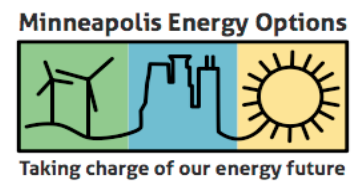




Community Power
2720 E 22nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55406



Community Power 2017 Minneapolis Candidate Questionnaire

John Quincy, City Council Member, Ward 11
www.JohnMQuincy.org

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 City of Minneapolis plays an incredibly important role in advancing a Clean Energy agenda for the city, region and the state of Minnesota forward. We should and have assumed a leadership position in advancing programs and initiatives that focus on climate, resiliency and sustainability, as well as an aggressive legislative agenda that supports the need for affordability and conversion from fossil fuels to dependable renewable energy sources.

The linkage between health and economics cannot be understated. Reduction in energy consumption by residents and businesses alike will provide economic benefits, as well as provide a cleaner, more sustainable environment. Stronger, healthier more livable communities require the leadership and oversight of city operations, access to capital, utilization of emerging technologies, and a strengthened infrastructure – which I will continue to provide.

- 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?**

I do not believe Minneapolis, or any one entity can ever consider itself adequately prepared, but we are certainly on the right track and well-positioned. The strength and progress that has been made by our Climate Action Plan is illustrative of how Minneapolis has established itself as a leader in bringing the financial and intellectual resources to bear on the enormous challenges that face us all.

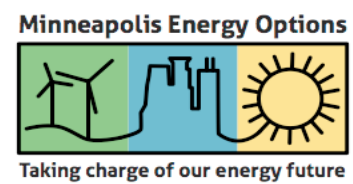
In light of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Accords, it becomes clear that we need to move away from transactional thinking as demonstrated by the Trump Administration. Reducing goals, eliminating oversight and environmental protections and ignoring facts are not productive ways to respond to climate change. Denial is not a solution. Until there is change there, we will have to go it on our own.

Minneapolis will need to make significant investments in its own infrastructure, in particular in the neighborhoods in my ward that experience the effects rising water levels in how our creek and lakes are managed. Storm water management policies and infrastructure are required, which I will continue to support. The relationships and shared commitment that Minneapolis has with its partner jurisdictions including MPCA, DNR, Watershed districts, Hennepin County and Park Board are instrumental to our preparation.

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To become better prepared, we should continue to invest in our own infrastructure changes that have yielded positive results, and the savings of the costs should be re-invested in additional transitions like LED lighting, expansion of solar installations and community solar gardens, street light conversions, fleet, land use planning and zoning, support of the office of sustainability, direction to our property services division, and the newly created and hired position of chief resiliency officer.

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

I do support those aspirational and aggressive goals and timelines. These are realistic targets, as provided by the industry, staff and informed and engaged community partnerships that have been strengthened with our commitments and involvement.

As the chair of the Ways & Means Committee on the Council, my oversight of our property services department, I supported and authored the expansion of the Renewable Connect Program with Xcel, enabling our ability to achieve our city operations goal of 100% renewable electricity ahead of that timeline. The additional benefit to the support of this program, demonstrates to the utility and regulators that there is interest and demand for continued expansion of renewable energy production.

Continued investment in solar installations on our properties, solar gardens, geothermal and wind source energy through the amendment to the franchise agreement, which I have introduced at the Council. The City will also purchase Renewable Energy Credits, as well as realizing efficiencies in the centralizing of our downtown office campus supports those objectives.

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?

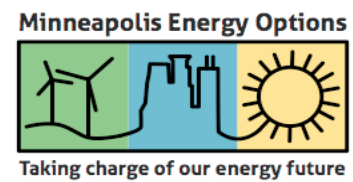
Minneapolis has reached its first goal on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from citywide energy consumption, transportation, solid waste and wastewater. Greenhouse gases caused by activities within the city limits of Minneapolis decreased 17.8 percent in 2015 compared to the 2006 baseline; the goal was a 15 percent reduction. 2016 data is being analyzed and will be available soon.

Greenhouse gas emissions decreased 10.7 percent from 2014 to 2015, driven primarily by milder winter months, which resulted in a decrease in natural gas consumption. An increase in emissions from wastewater was offset by decreases in emissions from electricity consumption, natural gas consumption, on-road transportation and solid waste.

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Minneapolis will make progress toward its goals by continuing to implement its Climate Action Plan and working with CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy on implementing the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership 2017-2018 work plan.

- 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

I do. Any financing programs that encourage individual's investment in energy savings – and therefore cost savings – to their energy bills is worthwhile. Reducing barriers, like credit scoring and debt will make it more available to seniors and low-income rate payers. A simpler option would be for an on bill service administered through the utilities, where administration and financing costs are managed by them. This option would be transferrable to the next tenant in the case of change in residence, as they would be the beneficiary of the reduced costs.

- 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

We should utilize the roofs, parking ramps, open spaces on facilities/property wherever feasible. Knowing the impact that these have on reduced costs to the city is a positive outcome, as well as the fact that solar energy is being used, it is a win-win. The City is actively looking at our facilities and will continue to use it for renewable energy installation where practical.

- 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?**

The Ways and Means Committee will soon be approving Low Income Household Community Solar programs. These projects will allow the City to be an anchor tenant on a community solar project and be the fallback for low-income residents who want to purchase renewable energy but don't have the financing or even credit rating normally required to buy into community solar projects. Most of the RFP's for the Low Income Household Community Solar program provided savings to rate payers from the outset and that savings compounds over the 20 years of the program. But, as this program model is proved out and the price of installing solar continues to drop, the City will likely do more rounds of Low Income Household Community Solar in the future.

This work can be supported through our Neighborhood Community Relations Department – who has direct involvement with neighborhood groups, collaborative community-based cultural organizations and non-profits, business associations, as well as works on the Minneapolis for Lifetime Initiative that authored directed at

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Minneapolis Energy Options



Taking charge of our energy future

supporting our senior population. Our health department and in particular our business licensing and regulatory service departments should have a link to this work as they have direct contact with the most vulnerable in the community, that we are trying advance equitable access to energy resources.

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:

I do support the franchise fee increase so that additional revenues can be directed as a long-term funding solution for our energy goals and solutions. As mentioned earlier, I am the author of the franchise fee ordinance amendment that will be making its way through our legislative process this year.

There continues to be discussion, public process and debate on the issue, but, I am confident that the changes needed will be in place, accounting for the notification and regulatory requirements to generate the budget revenues in this year's budget.

The dedication and commitment to the programs is important to insure the predictability of a long-term solution, but should changes be needed on an annual budgeting basis, the source is not in stone, as needs may arise that would require adjustment to budgets in future years.

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 Clean Energy Partnership is both a partnership and an advisory group. It is designed to be a collaborative framework for the city and the utilities to study, prioritize, plan, coordinate, implement, track and report progress on clean energy activities in the city.

The thresholds or criteria to measure the success or failure of the partnership are of the making of the partnership. They were formed as a way for the parties to set goals that stemmed from the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan – which lay out the goals, measurements and timelines.

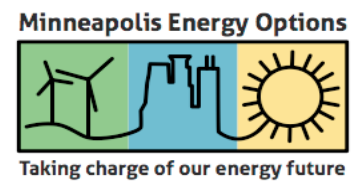
10. If Xcel Energy and/or CenterPoint Energy refused to agree to the measurable outcomes you defined in question 9, or failed to achieve them, would you support active exploration of other options by the City of Minneapolis, including: terminating the franchise agreement, securing Community Choice Aggregation, or pursuing energy municipalization (check one)?

- ✓ Yes, under these conditions:

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The City has enjoyed a long and solid relationship with both Xcel and CenterPoint. We will continue to work cooperatively on the clean energy partnership, finance residential and business programs that further our goals, provide incentives and ROI for adopters through a modest increase in our franchise fees, that I have brought forward as part of this year's budget conversations.

Most of what we are looking for in our energy strategy goes well beyond what can practically or legally included in a franchise agreement. It was the conversation and debate about municipalization and the Minneapolis Energy Options that created a path for us, as a community, to identify what we wanted and how those expectations could be best achieved.

Had the debate not occurred and studies brought forward, we would not have been able to elevate the city-wide conversation about our utility agreements. As you can imagine, this is a complicated issue that generates more questions and concerns than power. (Pun Intended)

Minneapolis residents have a shared value that we need affordable and reliable energy in our homes and businesses. We also share a desire to have our energy generated, distributed safely, predictably and cost-effectively, while reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. The electricity and natural gas we all use are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis.

It was a valuable first step in engaging the community on this important topic, and part of our City's approach to public policy. The City Council commissioned a report, commonly known as the Energy Pathways Report that will explore the various paths the City could take to achieve our energy goals as detailed in our Climate Action Plan. This report included an examination of potential utility partnerships, changes to how the City uses energy utility franchise fees, and municipalization of one or both energy utilities. The report should help frame the future franchise negotiations with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy – and yielded the first in the nation, Clean Energy Partnership.

Franchise agreements should be negotiated in good faith, shorter in term, but not so short predictability and capital investments cannot be adequately planned. Municipalization is not a direction I believe the city should take, and certainly not a productive starting point when in the midst of a franchise agreement and partnership relationship. The costs, administration, assumption of debt for an aging infrastructure, regulatory environment and risk associated with a new venture for the city is far too high.

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