

# Minneapolis Saint Paul Solar in Cities

## Minneapolis Saint Paul Solar in Cities Project

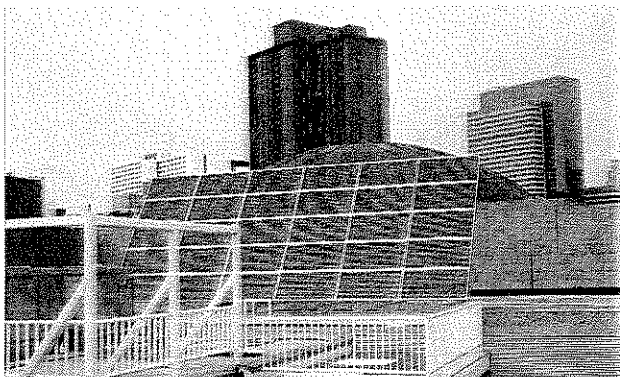
In 2008, Minnesota's Twin Cities Saint Paul and Minneapolis were awarded a two-year Solar Cities grant as part of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar America initiative. The Solar America Initiative (SAI) is a presidential initiative with the goal of achieving cost-effectiveness for solar electricity, produced by photovoltaic (PV) systems, across the nation by 2015. Saint Paul and Minneapolis, building on policies that focus on the principles of environmental sustainability and economic vitality, united to jumpstart the widespread deployment of solar technologies in Minnesota. The Twin Cities Solar Cities proposal has three major objectives:

- Build a solar infrastructure leading to a quintupling of market penetration of solar electric capacity in the Twin Cities by 2010.
- Develop a long-term strategic plan for the sustainable large-scale deployment of solar technologies in the Twin Cities by 2015.
- Demonstrate leadership by example by expanding the use of solar technologies in public buildings.

The Solar Cities project will create initiatives in local solar policy, solar marketing and communications, training and technical assistance, and state solar policy. The Solar in the Cities project convened a State Policy Workgroup comprised of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders interested in transforming the solar market. The State Policy Workgroup created a set of principles for guiding solar initiatives and legislative efforts.

## 2009 Legislative Initiative

Minneapolis Saint Paul Solar Cities Workgroup recommends that **\$7 million** be provided initially from the **Federal Stimulus' State Energy Program Funds** (50% for projects in the Solar Cities and other 50% in Xcel Energy's service territory) with additional funds utilized later from the state's Renewable Development Fund. The workgroup, in collaboration with other interested groups, will develop a comprehensive solar initiative based on the foregoing principles, with incentives designed to encourage solar deployment in tandem with energy efficiency and conservation. The Solar Cities Workgroup will report to the Legislative Energy Commission by October 1, 2009 on its activities and recommendations for increasing the utilization of solar energy for electric generation.



Minneapolis Fire Station #6 Solar Array

### Solar Cities Workgroup

- City of Saint Paul
- City of Minneapolis
- Minnesota Renewable Energy Society
- Xcel Energy
- District Energy Saint Paul
- Fresh Energy
- Innovative Power Systems
- freEner-g
- Center for Energy and Environment

(Over)

*Solar in the Cities*

### **Solar Cities State Policy Workgroup Principles (not in order of priority)**

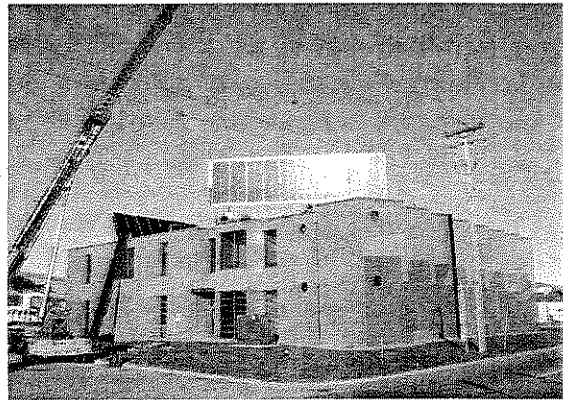
1. *Develop effective market transformation techniques and integrate market transformation lessons from other jurisdictions to set the stage for deep market penetration of solar, recognizing that deep market penetration will require substantially more investment.*
2. *Take legislative action necessary to leverage incentive funding and maximize solar deployment with the goal of learning what will be needed to deepen solar adoption.*
3. *Identify mechanisms that logically and intrinsically incorporate solar.\**
4. *Integrate solar appropriately in anticipation of eventual cost parity rather than simply creating solar projects.\**
5. *Link solar energy to energy efficiency—adding solar to efficient buildings.\**
6. *Stimulate solar development beyond residential into commercial and larger solar opportunities as well.*
7. *Position Saint Paul, Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota to coordinate and immediately utilize any available Federal funding.*
8. *Anticipate market forces and leverage existing regulatory mechanisms to deepen solar penetration at cost parity.*
9. *Collaborate with all stakeholders to find a thoughtful solution that best positions our cities and the state.*

\*The above items are unique to this proposal, and showcase why this approach is preferred

### **Contact Information**

Carl Nelson, Program and Policy Manager  
Center for Energy and Environment  
612-335-5871 cnelson@mncee.org

Anne Hunt, Environmental Policy Advisor  
Mayor Chris Coleman  
City of Saint Paul anne.hunt@ci.stpaul.mn.us  
651-266-8520



Flannery Construction, St. Paul (photo credit D. Shoemaker)