

HOSTED BY REPRESENTATIVE HEATHER EDELSON

# A Community Conversation on Climate Change

*With Special Guest Meteorologist Paul Douglas*

September 23, 6:30pm

Edina City Hall  
4801 West 50th Street  
Edina, MN 55424



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Monday, September 23, 2019  
Convening Time: 6:30PM  
Edina City Hall, Council Chambers

## Agenda

### ***Moderator Introduction***

Cathy Cella, League of Women Voters

### ***Welcome and Introduction***

Rep. Heather Edelson  
*How Climate Change affects District 49A*

### ***Youth From Our Community***

Chloe Maynor, Project Earth  
Mia DiLorenzo, Youth Climate Strike

#### PANEL 1

### ***Climate Change and Public Health***

Paul Douglas, Heather Edelson, Laalitha Surapaneni, Frank Hornstein

— 5 minute break —

#### PANEL 2

### ***Clean Energy and the Economy***

Benjamin Stafford, Ben Rabe, Kathy Iverson, Steve Elkins, Jean Wagenius

### ***Moderator Close***

*Thank You and Next Steps*

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### Mia DiLorenzo

Mia DiLorenzo is an Edina High School Sophomore and a Co-Chair of the Minnesota Youth Climate Strike — a Strike that drew more than 6,000 people to the State Capitol lawn last Friday. “I will be striking so that other teenagers don’t have to give up their free time to organize, lead conference calls, or write press emails during lunch. I strike for the people that have lost their lives due to the climate crisis and for all future fatalities. I strike to cause a mass mobilization unlike any other. I strike for environmental justice, public health, and for the future of our planet.”



### Paul Douglas

Paul Douglas is a nationally respected meteorologist with over 40 years of television and radio experience. A serial entrepreneur, Douglas is Senior Meteorologist and Founder of Media Logic Group. Douglas and a team of meteorologists provide weather services for various media and corporate interests at Praedictix. Developers and engineers create unique streams of weather data, imagery and API’s via AerisWeather. He files print and online updates for Star Tribune and co-hosts a radio program with Jordana Green weekdays on WCCO Radio. He co-wrote a book about climate change and weather disruption, “Caring for Creation: The Evangelical’s Guide to Climate change and a Healthy Environment.”



### Heather Edelson

Rep. Heather Edelson is a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives she represents District 49A, the City of Edina at the Capitol. Edelson worked as a clinical outpatient therapist and has been active on numerous State and local City boards and commissions prior to serving in the legislature. She attended Hamline University for her undergraduate work and the University of Minnesota for graduate. At the Capitol, she serves on Health and Human Service Policy policy, K-12 Education Finance and is the Vice-Chair Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Policy and Finance Committee.



### Steve Elkins

Rep. Steve Elkins (DFL-Bloomington) represents House District 49B. He is in his first term at the Minnesota House of Representatives and serves on the following committees: Transportation Finance and Policy; Commerce; State Government Finance; and the Local Government Subcommittee. He has represented the community at the state and national level as an active participant in organizations such as the League of Minnesota Cities, Metro Cities (the association of Twin Cities municipalities) and the National League of Cities. Over the past decade, his career has been focused on Health Information Technology.

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### Frank Hornstein

Rep. Frank Hornstein serves as the Chair of the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee and is the author of the Minnesota Green New Deal. A lifelong Climate activist, Rep. Hornstein's career started as an organizer for Clean Water Action. His focus now is elevating the voices of youth and POCI communities in our fight against climate change, as well as expanding and electrifying public transit.



### Kathy Iverson

Kathy Iverson is the Volunteer Chapter Leader for Congressional District 5 of the Citizen Climate Lobby. She is also a founding member of Health Professionals for Healthy Climate. She lives in Edina with her husband and 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren. Their future and that of other young people is why she is so concerned about climate change.



### Chloe Maynor

Chloe Maynor is a Senior at Edina High School. She is a leader of Project Earth, her school's environmental club. She is also a second term commissioner on Edina's Energy and Environment Commission, and Debate Team Captain. She has been involved in youth environmental groups since she was 11, and usually feels a mix of excitement and worry about her environmental work.



### Ben Rabe

Ben Rabe is a senior policy associate with Fresh Energy, and serves as their Director of Built Environment. Buildings account for nearly forty percent of the country's energy use as well as carbon emissions. Helping structures consume less energy is essential to solving the climate crisis and comprehensive policies are the most effective mechanism for doing so. At Fresh Energy, his work focuses on supporting and passing policies that improve energy efficiency related to buildings and the built environment. Ben develops positions and strategies on policy matters, assists with Fresh Energy's legislative priorities, and develops documents to communicate policy and scientific information to policy makers and the public.

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#### **Benjamin Stafford**

Benjamin Stafford serves as the Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Clean Energy Economy Minnesota. His job is to help CEEM's members and stakeholders think about how Minnesota can explore options and opportunities around energy policies and regulations. Clean Energy Economy Minnesota is looking at the future and figuring out how we can work together to make our energy use better — cleaner, more reliable, affordable, and sustainable.



#### **Laalitha Surapaneni**

Dr. Laalitha Surapaneni is an assistant professor in the General Internal Medicine Department at the University of Minnesota with a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Surapaneni is a science communicator and has testified for the Maryland Department of Environment on the environmental justice impacts of a local incinerator. She was also part of a campaign that worked to pass landmark climate legislation to limit crude oil trains passing through Baltimore city. In Minnesota, she was invited to give health expert testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Climate Finance on the public health impacts of climate change. She is currently working on advocating for clean energy and zero-carbon transportation legislation with a focus on equity.



#### **Jean Wagenius**

Rep. Jean Wagenius is a member of the House of Representatives and Chair of the Energy and Climate Finance & Policy Division. Prior to serving as a State Representative, she was a Staff Attorney for the Minnesota Court of Appeals. You can listen to all the testimony given to the Division this past session beginning with the first two hearings where University of Minnesota professors told the committee how climate change is affecting Minnesota now and into the future.

*Special thank you to Cathy Cella  
from the League of Women Voters  
for moderating our event tonight!*



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## Take Climate Action!

### *Knowledge is Power!*

Learn to offset your personal carbon emissions at <https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/>

### 1) Consume less, Waste Less!

- **Opt for more responsible transit.**  
*Bike or walk more*  
*Take the bus or light rail*  
*Carpool whenever possible!*
- **Use reusable** water bottles, coffee containers, and canvas bags. Starbucks or local coffee shops will serve you coffee with reusable cups too!
- **Change your diet.** Consume less meat. Did you know that after the fossil fuel industry, meat and dairy sectors are the most significant contributors to climate change due to the greenhouse gases. You don't have to become a vegetarian but by cutting your meat consumption in half you could cut your diet footprint by more than 40%.

We want you to leave here feeling hopeful! Complex issues can make us freeze and instead we want **YOU** to help us have positive conversations and move for positive action to save our planet!

### 2) Create a Climate-Friendly Home

- Be attentive to your energy use — everything adds up! Turn the lights off when you leave a room.
- Change to LED lightbulbs
- Install programmable thermostats
- Wash clothes in cold water and air dry
- Update insulation and wrap windows in the cold MN winter.
- Change the way that you think about your lawn: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/more-sustainable-and-beautiful-alternatives-grass-lawn>

*If you would like resources/help getting started, contact Rep. Edelson's office at [rep.heather.edelson@house.mn](mailto:rep.heather.edelson@house.mn) or 651-297-8344.*

### 3) Be a Climate Advocate

- **Contact your Local / State / Federal Officials** — what steps are they taking to help with climate change and moving this conversation forward?
- City Council
- School Board
- County Boards
- State Representatives / Senator
- US Senator / US Representative

### 4) Sign up for composting in Edina!

The City Council in Edina passed an ordinance that every trash hauler must also compost starting January 2020.

### 5) Change Market Demand

- Shop Local
- Shop Eco-friendly
- Invest in the Green Economy
- Some large companies are stepping up to commit to 100% renewable energy by 2050 at the latest — go to [re100.org](http://re100.org) to learn more.

### 6) Little actions add up — but increase

focus on Climate change's biggest culprits  
Just 100 companies are responsible for 71% of global emissions.

Increase Accountability — Here's an Interesting tidbit: Hennepin county also passed an ordinance for businesses that produce more than a ton of trash every week have to start composting starting January 2020.

### *Get informed!*

Knowledge is power — learn more about the science behind our climate challenge and the responsibility that all sectors hold in addressing the issue. Add your voice to the issues that are shaping the climate debate as well as emerging, evidence-based data that directly relates to changes in our climate.



