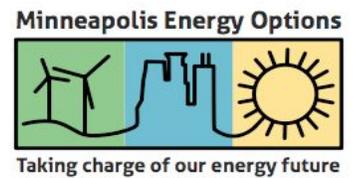




Community Power
2720 E 22nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55406



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?

The energy economy is in a disruptive phase. Drawing on my experience in leading coalitions that have made clean and efficient energy accessible to everyone, I'll help the city embrace that disruption for the benefit of everyone in our city. Let's explore what's possible.

I envision a future with reliable, affordable energy, where families don't have to choose between paying for heat or paying for food. Minneapolis has the capacity to reduce the burden of energy costs on low-income residents and small businesses. That same efficiency improves people's health through healthier homes and improves air quality by shifting from burning waste at the HERC to other renewable sources. Those improvements hold the greatest benefit in the parts of the city with the highest numbers of for low-income families and people of color and Indigenous people (POCI) where housing quality is lowest, air quality is poorest, and health impacts are the greatest. These are also the communities who have historically seen the least benefit from utility programs. Today we have an opportunity to ensure everyone has access to programs and the benefits of a transitioning energy economy.

Residents and the City can generate our own power from renewable sources, owning the production, improving air quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is possible for us as a city to chart our own energy future with changes such as:

- Emerging technologies like microgrids
- New rulemaking on "avoided costs" that set the purchase price of renewable energy sold to the grid
- Access to data through energy benchmarking

As council member, I will fulfill that role by: acting as a vocal champion for energy programs serving communities they have considered hard to reach for years—particularly renters and/or POCI—as I have for the last 13 years. I will leverage the expertise within my professional, nationwide networks. I will insist that we address all types of customers, not just single family homeowners. Every resident in Minneapolis deserves access to clean air and affordable energy options.

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?

Minneapolis is a national leader in considering the impact of climate change to our city, but



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we are not currently investing adequately in the infrastructure that we will need when changes become even more dramatic than 55 degree February days. We are working hard—in partnership with Xcel and CenterPoint—to reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions and we need to dramatically pick up the pace. As a city, we cannot do it alone.

We need to use the best research to predict how climate changes will shift our weather patterns, so we prepare for more frequent deluges of rain, build streets designed for different kinds of winters, and build infrastructure that serves Minneapolis now and 50 years into the future.

We also need to begin to budget for new kinds of infrastructure. If we do not do this, our most vulnerable residents will be the ones whose homes and communities are at greatest risk from extreme weather events.

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**

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

These goals closely fit the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) recommendations made to the Clean Energy Partnership. As a member of the EVAC making the recommendation, I understand that these are ambitious goals, and—if we start today—achievable goals.

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?

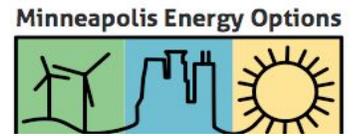
As council member, I would like to sit on the Clean Energy Partnership Board. It is a natural growth out of my role on the citizen advisory committee to the Board, and would allow me to continue my advocacy and passion around ensuring we have engagement strategies that reach neighborhoods and populations that utilities have historically struggled to reach with their programs. I will prioritize the half of Minneapolitans who rent, as they have been underserved for decades. Low-income families and POCI are more likely to rent than to own their homes; this focus takes an intersectional approach to climate justice. I'm pleased that my work with Minnesota Green Communities and as an advocate—together with the work and advocacy of many others—has resulted in the creation of a new one-stop multifamily building friendly program.

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

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due to the energy saved?

- Yes
- No

Through my work in energy efficiency for existing apartment buildings, I have researched on-bill financing tools and I have advocated for them to be accessible to multifamily buildings. Tarrif-based models lower overhead costs and are more consumer-friendly than loan-based models. I support access for all Minneapolis energy users to universally accessible financing tools. If public subsidy is needed for up-front capital, I would prioritize low-income households who have the greatest energy cost burden and the least ability to invest in improvements over high-income households who are able to invest in efficiency without additional support. Subsidy should be focused on market sectors that need subsidy.

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:

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?

My primary work for the last 8 years has been focused in making existing affordable apartment buildings healthy and energy-efficient. The City and the Clean Energy Partnership have many tools available to address the chronic underinvestment in this market sector that is where most low-income and POCI families live. I'm especially concerned about the impact of RUBS billing on vulnerable and low-income families, as it removes all incentives to make apartment buildings more efficient and because it is free of the legal tenant protections against excessive fees or evictions that exist when utility companies are billing tenants directly.

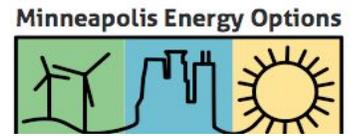
On the EVAC, I have proposed the City use the new tiered rental licensing as a tool to encourage improvements. Poorly performing Tier 3 rental license holders could earn credit towards a Tier 2 license by implementing all cost-effective improvements identified through the Multifamily Building Efficiency Program. I would also explore whether similar expectations could be made for buildings that use RUBS billing.

Another approach to protecting low-income renters from unexpectedly large utility bills is utility data transparency at the time of advertising a rental unit. Multifamily benchmarking has been demonstrated feasible in Minnesota through the EnergyScoreCards Minnesota program

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that I helped lead. The City could require owners publish their benchmarking results and/or tenant-paid utility results in rental advertisements. That transparency, provided before decisions are made, allows prospective tenants would be able to consider utility costs when exploring housing options.

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
 - These specific energy solutions need this kind of long-term funding**

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

The Clean Energy Partnership requires adequate dedicated funding to achieve its goals. As a partnership, funding needs to come from all of the partners. Increasing the franchise fee is the funding source recommended by the Energy Vision Advisory Committee when I was on the EVAC and that will be explored in 2017. I'm open to other funding sources, however the direct connection with utility bills as a vehicle to invest in and transition to a clean energy future makes it a good fit.

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)?

The 2017-2018 workplan adds prorated goals for reaching 75% of Minneapolis households (owner and renter) with utility programs by 2025, the goal set out in the City's Climate Action Plan. The pace of the first two years will not achieve the goals in the Partnership MOU, and a dramatic increase is required in the pace of implementation to achieve them. Recognizing that the adoption of new approaches and expanding goals typically accelerate and gain momentum rather than following a linear growth pattern, the evaluation should be based on whether the Partnership is on a pathway that can meet the 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**)?
- Yes, under these conditions:**

I would support active exploration of other options. Providing reliable, affordable utility services to a community is complex, and changing the relationship of the City to Xcel Energy and/or CenterPoint Energy should not be taken lightly. Our changing climate, and the impacts

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it will have on the people living in our city and across the globe cannot be taken lightly. As a City, we must act aggressively to reduce our contributions to greenhouse gasses, and insist that the utilities meet their obligations to the Clean Energy Partnership as well.

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