Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership
BOARD MEETING

Minneapolis Public Service Building, 505 S 4th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55415 [Room 100]
Monday, May 18, 2026
9:00 –10:30 a.m.

2026 Q2 Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Mayor Frey (Chair), Council Member Soren Stevenson, Council Member Aisha Chughtai, Margaret Anderson Kelliher (City of Minneapolis); Emily Suppes and Brad Steber from CenterPoint Energy, John Marshall and Nick Martin (proxy) from Xcel Energy

Board Members Absent: Jody Londo from Xcel Energy

City of Minneapolis Staff Present: Luke Hollenkamp, Nadia Khan, Megan Hoye, Frank Hornstein, Ed Eiffler Jaramillo, Patrick Hanlon

Xcel Energy Staff Present: Sofia Troutman, Suzanne Murphy, Edward Weinberg, Caitlyn Roeglin

CenterPoint Energy Staff Present: Julia Hanson, Ethan Warner, Kat Knutson

Guests Present: Ilana Parcher (State of MN Energy Office), Lissa Pawlisch (State of MN Energy Office), Marcus Mills (EVAC Co-Chair), Nick Lopez (EVAC member, Native Sun Community Power Development), Arlene Mathison (Unidos MN), Bill Adamski (Unidos MN), Erin Thomspon (Unidos MN), Brian Kronke (Community Power MN), Lee Samelson (Community Power MN), Chris Duffrin (CEE)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Mayor Frey called the meeting to order
- Everyone gave a brief introduction

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

- Mayor Frey asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as well as the minutes from the 2025 Q4 CEP Board Meeting. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda for today's meeting be approved. Motion CARRIED. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes from the Q4 meeting be approved. Motion CARRIED.

3. 2026-2027 Vice Chair determination

- Emily Suppes from CenterPoint Energy will as Board Vice Chair, leading Board meetings when Mayor Frey is not in attendance. Motion CARRIED.

4. Dept of Commerce's Minnesota Thermal Energy Network Site Suitability Study *(Lissa Pawlisch, Ilana Percher)*

- Overview of what Thermal Energy Networks (TEN) are: *(Lissa Pawlisch)*
    - Thermal Energy Networks: a project that provides heating and cooling to multiple buildings connected via underground piping containing fluids that, in concert with heat pumps, exchange thermal energy from the earth, underground or surface waters, wastewater, or other heat sources.
    - Geothermal TENs are efficient and resilient due to stable ground temperatures.
    - Potential to provide decarbonization solution while remaining affordable. Aging gas infrastructure can drive up costs - TEN can be a compliment to the system.
- MN TEN Site Suitability Study Brief: *(Ilana Percher)*
    - The suitability study covered sites across Minnesota. It featured a quantitative and a qualitative assessment. The quantitative assessment reviewed geospatial data and neighborhood typology selections. The qualitative assessment reviewed stakeholder interviews and utilized a scorecard.
        - Statewide geospatial assessment: The assessment utilizes publicly available data and scores based on relevant criteria, including but not limited to: borehole accessibility/construction, geologic conditions and thermal conductivity, load characteristics, environmental constraints, behind-the-meter costs, etc.
        - Neighborhood typology selections: The objective was to identify a set of neighborhoods that could represent diversity of towns and communities across the state
        - Stakeholder interviews: The study conducted 35 stakeholder interviews which found the following key takeaways: project champions contribute to success, community engagement and ongoing support are necessary, TENs are a great path for meeting clean energy and workforce goals, ownership and regulatory considerations must be resolved, and infrastructure alignment/timing sensitivity must be considered.
        - Qualitative scorecard: The scorecard featured 10 criteria that were scored based on interviews and research. The criteria were: neighborhood/user support, project champion, capacity for risk, project economics, broader community support, population/growth trends, sustainability goals, navigable system ownership, planned infrastructure alignment, and workforce availability. To display the scores, the study used red, yellow, green, and grey (unknown) to represent how each neighborhood did.

- Mayor Frey mentioned how much more difficult these systems are to implement when there are multiple owners. He stated that it is easier when using public buildings. In response, Lissa Pawlisch agrees and says college campuses work very well and have good load balancing.
- Emily Suppes asks about project champions and Lissa Pawlisch states that in other states the manner and timing of engagement have been key – start engagement early.
- The examples of sites included the State Capitol in St. Paul, The Heights (planned TEN) in St. Paul, the Highland Park neighborhood in St. Paul, and the Abbott Northwestern Hospital campus in Minneapolis. They are scored quantitatively and qualitatively.
    - State Capitol scores a quantitative 60, which is average (good), and has a good qualitative score. Score is a result of complex load diversity, open space for further borefield development, and strong alignment with the public.
    - The Heights is a high scoring site across the board. It is a planned development and has a diverse mix of buildings with high demand.
        - Megan wonders how they are weighing affordability. Another person asked if they weighed reliability, and Lissa says no. People want to focus on optimal sites first to get more experience. It can be difficult to gain financing for something so new.
    - Highland Park, St. Paul is a poorer example of a site, because it is highly residential with a lack of load diversity. Could be opportunistic.
    - Abbott Northwestern scored average. This is due to high load diversity and high energy needs.
    - The City discussed talking with the University of Minnesota. UMN is the biggest landowner in the City.
    - Lissa explained that the statewide study is broader, but community conversations will lead to more granular steps.
    - The TENS Map may be more broadly applicable as it matures.
    - Nick martin said that legislation was proposed trying to pass regulatory rules on TENS and it will need to be brought up again at the next session. Lissa states that this conversation needs to be continued.
    - Should engage with Cordia, Luke mentioned the 50-year old district energy system that started serving the first skyscraper.
    - Also, the City should engage with the Park Board and public schools. Park Board has their own map regarding geothermal suitability. They see it as an opportunity for their land to serve the community.

5. Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) Co-Chair Update *(Marcus Mills)*

- There are 11 new members, and they had an orientation to welcome everyone.
- The first EVAC meeting of the year discussed the previous 2024 Annual Report. Started working on creating the work plan and how action will be taken.
- Climate Legacy Roundtable (CLR) – Review of enterprise and how it has been going. The next four meetings centered around budget suggestions the CLR will be making.

6. Progress Updates

- **2025 Annual Report** ***(Luke Hollenkamp, John Marshall)***
    - 2025 Annual Report is to be completed in September and presented during the Q3 Board meeting. This will include annual updates to quantitative metrics.
    - The City has established goals of 100% renewables for entire communities, 100% for municipal.
        - Renewable*Connect Flex and Renewable*Connect: There have been Xcel service issues regarding enrollment and backdating. Looking into backdating the data as of January 1st, 2025, so all Minneapolis subscriptions show they have met their goals.
        - John Marshall will escalate this effort in advance of the annual report.
        - Soren Stevenson states that it appears that Xcel staff are not equipped with the resources to resolve this issue.
- **2026-2028 Work Plan** ***(Luke Hollenkamp, Julia Hanson, Suzanne Murphy, Edward Weinberg)***
    - Luke Hollenkamp: Delayed due to changes to the Board and MOU changes.
        - Looking forward to bringing a work plan to the Board in Q3 and getting a head start on it now.
        - There have been a number of conversations circling on different topics. The last plan had three total themes.
        - The current discussion is centering on thermal energy and how to apply the state's study to the city of Minneapolis.
        - City is moving forward with its own Minneapolis-specific and has had great conversations with Xcel Energy about how to score sites regarding electrical infrastructure needs.
            - Hoping to have a similar conversation with CenterPoint Energy. Julia says that they are having a dialog about how CenterPoint can support the study and is looking forward to continuing that.
    - Julia Hanson: CenterPoint is focusing on residential weatherization, and Minneapolis is sharing their vision. There are also considerations surrounding strategic electrification.
        - Continuing to move forward – Ideation phase of C&I decarbonization for city municipal buildings.

        - Efforts are being made towards Commercial Hybrid Heating Pilot at three city-owned sites. Exploring electric heating with supplemental gas. Two maintenance garages are expected to be in service at the end of this year. South Minneapolis Community Safety Center is the third site and is expected to be in service in 2027.
    - Suzanne Murphy & Edward Weinberg: Edward is a Decarbonization Manager at Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy is happy to help narrow down sites for Thermal Potential Study.
        - Pieces related to weatherization – Bill Credit Pilot: number of census block tracts that reveal energy burden will now receive an automatic bill credit. No opt-in is necessary.
            - This also pre-approves these areas for weatherization programs.
        - Beneficial electrification: Xcel Energy is always improving the grid and is ready for big electrification plans.
    - A board member asked: Is CenterPoint Energy committed to partnering with Minneapolis on Thermal Energy Network studies?
    - CenterPoint representatives responded that CenterPoint Energy has consistently worked with City staff on their efforts and they are looking forward to continuing those conversations and being involved in this partnership.

7. Partner Updates

- **Xcel Energy: Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Triennial Plan (*Sofia Troutman*)**
    - Minnesota utilities must file ECO plans with the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Department oversees rates and performance incentives to meet our energy efficiency goals. Xcel Energy requirements must be at 1.75 percent of electric sales and 1.0 percent of gas sales. There are also minimum investment requirements for programs for income-qualified households.
    - Xcel Energy will file our next triennial plan in June of this year. We had a stakeholder workshop in March to share our general direction and request input from stakeholders and a follow-up workshop in April. There will be a comment period starting mid-July, a period to reply to comments, and we are hoping for a decision from the Commissioner in October. The filing will include updates to business, residential, income-qualified, and demand management, offerings.
    - The filing will include updates to our business programs. Xcel Energy supports businesses with energy efficiency, demand response, efficient fuel switching, and market transformation programs.
    - Programs include Business Energy Assessments, Business New Construction, Multifamily Building Efficiency, and HVAC+R rebates, among others. Programs

supporting Commercial EV infrastructure and the adoption of electric outdoor equipment will also be included.
    - These programs support making efficiency projects easier to justify and implement for businesses through incentives and measurable energy savings that reduce operating costs
    - Some programs help accelerate market transformation at scale by standardizing measures and expanding adoption across the commercial and industrial market. Additionally, key demand management and storage programs will be included to address resiliency for key businesses (healthcare, manufacturing) while helping manage peak demand
    - Residential programs to be filed will include electric and gas energy efficiency and efficient fuel switching options. This includes programs such as Home Energy Squad and Advisory, with direct install options, and Efficient New Home Construction. This filing will also include Demand management and Clean Transportation offerings. One of the expected changes of this filing will be to organize the existing product lines into customer-centric platforms to facilitate a more streamlined customer experience.
    - We also intend to recommend some updates to our Income Qualified offerings to simplify pathways to participation, expand eligibility and strengthen partnerships within the community. The goal for these changes also includes simplifying enrollment, enabling energy savings and bill reductions, expanding workforce development opportunities in energy efficiency and building stronger collaboration with municipalities and community organizations.
    - Xcel Energy also anticipates requesting additional demand management options to help empower customers to help shape a flexible, resilient and sustainable grid through updated technologies services and rates.
- **CenterPoint Energy: ECO Triennial *(Ethan Warner)***
    - Starting with the Annual Status Report for Energy Conservation Optimization Program – filed on May 1st. A decrease in customer energy use of 1.35% overall natural gas use in the savings that were quantified. They cannot share more than MN saving results in this meeting.
    - Thank you to the City for its partnership – where there has been partnership, there has been high performance. We have been coordinating our rebate offerings for residential homes with the City. Doubling $3,000 max rebate for weatherization. Income-qualified rental property program has been jointly looking to increase cost coverage of weatherization and other measures. For business customers, CenterPoint Energy covered costs of building tune ups and offered triple rebates for relevant projects.

- We have been working over the past nine months to identify opportunities to enhance our ECO programs for the next three years of the triennial plan. CenterPoint Energy is expecting to propose modifications in three key areas:
  - Increases in residential weatherization rebates.
  - Increases in income-qualified project cost coverage.
  - Increases in business rebates.
- There will be a preview of the filing on May 19th, 2026. The proposed changes will be filed on June 15th, 2026. Anyone can join and be engaged.

8. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned.