

Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

2022 Q3 Meeting Notes

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

August 30, 2022

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting attendees:

EVAC members present: Patty O’Keefe (Co-chair); Beth Tomlinson (Co-chair); Timothy DenHerder-Thomas; John Farrell; Mauricio Leon; Marcus Mills; Jamez Staples; Margaret Cherne-Hendrick; Elizabeth Turner; Ansha Zaman; Jon Kuskie; Katie Jones; Natalie Haberman; Leah Hiniker.

Staff/Guests present: Kim Havey, City of Minneapolis; Ly-Ly Vang-Yang, City of Minneapolis; Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Al Swintek, CenterPoint Energy; Kat Knudson, CenterPoint Energy; Dan King, Xcel Energy; Patrick Hanlon, City of Minneapolis.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Protocol

Roll was called and meeting instructions for Microsoft Teams relayed.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Q2 Meeting Notes

Patty O’Keefe asked for a motion to adopt the Q2 meeting minutes and the Q3 meeting agenda. Both were MOVED and both motions CARRIED.

3. EVAC’s Community Engagement Proposal

Dan reviewed Xcel Energy’s Equity Stakeholder Advisory Group (which is under development) which focuses on three themes: distributive justice, procedural justice, and restorative justice. This group’s work overlaps with EVAC’s recommendations, but it is geared toward a much larger geographic area. Xcel hopes this effort informs future upcoming engagement that looks more like the direct outreach in EVAC’s recommendations.

Kat reviewed that CenterPoint Energy shared EVAC’s recommendations with their contracted partner in upcoming outreach and engagement for the 2024-2026 CIP triennial planning. CenterPoint and its partner, based on EVAC’s recommendations, are looking to make a more inclusive and welcoming environment for engagement with CenterPoint in the creation of the

plan. CenterPoint's looking to create a larger, ongoing outreach effort over time that is not just focused on CIP triennial planning.

Luke provided specific examples from the City's Climate Equity Plan engagement process ([presentation](#): slides 5-6) illustrating how the City is incorporating intentional, iterative, and inclusive processes that align with EVAC's recommendations. The City's consultants for the Plan, which features extensive community engagement, includes Urban Design Perspectives and Precipitate, where Elizabeth Turner is in leadership. Luke also suggested that realizing EVAC's recommendation specifically within the CEP may be an item for consideration in the next generation of the Partnership, which may occur after October 2024 given that is when the franchise agreements expire and need to be renewed.

Patty reflected that while she is glad that principles and ideas of the recommendations are included in the Partners' individual work, she is saddened that the decision is not to build this into the collective work of the Partnership at this time. The Partnership's work impacts the community, and the Partnership needs to go out and meet people where they are, compensate them for their time and expertise, and report back to community on how their feedback led to real change. A few additional members of EVAC also spoke about the importance of EVAC's recommendations.

4. 2022-2023 Work Plan Themes 1 and 2 - Approved by Board

Luke presented a framing of the 2022-2023 Work Plan ([presentation](#): slides 7-9) and how it is informed by and responds to the City's new net-zero by 2050 climate goals. Luke proceeded to present (slides 10-12) the three themes of the work plan and a deeper look at the Board-adopted Theme 1.

Dan presented an overview of the Board-adopted Theme 2 ([presentation](#): slides 13-14).

5. 2022-2023 Work Plan Theme 3 – In Progress

Kat presented ([presentation](#): slide 15) an overview of what was presented at the Q2 Board meeting and Luke presented (slides 16-17) the City's critique: that what was presented was not ambitious nor urgent enough. This resulted in Theme 3 not being adopted at that meeting. Kat proceeded to present (slides 18-29) the new work on Theme 3 since the Q2 Board meeting. In particular, the "New Normal" effort develops and implements a collaborative, comprehensive effort leading C/I properties along a pathway of energy savings services.

Feedback from EVAC members included:

- Does Theme 3 go far enough and fast enough for the City’s climate goals, given it reduces gas but does not start to move us off of gas? More focus on district energy could help move buildings off of gas. Kat responded that this work over the next two years is transitional work and hopefully lays the groundwork for a quicker pace in the future. Luke responded that he believes this work is not enough given the City’s goals and that he would prefer no incentives go toward new gas equipment, but that this work does allow the City and CenterPoint to collaborate on mutually-prioritized areas such as envelope upgrades.
- It is exciting to see the City’s benchmarking data being used for a larger program and effort. Also, Seattle’s benchmarking ordinance requires a “building tune-up” as a mandatory requirement.
- It is hard to be enthusiastic about this work when it includes more gas infrastructure. Also, let’s call it a “campaign” so it conveys CenterPoint’s full efforts and resources, and it should include goals and participation rates. Kat responded that CenterPoint does see this as a longer-term, comprehensive effort and had steered away from “campaign” to avoid it being confused with a marketing effort. CenterPoint will reconsider the wording used to best convey this effort’s importance.
- We are nearing the ceiling of what voluntary programs can achieve in terms of energy savings, so we may need to talk about solutions that take us beyond that.
- Is there space to consider whether or not bonus incentives go to new gas equipment? Kat responded that she and Luke will talk further about how to address this particular question and the concern from EVAC about incentivizing new gas infrastructure. This is the type of topic that will also be discussed in more detail in the Theme 3 Working Group that Kat will soon be inviting EVAC members to.

6. Partner Updates

- Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan** – Kim said that the City is looking for EVAC participation and representation in the Steering Committee as well as subject-specific work groups. Interested members can reach out to Kim directly.
- Minneapolis and CenterPoint Energy Tariffed On Bill Pilot Proposal** – Ran out of time for an update. Relevant info may be shared via email.
- CenterPoint Energy 2024-2026 Triennial Plan** – Ran out of time for an update. Relevant info may be shared via email.
- CenterPoint Energy Innovation Plan** – Ran out of time for an update. Relevant info may be shared via email.
- Xcel Energy Equity Stakeholder Group** – Dan provided updates on this group during the previous agenda item discussion on EVAC’s community engagement proposal.

Meeting Adjourned