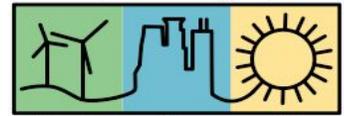




Community Power
2720 E 22nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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?

Home utility bills and fuel costs can be a huge component of families' budgets, and a drain on our community as millions of dollars leave Minneapolis to pay for coal, gas, and nuclear generation elsewhere. Keeping that money in the community and using it to create clean energy jobs, reduce utility bills, and protect our city from fluctuations in global energy markets has obvious and important positive impacts. I view a shift to community solar and wind energy as a strategy for fighting poverty and improving quality of life for everyone in Minneapolis.

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?

No, I do not think that we are. We're still consuming fossil fuels at an unsustainable rate, and have been slow to develop alternative infrastructure to replace it. Our transportation options remain car-centric, even with significant recent improvements in biking, walking, and mass transit. Too much of our water is polluted. Our food supply chain is highly unsustainable, with a great deal of what we eat being shipped great distances from factory farms. We have the potential to shift our energy consumption to wind and solar, to reduce our reliance on cars, to protect our rivers and lakes, and to develop more sustainable pipelines of locally produced food from Midwestern farmers. Each of those goals would be worth doing for health and quality of life reasons, but they take on increased urgency as a program of local self-reliance to make Minneapolis more sustainable in a world economy that will experience unpredictable disruptions.

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

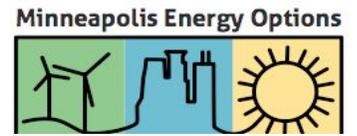
Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

Setting aggressive goals can help focus attention and establish priorities. I like this vision, and while there are several factors outside of our control that will need to happen to make this timeline feasible, we need to do everything that is in our power to make create some real urgency, and we never will if we don't set aggressive goals.

Return Surveys to: marcus@communitypowermn.org



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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'll support the installation of community solar gardens on city-owned rooftops, I'll use the platform of city council to lobby the PUC and create public pressure for utilities to pay higher rates for solar energy, and I'll support city policies like smart density, home energy efficiency improvement programs, and improved transit options that reduce our per capita energy consumption.

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

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

I really like this model, and I think we're not likely to get where we're trying to go without financing models like this that support energy improvements. It's important to calculate cost and benefit on a long enough timeline to account for the upside of this kind of investment when we consider it. I'm especially interested in programs that make clean energy options available to renters, as well as homeowners.

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:

The opportunity to pair workforce development with renewable energy development to meet our city's racial equity goals at the same time we meet our climate goals is especially exciting to me. When I first heard Van Jones speak to this potential early in the first Obama administration, it had a big impact on me, and I'm excited to help make it actually happen. I further want to make sure that these are good, union jobs that can compete with fossil fuel jobs in the energy sector.



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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'm lucky to live in well-insulated, recently renovated building and have a landlord who powers our common areas (and an electric car charger in the parking lot) in our building with rooftop solar. I'd like a lot more people to have options like what I have. Including renters in community solar programs, so that we direct our utility bills is an important step. Resources to improve home efficiency and reduce consumption, especially in older rental properties, can make a huge difference in comfort, health, and affordability, and I'd support expanding these programs. This is also an important safety issue – houses with inadequate or poorly maintained heating and poor insulation often prompt renters to rely on space heaters and other unsafe heat sources that present fire hazards, as well as being extremely energy inefficient.

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:

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

The economic and environmental upside to local energy solutions more than outweighs the .5% cost increase.

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 MCEP should be assessed with a strong critical eye toward results. With any such partnership, there's a strong potential upside (in this case, that the work would be substantially easier with utility cooperation), and a strong potential for it to be used for greenwashing utilities' reputations without accomplishing much. It's important that everyone at the table knows we're watching for outcomes, and that it's not enough just to be at the table. Under the scrutiny of a hopeful but skeptical City Council, the best case scenario is that the Partnership produces measurable clean energy outcomes, measured in reduced fossil fuel consumption, increased access to clean sources of energy, and an increased percentage of energy generated by renewable sources for our city.

I need to learn more about specific thresholds that would represent adequate progress



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toward aggressive goals for a shift to clean energy, and I'll look to Community Power as one of the community resources that should be helping define and quantify those standards.

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**)?

X Yes

- Yes, under these conditions:
- No

Feel free to provide a deeper explanation of your position:

We do need to proceed with a sense of urgency about climate change and our shift to renewable energy sources, and we need to keep structural transformations on the table as legitimate options to instill that sense of urgency in utility companies that have a financial incentive to fully deplete their fossil fuel investments before shifting to renewables. The path of least resistance to achieving our goals would still be for the utilities to partner with us and align with our renewable energy goals, but we almost certainly won't see that unless we're prepared to use the leverage of our city's combined millions of dollars in energy spending as incentive. We want a system in which communities can generate their own power, in which everyone has access to affordable, renewable energy, and in which Minneapolis is a responsible, global city doing its part to mitigate climate change. That's not a small goal, and all options should be legitimately on the table if we really intend to get there.