



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2023, the Sustainable Growth Coalition worked to increase our impact by emphasizing member engagement with each other, with our new project workgroups, and with the community and other Environmental Initiative projects. We sought to bring more community voices to the Coalition through our new scholarship fund and integrate elements of environmental justice throughout our work.

Our most notable accomplishments for this year are explained in detail below.

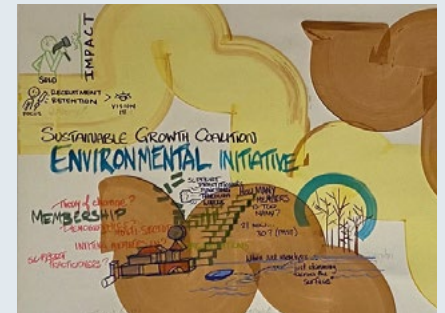
Increasing connection and knowledge

Using a variety of hybrid learning and participation opportunities, members:

- **Explored new approaches** to campus sustainability through an expert panel discussion with Allison Egan from HealthPartners, Marc Olson from Allianz Life, and Fred Rozumalski from Barr Engineering; a tour of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's campus; and small group breakouts that fostered new connections between members.
- **Deepened understanding** of embodied carbon through a conversation with Richard Graves, University of Minnesota, and Beth Tomlinson, Stantec; a small group discussion; and a tour of deconstruction work at the Pillsbury Castle Project with Birch Group and Scrapbox Salvage Company.
- **Formed new connections** at the inaugural summer gathering, where members met Environmental Initiative Awardees and heard Jamez Staples speak on ways to support community ventures.
- **Supported community involvement** through a new scholarship fund that provided stipends for Environmental Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC) fellows to be part of Coalition events.
- **Fostered wider support** for Environmental Initiative programs. Member connections led to financial support for Northside Safety NET interns from Best Buy, Xcel Foundation, and the C.H. Robinson Foundation, which also supported work on Project Green Fleet. Coalition connections to Geosyntec led to them supporting EJCC fellows' attendance of the One Water Summit.

STRATEGIC VISIONING

Throughout the year, staff and steering committee members worked with GrayHall to create a [new strategic vision and framework](#) for the Coalition, which is informed by key member interviews. The draft vision was discussed at the December 2023 meeting. Below is a picture of the art GrayHall's contracted artists created to capture and visualize our conversations.



WORKGROUPS

The Coalition started workgroups around the EV transition, environmental justice key performance indicators, and business involvement in the implementation of the Minnesota Climate Action Framework.

EV transition workgroup members:

- **Finalized a landscape scan** to assist corporations looking for credible materials to assist in their EV transition.

Environmental justice KPIs workgroup members:

- Focused on community engagement around environmental justice, surveying Coalition members to get baseline information.
- Learned from community leaders about community engagement and environmental justice, namely James Trice with the Environmental Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC) and Carolina Ortiz with COPAL.
- Made connections between social determinants of health and environmental justice with Sam Grant of Rainbow Research.
- Reviewed best practices for community engagement with the EJCC meeting series.

Minnesota Climate Action Framework workgroup members:

- Learned more about the thought behind the framework by meeting with state leadership, including Frank Kohlasch of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Marcus Grubbs of the Department of Administration's Office of Enterprise Sustainability, and Michelle Gransee and Peter Brickwedde in the Department of Commerce.
- Ranked state action steps, which led staff to set up a conversation between Coalition members and the MPCA about the rulemaking process for cumulative impacts.
- Coordinated submission of project ideas for the Priority Climate Action Plan.

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ABOUT THE COALITION

More than 20 businesses and organizations form the Sustainable Growth Coalition, a partnership that seeks to develop innovative and equitable pathways within the region to advance a circular economy. Our members are 3M, Ackerberg, Allianz Life Insurance of North America, Andersen Corporation, Barr Engineering, Best Buy, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, C.H. Robinson, Granite Partners, GREATER MSP, Great River Energy, HealthPartners, Merjent, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Metropolitan Council, National Grid Renewables, Stantec, Tennant Company, University of Minnesota, Uponor, and Xcel Energy.



**Scan to learn more
about the Sustainable
Growth Coalition**

Environmental Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving environmental problems collaboratively, convenes the Sustainable Growth Coalition.

