



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date September 25, 2006  
 To Honorable Scott Benson, Chair, Health Energy & Environment  
 Referral to None  
**Subject** Minneapolis Energy Challenge  
**Recommendation** Receive and File

**Previous Directives** None

Prepared or Submitted by Gayle Prest, Manager Environmental Services, 673-2931

Approved by

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Rocco Forte, Assistant City Coordinator

**Permanent Review Committee (PRC)** Approval \_\_\_\_ Not Applicable X  
**Policy Review Group (PRG)** Approval \_\_\_\_ Date of Approval \_\_\_\_ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest, Manager Environmental Services and Sheldon Strom, Executive Director Center for Energy and Environment

### Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the \_\_\_\_ Capital Budget or \_\_\_\_ Operating Budget.
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves.
- Business Plan:  Action is within the plan.  Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee

Coordinator.

**Community Impact (use any categories that apply)**

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals X (Enriched Environment)

Comprehensive Plan X (Sustainability Amendment)

Zoning Code

Other

**Background/Supporting Information Attached**

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) has worked closely with Minneapolis, St Paul and other organizations to develop an Energy Challenge for households in order to motivate them to reduce their carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) footprint. The kick off will be in early October. The Energy Challenge will include a website in which residents can calculate their energy/carbon dioxide use along with great reduction tips, renewable energy options and energy services in general. It's a dynamic website that will allow cities, neighborhoods, and congregations to challenge each other to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels!

In addition, CEE has organized residential energy workshops/open houses this fall where residents can get advice on everything from renewable energy options, transit opportunities to tips on replacing hot water heaters and furnaces. Many of these opportunities can save people money on their vehicle and housing costs. Other environmental and neighborhoods groups have been invited to participate and help publicize the events. Will Steger will also be giving a talk on global climate change at these workshops. It is anticipated that an additional workshop will be scheduled in early 2006. CEE is providing this at no charge to the City, with the understanding that the City will be promoting these efforts and participating in the workshops.

This is the start of a comprehensive multi year outreach program on what residents and businesses can do to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. Other components include the City's efforts to make our fleets and buildings more environmentally friendly, and the City's recent grant from Hennepin County to promote the use and proper disposal of compact florescent lights. CO<sub>2</sub> reduction will be a major focus in 2007 and the Energy Challenge is expected to be a multi-year effort. The Minneapolis Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) provided input on the Energy Challenge at their August meeting.

**Center for Energy and Environment:** The Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE) is a non profit organization that has provided energy, environmental and housing rehabilitation services to utilities, private corporations, neighborhood organizations, municipalities and public agencies for over twenty-five years. These services include energy financing, building audits, technical research and training, program design and delivery and evaluations. CEE has previously assisted the City in energy efforts, including the development of the 1993 Minneapolis St Paul Urban CO<sub>2</sub> Project Plan and the 1996 Minneapolis Energy Plan.

**Carbon dioxide/Climate Change Initiative:** The Minneapolis Sustainability Initiative includes a Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduction Indicator. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the leading greenhouse gas related to global climate change. Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels is critical to meeting these goals – this includes reducing gasoline use, and electrical use along with increasing our renewable energy use.