

# Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

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## Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

### 2021 Q3 Meeting Notes

#### Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

September 29, 2021

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

#### Meeting attendees:

**EVAC members present:** Becky Olson (Co-chair); Patty O’Keefe (Co-chair); Rick Dallmeyer; Timothy DenHerder-Thomas; John Farrell; Heidi Hamilton; Leah Hiniker; Mauricio Leon, Marcus Mills; Jamez Staples; Anna Johnson (proxy for Margaret Cherne-Hendrick); Jon Kuskie (proxy for Julie Samuelson); Imani Mosher (proxy for Elizabeth Turner).

**Guests/Staff present:** Kim Havey, City of Minneapolis; Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Patrick Hanlon, City of Minneapolis; Robin Garwood, City of Minneapolis; Emma Schoppe, CenterPoint Energy; Bridget Dockter, Xcel Energy; Al Swintek, CenterPoint Energy; Sara Barrow, Xcel Energy; Dan King, Xcel Energy.

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Protocol

Roll was called and meeting instructions for Microsoft Teams relayed. Planning Staff made the following Board/Staffing announcements:

- Bridget Dockter is transitioning into a different role at Xcel Energy and stepping away from CEP Planning Team duties.
- Dan King, Xcel Energy, will be taking over CEP Planning Team Duties from Bridget.
- Sara Barrow, Xcel Energy, is also transitioning into a new role and her position as City of Minneapolis relationship manager will soon be posted for hire.
- Christe Singleton, VP Gas Operations at CenterPoint Energy is a new CEP Board Member, filling Brad Tutunjian’s seat, who is taking on a new leadership role at CenterPoint Energy.
- Council Member Fletcher is filling the City Coordinator seat on the CEP Board given City Coordinator Mark Ruff’s departure.
- Karlee Weinmann, former Policy Aide to CM Schroeder, has taken a new position outside the City.

#### 2. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

Becky Olson asked for a motion to adopt the Q2 meeting minutes and an amendment to the Q3 meeting agenda order. Both were MOVED and both motions CARRIED.

### 3. Board Meeting Report

Becky Olson provided a summary of the Q3 Board Meeting on September 22, 2021 which included updates on the *G21: Decarbonizing Natural Gas End Uses* stakeholder process, CEP Work Plan development, Time of Rent disclosure, Inclusive Financing, Xcel's *Resilient Minneapolis* project, and Xcel's workforce development updates.

### 4. 2020 Annual Report

The Planning Team [presented highlights](#) from the [2020 Annual Report](#).

An EVAC member asked if there would be an effort to include any of the G21 scenarios into the City's forecasting predictions for natural gas. Emma responded that more defined forecasting assumptions for natural gas may be informed by the work CenterPoint Energy undertakes with the City and other stakeholders in the pursuit of new innovative strategies under the new Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA) law. Luke agreed that the opportunities allowed under NGIA and also the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act will inform the bending of natural gas projections in the coming years. For example, the ability to move natural gas end uses to electricity and lowering the natural gas carbon factor from technologies like renewably produced hydrogen will help bend the natural gas curve in the coming years.

Patty asked if there would be recommendations or new findings articulated in the Annual Report? Luke identified the City's priorities leading into Work Plan development as the efforts that are guiding the CEP's next steps. The City feels it is clear on the direction we need to take to bend the natural gas curve and electrify, and do so in an equitable manner. The City's hope is that this will play out in the Work Plan which is a consensus document amongst the three partners. The City's priorities are based on the Annual Report and G21 process, which all Partners were also engaged in. Difficult and tense conversations occurred during the G21 process – some parties including the City wanted to go further and make a recommendation about pursuing the high-electrification decarbonization scenarios, whereas some thought that we didn't need to make a choice now. The City's perspective is that the necessary decarbonization path is clear: electrify as much as possible and produce electricity from 100% renewables; any remaining gas in the system should be verifiably net-zero carbon.

Emma added that the Annual Report provides a summary of activities in 2020 and is forward looking by describing the opportunities afforded by both the ECO Act and NGIA in bending the natural gas curve.

Bridget commented that Xcel Energy's Alternate Plan (IRP) made significant changes in increasing renewables, decreasing gas plant use, and continuing the path toward 100% carbon free; which are common goals with the City.

## 5. Work Plan Update

Luke presented an update on the City's priorities for the next work plan, which are:

1. 30% Local, Distributed Solar by 2030
2. Beneficial Electrification of Natural Gas End Uses
3. Deep Energy Efficiency with Community Benefits

The Partners' strategies for Work Plan development are:

- Fewer projects, but with a LARGER Impact
- Increase equity and inclusion
- Greater engagement and collaboration with EVAC
- Rolling development and implementation of some activities to align with NGIA & ECO timelines and engagement in Regulatory Processes

An EVAC member requested clarification on EVAC engagement timeline and process. Luke responded that we'll have more details in Q4. Emma flagged regulatory milestones for the ECO Act and NGIA implementation including: March 2022: Department of Commerce (DOC) Guidelines on fuel switching under ECO Act; June 2022 DOC cost/benefit framework for NGIA Innovation Plans. Emma also noted that there are two regulatory dockets underway: Docket 21-566 pertains to lifecycle GHG accounting and cost/benefit frameworks for natural gas Innovation Plans and Docket 21-565 pertains to evaluation of natural gas policy and regulatory structure to meet GHG goals.

Two EVAC members spoke in support of the City priorities and an interest in EVAC taking a formalized role in the development of activities. One EVAC member said he would like to see the City be more explicit on equity and push the CEP and private sector partners to be more aggressive on equity.

One EVAC member asked for clarification on how 'local' is defined in the City's renewable goal. Luke responded that 'local' includes solar panels located in the geographic boundary of the city as well as resources located in proximity to the city, such as community solar gardens in an adjacent county. The City's preference is that renewable electricity is produced within the city boundary. The EVAC member inquired about a roof top suitability study and how much of the

City's goal could be achieved by roof top solar. Met Council and Google studies show max technical potential in 30% range- some other barriers might lend to feasibility of solar gardens (i.e. economic, etc). The EVAC member commented that the age/quality of the roof is a barrier that the City may need to address to achieve the goal. Another EVAC Member commented that any available land may be prioritized to address the affordable housing crisis while solar panels can be placed on developed land – so as not to compete with each other.

Next Steps: Planning Team and Chairs to reserve time at Q4 Meeting to discuss EVAC engagement.

## 6. Community Voices Working Group Update/Discussion

Community Voices working group has met to discuss how EVAC can rethink the way it engages with community, discussing what has been done in the past and evaluating it for thinking about how to move forward. Patty and Timothy presented the Community Voices Working Group ideas and offered the following recommendations:

- Engagement needs to be funded
- Those engaged must have decision making power
- Accountability Structures – Acknowledgement that partners are willing to change systems in response to identified barriers.
- Clear timeline for Work Plan Engagement before decisions set in stone or resources allocated.

Discussion:

EVAC Members discussed and described their support for developing structures for improved community engagement. EVAC members noted that the timing for developing a Work Plan and the City planning franchise fee funding allocations was appropriate for considering community engagement efforts.

Planning team staff described additional opportunities to dive into engagement discussions with roll out of ECO Act and NGIA implementation. Partners also described that previous feedback has fed into programmatic changes and engagement processes (Ex. Xcel LI CIP offerings and Minneapolis 100% Renewable Electricity Blueprint). The City also noted it will be developing an updated Climate Action and Equity Plan in 2022 and that is an opportunity for deeper community engagement.

Next Steps: Community Voices Working Group to meet with the Planning Team to determine next steps for a Community Engagement process.

## 6. EVAC Applications/Recruitment

EVAC Co-Chair, Becky, provided an update on EVAC Applications/Recruitment. EVAC applications and recruitment to take place in October. The Planning Team will review applications and make EVAC membership recommendations to the CEP Board in November; the CEP Board will confirm EVAC appointments in December. EVAC terms are January 2022 - December 2023. The EVAC application was updated to include an expanded definition of Diversity and Inclusion based on EVAC members' feedback. EVAC can review and provide any feedback on the application by next week. All EVAC members are encouraged to reapply.

## 7. Partner Updates

Kim Havey encouraged EVAC members to respond to 100% Renewable Electricity Blueprint – the City is accepting comments through October 15th.

Patrick Hanlon provided a Green Cost Share Update. 330 projects going forward made possible through EVAC's support of funding via the franchise fee increase. EVAC has said workforce should be part of Green Cost Share program, City has been able to hire a full-time position and work with Summit Academy, CEE, Renewable Energy and signed contract with Sabanthani.

## Meeting Adjourned