



ELPC CLIMATE CITIES INITIATIVE

Minneapolis, MN (Population: 422,331)
& St. Paul, MN (Population: 306,621)

Climate Action Commitment

Minneapolis and St. Paul were among the first cities in the nation to develop a framework to reduce carbon emissions. The Twin Cities committed to 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities and operations by 2022, and 100% renewable electricity community-wide by 2030.

Key Strategies

Renewable Energy

Wind: Renewable energy resources supplied roughly one-fourth of the state's net electricity generation in 2017. Wind power accounted for most of the renewable generation, providing almost one-fifth of the state's total net generation.



- Wind-energy conversion systems used as electric-power sources are exempt from state sales tax.
- Minnesota offers incentive payments of 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour for any power sold to utilities by qualifying facilities producing less than 2 MW.
- The system must be owned and operated by the landowner where the system is sited, or by a small business, a nonprofit organization, or a tribal council, if system is located on a reservation.

Solar: The Solar*Rewards Program provides residential and commercial customers with 10 years of annual incentive payments based on the solar energy system's annual production. No sales tax on solar purchases to install solar panels on a home in Minnesota.

- Powered by the Minnesota Renewable Development Fund, the Xcel Energy Program's performance-based incentive offers solar homeowners in Xcel Energy's service area a yearly payment based on the energy production of their photovoltaic system. Xcel pays homeowners \$0.08 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of solar power production annually for up to 10 years.
- Minneapolis and Saint Paul are recognized as Solar America Cities. The Minneapolis Saint Paul Solar in the Cities Initiative:
 - > Secured \$1 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Solar Market Transformation Grant which leverages and additional \$1.2 million from District Energy St. Paul.
 - > Developed a real-time solar evaluation model to more accurately predict the value of solar energy for end-users and utilities.
 - > Commissioned Net Metering "White" Paper providing an overview of national trends and best management opportunities for Minnesota.
 - > Sponsored solar trainings for regulators, local government officials, and solar instructors.

Building Efficiency

Minneapolis: uses LEED standards in the planning, design, construction, and commissioning of municipal facilities financed by the city and used by the city's charter departments.



- All new or significantly renovated municipal facilities of 5,000+ square feet must be built to a LEED Silver standard with emphasis on LEED points in Energy and Atmosphere.
- Minneapolis offers density bonuses to residential and commercial construction that aim to achieve an energy rating 35% above code. The city also offers a 2% loan program that can be used by small businesses and light manufacturing for energy efficiency improvements.

*This information is accurate, to the best of our ability, as of May 2019. Please notify us of errors or updates at climatecities@elpc.org



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Building Efficiency



Saint Paul: The City's sustainable building policy for private development applies to the planning, design, construction, and commissioning of any new construction project receiving more than \$200,000 in City and/or HRA funding. The Developer must choose for the project one of the following rating systems and levels with which to minimally comply:

• Commercial Projects:

- > LEED New Construction 3, Silver or
- > Green Globes, 2 globes or
- > State Guidelines Benchmarking and Beyond Compliant or
- > Saint Paul Port Authority Green Design Review

• Residential Projects:

- > LEED for Homes or LEED NC 3, Silver or
- > Minnesota Green Star, Silver or
- > Green Communities, Minnesota Overlay Compliant

Electric Vehicles

Minneapolis: There are 253 public charging station ports. 22% of the ports offer free charges. The City and MnDOT have purchased wind credits from Xcel Energy for these charging stations. Drivers pay the parking rates for the ramps and for the electricity used – about \$3.20 for a “full tank.”

• Minneapolis' Green Fleet by the Numbers:

- > 2 Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles
- > 71 Hybrid Vehicles
- > 3 All-Electric Vehicles
- > 404 Flex Fuel Vehicles
- > 290 Bio-Diesel Vehicles
- > 1 Dust-Free Street Sweeper



St. Paul: The City is committed to being a leader in the deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) and charging infrastructure.

- The City of St. Paul - with HOURCAR and Xcel Energy - applied for federal grant funding to launch a new electric car sharing service.
 - > The new service line envisions 150 battery electric vehicles, supported by 70 mobility hubs with charging infrastructure.
 - > The proposed mobility hubs will be structured around a .6 mile grid within a 35 square mile service area in the metropolitan area.
 - > The application is for federal funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. If awarded, the new service could be available as early as 2020.
- The City has installed 23 public stations for charging all-electric and hybrid electric vehicles, and additional stations are being installed by other private and public entities.
 - > The solar charging stations, paid for in part from a \$2.8 million federal stimulus grant through the U.S. Department of Energy, cost \$35,000 per unit and are eligible for a total rebate of \$8,910 from the Xcel Energy Solar*Rewards program.

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