

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission

21 February 2014

Dear Council Member Gordon, City Council Members and Mayor Hodges:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Minneapolis' Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC). CEAC is the formal body tasked with advising the City on environmental-related issues. Its members are appointed by the Council and Mayor.

CEAC supported the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) through direct member-level participation in each of the four CAP working groups and its steering committee. CEAC also supported Council adoption of the overall Climate Action Plan in June 2013.

CEAC continues to track and support the CAP process. In particular, CEAC has been closely involved with the selection of the CAP actions that are proposed for priority implementation. CEAC formed a CAP prioritization task force (see Attachment 1 for participants), which held four multi-hour meetings between October 4 and November 26, 2013.

With the valuable assistance of City staff, the task force reviewed and analyzed each of the 105 strategies identified in the CAP, in order to (1) identify feasible near-term action steps and (2) prioritize the strategies through consensus. The task force then presented its draft list of recommended CAP priorities to full CEAC. After a robust discussion, CEAC voted to endorse formal Council adoption of the CAP priorities list (see Attachments 2a through 2c).

This letter urges your adoption of the Climate Action Plan priorities list, which identifies 35 high-priority strategies with near-term action steps towards accomplishing the City's ambitious (and important) carbon-reduction goals. While long-term work is needed to achieve all of the CAP strategies, this priorities list represents those that will most likely achieve meaningful reductions in the short-term or are already set in motion.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to implement the Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Darrell Gerber
Chair, CEAC

cc: Gayle Prest, Director of Sustainability
Brendon Slotterback, Sustainability Program Coordinator
Robin Garwood, Policy Aid to Councilmember Cam Gordon

Attachments: 1 Climate Action Plan Prioritization Task Force Participants
2a-2c CAP Strategies Matrix

Attachment 1: Climate Action Plan Prioritization Task Force Participants

Ross Abbey, CEAC member

Lisa Daniels, CEAC member

Julia Eagles, City of Minneapolis Sustainability Program Associate

Jon Freise, community member

Robin Garwood, aide to Council Member Gordon

Darrell Gerber, CEAC member

Shalini Gupta, CEAC member

Tony Hainault, CEAC member

Meleah Houseknecht, CEAC member

Eric Jensen, community member

Michelle Schroeder, CEAC member

Brendon Slotterback, City of Minneapolis Sustainability Program Coordinator

Sarah Sponheim, CEAC member (at time of task force)

Michelle Stockness, CEAC member

Alexis Troschinetz, CEAC member

Attachment 2a: CAP Strategies Matrix - Buildings & Energy

TOPIC	STRATEGIES	Next steps (2-year timeframe)
Cross-Cutting Strategies	1. Develop a Green Zone Initiative.	Part of the Energy Pathways study
	5. Support the State's adoption of the latest International Energy Conservation Code and International Green Construction Code and adopt the IGCC locally.	Potential 2014 or 2015 Legislative strategy
	8. Explore opportunities to restructure the mechanical permit fee schedule and other fee schedules to incentivize energy- and water-efficient products and renewable energy.	Review and look for opportunities in the fee schedule change for building permits, research best practices from other cities
	9. Determine the feasibility of establishing conservation-based pricing or structuring of franchise fees and using the franchise agreement to support renewables.	Part of the Energy Pathways Study
	11. 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.	Continue implementation of PACE loans through City assessments. Explore on-bill financing through utility partnerships
	14. Monitor new technologies and regularly reassess strategies.	Report back to Council with the results of annual emissions inventories
	15. 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.	Part of the Energy Pathways Study
	16. Identify opportunities to expand the use of district heating systems to new and existing buildings.	Part of the Energy Pathways Study, coordinate with Hennepin County and NRG (District Energy system)
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.	Part of the Energy Pathways Study
	2. Help 75 percent of Minneapolis renters and rental property owners participate in efficiency retrofit programs by 2025, with a distribution that reflects the current percentage of low and moderate income rental housing in the city.	Part of the Energy Pathways Study, CenterPoint has piloted a program that they may be expanding focused on multi-family
	3. Create time-of-sale and time-of-rent energy label disclosure	Time of sale would require change to truth in sale of housing ordinance. Time of rent would require change to rental property license requirements and a new scoring system. Next step – monitor success of CEE’s Energy Fit Homes certification
Commercial Buildings	1. Continue to host an annual Energy Reduction Challenge (“Kilowatt Crackdown”) for Commercial Buildings in conjunction with the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) and other partners.	BOMA will continue to host, City will continue participation and promotion
	2. Implement a Building Energy Disclosure policy for medium and large commercial buildings	Continue participation in PUC data privacy workgroup. Continue work with Xcel on DOE Data Accelerator project. Report annually on building energy disclosure results
	4. Develop incentives for commercial office buildings to investigate transitioning janitorial work to "Day Shift Cleaning" as a means of reducing energy consumed.	Explore City or MBC policy to transition to day shift cleaning
Renewable Energy	1. Support efforts to align utility practices with City and State renewable energy policy.	Part of the Energy Pathways Study
	2. Implement small to mid-sized business renewable and on-site renewable incentive programs.	
	3. Investigate the feasibility of large-scale renewable energy purchasing for municipal government and/or residents.	
	5. Support new financing and ownership models for developing Minneapolis' solar resources.	Continue to monitor Solar Garden docket and comment when appropriate. Implement PACE

Attachment 2b: CAP Strategies Matrix – Transportation & Land Use

TOPIC	STRATEGIES	Next steps (2-year timeframe)
Planning and Land Use	1. Plan for and encourage “complete neighborhoods.”	Incorporate into the updated Comprehensive Plan
	2. Focus growth along community corridors designated in The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth.	Incorporate into the updated Comprehensive Plan
	4. Integrate climate change reduction policies into the City's Homegrown Minneapolis and Food Council efforts.	Food Council should assess climate co-benefits of various policies, and use as a decision-making tool.
	6. Continue to expand the urban tree canopy and achieve an equitable percentage of tree canopy across residential neighborhoods.	Assess tree distribution plan for City Trees annually, and work with Park Board, Tree Advisory Commission to implement
Transit and Car Sharing	1. Address gaps in the existing transit network and level of service.	Can be incorporated into the Complete Streets initiative. Update Sustainability Indicators to include a metric related to transit gaps. Encourage Public Works to complete a comprehensive study that determines transit gaps based on income levels, car ownership, and transit availability.
	2. Support the build-out and upgrade of regional and local transit lines.	Continue various planning efforts underway with partners to increase transit service
	3. Advocate for an increase to the dedicated funding stream for transit construction and operations at the local, state and regional level.	Include support in the City's 2015 Legislative Agenda
	6. Expand car sharing services to on-street spaces.	Pilot stage with Car2Go, Hour Car, Zip Car is currently underway. Continue to evaluate the success of curbspace programs, consider future expansion
Active Transportation	3. Construct 30 miles of on-street, protected bike facilities (cycle tracks) by 2020 to allow safe and efficient travel for all types of cyclists.	The update to the Bicycle Master Plan will include protected facility planning. Apply for Green Lane Project funding
Parking Management	1. Investigate demand-based parking pricing strategies for metered areas.	Incorporate into Parking Strategy Management plan to be developed by Public Works
	2. Continue to adjust minimum parking requirements to better promote alternative modes of transportation.	Assess potential zoning code amendments through staff review and community processes like the University District Parking Study
	4. Support the development of a citywide framework for curbspace use.	Complete the Parking Strategy Management Plan now in progress in Public Works, which includes a review of performance-based pricing
Other Strategies	1. Continue to shift to LED streetlights.	Part of Energy Pathways Study. Continue internal planning for updating city street lights

Attachment 2c: CAP Strategies Matrix – Waste

TOPIC	STRATEGIES	Next steps (2-year timeframe)
Increasing Recycling	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.	Engage Public Works to assess timeframe. New focus on organics collection may be prioritized.
	4. Enforce the commercial recycling ordinance and undertake an educational campaign to expand recycling options in multi-family housing.	Establish a benchmark from Hennepin County, Public Works, and Ward 10 study on multifamily recycling. Engage the Fire Department to report on commercial ordinance compliance.
Increase the Composting of Organics	1. Identify major organic waste producers (e.g., food service, schools, hospitals) and conduct a targeted campaign to increase organics recycling.	Engage Hennepin County staff. Identify City's role.
	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.	Public Works will continue to assess options. Continue to advocate for compost rules changes with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.