

Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

2025 Q4 Meeting Notes

Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

November 17, 2025

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting attendees:

EVAC members present: Patty O’Keefe (Co-chair); Marcus Mills (Co-chair); Timothy DenHerder-Thomas; John Farrell; Jon Kuskie

Staff/Guests present: Julia Hanson, CenterPoint Energy; Sofia Troutman, Xcel Energy; Suzanne Murphy, Xcel Energy; Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Council Member Katie Cashman, City of Minneapolis; Molly Burns-Hansen, City of Minneapolis; Izzy Ballet, City of Minneapolis; Sam Wheeler, City of Minneapolis; Alice Froehlich, City of Minneapolis; Lee Samelson

1. Welcome and Introductions (Marcus Mills)

EVAC Co-Chairs welcomed attendees and asked for introductions around the room.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Q3 Meeting Notes (Marcus Mills)

The motion to approve the agenda was MOVED and CARRIED.

The motion to approve the Q3 Meeting Notes was MOVED and CARRIED.

3. Update regarding Board Member seats in 2026 (Luke, Sofia, Suzanne)

Luke Hollenkamp provided an update for the City of Minneapolis. The City determines its four seats through the recent elections and City Council appointments in the new year, resulting in at least one or possibly two new faces from the Council. Having not been re-elected to City Council, Council Member Cashman will no longer serve, and her contributions to the Clean Energy Partnership were appreciated. Mayor Frey and COO Margaret Anderson Kelliher will continue to hold seats.

Sofia Troutman and Suzanne Murphy provided an update for Xcel Energy. Bria Shea, who served on the Board, has been selected as the operating company president for Northern States Power in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Trisha Duncan from Community Relations will step into her position on the Board.

4. 2026-2027 EVAC Cohort Process Update (Planning Team)

Luke Hollenkamp provided an update regarding the next EVAC cohort. EVAC has 15 members, and all positions are open for reappointment. We are pleased to have received 24 applications.

The applications received by the City will be reviewed and shared with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. An online Board vote will take place, and decisions will be made by mid-December. The new terms will be effective from January 1, 2026, and will last for two years.

5. Report back from *Climate Legacy Roundtable*

Patty O’Keefe & Marcus Mills provided an update:

- The recent Climate Legacy Round Table meeting focused on green jobs and workforce development in relation to clean energy and the climate equity plan. The CPED and Sustainability teams presented, and breakout sessions were held to discuss the main barriers to prioritizing these jobs for communities most affected by pollution and various intersecting systemic issues.
- There was a productive discussion about transportation options, job training locations, and apprenticeship sites. A robust transportation system is needed to ensure that individuals without cars can access these training facilities.
- There is a demand for more training facilities within the City of Minneapolis.
- The relationship with unions was discussed, including both the challenges and potential solutions. Tribal and Indigenous nations were also mentioned in this context.
- Suggestions were made to utilize CLI funds for outreach initiatives, develop programs, and offer free apprenticeships in low-income areas. This approach could help localize job opportunities and address transportation challenges.
- A partnership with HourCar or Evie was proposed as a potential transportation solution.

6. Proposed Franchise Fee Rate Increases for 2026

A. Legislation overview and timeline (Council Member Cashman / Molly Burns-Hansen)

Council Member Cashman provided an update:

- A public hearing was held on November 13, 2025, and there was an overwhelmingly positive reaction to the proposed ordinances.
- Luke Hollenkamp assisted in modeling various scenarios per Council request regarding the fee increase, and the City ultimately chose the \$5 million option. This option mirrors the increases that were adopted in 2023, featuring a larger increase for gas at 1% compared to 0.25% for electricity. Additionally, as an equity component, the rates for commercial classes will see a higher increase than those for residential classes. The ordinance will be introduced for action at the full Council meeting scheduled for December 11th. In response to concerns about needs for an equity analysis of the increase impacts, this had been done previously in 2023 for the last increase. In response to concerns about equitably distributing funds, priority has been historically given and the majority of funds were allocated to both Green Zone areas and low-income residents. Also, a budget amendment earmarked the new funding from the

franchise fee increase to a number of successful residential and weatherization programs delivered by the Health Department.

B. EVAC Discussion (Patty / Marcus)

Members had a number of comments, including:

- An equity analysis was performed in 2023 previously. Luke Hollenkamp responded he would email follow-up documents pertaining to this discussion.
- Luke Hollenkamp and Alice Froehlich added that Patrick Hanlon has recently provided presentations and data to Council and City leaders about how and where the CLI money is spent. The City also has tools like the Green Cost Share (GCS) Dashboard to show funding details.
- It would be helpful if the City would communicate to the Commercial and Industrial folks in the city the positive impacts and stories of the Franchise fee-enabled work and how much money goes to the commercial industrial sector from GCS.
- A request was made to annually share at Q3 EVAC meetings data pertaining to franchise fee revenue, spending, and impact.

7. 2024 Annual Report Follow-up – Grid Mix Renewable Percentage (Sofia)

Sofia Troutman provided a follow-up to Patty's question at the last meeting about why the certified renewable percentage appears to be stabilizing. She noted that several factors, such as weather conditions and equipment performance, could contribute to this trend. Additionally, imports have risen to compensate for decreased performance. On the positive side, rooftop solar production and output from solar rewards programs are increasing. Xcel anticipates a rise in the certified renewable percentage in 2025 and 2026 as they continue to ramp up their investments.

Suzanne Murphy mentioned that if approved by the PUC, Sherco Solar, the fifth-largest solar facility in the country, will add 910 megawatts of solar capacity.

8. 2026-2027 Work Plan

A. Preliminary concepts and priorities from each Partner (Luke, Julia, Suzanne Murphy)

Luke provided an update from the City.

- Geothermal – A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Thermal Energy Potential Study was shared with the members. This project is scheduled to kick off in early 2026 and is a priority for partnership between the City and Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy, especially around data sharing.
- Weatherization - Briefly discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CenterPoint Energy which outlines CenterPoint's Partnership commitments, including the HERO outreach program, which focuses on targeted outreach in Green Zones to encourage participation in the Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA) deep energy retrofit

and air source heat pump pilot programs. There will be more neighborhood and city-sponsored events to promote these initiatives.

- Electrification and renewable/solar installation – City will be collaborating with Xcel Energy on these efforts.

Julia provided high-level/preliminary ideas from CenterPoint Energy.

- Residential decarbonization through energy efficiency ideas–
 - Work toward increasing weatherization in Minneapolis, potentially collaborating on marketing and outreach efforts to specific Wards/Green Zones.
 - Collaborate with the City to increase Home Energy Squad visits in order to increase identification/recommendations for weatherization, heating systems, and other energy efficiency measures.
 - Continue to collaborate with the City on income qualified residential housing (ideas include leveraging Green Cost Share and CenterPoint Energy ECO programs, increasing participation of 1-to-4-unit rental properties, collaborating on single-family homes).
- Business customers—ideas on increasing this segment’s participation in ECO and NGIA activities—
 - Collaborating with the city to identify potential customers for NGIA project opportunities or generally engage with customers on NGIA technologies.
 - Increasing business audits to identify energy efficiency and decarbonization opportunities.
 - Collaborating with the City on raising awareness on building operator certification and food service certification.
 - Exploring a custom engagement approach—potentially focusing on certain segments with the city’s recommendation and collaboration.

Suzanne provided an update from Xcel Energy.

- Xcel has Geothermal expertise
- Electrification
 - Heat pump rebate
 - EV accelerated home
- Weatherization

B. Brainstorming session (All)

Members had a number of comments, including:

- Report on the collective action showcasing the success of the City’s Partnership with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy.

- There is an opportunity to create a pilot program or process that helps customers to navigate the offerings of these three partners. Like bundling weatherization, electrification, and renewable installation into one package.
- Airport noise improvement program is a successful program that shows a comprehensive pathway for weatherization.

9. Partner Updates

A. City of Minneapolis: Geothermal activities, Climate Equity Reporting platform (Luke)

Luke provided an update from the City.

- Salas O'Brian is conducting a feasibility analysis for implementing geothermal energy at the New Nicollet redevelopment site. This analysis will be made available to interested developers to help implement an eventual geothermal system.
- An internal analysis is currently underway for geothermal energy at the Democracy Center, which was previously the Police Department's 3rd Precinct building. The City has received a \$100,000 grant which will be used to study the potential for geothermal energy at the City facility located at 300 Border Ave., near the Farmers Market and adjacent to the North Loop.
- A Climate Equity reporting platform is being developed as a public resource to provide updates on progress toward achieving the Climate Equity Plan.

B. Xcel Energy: Distributed Capacity Procurement (DCP) program (Sofia)

Sofia provided an update from Xcel Energy.

- Shared an information sheet on a proposal for a battery storage network throughout Minnesota. This initiative aims to provide additional energy capacity. Companies and nonprofits can host the batteries and receive payment.

C. CenterPoint Energy: NGIA Pilots (Julia)

Julia provided an update from CenterPoint Energy.

- Commercial Hybrid Heating pilot – CenterPoint is offering incentives to commercial customers, providing rebates of up to 40%. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of 135 customers.
- Integrating Green Hydrogen or carbon capture system– For industrial and large commercial customers, CenterPoint will fund 20% of the feasibility study, up to a maximum of \$30,000.

Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.