Environmental Justice Working Group
Minneapolis Climate Action Plan
Recommendations
February 6, 2013

Introduction

This document is the result of 11 months of engagement with the City of Minneapolis on addressing environmental, economic and racial equity concerns within the City of Minneapolis' Climate Action Plan. An Environmental Justice Working Group was established in August 2012 thanks to the work of many environmental justice organizations and community members representing communities of color, American Indians, and low-income communities, and leadership from City Council members and City staff. The intention was to ensure that the voices of the most impacted by both climate change and the policies that will be developed as solutions (namely communities of color, American Indians, and low-income communities) were represented and supported within a decision-making capacity in the planning process. This effort was undertaken in acknowledgement that climate change is a serious problem that affects our communities, and in full support of the City's effort in developing a climate action plan.

This effort was critically needed as the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan's agenda was to address the transportation, buildings and waste sectors – three sectors that seriously impact environmental justice constituencies within the City. Currently in Minneapolis, people of color constitute approximately 42.3% of its residents; over half of residential housing (buildings) is occupied by renters, which tend to be highly concentrated in community of color and low income neighborhoods; energy bills for households between 75% and 100% of the Federal Poverty Level constitute 19% of their income, and even households with incomes between 150% and 185% of the poverty rate have energy bills above what is considered to be affordable. In Hennepin County it is estimated that there is a $106,116,061 shortfall in meeting the energy costs for those households at 185% or below the poverty level. Research studies have found that on a national level 60% of households that do not own automobiles are below the median income, and in the Twin Cities less than half of jobs are accessible via public transportation within a 90-minute commute.

The accumulated, historical, structural disadvantage of higher energy, food and insurance costs with lower quality housing, lack of access to economic and educational equity, and the large percentage of households at significant risk from adverse and unequal environmental risk, must be taken into consideration in any climate action plan. By not taking into consideration these issues, there is a real risk the city's Climate Action Plan will exacerbate existing persistent structural disadvantages.

Given the contracted timeframe and late inclusion of the EJ Working Group into the Climate Action Planning process, as well as the work of many on a volunteer basis to this effort, the edits represented here are an initial effort to start the conversation on environmental, racial and economic equity in environmental decision making in the city. The EJ Working Group reviewed all of the goals and strategy recommendations that had been developed throughout the year by the City's sector-based working groups that had minimal EJ perspectives. The review of the body of recommendations by the Environmental Justice Working Group found a large number of critical environmental justice concerns missing.

In addition to the content recommendations we outline in the Climate Action Plan below, the EJ Working Group also would like to highlight some key process recommendations resulting from the experiences of these past 11 months.

Process Recommendations for the Steering Committee:

1. The Steering Committee should put forward as a recommendation that environmental justice community representation in any future City climate/adaptation and sustainability planning be part of the effort from the onset.
2. The Steering Committee should recommend that the Sustainability Office:
    - Develop a comprehensive, cross cultural and multi-lingual outreach plan for the MCAP that includes partnerships with community groups and nonprofits already working on the ground.
    - Investigate the provision of providing resources (such as grants and stipends) for community members and environmental justice organizations for participation and outreach.
    - Provide staff training about environmental justice and how it can integrate into City sustainability efforts.

3. The Steering Committee should be transparent in how it prioritizes strategies for action, both in process and the metrics used.
4. The Steering Committee should acknowledge and respect the time, expertise and effort put in by the Environmental Justice Working Group members to develop this document, on a volunteer basis. The EJ Working Group reviewed not one set of strategies, but *all* Climate Action Plan strategies in a very contracted period of time.
5. The Steering Committee should recommend that the City Council adopt stronger global warming emissions reduction targets, at minimum adhering to the international protocols of limiting climate change to 2 degrees Celsius, and encouraging goals to limit climate change to a 1 degree Celsius increase.
6. The Steering Committee should recommend to the Mayor's Office and City Council that the City develop a formal commitment to environmental justice in its sustainability planning.

The content recommendations we highlight in the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan below are based on a body of robust climate justice principles and policy efforts that incorporate issues of racial, cultural, environmental and economic equity in climate and sustainability planning. Out of respect for the work the other Working Groups had put in, EJ Working Group comments to their contributions are largely additions, with minimal editing of their initial language.

The following documents outlining the intersection of climate change and environmental justice (i.e. a climate justice framework), are included in an appendix for those wanting further reading:

- Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change, May 2012
- Cochabamba Peoples Agreement on Climate Change, April 2010
- Mystic Lake Declaration, 2009
- National Environmental Justice Forum on Climate Change Principles
- Principles of Environmental Justice
- Mni ("Water") by Jim Rock

In full transparency to our community, we have also included as attachments the following Process Documents outlining the history of the creation of the Environmental Justice Working Group in the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan:

- Letter to City of Minneapolis from Environmental Justice Community, April 17, 2012
- City Response to Members of the Environmental Justice Community, May 9, 2012
- Environmental Justice Working Group Proposal to City, August 1, 2012
- City Response to Environmental Justice Working Group Proposal, August 7, 2012
- EJ Working Group Core Planning Group Response Letter, August 17, 2012
- Agendas of Environmental Justice Working Group Meetings
- EJ Working Group Members

Sincerely,
Minneapolis Climate Action Plan Environmental Justice Working Group Members

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Minneapolis Climate Action Plan
EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS & STRATEGIES

Implementation Goals

Minneapolis will meet the adopted 2015 and 2025 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

While meeting emissions reduction targets, Minneapolis shall:

1. Prioritize high impact, short timeframe, equitable, and cost effective strategies. Recent science suggests that immediate action (within 5 – 10 years) is necessary to bring down emissions to avoid severe impacts from climate change. This plan will prioritize strategies for implementation that may have the greatest impact on emissions in the short term. While seeking immediate impacts, this plan will acknowledge that we are regularly making decisions that may have impacts that will be felt for 50 or 100 years. We should always be cognizant of impacts on future generations and the impacts already occurring in the present in our most vulnerable communities.

2. Seek strategies with multiple benefits. A key additional benefit to be targeted is the reduction in fine particulate matter. This acknowledges the research that fine particulate matter is a serious public health risk and has potential for reductions with climate policy as it is co-emitted with greenhouse gases.[1,2,3,4] Wherever possible, implement strategies that provide a range of co-benefits (e.g., job creation, lifecycle cost savings to government or residents, improved public health, or broader awareness of climate impacts). Policy makers and the community will need to carefully weigh these multiple benefits and costs while moving Minneapolis towards its emissions reduction targets in an equitable manner. This plan should also avoid shifting emissions or impacts outside of the city.

3. Implementation of strategies will work to decrease, not widen, the current green infrastructure gap and environmental benefits between neighborhoods and communities. This acknowledges the current disparate state in housing stock, transit opportunities, waste collection, etc between neighborhoods, ethnic groups, and income classes in Minneapolis, and targets strategies to communities that could most benefit. Climate action strategies should be developed that ensure that activities undertaken do not disproportionately impact low-income communities. Neighborhoods that already have cumulative pollution impacts and high energy burdens should be prioritized for strategy implementation. Financial investment should also be directed toward the most disadvantaged communities. A sound outreach plan should be developed for initiatives, in multiple languages, and utilization of existing community organizations.

4. **Monitor progress annually and based on results and new developments, revisit goals and strategies**

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3. Avoid creating disparate impacts across Minneapolis communities and target strategies to communities that could most benefit.

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[1] James K. Boyce and Manuel. Cooling the Planet, Cleaning the Air: Climate Policy, Carbon pricing, and Co-Benefits. Economics for Equity and Environment. Report produced by Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at the University of Southern California, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.
[2] Letter to Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Senator Reid. Environmental Justice Science Initiative and Allied Organizations. June 8, 2010.
[3] Kaswan, Alice (2012) "Climate Change, the Clean Air Act, and Industrial Pollution." UCLA Journal of Environmental Law & Policy 30: 51-120.
[4] Muller, Nicholas Z. (2012) "Optimal Climate Policy with Air Pollution Co-Benefits." Resource and Economics. Forthcoming.

at minimum every 3 years. The City of Minneapolis will continue to track community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and report on the implementation of climate action strategies and impacts. Reporting should include equity indicators to measure whether the Plan's strategies, financial investments, emission and energy burden reductions are being experienced across neighborhoods, income classes, and races equitably in the City. The City should also develop a fuel-poverty definition for use in evaluating project impact and success, and establish data collection practices. Revisiting of Goals and Strategies should include environmental justice representation from the onset of the process.

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5. **Begin assessing and building resiliency to climate changes and impacts.** This Climate Action Plan deals primarily with reducing emissions to mitigate climate change. However, we know that changes to the climate are already being felt in Minneapolis, Minneapolis should explore the potential impacts and responses and build resiliency in local government and the community, with a specific eye to low-income and communities of color that are the most vulnerable.

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Buildings & Energy

Goals

1. Achieve **15 percent energy efficiency in residential buildings** from the growth baseline by 2025.
2. Achieve **20 percent energy efficiency in commercial/industrial buildings** from the growth baseline by 2025.
3. Increase **electricity from local site-based renewables & directly purchased renewables (like WindSource) from 1.5 to 5percent** of the total consumed by 2025.[5]
4. Achieve 1.5 percent greenhouse gas reductions in City buildings.

Cross-Cutting Strategies

EJ1**. Develop a City Green Zone Initiative.** The Green Zones Initiative will create a city designation for neighborhoods or clusters of neighborhoods that face the cumulative impacts of environmental, social, political and economic vulnerability. Communities with Green Zone designation would then be able to access benefits offered by the city (as well as state and federal agencies), ranging from targeted pollution reduction to increased funding opportunities for energy-efficiency, onsite renewable energy, and other low-emission infrastructure. Green Zone designation would ensure that communities most highly impacted by environmental hazards and economic stressors receive much-needed resources and support.

1. **Launch a City initiative to make Minneapolis the most equitably energy-efficient city in America.** Most of the energy in Minneapolis is consumed by businesses. Focus on efforts that large businesses/properties could undertake to reduce their energy usage. The aggregated potential energy savings from small businesses is also significant and must be supported. Research shows that the most effective energy efficiency programs succeed because they have committed leadership from the top. The City can use its leadership position to bring top City leaders to the table and affirm their commitment to working together to achieve this goal.

2. **Ensure that City facilities, across all neighborhoods, are models of energy-efficiency and renewable energy technology.** The City will investigate opportunities in buildings, street lighting, traffic signals and parking ramps to constantly increase energy efficiency and reduce water use. Those neighborhoods in immediate need (currently in need of streetlights, old housing stock, etc) should be prioritized. The water treatment plant is a large energy user, and opportunities for increasing efficiency will be continuously reviewed. Tools like the State's Guaranteed Energy Savings Program could be used to finance retrofits to city buildings. The City will continue to identify opportunities for renewable energy deployment on City facilities to reduce long-term operating costs and demonstrate new technologies.

EJ2**.Develop a Climate Jobs program that trains, hires, retains, and promotes a higher percentage of American Indian and Communities of Color stakeholders in jobs associated with the implementation of the Climate Action Plan strategies, both as employees and entrepreneurs.** Use public investment to leverage engagement of all vendors involved in deconstruction, retrofitting or new construction of solar/energy-efficient buildings in the city to meet assertive hiring goals of the city. At minimum, the city

[5] The percent of Minneapolis' electricity consumption that is coming from renewables is calculated based on generation sources above and beyond Xcel Energy's average grid mixture. Sources like Wind Source and local, distributed generation would be counted towards the goal. In 2010, 19% of the fuel sources used by Xcel to generate grid electricity came from renewable sources.

should adhere to its existing minority contracting goals and, as soon as possible, up its standards to mirror actual city demographics.

EJ3. **Develop a City of Lakes Energy Conservation Corps** that provides Americorps opportunities with higher education subsidies to low income residents and youth from low-income census tracts to get certified in conservation and green retrofitting, water conservation, community composting, and green houses.

3. **Support the State's adoption of the latest International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and International Green Construction Code (IGCC) and adopt the IGCC locally.** The IECC and IGCC will change the building code to require new commercial construction be more water and energy efficient and more durable. If the IGCC is adopted at the state level as an appendix chapter, Minneapolis will need to adopt it locally before it can be in force.

4. **Incentivize energy and water efficiency in private buildings during every interaction with the City.** City departments could promote energy and water efficiency efforts to anyone interacting with the City for regulatory purposes (moving beyond compliance). This may be targeted towards certain kinds of buildings that showed high promise for targeted efforts on energy efficiency, such as restaurants.

5. **Require City-financed projects to meet an energy efficiency standard, like Sustainable Buildings 2030.** The State of Minnesota has adopted a requirement that all State bonded projects meet the SB2030 standards. This requires progressively better energy performance from new projects. Similar requirements include St. Paul's Sustainable Building Policy. Alternatively, or in combination, the city could require projects to complete Xcel Energy's Energy Design Assistance program. In conjunction, the City should review the ratios required for project financing (gap financing to overall project cost) to minimize any disruption to affordable housing construction that may be caused by implementing additional requirements.

6. **Explore opportunities to restructure the mechanical permit fee schedule and other fee schedules to incentivize energy- and water-efficient products and renewable energy.** Mechanical permit fees for products like furnaces are currently based on a percentage of the total value of the work being performed. More energy efficient products are typically more expensive than less efficient products, increasing the permit fee, which could be a disincentive to contractors and building owners to install more efficient equipment. With Regulatory Services staff and stakeholders, explore changes to the permit fee structure (ideally revenue neutral) that would incentivize the installation of more energy- and water-efficient equipment or renewable-supportive building design (e.g., "solar ready" buildings).

7. **Determine the feasibility of establishing conservation-based pricing or structuring of franchise fees and using the franchise agreement to support renewables.** During the update of franchise agreements with utilities, Minneapolis should explore options to encourage energy conservation – through utility fee structure or the price passed on to customers. Examples could include structuring fees based on usage per customer or reducing fees if utilities meet energy efficiency/CIP goals. Franchise negotiations also provide an opportunity to plan for better integration of distributed solar PV into the grid (e.g., by linking up to the distribution system currently in place in many City rights-of-way).

8. **Evaluate and expand incentives granted for high energy performance.** Density bonuses are currently available to developments in the downtown zoning districts achieving high energy performance and can be used as an amenity for a planned unit development to obtain approvals for alternatives to the zoning

regulations. These bonuses should have safe guards to negate the possible negative impacts (displacement of low and moderate income households). These bonuses could be extended to areas outside of downtown and/or incorporated into other incentive programs. Extend these incentives to buildings that incorporate or are designed to allow for easy installation of significant renewable energy systems and to those in targeted under-invested communities (i.e. a City Green Zone program).

9. **Develop tools to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits for commercial and residential buildings that have low barriers to entry and limited risk for local government.** In order to maintain transparency for communities that may not meet the threshholds, the City should define "low barrier" and "low risk". Property- assessed, on-bill and other financial mechanisms could provide low-interest financing opportunities for homeowners and commercial properties and avoid opportunity costs, high interest rates or high barriers to entry. Working through a process led by the State of Minnesota, identify tools that the City or another regional entity can develop to provide more opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy financing.

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10. **Support the adoption and implementation of emissions reductions plans by other local businesses, including small businesses, minority-owned businesses, government entities and institutions.** Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota have adopted targets for emissions reduction. Other entities, like health care campuses, may also be taking action on greenhouse gas emissions. Minneapolis should support these and other efforts and collaborate on implementation. The University of Minnesota has adopted aggressive targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from their operations, including achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Whenever possible, Minneapolis will support the University's efforts to reduce emissions.

11. **Monitor new technologies and regularly reassess strategies. Encourage implementation when feasible.** There are many new technologies that could hold promise for energy efficiency and reducing emissions. Real-time pricing coupled with smarter appliances could reduce costs for electricity consumers and emissions. Advanced energy management technology could reduce wasted energy.

12. **Identify opportunities to increase conservation efforts within the downtown district heating and cooling system and make the system more efficient using technologies like combined heat and power.** The downtown district heating and cooling system, in total, represents one of the single largest loads in the City. Operated by NRG, the City is a major user, with connected loads including the Convention Center. Because customers on this system do not have access to utility conservation programs, there is an opportunity for the city to help increase the efficiency of the customers on this system. There may also be opportunities to make the district heating itself more efficient, for example, natural gas fired plants could be retrofitted to include combined heat and power generation. Every effort to reduce co-pollutant emissions should be made when considering opportunities. The City should work with Hennepin County and NRG to determine where these retrofits might make sense.

13. **Identify opportunities to expand the use of district heating systems to new and existing buildings.** The downtown district heating and cooling system provides an efficient alternative to individual building heating and cooling systems. Explore barriers to expansion into existing and new buildings in downtown. Identify opportunities for expanded district heating and cooling outside downtown with new or existing systems.

EJ4. **Work with Xcel Energy, Centerpoint Energy, and the District Heating Systems in the city to conduct a robust energy end use analysis to inform future energy planning efforts by the City.**

Residential Buildings

1. **Help 75 percent of Minneapolis homeowners participate in whole-house efficiency retrofit programs by 2025, ensuring the distribution reflects the current percentage of low and moderate income home ownership in the City.** The City of Minneapolis has provided initial support for CEE's Community Energy Services (CES) program, which has served about 4,800 Minneapolis owner-occupied homeowners, or a little over 5% of the target population. The City could continue to help recruit homeowners into the program, and set a goal of 75% of homeowners participating in CES or similar whole-house retrofit program. As these programs expand, the City should assess the geographic and household income distribution the program has achieved. The expansion of CES and similar programs should be undertaken equitably across the City. Where possible, programs should be conducted jointly with other "healthy homes" initiatives like lead abatement."

EJ1. **Help 75 percent of Minneapolis renters and rental property owners participate in efficiency retrofit programs by 2025, ensuring the distribution reflects the current percentage of low and moderate income rental housing in the City**. Programs targeted to residential rental facilities should be expanded and ensure that low-income renters benefit from their implementation.

2. **Create time-of-sale and time-of-rent energy label disclosure**. New homeowners and potential tenants are a target group to promote energy upgrades, as they can be more receptive to needed upgrades, especially when financing is available. Tenants could also use an asset rating label to make comparisons about energy performance and cost between units or buildings. Minneapolis currently requires a home inspection prior to any Minneapolis home being put on the market, called the Truth-in-Housing program. The City could "green the Truth-in-Housing program" by including the collection of data sufficient to generate an energy label as well as other easily accessible data such as lead paint, history of superfund site, etc. In order to be cost-effective, data collection would need to be as limited as possible, while providing useful information to the homeowner. The Center for Energy and Environment has developed an energy label that is particularly relevant for Minneapolis housing stock that is currently being used in the Community Energy Services residential program, and could be expanded for use in the Truth-in-Housing program. A label for multi-family structures does not yet exist.

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3. **Connect and collaborate with other residential energy efficiency efforts**. This includes:
   - Create partnerships of low income and supportive housing serving organizations to develop a delivery mechanism for onsite renewable and efficiency.
   - Helping to promote and work with on-line energy efficiency efforts that build teams and help to increase energy efficiency awareness and actions, including the Minnesota Energy Challenge, and OPOWER's new Facebook application.
   - Promoting appliance trade-ins through City events.
   - Promoting the use of energy benchmarking in Minneapolis multifamily buildings, as through the Minnesota Energy Scorecards program: www.energyscorecardsmn.com

Commercial Buildings

1. Continue to host an annual Energy Reduction Challenge ("Kilowatt Crackdown") for Commercial Buildings (large, midsize, small) in conjunction with the Building Managers and Owners Association (BOMA) and other partners. BOMA has developed a program, called the Kilowatt Crackdown, which

local chapters can implement. Building owners track their energy use, through the EnergySTAR Portfolio Manager tool, over the course of a year or two. This is compared to a benchmark of the previous year, and the buildings with the highest energy reduction receive awards.

2. **Implement a Building Energy Disclosure policy for medium and large commercial buildings.** A disclosure policy for commercial buildings that requires publication of data annually will help increase the impact of energy use information in the marketplace, driving further energy efficiency improvements.

3. **Explore implementation of a commercial asset rating program, such as the Department of Energy's Commercial Building Energy Asset Rating.** Asset ratings provide a tool to evaluate the physical characteristics and as-built energy efficiency of buildings. An asset rating can also identify areas where improvements are needed.

EJ1**. The City of Minneapolis should incentivize commercial office buildings to investigate transitioning janitorial work to "Day Shift Cleaning" as a means of reducing energy consumed and work with janitors in their building to ensure a worker friendly transition.** The city will also investigate the feasibility of implementing Day Shift Cleaning standards for commercial office buildings in the City of Minneapolis.

4. **Develop "green lease" model language that allows building owners and tenants to share the energy savings from building capital improvements.** Tenants and building owners often have a split incentive when it comes to energy efficiency improvements since tenants frequently pay the energy bills. New model language could make more capital improvements likely.

Industrial Buildings

1. **Continue to support a loan program to help businesses including industrial companies to become more energy efficient and expand their businesses.** A relatively small number of Minneapolis industrial customers are responsible for a large proportion of total energy usage in the City. Focusing efforts to increase the energy efficiency of these businesses can have a large impact, as well as increase the competitiveness of Minneapolis businesses and support job growth.

Renewable Energy

1. **Support efforts to align utility practices with city and state renewable energy policy**. State and local policies express a clear preference for renewable energy and distributed generation. The City thus supports efforts to reform or eliminate all practices that discourage property owners from adopting on-site renewable energy generation, including limiting standby charges, improving interconnection standards, modifying demand charges, expanding "net metering" benefits to large commercial/industrial businesses, and exploring concepts like feed-in tariffs. The City should continue intergovernmental relations efforts to reduce barriers and encourage development of renewable energy resources.

EJ1**. Implement small to mid-sized business renewable and on-site renewable incentive programs.** Market existing and develop incentive programs that are targeted to small and mid-sized businesses.

2. **Investigate the feasibility of large-scale renewable energy purchasing for the municipal government and/or residents.** The City routinely receives unsolicited requests to invest in bulk purchasing of renewable energy. Establish a proactive review process for these requests and/or explore an RFP

process for bulk purchasing.

3. **Create policies and programs to incorporate renewable energy into commercial and residential buildings, with a firm commitment to small businesses and low-income residential.** A number of cities and states across the nation are creating long-term policy goals and setting in motion building code changes that anticipate the declining cost curve for both solar energy and energy efficiency.

- Develop a "solar-ready" building certification. Existing buildings were not built to accommodate solar energy installations; retro-fitting existing buildings adds significant costs to solar energy. Making new buildings "solar-ready" adds virtually no cost to construction costs. The next generation of the city's building infrastructure should accommodate the next generation of energy production.
- Encourage "net-zero" energy buildings. Net-zero energy buildings maximize synergies between energy efficiency and distributed energy generation. Policies in other states are anticipating building codes that require net-zero standards for residential buildings as soon as 2020. Minneapolis should plan to capture this transformative market trend through support of state efforts and creation of local incentives.

4. **Support new financing and ownership models for developing Minneapolis' solar resource**. Support explicit authorization of third-party solar leasing and ownership and enabling community solar projects, and other delivery/financial mechanisms (cooperatives, sustainable utilities, etc). Third party ownership and leasing models expand access to on-site renewable energy generation by simplifying the adoption process and enabling the cost-effective bundling of tax incentives, long-term financing, installation, and operation and maintenance into a single transaction. Minneapolis residents who do not own property or whose property has a poor solar resource should be enabled to own part of an off-site solar PV installation, and receive a share of the production credits on their utility bill.

Transportation and Land Use Goals

1. **Reduce automobile vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis** while improving accessibility, increasing transportation choices and promoting and accommodating equitable opportunity and growth.
2. **Support livable, walkable, bikeable, safe and growing neighborhoods** that meet the needs of all Minneapolis residents and avoid gentrification.
3. **Grow jobs and housing** to support a growing economy and non-auto transportation modes.
4. Increase the share of Minneapolis residents and workers choosing **non-auto modes** for commuting and other trips.
5. Through local action and federal and state legislation, **support a transition to cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles.**
6. Within transit oriented development, prioritize equity and opportunity for quality of life improvements for low income households and small businesses from American Indian and communities of color.

Planning & Land Use

EJ1. **Integrate climate change reduction policies into the City's Urban Agriculture Plan and Food Policy Council efforts.** The support for perennial landscapes on public and privately held land in Minneapolis can help sequester greenhouse gas emissions and promote practices that are more adaptive to a changing climate. Support for urban forests as well as small-scale efforts across neighborhoods among the many cultural communities of Minneapolis should be supported since, in aggregate, they can have a considerable impact and serve to educate residents about climate change.

EJ2. **Investments in the tree canopy should be targeted to achieve an equitable percentage of tree canopy across residential neighborhoods.** Tree canopy provides shade that is a cooling function (estimated at 20 degrees during summer months) reducing electrical demand. The tree canopy in Minneapolis is currently inequitably distributed. Those communities with the largest populations of American Indian and People of Color, and those communities with the least ability to afford air-conditioning and/or invest in landscape improvements via shade tree plantings, are also those residential neighborhoods with the smallest percentage of tree cover. Reforestation should also occur in areas where tree cover was lost to blight or storms and were never replaced. North Minneapolis lost 6000 trees in the 2011 Tornado.

1. **Improve inter-departmental and inter-agency collaboration on transportation issues, and track progress.** City policy already instructs staff to work across departments on transportation and land use issues; it also recommends both formal and informal collaboration between the City and partners like the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County. Add accountability to this policy direction by regularly reporting to the public and policymakers on the successes of recent collaborations, and challenges that may be hindering these partnerships.

2. **Plan for and encourage "complete neighborhoods."** Residents of complete neighborhoods can safely and conveniently walk to obtain most of the basic goods and services they need on a daily basis. Address historical and persistent inequities in health and wealth creation by implementing complete neighborhood strategies in low-income neighborhoods and surrounding census tracts. Explore changes to the zoning code to provide maximum flexibility for diverse commercial uses. This

could include providing height or density bonuses for leasable ground floor commercial spaces. This could also include "market development" strategies, which would remove barriers for small-scale retail and essential services like daycare centers.

3. **Focus growth along community corridors designated in *The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*.** While supporting growth throughout the city, follow the adopted Comprehensive Plan to guide and zone for new, dense development along transit corridors to give residents and businesses multiple transportation options. Safeguards against gentrification along these corridors should be of the highest priority. Growth and job opportunities should be structured so that residents currently living along the corridors may benefit. Anti-displacement policies must be in place.

4. **Review the zoning code to identify impediments & incentives to the construction and retrofit of green buildings.** Further study may highlight opportunities to "green" the zoning code including:

a. Exempt greenhouses from maximum height calculation on multi-story structures.
b. Exempt additional wall insulation from FAR and setback calculations.
c. Allow boiler rooms on the roof of buildings.
d. Incentives in zoning to increase energy efficient construction, renovation and operation of buildings.
e. Incentivizing the inclusion of car-sharing as part of new developments.

Transit & Car Sharing

EJ1. **Work with the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, and low-income organizing and advocacy groups to survey low-income riders and communities about transit preferences and incorporate their feedback in a comprehensive transit-oriented development strategy.** The ultimate goal is to increase transit options for the poor that increase their quality of life and access to opportunity.

1. **Support the Metropolitan Council's goal of doubling regional transit ridership by 2030, while improving access and livability for lower income households most reliant on public transit, but for whom the connections between transit and opportunity are not yet well organized. Restore the route cuts in poor neighborhoods.** Through land use and transportation infrastructure decisions, communications and collaboration with partners, the City should support the Metropolitan Council in achieving the 2030 goal.

2. **Support the build-out and upgrade of regional and local transit lines.** The City should support and implement local and regional transit improvements consistent with Access Minneapolis and other plans to reduce VMT and provide more transportation options. Regional transit facilities in the planning or construction phase include Central Corridor LRT, Southwest LRT, Bottineau and 35-W Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Local improvements to the Primary Transit Network (PTN) include streetcar and arterial BRT lines.

3. **Advocate for an increase to the dedicated funding stream for transit construction and operations at the local, state level and regional level.** The current funding level for transit projects through the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) utilizes a quarter-cent sales tax to fund transit improvements. The original legislation proposed a half-cent sales tax. Increasing the amount that counties can opt-in to use would speed development of regional transit projects. Local governments could also benefit from additional tools for funding transit construction and operations

like value capture along transit corridors.

4. **Work with Metro Transit and property owners to improve capacity and use of transit during special events.** Many attendees of major events at the Metro Dome, Target Field, the Convention Center and other locations in Minneapolis use transit, but the City should continue to work to increase the use of transit and non-auto modes for these events.

5. **Complete the downtown east-west transit spine improvements.** The *Access Minneapolis* Plan calls for the upgrade of transit service in the vicinity of 7th Street. This corridor is the second-busiest in terms of weekday boardings in downtown. This improvement may be similar to the Marq2 project, which improved travel times and provided dynamic signage to improve user experience and convenience.

6. **Expand car-sharing services to on-street spaces.** Parking staff will soon begin the process to bring car-sharing services to on-street spaces in the city. Continue to expand these services as demand and feasibility permit.

7. **Make car-sharing convenient and affordable by reducing sales tax on car-sharing products to the minimum rate.** Currently, car-sharing transactions in Minneapolis appear to be taxed at a higher rate (~12 percent) than the general sales tax rate for Minneapolis (7.775 percent). Consider separating car-sharing services from regular rental car service in terms of special sales tax rates.

Active Transportation

1. **Achieve the City's adopted targets for bicycle mode share and bicycle counts and adopt a stretch goal of 15% for 2025.** The City has adopted targets for bicycle mode share of 6 percent by 2012 and 7 percent by 2014. In addition, the City has adopted a target to increased cyclists in annual counts by 60 percent over 2008 by 2014. Consider a mode share goal for 2025 of 15%.

2. **Construct 30 miles of on-street, protected bike facilities (cycle tracks) by 2020 to allow safe and efficient travel for all types of cyclists.** Bicycles are a zero-emissions form of transport. Addressing the perception of safety of on-street bicycle facilities will attract more cyclists to Minneapolis' network of facilities and help to meet mode share goals. Work to ensure that neighborhoods with little existing bicycle infrastructure are part of the discussion on what type of bicycle infrastructure would work for their communities, and receive equitable funds for implementing that plan.

3. **Revisit minimum bicycle parking requirements to support the City's bicycle mode share targets.** The City is investing in on- and off-street bicycle facilities, and has set targets for bicycle use. Providing sufficient parking that is convenient and safe will be a key in meeting these goals. Existing standards, such as the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professional parking guide and the City's adopted workplace access and parking guidelines could be reviewed for consistency with current code. Bicycle parking demand may also vary more based on geography than auto parking. More data on local parking demand is needed.

4. **Support implementation of the Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan.** When walking and biking are safe, efficient, and comfortable, the benefits are felt community-wide and reduce dependence on automobiles. Monitoring and following up on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans' recommendations will be integral to meeting greenhouse gas reduction goals across the

transportation and land use sectors.

5. **Allow special service districts to levy a surcharge on parking meters to fund streetscape improvements.** District advisory boards can opt to apply a streetscape improvement surcharge to on-street parking, the revenue from which would be used for street-scaping or other improvements that make walking, cycling, or taking transit more attractive.

6. **Continue "Safe Routes to School" efforts.** The City's Safe Routes to Schools effort encourages children to adopt healthy habits of walking and biking. This is done by improving safety near schools through infrastructure projects, as well as fostering a culture of walking and biking in the schools through educational programs.

7. **Adopt a Complete Streets policy.** A Complete Streets policy will demonstrate a commitment to providing adequate pedestrian, transit and bicycle facilities during every road improvement project. While the City already has adopted many elements of Complete Streets work, such as Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and a multi-modal transportation plan, such a policy may be necessary to best position the City to receive outside funding.

Parking Management

1. **Investigate demand-based parking pricing strategies for metered areas.** The city's new parking meters allow for variable pricing. Vary pricing on metered streets, with a goal of achieving one empty spot per block, in order to reduce "cruising" for spots and improve traffic flow.

2. **Continue to adjust minimum parking requirements to better promote alternative modes of transportation.** For example, developers of multi-family housing currently qualify for a 10 percent reduction in required parking stalls if the parcel is within 300 feet of a transit stop, even though one-quarter mile (1,320 feet) is commonly accepted as the distance an average rider will walk to a bus stop.

3. **Support the development of new information technology to reduce "cruising" for parking and make more efficient use of curb & ramp space.** Parking staff are developing new approaches, such as a mobile phone app, which will provide more information to drivers on the location of vacant parking spaces. These types of applications can reduce cruising for parking, which can be a significant source of congestion in certain parts of the city at certain times.

4. **Support the development of a citywide framework for curb space use.** Parking staff will be developing a framework plan to understand how to best use curb space, both for parking, valet services, active transportation and other uses. Climate Action Plan goals for increasing active transportation and holding VMT flat should be considered during this process.

5. **Require or incent parking "unbundling".** Adopt requirements or incentives for developers that parking be separated from commercial space and residential units in lease and sale agreements.

Transportation Demand Management & Intelligent Transportation Systems

1. **Support the Downtown Transportation Management Organization's goal to reduce 4.8 million drive alone trips by 2015.** The Downtown TMO helps commuters get into downtown with less

reliance on the single- occupancy vehicle. Supporting their goals include increasing bicycling, transit and rideshare use.

2. **Explore changes to signal timing to reduce idling, improve traffic flow and accommodate non-auto modes.** City staff are currently reviewing signal timing on a citywide basis. Potential changes to reduce emissions could include "green waves", either for cars or cyclists, depending on the roadway and changing lights to flashing red/yellow late at night and early in the morning.

3. **Support the expansion of congestion pricing, dynamic signage and other traffic management techniques on regional highways.** Demand-based pricing can help reduce congestion while encouraging carpooling and transit use. Other techniques that have proven beneficial are dynamic signage which can help reroute drivers and rapid response to crashes.

4. **Encourage large, medium and small scale employers to embrace alternative work arrangements for employees.** Results-Only Workplace Environments (ROWE), variable work schedules, telecommuting, and teleconferencing all have the potential to reduce overall trips or spread trips from rush hour into less-congested times. The City can collaborate with the downtown TMO, Downtown Council, and other organizations to provide businesses with information and expertise on these practices.

Clean Fuels

1. **Explore regulatory incentives to increasing electric vehicle charging infrastructure.** The inclusion of electric vehicle charging could be incentivized through the zoning code or other city regulations for large multi-family and commercial buildings. As technology and adoption rates of electric vehicles change, the city should revisit these incentives and consider requirements for EV charging in parking code for multi-family and commercial buildings as appropriate based on demand.

2. **Provide electric vehicle charging stations at City-owned facilities where feasible.** Continue to investigate the feasibility of vehicle charging stations at public facilities as funding allows. Closely monitor electric vehicle technology to ensure investments are appropriate.

3. **Increase the fuel efficiency of the city's licensed taxi and car service fleet.** The City's current requirement for taxi vehicles is to achieve 23 mpg or better in city driving. As the City updates this policy, consider increasing the minimum mpg requirement. Given that taxis are high-mileage vehicles, better fuel efficiency can pay off more quickly than in other applications.

4. **Support the proposed Federal fuel efficiency improvements.** On-road vehicle fuel efficiency has a significant impact on the transpor

6. **Support state efforts to adopt a low-carbon fuel standard.** As outlined in the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory report, support the adoption of a statewide Low-Carbon Fuel Standard, with a goal of reducing the lifecycle carbon intensity of transportation by 12% by 2025 from 2007 levels.

7. **Support the development of alternative jet fuels and ensure MSP is prepared for their increased use.** Most emissions attributable to MSP are produced by jet aircraft. Domestic and foreign airlines have successfully trialed a variety of biofuels, which have been approved for use in commercial flights since July 2011. As production chains mature, MAC and its airline partners will need to be sure MSP facilities are adequately prepared to store and dispense biofuel-blended jet fuel. Minneapolis should also support future regulatory actions designed to accelerate the switch to cleaner-burning jet fuels.

Other

1. **Continue to shift to LED streetlights.** Replacing conventional bulbs with LEDs can net up to a 50 to 60 percent reduction in energy use. As capital costs come down, continue to replace older bulbs with more efficient LEDs, with a long term goal of citywide LED use. Focus replacement efforts in neighborhoods first, where lights most need to be replaced, expanded and upgraded. Provide financial assistance or alternative financing mechanisms so that burden of upgrade/replacement does not fall on property owners in lower-income neighborhoods.

2. **Support continuing efficiency efforts at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport.** Increasing vehicle fuel efficiency has led to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the airport. Investigate additional partnership opportunities to support the Metropolitan Airports Commission in meeting the state greenhouse gas reduction targets.

3. **Assist the Metropolitan Airports Commission in making MSP the nation's "greenest" airport.** MAC's Stewards of Tomorrow's Airport Resources program identifies numerous projects that could reduce the airport's emissions, ranging from on-site clean energy production to grey water recycling and storm water reclamation. The airport's constant flow of travelers also makes it an excellent location for demonstrating green technologies and educating the public about the causes and impacts of climate change.

4. **Encourage the Metropolitan Airports Commission to expand its use of renewable energy resources.** MAC is exploring investment in renewable energy sources like wind (from off-site sources), solar, and geothermal. The City has a great deal of experience in this area, particularly with solar photovoltaic and thermal technologies. Staff should share expertise and key lessons as MAC undertakes similar initiatives. Examples from other airports, like Denver International, show that large open spaces with unobstructed solar access can provide good opportunities for solar generation.

5. **Support the implementation of more efficient takeoff and landing procedures at MSP International Airport.** Efficiency improvements like pre-set flight paths and GPS-based navigation allow aircraft to take off and land with fewer air quality and noise impacts on airport-adjacent communities – and to burn less fuel, substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is working with MSP and other local partners to increase the use of these area navigation (RNAV) and required navigation performance (RNP) procedures. Minneapolis should leverage its role on airport-related boards and committees to

encourage quick implementation of these procedures with GHG emissions reduction a central goal.

6. **Encourage the State of Minnesota to permit the testing of autonomous vehicles on public roadways.** In the long term, autonomous vehicles have the potential to reduce the total number of vehicles on the road, increase fuel efficiency and increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians, all of which could have a positive climate impact. Permitting the testing of these vehicles will signal to industry that Minnesota is eager to explore this new technology.

Waste & Recycling

Goals

1. Achieve a **zero percent growth rate** in the total waste stream from 2010 levels.
2. **Recycle 50 percent of the waste stream** (commercial and residential) in Minneapolis by 2025.
3. **Increase organics collection to 15 percent** of the waste stream by 2025.
4. Reduce the flow of wastewater from Minneapolis and support efforts to make wastewater treatment more energy efficient.
5. **Increase awareness of the lifecycle impacts of products** to address GHGs occurring outside the community.

Reducing Waste

1. Identify consumer products and packaging that are neither recyclable nor compostable and engage companies, consumers and retailers in a campaign to reduce the disposal of such products and packaging through reuse efforts, switch to alternative materials, or make changes to the supply chain. In addition, the City should participate in and support the efforts of the MPCA Product Stewardship Council.

2. Identify and promote reuse and repair businesses and opportunities which can reduce the disposal of used goods. Evaluate existing ordinances and remove barriers for reuse and repair opportunities. Connect with the State's reuse network. Examples include "fix-it clinics" or promoting existing businesses with a reuse focus.

EJ1. Work with Hennepin County and MPCA to ensure that as waste reduction goals are met within the city, emissions and activity at HERC are not increased due to waste shipments from outside the city limits. Every effort must be made to remove high recycle potential material in this waste stream (which also has a high BTU content). Emissions must be closely monitored so as not to add to cumulative health burden of surrounding neighborhoods.

EJ2. Work with Hennepin County to ensure that a strong residential and business CFL and recycling education and collection program is developed and monitored.

3. Work with Hennepin County and other partner organizations to encourage businesses and residents to purchase reused and reusable goods (Choose to Reuse campaign).

4. Expand Green Building programs (such as a requirement for city-financed new construction and renovation projects) to promote a reduction in construction and demolition waste.

5. Expand neighborhood and backyard organic composting through community initiatives across neighborhoods and advocate for updated composting rules at a state level.

6. Develop innovative marketing and behavioral strategies. Examples could include behavioral strategies to reduce food waste like signage and reducing tray use, and supporting County efforts for expanded outreach to commercial and multifamily properties.

7. Undertake a public education campaign to inform residents about opt-out opportunities for material like phone books and junk mail. Additionally, explore requiring that businesses like phone directories operate as an opt-in service in Minneapolis.

8. Work with Hennepin County, regional groups and the State of Minnesota to develop better data collection tools and sources, especially for commercial and multifamily waste data.

9. Require City-financed development projects to meet a green building standard (see Buildings & Energy Cross-Cutting Strategy 5) that includes a waste reduction and/or recycling standard. Projects that receive State money must meet Minnesota Green Communities standards, which include rules about construction and debris waste and recycling infrastructure. The City of Minneapolis should follow suit in order to support its existing waste reduction and recycling goals, and to reduce GHG emissions.

Increasing Recycling

1. Support implementation of a single-sort recycling program for curbside pickup.

2. Continue to expand the types of materials accepted by the City's recycling program. Analysis (health, etc) must be done to ensure any expansion or new recycling facility does not disproportionality burden already existing environmental justice communities in its construction and operation.

EJ1. Assess community health impact of increased truck traffic and diesel, fine particulate matter emissions, that could result from expanded or new recycling operations. This includes increased truck traffic routes from collection of materials, as well as truck traffic and facility site.

3. Complete a comprehensive assessment of pricing incentives and penalties for residential waste and recycling services and identify strategies, such as volume-based variable-rate pricing, that could increase recycling and reduce waste.

4. Enforce the commercial recycling ordinance and undertake an educational campaign to expand recycling options in multi-family housing. The City of Minneapolis will investigate creating standards for commercial office buildings that require building owners to be responsible for source separating refuse into recyclables and trash and work with on-site janitors and other affected workers to create effective source separation programs. Educational campaigns should be done in conjunction with community groups, be culturally appropriate and in multiple languages.

5. Identify financial and other barriers to recycling in multi-family buildings (different priorities between property management company and tenants, lack of knowledge of costs, etc.).

6. Work with the County to increase the rate of recycling of construction and demolition debris in the city.

7. Support state adoption of the new International Green Construction Code (IGCC) and adopt the IGCC locally (see Buildings & Energy Cross-Cutting Strategy 3). The IGCC includes requirements for diverting construction and debris waste and incorporating recycling infrastructure in the design of projects. If the IGCC is adopted at the state level as an appendix chapter, Minneapolis will need to adopt it locally before it can be in force.

Increase the Composting of Organics

1. Identify major organic waste producers (food service, schools, hospitals, etc.) and conduct a targeted campaign to increase organics recycling. Identify corridors (Nicollet Avenue, for example) with a critical mass of large producers that might make organized collection more feasible. Consider an ordinance

requiring large producers to divert organics. Closely collaborate with workers and unions to ensure the meeting of composting goals do not compromise worker health and safety, or unduly increase work load.

2. Based on the results of pilot programs and through a detailed study, determine the feasibility and costs of expanding the collection of source-separated organics at residential properties citywide. After these costs are known, reassess the best approach for removing organics from the residential waste stream. Any study must assess community health impact of increased truck traffic and diesel, fine particulate matter emissions, that could result from expanded or new composting operations. This includes increased truck traffic routes from collection of materials, as well as truck traffic at facility site.

3. Support more options for the local processing of organic waste at both large and small scales. There are currently few options for processing collected organic waste in the Twin Cities region. Changes to state and county rules, or a stronger local market for organic composting may be necessary to build more processing capacity. Analysis (health, etc) must be done to ensure any expansion or new composting facility does not disproportionality burden already existing environmental justice communities in its construction and operation.

4. Make City worksites a model for organics composting by developing a collection program for city-owned and (where possible) city-leased buildings.

Addressing Product Lifecycle Impacts

1. Work with Homegrown Minneapolis to incorporate more information on food choice impacts, particularly as it relates to greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Develop educational materials that illustrate the emissions impacts of common products or behaviors, and include these materials in city utility bills.

Reducing Wastewater Treatment Impacts

1. Work with the Metropolitan Council to achieve their energy use goals and track associated impacts on GHG emissions from Minneapolis contribution to wastewater flows.

2. Achieve a 75% participation rate in the Community Energy Services program for eligible Minneapolis properties, which includes low-flow water fixture information and installations.

3. Explore options for expanding the use of greywater systems and water conservation measures in public and private buildings. This could be included in the local adoption of the new state building codes as an elective or promoted in city-financed projects.

Additional Issues

The issues of water, drought and tree canopy were ones members of the EJ Working Group felt were additional issues needing a more robust discussion in the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan. The following is a discussion of these issues.

Drought

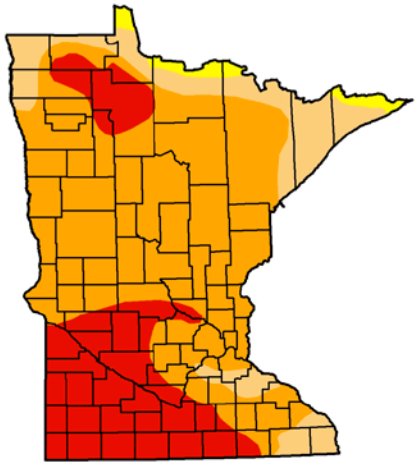
Minneapolis is currently in a state of severe drought. Climate change will likely continue to create unstable water supplies due to fluctuations in precipitation rates. Minnesota water levels overall are currently rivaling the levels from the drought in 1988. Commercial users are being told to stop drawing water from streams and use alternate sources. Reduced water in rivers and streams threatens businesses, agriculture, human health, water quality, fish and wildlife.

U.S. Drought Monitor December 11, 2012 Valid 7 a.m. EST

Minnesota

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.84	83.44	25.25	0.00
Last Week (12/04/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.84	83.44	25.25	0.00
3 Months Ago (09/11/2012 map)	16.50	83.50	44.39	28.02	4.22	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	0.79	99.21	57.45	24.08	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	1.92	98.08	77.45	35.36	18.51	0.00
One Year Ago (12/06/2011 map)	0.81	99.19	56.68	24.08	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- *D0 Abnormally Dry*
- *D1 Drought - Moderate*
- *D2 Drought - Severe*
- *D3 Drought - Extreme*
- *D4 Drought - Exceptional*

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Released Thursday, December 13, 2012

Rich Tinker, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA

The Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan Matrix identifies actions that will trigger an emergency declaration. An emergency declaration is of Environmental Justice significance because the resulting action is consideration for a request to the Army Corp of Engineers to draw down the Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoirs. This pits the City of Minneapolis interests against the Treaty Rights of the

Minnesota Chippewa Tribes. In 1988 this action occurred and destroyed the wild rice crop in associated waters. Wild Rice is the primary food and an economic natural resource for Minnesota's Anishinaabeg (Chippewa) and is a protected Treaty Right. A Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoir draw down can only be done to meet health and safety needs.

Thermal pollution from nuclear and coal fired power plants discharged into the Mississippi River during a drought has the potential to violate the utility's permit standards and destroy aquatic life and damage water quality. NSP, now Xcel Energy, voluntarily reduced electrical production at its Monticello Nuclear Reactor during the 1988 drought because of thermal pollution levels in the Mississippi River. This de-rating of their nuclear capacity caused the utility in 1989 to lobby for legislation to establish them as a priority for water use**.**

- ***The City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan should prepare for a drought condition that causes river intakes and groundwater appropriation pumping to be insufficient to meet consumer requirements. Alternatives that exist for water priorities at the nuclear reactors and coal- fired plants should be identified.***

Tree Canopy

Trees hold a vital place in our lives and communities. Trees reduce storm water run off, and provide beauty and shade. Less volume of storm water run off requires less wastewater treatment and shade that provides a cooling function (estimated at 20 degrees during summer months) are both benefits that increase electric energy efficiency thereby reducing electrical demand.

Added benefits include:

- Health benefits from improved air quality due to increased oxygen and reduced pollution from CO_2, NO_2, SO_2 and PM_{10} and heavy metals,
- Food (fruit/nuts/teas/herbs) flowers, medicine,
- Ceremonial spiritual,
- Noise reduction,
- Enhanced community vitality, stability, public safety,
- Increased property values,
- Garden and landscaping mulch from leaves/wood chips,
- Fuel

The City of Minneapolis' program that mapped the tree canopy in 2009 is a commendable effort to identify where to make the investments in improving these vital natural benefits. The stated goal of the City's program is to maintain a 31% tree cover through 2015. A limitation with the City's tree canopy report is a statement that acknowledges, "There are many factors that determine where trees are planted and maintained," but the report does not identify those priorities. *The Climate Action Program omits trees from the carbon dioxide reduction strategies altogether.*

Whether by accident or design the tree canopy in Metropolitan Minneapolis is inequitably distributed. Those communities with the largest populations of American Indian and People of Color, and those communities with the least ability to afford air-conditioning and/or invest in landscape improvements

via shade tree plantings are those neighborhoods with the smallest percentage of tree cover. This pattern dominates the over all mapping, however it is not exclusive.

This EJ analysis uses the City of Minneapolis Tree Canopy Mapping Project data to demonstrate the inequity of the existing tree canopy in the city. Below are examples of neighborhood locations. Sites are listed with existing tree canopy and the percentage of possible additions on lands with bare soil, grass or shrubs, and the percentage of possible additions with impervious ground covers that would need to be removed and hauled away. The remaining percentage points in each neighborhood are covered with infrastructure such as buildings and roads, or water bodies and are unsuitable for tree additions at these designations and are not presented here. Overall poverty rates in each neighborhood are also listed using City of Minneapolis Neighborhood demographics. Poverty statistics posted on the City's website for neighborhoods however are from the years 1999/2000. The percentage % of each of the listed neighborhoods populations, which are identified as "White" in City demographics, is shown for illustrative purposes.

These Minneapolis Neighborhoods have the greatest need for additional tree canopy investment by the Climate Action Plan program. The poverty ratios are between 19% and 42% with significant majority ethnic populations (with the two exceptions explained further in Notes).

	Existing Tree Canopy	Possible Additions	Possible Additions w/Impervious Removal	% Below Poverty	Race %White
Cedar Riverside	21.01%	18.17%	21.53%	42%	41%
Elliot Park	13.32%	11.39%	33.48%	38%	50%(1)
E. Phillips	27.28%	17.03%	18.99%	33%.....}	24%
Midtown Phillips	27.24%	17.03%	18.99%	28%.....}	for all 4
W. Phillips	19.85%	16.96%	25.79%	35%.....}	Phillips
Ventura Village	20.95%	18.93%	23.43%	38%.....}	
Harrison	29.35%	25.57%	20.38%	37%	22%
Hawthorne	22.03%	18.53%	23.89%	41%	19%
Near North	23.57%	23.58%	21.22%	32%	12%
Marshall Terrace	13.74%	17.12%	40.46%	19%	74%(2)
McKinley	26.09%	21.47%	20.88%	21%	29%
Whittier	28.28%	13.77%	22.83%	25%	47%

Notes:

(1) Elliot Park has had recent housing redevelopment investment in 179 new apartments. The ethnicity has drastically changed from primarily white in 1980 to a growing Hispanic and Black neighborhood.

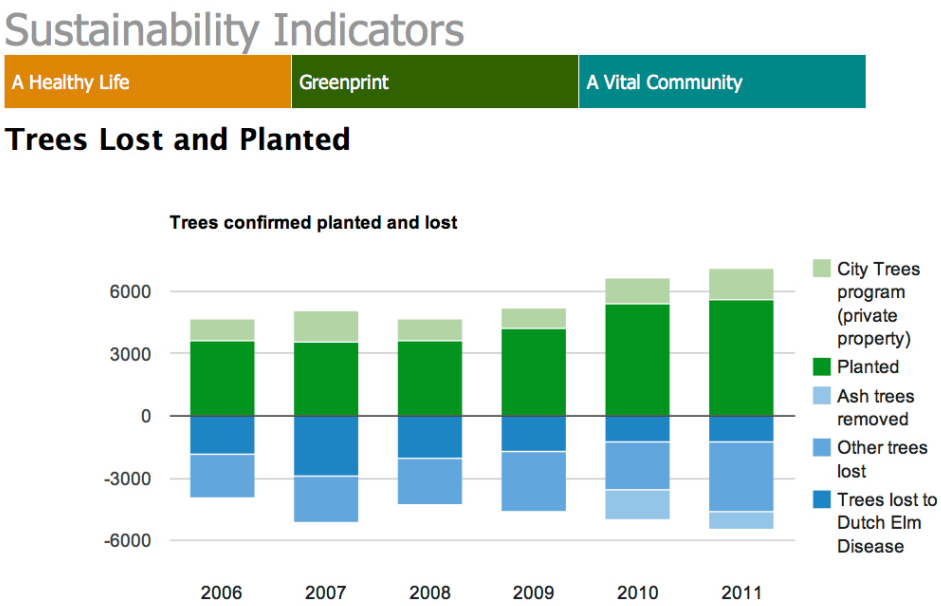
(2) Marshall Terrace is primarily industrial, utilities and railroads. The neighborhood population has dramatically changed from 97% white in 1980 to 74% in 2000, with a growing Hispanic community at 8% and other ethnicities rising as well.

More affluent neighborhoods for comparison have a larger percentage of tree canopy as well as less land covered with an impervious surface. The percentage of families below the poverty level in these communities is greatly reduced, while the racial composition of the neighborhood is significantly less diverse.

	Existing Trees	Possible Additions	Possible Additions w/ Impervious Removal	%Below Poverty	Race %White
Audubon Park	41.60%	20.01%	11.20%	6%	81%
Bryn Mawr	45.54%	21.28%	11.84%	2%	92%
Cooper	46.08%	14.13%	8.44%	4%	87%
East Harriet	35.96%	19.92%	5.84%	1%	91%
Fulton	47.33%	16.97%	9.28%	2%	94%
Hiawatha	41.86%	16.84%	11.56	4%	86%
Howe	44.05%	16.59%	11.61	5%	76%
Kenwood	42.41%	22.72%	3.31%	3%	93%
Linden Hills	43.29%	17.70%	6.67%	4%	93%
Lynnhurst	48.71%	15.47%	6.12%	1%	94%
Minnehaha	43.54%	22.15%	9.83%	4%	86%
Waite Park	42.81%	23.84%	10.45	3%	87%

Approximately 32,800 trees were planted in the City of Minneapolis since 2003. The tree planting program of the Minneapolis Park and Recreations Board and the City Tree Program with the Tree Trust (non-profit) to maintain the City's 31% tree canopy target goal of planting 6,000 trees per year still barely equals replacement of lost trees. Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, gypsy moth, sudden oak death, and other causes, including severe storms are identified causes of forest death. Emerald ash borer alone has the potential to wipe out 22% of the tree canopy in the City of Minneapolis.

- ***The Climate Action Plan should have a tree canopy policy that achieves an equitable percentage of tree canopy across all neighborhoods.***



(Chart from the City of Minneapolis Sustainability Department web site)

Minneapolis Neighborhoods Damaged by North-side Tornado

The North Minneapolis tornado destroyed more than 6,000 trees in North Minneapolis on both public and private lands. Increased frequency of violent storms is a mark of climate change and thousands more trees have not been replanted in the damaged North Minneapolis Neighborhoods.

Tree canopy distribution in the chart below with an *asterisk denotation signifies the neighborhoods with the most damaged areas. (See attached map) These tree canopy statistics are no longer accurate. Racial distribution and poverty rates have also likely changed from the reported numbers on City Neighborhood pages due to destruction of homes and businesses.

City Park and Recreation however have replanted 3,100 trees on boulevards in the damaged neighborhoods. Replanting has occurred in Folwell Park (275 trees) and Tree Trust assisted homeowners with 400 trees paid for by State Farm Insurance and other donations. The Lopett Foundation replanted a section of Theodore Wirth Park (TWP) (75 trees) and Xcel Energy replanted Glenwood/Wirth Parkway intersection. More than 300 trees were uprooted in Theodore Wirth Park from this violent storm.

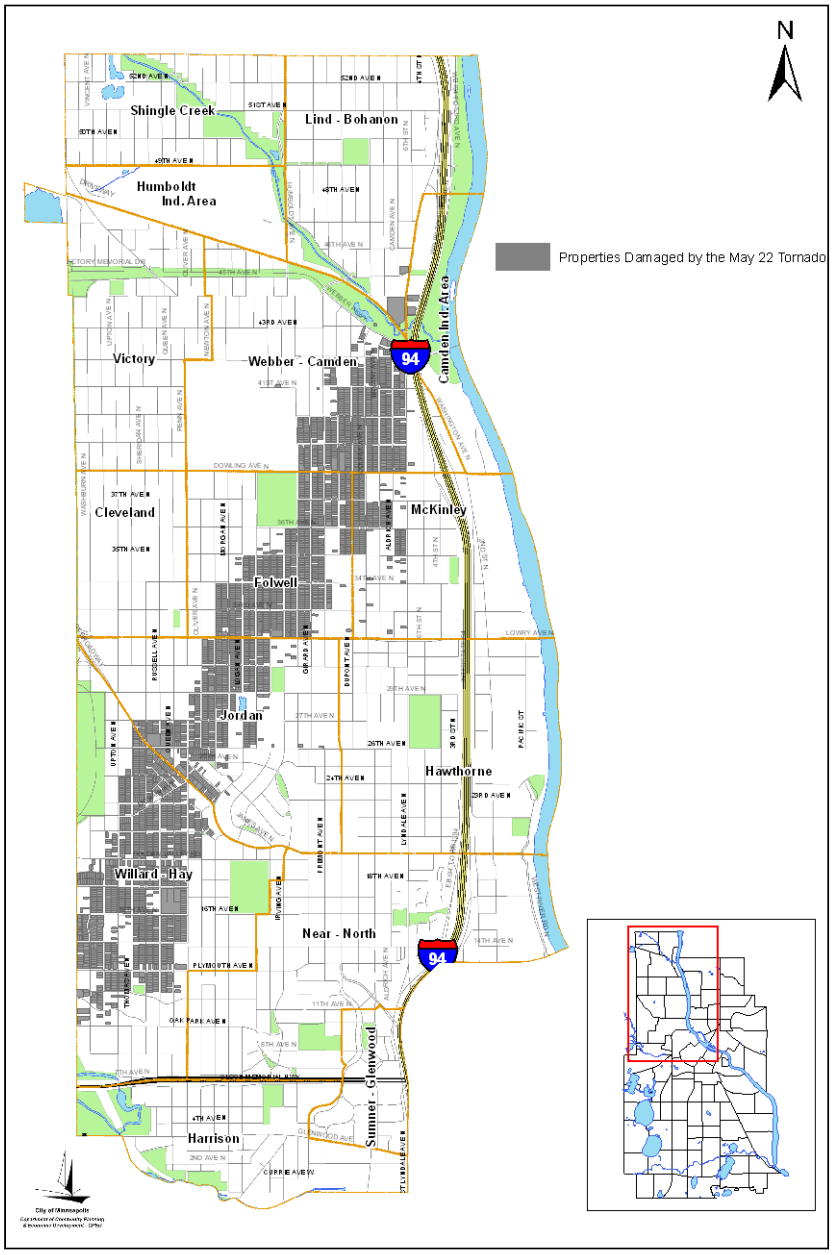
	Existing Tree Canopy	Possible Additions	Possible Additions w/Impervious Removal	%Below Poverty	Race %White
*Willard Hay	47.33%	25.28%	9.40%	27% (TWP)	15%
*Webber Camden	32.99%	33.31%	12.25%	16%	47%
*Folwell	41.22%	22.60%	9.86%	16%	37%
*Jordan	39.50%	25.28%	13.80%	20% (TWP)	21%
McKinley	26.09%	21.47%	20.88%	21%	29%

These five neighborhoods are not included in the previous charts because the tree canopy data for existing trees as well as other possible additions on various land parcels are no longer accurate due to the massive loss of tree life and infrastructural damage from the 2011 tornado. Replacement data available is cited in the above paragraph.

- ***The City's Climate Action Plan should plan to replace the remaining storm destroyed trees. Many of the remaining lost trees are on private lands.***

(Note: the word "White" is used on the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood demographics Populations pages, it is used here for consistency).

North Minneapolis Tornado Impacted Area



Brett Costain/Jill Kiener | Northside Home Fund | 4.27.12
Source: Regulatory Services

Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change

May 2012

> If global warming increases by more than 2 degrees Celsius, there is a 50% probability that the damages caused to our Mother Earth will be completely irreversible. Between 20% and 30% of species would be in danger of disappearing. Large extensions of forest would be affected, droughts and floods would affect different regions of the planet, deserts would expand, and the melting of the polar ice caps and the glaciers in the Andes and Himalayas would worsen. Many island states would disappear, and Africa would suffer an increase in temperature of more than 3 degrees Celsius. Likewise, the production of food would diminish in the world, causing catastrophic impact on the survival of inhabitants from vast regions in the planet, and the number of people in the world suffering from hunger would increase dramatically, a figure that already exceeds 1.02 billion people. *(Peoples Agreement, Cochabamba Bolivia, April 22, 2010)*

Inspired by, and in solidarity with, the World People's Conference on Climate Change held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, communities in the Twin Cities (the Minneapolis and St. Paul region) convened a series of dialogues in 2011 to discuss climate change and propose a framework for solutions. The dialogues resulted in the formulation of this *Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change*.

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE TWIN CITIES ACKNOWLEDGE AND AFFIRM that as recipients of the benefits of living in a "developed" nation, we have a responsibility to other peoples throughout the world who are impacted by climate change. If developed countries like the United States do not significantly reduce their emissions of global warming pollution by 2020, we are committing ourselves to a 2 degree (Celsius) temperature change. This will have devastating impacts on families and communities, and on our brothers and sisters all over the world, particularly those in Africa, Asia, Latin America and island nations. Unless we act, climate change will also have disproportionate and catastrophic impacts to indigenous, communities of color, low-income residents, women and children, persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities in the U.S.

We fully support the Mystic Lake Declaration developed by community members, youth and elders, spiritual and traditional leaders, Native organizations and supporters which declares that Native Nations shall be active participants with full representation in United States and international legally binding treaty agreements regarding climate, energy, biodiversity, food sovereignty, water and sustainable development policies affecting Indigenous peoples and respective Homelands on Turtle Island (North America) and Pacific Islands.[1]

[1] The Mystic Lake Declaration. From the Native Peoples Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop II: Indigenous Perspectives and Solutions. At Mystic Lake on the Homelands of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prior Lake, Minnesota. November 21, 2009. http://portal3.aihec.org/sites/NPNH/Document%20Center/The%20Mystic%20Lake%20Declaration2.htm.

We acknowledge that we cannot address solutions to climate change in a just manner without acknowledging the historic factors that have created the current problem. Historic and present attacks on indigenous peoples land and culture, on communities of color and on women and children, are breaking our connection to Mother Earth. The highway oriented transportation infrastructure built in the mid 20th century was not only energy and greenhouse gas intensive, but perpetuated geographic racial segregation in the Twin Cities. Due to redlining and other historically racist land use and planning policies legally practiced in the Twin Cities until the 1960s, many indigenous and communities of color live in older, less efficient housing.[2] The recent recession has had an unprecedented impact on these communities, with the rental market now saturated (2% vacancy), homelessness up by 21%, over-crowding, and high rates of foreclosure. In Minnesota almost 11 percent of the state's residents are in poverty, including 14.1 percent of its children; and an additional one million are "near poor."[3] As a result of these conditions, Indigenous peoples, communities of color, low-income residents, women, children, and persons with disabilities are most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Climate change is a consequence of a development model that harms our natural environment and produces economic inequality. Climate change, therefore, is a moral problem. The models of development we support will exemplify our values and our commitment to justice and equality. Solutions focused on profits may not be healing to the earth and climate, and those that perpetuate past inequalities are unacceptable. The ecological health of our Earth shall not be subordinated to the needs markets. *How* we respond to climate change is as important as *if* we respond –social equity must be the basis for solutions.

We acknowledge that the effects of climate change are already being experienced here in the Twin Cities region.

- Record floods that occurred in the Midwest in the summer of 2011, displaced communities, and affected families, migrant laborers and children;
- The tornado in North Minneapolis in 2011 caused great harms, which had psychological effects on children and families. The governmental response to the North Minneapolis tornado was highly police dominated (with guns drawn) which the community deems unacceptable. Additionally, the media inaccurately portrayed 'looting' in the community rather than the coming together and support that occurred;
- Urban and rural farmers are witnessing heat stress to crops due to sustained high temperatures; non-corporate farmers who are economically vulnerable, have the least access to the infrastructure to accommodate these weather extremes;
- Water and freshwater ecosystems will be negatively impacted, affecting community rights and access to water; this will negatively impact food production;
- Air quality and increased number of high-heat days is exacerbating the onset of asthma and other respiratory illnesses among children and the elderly;
- Indigenous, communities of color, low-income residents, women and children, persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities face greater hardships for recovery due to extreme weather events;
- Climate change has disproportionate economic impacts due to increased energy heating and cooling costs.

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[2] Redlining refers to the practice, whereby financial institutions marked a red line on a map defining the neighborhoods or geographical areas to be excluded from capital investment; these areas were synonymous with boundaries where people of color resided.

[3] U.S. Bureau of Census. Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010.

As all these issues are interlinked, we highlight that the current approach to solutions to climate change are exacerbating local inequities in the Twin Cities. Many of the energy efficiency and renewable energy funds (i.e. ARRA recovery dollars from the federal government) have disproportionately benefitted upper middle class homeowners and wealthier communities, bypassing low income communities and communities of color. The "greening" of our cities in the name of climate stabilization is resulting in gentrification and the displacement of our communities, and in many cases is not in line with the best research on job creation potential.[4] Climate responses must prioritize people and community development; and re-invest in place-based green job development and small business entrepreneurship.

WE, THE PEOPLES OF THE TWIN CITIES, DECLARE that the people of the Twin Cities and the governmental organizations, institutions and agencies that serve them, have a moral responsibility to seriously address the causes and impacts of climate change. We call on the following, that:

- The precautionary principle shall be instituted as our guide to policy decisions with the objective of stopping global warming at 1 degree Celsius, and with the goal of reducing our region's emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Actions to achieve these reductions shall guarantee human rights, and social and economic justice.

- Facilities that are polluting the air, water and land and using fossil fuels must transition to healthier practices and green job creation, prioritizing the most vulnerable as first recipients.

- Those most effected by climate change -- indigenous, communities of color, low-income residents, women and children, persons with disabilities and other marginalized communities -- must be full participants at all levels of climate change mitigation and adaptation planning processes; and must have adequate resources to effectively and meaningfully participate.

- All levels of governmental policies and programs, including the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul shall operate in compliance with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and respect and honor the tribal sovereignty of the 11 tribal nations located within the boundaries of the State of Minnesota.

- The response to climate-related disasters in the Twin Cities shall be humanitarian in concept and implementation and must not be militarized; emergency responses shall include resources to address physical and psychological traumas associated with climate change events. Community residents shall be supported and prepared to be "our own first responders," acknowledging the limits of governmental assistance. Communities must be able to respond simultaneously and creatively.

[4] Gentrification refers to the transformation in a community when certain community revitalization projects occur and wealthier people buy or rent property in neighborhoods that were previously low income and working class. Rising rents and property values/taxes force lower income residents to leave.

- The Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the State of Minnesota shall have plans for supporting and assisting regional climate refugees resulting from floods, tornadoes, and other severe weather events. National and local immigration policies and practices shall support climate refugees. FEMA and other governmental emergency response officials must equally assist all people regardless of immigration status.

- Public health planning and programs must be responsive to the needs of Indigenous peoples, communities of color, low-income residents, women, children, and persons with disabilities.

- All infrastructure projects shall be non-discriminatory both in intent and in outcome, and be in full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. This includes "green" infrastructure development, transportation systems, and brownfield redevelopment.[5]

- Government programs in energy efficiency and renewable energy (state, county, city, nonprofit) shall be transparent and accessible in multiple languages, and include core programs targeted toward renters and low and moderate-income homeowners. Energy efficiency and renewable funds shall be equitably distributed across neighborhoods and communities. Energy costs shall be included in housing affordability calculations and renters should have the same opportunities for energy self-sufficiency as homeowners.

- Policies governing the 'commons' and 'cooperative' shall be researched and implemented to govern the disposition of resources that are needed collectively for survival (housing, food, energy, water, land, etc.). Community-based solutions to energy services are the foundation of solutions to the climate crisis and must be supported in all their variety.

- Food security and sovereignty shall be goals of climate policy and planning, upholding the rights of peoples to preserve and protect culturally significant foods and plants such as wild rice and sage.

- Land shall be made equitably accessible to all residents including low and moderate-income renters (the 'land-less' people in the Twin Cities) and homeowners for local food production, with resources to utilize non-genetically modified plants and crops that are climate stabilizing.[6] Land values shall include social, ecological, and community benefits.

As the Peoples of the Twin Cities, we write this Agreement in solidarity with communities fighting for ecological and environmental justice around the country and the world. As we enter into these uncertain times, with the baseline constantly shifting now with climate change, it is even more important for us to stay connected and learn lessons from each other. In all of our diversity as the people of the Twin Cities, we commit ourselves to relearning our own heritage and ancestors' relationship to the earth and passing this on to our children. Overall, we stand in solidarity against aggressions to land and people in the Twin Cities as a microcosm of the global aggression to Mother Earth.

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[4] Brownfield redevelopment refers to the reuse of land that was in the past used for industrial or commercial purposes and may be contaminated by hazardous waste or pollution.

[6] Climate stabilizing crops include crops that have deeper root systems (such as perennial crops) that store carbon, are indigenous to this region, and can adapt to extreme weather patterns. It also can refer to developing an agricultural system that minimizes resource intensive inputs and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Background:
Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change

In 2010, over 30,000 grassroots activists, policy makers and researchers from around the world came together in Cochabamba, Bolivia to develop a socially just response to climate change. At the center of these discussions were frontline communities impacted by the root causes, impacts and false solutions to the ecological crisis currently facing us. Inspired by, and in solidarity with, the World People's Conference on Climate Change held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, communities in the Twin Cities (the Minneapolis and St. Paul region) convened a series of dialogues in 2011 to discuss climate change and propose a framework for solutions. These dialogues resulted in the formulation of the Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change.

The Dialogues were held in North Minneapolis, South Minneapolis and West Side St. Paul. Participants were a diverse set of area residents across income levels, and stemming from African American, Indigenous, South Asian, Hmong, Latin American, South American, and European American roots. Co-sponsors of the Dialogs included the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, the Zenteotl Project, Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, and the West Side Community Organization. Topics for the dialogs included:

- Connecting the Dots and Claiming the Future: Climate Change, The North Minneapolis Tornado and Economic Injustice

- Out in the Cold – The Housing Crisis and Climate Justice

- Growing Pains - Connecting Local Food and Climate Justice

- The Peoples' Cochabamba Agreement at the intersection of Migration, Displacement, and Climate Justice

Comments and responses from all the Dialogs were gathered and compiled by the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, with the first release of the draft Peoples Agreement presented through art, panel discussion, and spoken word on December 3rd, 2011 at the International Solidarity Day on Climate Justice gathering at Green Central Park School in Minneapolis. Through the work of committed community parents, youth and activists, the Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change was finalized in May 2012.

Sign on to the Twin Cities Peoples Agreement on Climate Change:
www.ceed.org/twin-cities-peoples-agreement-on-climate-change

World People's Conference on Climate Change

and the Rights of Mother Earth

April 22nd, 2010, Cochabamba, Bolivia

PEOPLE'S AGREEMENT

Today, our Mother Earth is wounded and the future of humanity is in danger.

If global warming increases by more than 2 degrees Celsius, a situation that the "Copenhagen Accord" could lead to, there is a 50% probability that the damages caused to our Mother Earth will be completely irreversible. Between 20% and 30% of species would be in danger of disappearing. Large extensions of forest would be affected, droughts and floods would affect different regions of the planet, deserts would expand, and the melting of the polar ice caps and the glaciers in the Andes and Himalayas would worsen. Many island states would disappear, and Africa would suffer an increase in temperature of more than 3 degrees Celsius. Likewise, the production of food would diminish in the world, causing catastrophic impact on the survival of inhabitants from vast regions in the planet, and the number of people in the world suffering from hunger would increase dramatically, a figure that already exceeds 1.02 billion people. The corporations and governments of the so-called "developed" countries, in complicity with a segment of the scientific community, have led us to discuss climate change as a problem limited to the rise in temperature without questioning the cause, which is the capitalist system.

We confront the terminal crisis of a civilizing model that is patriarchal and based on the submission and destruction of human beings and nature that accelerated since the industrial revolution.

The capitalist system has imposed on us a logic of competition, progress and limitless growth. This regime of production and consumption seeks profit without limits, separating human beings from nature and imposing a logic of domination upon nature, transforming everything into commodities: water, earth, the human genome, ancestral cultures, biodiversity, justice, ethics, the rights of peoples, and life itself.

Under capitalism, Mother Earth is converted into a source of raw materials, and human beings into consumers and a means of production, into people that are seen as valuable only for what they own, and not for what they are.

Capitalism requires a powerful military industry for its processes of accumulation and imposition of control over territories and natural resources, suppressing the resistance of the peoples. It is an imperialist system of colonization of the planet.

Humanity confronts a great dilemma: to continue on the path of capitalism, depredation, and death, or to choose the path of harmony with nature and respect for life.

It is imperative that we forge a new system that restores harmony with nature and among human beings. And in order for there to be balance with nature, there must first be equity among human beings. We propose to the peoples of the world the recovery, revalorization, and strengthening of the knowledge, wisdom, and ancestral practices of Indigenous Peoples, which are affirmed in the thought and practices of "Living Well," recognizing Mother Earth as a living being with which we have an indivisible, interdependent, complementary and spiritual relationship. To face climate change, we must recognize Mother Earth as the source of life and forge a new system based on the principles of:

- harmony and balance among all and with all things;
- complementarity, solidarity, and equality;
- collective well-being and the satisfaction of the basic necessities of all;
- people in harmony with nature;

- recognition of human beings for what they are, not what they own;
- elimination of all forms of colonialism, imperialism and interventionism;
- peace among the peoples and with Mother Earth;

The model we support is not a model of limitless and destructive development. All countries need to produce the goods and services necessary to satisfy the fundamental needs of their populations, but by no means can they continue to follow the path of development that has led the richest countries to have an ecological footprint five times bigger than what the planet is able to support. Currently, the regenerative capacity of the planet has been already exceeded by more than 30 percent. If this pace of over-exploitation of our Mother Earth continues, we will need two planets by the year 2030. In an interdependent system in which human beings are only one component, it is not possible to recognize rights only to the human part without provoking an imbalance in the system as a whole. To guarantee human rights and to restore harmony with nature, it is necessary to effectively recognize and apply the rights of Mother Earth. For this purpose, we propose the attached project for the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth, in which it's recorded that:

- The right to live and to exist;
- The right to be respected;
- The right to regenerate its bio-capacity and to continue it's vital cycles and processes free of human alteration;
- The right to maintain their identity and integrity as differentiated beings, self-regulated and interrelated;
- The right to water as the source of life;
- The right to clean air;
- The right to comprehensive health;
- The right to be free of contamination and pollution, free of toxic and radioactive waste;
- The right to be free of alterations or modifications of it's genetic structure in a manner that threatens it's integrity or vital and healthy functioning;
- The right to prompt and full restoration for violations to the rights acknowledged in this Declaration caused by human activities.

The "shared vision" seeks to stabilize the concentrations of greenhouse gases to make effective the Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which states that "the stabilization of greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere to a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic inferences for the climate system." Our vision is based on the principle of historical common but differentiated responsibilities, to demand the developed countries to commit with quantifiable goals of emission reduction that will allow to return the concentrations of greenhouse gases to 300 ppm, therefore the increase in the average world temperature to a maximum of one degree Celsius.

Emphasizing the need for urgent action to achieve this vision, and with the support of peoples, movements and countries, developed countries should commit to ambitious targets for reducing emissions that permit the achievement of short-term objectives, while maintaining our vision in favor of balance in the Earth's climate system, in agreement with the ultimate objective of the Convention.

The "shared vision for long-term cooperative action" in climate change negotiations should not be reduced to defining the limit on temperature increases and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, but must also incorporate in a balanced and integral manner measures regarding capacity building, production and consumption patterns, and other essential factors such as the acknowledging of the Rights of Mother Earth to establish harmony with nature.

Developed countries, as the main cause of climate change, in assuming their historical responsibility, must recognize and honor their climate debt in all of its dimensions as the basis for a just, effective, and scientific solution to climate change. In this context, we demand that developed countries:

- Restore to developing countries the atmospheric space that is occupied by their greenhouse gas emissions. This implies the decolonization of the atmosphere through the reduction and absorption of their emissions;

- Assume the costs and technology transfer needs of developing countries arising from the loss of development opportunities due to living in a restricted atmospheric space;

- Assume responsibility for the hundreds of millions of people that will be forced to migrate due to the climate change caused by these countries, and eliminate their restrictive immigration policies, offering migrants a decent life with full human rights guarantees in their countries;

- Assume adaptation debt related to the impacts of climate change on developing countries by providing the means to prevent, minimize, and deal with damages arising from their excessive emissions;

- Honor these debts as part of a broader debt to Mother Earth by adopting and implementing the United Nations Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth.

The focus must not be only on financial compensation, but also on restorative justice, understood as the restitution of integrity to our Mother Earth and all its beings.

We deplore attempts by countries to annul the Kyoto Protocol, which is the sole legally binding instrument specific to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries.

We inform the world that, despite their obligation to reduce emissions, developed countries have increased their emissions by 11.2% in the period from 1990 to 2007.

During that same period, due to unbridled consumption, the United States of America has increased its greenhouse gas emissions by 16.8%, reaching an average of 20 to 23 tons of CO_2 per-person. This represents 9 times more than that of the average inhabitant of the “Third World,” and 20 times more than that of the average inhabitant of Sub-Saharan Africa.

We categorically reject the illegitimate “Copenhagen Accord” that allows developed countries to offer insufficient reductions in greenhouse gases based in voluntary and individual commitments, violating the environmental integrity of Mother Earth and leading us toward an increase in global temperatures of around 4°C.

The next Conference on Climate Change to be held at the end of 2010 in Mexico should approve an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period from 2013 to 2017 under which developed countries must agree to significant domestic emissions reductions of at least 50% based on 1990 levels, excluding carbon markets or other offset mechanisms that mask the failure of actual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

We require first of all the establishment of a goal for the group of developed countries to achieve the assignment of individual commitments for each developed country under the framework of complementary efforts among each one, maintaining in this way Kyoto Protocol as the route to emissions reductions.

The United States, as the only Annex 1 country on Earth that did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol, has a significant responsibility toward all peoples of the world to ratify this document and commit itself to respecting and complying with emissions reduction targets on a scale appropriate to the total size of its economy.

We the peoples have the equal right to be protected from the adverse effects of climate change and reject the notion of adaptation to climate change as understood as a resignation to impacts provoked by the historical emissions of developed countries, which themselves must adapt their modes of life and consumption in the face of this global emergency. We see it as imperative to confront the adverse

effects of climate change, and consider adaptation to be a process rather than an imposition, as well as a tool that can serve to help offset those effects, demonstrating that it is possible to achieve harmony with nature under a different model for living.

It is necessary to construct an Adaptation Fund exclusively for addressing climate change as part of a financial mechanism that is managed in a sovereign, transparent, and equitable manner for all States. This Fund should assess the impacts and costs of climate change in developing countries and needs deriving from these impacts, and monitor support on the part of developed countries. It should also include a mechanism for compensation for current and future damages, loss of opportunities due to extreme and gradual climactic events, and additional costs that could present themselves if our planet surpasses ecological thresholds, such as those impacts that present obstacles to "Living Well."

The "Copenhagen Accord" imposed on developing countries by a few States, beyond simply offering insufficient resources, attempts as well to divide and create confrontation between peoples and to extort developing countries by placing conditions on access to adaptation and mitigation resources. We also assert as unacceptable the attempt in processes of international negotiation to classify developing countries for their vulnerability to climate change, generating disputes, inequalities and segregation among them.

The immense challenge humanity faces of stopping global warming and cooling the planet can only be achieved through a profound shift in agricultural practices toward the sustainable model of production used by indigenous and rural farming peoples, as well as other ancestral models and practices that contribute to solving the problem of agriculture and food sovereignty. This is understood as the right of peoples to control their own seeds, lands, water, and food production, thereby guaranteeing, through forms of production that are in harmony with Mother Earth and appropriate to local cultural contexts, access to sufficient, varied and nutritious foods in complementarity with Mother Earth and deepening the autonomous (participatory, communal and shared) production of every nation and people.

Climate change is now producing profound impacts on agriculture and the ways of life of indigenous peoples and farmers throughout the world, and these impacts will worsen in the future.

Agribusiness, through its social, economic, and cultural model of global capitalist production and its logic of producing food for the market and not to fulfill the right to proper nutrition, is one of the principal causes of climate change. Its technological, commercial, and political approach only serves to deepen the climate change crisis and increase hunger in the world. For this reason, we reject Free Trade Agreements and Association Agreements and all forms of the application of Intellectual Property Rights to life, current technological packages (agrochemicals, genetic modification) and those that offer false solutions (biofuels, geo-engineering, nanotechnology, etc.) that only exacerbate the current crisis.

We similarly denounce the way in which the capitalist model imposes mega-infrastructure projects and invades territories with extractive projects, water privatization, and militarized territories, expelling indigenous peoples from their lands, inhibiting food sovereignty and deepening socio-environmental crisis.

We demand recognition of the right of all peoples, living beings, and Mother Earth to have access to water, and we support the proposal of the Government of Bolivia to recognize water as a Fundamental Human Right.

The definition of forests used in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which includes plantations, is unacceptable. Monoculture plantations are not forests. Therefore, we require a definition for negotiation purposes that recognizes the native forests, jungles and the diverse ecosystems on Earth.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be fully recognized, implemented and integrated in climate change negotiations. The best strategy and action to avoid deforestation and degradation and protect native forests and jungles is to recognize and guarantee

collective rights to lands and territories, especially considering that most of the forests are located within the territories of indigenous peoples and nations and other traditional communities.

We condemn market mechanisms such as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) and its versions + and + +, which are violating the sovereignty of peoples and their right to prior free and informed consent as well as the sovereignty of national States, the customs of Peoples, and the Rights of Nature.

Polluting countries have an obligation to carry out direct transfers of the economic and technological resources needed to pay for the restoration and maintenance of forests in favor of the peoples and indigenous ancestral organic structures. Compensation must be direct and in addition to the sources of funding promised by developed countries outside of the carbon market, and never serve as carbon offsets. We demand that countries stop actions on local forests based on market mechanisms and propose non-existent and conditional results. We call on governments to create a global program to restore native forests and jungles, managed and administered by the peoples, implementing forest seeds, fruit trees, and native flora. Governments should eliminate forest concessions and support the conservation of petroleum deposits in the ground and urgently stop the exploitation of hydrocarbons in forestlands.

We call upon States to recognize, respect and guarantee the effective implementation of international human rights standards and the rights of indigenous peoples, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples under ILO Convention 169, among other relevant instruments in the negotiations, policies and measures used to meet the challenges posed by climate change. In particular, we call upon States to give legal recognition to claims over territories, lands and natural resources to enable and strengthen our traditional ways of life and contribute effectively to solving climate change.

We demand the full and effective implementation of the right to consultation, participation and prior, free and informed consent of indigenous peoples in all negotiation processes, and in the design and implementation of measures related to climate change.

Environmental degradation and climate change are currently reaching critical levels, and one of the main consequences of this is domestic and international migration. According to projections, there were already about 25 million climate migrants by 1995. Current estimates are around 50 million, and projections suggest that between 200 million and 1 billion people will become displaced by situations resulting from climate change by the year 2050.

Developed countries should assume responsibility for climate migrants, welcoming them into their territories and recognizing their fundamental rights through the signing of international conventions that provide for the definition of climate migrant and require all States to abide by abide by determinations.

Establish an International Tribunal of Conscience to denounce, make visible, document, judge and punish violations of the rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons within countries of origin, transit and destination, clearly identifying the responsibilities of States, companies and other agents.

Current funding directed toward developing countries for climate change and the proposal of the Copenhagen Accord are insignificant. In addition to Official Development Assistance and public sources, developed countries must commit to a new annual funding of at least 6% of GDP to tackle climate change in developing countries. This is viable considering that a similar amount is spent on national defense, and that 5 times more have been put forth to rescue failing banks and speculators, which raises serious questions about global priorities and political will. This funding should be direct and free of conditions, and should not interfere with the national sovereignty or self-determination of the most affected communities and groups.

In view of the inefficiency of the current mechanism, a new funding mechanism should be established at the 2010 Climate Change Conference in Mexico, functioning under the authority of the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and held

accountable to it, with significant representation of developing countries, to ensure compliance with the funding commitments of Annex 1 countries.

It has been stated that developed countries significantly increased their emissions in the period from 1990 to 2007, despite having stated that the reduction would be substantially supported by market mechanisms.

The carbon market has become a lucrative business, commodifying our Mother Earth. It is therefore not an alternative for tackle climate change, as it loots and ravages the land, water, and even life itself.

The recent financial crisis has demonstrated that the market is incapable of regulating the financial system, which is fragile and uncertain due to speculation and the emergence of intermediary brokers. Therefore, it would be totally irresponsible to leave in their hands the care and protection of human existence and of our Mother Earth.

We consider inadmissible that current negotiations propose the creation of new mechanisms that extend and promote the carbon market, for existing mechanisms have not resolved the problem of climate change nor led to real and direct actions to reduce greenhouse gases. It is necessary to demand fulfillment of the commitments assumed by developed countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding development and technology transfer, and to reject the "technology showcase" proposed by developed countries that only markets technology. It is essential to establish guidelines in order to create a multilateral and multidisciplinary mechanism for participatory control, management, and evaluation of the exchange of technologies. These technologies must be useful, clean and socially sound. Likewise, it is fundamental to establish a fund for the financing and inventory of technologies that are appropriate and free of intellectual property rights. Patents, in particular, should move from the hands of private monopolies to the public domain in order to promote accessibility and low costs.

Knowledge is universal, and should for no reason be the object of private property or private use, nor should its application in the form of technology. Developed countries have a responsibility to share their technology with developing countries, to build research centers in developing countries for the creation of technologies and innovations, and defend and promote their development and application for "living well." The world must recover and re-learn ancestral principles and approaches from native peoples to stop the destruction of the planet, as well as promote ancestral practices, knowledge and spirituality to recuperate the capacity for "living well" in harmony with Mother Earth.

Considering the lack of political will on the part of developed countries to effectively comply with commitments and obligations assumed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and given the lack of a legal international organism to guard against and sanction climate and environmental crimes that violate the Rights of Mother Earth and humanity, we demand the creation of an International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal that has the legal capacity to prevent, judge and penalize States, industries and people that by commission or omission contaminate and provoke climate change.

Supporting States that present claims at the International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal against developed countries that fail to comply with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol including commitments to reduce greenhouse gases.

We urge peoples to propose and promote deep reform within the United Nations, so that all member States comply with the decisions of the International Climate and Environmental Justice Tribunal.

The future of humanity is in danger, and we cannot allow a group of leaders from developed countries to decide for all countries as they tried unsuccessfully to do at the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen. This decision concerns us all. Thus, it is essential to carry out a global referendum or popular consultation on climate change in which all are consulted regarding the following issues; the level of emission reductions on the part of developed countries and transnational corporations,

financing to be offered by developed countries, the creation of an International Climate Justice Tribunal, the need for a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and the need to change the current capitalist system. The process of a global referendum or popular consultation will depend on process of preparation that ensures the successful development of the same.

In order to coordinate our international action and implement the results of this “Accord of the Peoples,” we call for the building of a Global People’s Movement for Mother Earth, which should be based on the principles of complementarity and respect for the diversity of origin and visions among its members, constituting a broad and democratic space for coordination and joint worldwide actions.

To this end, we adopt the attached global plan of action so that in Mexico, the developed countries listed in Annex 1 respect the existing legal framework and reduce their greenhouse gases emissions by 50%, and that the different proposals contained in this Agreement are adopted.

Finally, we agree to undertake a Second World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in 2011 as part of this process of building the Global People’s Movement for Mother Earth and reacting to the outcomes of the Climate Change Conference to be held at the end of this year in Cancun, Mexico.

THE MYSTIC LAKE DECLARATION

From the Native Peoples Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop II:

Indigenous Perspectives and Solutions

At Mystic Lake on the Homelands of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prior Lake, Minnesota

November 21, 2009

As community members, youth and elders, spiritual and traditional leaders, Native organizations and supporters of our Indigenous Nations, we have gathered on November 18-21, 2009 at Mystic Lake in the traditional homelands of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Oyate. This Second Native Peoples Native Homelands Climate Workshop builds upon the Albuquerque Declaration and work done at the 1998 Native Peoples Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We choose to work together to fulfill our sacred duties, listening to the teachings of our elders and the voices of our youth, to act wisely to carry out our responsibilities to enhance the health and respect the sacredness of Mother Earth, and to demand Climate Justice now.

We acknowledge that to deal effectively with global climate change and global warming issues all sovereigns must work together to adapt and take action on real solutions that will ensure our collective existence. We hereby declare, affirm, and assert our inalienable rights as well as responsibilities as members of sovereign Native Nations. In doing so, we expect to be active participants with full representation in United States and international legally binding treaty agreements regarding climate, energy, biodiversity, food sovereignty, water and sustainable development policies affecting our peoples and our respective Homelands on Turtle Island (North America) and Pacific Islands.

We are of the Earth. The Earth is the source of life to be protected, not merely a resource to be exploited. Our ancestors' remains lie within her. Water is her lifeblood. We are dependent upon her for our shelter and our sustenance. Our lifeways are the original "green economies." We have our place and our responsibilities within Creation's sacred order. We feel the sustaining joy as things occur in harmony. We feel the pain of disharmony when we witness the dishonor of the natural order of Creation and the degradation of Mother Earth and her companion Moon.

We need to stop the disturbance of the sacred sites on Mother Earth so that she may heal and restore the balance in Creation. We ask the world community to join with the Indigenous Peoples to pray on summer solstice for the healing of all the sacred sites on Mother Earth.

The well-being of the natural environment predicts the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual longevity of our Peoples and the Circle of Life. Mother Earth's health and that of our Indigenous Peoples are intrinsically intertwined. Unless our homelands are in a state of good health our Peoples will not be truly healthy. This inseparable relationship must be respected for the sake of

our future generations. In this Declaration, we invite humanity to join with us to improve our collective human behavior so that we may develop a more sustainable world – a world where the inextricable relationship of biological, and environmental diversity, and cultural diversity is affirmed and protected.

We have the power and responsibility to change. We can preserve, protect, and fulfill our sacred duties to live with respect in this wonderful Creation. However, we can also forget our responsibilities, disrespect Creation, cause disharmony and imperil our future and the future of others.

At Mystic Lake, we reviewed the reports of indigenous science, traditional knowledge and cultural scholarship in cooperation with non-native scientists and scholars. We shared our fears, concerns and insights. If current trends continue, native trees will no longer find habitable locations in our forests, fish will no longer find their streams livable, and humanity will find their homelands flooded or drought-stricken due to the changing weather. Our Native Nations have already disproportionately suffered the negative compounding effects of global warming and a changing climate.

The United States and other industrialized countries have an addiction to the high consumption of energy. Mother Earth and her natural resources cannot sustain the consumption and production needs of this modern industrialized society and its dominant economic paradigm, which places value on the rapid economic growth, the quest for corporate and individual accumulation of wealth, and a race to exploit natural resources. The non-regenerative production system creates too much waste and toxic pollutions. We recognize the need for the United States and other industrialized countries to focus on new economies, governed by the absolute limits and boundaries of ecological sustainability, the carrying capacities of the Mother Earth, a more equitable sharing of global and local resources, encouragement and support of self sustaining communities, and respect and support for the rights of Mother Earth and her companion Moon.

In recognizing the root causes of climate change, participants call upon the industrialized countries and the world to work towards decreasing dependency on fossil fuels. We call for a moratorium on all new exploration for oil, gas, coal and uranium as a first step towards the full phase-out of fossil fuels, without nuclear power, with a just transition to sustainable jobs, energy and environment. We take this position and make this recommendation based on our concern over the disproportionate social, cultural, spiritual, environmental and climate impacts on Indigenous Peoples, who are the first and the worst affected by the disruption of intact habitats, and the least responsible for such impacts.

Indigenous peoples must call for the most stringent and binding emission reduction targets. Carbon emissions for developed countries must be reduced by no less than 40%, preferably 49% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 95% by 2050. We call for national and global actions to stabilize CO2 concentrations below 350 parts per million (ppm) and limiting temperature increases to below 1.5ºc.

We challenge climate mitigation solutions to abandon false solutions to climate change that negatively impact Indigenous Peoples' rights, lands, air, oceans, forests, territories and waters.

These include nuclear energy, large-scale dams, geo-engineering techniques, clean coal technologies, carbon capture and sequestration, bio-fuels, tree plantations, and international market-based mechanisms such as carbon trading and offsets, the Clean Development Mechanisms and Flexible Mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol and forest offsets. The only real offsets are those renewable energy developments that actually displace fossil fuel-generated energy. We recommend the United States sign on to the Kyoto Protocol and to the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We are concerned with how international carbon markets set up a framework for dealing with greenhouse gases that secure the property rights of heavy Northern fossil fuel users over the world's carbon-absorbing capacity while creating new opportunities for corporate profit through trade. The system starts by translating existing pollution into a tradable commodity, the rights to which are allocated in accordance with a limit set by States or intergovernmental agencies. In establishing property rights over the world's carbon dump, the largest number of rights is granted (mostly for free) to those who have been most responsible for pollution in the first place. At UN COP15, the conservation of forests is being brought into a property right issue concerning trees and carbon. With some indigenous communities it is difficult and sometimes impossible to reconcile with traditional spiritual beliefs the participation in climate mitigation that commodifies the sacredness of air (carbon), trees and life. Climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management must be based on different mindsets with full respect for nature, and not solely on market-based mechanisms.

We recognize the link between climate change and food security that affects Indigenous traditional food systems. We declare our Native Nations and our communities, waters, air, forests, oceans, sea ice, traditional lands and territories to be "Food Sovereignty Areas," defined and directed by Indigenous Peoples according to our customary laws, free from extractive industries, unsustainable energy development, deforestation, and free from using food crops and agricultural lands for large scale bio-fuels.

We encourage our communities to exchange information related to the sustainable and regenerative use of land, water, sea ice, traditional agriculture, forest management, ancestral seeds, food plants, animals and medicines that are essential in developing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and will restore our food sovereignty, food independence, and strengthen our Indigenous families and Native Nations.

We reject the assertion of intellectual property rights over the genetic resources and traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples which results in the alienation and commodification of those things that are sacred and essential to our lives and cultures. We reject industrial modes of food production that promote the use of chemical substances, genetically engineered seeds and organisms. Therefore, we affirm our right to possess, control, protect and pass on the indigenous seeds, medicinal plants, traditional knowledge originating from our lands and territories for the benefit of our future generations.

We can make changes in our lives and actions as individuals and as Nations that will lessen our contribution to the problems. In order for reality to shift, in order for solutions to major problems to be found and realized, we must transition away from the patterns of an industrialized

mindset, thought and behavior that created those problems. It is time to exercise desperately needed Indigenous ingenuity – Indigenuity – inspired by our ancient intergenerational knowledge and wisdom given to us by our natural relatives.

We recognize and support the position of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), operating as the Indigenous Caucus within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that is requesting language within the overarching principles of the outcomes of the Copenhagen UNFCCC 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) and beyond Copenhagen, that would ensure respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples, including their rights to lands, territories, forests and resources to ensure their full and effective participation including free, prior and informed consent. It is crucial that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is entered into all appropriate negotiating texts for it is recognized as the minimum international standard for the protection of rights, survival, protection and well-being of Indigenous Peoples, particularly with regard to health, subsistence, sustainable housing and infrastructure, and clean energy development.

As Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples living within the occupied territories of the United States, we acknowledge with concern, the refusal of the United States to support negotiating text that would recognize applicable universal human rights instruments and agreements, including the UNDRIP, and further safeguard principles that would ensure their full and effective participation including free, prior and informed consent. We will do everything humanly possible by exercising our sovereign government-to-government relationship with the U.S. to seek justice on this issue.

Our Indian languages are encoded with accumulated ecological knowledge and wisdom that extends back through oral history to the beginning of time. Our ancestors created land and water relationship systems premised upon the understanding that all life forms are relatives – not resources. We understand that we as human beings have a sacred and ceremonial responsibility to care for and maintain, through our original instructions, the health and well-being of all life within our traditional territories and Native Homelands.

We will encourage our leadership and assume our role in supporting a just transition into a green economy, freeing ourselves from dependence on a carbon-based fossil fuel economy. This transition will be based upon development of an indigenous agricultural economy comprised of traditional food systems, sustainable buildings and infrastructure, clean energy and energy efficiency, and natural resource management systems based upon indigenous science and traditional knowledge. We are committed to development of economic systems that enable life-enhancement as a core component. We thus dedicate ourselves to the restoration of true wealth for all Peoples. In keeping with our traditional knowledge, this wealth is based not on monetary riches but rather on healthy relationships, relationships with each other, and relationships with all of the other natural elements and beings of creation.

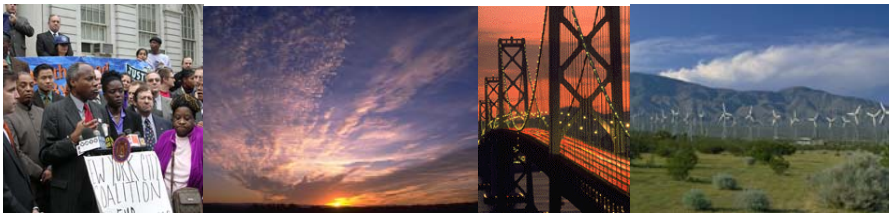
In order to provide leadership in the development of green economies of life-enhancement, we must end the chronic underfunding of our Native educational institutions and ensure adequate funding sources are maintained. We recognize the important role of our Native K-12 schools

and tribal colleges and universities that serve as education and training centers that can influence and nurture a much needed Indigenuity towards understanding climate change, nurturing clean renewable energy technologies, seeking solutions and building sustainable communities.

The world needs to understand that the Earth is a living female organism – our Mother and our Grandmother. We are kin. As such, she needs to be loved and protected. We need to give back what we take from her in respectful mutuality. We need to walk gently. These Original Instructions are the natural spiritual laws, which are supreme. Science can urgently work with traditional knowledge keepers to restore the health and well-being of our Mother and Grandmother Earth.

As we conclude this meeting we, the participating spiritual and traditional leaders, members and supporters of our Indigenous Nations, declare our intention to continue to fulfill our sacred responsibilities, to redouble our efforts to enable sustainable life-enhancing economies, to walk gently on our Mother Earth, and to demand that we be a part of the decision-making and negotiations that impact our inherent and treaty-defined rights. Achievement of this vision for the future, guided by our traditional knowledge and teachings, will benefit all Peoples on the Earth.

Approved by Acclamation and Individual Sign-ons.



Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change

As communities-of-color, Indigenous Peoples, and low-income communities, the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change calls on federal lawmakers and the new president to enact a suite of policies to address Climate Change as an immediate priority. These policies must be just, fair, sustainable and equitable. It is clear that in Congress a cap and trade mechanism has emerged as the leading approach to addressing the Climate Change Crisis. Our nation must do better than creating a stock market that commodifies pollution and continues to trade our health and environment for profit.

Climate change is the most significant social and political challenge of the 21st Century, and the time to act is now. In our post hurricanes Katrina and Rita era, we continue to bear witness to an increase in the number of severe weather events impacting communities in the United States. Whether it is the mighty Mississippi River rising along the shores of the Midwest, or the melting permafrost creating displacement in the Arctic, out-of-season record-breaking tornadoes in Mississippi and Kentucky, the burning hills in Sacramento and San Diego or the droughts experienced in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama, all of these events can be linked in some way to climate change.

Vulnerable communities, even in the most prosperous nations, will be the first and worst hit, as has been confirmed by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In the U.S. context this includes communities-of-color, Indigenous Peoples, and low-income communities that are socio-economically disadvantaged, disproportionately burdened by poor environmental quality and are least able to adapt.

The scientific debate on climate change has shifted from uncertainty about the drivers of this phenomenon to clear confidence that human activity, specifically the fossil-fuel carbon intensive way we power our modern economy, is a central culprit or accelerant in the changes in the climate or what we call global warming. Scientists and policymakers concur that climate change and global warming will result in far-ranging effects on human health, and indeed sociopolitical and economic stability. Evidence of these impacts are documented by the World Health Organization that reports tens of thousands have been displaced in developed countries by the recent severe weather events.

The history of this country is one of struggles to achieve equity, justice and opportunity. Each generation has faced this political challenge. In this moment we are confronted with the real possibility of climate change stealing the American ideal of opportunity from not just the low-income American, not just Indigenous Peoples, not just the person-of-color in America, but all Americans. The Environmental Justice Forum on Climate Change calls on Congress to develop policies to combat climate change that:

Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change

PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

1. **Establish** a zero carbon economy and achieve this by limiting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the levels advocated by the scientific community (25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050) through mechanisms that are controlled by the public sector, generate revenue, are transparent, easily understandable by all, can be set-up quickly and have a track record of improving environmental quality;

2. **Protect** all of America's people - regardless of race, gender, nationality, or socioeconomic status - and their communities equally from the environmental, health and social impacts of climate change. Ensure that any solutions implemented to respond to or mitigate climate change do not violate human or environmental rights;

3. **Ensure** that carbon reduction strategies do not negatively impact public health and do not further exacerbate existing health disparities among communities. This includes crafting strategies that prevent the creation of pollution hotspots, eliminate existing emissions hotspots in vulnerable communities, and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gas co-pollutants in and near communities-of-color, Indigenous, and low-income communities;

4. **Require** those most responsible for creating the impacts that arise from climate change to bear the proportionate cost of responding to the resulting economic, social and environmental crisis. In setting the proportionate cost of climate impacting activity, the full environmental, health, social and economic cost of energy use from extraction to disposal must be included to accurately reflect the cost that energy use has on our environment, our health and our communities;

5. **Develop** a national goal supported by legislatively dedicated resources to transition us from the fossil fuel economy to the green, clean renewable energy economy by 2020;

6. **Position** the public sector to be a catalyst for change in the transition to the green, clean renewable energy economy by dedicating some of the revenues generated by carbon reduction strategies to support green clean renewable energy initiatives;

7. **Create** the opportunity for all Americans, especially people-of-color, Indigenous Peoples and low-income Americans, to experience a just transition as well as participate in the creation and operation of a new green economy by creating a workforce development program to grow living-wage, clean, safe, green jobs in the energy sector and beyond;

8. **Provide** an economic and social safety net for low-income, people-of-color, Indigenous Peoples and those vulnerable in the middle-income from the structural adjustments in the economy as we transition from the pollution generating fossil fuel economy to the green, clean and renewable economy;

9. **Ensure** that the green economy has enough jobs for those who need to be retrained and those who historically have been chronically underemployed, unemployed and/or excluded from unions; and

10. **Ensure** that people-of-color, Indigenous Peoples and low-income communities, who are and continue to be disproportionately impacted by climate change, have the inalienable right to have our voices shape what is the most significant policy debate of the 21st Century.

The Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change believes that climate change policies that incorporate these principles are the way forward for the United States of America to restore our credibility nationally and globally on the issue of climate change while preserving the livelihood, health and safety of all Americans.

For more information, contact 212-961-1000, extension 317

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.

2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.

3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.

4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.

5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.

6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.

7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.

8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.

9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.

12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.

13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.

14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.

15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.

16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.

17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

More info on environmental justice and environmental racism can be found online at www.ejnet.org/ej/

Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted these 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, the Principles have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.

Mni (Water):
From 10,000 feet and 150 years…
to 8 days short of 26,000 years

Whatever we put into or alongside the River(s) will come back to us.
I am writing this from an altitude of two miles while flying over *Mni Sota Makoċe Kiŋ* ("the land where sky mirrors water" in Dakota) above *Maka To* (Blue Earth/ misspelled: "Mankato") where the *Wakpa Mni Sota* (Minnesota River) turns from flowing southeast toward the northeast on its way to "Minneapolis" at *Bdote* (where the rivers join). *Bdote* is the Origin Center of the Dakota Universe and this is/was our "Garden of Eden" genesis site just as the Tigris-Euphrates river confluence in Iraq was for the newcomers who came to *Keya Wita* (Turtle Island). Today the European calendar says it is Thor's day, one day after 12-12-'12 Odin's or Mercury's day (Wednesday/Wodenstag/Miercoles). Whereas Thor is the Nordic thunder and lightning deity and Jupiter the Roman version, we Dakotas have *Wakiŋyaŋ* the Thunderbird, who brings lightning from the clouds outside this plane window. It has been 45 days since Superstorm Sandy came together during the worst drought in sixty to eighty years. But today is also 13 days from the 150th year since the largest U.S. mass hanging (38) and subsequent Dakota exile directly beneath me at *Maka To* beside this flowing river of watery spacetime below. And again, whatever we put into or alongside the River(s) will come back to us.

But today is also 12-13-2012 and only 8 days from 13.0.0.0.0 (the Dec. 21 solstice, 2012) in the Indigenous Maya calendar still counting down for nearly 144,000 days (143,992 to be exact) over the last 5,125 years since 3114 BCE. This solstice will mark the fifth time that a cycle of 13 baktun(s) has occurred totaling nearly 26,000 years. This long cycle is called the "precession of the equinoxes" or one "wobble" period that slowly changes the apparent North star(s).

This is very important because half a "wobble" ago, *Mni Sota Makoċe* was under glaciers one mile thick...reaching halfway up to this airplane. As these began melting over the next two thousand years, the force of the liquid water carved out the river valleys that join now some fifty or more miles behind me at *Bdote*. Yet tragically, this ancient river below is one of the most heavily nitrate-laden in the country due to modern agriculture and it leads directly to and causes the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. But long before this deadly delta, we drink it and use it to dispose of our sewage, waste- and storm water without even pausing to give thanks. Just a few years ago it was said that a glass of water consumed in New Orleans would already have been consumed 17 times along the *Wakpa Taŋka* (*Misi Zibi* in Ojibwemowin) during its journey through as many bladders and 34 kidneys.

So, in the extremely brief century and a half of Minneapolis's eyeblink existence, have the "city fathers and mothers" planned ethically for the long term sustainability and survival of all their relatives here, upstream and down?
The answer is clearly NO, until very recently. And by that I am referring to the positive effort of the 2006 Minneapolis Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP). Its six guiding principles appear sound and sufficient if applied with a long term perspective of environmental justice for all relatives, including indigenous

humans and people of color as well as all life-forms that were once able to live here, upstream and down.

But since the Dakota exile of 1862, the colonizer and his self created and self appointed authority based upon the 1544 Doctrine of Discovery, now assumes a very recent caretaker role after having no spiritual/theological, ethical or legal concern in this regard until yesterday, if that. For us, water is the lifeblood of Turtle Island/Earth Mother/*Maka Ina*. The confluence of these river valleys represents her aortic blood flow in our traditional cosmology. The caves from which glacial water emerges/-ed is her womb and the birth water that formed us and gave us life. The Milky Way River of Stars above mirrors the *Wakpa Taŋka/Wakpa Haha/Misi Zibi* once vast watershed below.

With this said, I have studied this 400 page LSWMP report in addition to a map from 1874 showing Dakota trails from what is Medicine Lake to Lake Calhoun (*Mde Maka Ska*) and Cloud Man's village (*Maȟpiya Wiċašta Otuŋwahe*) to Lake Harriett and the Falls of St. Anthony (*Owamniyomni*)…all of which we still call by their ancient Dakota names, after thousands of years, even if 90% are still in exile. Our land of *Mni Sota Makoce* is now only 1% of 1% of what it once was in area within current state boundaries. Remember, the Northwest Territory from which the new state was formed was the first colony of the 13 colonies. And Minnesota's original tall grass prairie is now only 1% of its area. But we are still here "*Ded Uŋyakuŋpi*" remembering and honoring those who came before. The footpaths on this map became Golden Valley Road beside Bassett Creek and also became highway 100 and 394 (now beneath the cloverleaf) as they followed the ridges along the wetlands as the water flowed. I just watched these trails from hundreds of years back, only minutes ago, as we went wheels up from *Bdote* over Lake Nokomis, then Harriett following Minnehaha (*Mni Haha Wakpadaŋ*) to *Bde/Mde Tanka* (Minnetonka) and over Hwy 169 above *Shakpe*'s village and *Inyan Ċeyaka* (Jordan) and on down to *Maka To* as I head to the arid plains of Texas.

Today these very necessary wetlands have been severely drained and most parts of Shingle Creek, Bassett Creek and Minnehaha Creek have been altered and even moved below the surface in places. People live in these drained lowlands with basement sump pumps praying they don't have another 100 to 500 year water event every few years, as "usual" recently. On the positive side, Minneapolis has done a great job of separating 98% of its storm water pipes from its (un)sanitary (sewage) water to prevent CSOs (Combined Sewage Overflows) during these large precipitation events. But without restoring the green spaces and wetlands, we are just asking for trouble no matter how many reports we make. And when the drought breaks with often torrential results, rather than recharging our aquifers we will pass the precious water on downstream.

In conclusion, I currently live in Hennepin county but was born beside this Holy River in Ramsey county and I am a consultant on climate change and indigenous perspectives with both NOAA and NASA. Because of the exile, my full blood Dakota father died ILLEGALLY on the North side of Minneapolis two years ago this month. There is still much more to be said, written, discussed and done but I thank you for your time on these efforts.

*Miċaŋte etaŋ wopida taŋka (*heartfelt thanks*)*, Jim Rock

April 17, 2012

To: Gayle Prest
Director, Office of Sustainability
350 S. 5th Street, Room 315M
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Cc: Mayor R.T. Rybak and Council Members Kevin Reich (Ward 1), Cam Gordon (Ward 2), Diane Hofstede (Ward 3), Barbara Johnson (Ward 4), Don Samuels (Ward 5), Robert Lilligren (Ward 6), Lisa Goodman (Ward 7), Elizabeth Glidden (Ward 8), Gary Schiff (Ward 9), Meg Tuthill (Ward 10), John Quincy (Ward 11), Sandy Colvin Roy (Ward 12), Betsy Hodges, (Ward 13)

Re: Environmental Justice Community Concerns with Minneapolis Climate Action Planning Process 2012

Dear Ms. Prest,

We understand the City of Minneapolis is currently undertaking a process to update its Climate Action Plan, which will "provide a roadmap to guide Minneapolis towards our emissions reduction targets." We also understand that the City's Sustainability staff will "be working with multiple working groups made up of technical experts and community representatives to develop the plan, and will be actively reaching out to key stakeholders like neighborhood groups, buildings owners and managers, transportation experts and others."

We the undersigned, as environmental justice organizations and community members representing communities of color, Indigenous Peoples, and low-income communities within Minneapolis and St. Paul area, support the City of Minneapolis updating its Climate Action Plan. However, we garner serious concerns that the communities that will be most impacted by both climate change and the policies that will be developed as solutions (namely communities of color, Indigenous, and low-income communities) are not adequately represented and supported within a decision-making capacity in the planning process.

Of deep concern is the fact that the environmental justice constituency, (specifically communities of color, low-income communities and the most vulnerable) is being disenfranchised from the process. This is particularly problematic as the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan's 2012 agenda is to address the transportation, buildings and waste sectors – three sectors that seriously impact environmental justice constituencies within the City.

We therefore call for the City of Minneapolis to:

1. Make transparent the process for seating its Climate Action Planning Steering Committee and their charge. To date, and as presented at the public meeting on February 1, 2012, the public has not been informed of the process for Steering Committee appointments, the charge of the Steering Committee has not been made public, nor has the process and criteria for the selection of members been provided despite requests for this information.

2. Increase environmental justice representation to ensure fair and effective representation as compared to other sectors and special interests currently seated on the Steering Committee and Working Groups. Community and environmental justice representation must be present at all levels in the process.

3. Inasmuch as representatives from the private sector and large non-profit organizations have the capacity to participate, we also call on the City to ensure that resources required for *effective and meaningful* participation by environmental justice representatives from smaller, community-based groups and organizations are provided.

4. We call on the City to be responsive to its diverse citizens, which requires multi-lingual information and services in all forums and informational documents pertaining to the process.

We request that you please respond to our concerns outlined above by April 27th, 2012. Please address all responses to Shalini Gupta at the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy [sgupta@ceed.org, 612.276.5632]. We look forward to working with the City in developing a just and equitable Climate Action Plan that serves all its inhabitants.

Sincerely,

Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
Shalini Gupta, Executive Director
Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Research Director
216 Cecil Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota
Dr. Rose Brewer, Board Chair
Tara Chadwick, Organizer
Michael Neumann, Executive Director
3700 Bryant Ave. N
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Lea Foushee, Co-director
PO Box 174
Lake Elmo, MN

Women's Environmental Institute
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Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Office of the City Coordinator

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Office 612 673-2032
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May 9, 2012

Shalini Gupta
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
216 Cecil Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Cc: Mayor R.T. Rybak and Council Members Kevin Reich, Cam Gordon, Diane Hofstede, Barbara Johnson, Don Samuels, Robert Lilligren, Lisa Goodman, Elizabeth Glidden, Gary Schiff, Meg Tuthill, John Quincy, Sandy Colvin Roy, Betsy Hodges; Jayne Khalifa, City Coordinator; Jay Stroebel, Deputy City Coordinator.

Re: Environmental Justice Community Concerns with Minneapolis Climate Action Planning Process 2012

Dear Ms. Gupta and members of the Environmental Justice Community:

Thank you for your letter (April 17th) and input on the City's Climate Action Planning process. We take very seriously our responsibility to include voices from Minneapolis' many communities in the process, and we welcome your feedback on how it can be improved.

Below you will find our responses to the concerns you raised in the April 17th letter. Additionally, we have asked staff at Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM) to facilitate a meeting with the environmental justice community, including CEED, to review the goals of the Climate Action planning process and discuss these concerns.

Because we were interested in including representation from the environmental justice community in the process, in February of 2012 we extended an invitation to staff from Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM) to identify representatives to sit on the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee. Two EJAM staff agreed to fill that role. The City has a history of working with EJAM, and at the time of our invitation, an EJAM board member sat on the City's Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), the advisory committee specifically charged by the City to comment on environmental issues, policies and projects.

Throughout the Climate Action Planning process, we have sought to assemble Working Groups and a Steering Committee that bring together technical experts and representatives from the diversity of communities, organizations, agencies, and businesses that are best positioned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis. While this was presented at our February 1, 2012, kickoff meeting at the Minneapolis Central Library, we will seek to better communicate the groups' composition and charge, both in our project materials and in future meetings and public outreach.

call 311 Minneapolis
City Information and Services

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The public is welcome to participate in any Working Group or Steering Committee meeting. Meeting dates and times are posted on the Climate Action Plan website. Attendance at a Working Group or Steering Committee meeting is not the only method for providing input to the process. Staff has volunteered to facilitate feedback exercises with community groups; input from these sessions will be given equal weight when plan strategies are developed. To date, staff has collected feedback at community events including the City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Connections Conference, the Alliance for Sustainability Annual Conference and the Metro CERTS Annual meeting. Additionally, a survey is available on the Climate Action Plan website, the results of which will also be used in developing the plan.

As with all documents provided by the City, we are happy to provide materials in multiple languages upon request, and given advance notice, we are able to provide interpretation or translation services at any meeting.

The objective of the Minneapolis Climate Action Planning process is to identify strategies to reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2015 and 30% by 2025. This plan will not include a complete assessment of the impacts of a changing climate on Minneapolis communities or the best methods for us to prepare for and adapt to these changes (often referred to as climate preparedness or climate adaptation). We hope to engage in a much deeper conversation on this topic after a pathway for reducing greenhouse gas emissions has been identified, and we hope to reach out specifically to the environmental justice community to provide input on the design of that process.

We look forward to the conversation being organized by EJAM. Please contact us if you have any additional questions or concerns. All the materials from the Climate Action Plan process are available at:
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/climate

Sincerely,

Gayle Prest

Gayle Prest
Sustainability Director
City of Minneapolis
612-673-2931

Brendon Slotterback
Sustainability Program Coordinator
City of Minneapolis
612-673-2349

PROPOSAL: Environmental Justice Working Group - City of Minneapolis' Climate Action Planning Process

August 1, 2012

In order to promote full and inclusive participation in the City of Minneapolis Climate Action Planning process it is imperative that additional members are added to the City's Climate Action Steering Committee *and* an Environmental Justice Working Group be established. In the three priority areas of climate planning underway (Buildings/Energy, Transportation/Land Use, Waste/Recycling) there are critical issues that must be addressed if the plan is to avoid disproportionate negative impacts in communities of color and for low-income families.

Currently in Minneapolis, people of color constitute approximately 42.3% of its residents; over half of residential housing (buildings) is occupied by renters, which tend to be highly concentrated in community of color and low income neighborhoods; energy bills for households between 75% and 100% of the Federal Poverty Level constitute 19% of their income, and even households with incomes between 150% and 185% of the poverty rate have energy bills above what is considered to be affordable. In Hennepin County it is estimated that there is a $106,116,061 shortfall in meeting the energy costs for those households at 185% or below the poverty level. Research studies have found that on a national level 60% of households that do not own automobiles are below the median income, and in the Twin Cities less than half of jobs are accessible via public transportation within a 90-minute commute.

Additionally, the *Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898* signed into effect in 1994 requires that "each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Marian islands". Further, *Sec 6-6:* of EO 12898 supplements Executive Order No. 12250, which requires consistent and effective implementation of various laws prohibiting discriminatory practices in programs receiving Federal financial assistance. If the city has or is hoping to receive any federal dollars related to implementing the climate strategies identified, compliance with the EJ Executive Order and inclusion of environmental participation is necessary.[1] Thus, environmental justice community representation to address and ensure equitable and effective strategies for both climate change mitigation and adaptation needs to be a priority.

EJ Working Group Composition: The EJ Working Group will have at least one member with background and experience in each of the Climate Action Planning working group areas: Buildings/Energy, Transportation/Land Use, Waste/Recycling; a climate policy expert. In addition, it will include a member with public health experience; and one at-large member. The goal is to

[1] The federal Interagency Working Group established by EO 12898 has updated federal agency compliance and planning strategies. Of specific relevance to the City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan are those developed by the Department of Transportation (www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/ej*at*dot); the Department of Energy (www.im.doe.gov/env_justice/index.htm); the Department of Housing and Urban Development (portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/HUD_Draft_Environmental_Justice_Strategy) the Department of Health and Human Services (http://www.hhs.gov/environmentaljustice/); and the U.S. EPA (www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/iwg-compendium.html).

have 6-10 members. Members must be from environmental justice communities/organizations led by American Indian and/or people of color constituencies.

Selection Process: Nominations were solicited through community outreach and recommendations. Currently nominated Individuals:

Lea Foushee	Beverly Propes	Liza O'Reilly
Samuel Grant	Dr. David Pellow	Deborah Ramos
Dr. Cecilia Martinez	Sol Ashanti	Sharon Day
Shalini Gupta	Tony Parish	Aisha Gomez
Dr. Rose Brewer	Roxanne Gould	Veronica Burt
Valerie Larsen	Jim Rock	Malik Holt-Shabazz

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee Representatives: Representatives from the EJ Working Group to the larger Climate Action Plan Steering Committee will be Dr. Cecilia Martinez, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy; Lea Foushee, North American Water Office. Alternate: Samuel Grant, Afro-Eco.

EJ Working Group Meeting Schedule: Four Monthly meetings September 2012 through December 2012, 2.5 hours in duration.

Purpose:

1. Review the working products and final recommendations of the Buildings/Energy, Transportation/Land Use, and Waste/Recycling Working Groups, in terms of environmental justice concerns (such as, but not limited to their distributive impacts, social equity and co-benefits criteria).
2. Develop a list of recommendations to the City Climate Action Plan Steering Committee (SC) for incorporation into the draft Climate Action Plan. The EJ Working Group Steering Committee members will provide the full SC feedback on a rolling basis during the August through December 2012 time frame.
3. Write an environmental justice chapter to the draft Climate Action Plan.
4. Provide guidance to the Office of Sustainability on the planning of any future phases of its climate action planning process (including but not limited to the upcoming Adaptation Plan).
5. Provide recommendations on how the Principles of Environmental Justice can be implemented into the City's Sustainability Indicators Analysis and Reporting.

Resources Needed:

- $250 stipend each for approximately 10 members of the EJ Working Group.
- Community meeting space and food/snacks.
- Coverage of any incurred parking fees and mileage; bus/transit fares.
- City staffing of Working Group.
- Hard copies of all strategies and related documents needed for the 10 members.

Minneapolis
City of Lakes

City Council
Elizabeth Glidden
Council Member, Eighth Ward

350 South 5th Street – Room 307
Minneapolis MN 55415-1383

Office 612 673-2208
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elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

August 7, 2012

Dear members of the environmental justice community:

We would like to thank you for the proposal submitted August 1st to the City of Minneapolis Sustainability Office entitled: *PROPOSAL: Environmental Justice Working Group – City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan.* We believe that the inclusion of more voices in the Climate Action Plan process will lead to a better result.

We agree with the spirit of your proposal and can incorporate most of your detailed suggestions, with few changes. We still need to ensure that the proposed process meets the goals and timeline of the Climate Action Plan. Following are responses to components of the proposal, which we feel will make the process successful.

Climate Action Plan EJ Working Group Composition & Selection Process
Your proposal suggests that the City establish a 6-10 member EJ Working Group and we thank you for submitting the 18 name nomination list. We ask for your help in recruiting 5-9 members from your list to serve on this committee. In order to honor the current environmental justice representation in the Climate Action plan, City Staff will be asking Louis Alemayehu from EJAM to join the EJ Working Group. Please note that all of the working group committee meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

To ensure we have proper information, the City will need the names of the organizations that the 5-9 members of EJ Working Group represent, their title or affiliation within their respective organizations, the Minneapolis neighborhoods they work in, the expertise they bring to the table, and the name/title/organization of the person who nominated them to the group. Contact information for these community members will also be needed and we ask that you please forward this information on to the City staff once the final group membership has been decided.

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee Representative
Each Working Group has two seats on the Steering Committee. Once the EJ working group has convened for its first meeting, we ask that the committee identify one representative from the group to serve on this body.

Because the City was interested in including representation from the environmental justice community in February 2012 the City staff asked Louis Alemayehu from EJAM to serve on the Steering Committee. Since Mr. Alemayehu had previously agreed to serve in this role the City staff will ask him to continue to serve on the Steering Committee as the second representative from the EJ Working Group.

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The City staff will also encourage Karen Monahan as the Sierra Club representative on the Steering Committee and who has an environmental justice organizing role in her organization to connect with the EJ working group to help support the efforts of the group in bringing a unified environmental justice lens to the process.

Climate Action Plan EJ Working Group Schedule

In order to meet the schedule established for the Climate Action Plan, City staff will facilitate three meetings of the Environmental Justice Working Group on a monthly basis between September and November. As the final Steering Committee meeting will likely occur in early December, staff need time to prepare all comments from Working Groups and the public and prepare for this meeting. Public outreach in the form of open houses, a survey and a comment period will also occur in October.

An outline of these meetings for the EJ Working Group is as follows:

- **Meeting #1: September.** Overview of Climate Action Plan process, Working Group final recommendations, and impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Facilitated discussion of Environmental Justice review – determine what framework to use for collection and organization of comments.
- **Meeting #2: October.** Detailed review of strategies and impact/solution analysis. By topic area, review strategies and determine potential impacts on social equity, co-benefits and disparate impacts. Identify potential remedies for negative impacts and methods to increase positive impacts.
- **Meeting #3: November.** Review final comments and format for the Steering Committee meeting in early December. City staff will prepare the environmental justice Working Group's impact analysis and comments for review by the Working Group prior to it being sent to the Steering Committee. Final comments and changes will be incorporated at this meeting.

Purpose

We support the deliverable of the EJ Working Group as *reviewing the final recommendations of all three topic-area Working Groups and providing comments on environmental justice, social equity and disparate impacts concerns as well as the potential benefits of these goals and strategies to the Steering Committee.* City staff will facilitate a process to develop these comments, preparing the comments in writing as well as in a presentation format for delivery to the Steering Committee. An overview of the Environmental Justice Working Group process, and any final recommendations and comments will be incorporated into the plan document by City staff with guidance from the Steering Committee.

The scope, scale and community outreach process for future phases of climate action planning, such as adaptation or resilience planning, is highly fluid at this time. While the City has as a top priority engaging many groups and communities, including the environmental justice community, in these conversations, it is too early for staff to commit to the composition of a Working Group for future work. We hope members of the Working Group and City staff remain in touch as future programs are designed and scoped to best incorporate the feedback of many groups and communities.

Making recommendations on the Minneapolis Sustainability Indicators, another deliverable mentioned in the proposal, is beyond the scope of the Climate Action Plan, and will not be considered part of the charge of the Working Group. As the City Council prepares to update the Sustainability Indicators in early 2014, City staff will begin outreach to the community, including environmental justice groups,

about the update and how to be involved. As Council Members we welcome suggestions on how to improve our sustainability indicators at any time.

Resources Needed

As with the other Working Groups, the City can provide meeting space, beverages, and reimbursement for parking/transit costs. City staff will facilitate meetings and provide any necessary printed materials. The budget for the Climate Action Plan does not include stipends to members of any Working Group for participation. City staff will work with environmental justice Working Group members to schedule meetings in a mutually beneficial fashion.

Additional Notes

We welcome your input into the process and want to incorporate your recommendations as efficiently as possible. The Minnesota Department of Health together with the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support will also be reviewing Climate Action Plan strategies for health co-benefits. In addition, the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and the Public Health Advisory Committee will be reviewing the strategies and plan and providing feedback.

We would like to organize a meeting of Working Group members, City Staff and Council Members in August to review the goals and schedule of the EJ Working Group. City staff will make contact soon to coordinate scheduling this meeting.

Once again, thank you for your interest and participation in the City's Climate Action Plan process. We hope to develop a plan that recognizes the needs of all Minneapolis communities while guiding the city towards significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Glidden
Councilmember
Ward 8

Robert Lilligren
Council Vice President
Ward 6

Cam Gordon
Councilmember
Ward 2

cc: Gayle Prest, Sustainability Program Director
Brendon Slotterback, AICP, LEED AP, Sustainability Program Coordinator

August 17, 2012

Dear Council Members Glidden, Lilligren, Gordon, and Office of Sustainability Staff,

Thank you for your response to the *EJ Working Group Proposal – City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan*. We appreciate your commitment to beginning the process of inclusion of environmental justice voices and just outcomes in the city's environmental planning efforts. As communities that are the first to be impacted by both climate change and the policies being proposed to mitigate climate change, please trust that we are committed to ensuring a City Climate Action Plan that works for all Minneapolis communities.

We are largely in support of the changes suggested to the proposal. Below are responses that we feel will make the process feel useful to the environmental justice community and put the City towards a path of equity in its climate and environmental planning.

Members of the EJ Working Group. We agree to recruit 5-9 individuals for the working group and provide their title and affiliation, expertise and contact information. We would be happy to provide the other details requested regarding the "Minneapolis neighborhoods they work in and the name/title/organization of the person who nominated them to the group" if we are provided those same details for the members of the 3 other Working Groups. We are extremely concerned that the EJ Working Group is being held to a higher standard of recruitment and justification than other Working Groups have been by the City, not setting a good precedent for inclusive and equitable participation. Please also note that it has taken considerable in-kind time on our part to recruit this highly qualified group of individuals and organizations to participate in the process.

Representation on Working Group and Steering Committee. We welcome the inclusion of our colleague Louis Alemayehu to the EJ Working Group. However, we do continue to request that the EJ Working Group elect their own representation on the Steering Committee. Tentatively, the members selected as the Steering Committee Representatives are: Dr. Cecilia Martinez and Lea Foushee, with Samuel Grant as an alternate. Additionally, we would like to set the record straight that the initial engagement of EJ representation was not "because the City was interested in including representation from the environmental justice community in February 2012" as stated in your letter; rather the invitation to one EJ group was only extended by city Sustainability staff following a meeting in early January with EJ community representatives (staff from the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy). At that meeting, as well as at the February kickoff meeting, and in numerous email interactions from February through April 2012, EJ community representatives pointed out the omission of equity and transparency in the climate planning process and have pushed for adequate representation of EJ communities (See April 17th, 2012 Letter: *Environmental Justice Community Concerns with Minneapolis Climate Action Planning Process 2012*).

EJ Working Group Schedule. We agree to three meetings in the months of September, October and November. While we acknowledge the time needs of City Staff to prepare all comments for the Steering Committee, the EJ working Group will also need adequate time to review all the policy proposals. The City process for inclusion of environmental justice representation and the establishment of the EJ Working Group has been delayed to such a point (we will be convening 7 months after our initial meeting with City Staff and the start of the Climate Action Plan Kickoff), that the 3 month time frame of completing an EJ assessment of the Plan itself is a large undertaking for the community. However, it is one we are willing and prepared to engage with given the seriousness of the policies at hand and the impact they will have on us.

While we generally approve the Outline of the EJ Working Group Meetings provided, please note that not consulting EJ representatives on the agenda development of the meetings is counter to the principles of environmental justice and citizen consultation. A dialogue on the agenda items will be required with the Working Group once it is convened to ensure full and effective community participation.

Purpose. We agree with the scope of the EJ Working Group being to review "the final recommendations of all three topic-area Working Groups and providing comments on environmental justice, social equity and disparate impacts concerns as well as the potential benefits of these goals and strategies to the Steering Committee." While these will be developed with City Staff assistance, and final comments approved by the EJ Working Group and presented to the Steering Committee, we request the full and original comments provided by the EJ Working Group be forwarded to the Steering Committee. The EJ Working Group also would continue to reserve the right to write an EJ perspective document and disseminate it to our communities and elected officials.

As the Working Group's purpose will now be limited to the Climate Action Plan, and given the delay and difficulties the EJ community has experienced in getting adequate EJ presence in this process, we request to know how the City intends to incorporate the EJ community in its future planning efforts around Climate Adaptation and the 2014 Sustainability Indicators Report.

Resources Needed. We are happy to hear that meeting space, beverages and reimbursement for parking/transit will be provided. Considering there will be 3 meetings, we strongly request that the meetings be held at a community location and not at City Hall. This will also save on downtown parking costs to the City. Considering the lack of stipends, while we understand it wasn't in the current budget, it must be included in future budgets by the Office of Sustainability if there is true interest in integrating equity in a meaningful way into its planning processes. On a national scale, research has shown that environmental justice organizations receive less than 2% of all environmental funding. In Minnesota, that figure is even substantially lower. While other Working Groups have members that are supported through their organizations/business staff time, this is not the case for many environmental justice representatives. Many EJ community representatives have historically volunteered their community and content expertise, as well as the time they spend, when asked to serve on policy committees. Thus, while we understand stipends

for ALL EJ Working Group members may not be possible this year, we still request reserving a $200 stipend for three high-need members of the EJ Working Group, as they will not be able to participate without some support, and the group highly values their expertise.

August Meeting. We welcome a meeting with the EJ Working Group, City Council Members and City Staff. Two dates we would like to propose would be Tuesday, August 28th or Thursday, August 30th, again at a location outside of City Hall.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to start setting the City towards a path of environmental equity. We are committed to environmental sustainability, and see this as a long-term ongoing partnership and look forward to working with you on making a just Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,
EJ Working Group Core Planning Group – Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

Shalini Gupta, Executive Director, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
Samuel Grant, Founder, Afro-Eco
Lea Foushee, Director of Environmental Justice, North American Water Office
Cecilia Martinez, Director of Research, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy

Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting #1

September 19, 2012

Agenda

Co-facilitators: Brendon Slotterback (City of Minneapolis) and Sam Grant (Afro-Eco).

Greetings & Introductions	**4:00 – 4:10**
Agenda review & approval	**4:10 – 4:15**
Review roles, responsibilities & schedule - EJ Working Group, Technical Working Groups, Steering Committee	**4:15 – 4:45**
Summary of Climate Action Plan work to-date & Technical Working Group Strategies	**4:45 – 5:15**
Discussion of Environmental Justice Review: *What's the best way to generate, collect and organize the EJ Working Group's comments on the proposed strategies?*	**5:15 – 5:55**
Next Steps	**5:55 – 6:00**

Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting #2

October 30, 2012
2:30 pm
Waite House
2323 11th Ave South

Co-facilitators: Brendon Slotterback (City of Minneapolis) and Cecilia Martinez (CEED).

Agenda

Welcome and introductions	**2:30 – 2:35**
Review of Climate Action Plan process	**2:35 – 2:40**
Overview of climate and environmental justice	**2:40 – 2:45**
EJ Working Group (EJWG) recommendations and process / format for submitting comments to Steering Committee	**2:45 – 3:00**

- How will EJWG recommendations be incorporated into the Steering Committee agenda?

EJWG sub-committee review	**3:00 – 3:45**

- Lea: Water and other topics
- Sam: Transportation
- Cecilia: Buildings and energy
- Sam and Cecilia: Co-benefits

Schedule next meeting	**3:45 – 3:55**
Closing	**3:55 – 4:00**

Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting #3

November 28, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake Street

Co-facilitators: Brendon Slotterback (City of Minneapolis) and Shalini Gupta (CEED).

Agenda

Welcome and introductions	**11:00 – 11:10**
Report back / discussion from subgroups	**11:10 – 12:25**
Buildings & Energy	
Transportation & Land Use	
Water, Waste & Other Issues	
Co-benefits discussion	**12:25 – 12:35**
City update on Climate Action Plan process	**12:35 – 12:40**
EJ Working Group next steps and closing	**12:40 – 1:00**

Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting #4

December 20, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Waite House

Co-facilitators: Brendon Slotterback (City of Minneapolis) and Shalini Gupta (CEED).

Agenda

Welcome and introductions	**1:00 – 1:10**
Presentation of draft EJ working group recommendations	**1:10 – 1:40**
Feedback and discussion on draft EJ working group recommendations	**1:40 – 2:30**
City update on Climate Action Plan process • How will EJ recommendations be presented to the steering committee? • How will EJ recommendations be incorporated into the plan?	**2:30 – 2:45**
Environmental Justice working group next steps and closing	**2:45 – 3:00**

Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting #5

January 22, 2013

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Waite House

Co-facilitators: Brendon Slotterback (City of Minneapolis) and Shalini Gupta (CEED).

Agenda

Welcome and introductions	**1:00 – 1:10**
Presentation of final draft EJ working group recommendations	**1:10 – 1:40**
Feedback and discussion on final draft EJ working group recommendations	**1:40 – 2:30**
City update on Climate Action Plan process • Steering Committee meeting: o 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room (300 Nicollet Mall) • Incorporation of recommendations into final document	**2:30 – 2:45**
Environmental Justice working group next steps and closing	**2:45 – 3:00**

Minneapolis Climate Action Plan
Environmental Justice Working Group Participants and Meeting Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Sep. 19, 2012	Oct. 30, 2012	Nov. 28, 2012	Dec. 20, 2012	Jan. 22, 2013
Louis	Alemayehu	x	x			
Eduardo	Barrera		x			
Barbara	Benjamin-Robertson					x
Alondra	*Cano*	x				
Kevin	Chavis			x		
Mariano	Espinoza			x		
Jim	Ford			x	x	
Lea	Foushee	x	x	x	x	x
Robin	*Garwood*				x	
Roxanne	Gould			x		
Sam	Grant	x	x	x	x	x
Shalini	Gupta			x	x	x
Tony	Hainault*			x	x	x
Lex	Horan	x				
Anders	*Imboden*	x		x	x	x
Valerie	Larsen		x			
Juan	Linares		x	x	x	x
Isaac	Martin	x	x		x	
Cecilia	Martinez	x	x	x		x
Loren	*Olson*				x	
Steve	Payne		x	x	x	x
Shauen	Pearce	x				
David	Pellow					
Gayle	*Prest*	x	x		x	x
Beverly	Propes		x			
Jim	Rock		x	x		x
Subbu	Sastry		x	x	x	
Brendon	*Slotterback*	x	x	x	x	x
Roy	Taylor			x		
John	Terrazas	x			x	
Carlos	Zhingre					x

Italics indicate City of Minneapolis staff.
** Hennepin County staff.*