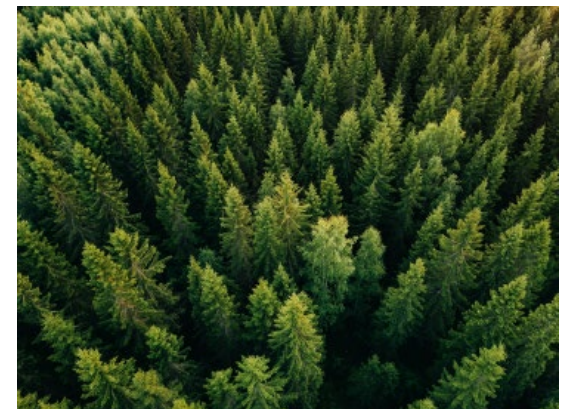
What knowledge, skills and resources that you can contribute to climate action?



Climate change will affect many parts of our lives, including our food systems, local economies, and our natural resources. What actions are you interested in to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or adapt to climate impacts in one of these areas? What actions could you take in your home, family, or friend group? Your workplace? Your community, city, or state? [Share your ideas here.](#)



Thank you for participating today. Before we close, what is one thing you will take away from this conversation? What is one thing you plan to do for climate action after today? [Share your commitment here.](#)





# Resources for hosts and participants

## Learn more

Read about how climate change is affecting Minnesotans now:

[Minnesota climate stories](#)

Learn about projected changes to Minnesota's rainfall, temperature, and ecosystems:

[DNR Minnesota Climate Trends data explorer](#)

Learn about how climate change will affect our health:

[MDH Health Impacts of Climate](#)

## Get involved

Read about actions the state is taking and contribute your ideas: [CAF Summary and Engagement HQ links](#)

Sign up for [Our MN Climate contact list](#) for email updates from state government.

Are you a teacher or student who is interested in climate?

[Check out the Flipgrid for school activities.](#)

Do you want to host a Climate Conversation in a different language? Contact Maggie Wenger, [maggie.wenger@state.mn.us](mailto:maggie.wenger@state.mn.us), 651-757-2007.

### **What if I don't know much about climate change?**

You don't need to be an expert! These conversations don't need to be technical. We want you to bring your own perspectives and vision for the future. If you can, take some time to review the resources on this page. It is also fine to say "I don't know," during the conversation.

### **How do I use the online conversation guide and public engagement portal?**

The online conversation guide provides an interactive version of this document as well as opportunities for individuals and groups to share their climate conversations with others around the state. Climate change isn't a problem that any of us can solve alone. This platform is meant to help people from across the state share their unique concerns, hopes, and ideas for the future, which will help shape our collective vision for future public policy and climate action in Minnesota. You can share the page with conversation participants before you get together and use the site to guide the conversation and share ideas, or you can ask participants if they would like to share either individually or as a group afterward. If you have questions about how the site works, helpful FAQs are [available here](#). If you are having difficulty using the site, please contact Maggie Wenger (see below).

### **What if someone in my conversation does not believe in climate change?**

People will bring their own perspectives to these conversations. Everyone has access to the resources above, but you don't need to spend your time debating climate science or trying to change anyone's mind. Try to find shared values or areas of potential agreement. Maybe both of you love ice fishing and want to make sure your kids can also participate in that hobby? You can also agree to disagree.

### **How do I get help facilitating a climate conversation?**

These can be informal conversations that don't require facilitation. If you want help facilitating or think some of your community might have colliding visions of climate action, volunteer facilitators from the Department of Administration may be available to assist you. Please contact Maggie Wenger (see below) with your location and conversation date, and we will try to connect you with a facilitator.

### **Can I get materials in another language?**

The conversation guide in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali is available. You can also translate the Engagement HQ site by using Google Translate. If you need additional assistance or a different language, please contact Maggie Wenger (see below).

### **What if I'm interested in a particular policy or sector?**

You can shape the conversation to meet your interests and needs. If it makes sense to focus on a particular topic or geographic area, please do so. Whatever connection you and your community has to climate action is great — you don't need to cover everything. These conversations are just a beginning!

### **Still have questions or concerns?**

Email or call **Maggie Wenger**, [maggie.wenger@state.mn.us](mailto:maggie.wenger@state.mn.us), 651-757-2007.

## Sample invitation

You can download this image here:  
<https://climate.state.mn.us/sites/climate-action/files/2021-09/invite-artwork-sm.png>

Here is some sample text. But you know your people, so change it to suit what you think would work best.

You don't need to include a ton of information. If people respond with interest, you can send more details.

Details include:

- Time and date
- Location or virtual event link
- Info about food/transportation/ COVID safety that you want to include

# Climate conversations

Hello, friends!

I volunteered to host a conversation about climate change in Minnesota, focusing on what needs to be done.

Your ideas and opinions from this will be used to create a vision for action in the state.

You don't need to be an expert in climate stuff — just feelings and opinions about what's important and what should be done.

We would meet for about an hour. Let me know if you are interested!

Thanks  
Your name