

100%

100% Campaign  
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
[www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org)

January 31, 2023

Chair Acomb and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Rep. Liz Reyer's House File 747, a bill to establish a Solar Grant Program for public buildings.

This bill would create and fund a program at the Minnesota Department of Commerce to support the development of solar generation systems that would be installed on public buildings owned by local governments. The program establishes a robust process for evaluating local governments' energy conservation needs, requesting proposals from governments, utilities, or developers, providing technical assistance, and then administering the grants.

**This bill will meet a real need among Minnesota's local governments.** This year, sixteen Minnesota cities have come together to declare climate emergencies, including Bloomington, Columbia Heights, Eden Prairie, Edina, Golden Valley, Grand Marais, Grand Rapids, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Northfield, Red Wing, Robbinsdale, Rochester, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul. Crystal Bay, Duluth, and Minneapolis have previously declared emergencies.

But acknowledging our shared challenge is just a start. Many communities have already started to take action at a local level. As of March 2022, **thirteen cities and one county have created climate action plans** in response to the public demand for locally-grounded, effective, and equitable clean energy and climate solutions. This includes:

- Minneapolis, MN, adopted June 28, 2013
- Saint Louis Park, MN, adopted February 5, 2018
- Grand Marais, MN, adopted June 26, 2019
- Northfield, MN, adopted November 5, 2019
- Saint Paul, MN, adopted December 18, 2019
- Eden Prairie, MN, adopted March 7, 2020
- Red Wing, MN, adopted August 10, 2020
- Richfield, MN, adopted October 13, 2020
- Burnsville, MN, adopted November 2, 2020
- Hennepin County, adopted May 4, 2020
- Albert Lea, MN, adopted June 29, 2021
- Rochester, MN, released Autumn, 2021
- Edina, MN, adopted December 7, 2021
- Duluth, MN, released February 4, 2022

**Making it easier for local governments to finance solar is a practical way our state government can help cities implement their plans.** Installing solar on public buildings will meet the goals of virtually all of these plans by lowering local governments' electricity bills, cutting their greenhouse gas emissions, and generating local, family-supporting jobs.

If you want to learn more about City Climate Action Plans, **please see our recent report '[City Climate Action Plans in Minnesota: Overview and Review](#)'** by Dr. Kate Knuth. It provides a comprehensive state of play on the thirteen cities and one county that have created plans.

Please support House File 474.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*Aurora Vautrin*

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