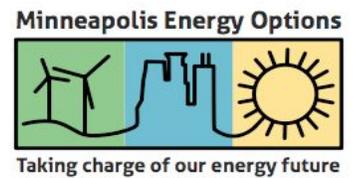




Community Power  
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Minneapolis, MN 55406



### **Community Power 2017 Minneapolis Candidate Questionnaire**

Community Power invites all candidates to complete the following questionnaire to inform Minneapolis voters on positions shaping Minneapolis's energy future:

1. What role do you feel energy infrastructure, sourcing, and decision-making play in shaping livability, affordability, economic resilience and community health for Minneapolis residents and businesses? How do you propose to fulfill that role?

A comprehensive energy policy defines our city's approach to some of the greatest challenges of our time, including climate change and equity gaps. Known nationally as a progressive leader, Minneapolis' reputation for forward-thinking policy must drive forward energy infrastructure planning, power sourcing, and related decisions in a way that prioritizes environmental concerns and delivers benefits that can be shared among all residents of our city. I recognize that energy issues play a critical role in shaping our economy, environment, and public health.

In this realm, it is important for city leaders to challenge our utilities to stand up for a better energy future. Technological advancements and falling costs mean renewable energy and energy efficiency is within closer reach of more people, and we need to figure out how to bring more of each to Minneapolis. We need to identify best practices and tools to reduce the outsize energy bills that burden low-income households. We need to showcase and celebrate our progress to date -- based on my experience bringing community solar to my neighborhood in my role as Vice Chair of our neighborhood board, I know there are good stories to tell. In talking with residents throughout my neighborhood, I've affirmed what they want: reliable energy that is both sustainably produced and equitably distributed.

Innovative ideas and fresh perspectives at City Hall are important, but so is a record of meaningful action and outcomes. I bring both to the table. With my proven ability to get things accomplished, I am running to fix problems with durable solutions -- not just talk about them.

2. Do you think Minneapolis is adequately prepared to respond to climate change? If yes, how? If no, what do you think Minneapolis should do to become prepared?

No, I do not believe Minneapolis is adequately prepared to respond to climate change. The city needs to ensure it has financial reserves on hand to address the fallout from our changing climate. This includes small-scale things like ensuring adequate treatment of the icy streets and sidewalks this year's chaotic freeze-thaw cycle brought, as well as larger-scale items like renewable energy development to reduce our reliance on dirty power.

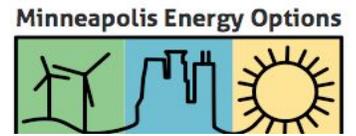
All of Minneapolis would benefit from a more sustainable housing stock. Our homes could reduce energy use through better insulation, while rooftop solar provides a cleaner option that allows residents to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. City leaders should champion programming that supports residents in reducing their energy consumption, and at the same time continue to promote growth in our citywide composting effort in order to reduce the waste we feed into environmentally

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destructive systems. Taken together, such initiatives can help fortify Minneapolis against ongoing risks imposed by climate change.

3. Do you support a policy of 100% renewable electricity for city operations by 2021, 100% renewable electricity by 2030 for all Minneapolis energy users, and 100% renewable energy in all sectors (electricity, heating, transportation, industry) by 2050 for all Minneapolis energy users (check one)?

- Yes, by those timelines
- Yes, by (define years) \_\_\_\_\_
- No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

4. What do you intend to do during your time in office to help achieve the Minneapolis Energy Vision (established by City Council in 2014) and the goals of the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership?

I intend to stay engaged with Clean Energy Partnership to ensure that the city and the utilities that serve its residents remain proactive in building a robust, viable clean energy economy. I recognize the unique opportunity Minneapolis has to advance a progressive energy vision, and it is up to city leadership to support staff and the advisory panel that drive these efforts through the Clean Energy Partnership in particular.

The City Council is where progress begins. It is one of the best places to get things done. City government connects intimately with people's everyday lives. It offers an opportunity to demonstrate that a better city, if not a better world, is possible. I'm not running to simply be an elected official, though my 17 years working in policy equips me to do well in that role. To me, this is more than a job. I'm running to champion and enact progressive policies that improve our democracy from the inside. That includes ensuring our city is prepared to handle climate change, and is at the forefront of sensible energy policy -- both of which carry distinct benefits for residents.

5. Do you support securing universally-accessible financing that allows all Minneapolis energy users to make energy efficiency improvements and switch to clean energy with no upfront cost, no debt or credit checks, and monthly payments on utility bills that are overall lowered due to the energy saved?

- Yes
- No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

Inclusive financing is a common-sense idea that we need our utilities to adopt in order to promote equity in Minneapolis. Especially considering that other utilities around the country have proven this method works, and with little risk, it is important for city officials to advocate for the wide

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Minneapolis Energy Options



cross-section of residents who could benefit from inclusive financing.

6. Do you support using the rooftops of Minneapolis public buildings to host community solar gardens that create access for low-income families as well as train and hire Minneapolis residents of color to install and maintain them?

- Yes  
 No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

Yes. The rooftops on our municipal real estate offer significant potential for community solar growth in Minneapolis. The city should explore this type of solar development with an eye toward providing access to low-income residents specifically, inspired by a model we have seen successfully deployed by some faith communities (including at the Shiloh Temple in north Minneapolis). Where possible, I would also like to see Minneapolis walk its talk on sustainability and source power for its municipal buildings using rooftop solar installations, for example. In doing this, the city could be an example to businesses and others in the community.

In addition, building out this community solar infrastructure would provide a jolt for our local clean energy economy. When this comes, we should be intentional about encouraging hiring and workforce development programs that benefit Minneapolis residents, targeting populations traditionally left on the sidelines, including people of color. The clean energy job market is on an upward growth trajectory, and this mindset would carve out a place for these workers in a very promising corner of the economy.

7. How would you advance equitable access to energy resources for renters and low-income families to ensure that all Minneapolis families have healthy, comfortable homes, affordable energy bills, and the choice to shift to clean and efficient energy?

Tariff-based inclusive financing offers a direct pathway to equity in our evolving energy economy. Such a policy would ensure that all Minneapolis residents, regardless of credit score or property ownership status, can access the cost savings and comfort that come with energy efficiency. This framework, pioneered and proven in other markets, would provide a powerful tool in our city's fight to reduce emissions and promote a clean energy economy. Additionally, with the return of some of the NRP money from the city, neighborhood associations could be encouraged to explore using some of that returned capital to invest in inclusive financing and other programming that promotes sustainability in their community.

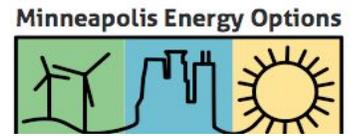
In Hennepin County, households earning less than 50 percent of the federal poverty threshold spend an average of nearly 30 percent of their income on energy bills. That is simply unaffordable and unfair. Widely accessible energy efficiency programs, such as inclusive financing, break down the barriers that currently keep these residents -- many of them renters -- from making upgrades that boost the efficiency of their housing stock and drive down energy costs.

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Finally, city leaders must be tuned in to the process for setting utilities' rates. It is their responsibility to advocate for Minneapolis residents as needed in the regulatory process, to safeguard our communities against policies that unfairly increase rates or block access to renewable energy.

8. Would you support an increase in utility franchise fees of 0.5% of Minneapolis energy sales to be re-invested in dedicated long-term funding for local energy solutions (**check all that apply**)?
- Yes
  - No
  - Dedicated funding could additionally/instead come from these sources:
  - These specific energy solutions need this kind of long-term funding:

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

Yes, I would support an increase in the utility franchise fee. Our economy is not equipped for the very real effects of climate change and Minneapolis needs to dedicate more funding for local energy solutions. An increase to the utility franchise fee makes sense as a way to incentivize private, residential investment in local energy solutions. The technology has changed around energy production and large utility plants located outside of the city are no longer the best way to meet Minneapolis' power needs.

Minneapolis residents need to have more options in how they receive energy, considering technological advancements that make distributed generation and energy efficiency more accessible, as well as the environmental costs of our outdated existing power-delivery system. Increasing the utility franchise fee would give the city added leverage in exploring, advocating for, and implementing policies that better support a more equitable, sustainable energy economy. The fee increase, for example, could allow the city to supplement other incentives available for Minneapolitans who choose to implement energy efficiency or on-site generation at their homes and businesses. In general, Minneapolis should focus on deepening these reserves through a franchise fee increase in order to increase the range of energy-related programs and incentives we offer all residents. I look forward to exploring the possibilities.

9. How should the City of Minneapolis evaluate the effectiveness of the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership as its second two year work plan ends in late 2018? What criteria or thresholds would convince you that the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership is succeeding (and should be sustained and expanded) OR is failing (and the city should pursue a different route)?

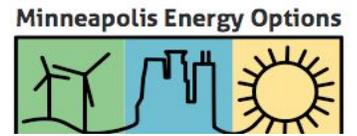
While the first two years of the Clean Energy Partnership formed the foundation for delivering outcomes in the future, it is now time to dig into actionable steps that will deliver significant outcomes. It is essential that city leaders call for rich data collection to pinpoint programs'

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effectiveness and identify areas ripe for improvement.

There are ready-made rubrics for measuring some progress thanks to benchmarks included in city documents. We already know that Minneapolis is targeting emissions reductions of 80 percent by 2050, and needs to reach 75 percent of the city's households with energy retrofits by 2025. These are ambitious benchmarks, and adhering to interim goals would be a valuable bridge to ensure we achieve them. In addition, more robust data gathering and analysis by the city will help to guarantee our utilities are being proactive in offering and introducing programs that support our aggressive emissions standards.

In addition, city leaders must emphasize community engagement throughout this process in order to make sure that all residents can access the benefits of energy efficiency and reduced emissions. Creating more public awareness about the Clean Energy Partnership could also help reinforce to the utilities that meaningful action from them is essential and in demand. Low participation rates inhibit the effectiveness of even well-designed energy efficiency programs, and it is important for Minneapolis to strive for better for all its residents and business owners.

Minneapolis has sketched out plans for substantial action on emissions reduction and clean energy, and identifying measurable outcomes is the crux of this effort. Setting goals is merely the first step -- and the easiest one. It is now time to definitively set Minneapolis on track to hit these benchmarks. We must maintain an awareness that the Clean Energy Partnership provides an innovative platform for delivering results, but slow progress to date suggests we need a more intentional, data-driven approach to map our next steps and evaluate success.

10. If Xcel Energy and/or CenterPoint Energy refused to agree to the measurable outcomes you defined in question 9, or failed to achieve them, would you support active exploration of other options by the City of Minneapolis, including: terminating the franchise agreement, securing Community Choice Aggregation, or pursuing energy municipalization (**check one**)?
- Yes
  - Yes, under these conditions:
  - No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

Assuming the utilities fall short of the city's stated expectations, Minneapolis leaders should consider alternative methods to achieve the emissions reduction and clean energy goals that will define our ability to thrive economically and environmentally into the future. The Clean Energy Partnership is a unique and potent tool for our city to advance and achieve our stated objectives, but its effectiveness directly depends on the utilities' willingness to cooperate, collaborate, and innovate. City leaders must maintain a high standard for accountability and an awareness of our options going forward.

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