

# HAJI YUSSUF--WARD 9



## 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:

A) I have directly seen in the last 22 years of living here in Minneapolis the years swings in weather that has been becoming more and more intense changes. As we continue to see continued environmental degradation, and the companies are actively harming the most vulnerable within the city. We must expand the end of the use of single use plastics within the city, but also work with the state legislation that would make it a statewide mandate to help ease pressure on the small business owners within the city.

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?<sup>1</sup>

A) I would if elected would enact policies and proposals that would help allow everyone be informed about the goals and make it as easy as possible for everyone to take part in it and help us reach the overarching goal.

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?

A) I would expand to allow all the above ideas to happen and expand outreach with other NGO's to help facilitate that and help target to help it have diversity and equality for all involved. Working as a team to promote the green new jobs and by training them in how to treat the environment properly and keep it for the future generations.

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

<sup>1</sup> The City has a third shorter term goal of 100% renewable electricity for city operations by 2023

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?

A) Using that technology to help heat the whole city not just the downtown and other certain areas. The continued improvements in this technology could be a key-way in helping to lower our dependence on fossil fuels.

## 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 BIPOC<sup>2</sup> 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.

A) Create more programs like the Inclusive Financing for Solar to help with the barriers involved with these upgrades.

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.**

A) more programmes like the one you mentioned above, with community outreach and lobbying at every step with a clear target for BIPOC and low-income families.

## 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).**<sup>3</sup> 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**

<sup>2</sup> BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

<sup>3</sup> See official news release from the City on the Franchise Fee increase: <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMSP-207153>

- 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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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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<sup>4</sup> 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?

A) Goals being met at the approximate time frames is key and making sure we re-review those goals at a consistent time. As things do change as we do work towards the goal it may needed to be increased as things progress not in a positive way.

<sup>4</sup>See PDF copy of the 2019-2021 Work Plan here: <https://mplscleanenergypartnership.org/about/2017-2018-workplan/>