RAMSEY COUNTY

Economic Growth And Community Investment Service Team

September 12, 2022

Service Team Description

The Economic Growth and Community Investment (EGCI) service team is focused on investing in the people, places and land within Ramsey County. The EGCI Service Team provides programs and services that impact the well-being and opportunity of Ramsey County residents. EGCI's departmental mix is unique in its ability to strategically leverage county investments directly to the resident and business communities within Ramsey County. The EGCI Service Team is comprised of seven departments and one division: Community and Economic Development, Housing Stability, Ramsey County Library, Parks and Recreation, Property Management, Public Works, Workforce Solutions, and EGCI Administration which includes the Finance and Accounting Division.

Service Team Performance Measures

Strategic Priority #1: Responding to a Changing Climate through Mitigation, Adaptation, Environmental Justice, and Community Resilience

- Buildings and Facilities – Total energy consumption by <u>all</u> Ramsey County owned buildings (MBTu's/year)
- Transportation – Fleet's fuel usage (# of gallons of fuel used by Fleet system)
- Aggregate total carbon dioxide emissions across fleet and buildings measures

Strategic Priority #2: **Residents First: Placing People at the Center of Service Delivery, Experience and Outcomes**

- Percentage of major programs, services and projects that have undertaken a stakeholder co-creation process with community partners in the past two years that:
  - A) asks a resident to help define the problem or opportunity,
  - B) includes targeted outreach to Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Asian communities resulting in substantive participation,
  - C) fairly compensates residents for their time and ideas based on County guidance for community engagement compensation, and
  - D) shared the tangible action steps taken by the County based on these conversations with participants within six months of completion.

Service Team Performance Measures

Strategic Priority #3: Building Intergenerational Prosperity for Racial and Economic Inclusion
  • Percentage of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Asian workforce employed within EGCI construction contracts greater than $100,000 (based on hours worked)

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change

Performance Measure	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2025 Goal	2030 Goal
Buildings – Total energy consumption by all Ramsey County owned buildings (MBtu's/year)	277,400	245,250	246,700	227,000	204,300
Transportation – Fleet's fuel usage (# of gallons) of fuel used by Fleet system	428,648	414,713	397,294	385,800	308,700
Aggregate CO2 emissions for Building energy consumption and Fleet fuel usage	31,290	28,430	28,850	26,600	23,900

1. Why does this measure matter to Ramsey County and its residents?

Climate change continues to impact the health and well-being of Ramsey County residents, with severity in people of color and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Ramsey County is committed to leading in the mitigation of climate change. Reducing our fuel use and energy consumption are significant steps toward mitigating climate change and the disparate impacts it has.

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change

2) What is your methodology for data collection?

- Energy consumption data for all County owned buildings is collected and tracked in Property Management's Energy Manager program.
- Fleet fuel usage data is provided annually by Fleet to Property Management and entered in Energy Manager.
- CO_2 emission data is an aggregate of annual building energy consumption and annual fuel used by fleet.

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change

3) What is the "story behind the baseline": Why is the trend what it is? Is the data different by race? Why or why not?

Buildings
Reporting on total energy consumption for all owned buildings is available for the first time in 2022. Results are trending favorably. Continued reductions in consumption, to achieve our goal of reducing consumption by 40% from 2008 to 2030, will only be possible by investments in energy saving projects.

Fuel usage
The decreasing trend of fuel use illustrates the effect of transitioning both Fleet's vehicles and equipment to hybrid or electric power. Reduction in fuel use does mean less exhaust/air quality impact, which has a disproportionate effect on areas of concentrated poverty/communities of color. Faster reduction would be possible, with specific action and investments. Specific actions/investments could include improved low emission vehicles and/or battery technology, and more widely accessible charging infrastructure.

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change

3) What is the "story behind the baseline": Why is the trend what it is? Is the data different by race? Why or why not?

Aggregate CO_2 emissions for Building energy consumption and Fleet fuel usage

- Reduction in energy and fuel use means less exhaust/air quality impact, which has a disproportionate effect on areas of concentrated poverty/communities of color.

- The ability to report aggregate CO_2 emissions for the County provides an additional measure in identifying the overall footprint and environmental impact of County energy decisions.

- Aggregate CO_2 information and goals can help the EGCI team identify CO_2 specific actions and investments in building systems, vehicles and battery technology to directly impact and reduce CO_2 emissions.

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change Examples
Property Management

EGCI departments have a history of collaboration to reduce energy consumption and have been participating on the Energy Governance Team for many years.

- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, over 40% of the total U.S. energy consumption is by the residential and commercial sectors in buildings.

- Significant investments have been and are necessary to further reduce energy consumption in Ramsey County buildings.

- The county, through EGCI departments, will prioritize new capital funding for energy related projects based on the projected energy reductions. For example, at the Shoreview Library, before capital investment, energy use was at 101 kBtu per square foot per year and after investment usage was reduced to 48 kBtu per square foot per year.

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change Examples
Public Works

Dimensions of how climate change is driving infrastructure investment

The acceleration of climate change challenges how the County plans for and invests in infrastructure.

- The combination of dramatic increases in how much regional rainfall comes during severe storms and the aging of our water/sewer and stormwater systems results in substantial needs to address the capacity of our water-oriented infrastructure.

- With the transportation sector representing the largest contribution to air pollution/greenhouse gas emissions, the County is investing in alternative mobility options including a broader network of bicycle and pedestrian trails, high-capacity transit corridors, as well as safer more connected pedestrian areas. Multimodal options are intended to provide ways for residents to meet some of their daily needs without use of a passenger vehicle.

- The heat island effect can impact both the longevity of our infrastructure, as well as the overall livability in our communities and the effects are disproportionately felt by our most vulnerable populations.

Strategic Priority #1: Climate Change Examples
Parks and Recreation

Green space and pollinator efforts

Green spaces in urban environments are critical for reducing the effects of climate change. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department has over 7,278 acres of natural open green space within the park system. In 2016, the County Board declared Ramsey County as a pollinator-friendly county and encouraged efforts to increase pollinator habitat, among other actions. Since this board action, Parks has restored and planted over 755 acres of pollinator-friendly native prairie landscapes.

Strategic Priority #2: Residents First

Performance Measure	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2025 Goal	2030 Goal
Percentage of major programs, services and projects that have undertaken a stakeholder co-creation process with community partners in the past 2 years that: **A) asks a resident to help define the problem or opportunity** **B) includes targeted outreach to Black/African American, American Indian and other racially/ethnically diverse communities resulting in substantive participation** **C) compensates residents for their time and ideas based on County guidance for community engagement compensation, and** **D) shared the tangible action steps taken by the County based on these conversations with participants within 6 months of completion**	N/A	N/A	2%	50%	100%

Strategic Priority #2: Residents First

1. Why does this measure matter to Ramsey County and its residents?

EGCI programs and services significantly impact the opportunity and prosperity of residents. Black/African American, American Indian and other racially/ethnically diverse communities are disproportionately impacted by policies and decisions where they historically have lacked input, participation, and decision-making power. Programs and services funded through EGCI have the opportunity advance economic prosperity, opportunity and agency for residents both directly and indirectly. Systems within EGCI departments can contribute to the exclusion of various resident county populations. Collectively, EGCI departments acknowledge that those with lived experiences are better able to dismantle systems and ensure programs and services are transformed to better serve their unique communities.

Strategic Priority #2: Residents First

2) What is your methodology for data collection?

- Given the unique ways in which EGCI departments serve residents each department was tasked with outlining what constitutes a major program, service or project in their service area.

- These department level decisions were done in partnership with the Director and Performance Measures Lead for each department.

- Each department then reviewed if all 4 items were executed for past or current projects.

- The percentage is the collective total across the EGCI team reflecting those major programs, projects or services which included all elements identified in a stakeholder engagement process.

- This is a new measure and refinements over time to how this is captured and measured are expected.

Strategic Priority #2: Residents First

3) What is the "story behind the baseline": Why is the trend what it is? Is the data different by race? Why or why not?

EGCI has worked to enhance our ability and intentionality around community engagement. This measure pushes EGCI forward toward co-creation. EGCI believes the community has the information needed to help us do better and that system and service performance will improve when we take the step beyond engagement.

Ensuring EGCI engagements meet the identified criteria will take focus, intentionally and a changing of the way in which we do our work. Progress is possible as the measure establishes and defines the steps required for true co-creation. The prior work around community engagement created a foundation on which to launch this new standard for EGCI and prior work allows the leveraging of existing relationships and allows us to remove barriers to engagement.

Strategic Priority #2: Residents First Examples

Why Departments Selected This Measure

Library

The process of co-creation is not yet standard within the Library. Monthly engagement with the Library's governing board of seven residents from suburban Ramsey County occurs currently. In addition, we are partnering with community on the development of our strategic plan. We will be intentional about engaging residents around upcoming projects at the Maplewood and Mounds View libraries.

Workforce Solutions (WFS)

Leveraging existing funding streams and federal COVID-19 relief funding, and the departments' unique leadership role in the workforce ecosystem, WFS continues to expand, develop, and align community partnerships to bring proximity of decision making closer to residents impacted by services and programs.

Housing Stability Department (HSD)

HSD will be receiving new to us Local Homeless Prevention Aid for youth and families. We will plan for 2022/2023 to start engaging youth and families on defining the problem, needs and strategy. This will be a unique opportunity to co-create the definition of the problem.

Strategic Priority #3: Intergenerational Prosperity

Performance Measure	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2025 Goal	2030 Goal
% of Black/African American, American Indian and other racially/ethnically diverse communities workforce employed within EGCI construction contracts greater than $100,000*	BIPOC 18%	BIPOC 17%	BIPOC 14%	BIPOC 32%	BIPOC 45%

Based on hours worked

Measure includes data from Parks and Recreation, Property Management and Public Works departments. 2025 and 2030 goals include the above three and Community and Economic Development.

1. Why does this measure matter to Ramsey County and its residents?

Many Ramsey County residents – disproportionately Black/African American, American Indian and other racially/ethnically diverse communities due to systemic inequities – do not experience economic prosperity, facing barriers to accessing family-sustaining wages, housing stability, wealth-building opportunities, health, and economic opportunities.

Strategic Priority #3: Intergenerational Prosperity

2) What is your methodology for data collection?

- We are transitioning toward an automated process, but currently this is collected through a blend of manual processes and software applications gathering construction contract information.
- Each department who contributes to this measure (Parks, Property Management, and Public Works) extracted this information and their individual department contributions were totaled to arrive at this value.
- This measure leverages reported hours worked for BIPOC workers over total hours worked within these contracts. This measure is not based upon number of employees

Strategic Priority #3: Intergenerational Prosperity

3. What is the "story behind the baseline?" Why is the trend what it is? Is the data different by race? Why or why not?

EGCI collectively works to reduce the number of people living at or below the poverty level and works to move people along the housing continuum. Contracts to vendors demonstrate investments from EGCI departments and ultimately is a wealth creation tool for the county to support residents and businesses. Ensuring our contractor's staff is representative is a critical step to ensuring the spending power of EGCI can move individuals within Ramsey County towards economic prosperity. EGCI construction contracts described in this measure account for considerable EGCI investments: $54,104,090 in 2019, $47,978,036 in 2020, and $16,781,810 in 2021.

Construction project contracts already have established workforce goals. The construction industry is continually a high demand industry and often a source for the creation of family sustaining wages. We believe this spending has meaningful and long-term impacts for all Ramsey County residents. Our goal is to seek progress towards contracted staff breakdowns which align with the racial and ethnic demographics of our community.

Strategic Priority #3: Intergenerational Prosperity

Why departments selected this strategic priority

Community and Economic Development (CED)

Diverse workforce hiring goals will be embedded within future redevelopment agreements. CED anticipates utilizing service team shared tools used for construction project tracking as an opportunity to unify and explore impact into projects where the County has strong influence. CED plans on building the systems and processes that would allow for tracking in projects where the County is an investor (i.e. $ support of an affordable housing project). CED currently collaborates with WFS through Section 3 HUD program that seeks to support the hiring and contracting of low-income individuals on HUD funded construction projects.   This program itself has limitations but provides lessons learned in furthering participation of diverse communities in construction projects in the County.

Property Management (PM)

Property Management awards several million dollars a year in construction projects. Through the EGCI Procurement and Contracting Team, efforts continue to improve opportunities to contract with BIPOC businesses and increase the diversity of the workforce.

Strategic Priority #3: Intergenerational Prosperity

Why departments selected this strategic priority
Workforce Solutions (WFS)
Workforce Solutions works to ensure that EGCI departments are connected to and leveraging a diverse workforce through its active role on county funded construction projects to support inclusive hiring practices by employers. In addition, through the work of both WFS and the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County, a variety of programs are made available to support employers to be more inclusive workplaces ensuring that residents from diverse backgrounds are recruited, hired, developed and retained.

Board Workshops

October 25, 2022
Library (EGCI Committee of the Whole with County Board and Library Board)

January 17, 2022
EGCI Public Pathways and Workforce Diversity – WFS, PM, Parks & Recreation, PW, EGCI Admin

February 7, 2023
CED and WFS Performance Metrics (morning)
EGCI PCAT and Workforce Inclusion Workshop – WFS, PM, Parks & Recreation, PW (afternoon)

April 18, 2023
EGCI Energy Management – PM, PW, and Parks

Quarter 3, 2023
Housing Stability, Parks & Recreation, EGCI Admin