

Minnesota must scale up energy savings programs that work.

→ **On-bill repayment for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects**

Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects often include prohibitively expensive upfront costs. Minnesota needs a policy that provides a reliable repayment option for investors and allows customers to repay the investment directly on their utility bill. Many states have already implemented on-bill repayment programs. Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs urges utilities to offer on-bill repayment of private financing programs, allowing customers to pay for an energy efficiency investment or renewable energy project through their utility bill.

→ **Broaden the Guaranteed Energy Savings Program**

Governor Dayton issued an executive order to encourage state agencies to adopt cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies in state-owned buildings to achieve at least 20 percent reduction in energy use. Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs encourages use of this program to fund retrofit projects.

→ **Expanding the Trillion BTU program statewide**

Expand Saint Paul Port Authority Trillion BTU program statewide. This successful energy efficiency revolving loan fund for businesses is currently limited to Xcel Energy service territory.

→ **Improving energy efficiency financing for schools**

Increasing the energy efficiency of school buildings can improve children's health, lower communities' energy bills, and help Minnesota meet its carbon reduction goals. However, barriers to funding efficiency projects can keep these projects from moving forward. Clean Energy and Jobs is working to expand funding options so that schools can create better learning environments and pay for other school necessities. The policy would increase available financing options, guarantee schools' energy performance, and help track efficiency progress across the state. (McNamar's HF 320)

→ **Aligning Utility Incentives with Energy Efficiency**

Implementing this policy, sometimes called decoupling, is a key part of transitioning electric utilities away from a model where revenues are reliant on energy sales and toward a model where utilities can become revenue neutral when it comes to efficiency and conservation.

→ **Industrial energy efficiency**

Engage large industrial customers in Minnesota in energy savings projects to enhance competitiveness and to achieve measurable and verifiable energy savings.

By 2030, Minnesota must get at least half its electricity from renewable energy.

→ **Increase the Renewable Energy Standard**

Minnesota is currently undergoing a wind integration study to determine how much wind can be added to the transmission system. Once this study is complete, Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs calls on Minnesota to set the next benchmarks for renewable energy to build on the state's successful 25% by 2025 renewable energy standard. (Dibble's SF 763 and Hornstein's HF 880)

→ **80% carbon reduction by 2050 in utility energy plans**

Utilities should outline how they plan to meet the state's 80% by 2050 carbon reduction goal in their long term energy plans to ensure the state is on track to meet its goals.

→ **Third party ownership**

Create a Minnesota model for third party ownership of solar and renewable energy systems on a customer's site.

→ **Homeowner association design standards for solar energy**

An estimated 20 percent of Minnesota homeowners live within one of the state's more than 1,200 "common interest communities" (e.g., townhomes and condominiums). In many cases, the community's governing Homeowner Association (HOA) has not yet incorporated rooftop solar into its design standards, and often doesn't have the resources to evaluate solar project proposals from homeowners. This can result in delay and confusion, adding additional costs to solar systems. Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs is advocating for statewide HOA solar design standards for single-family homes and townhomes, while allowing HOAs to impose additional reasonable conditions.

→ **Standardize solar building permits**

Because solar technology is a relatively new building addition, the permit and inspection process can hold significant uncertainty for contractors—and increase costs for consumers. This is especially true outside of the Twin Cities, where fewer solar projects have been built. Minnesota state administrative rules offer inadequate guidance on establishing reasonable fees for solar-related building permits. Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs will work to standardize building permit fees for rooftop solar, creating a framework that jurisdictions can work from while allowing local governments to cover their costs.

→ **Distributed renewables cost tracking**

To track the falling costs of clean energy and help inform consumers, Minnesota Clean Energy & Jobs is working to establish a statewide process for collecting and reporting project-level cost data for distributed generation projects like small wind and solar. Other states have established similar programs that have provided benefits to policy makers, solar market participants, and the general public. Tracking this data will provide increased price transparency for solar buyers and facilitate more price competition. It will also let policy makers and the public track the cost-reduction impacts of existing policy and help identify any additional policy needs.