**Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership**

**CEP BOARD MEETING**

Doty Board Room, Minneapolis Central Library

Friday, September 16, 2016

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**2016 Q3 Meeting Notes**

**Board members present:** Mayor Betsy Hodges, Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Council Member Cam Gordon (designee for Spencer Cronk), Council Member Kevin Reich, Doug Peterson (designee for Jeff Daugherty) and Brad Tutunjian from CenterPoint Energy, Laura McCarten and Lee Gabler from Xcel Energy

**Board members excused:** Spencer Cronk, Jeff Daugherty

**Guests:** Nicole Bener, Becky McIntosh, Christine Kendrick, Marcus Mills, Karen Moe, Jed Norgaarden, Mark Oyaas, Audrey Partridge, Yvonne Pfeifer, Lee Samelson, Isaac Smith, Scott Zemke

**Planning Team present:** Ani Backa, Bridget Dockter, Peter Ebnet, Ben Hecker, Nick Mark, Louis Mondale, Kelly Muellman, Al Swintek

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mayor Betsy Hodges called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. She welcomed Luke Hollenkamp, who is replacing Brendon Slotterback on the Planning Team for the City, and announced that Stephanie Zawistowski has taken a new position working for Governor Dayton. Until Stephanie’s position is filled Ben Hecker will be taking her place on the Planning Team. Mayor Hodges then invited Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) Board Members and guests to introduce themselves.

1. **Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Mayor Hodges asked for a motion to approve the agenda. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda be approved. Motion CARRIED. Mayor Hodges asked for a motion to approve the minutes. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes be approved. Motion CARRIED.

1. **Updates -** Bridget Dockter, Xcel Energy

* *Community Engagement for Energy Efficiency – Pilot Project.* The Planning Team has released a Request for Applications ([RFA](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-186032.pdf)) for the Community Engagement for Energy Efficiency Pilot. This project was funded with $30,000 ($10,000 from each of the Partners) to focus on engaging underserved residential communities related to energy efficiency programs.

Priority will be given to applicants that engage renters or co-owners in 1-to-4 family units. Targeted programs with the RFA are Home Energy Squad, Multifamily Building Efficiency and Low-income Energy Efficiency programs. A pre-application conference will be held on September 21; applications are due October 12. The Planning Team will review the applications, make selections based on the targeted programs and priorities indicated above, and submit their recommendations to CEP Board members prior to the Q4 meeting on November 4. The CEP Board will approve the Planning Team’s recommendations at the Q4 meeting or—if a great number of applications are received or questions arise that cannot be immediately addressed—through other means such as email or conference call. RFA notifications were sent to all vendors who subscribe to the City’s procurement website, Energy Vision Advisory

Committee (EVAC) and Community Environmental Advisory Commission members, and neighborhood organizations. Notice will also be posted on social media sites.

* *2017-2018 EVAC Applications.* The EVAC application period was August 1 through September 15. A total of 28 applications were received for 15 available positions; 11 from current EVAC members and 17 new member applications.
* *ACEEE/Efficiency Cities Network Webinar.* Planning Team members Bridget Dockter, Nick Mark and Gayle Prest, along with Jenny Edwards from CEE, will be presenting a panel discussion Webinar on September 20. It is sponsored jointly by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and Efficiency Cities Network, and will feature the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership: how it came together, benefits to the organizations, and activities that have been done. Most of those who have registered to date work for cities around the country in various capacities.

1. **Low Income Programs** [[PPT](https://cleanenergypartnership.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/9-16-16-cep-board-presentation.pdf)]

Nick Mark, CenterPoint Energy, gave an overview on low income programs in Minneapolis, including how the various programs interact which creates challenges and opportunities for the Partnership. CIP low income dollars spent by the utilities in 2015 totaled approximately $1.25 million, and another $900,000 in federal funding was spent on Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) visits. Showing maps of program participation taken from the Annual Report, Nick said that spending tends to match with areas of greatest need. Some properties received both federal and utility funding; fifty homes that received only federal money are not included on the maps. When asked if a map exists that shows program participation by different programs, Nick said at this point it does not and creating one would be challenging. (Bridget noted that the CenterPoint and Xcel map legends do not sync so the shading is not an apples-to-apples comparison; that will be addressed next year.)

There are two main types of low income energy programs: bill payment assistance, and energy efficiency/weatherization programs that make the structures more energy efficient. The two main funding sources are taxpayers (mostly federal taxes) and utility customers. There are several eligibility requirements and definitions, i.e. percent of federal poverty level or percent of state median income. Available low income energy programs include:

* Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); Minnesota allocation of federal funding is approximately $115 million
* WAP; approximately $8 million in federal funding statewide, plus the state can reallocate money from LIHEAP to WAP, and funding from multiple sources can be mixed
* Home Energy Savings Program (HESP-Xcel); $2.5 million statewide from Xcel customers
* Low-Income Weatherization (LIW-CenterPoint); $2 million statewide from CenterPoint customers

In Minneapolis in 2015, WAP, HESP and LIW represented approximately $1.5 million of the $2.2 million spent on low-income energy efficiency. Although there are many low-income programs available, these three programs are where most of the action is, and in Minneapolis represent about 12 percent of the total spending in the state. Where and how money is spent varies by program. Speaking to WAP funding, Nick said that each service provider in the state has a budget based on the need in the area they serve and prior performance, with scores assigned by community action agencies, tribal governments and organizations like CEP. Funding comes down from federal to state which allocates it to service providers to ensure that needs throughout the state are met. LIHEAP funding is distributed in a similar way. Utility EE funds are distributed throughout the service territory, often working with individual administrators to determine where needs exist and how funds are spent.

Jed Norgaarden, Executive Director of Sustainable Resources Center (SRC), presented on Low Income Energy Efficiency Challenges and Opportunities. [PPT was distributed at the meeting and is available on our [website](https://cleanenergypartnership.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/src-mcepsept2016ff1.pdf).] He pointed out that in recent years our thinking about energy has expanded in relation to the earth’s health and is evolving in relation to the occupant’s health. An integrative approach of energy efficiency and environment health of the home opens the door toward occupant resilience.

Jed provided additional detail on DOE’s WAP, stating that its mission is to reduce energy costs for low-income families—particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children—while ensuring their health and safety. He noted that low-income households spend 14.4 percent of their annual income on energy, while other households spend only 3.3 percent. Jed reviewed WAP’s operation, benefits, eligibility requirements, technical advancements, health and safety, and funding.

SRC, which began in 1977, makes low-income homes healthy, safe, and energy efficient. It is the largest WAP service provider in Minnesota, administers CIP programs with CenterPoint, Xcel Energy and others, and maintains the largest and most certified low income energy auditor and inspector team in the state. SRC conducts residential assessments, interventions, outreach and training primarily in Hennepin County; conducts “whole house” energy retrofits, and to a lesser degree conducts lighter energy efficiency visits via HESP. It runs a lead testing and remediation program through Hennepin County; conducts lead education, outreach and screenings with support from the Minnesota Department of Health, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, and medical providers; and conducts Healthy Homes and Aging in Place programs.

Jed reviewed several barriers (i.e. language, landlord hesitancy or deferrals) and health and safety challenges. He explained how SRC’s response to those challenges becomes a large opportunity to leverage WAP funding sources and think about the home as a system, widening the conversation from energy efficiency to resilience. [See example of an integrative approach producing resilience on PPT Slide 35.]

To more fully address the environmental determinants that center on the low income residence, SRC recognizes that the health and safety as well as the building performance of the home are interrelated. New thinking has arisen that eventually energy efficiency measures will be driven by the medical community, with doctors writing prescriptions not only for medication but also for home assessments to uncover health problems caused by the house. Climate change also poses a challenge as the outdoor environment permeates the indoor environment, affecting air quality, moisture and flooding, pests and occupant exposure to higher heat. Low income and vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted as they have the most weakened housing stock.

In closing, Jed offered several possible steps on how the City and SRC can work together moving forward on low income challenges and opportunities. Last year 12,000 households were certified for weatherization (60 percent renters, 40 percent homeowners) but a large number remain that are not currently being served due to the barriers and challenges previously mentioned. Mayor Hodges thanked Jed, adding that this is good information that will help shape the future work of CEP and EVAC. Council Member Glidden appreciated the practical recommendations and suggested that if they could be matched up with the data, i.e. who is receiving translation services, they could use that information to help determine how CEP can better partner with SRC.

1. **Next Meeting(s)**

The Q4 CEP Board meeting will be held on Friday, November 4, 2016. The Q3 EVAC meeting was held in late August; during the month of October the Planning Team will hold two meetings with EVAC to discuss commercial and residential work plan actions, with a potential third meeting or online polling before the CEP meeting. In December there will be a Q4 EVAC meeting to approve recommendations to the new work plan. Following the Q4 EVAC meeting the Planning Team will send recommendations to CEP Board members for initial review, with an opportunity for Q&A and follow-up prior to their voting on the new 2017-2018 Work Plan in early Q1 2017.

Laura McCarten, Xcel Energy, requested that in 2017 it would be useful to have a roadmap or scorecard that shows progress being made to date, with the projected trajectory to achieving the goals in the Climate Action Plan. EVAC had made a similar request. Council Member Gordon added that as metrics are being evaluated it would be nice to check with EVAC to make sure they are meeting often enough, have good connections with the Planning Team and CEP Board, and offer them additional assistance and access as needed.

1. **Announcements / Open Discussion**

Bridget reminded CEP Board members that in Q1 2017 the Vice Chair term will be expiring.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

*This constitutes my understanding of items discussed and decisions reached.   
If there are any omissions or discrepancies, please notify the author in writing.*

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