

North Dakota Priority Climate Action Plan

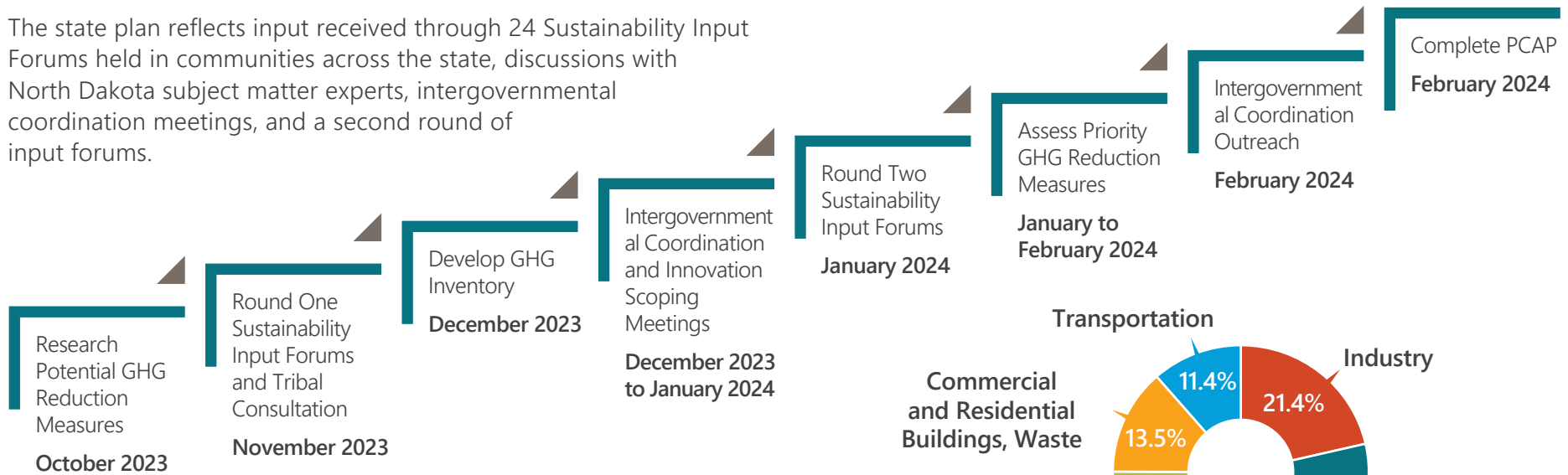
The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) collaborated with North Dakota residents, community leaders, and key economic sectors to produce the first state plan aimed at environmental sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The initial stage of a multi-year planning effort, the North Dakota Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) features five implementation-ready strategies from the state's agriculture, energy, and natural lands sectors to fuel local economies, strengthen energy independence and reduce pollution throughout North Dakota.

Five Implementation-ready strategies included in state plan:

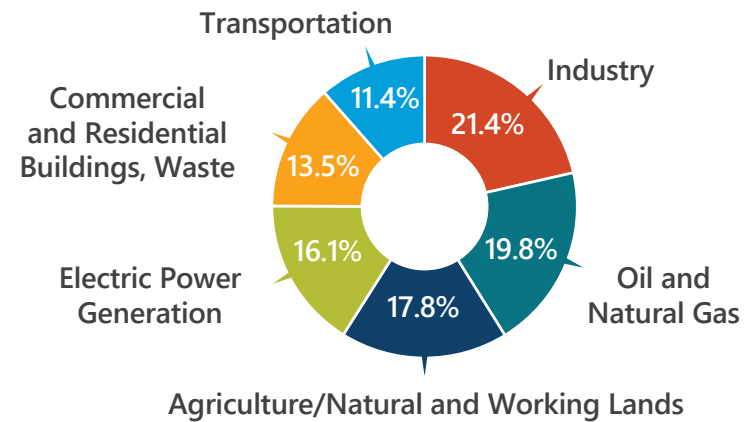
- 1. Energy Conservation Grant Program** – Expand the program to provide a greater amount of funding to support public and tribal building energy efficiency improvements across the state.
- 2. Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture Program** – Extend the program and expand its reach to support farmers and ranchers in up to eight additional Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) with financial incentives for climate-smart agriculture practices on working lands.
- 3. Soil Health Cover Crop Program** – Expand the program eligibility and incentives to support producers in 54 SCDs by implementing cover crops to promote soil health and increasing access to no-till drill equipment.
- 4. City of Fargo LED Streetlight Upgrades** – Upgrade all remaining streetlight replacements throughout the City of Fargo to more energy-efficient and longer-lasting LEDs that use approximately 50% less energy and provide benefits to surrounding communities.
- 5. N.D. Statewide Tree Planting Initiative** – Expand the program to support additional producers in 54 SCDs with tree and shrub plantings to improve soil health and energy efficiency upgrades for tree seedling storage coolers.

APPROACH

The state plan reflects input received through 24 Sustainability Input Forums held in communities across the state, discussions with North Dakota subject matter experts, intergovernmental coordination meetings, and a second round of input forums.



The state plan includes a high-level GHG inventory for the state of North Dakota. The statewide inventory includes six sectors that were identified according to their importance to the state and emissions impacts:



GET INVOLVED

The five strategies included in the state plan form the basis for North Dakota to compete for implementation grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Spring 2024. Additional strategies identified through this planning process remain under consideration for the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), a long-term planning and stakeholder engagement process that will begin later this year. The stakeholder outreach conducted during the PCAP planning process created a sense of empowerment and positive energy among community members. NDDEQ intends to build on the momentum achieved through the PCAP planning process to deepen connections and partnerships with North Dakotans across all sectors and interests through the next CCAP planning phase.

These efforts are supported through a planning grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. North Dakota's Priority Climate Action Plan is available at www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability.