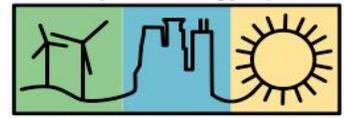




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Minneapolis Energy Options



### 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?

*With Trump in the White House, and a climate change skeptic at the head of the EPA, states and cities have increased responsibility to address climate change, and the issues of community health and livability that follow. Even at the state level the threat of preemption of workers' rights issues sets a dangerous precedent that can undermine even the best conceived local environmental initiatives, as we saw with the pre-emption of fracking in Colorado, or the pre-emption of water regulations in Oklahoma.*

*While I recognize my role on the council is to pass the best possible environmental policy in Minneapolis, I also believe elected officials, especially in cities, have an increased role to play combatting climate change. For example, my colleague in Seattle Socialist Alternative Seattle City Council Member Kshama Sawant passed a resolution to divesting \$3 billion from Wells Fargo in solidarity with Standing Rock. I fully support a proposal authored by Cm Alondra Cano and Cm Cam Gordon in December directing city staff to explore banking alternatives. In the meantime, City Council should pass an ordinance avoiding future financial contracts with Wells Fargo and select an alternative banking institution that does not invest in DAPL or other fossil fuel projects.*

*One of the biggest threats to green energy production is the role of giant corporations like Xcel Energy, who oppose threats to their profits. Even locally, the campaign to address Northern Metal's deceptive polluting practices shows how integral grassroots organizing and community engagement is. As Executive Director of 15 Now Minnesota, we built a movement that took on powerful corporate interests, and are on the verge of winning the first \$15/hr minimum wage in a non-coastal city. I would use these policy, organizing and coalition building skills to push for the best practices regarding environmental and energy policy at the local level.*

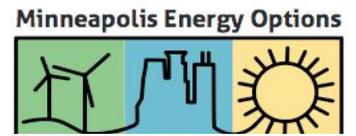
*I reject the big business propaganda that green energy costs jobs. As the Solutions Project shows, moving towards diverse, renewable energy sources not only creates jobs but is financially more stable (over 75,000, 40-year jobs with savings for working people in Minnesota). I especially applaud the commitment to racial and economic equity in Community Power's position document, and agree that a green jobs program should aim to reduce racial inequalities in our city. City Council should use every tool at its disposal to create living-wage union jobs for all through public works programs to develop mass transit, renewable energy, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and affordable housing.*

*My organization, Socialist Alternative, was an early supporter of the Minneapolis Energy Options initiative in 2013, which provided one model for how cities can leverage large corporations. I elected, I will accept only the average wage of a worker in Ward 3 and donate the rest of the \$80,000/year City*

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*Council salary to social movements. I pledge not to take a penny of corporate cash, so that I can uncompromisingly build the movements needed to take on big businesses like Xcel and Centerpoint and rapidly transition Minneapolis away from fossil fuels.*

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?

*According to the results so far, Minneapolis is not prepared. The rate of change is simply not yet sufficient to meet the goals set out in the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, as your own policy brief states. Aggressive action must begin as soon as possible to achieve the concrete steps to achieve these goals.*

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:

*I believe Minneapolis should use every tool at its disposal to try to accelerate the targets. Every time a building is constructed or renovated, street re-paved, light bulb and window replaced or an old house is restored, City Council has opportunity to increase energy efficiency, encourage renewable production, and increase community health, provided it's affordable and actively encouraged by municipal policy.*

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 will support the overall CP position, especially pushing for the exercise of our leverage re: franchise fees to speed and improve compliance with the deadlines and goals in the Minneapolis Energy Vision.*

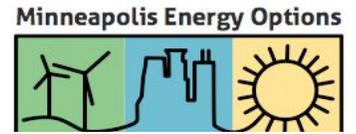
5. Do you support securing universally-accessible financing that allows all Minneapolis energy users to make energy efficiency improvements and switch to clean energy with no upfront cost, no debt or credit checks, and monthly payments on utility bills that are overall lowered due to the energy saved?

- Yes
- No

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Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

*Residents should pay no more than 5% of their income toward utilities. As stated above, this fits squarely with our position to “create living-wage union jobs for all through public works programs to develop mass transit, renewable energy, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and affordable housing.” As well as, “Fight[ing] climate change: Massive public investment in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies to rapidly replace fossil fuels.”*

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 - this is a win-win situation. Public investments in renewables like this are crucial to rapidly replacing fossil fuels in our city, while at the same time creating living wage union jobs and creating major savings in the long-term.*

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?

*I think outreach will be key, and the universally-accessible financing approach above will make that outreach process easier by reducing the barriers to signing up.*

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:

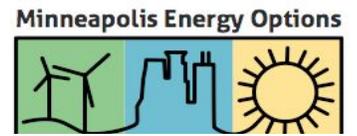
*The position articulated in your brief seems reasonable. I would be open to an alternate funding scenario, if it seemed to be better in some way or easier to implement.*

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

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sustained and expanded) OR is failing (and the city should pursue a different route)?

*I agree with the approach outlined in this section of the CP policy brief:*

*“We believe the City Council should thoroughly review the performance of the Clean Energy Partnership during late 2018 and identify whether its utility partners are adequately delivering. This evaluation in consultation with the EVAC and the community engagement teams, should provide clear definition to the utilities on what needs to change in the Partnership. The City Council should evaluate continuing the current franchise agreement in late 2018 and early 2019 based on the results of the review of the Clean Energy Partnership. If the Clean Energy Partnership proves to be underperforming and the utilities refuse to clearly commit to the changes the city identified the City Council should revisit the other energy options identified in the 2014 Minneapolis Energy Pathways Study, including community-choice aggregation and energy municipalization.”*

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:

*As stated above, divestment from corporate players who have shown a determined resistance to our demands is a strategy that has been successful in Seattle. These companies must never forget that they are public utilities who serve the people and the community. If they cannot serve our needs and meet our clearly articulated goals then they can and will be dismissed. Minnesota has a number of municipal utilities, there's no reason that Minneapolis could not constitute a new one if Xcel and Centerpoint refuse to change their practices.*

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