

## **Resolution**

### **Establishing a 100% renewable electricity goal for Minneapolis**

By Gordon, Fletcher and Schroeder

Whereas, there is overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is a real and major threat to human civilization and is caused primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels; and

Whereas, the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be borne by young people, future generations, and the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the globe; and

Whereas, on June 28, 2013 Minneapolis adopted a Climate Action Plan, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2015, 30% by 2025, and 80% by 2050 (all from a 2006 baseline); and

Whereas, the Climate Action Plan further commits the City to “increase electricity from local and directly purchased renewables to 10 percent of the total consumed by 2025”; and

Whereas, the percentage of Minneapolis community-wide electricity use from local and directly purchased renewable energy has declined in recent years; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has adopted an Energy Vision that states, “in 2040, Minneapolis’s energy system will provide reliable, affordable, local and clean energy services for Minneapolis homes, businesses, and institutions: sustaining the city’s economy and environment and contributing to a more socially just community”; and

Whereas, the collaboration between Minneapolis Sustainability staff and the Siemens City Performance Tool shows that “it is possible for Minneapolis to achieve its 80 by 50 target, if the City, its utilities, and its inhabitants work aggressively to clean the local energy supply,” among other measures; and

Whereas, the cost of wind and solar energy is rapidly falling, and a number of alternative approaches like community solar are making renewable electricity easier to access; and

Whereas, for the purposes of this resolution “renewable electricity” includes electricity derived from wind, solar, geothermal, and wave technology sources, and may include low-impact, small hydro and some forms of biomass after these projects are evaluated for sustainability and environmental justice implications, but specifically excludes electricity derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, incineration of non-biogenic municipal and medical waste, and large-scale future hydroelectric development; and

Whereas, the renewable energy economy presents opportunities for workers in manufacturing, construction, and service sectors and it is essential that workers play a role in helping drive innovation towards a cleaner energy economy while creating and maintaining family-sustaining jobs; and

Whereas, this energy transition is an opportunity to build equity for communities of color and indigenous communities that have been underrepresented in the energy field and marketplace, and the City of Minneapolis is committed to making the most of this opportunity; and

Whereas, the financial and environmental benefits of renewable energy must be shared equitably across all economic and racial groups; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is committed to ensuring that all residents and businesses, no matter their race, income, wealth, or credit history, can access and benefit from renewable energy and energy efficiency, through processes such as community solar and inclusive financing; and

Whereas, on April 28, 2017, Minneapolis approved the establishment of two Green Zones aimed at improving health and supporting economic development using environmentally conscious efforts in communities that face the cumulative effects of environmental pollution, as well as social, political and economic vulnerability; and

Whereas, there are significant social costs caused by the use of fossil fuels, including health impacts to our communities through adverse effects on air quality and the uncertain, long term negative effects of climate change; and

Whereas, there is demonstrated potential to leverage significant investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency through the Health Department's Green Business/Housing Cost Share Program; and

Whereas, the City Council has received a report from Finance and Property Services staff, "Blueprint for Powering Minneapolis Municipal Operations with 100% Renewable Electricity by 2022"; and

Whereas, Minneapolis, Xcel Energy, and CenterPoint Energy have entered into the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership with goals of making utility customers more energy-efficient, expanding access to and use of clean and renewable energy, increasing the effective collaboration between the City of Minneapolis, Xcel Energy, and CenterPoint Energy to address energy and climate-related issues, and pursuing collaboration in a way that advances equity and other environmental benefits; and

Whereas, Xcel Energy's projected 2021 fuel mix for the Upper Midwest includes 30% wind and 10% other renewables, resulting from a strategy of increasing the use of wind and solar power and offering customers additional renewable and energy-saving options; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is committed to meeting its renewable electricity goals with as little reliance on purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on the open market as possible, and will give goal preference and credit for resources exhibiting additionality regardless of REC ownership, such as community solar gardens and local solar installations; and

Whereas, Minneapolis recently agreed to acquire 17.8 million kWh annually (nearly 18% of annual City enterprise electricity usage) of renewable electricity from Xcel Energy's Renewable\*Connect program for municipal operations as a bridge to 100% renewable electricity use; and

Whereas, Xcel Energy's current and future renewable electricity generation mix will be counted toward municipal and community-wide goals with support from the City in its efforts to transition to renewable energy throughout its service territory; and

Whereas, Minneapolis and Xcel Energy have begun work on the concept of a City-owned renewable energy facility, which could serve both enterprise and community-wide energy needs,

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:**

Minneapolis reaffirms and formally adopts a goal of reaching one hundred percent (100%) renewable electricity for municipal facilities and operations by 2022. Finance and Property Services staff are directed to bring forward an annual report on the City's progress towards implementing the adopted "Blueprint for Powering Minneapolis Municipal Operations with 100% Renewable Electricity by 2022."

Be it Further Resolved that, as a strategy to meet its aggressive adopted carbon emission reduction and climate change goals and move away from fossil fuels in all sectors of the energy economy, Minneapolis adopts a goal of getting one hundred percent (100%) of community-wide electricity use from renewable sources by 2030, and directs the City Coordinator's Office to bring forward a blueprint by the first quarter of 2019 for reaching this goal. This blueprint should identify the following:

- The impact of this goal on already adopted climate policy, including the adopted carbon emission reduction goals of 80% by 2050, and the strategies identified in the adopted Climate Action Plan, including the goal of reaching 10% local renewably generated electricity by 2025, Energy Pathways Study, and City Performance Tool study;
- Ways in which this blueprint may support and/or require an update to the adopted Climate Action Plan;
- Potential policies and programs that the City will need to implement in order to achieve this goal, and a prioritization of these policies and programs;
- The financial resources necessary to create this blueprint and implement these policies and programs, suggested sources for these revenues, and projected leverage of external resources;
- Timelines, milestones and metrics for reaching this goal;
- The community outreach and engagement necessary to reach this goal, including the ongoing inclusion of young people in this process;
- Necessary regulatory reforms at the Public Utilities Commission and in Minnesota statute;
- Energy efficiency strategies that could help meet this goal by reducing the overall amount of electricity being consumed;
- The ways that implementing this goal might impact the necessary transition away from fossil fuels across all sectors of the energy economy, including building heating and cooling and transportation, which may increase electricity usage even as energy efficiency increases;
- Strategies to ensure that all consumers, especially those who have been left out of the benefits of energy programs in the past, communities of color, low-income communities, renters, and communities that have borne the brunt of past environmental racism, receive equitable benefit from this transition;
- Strategies that the City can employ to facilitate training and hiring people from within communities of color and women who have traditionally been under-represented in the energy economy, and targets for labor participation from these demographic groups;
- The ways in which implementing this goal can improve individual and community-wide health outcomes;
- The ways in which this energy transition can increase the resilience of our communities and save Minneapolis residents and businesses from increasing energy costs;
- Specific strategies to be implemented in the adopted Green Zones;
- The role of the Clean Energy Partnership in reaching this goal.

Be It Further Resolved that the City opposes the rollback of climate policy at the federal level and reaffirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.