

October 13, 2017

Dear Mayor Hodges and Minneapolis City Council Members,

In September, the Community Environment Advisory Commission (CEC) received a presentation and draft copy of the draft 100% Renewable Electricity Resolution. We appreciate your consideration of the following comments CEAC members have thoughtfully developed and adopted:

The resolution's goal of One Hundred Percent (100%) renewable electricity for Minneapolis community-wide by 2030 is a great goal which we fully support. However, we have some concerns about the process that need to be addressed. Accordingly, we recommend postponing a vote on the resolution to allow for more time for engagement with all impacted groups, including communities of color and other groups disproportionately affected by climate change, as well as the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) and the Clean Energy Partnership Board, and the Public Health Advisory Committee. We also recommend that the resolution go through the normal City Council Committee process.

As for the content of the resolution, we would recommend the following changes:

We recommend making it clearer that the resolution's objective is to support Xcel in its efforts to transition to renewable energy throughout its service territory, not just in Minneapolis. We would not like an outcome in which Minneapolis reaches its goal, but the overall percentage of electricity generated by renewables in the Xcel service area is unchanged from what it would have been without the resolution because Minneapolis has merely enabled Xcel to reach, rather than exceed, its state-mandated Renewable Energy Standard.

It would be helpful to have a WHEREAS paragraph that recognizes the rapidly falling cost of utility scale wind and solar energy to make it clear that the 100% renewables goal must remain affordable to the City or its low-income residents.

To ensure that the adoption of this resolution is meaningful, we recommend the addition of a BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause that itemizes the action steps to be taken, with designated deadlines.

The BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph about robust outreach should reference neighborhood associations, especially those in designated green zones, as conduits of outreach. These are established organizations that are ready and able to give voice to neighborhood concerns.

Lastly, we recommend the addition of the following paragraph: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all efforts will be made to reduce electricity consumption through measures that include efficiency and demand response.

Sincerely,

Andrew Murray
Chair, Community Environmental Advisory Committee