

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

**By Gordon, Lilligren, Glidden, Hodges and Schiff**

**Adopting a framework for reaching City of Minneapolis energy goals.**

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has adopted a City Goal to be an “eco-focused, internationally recognized leader for a healthy environment and sustainable future,” and a Sustainability Indicator Target committing the City to reduce citywide carbon emissions by 30% by 2025, relative to 2006; and

Whereas, the Climate Action Plan sets goals including achieving 15 percent energy efficiency in residential buildings, achieving 20 percent energy efficiency in commercial/industrial buildings and increasing electricity from local and directly purchased renewables to 10 percent of the total consumed by 2025, all from a 2006 baseline; and

Whereas, in September, 2012, the Council formed a Utility Franchise Work Group to assist the city in preparing for negotiations regarding its electric and natural gas franchise agreements with public utility companies; develop a set of policy principles that will guide the city in its franchise discussions; review and consider potential legislative and/or other regulatory changes and consider formal support for these changes on the City’s state legislative agenda; and develop a community engagement program; and

Whereas, the City has funded an Energy Pathways Study to be completed by January, 2014, that will detail what the City wants from a sustainable, 21st century energy system, and explore the various paths the City could take to achieve its energy goals, including examination of potential utility partnerships, changes to how the City uses energy utility franchise fees, and the potential for municipalization of one or both energy utilities; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2013, the Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission adopted a set of recommendations for outcomes for the new electric utility franchise agreement; and

Whereas, the energy used in buildings, primarily for heating and cooling, accounted for 3.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2010, representing 65 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions within the City of Minneapolis, and the vast majority of this energy is supplied by the electrical and gas utilities; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has franchise agreements with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy that expire on December 31, 2014 and January 1, 2015, respectively; and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Minneapolis believes that energy should be affordable for Minneapolis ratepayers, reliable, resilient to external shocks in the face of a changing climate, efficiently delivered and used, and should come from increasingly renewable sources; and

Whereas, the energy utilities serving Minneapolis are well positioned to be a partner in achieving the City of Minneapolis adopted workforce training and participation goals; and

Whereas, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy have both expressed a desire to work in partnership with the City of Minneapolis to meet the City's energy goals;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis will not conduct a special election on November 5, 2013, on the question of whether the City shall be authorized to establish a municipal utility.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis will develop and adopt an energy vision and goals that considers incorporation of those goals already adopted in the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, the recommendations of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission for outcomes for the new electric utility franchise agreement, as well as the work of the Utility Franchise Work Group and the Energy Pathways Study now underway.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis will continue to advocate for reforms at the state level that will give the City greater ability to implement the City's energy goals, and calls on Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help achieve these reforms.

Be It Further Resolved that the Minneapolis City Council remains committed to continuing to explore all options for meeting the City's energy goals as evidenced in the Energy Pathways Study and will discuss at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole no later than February, 2014, the results of the Study.

Be It Further Resolved that the Minneapolis City Council directs the City Coordinator's Office and City Attorney's Office to begin negotiations with Xcel and Center Point for the electrical and natural gas franchise agreements, and work to complete franchise negotiations with all due speed, with an update to the City Council on the frameworks for franchise agreements by June 30, 2014.

Be It Further Resolved that the Minneapolis City Council calls on Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to fulfill their commitments to work in partnership with the City to meet the City's energy goals and directs the City Coordinator's Office to lead an ongoing dialog with them to explore opportunities to achieve the City's energy vision. These may include strategies articulated in the Energy Pathways Study, a regular dialogue to identify barriers, develop new programs and build better outcomes, as well as greater cooperation on our legislative agenda and before the Public Utilities Commission.