

Dear Clean Energy Partnership Board,

The Clean Energy Partnership needs several improvements, including increased EVAC participation and utility performance metrics to reach its admirable goal of achieving the City of Minneapolis climate goals. These recommendations should be adopted during the renegotiation of the Partnership franchise agreement and memorandum of understanding. The Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) is a key organizational structure to support the City of Minneapolis in achieving its climate goals. While many strides have been made in the decade since its inception, there are concerns about the pace of progress and likelihood of meeting the targets. The Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC), which advises and serves as the key accountability mechanism for the CEP, recommends the following improvements to communication, functionality, and accountability.

**Improve Community Representation in Decision-making:** Establish a voting seat for a member of EVAC within the CEP to ensure direct input into decision-making processes.  
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**Increase Responsiveness to Community Concerns:** Ensure EVAC's communications to the Partnership Board, such as letters and recommendations, receive timely responses (e.g. within three weeks).

- In cases where the partners do not agree with EVAC's recommendations, the Board must facilitate further discussion between Partnership staff, board members, and EVAC within a reasonable amount of time.
- Providing significant advance notice to EVAC of timelines for work plan development, goal-setting, or program development to enable EVAC to contribute ideas and input proactively as opposed to just responding to predeveloped concepts.
- This also includes sharing information with EVAC members outside of regularly scheduled meetings when time-sensitive and appropriate, and reserving at least half of every EVAC meeting for discussion rather than presentation from CEP members only.

**Add Necessary Performance Metrics Relevant to the City Climate and Partnership Goals:**  
*The following metrics should be used to measure Partnership success and be included in the annual report:*

- Include a greenhouse gas reduction performance metric to ensure Partners' goals are in alignment with Minneapolis' carbon budget.
- Implement a fossil gas reduction performance metric for CenterPoint Energy (CPE), which should be included in each annual report. This metric will provide transparency and accountability regarding CPE's progress in reducing fossil gas usage and total emissions reduction.
- Report on permits pulled for electric heat pumps and electric hot water heaters within Minneapolis, including the number of systems installed, permits pulled, whether they have cold climate technology (can operate below 0 F), the installed cost, and the value of any federal, state, or utility incentives.

**Communication with Media:** Share the Clean Energy Partnership annual report and a summary of overall performance with the media through a press release and through social media channels (including, at a minimum, the Star Tribune, Minnesota Public Radio, Minnpost, The Reformer, and the four major network television stations — KARE, WCCO, KSTP, and FOX9)

**Additional Terms:**

- Xcel Energy (with input from the City of Minneapolis) shall produce a benefit/cost analysis for undergrounding electrical infrastructure when streets are being reconstructed and use it to accelerate strategic undergrounding of wires, taking into account the value of reduced outages to the utility and customers, changes in utility maintenance costs including tree trimming and other related maintenance, increased climate resilience benefits, and costs for distribution infrastructure upgrade related to electrification load growth.
- Program participation, energy consumption, and energy saving should be tracked by the Partnership at reasonably granular geographic levels to inform better targeting of programs and strategies. The utilities should make this information available in aggregate at granular geographic levels such as census tract or neighborhood as agreed by the Partnership.
- EVAC wishes to foster a more bi-directional system of communication, to fully leverage the subject matter expertise and community connection that EVAC brings. To present an example, EVAC should be considered more like a Commission versus an advisory body.

By implementing these recommendations, the CEP can enhance accountability, transparency, and community engagement, furthering its mission to achieve meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.