

Clean Energy Partnership Workplan Survey for EVAC

We are very pleased to have your expertise and diverse community perspective on this committee. As you are aware the role of the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) is to not only provide direct community representation and outreach, but to also review and provide recommendations regarding potential items for each two year work plan. The proposed plan will then be presented to the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) Board for approval. When approved, the work plan will guide the work of the Partnership as well as each organization.

The work plans proposed to the Board will align with goals and recommendations from the [Minneapolis Climate Action Plan](#) as well as climate goals and program opportunities identified on page 14 of the [Energy Pathways Study](#).

At the first CEP Board meeting in January of this year, the Planning Team presented a list of potential work plan items that are consistent with the City's climate goals and pathway opportunities identified in the links above. These items are grouped in two areas: 1) community initiatives and 2) city enterprise initiatives. The concepts have been identified by the Planning Team as viable options that align with the City's Climate Action Plan as well as the Energy Pathways Study. Some projects may begin immediately while others may take not only development time but must follow regulatory approval timelines. For your review and prioritization consideration, attached is an estimated timetable for implementation of these initiatives.

To allow for review feedback that can be constructively included in the work plan recommendations to the CEP Board; the Planning Team has designed this evaluation and feedback form to ensure all committee members are incorporating the results of their review and analysis consistently. Please complete the sections below for each initiative listed. Additionally, please include in the blank sections any other program ideas, enhancements or concepts that align with the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan and/or Energy Pathways Study you believe should be considered for inclusion in the 2015-2016 work plan.

These forms and feedback provided at the next two EVAC meetings will be used to inform the CEP Board at their next meeting on May 29th of work plan ideas for their formal approval.

You will be able to re-enter the survey once you have started if you need more time to finish. To do so, use the link you received initially.

***1. Select your name.**

Community Solar Gardens

The Partnership may explore a number of options for encouraging participation in Community Solar Gardens (CSGs) by Minneapolis customers. These could include City government participating as a customer of one or more CSGs for City-purchased electricity, providing information and training to neighborhoods and communities about participating in CSGs, developing a "one-stop" location for information on CSGs available to Minneapolis customers, or expanded outreach to customers to drive participation.

Xcel Energy customers can subscribe to solar gardens – solar panel arrays constructed by third-party developers at centralized locations – and receive credits on their electricity bills for their portion of energy produced. The program is called Solar*Rewards Community and is designed for customers who cannot participate in other solar programs because they rent, live in multi-family dwellings, their homes or businesses are not suitable for solar installations, or rooftop solar installations are not right for them for other reasons.

Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards® Community® program launched on 12/12/2014.

2. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to Community Solar Gardens?

4. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

5. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

Energy Usage and Program Participation Data Access

The City and the utilities will work together to understand energy usage and program participation information at smaller geographic level than city-wide. The City may be able to produce reports for use by neighborhoods and community initiatives, such as energy savings competitions. Energy usage and program participation data will be used to establish metrics to gauge the success of CEP activities.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) is currently reviewing how utilities can manage the aggregation and dissemination of community and building level data. Depending on their decision, more data may be available from utilities on energy usage and energy efficiency program participation in Minneapolis. This information can help identify high energy usage areas to target for energy efficiency outreach and education as well give perspective on what type of energy efficiency programs residents and businesses are currently participating in.

6. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

8. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

9. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

Large Commercial Buildings Energy Efficiency

Information gained through the City's Commercial Building Benchmarking & Transparency ordinance, combined with utility program data and utility expertise, will be leveraged to enhance outreach to large commercial buildings and drive energy efficiency improvements. The City and utilities may work on developing targeted marketing approaches, new data access tools for building owners/managers, educational efforts and enhanced utility energy efficiency programs.

10. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

12. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

13. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

Multi-Family Energy Efficiency

There is much interest in programs that reach the multi-family sector. As a result, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy have collectively developed and filed with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources a, jointly-delivered energy efficiency program dedicated to multifamily buildings. The program will draw on national best practices to encourage building owners to invest in energy-saving measures in both resident and common spaces.

The program is currently in the regulatory review process.

The CEP will work collaboratively for regulatory approval of the program and explore targeted outreach and marketing opportunities to engage Minneapolis customers. The CEP may also explore expanding or existing financing options for program participants to further reduce barriers to implementation of efficiency measures.

14. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

16. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

17. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

Residential Energy Efficiency

The CEP will leverage the availability of an expanded residential energy efficiency program and explore targeted outreach and marketing opportunities to engage Minneapolis customers. The CEP may also explore expanding or existing financing options for program participants to further reduce barriers to implementation of efficiency measures.

CenterPoint Energy has implemented a pilot program called the Residential Engagement Pilot in the City of Minneapolis to test the effectiveness of enhanced natural gas engagement strategies intended to increase the number of residential customers (in 1-4 unit properties) that follow up on and install recommendations made at home visits.

The Pilot has been approved by the Department of Commerce; Division of Energy Resources and launch is scheduled for February of 2015.

18. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

20. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

21. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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Energy Efficiency Financing

The CEP could engage in work including enhanced marketing of existing financing options available through private lenders and public lenders. The CEP may also explore other innovative models for delivering financing options with low barriers to participation.

CenterPoint Energy is developing a tool that will provide customers the opportunity to finance energy efficiency upgrades and repay the loans for via their utility bills. Capital would be provided by one or more third-party lending partners and the utility would service the loan. Customers benefit by the enhanced convenience.

Prior to implementation, the company's IT systems must be upgraded and capital partners identified and secured. Funding for the IT upgrades would require regulatory approval.

CenterPoint Energy currently expects to request approval for the system upgrades in their 2017-2019 CIP Triennial Plan filing.

22. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

24. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

25. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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Expanded Community Engagement for Partnership Activities

The CEP will explore expanded engagement strategies to drive participation in utility and City energy efficiency and renewable energy programs such as the multifamily energy efficiency program, Home Energy Squad, Solar*Rewards® Community®, financing tools and others. Strategies could include engaging community-based organizations to conduct outreach, developing a citywide challenge or other innovative approaches to engage Minneapolis residents and businesses in pursuing the goals of the CEP.

26. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

28. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

29. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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Customer Resources Webtool

The CEP will explore the development of a comprehensive webtool to help Minneapolis customers easily navigate the resources available to them. These resources could include energy efficiency or renewable energy programs. The webtool could work as a resource for any expanded community engagement initiative.

30. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

32. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

33. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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City Enterprise Initiatives

In addition to the program concepts listed above, the City of Minneapolis, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy will include in its 2015-2016 work plan planning discussions around the four concepts listed below.

City Participation in Community Solar Gardens

Xcel Energy customers can subscribe to solar gardens – solar panel arrays constructed by third-party developers at centralized locations – and receive credits on their electricity bills for their portion of energy produced.

The City will explore the possibility for direct participation in one or more community solar gardens, for example as a subscriber. The Energy Vision Advisory Committee, Partnership Board or Planning Team can provide valuable input on the City's potential role or the design of the RFP.

34. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

36. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

37. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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Discussion of Infrastructure Planning and Economic Development

The City, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy will engage in periodic discussions regarding planned utility and city infrastructure changes to create efficiencies and maximize opportunities for infrastructure enhancements and economic development.

38. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

39. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

40. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

41. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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LED Streetlighting

The CEP will review the City's plans for retrofit of its streetlights, and explore options for the retrofit of Xcel-owned lights.

Xcel Energy now offers energy efficiency for customer-owned street-lights. The City owns approximately half of the lights within city limits and currently is developing plans to replace the existing bulbs with high efficiency and low maintenance LED bulbs. Concurrently, Xcel Energy is developing a strategic system wide plan to replace their existing fixtures with LED's.

42. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

43. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

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45. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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Natural Gas Infrastructure for City Fleet

Investments in new natural gas infrastructure could help create opportunities to reduce emissions. For example, with adequate fueling infrastructure, natural gas vehicles could help achieve reductions in both greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions. Anaerobic digestion of city-collected organic waste could provide a renewable fuel source for vehicles and/or buildings or facilities.

The City and CenterPoint Energy will use the CEP to explore options for new infrastructure to serve city facilities or fleet.

46. In your opinion, how should the Partnership prioritize this program?

Low	Medium	Medium-High	High
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

47. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

48. Are there any elements missing from the program design?

49. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

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Additional program idea/concept

(Optional)

50. Please describe your idea for an addition to the workplan. Please include thoughts on potential timing, impact to citywide greenhouse gas emissions, and impact on other city goals such as addressing equity in the energy system.

51. In your opinion, what is the best role of the Clean Energy Partnership in relation to this program?

52. What challenges do you think come with this program concept? How should they be overcome?

Additional program idea/concept

(Optional)

53. Please describe your idea for an addition to the workplan. Please include thoughts on potential timing, impact to citywide greenhouse gas emissions, and impact on other city goals such as addressing equity in the energy system.

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Additional program idea/concept

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