

ANDREA JENKINS -- WARD 8



2021 City Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for filling out our 2021 City Candidate Questionnaire. As a 501(C)3 organization, Community Power will not be making endorsements. The purpose of this questionnaire is to educate Minneapolis residents on the positions of those seeking City offices that will shape the future of energy related to access, equity, resilience, decision-making/ownership and affordability.

Section 1: Meeting Minneapolis' Renewable Energy & Climate Goals

1. Share how climate change has affected communities you are/were a part of and how that influences your understanding of the problem:

Climate change has had a deleterious impact on communities of color. I lived in North Minneapolis, near the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC), and in those communities, people experience the highest incidences of asthma, COPD, and other respiratory diseases. As well as diabetes, low birth weight, heart disease, and other preventable illnesses. These realities deeply influence my understanding and awareness of issues related to climate change.

2. What do you intend to do during your time in office to help Minneapolis meet its adopted policy goals of 100% renewable electricity by 2030 for all Minneapolis energy users, and 100% renewable energy in all sectors (electricity, heating, transportation, industry) by 2050 for all Minneapolis energy users?

In 2019 we declared a climate emergency which recognizes global warming is caused by human activities, which increase emissions of greenhouse gases, and has resulted in a climate emergency that severely and urgently impacts the economic and social well-being, health and safety, and security of the city of Minneapolis. Additionally, the City of Minneapolis will take even more aggressive action to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency.

Currently, I'm working to revert the old Roof Depot site in the East Phillips neighborhood and their Indoor Urban Farm project, as a means to address environmental justice. I'm also working with Jamez Staples, President of Renewable Energy Partners Inc., Center for Environment and Energy, and others to develop a solar garden demonstration project at Sabathani Community Center.

I also supported the Minneapolis initiative "Rebuild Resilient", which is an expansion of the green cost share program to assist businesses harmed by the uprisings to replace their appliances, etc. with more energy efficient products. This will lower their energy cost as well as help to lower greenhouse gas emissions in the city.

3. What will you do in your time in office to achieve greater racial, economic, and gender diversity in the "green" workforce and accessibility to green job training as well as the racial, economic, and gender diversity of the ownership of small green businesses?

I'm also working with Jamez Staples (President of Renewable Energy Partners Inc.) to develop green jobs for low wealth communities, including Black and Brown young men and women. And as the Chair of the Racial Equity subcommittee, addressing racial inequity is at the top of my Council agenda for 2022 and beyond.

4. There are growing examples of district heating systems that use existing water pipe systems both nationally and locally (e.g. the Towerside Development on the East Bank; District Heating in Minneapolis' downtown; the EcoDistrict of St. Paul). What role do you see or would you like to see the district heating and our municipal water utility playing, if any, in a strategy towards ending our reliance on fossil fuels for heating and cooling?

I believe these district heating systems can play a significant role in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels for heating and cooling. I intend to continue to investigate and pursue these programs wherever feasible.

Section 2: Access to Energy Efficiency

5. Minneapolis has an adopted policy goal of 75% of Minneapolis households' participating in efficiency retrofits by 2025. What ideas do you have to advance equitable access to energy efficiency and how will those support the participation of those who bear a higher energy cost burden or face access barriers to existing programs (e.g. renters, low & moderate income, and BIPOC2 residents) to ensure that all Minneapolis residents have healthy homes, affordable energy bills, and the choice to shift to clean, efficient energy? Describe the particular policies/initiatives you would expand, continue, and/or create.

We developed a strategic Racial Equity Action Plan that prioritizes and emphasizes low-income

and BIPOC communities. I will incorporate these principles of equity and inclusion by ensuring the most marginalized segments of our communities are able to have priority access to these resources.

6. What community engagement efforts would you advocate for the City to use/create/implement to make sure communities know about and have agency in energy efficiency programs that work for them, including the likely pilot of Inclusive Financing in Minneapolis? Inclusive Financing is a nationally well-tested energy efficiency tool that the City, as part of the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership, has been pursuing for the past two years to address critical gaps in existing efficiency programs.

We would use community engagement efforts that meet people where they're at. I would do outreach at community action centers, local public schools and local libraries. I would host energy education events on Saturday mornings. I would attend and promote energy fairs in my newsletter and social media accounts.

Section 3: Funding the City's Climate and Energy Equity Priorities

7. In 2017, the City of Minneapolis increased the utility franchise fee by 0.5% to create resources for the specific purpose of funding local energy solutions that would equitably lower utility bills (see footnote for details). What do you think about the level of franchise fee funding (approximately \$2.5 million per year) that exists now: (select all that apply!)

a. It is more than is needed to meet the city's climate and energy goals and should be reduced to \$_____ /year so that the funding can go to the following project area:

b. It is about the right amount

c. It is not enough to meet the city's climate and energy goals, but I'm not sure how much to raise it by

d. It is not enough to meet the city's climate and energy goals and I believe ~\$_____ / year is needed at least

e. Funding to accomplish the same energy and climate equity goals could/ should come from this source in addition and/or instead of the franchise fee:

f. I believe there are other sources of climate funding already being leveraged by the city that have been overlooked in this question, including:

8. Where do you think these funds should reside? (Select all you believe would be ideal)

a. Dedicated/ear-marked fund in City's budget

b. Green Bank

c. General Fund ← (where funds currently reside)

d. Other:

Section 4: Evaluating the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership's Effectiveness

9. Before the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership was created, the city was discussing a potential municipalization of the gas and electric utilities as a way to reach its climate action plan and equity goals. What criteria or thresholds would convince you that the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership is on track to succeed (e.g. reaching climate and equity goals on time)? Under what circumstances, if any, would you view the option to municipalize as part of the pathway needed to reach the City's climate action and equity goals?

We need to see a minimum of 60% success on outcomes from the Clean Energy partnership by 2025. If those goals are not met, we would need to give serious consideration to municipalization of gas and electric utilities as a way to reach climate and equity goals.