



Community Power
2720 E 22nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Minneapolis Energy Options



Taking charge of our energy future

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?

While we all experience the effects of pollution and environmental degradation, due to the perpetual cycle of environmental racism, people of color and indigenous (POCI) communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards—air pollution, proximity to incinerators and industrial polluters, and lead poisoning. Right now, areas of our city have the highest asthma hospitalization rates in the seven-county metro, and areas of North Minneapolis have higher rates of lead poisoning than Flint, Michigan.

I support putting Minneapolis on track to reach 100% renewable energy for the city of Minneapolis by 2030. We can start by ensuring municipal buildings are powered by clean energy by 2021. Shifting to clean energy is an opportunity to not only build a system built on sustainability and climate action, but to increase community control of our energy. We must use increases in the utilities franchise to ensure that the transition is equitable and prioritizes the needs of low-wealth and POCI communities. This includes funding inclusive financing models with Excel and Centerpoint to create universal access to both clean energy and energy efficiency programs. Additionally, we must invest in customer and worker-owned energy cooperatives, and green jobs training programs.

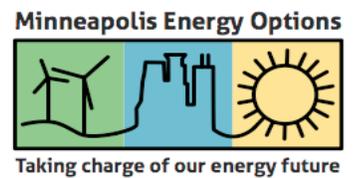
2. Do you think Minneapolis is adequately prepared to respond to climate change? If yes, how? If no, what do you think Minneapolis should do to become prepared?

Climate change is one of the biggest threats our city faces. There is no doubt that we must take immediate action to reduce carbon emissions and rectify the irreparable damage caused by human activity. We must design our city for the long term, and ensure our city is equipped to mitigate the effects of climate change. Cities, such as Houston, have recently experienced catastrophic effects of flooding due to climate change. We must invest in infrastructure to effectively handle storm water runoff—increasing the city's tree canopy, building green roofs, and implementing a

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comprehensive water-planning policy. When we have major redevelopment projects like the proposed Kmart site, we do not add to the city's stormwater management burden.

In addition to transitioning to 100% renewable energy, we need to become a zero-waste city. Currently, the HERC is a garbage incinerator located just outside the North Loop and disposes of 75% of the 200,000 tons of waste Minneapolis produces each year. The HERC's emissions contribute to air pollution in North Minneapolis which has led to higher asthma rates in the community. We can divert 75% of the waste to the HERC through both recycling and composting.

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)?
 - X 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?

The Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) can be a powerful vehicle, and has brought the utility companies to the table. As Mayor, I will use the CEP to pressure Xcel and Centerpoint to commit to taking more aggressive steps to meet our goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan. We are currently not on track to meet many of our goals (eg to meet our retrofitting goal, the city needs to retrofit 8% of buildings annually, compared to our current rate of 0.8%). Some of the things I will push for are using franchise fee increases to fund intentional community engagement programs and inclusive financing programs. I plan on coordinating with the Energy Vision Advisory Committee and other climate and environmental justice groups to provide institutional backing and uplift their voices.

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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- X 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?

- X 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?

During the pilot for curbside pickup composting program, I participated in an outreach program with the county where I went door to door in my community and talked with my neighbors about the importance of composting, and assisted them in joining the program. I had great conversations and found that once engaged, people were eager to participate. We must implement a similar approach to community outreach around renewable energy options and energy efficiency programs. I support the work of the CEP pilot community outreach program, and will advocate to fully fund the work.

Additionally, we need to ensure it is financially accessible for families to participate in clean energy programs. Inclusive financing is instrumental in making renewable energy and energy efficiency a reality for low-wealth households. Additionally, I will advocate for community-owned solar gardens to allow renters, low-income residents, people whose homes cannot accommodate solar panels, and others access to renewable energy, and to build wealth through the excess energy generated.

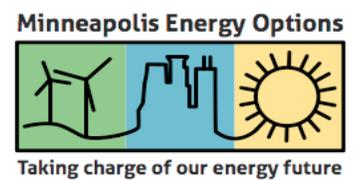
8. Would you support an increase in utility franchise fees of 0.5% of Minneapolis energy sales to be re-invested in dedicated long-term funding for local energy solutions (**check all that apply**)?

- X Yes
- No
- Dedicated funding could additionally/instead come from these sources:
- These specific energy solutions need this kind of long-term funding:

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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)?

I will evaluate the effectiveness of the Minneapolis CEP through the stated goals in the Climate Action Plan. We are currently not on track to meet our goals around energy reduction, energy efficiency, and the transition to renewable energy. By the end of the two-year work plan there needs to be clear steps from the city and utility companies to commit to meeting the goals of action plan. I will rely on recommendations from organizations like Community Powers, and the Energy Visions Advisory Committee to help evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership.

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
 - X. Yes, under these conditions: I support keeping all options on the table to pressure the utility companies to meet metric goals developed through the partnership and in coordination with the EVAC committee. Minneapolis residents have the right to safe, clean, and healthy homes. At this time, I do not believe municipalization is a realistic alternative to the franchise agreement, it is important leverage the city holds.
 - No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position: