

**Subject** Definition of “carbon-free” technology

**Authors** Igo

**Analyst** Bob Eleff

**Date** February 24, 2025

## Summary

Legislation enacted in 2023 requires municipal utilities and cooperatives to generate or procure 80 percent of their electricity sold to Minnesota customers from “carbon-free” technologies by 2030, 90 percent by 2035, and 100 percent by 2040. H.F. 249 would amend the definition of “carbon-free” technology to include those used by a utility currently and in the future that combusts wood chips derived from timber harvesting operations conducted for nonenergy purposes.

(Note: The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission initiated a docket in April 2023 (Docket No. CI-23-151) to investigate, in part, how “carbon-free” should be defined. The commission’s November 2024 order determined that additional information was needed, specifically with respect to biomass and other fuels. It established a new docket to examine these issues in greater detail, setting a deadline for an order by the end of this year.)