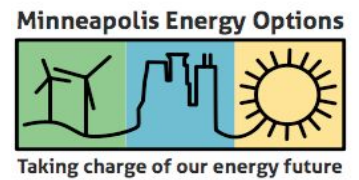




Community Power  
2720 E 22<sup>nd</sup> St  
Minneapolis, MN 55406



### **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?

**An affordable Minneapolis is a continuum that covers the cost of living, wages, energy, healthcare, the environment, and our community initiatives. We have to invest in the infrastructure that will support the Minneapolis of tomorrow. We have to operate our city governance as a matrix organization. Each department should have a dotted line and not a solid one to each other which will lead to effective cross functional/cross governmental collaboration. That diversity of thought will lead to the best possible outcomes and best practices. That type of decision making ensures that both local governance and the community it serves have a voice and are shared stakeholders in the decision making process. From the standpoint of health, using clean energy will improve the air quality and reduce issues such as asthma and other respiratory issues. I have a collaborative leadership style that values the voice of government employees who are subject matter experts in their field and the constituents that I hope to serve equally. This type of leadership is built on respect and trust and allows for transparency and accountability at all levels.**

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?

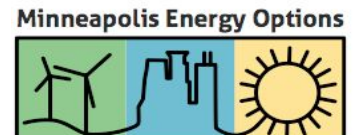
**Minneapolis has the facts and data to be able to move forward into the decision making phase. If we want to meet our aggressive timelines and make progress against those goals, we must build the infrastructure to support an energy efficient Minneapolis. The day to day operations of our city, businesses, and homes often overshadow the significant opportunity to save energy, cut costs, reduce carbon emissions, improve comfort, and make a meaningful contribution to a healthier, more resilient, and equitable community. Climate change is really a public health issue just as much as it is environmental. What we need to develop is an adaptation (the actions we take to prepare) strategy aimed at preparing for future climate changes and their effects to include climate sensitive illnesses. The sustainability of these strategies will greatly depend on how we choose to proceed: publicly, privately or a combination of both. A healthy, green, sustainable Minneapolis will take a collaborative intergovernmental team.**

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

Return Surveys to: [marcus@communitypowermn.org](mailto:marcus@communitypowermn.org)



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Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

**Minneapolis and St. Paul are two of the hardest hit cities due to climate change. Currently, renewable energy fuels only about 21% of MN electricity. Minneapolis is number 2 according to a report from subject matter experts at weather.com. There are many factors that led to this ranking but greenhouse gases rising is certainly among the top reasons. We are getting much dryer and over the last 50 years we have seen a 40% increase in extreme storms. We need green spaces and not more concrete to absorb the heat. The good news is that we have options. Options that allow us to make better use of our space in the city, increase our self-sustainability, and make for a SMART future thinking city for generations of Minneapolitans to come.**

**Awareness is one thing, but action is required. Data shows the root causes for necessary energy and environmental improvements. Our current city council, in conjunction with the City of St. Paul and city business leaders, wrote a SMART city grant proposal. Despite the fact that the grant was denied, the city should move ahead with the proposal and look for clean ways to make it happen. Our current city plan and study can be read [here](#). Urban density can create greener living and utilize our city space most efficiently. I am fully committed to our energy goals in Minneapolis and would look for ways to expedite our goals ahead of schedule/projection.**

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?

- **Continue to add LRT access especially in lower income neighborhoods and supplement with autonomous micro transit options. Explore 3rd generation roadway systems and what that would look like for Minneapolis.**
- **Fully invest in protected bike lanes with green streets (permeable surfaces) for water retention**
  - **Solar bikeway system pilot**
  - **Green/solar rooftops and Urban agriculture**
  - **Carbon sequestration in soil and increasing composting efforts across the city to improve air quality**
  - **Private renewable power generation**
  - **Supporting the efforts of Community Power in part by continuing to organically divest from energy corporations and build the infrastructure for a self sustaining municipal led utility model**

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?

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Minneapolis Energy Options



- Yes  
 No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

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?

**Low income families, whether they rent or own, spend as much as 10% of their income on utilities. No one should have to choose between eating and keeping the lights on. Renters tend to be worse off because they cannot make any decisions for the home to make it more energy efficient even if they could afford to. We need to increase efficiency. Community solar projects can help in this area. In addition, our housing codes need to be more rigorous so that owners are accountable for providing energy efficient rentals to include proper insulation. There are a few faith and community based coalitions in Minneapolis that are helping to bridge the gap like Shiloh Baptist Church and Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light offering their rooftops for solar array host sites. This is a strong start to a future of community coalition partnerships to meet this need. These coalitions and future ones should follow a co-op model. Public financing options and potentially moving to a municipal led bank can remove these cost barriers as well and are part of my affordable Minneapolis model. I also would like to see private renewable power generation at the user level discussed. This would allow for us to organically start to divest from traditional energy sources. The economics involved in this would depend upon (1) the market price or value of renewable electricity; (2) the costs of renewables relative to those of other energy resources; and (3) policies to promote renewables and environmental goals that raise costs of using fossil fuels and/or subsidize costs of renewables. A strong collaborative community led effort will make gains where we have experienced shortages and stagnation in these efforts in the past. Minneapolis needs to be a city of options and we should be supporting growing our self-sustaining infrastructure.**

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: Green bonds.**

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Minneapolis Energy Options



**These are pools of money created to fund renewable energy development activities in a particular region or municipality.**

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

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

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)?

**Air quality improvement, larger gains in coal use reductions, increased levels of public transit and bike trail usage, monitoring for Increased housing density near transportation corridors, and the use of statistical monitoring models to developing performance based metrics.**

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 and I already support municipal energy as a solution**
- Yes, under these conditions:
- No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position: