



Request for City Council Committee Action City Coordinator's Office

Date November 5, 2007

To Honorable Scott Benson, Chair, Health Energy & Environment Committee
Referral to: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Prepared by Gayle Prest Phone 673-2931

Approved by Steven Bosacker

Subject 2008 Environmental Legislative Agenda

Recommendation

Approve supporting attached environmental legislative agenda.

Previous Directives:

Presenters in Committee: Gayle Prest, City Coordinator's Office

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

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

In 2006, Minneapolis supported the Clean Energy Minnesota's agenda which passed and resulted in some of the most progressive climate change legislation in the nation. It is proposed that the City continue to support related policies on energy and climate change. See updated language and deletions based on last year's agenda.

cc: Pierre Willette, IGR
Lois Eberhart, Public Works

2008 Environment Legislative Agenda November 5, 2007

Minneapolis supports strong environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to meet these objectives.

Minneapolis supports:

CAP, TRADE, AND AUCTION

Legislation establishing a regional cap, trade, and auction system will (1) ensure cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases to at least the reduction levels set forth in 2007 Minnesota statute (30 percent by 2025), (2) maximize public benefits while minimizing the potential for manipulation by private entities, (3) induce innovation in the energy efficiency and sustainable energy technologies with the greatest long-term promise to reduce greenhouse gases, (4) avoid inequitable impacts on low-income communities, and (5) maximize the likelihood of trading with other state-based cap-and-trade systems.

CLEAN CARS

The goal is to pass legislation that adopts California's auto emissions standards (including greenhouse gas standards). The federal Clean Air Act allows states to adopt the California vehicle emission standards, which require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions of 30 percent by 2016 in new passenger vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION

Provide funding to dramatically expand the availability of public transit and facilities for bicycling and walking in Minnesota. See the Transportation section of the Legislative Agenda for further details.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INFORMATIONAL HEARING

This session we will seek an informational hearing that will highlight the lack of state, federal, and utility resources focused on energy efficiency for low-income housing. The goal will be to create awareness and help direct existing or new resources towards helping to reduce and conserve energy usage in low-income communities.

BIOFUEL INCENTIVES AND POLICY

Support \$43 million in bonding to fund the Reinvest in Minnesota—Clean Energy (RIM-CE) program, a working lands bioenergy program in which farmers get stepped incentives based on the public benefits achieved from their energy crop production practices. Initiate a legislative study of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard as an innovative way to promote environmentally smart biofuels.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Minneapolis supports increased state funding of stormwater management costs to local governments. This includes funds to help cities promote best management practices for stormwater , costs associated with stormwater projects brought by impairments to water bodies through Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL studies, and the costs associated with surcharges for excess inflow and infiltration into the sanitary system.