

Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

2023 Q2 Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Public Service Building, Room 100

May 16, 2023

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting attendees:

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

Staff/Guests present: Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Al Swintek, CenterPoint Energy; Kat Knudson, CenterPoint Energy; Dan King, Xcel Energy.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Patty O’Keefe welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the room.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Q1 Meeting Notes

Patty O’Keefe asked for a motion to adopt the Q1 meeting minutes and the Q2 meeting agenda. Both were MOVED and both motions CARRIED.

3. Aligning Utility and City Efforts with a Decarbonized Future

a. Introduction and Grounding (Katie)

Katie Jones framed the conversation by giving updates on the ECO plans and the IRA. She stated the goal of the discussion is to discuss how well utility and city efforts align with these two developments in the energy space. ECO plan inputs have been established and the utilities ECO plans will be very important to meeting Partnership goals, like weatherization. IRA funding is also being rolled out in the near future and the utilities are responding to the PUC regarding how their work is impacted by their new federal funding.

Katie [presented slides](#) she developed to provide background and context on this subject. Katie is particularly concerned by some of the cost effectiveness inputs that may less than optimally incentivize gas reduction programs, and is curious about what the utilities may do to combat that issue in order to move forward toward climate goals as fast as needed. EVAC members asked questions, provided clarifications, and shared the issues and opportunities they see from their perspectives.

Luke Hollenkamp spoke about how the City is responding to these new resources and incentives. Prior to these new state and federal resources, the City focused on needing to provide a large amount of new financial incentives to promote decarbonization. Now, with more incentives available at the state and federal level, the City sees its role advancing in educating the public via additional city staff, community knowledge and outreach, and educational resources like [ElectrifyEverythingMN.org](https://www.electrifyeverythingmn.org).

Dan King explained that the triennial plans will be proposed, approved, and go into effect prior to knowing all the details regarding the many state and federal incentives coming along. However, Xcel fully expects to make adjustments to the triennial plan to recognize those federal and state programs once those details become available. Big themes in Xcel's filing will be optimizing energy use like load shifting, ramping up of fuel switching programs due to spending caps for the first few years for, more holistic approaches to program design and easy delivery for customers, educational components for customers and trade allies. Also included are fuel switching incentives in Minneapolis when moving from non-gas fuels to electricity, like e-bikes and lawn equipment.

Kat Knudson summarized highlights of their filing, which includes components for automatic eligibility based on geography and low-income program eligibility, CenterPoint trade ally outreach in tandem with Xcel, built-in flexibility in the plans for further modifications after state-level rebate programs are known, promotion of IRA incentives and rebates, increased weatherization incentives, programs that compliment inclusions in the NGIA proposed plan, and fuel switching incentives.

EVAC members and staff from the Partners engaged in discussion on these topics for the remainder of the session.

Katie proposed an EVAC feedback letter be sent to the Partners outlining their expectations for what would be included in the utilities' filings. Patty and Katie will coordinate a meeting with members interested in contributing to the memo.

4. Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan – Small Group Feedback

Luke Hollenkamp provided an overview of the progress-to-date on the development of the Climate Equity Plan, explaining the [draft](#) is an unpolished, in-progress draft that can still incorporate changes based on community and stakeholder feedback. The group decided to review the relevant sections (Healthy Homes, Green Buildings and Industry, and Energy Systems) as a whole.

EVAC members provided feedback and indicated items that multiple members had similar comments regarding.

Meeting Adjourned

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