



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

What is the Resilient Communities Project?

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is a cross-disciplinary program at the University of Minnesota whose mission is to connect communities in Minnesota with University faculty and students to advance local sustainability and resilience through collaborative, course-based projects. Ultimately, RCP strives to

- build local capacity to address community sustainability and resilience issues
- train students to be future sustainability practitioners in their fields
- produce case studies, tool kits, and other resources that advance sustainability and resilience practice at the community scale

How does RCP work?

Each academic year, RCP selects a partner community (typically a city, county, or tribal government) through a competitive process. RCP collaborates with the selected community to identify between 5 and 30 projects—based on community-identified environmental, social, and economic issues and needs—that will advance local sustainability and resilience. Then, RCP serves as a matchmaker, strategically connecting the community's projects with existing U of MN courses that can provide appropriate research or technical assistance.

Staff and stakeholders from our partner communities work closely with faculty and students to provide local knowledge and deeper insight into the issues, ensuring the work students undertake is relevant to the community context. Outcomes from each University course are documented in a final report and presentation at the conclusion of the semester. Project results are shared with the community, and disseminated through RCP's website for use by other communities.

What are the benefits to communities of collaborating with RCP?

- Efficient access to thousands of hours of student research and technical assistance from any academic department at the U of MN
- An infusion of energy and creativity to spark innovation and get “stuck” projects moving forward
- Opportunities to test new ideas and make data-driven decisions
- Visibility as a leader in advancing sustainability and resilience in Minnesota
- Opportunities to network with young professionals entering the workforce



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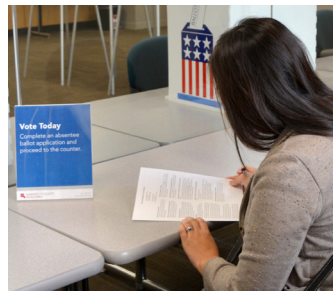
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Resilient Communities Project

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RCP-RAMSEY COUNTY PROJECTS, 2018-2019

During the 2018–2019 academic year, the Resilient Communities Project is collaborating with Ramsey County on 15 community-identified projects that will engage dozens of University of Minnesota courses and hundreds of students to provide information, ideas, and new perspectives that help to advance local resilience and sustainability.

Building Resilience to Emergencies among Vulnerable Populations

Develop a social vulnerability index to map vulnerability and resilience in Ramsey County, and inform future emergency response efforts.

Culturally Appropriate Crisis Interventions

Identify culturally responsive, family-oriented crisis intervention models and strategies to increase use of existing Ramsey County services by underserved populations.

Youth Continuum of Care: Learning from Others

Investigate how other counties in Minnesota and the U.S. evaluate and measure outcomes and performance of youth-serving programs.

Integrating Health and Justice

Analyze data from the County's Adult Detention Center to identify unmet mental health, substance abuse, and chronic health needs.

Exploring the Use of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program for Multifamily Buildings

Identify barriers to using PACE for multi-family residential projects, develop case studies of such projects nationally, and recommend how the program could be used for affordable housing.

Opportunities for City-County Collaboration on Climate Resiliency

Explore opportunities for Ramsey County to assist and collaborate with cities on energy, resiliency, and climate vulnerability efforts.

Putting Residents First: Accessibility of County Service Facilities

Assess the accessibility of Ramsey County service facilities and recommend strategies to increase access.

Stability Starts with a Place Called Home

Review local research and initiatives on housing instability and homelessness, and recommend policies and strategies to address these issues in Ramsey County.

Removing Transportation Barriers to Employment

Conduct a transportation needs and barriers assessment with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions program participants and local businesses to identify challenges in employee recruitment and retention.

GIS as a Communication Tool

Create a web application for County and local government staff to track and coordinate infrastructure construction and maintenance projects.

Innovative Storm Water Management for the Rush Line BRT

Develop design principles and guidelines to manage storm water and enhance the aesthetics and recreational value of areas surrounding the Rush Line's stations and guideway.

Making Connections: Reducing Food Waste While Improving Food Security

Investigate the challenges to and opportunities for diverting edible food from landfills to sources where it can be distributed for human consumption.

Evaluating the Impact of the Environmental Response Fund (ERF)

Investigate the outcomes of ERF-funded redevelopment projects to understand the long-term impact on community and economic development.

Empowering Citizens to Vote

Analyze the causes of low registration and voting among youth in the Frogtown neighborhood, and develop and implement an outreach and marketing plan to encourage greater participation.

Exploring Attitudes toward a Modern Street Car Line along West 7th Street

Examine business owner, resident, and stakeholder concerns about the installation of a street car line along West 7th Street to inform future environmental impact analysis and planning.

For more information about these projects or Ramsey County, contact Ramsey County's RCP Coordinator Lidiya Girma, 651-443-1994, lidiya.girma@co.ramsey.mn.us

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