

Keep Minnesota on the Path to Clean Energy

Whereas, Minnesota stands at an energy crossroads where we can either invest in clean, renewable energy, conservation and efficiency or - we can choose yesterday's dirty energy - coal.

Whereas, Minnesota's goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025 has sparked investment and jobs in wind and, to a lesser extent, solar. The nation's largest wind farm construction company (M.A. Mortenson), wind turbine trucking firm (Anderson's) and the leading utility investing in wind energy (Xcel Energy) are all based in Minnesota.

Whereas, energy efficiency programs like the Conservation Improvement Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and investments in industrial energy efficiency save Minnesota families and businesses millions of dollars each year.

Whereas, coal is one of the most dangerous and dirty energy sources today, and Minnesota continues to get the majority of its electricity from coal. It causes asthma and other health problems, destroys our country's mountains, and releases toxic mercury into our communities.

Whereas, Minnesota can create economic opportunity, protect public health, and thousands of family-sustaining clean energy jobs by pursuing a comprehensive strategy for building the wind, solar, and energy efficiency industries in our state;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota's leaders should work to expand Minnesota's leadership in the clean energy economy.

- Minnesota's leaders should create a 2030 Clean Energy Roadmap that replaces dirty coal with clean energy by working with business, labor, and communities to invest in wind, solar, and energy efficiency industries that includes:
 - Recruiting more clean energy businesses to Minnesota;
 - Directing state agencies to achieve 10% of their energy consumption from solar;
 - Installing solar on public property, like schools, libraries and hospitals.
 - 20% by 2020 industrial efficiency goal for Minnesota's leading industries to keep them competitive in the global economy;
 - Increased investment in weatherization and energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption and Minnesotan's energy bills.
 - Transitioning all of Minnesota's dirty coal-fired power plants to cleaner energy by 2030.