

Green Partnership Update

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June 13, 2018

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with Xcel Energy (dba Northern States Power).

Green Partnership: Shared Benefits

- Metropolitan Council
 - *Thrive MSP 2040* -- lead by example by lessening our Greenhouse Gas and criteria pollutant emissions.
 - One of the top ten largest Xcel Energy Customers in their Minnesota territory.
 - Council's annual purchases from Xcel are equivalent to about 20,000 MN households.
- Xcel Energy
 - Interest in providing renewable energy purchasing options that work for its customers.
 - Interest in supporting the advancement of electric vehicles in Minnesota.

Memorandum of Understanding

- Goal: 100% of the Metropolitan Council energy purchases from Xcel Energy to be from renewable sources by 2040.
 - Renewable energy is additional.
 - Council and Xcel customers will not bear the weight of the long-term costs.
- Partner to maximize the potential of available funding to research and demonstrate projects to support wastewater treatment and electrification of public transit.
 - Current focus: Electric buses

Purchasing Renewable Energy From Xcel

- **Program Name:** Renewable Connect Xcel Energy (Tranche 2)
- Council participation dependent on meeting (defined by Council staff):
 - Legal and policy terms
 - Additionality definition
 - Financial terms
- Assuming terms are met... Apply 100% of Metro WWTP's demand to program
- Future: Continue dialogue toward additional rate products.

Electric Buses

- Battery-electric buses:
 - Support 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and THRIVE MSP 2040 Goals
 - Reduce harmful emissions along routes
 - Lower operating and life-cycle costs
 - Quiet, smooth propulsion
 - Current technology status
 - Relationship with Xcel & plan for C Line



Thrive Lens

- Equity and Livability
 - Cleaner buses supports better regional air quality.
- Prosperity
 - Advancing clean energy and support healthy air quality economically.
- Sustainability
 - Advancing clean energy supports a reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Timeline

- **June/July 2018:** Xcel solicit proposals for procuring wind and solar energy.
- **August/September 2018:**
 - Xcel to file Renewable Connect Tranche 2 program request to Public Utilities Commission.
 - Council to provide letter of intent to participate in Renewable Connect Tranche 2.
- **September 2018 – Spring 2019:** PUC process and approval for program.
- **Spring/Summer 2019:**
 - Council sign up for program.
 - Receive first battery-electric buses, begin C Line service
- **Ongoing:** Identify opportunities to expand the Council's purchases of renewable energy.

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