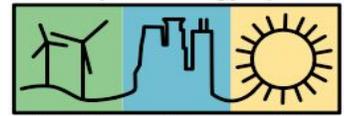




Community Power
2720 E 22nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55406



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?

As mayor, I have led on environmental policy by investing heavily in programs and initiatives that move the dial on climate, sustainability, environmental justice, and resiliency, and by ensuring Minneapolis has a strong voice nationally and in Minnesota to drive change where the City and I do not have direct control. I have not been afraid to push hard and take on tough fights where needed to make sure we're doing what needs to be done to protect our environment. I have also done this work with the clear understanding that success depends on the leadership of community, and on our own investment in community capacity to provide that leadership.

I'm proud that Minneapolis is leading the country in climate change action and prevention. In fact, Minneapolis was one of the 16 Climate Action Champion Communities recognized by the White House in 2014 for our City's leadership in reducing carbon pollution. In 2015 during my State of the City address I announced a yearlong challenge for members of our community to commit to easy daily activities to help reduce our city's carbon footprint. We can't increase equity within our communities unless we have healthy, livable communities for all the city's residents. The energy choices we make as a City and as individuals matter: from how individuals consume energy, to the way the city sources energy, to the investments we make in cleaner energy from proven and emerging technologies.

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?

Frankly, nobody is ready or where they should be in terms of preparedness for climate change. However, Minneapolis is well-positioned. We have a strong Climate Action Plan, just hired the City's first Chief Resiliency Officer to create a complementary Resiliency Plan, and are poised to adopt a Zero Waste Plan by the end of this year. Those plans are important, as they help shape the concrete investments, policy changes, and initiatives that move the dial on climate change mitigation and resilience. We have seen successes as a result, from the successful implementation of organics recycling, to our building energy benchmarking program, to the early success of the Clean Energy Partnership, which has so much potential to move the dial on climate and to be a national model.

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We get to celebrate our successes, and we get to ensure the City is innovating and investing to meet its Climate Goals, which has become more critically important in the context of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Accord. We can do this by expanding and building on the Clean Energy Partnership with dedicated, predictable resources to provide programming to ensure efficiency programming reaches hard to engage communities. I've pressed and will continue to press for an increase to the City's utility franchise fees to allow us the capacity to invest in these efforts. We can also focus on the City enterprise to ensure we lead by example as we ask our partners to do more. We are exploring the electrification of our vehicle fleet, working with Xcel Energy to purchase as much renewable energy as they can provide, and accelerating our conversion to LED streetlights. We should also help businesses and residents move the dial on climate. For example, I support policies that incentivize the utilization of roofs and solar panels, and would also push for a program that makes roofs and solar panels accessible to the residents of Minneapolis. The start-up costs associated with the installments of these green technologies can act as a barrier for community members that may not have the ability to pay for the initial costs. It is also a priority to ensure that access to these technologies is equitable for all citizens of Minneapolis.

- 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:

Let me be clear - I fully support to moving Minneapolis towards being a zero waste and green-powered city as soon as possible. In recent years, the growth of renewable energy usage and production has exceeded expectations, but there are still capacity issues that are inhibiting large shifts toward 100% renewable energy. While we may be able to shift toward green technology sooner than expected, we also need to make sure that our progress is informed by reality. This requires constantly updating our vision to make sure that we are still on the best path to becoming a city powered by 100% renewable energy.

With my support, the City recently requested Xcel Energy provide 50% of its electricity through the Renewable Connect program. We know it is not likely Xcel will have the solar or wind capacity to meet that request but the signal we are sending is clear: the City is willing to pay for renewable energy and Xcel should increase its renewable capacity to meet that demand.

Beyond what we can do to encourage more production from the utility, through leveraging our buying power to the Clean Energy Partnership goals, the City can focus on reducing our own demand for electricity and explore the potential for direct generation at city facilities as technology continues to

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advance. We can and should, for example, explore the installation of solar panels to support our operations at the Fridley water plant site, and I have asked staff to do just that. The investments we could make have the potential to be both environmentally and financially successful.

In Minneapolis we have made progress on greening our fleet by following our 2011 Green Fleets policy. It is time for an update, however, to reflect new realities and innovation in electric and hybrid vehicles, and the challenges of alternative fuels. In my second term I will lead the way to work with Public Works staff and the City Council to update our policy.

We should also look to leverage our own investments to support and grow public demand for and access to renewable or carbon emission reducing technologies. I am proud that in 2014 we partnered with MNDOT and the MPCA to install 39 new charging stations downtown, including in city-owned ramps. I support expanding these efforts and expanding the public's access to electric vehicle charging.

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 helped lead the creation of the Partnership, funded consistently as Mayor, and I serve as its co-chair. Indeed, I have had to fight Council Members to retain that funding, including my current opponent for mayor Jacob Frey who voted to cut funding for the Partnership and its work as one of his first budgetary decisions as Council Member.

The next step will be finding sustainable and significant ongoing funding for CEP programming, and I have already been working with staff and partners on the City Council and through the CEP to move ahead with a proposal to increase to our utility franchise fees for that purpose.

As a candidate in my first campaign for Mayor, I took a lot of heat in 2013 for supporting Minneapolis Energy Options. I was clear at the time: knowing there are options can lend fresh motivation to utilities to come to the table with the city in common cause. And indeed, that is what happened. I'm proud of the work we've already been able to do as a result and I'm excited to do even more over the next four years.

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:

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The start-up costs associated with the installments of these green technologies can act as a barrier for community members that may not have the ability to pay for the initial costs. It is also a priority to ensure that access to these technologies is equitable for all citizens of Minneapolis. I have been working through the Clean Energy Partnership to support on-bill financing for these investments.

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, where the building's structure can support solar gardens I support using those spaces to host solar gardens. I also support policies that incentivize the utilization of roofs and solar panels, and would push for a program that makes roofs and solar panels accessible to the residents of Minneapolis. While startup costs on these new energy strategies can be a barrier, the jobs created by those startup costs can also be a tool for advancing economic equity within some of our more vulnerable communities.

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?

Far too often many families that are financially challenged are faced with the dilemma of "Heat or Eat". This is an unfortunate reality that some of our Minneapolis residents have been faced with annually.

We are currently underway with a community engagement pilot project targeted at low income renters and their landlords. This project encourages enhanced and targeted outreach to educate and enroll residents to participate in energy efficiency programming. This targeted effort is significant due to the specific portion of our population that has historically been overburdened by high utility costs and is the most vulnerable residents to the impacts of global warming. We understand that this programming presents an opportunity to assist our communities that face energy challenges.

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

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- 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 have been working with City staff and council members to create a long-term, sustainable funding stream for clean energy programming and the Clean Energy Partnership. While there may be other revenue sources to draw from, I have been focused on raising resources from enhanced revenues in the utility franchise fees. This has been and will be a key priority for me this year.

The CEP needs a sustainable funding source in order to complete the objectives stated in the work plan. In addition to completing work plan items, a sustainable funding source will be provide further support for the city to achieve it's ambitious goals set out in the City's Climate Action Plan. A dedicated funding source will not only allow our programs to further expand and develop, it will provide an opportunity to create new programs that target energy efficiency, emissions reductions and cleaner energy.

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)?

We are moving forward based on this, and taking the steps necessary to reach our goals. As this work continues, and as technology changes, it may be necessary to reassess the best way forward. But this is not to say we should go back to square one - it means working with our partners to leverage all of the tools at our disposal to achieve our ultimate goals.*

Some goals are already spelled out by the city, and as a co-chair of the CEP, I am focused on holding everyone to the goals of 80% of emissions reductions by 2050 and energy retrofits for 75% of homes by 2025. These are easily measurable goals. But the partnership needs ambitious and measurable interim goals as we move into the second two year work plan for the group. Just identifying targets will require greater, richer data collection and increased commitment from the utility companies. That's why we must identify every leverage point we have to bring Xcel and CenterPoint to the table to really encourage the increased efforts we need from our energy source partners. I believe the CEP has been a success so far, but that success is clearly the first step and the Partnership work will need to be strengthened and supported in order to achieve our shared goals.

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**)?

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Yes

Yes, under these conditions:

No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

As a candidate in my first campaign for Mayor, I took a lot of heat in 2013 for supporting Minneapolis Energy Options. I was clear at the time: knowing there are options can lend fresh motivation to utilities to come to the table with the city in common cause. And indeed, that is what happened. I'm proud of the work we've already been able to do as a result and I'm excited to do even more over the next four years. We were only able to get Xcel and Centerpoint to the table in the first place by making it clear that if they wanted to serve our communities, they had to make the communities' goals their goals.

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