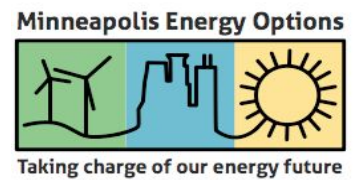




Community Power
2720 E 22nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55406



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:

Gary Schiff, City Council Ward 9
garyschiff.org

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?

I believe Minneapolis deserves a future with reliable energy that is sustainably produced and equitably distributed. A future where families don't have to choose between the food bill or the heating bill. A future where neighborhoods take our power back from power companies and repair, restore and regrow damaged ecosystems.

Our city can reduce the burden of high energy costs on low income residents and small businesses. For example, if we shift from burning garbage at the HERC to renewable resources, we will improve people's health with improved air quality. That's why I led the fight against HERC expansion on the Minneapolis Planning Commission. Clean energy brings the greatest benefit to neighborhoods with low income families and people of color where housing quality is lowest, air quality is poorest and health disparities are largest.

Communities with the most to gain often have the lowest participation in utility programs. I want to open access and ensure everyone benefits from a transitioning energy economy. The city can do this with smart negotiation of franchise agreements, setting an example with city-owned buildings and by supporting programs like inclusive financing for home energy improvements.

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?

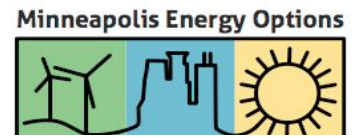
We aren't ready for climate change and how it will affect us as Minnesotans. Warmer lake water will fuel algae, making swimming in city lakes near impossible. Winter snow will be replaced by rain, making winter sports difficult. Lack of deep freeze fosters invasive species like the beetle that spreads Dutch elm disease.

Minneapolis is a national leader in climate change planning, but we must take action. We must stop consuming fossil fuels at an unsustainable rate and we must revolutionize our car-centric transportation system. We need to expect extreme weather and be ready to manage large rain events. Today our lakes are too polluted and too much of our food comes from factory farms far away. I believe we must transition our energy consumption to wind and solar, reduce our dependence on cars, work with the Park Board to improve our rivers and lakes and develop local sustainable food systems.

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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:

The goals and timeline laid out by the Energy Vision Advisory Committee are ambitious and achievable. I believe we need to commit and achieve them. I believe it is not enough to just voice support for these goals. The Ninth Ward needs a City Council Member to advance policy and keep Minneapolis on this timeline. There are real-life consequences for thousands of people if we do not act on these goals, and they are counting on their local government to take action to protect them.

Thanks to Cam Gordon, over 30 progressive policies have been passed by his office alone in the last three years to make Minneapolis a more equitable and sustainable city. Elizabeth Glidden, who is retiring, also authored 30 progressive ordinances in the last three years. The average for all Council Members is 20 ordinances, yet the Ninth Ward Council Member has only authored one ordinance in three years- less than any other Council Member. We can set goals and we can embrace principles, but I will be a Council Member who turns activism into action to advance a progressive agenda.

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?

Achieving the Minneapolis Energy Vision will take cooperation, dialogue and action. The City cannot increase utility franchise fees. We must lobby the Public Utilities Commission to approve inclusive financing, so homeowners can get energy improvements in their homes, while cutting their utility bills.

I will also push for new energy and environmental standards in development. There is no affordable housing under construction today in the Ninth Ward, and the City Council needs to rededicate itself to the development of real affordable housing and to higher environmental and energy use standards for projects funded under the affordable housing trust fund.

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?

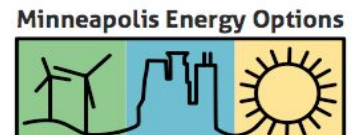
Yes

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

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Two of the largest barriers to individuals and families making energy efficiency improvements are the upfront costs and access to credit. Inclusive financing for individual energy efficiency improvements is simply the best way to get community buy-in. The default rate for utility bills is less than .5% and with no credit score requirements, this program will increase accessibility to energy efficiency and clean energy for families and individuals.

Achieving inclusive financing will take cooperation, dialogue and action. The City cannot increase utility franchise fees. We must lobby the Public Utilities Commission to approve inclusive financing, so homeowners can get energy improvements in their homes, while cutting their utility bills.

I know how to take on the energy companies, lobby the Public Utilities Commission and win. Together, we stopped high voltage power lines in the Midtown Greenway and made sure the lines were buried without passing the cost on to Minneapolis residents.

The Ninth Ward can be the epicenter of Minneapolis' renewable energy revolution, and with Elizabeth Glidden retiring, I will push to be a member of the Clean Energy Partnership Board.

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

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

It is important to view our goals through an intersectional lens that takes into account racial, gender and economic equity.

I believe we can develop renewable energy while achieving our workforce development and racial equity goals. The Ninth Ward should open a gateway to the trades, creating city jobs for city residents.

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?

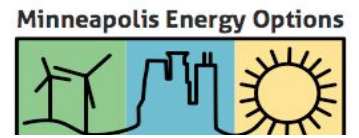
I believe we should engage rental housing owners and encourage investments in energy efficiency and most importantly, to share those benefits with their tenants.

The "Pay-As-You-Save model" finances clean and efficient energy shifts with low monthly payments and no upfront costs. The energy savings help reducing monthly payments, so it ends up a sensible choice for low-income families. We also need to assess energy standards in low income housing, and the energy standards of housing funded by the Affordable Housing Trust

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Fund. I will also continue to support the creation of community solar gardens to reduce electric bill costs for low-income families without any upfront cost.

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**

- Dedicated funding could additionally/instead come from these sources:

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

A 0.5% increase in utility franchise fees would look like an increase of 47¢ per person per month. This minimal increase would generate \$2.4 million annually for Minneapolis that can and should be dedicated to achieving energy efficiency goals. The programs that this money will fund could also deliver huge energy savings that can also be rededicated to our energy goals and improvement of our communities.

I also support continuing to look at additional sources of funding for local energy solutions. Increased access to funding programs like PACE: Property Assessed Clean Energy should be a priority.

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 need to be assessing the Clean Energy Partnership in ways that are both qualitative and quantitative. Reduction in both fossil-fuel usage and production of pollution are measurable and there are definitive steps that can be taken to achieve those reductions. Our partners need to be actively held accountable to achieving the goals set forth by the Energy Vision Advisory Committee by a skeptical City Council. The City Council taking an active role in holding our energy partners accountable will prevent the utilities from using the Clean Energy Partnership in an effort to 'greenwash' their reputations while continuing to be heavy polluters.

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:

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

Providing reliable, affordable energy to our community is not a simple task, and looking at other options (including changing our relationship with our energy providers) would be a monumental undertaking. Our best option is to invest in the clean energy systems we want, and hold our partners in the Clean Energy Partnership accountable to meeting their obligations. I don't want to buy the current system that is based on fossil fuels and a distribution network that is inefficient, outdated and anything but

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smart.

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Minneapolis Energy Options



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