

# Energy & Climate Policy Positions

For Government Agencies & the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

August, 2015

## Minneapolis Supports:

- Utility demand-side management programs that can reduce energy use, greenhouse gas pollution and energy costs for Minneapolis residents and businesses (*Climate Action Plan, Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership*)
- Programs and policies that give Minneapolis residents, businesses, and local government enterprises more access to renewable and distributed generation opportunities (*Climate Action Plan, Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership, August 16, 2013 Council Action directing staff to participate in CEUD workgroup at the PUC*)
- Greater access to Customer Energy Usage Data (CEUD) and program participation information, given appropriate privacy protections, by customers, building owners and third-party entities for the purposes of understanding trends in usage, planning for energy and pollution reductions, and reducing energy costs (*Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership*)
- The deployment of new and innovative technologies, such as microgrids and advanced metering technology, that can help customers reduce energy use and make more efficient use of distributed generation (*Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership*)
- Planning for new distribution infrastructure, and modifications or upgrades to existing infrastructure, which maximizes opportunities for economic development, increases resiliency, protects urban tree canopy, and supports the deployment of distributed generation resources (*Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership*)
- An Integrated Resource Plan for Xcel Energy which identifies a pathway to reduce greenhouse gas pollution consistent with state and local goals, improves air quality, plans for more local, distributed generation, and contains cost increases for utility customers (*Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership*)
- Consider the economic costs to society and the environment from pollution created by the electricity sources that serve Minnesotans. (*Climate Action Plan*)
- The exploration of new utility business models (such as through the e21 process) that will align societal goals with utility business interests to promote more energy efficiency, distributed generation and a reduction in greenhouse gas pollution (*Energy Pathways Study*)
- New utility programs or modifications to existing utility programs, that support the goals of the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership (*Energy Pathways Study, Clean Energy Partnership*)

- Changes to rules at the Public Utilities Commission or the Department of Commerce that give local governments more influence or control over local energy systems, such as modifications to the scope of franchise agreements or opportunities for community choice aggregation (*Energy Pathways Study*)

## 2015-2016 Policy Priorities

The following are topics that will likely require review, comment and engagement by the City in 2015 and 2016.

- Building owner, community-based organization and local government access to utility energy usage data and program participation data.
- Renewable energy programs including community solar gardens or green tariffs.
- The new multi-family energy efficiency program being offered jointly by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy.
- Xcel Energy's 2016-2030 Integrated Resource Plan.
- The assignment of externality values (health, greenhouse gas, etc) for pollution resulting from energy-generating sources.
- Exploration of new utility business models that align utility incentives and regulatory frameworks with state and local policy interests of lower energy costs, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, a more energy efficient economy, and more equitable energy services.