

**Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership
ENERGY VISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minneapolis City Hall, Room 319

Monday, July 16, 2018

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Q3 2018 Meeting Notes

Committee members present: Chairs: Abby Finis and Matt Kazinka. Members: Louis Alemayehu, Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, Trevor Drake, John Farrell, Kevin Lewis, Patty O’Keefe, Rebecca Olson, Jamez Staples, Shane Stennes

Committee members excused: Julia Silvis, Siri Simons, Billy Weber

Guests: Kim Havey, Eric Immler, Katie Jones, Marcus Mills, Lee Samelson

Planning Team/staff present: Bridget Dockter, Laura Dorle, Peter Ebnet, Robin Garwood, Patrick Hanlon, Luke Hollenkamp, Louis Mondale, Kelly Muellman, Emma Schoppe, Marsha Wagner, Karlee Weinmann

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Matt Kazinka called the meeting of the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) to order. Following introductions, Kim Havey was introduced as the new manager of the Sustainability Office, starting July 23. He has worked at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources on renewable and solar energy, including education and outreach. Kim looks forward to working with and facilitating the work of EVAC and the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) Board in making the City more sustainable.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda and Q2 2018 Minutes

There being no changes to the agenda, it was MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda for the meeting be approved. Motion CARRIED. There being no changes or additions to the Q2 2018 minutes, it was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes from May 7, 2018 be approved. Motion CARRIED.

3. Report Back and Discussion of June 27 Meeting

Abby Finis reported that on June 27 several EVAC members met in person and by phone to have a discussion framed around two primary questions: 1) what has been effective or ineffective about EVAC’s structure and work to date and 2) what changes would help EVAC be more effective and productive in the future?

The main conversation was around EVAC’s role in the Partnership. EVAC would benefit from a better understanding of the goals of each partner organization so it can better work with them towards common goals. While the City’s goals are relatively clear given the Climate Action Plan and other commitments that the City has made, EVAC would like the utilities to make clear what goals motivate them in the Partnership. EVAC members expressed a desire to see more of a culture of collaboration among the partners, and more active direction and engagement from

Board members. EVAC believes it would be helpful to bring in an outside facilitator to help manage the Partnership and provide continuity going forward.

EVAC members discussed the three main priorities recently set by the Board, which are large and encompass basically everything the Partnership has been working on. EVAC would like to see more specificity within the priorities in the future, with more focus on reducing energy cost disparities and equity, and determination of methods for measuring progress toward those goals.

Other areas of discussion at the June 27 meeting included:

- Franchise fee: ensuring that the money is spent wisely and is not used for green power purchase programs.
- Community Voices: engaging in meaningful conversations with a wider variety of voices that more directly relate to the work of the Partnership.
- Future EVAC cohorts: making EVAC more representative of the demographic population of the City.

Following Abby's report, it was suggested that an additional area to be addressed would be to develop more collaboration among the partners, with EVAC and the CEP Board engaging in discussions and brainstorming together about ideas being proposed instead of working independently.

After discussion about the best way to advance this feedback to the Partnership, it was decided that the June 27 meeting notes along with discussions at this meeting be distilled into a list of recommendations and action items. Patty O'Keefe and John Farrell volunteered to create a first draft of the recommendations, flagging consensus items if possible, and submit them to EVAC Co-Chairs and the Planning Team for initial review, followed by review and approval of EVAC members before presentation to the CEP Board.

John suggested that it might be useful to include in the document the origin of the Partnership to provide context for understanding the culture of collaboration and as a springboard for pivoting to increased collaboration among the partners. Luke said that while there are fewer proposed Partnership Activities than previous work plans, they are deeper and provide more opportunities for collaboration. It was also suggested that it would be useful if the utilities provided a list of their goals and what they wanted to achieve through the Partnership. Bridget Dockter, Xcel Energy, and Emma Schoppe, CenterPoint Energy, stated that they are open to meetings and conversations with individuals or small groups of EVAC members. Both utilities are interested in serving their customers in the best way possible. The City of Minneapolis represents a large community of customers and the utilities want to help it meet its climate action and energy goals.

4. Update on Franchise Fee Increase-Enabled 2018 Programming

Luke Hollenkamp, assisted by Kelly Muellman and Patrick Hanlon, provided an update via powerpoint presentation on franchise fee increase-enabled 2018 programming. He noted that the contract was finalized last week for \$0 Home Energy Squad (HES) residential visits and 0% financing for air-sealing and insulation for residents in Green Zones and for income-qualified residents. Outreach will ramp up over the next few months by social media and targeted marketing through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE).

The programming funded by the franchise fee increase intersects with utility CIP programs and CEP work plans. Several EVAC members suggested there should be more overlap than visually shown between the franchise fee increase programming and CEP work plans, and that perhaps the City's Climate Action Plan should be shown as an intersecting item. Luke replied that the three intersecting circles shown represent resources, but that the Climate Action Plan certainly also overlaps all of the circles as well as a guiding document.

On the Workforce Development Assessment item, Laura Dorle explained that a study will be done to determine equitable employment opportunities related to the 100% Renewable Electricity Resolution. Due to the low funding amount, a formal RFP will not be issued but the opportunity will be sent to a limited number of potential parties. EVAC members were encouraged to forward any suggested organizations. Several EVAC members agreed that this item was grossly underfunded.

Peter Ebnet said that Mayor Frey will be giving his budget address on August 15. The budget is considered for approval by City Council in early December. At that point the Partnership will know the actual dollar amount from the franchise fee increase that will be available for 2019 programming.

5. 2017 Annual Report Preview

Emma provided an update and overview of the 2017 Clean Energy Partnership Annual Report. The Planning Team worked together to collect and analyze 2017 data, and will present the report and its contents at the CEP Q3 Board Meeting on July 27. EVAC members are invited to attend.

The purpose of the report is to inform the Board and its Partnership stakeholders of progress to date, as well as to aid the Board in its decision-making process as it considers future activities. It is based on eight metrics, passed by the Board in 2015, which are used to measure progress. The report also includes a progress report on 2017-2018 Work Plan activities.

Luke reported that data is now available from 2016 on greenhouse gas emissions, which are now reduced 20.4% compared to the 2006 baseline. This is due in large part to more renewable generation being added to the electricity supply; natural gas emissions decreased slightly. The next goal is the 2025 target of a 30% reduction from 2006, with an ultimate goal of an 80% reduction by 2050. Commercial/Industrial Sector buildings are the largest source of building energy emissions and more focus needs to be given to this sector. Multi-family housing emissions are accounted for in both the residential or commercial/industrial sectors, depending on metering set-up.

Some of the highlights of the 2017 Annual Report are:

- Franchise fee increase was approved by the City Council; funds were allocated in 2018
- Barriers and benefits to energy efficiency were identified for hard-to-reach or underserved communities
- New tools initiated by the Partnership are under development by the utilities: On-Bill Loan Repayment and Energy Data Aggregation (CenterPoint Energy) and Small Business Refrigeration Program (Xcel Energy)

- Conservation Improvement Programs (CIP) continue to make an impact on citywide emissions; approximately 98,660 metric tons of carbon dioxide was avoided, which equates to about 2.4% of 2016 emissions, and customers saved approximately \$12 million. The utilities invested a combined \$18 million in the City of Minneapolis on CIP programs in 2017.

Looking ahead, the Planning Team would like to reassess how the Partnership reports annually, i.e. evaluating metrics, and aligning metrics better with Partnership goals and activities as well as the City’s climate and energy goals. The Planning Team is interested in better communicating trends and trajectories with graphics/visuals to make the annual report more accessible.

6. “Partnership Activity” draft concepts under development for Next Work Plan

Luke reviewed the process of developing work plan activities from the beginning of 2018 to date. The CEP Board would like to advance two to three “Partnership Activities” for each of the three Board-approved priorities: energy efficiency, renewable energy and inclusive financing. At this meeting EVAC is invited to offer feedback on several draft concepts under development. Those comments will be shared with the Board at its Q3 meeting and the Planning Team will continue to develop these concepts. EVAC will have another opportunity to provide additional input on updated proposed “Partnership Activities” in Q4 prior to Board consideration.

After a Planning Team presentation of the “*Partnership Activity*” *Draft Concepts under Development* document and content, EVAC members provided the following feedback:

Energy Efficiency:

- If possible, identify and target residential properties at lower income levels, and set criteria around equity. *[Luke responded that the best place to do that might be the Green Zone.]*
- To increase the impact of the second item (commercial office building sector cohort), add language that goes beyond outreach to how energy savings are achieved, i.e. developing new programs in a collaborative way. *[Bridget responded that the plan is to identify high energy users and then use Xcel Energy’s account managers and business solutions center to target those users with direct outreach.]*
- The commercial building sector is more complex than other sectors due to different types of tenants, some larger energy users than others. Many ownerships and management companies are not based locally, making it difficult to reach those who have influence on what can be done at a specific property. Instead of focusing on buildings that waste the most energy, it might make more sense to focus on building portfolios by companies, ownership groups, and property managers and engage on that level.

Renewable Energy:

- These activities seem heavily weighted toward City operations rather than more community-wide.
- These activities do not go far enough or seem like big initiatives. They should be bigger.

General Comments:

- Is there a reason why the current E-TAP program is not listed here? *[Luke responded that the focus of this list is new initiatives to try next year. The Partnership is committed to continuing many of the things that the Partnership is currently doing.]*
- Focus on making an intentional modification of the Partnership's mission to include a workforce development component in each item of the work plan or more broadly in recommendations conversation.
- It would help to know the sense of impact of these items. The Board would like to go narrower but deeper, but many of these do not go deep enough.
- EVAC submitted a lot of ideas, and many were discarded. It would be helpful from a learning standpoint to know why they were discarded.
- What are the resource constraints, and how much of a limiting factor was that in the decision to go with 2-3 activities per priority? *[Bridget responded that narrowing it down to 2-3 per priority makes it easier to focus and move things forward.]*
- We seem to be tracking metrics but not using them to set goals and objectives.
- We do not know the capacity of community-based organizations to help carry out this work. We could build off of the community engagement thread. Although this does not fit within the three priorities, it should be done in order to achieve our goals.
- Specific goals around workforce should be considered for each activity, i.e. how many jobs would be created, and what types of jobs.
- It would be helpful to know what items in the current work plan will continue.
- It would be helpful to see how the proposed Partnership Activities fit within what is happening under the increased franchise fee programming.
- Show how these activities interact with each other and can be integrated, and avoid duplication.
- Are there ways in these items that we can translate our achievements in the next two years that will set us on the pathway to achieve an ultimate destination over the longer term?

At the conclusion of the discussion, Matt invited EVAC members to send additional suggestions to the Planning Team and the EVAC Chairs for compilation before the July 27 CEP Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 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.*

Submitted by:

Marsha Wagner, CastleVisions

marsha@castlevisions.com