

# CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING ON PRIORITIES – REPORT

March 15, 2018

## Overview

This is a report summarizing the Clean Energy Partnership (Partnership) Board Meeting on Priorities, which took place on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at Minneapolis City Hall, 350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Conference Room 333. The meeting was facilitated by Rolf Nordstrom (facilitator), President & Chief Executive Officer at Great Plains Institute. The meeting provided an opportunity for Board members to receive a report on Partnership progress to date, establish priorities, and prepare for decision making discussions on development of the next work plan.

The facilitator, with assistance from the Planning Team, proposed the following meeting goals:

1. Provide board members the opportunity to understand one another's perspective on what success would look like for the Partnership,
2. Make sure there is alignment among the city's Climate Action Plan, its interest in 100% renewable energy, and the Partnership's priorities for action, and;
3. Develop consensus on a *manageable number* of top priorities for the Clean Energy Partnership's next work plan that advance the city's climate and energy priorities.

## Board Participation

The Board members marked present attended the meeting and participated in the facilitated exercise to discuss and select Partnership priorities.

Present	Name	Title	Board Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacob Frey	Mayor	City of Minneapolis (Board Chair)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Schroeder	Ward 11 Council Member	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cam Gordon	Ward 2 Council Member	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Ruff	Chief Financial Officer	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brad Tutunjian	Vice President Regional Operations	CenterPoint Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adam Pyles	Director Regulatory Affairs	CenterPoint Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Marshall	Director Community Relations	Xcel Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Laura McCarten	Regional Vice President	Xcel Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Fletcher	Ward 3 Council Member	City of Minneapolis (Alternate)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Todd Berreman	Director Energy Efficiency	CenterPoint Energy (Alternate)

## Staff Attendance

Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis Sustainability Program Coordinator, provided a progress update of the Climate Action Plan's relevant goals as they align with the Partnership and responded to clarifying questions. Other staff from the partners were in attendance but did not participate in the facilitated exercise to establish priorities.

Present	Name	Title	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Luke Hollenkamp	Sustainability Program Coordinator	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Dockter	Manager, Policy & Outreach	Xcel Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emma Schoppe	Local Energy Policy Manager	CenterPoint Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heidi Ritchie	Policy Director, Mayor's Office	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robin Garwood	Policy Aide, Ward 2	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karlee Weinmann	Policy Associate, Ward 11	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Dorle	Policy Associate, Ward 3	City of Minneapolis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Al Swintek	Manager, Local Government Relations	CenterPoint Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Mark	Manager, Regulatory Affairs	CenterPoint Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sara Barrow	External Affairs and Community Relations	Xcel Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Louis Mondale	Project Manager New Partners	Xcel Energy

## Meeting Preparation

In advance of the meeting, Board members were asked to respond to the following survey questions:

1. How do you define success for the Partnership?
2. Is the Partnership achieving your definition of success?
3. Given the city's climate and energy goals, *specifically* how would you evaluate the success of the Partnership three years from now? What tools would you use to evaluate it?

## Meeting Activities

The facilitator guided the Board discussion of the Partnership priorities by first asking for individual Board member's priorities and then grouping similar priorities. The Board reviewed this list and a voting exercise identified the following top three priorities:

- Lower energy consumption and maximize energy efficiency in all building sectors (commercial, industrial and residential).
  - Leverage utility CIP programs to achieve 20% energy efficiency savings in commercial and industrial buildings by 2025.
  - Focus on big impact GHG activities (e.g., commercial energy efficiency of NRG's downtown district heating and cooling system).

**Total Votes Received: 7**

- Make more clean energy (renewable energy and energy efficiency) accessible and available through new inclusive financing tools.
  - Create an on-bill financing program to empower residents/property owners to invest in energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy.

**Total Votes Received: 7**

- Make the city more sustainable/resilient through increased local renewable energy
  - Significantly expand the use of clean, renewable energy, including alternatives for heating our buildings.

**Total Votes Received: 3**

The Board agreed that the following approaches will help to achieve the Partnership’s priorities:

- Go as a Partnership with a set list of meaningful agreed-upon asks to the state and Public Utilities Commission that would help the city reach our climate goals. Find pathways for more synergy with lobbying efforts at the state and federal level,
- Consider both Return on Investment and equity in making investments that lead to reduced energy consumption and energy efficiency,
- More clearly identify and inventory each partner’s key attributes/strengths and pick one project that demonstrates how the Partnership can leverage these respective strengths, and;
- Improve operations of this Partnership through role clarification and a structured prioritization of goals and activities.

The following is a list of proposed priorities that did not receive enough votes to be amongst the top three:

- Consider Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) as a way to help the city meet its energy and climate goals (need more knowledge on RNG before setting it as a CEP priority—concerns about what constitutes renewable),
- Broaden carbon/pollution data tracking to include wider swaths of commercial, industrial & residential properties—publish that data,
- Focus on transportation including electrified vehicles, buses and potential CNG applications,
- Enhance focus on city’s priority of housing for energy efficiency and deployment of renewable energy, and;
- Consider how clean energy goals/programs might be replicated across the state and nation.

## Next Steps

The Board directed Planning Team staff to return to the Q1 Board meeting with the following deliverables:

1. A report on the meeting for review by the Board, and
2. An analysis of current work plan activities mapped to three priorities.

At the Q1 Board Meeting the Board will vote to establish the three top priorities and direct staff on next steps.