



# Tell your story for policy impact

Share your climate story to move elected officials to take action on climate solutions. They work for you and need to hear your voice!

Dear (title) \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I live in your district in \_\_\_\_\_ (city/neighborhood). I am (job, school, other background) \_\_\_\_\_.

I am writing to urge you to act on climate change.

Why do you care about climate change, what have you seen, how does this affect you? (short story)

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What is a policy solution they can act on? Connect your story to an action, be as specific as possible.

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Thank you for your support as you make decisions that shape the future of our community.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (address)

## Who represents me?

The **District Finder** provides contact and more information about your elected officials.

[www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts)

## Tips for letter writing

- Be concise and thoughtful. Legislators deal with many issues in a short time.
- Grab their attention. Show the impact of climate change in their district using personal stories, examples, and values.
- Make the ask. Share a specific action they can take, whether a bill or policy they influence.
- Be respectful. Your letter will be more influential if you can find shared values rather than criticism or anger.
- Write clearly. Hand-written letters can be very moving, as long as you can read it!
- You can write back again to continue a dialogue and build a relationship.



# Write a letter to your elected officials

Communicating our climate stories to elected officials is a powerful way to help move climate solutions at any level of government.

## Who represents me?

The **District Finder** will list your State Senator, State Representative, U.S. Senator, and Congressperson for your address. Try to learn a bit about them to find how climate change connects with issues they tend to focus on.

→ [www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts)

## What should I write?

- Be concise and thoughtful. Legislators deal with many issues in a short time.
- Grab their attention. Show the impact of climate change in their district using personal stories, examples, or evidence.
- Make the ask. Share a specific action they can take, whether a bill or policy they can influence and how.

## Tips

- Be respectful. Your letter will be more influential if you can find shared values rather than criticism or anger.
- Write clearly. Hand-written letters can be very moving, as long as you can read it.
- Include your name, address, and date. Anonymous letters will be ignored, and you may get a response to then continue a dialogue and build a relationship.

*Dear Senator... (formal greeting using their title)*

*Introduce yourself – where are you from, what is your profession, school, or related background. Clearly say why you are writing.*

*Share your climate story – why do you care about climate change, what have you witnessed, how does this affect your district?*

*Connect with them – we often remember stories more than facts, and relate to values on a personal level.*

*Move to action – what are solutions that they can influence in their position to build resilient communities?*

*Show gratitude – thank them for considering your words and share a common goal for the future.*

*Sincerely... (close with your name, printed if you add a signature)*

# Engaging in Public Policy



## Think globally, act locally

We can take many small actions to reduce our climate impact and build more sustainable communities. We create collective impact through policy solutions that scale our actions across local or state institutions.

## The impact of a climate story

Climate stories are often more memorable and moving than graphs and factsheets. Learn about the impacts of climate change on our communities. Connect with elected officials through your stories and shared values to recommend climate solutions they can take action on.

## Find out who represents you

At the local level, you can promote actions to your school board, city council and mayor, parks and local planning agencies, or your county Commissioners. Most meetings by law are open to the public, or you can find their contact information online or at your local library or public office to reach out directly.

Minnesota's **District Finder** will list your State Senator, State Representative, U.S. Senator, and Congressperson for your address. Learn more about them to find how climate change connects with issues they focus on.

→ [www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts)

## Get involved, stay involved

Tell your climate story as a way to build a relationship with decision makers. The more time you invest in sharing your story, the greater impact you will have. You can become someone they turn to!

Call or email

Write a letter

Attend a public meeting

Visit their office

## Do it yourself

Elevate your own influence in climate solutions by learning more and participating in the decision making process:

- Testify at a public hearing
- Join a group of influencers (union, PTA, board of directors, etc.)
- Apply for appointment to a public advisory [board or commission](#)
- Run for office



## Multiply your impact

Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers about climate change and policy solutions. Encourage them to join you in raising your voices and make climate change a priority when you vote.

*"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." ~Alice Walker*