



100% Carbon Free by 2040

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Background



Minnesotans throughout the state are prioritizing clean energy and a clean environment. They are experiencing the dramatic impacts of climate change in many ways, such as higher property insurance rates, or risk to crop yields due to increased spring flooding and higher energy burdens for Minnesotans due to longer winter seasons and hotter than average summers.

Minnesotans know that to change course, we need immediate action. That is why Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan are championing the move to 100% clean energy by 2040 for the Minnesota's electricity sector. This plan will drastically cut air pollution while creating jobs and opportunity for people across Minnesota. This proposal maximizes investments in the lowest-cost energy.

By transitioning to 100% carbon-free energy by 2040, Minnesota utilities will lead the way to healthier air through significant reduction in greenhouse gases. Decarbonization of the electric power sector can lead to additional greenhouse gas reductions for transportation and heating, by using electricity instead of fossil fuels.

This proposal gives utilities the planning time and flexibility they need to reach 100%, while maintaining reliable and affordable electricity for all of Minnesota.

A pathway to achieve carbon free electricity generation by 2040 should be the foundation of all climate and energy goals for the state, as this will have enabling impacts in reducing emissions from transportation, building heating and industrial processes.

Minnesotans are powering the clean energy future through expanded job opportunities and the increasing amount of jobs in the clean energy sector. This proposal supports this emerging workforce by prioritizing good paying jobs.

Legislative Proposal

- This proposal establishes a target that will be met by expanding the Renewable Energy Standard (216B.1691) and creation of a Carbon Free Electricity Standard.
- To achieve this target, the proposal establishes the following Carbon-Free Electricity intermediate targets:
 - 100% Carbon-Free Electricity by 2040

- 90% by 2035
- 80% by 2030
- 65% by 2025
- Along with the following Renewable Energy Standard increase (includes current technologies under the RES today):
 - 40% by 2025
 - 55% by 2035

Why This Should be Passed Into Law



Over the last 20 years, Minnesota has traditionally been a leader in clean energy. The share of carbon-free energy in the power sector went from 30% in 2005 to 50% in 2020. This proposal will provide the roadmap for utilities to achieve further decarbonization and continue this trend. In addition, this proposal will enable easier regulatory approval of large renewable and clean energy projects. As Minnesota continues to lead, the opportunity for jobs that support the expansion of large renewable energy projects will provide opportunities for communities across the state.

Contact

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