

Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM) develops and supports public policy that promotes the growth of clean energy jobs and the economic opportunities provided by clean, affordable, and reliable energy. CEEM provides “the business voice of clean energy” to influence policy decisions and grow equitable and inclusive clean energy market opportunities.

The 2023 session marks the start of a new biennium with Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan returning for a second term along with many newly-elected members in both bodies of the legislature. Heading into session, there will be a two-year budget to pass, and the first one-party control in Saint Paul since 2013. A large number of priorities are emerging for the Walz-Flanagan Administration and newly empowered DFL House and Senate.

Significant opportunities exist to accelerate Minnesota’s energy transition by leveraging recently passed federal legislation, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Rapid decarbonization across all sectors of our state’s economy is required to mitigate the risks posed by a changing climate and pragmatic solutions will deliver economic benefits and prosperity for all Minnesotans. CEEM will continue to support the Walz-Flanagan Administration’s policy proposals that will lead Minnesota to 100 percent clean energy in the state’s electricity sector by 2040 as well as other action steps in [Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework](#). In addition, CEEM will also pursue the following Goals and Actions in 2023:

Energy Efficiency

Goal: Expand the availability and use of energy efficiency technologies and programs to reduce energy waste, save businesses and consumers money, and improve the productivity of Minnesota’s economy.

Action: Ensure clear and timely implementation of energy efficiency programs and funding, specifically from the IIJA and IRA.

Action: Modernize the Guaranteed Energy Savings Program (GESp) and expand opportunities for Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) to address current barriers and spur further implementation of energy conservation measures.

Action: Support modernizing building energy codes and standards, including energy optimization, net-zero goals, building performance standards, and grid-interactive buildings.

Clean Energy Policy

Goal: Dramatically decarbonize Minnesota's economy and accelerate the growth of the state's clean energy industry while fully leveraging recently passed federal policies.

Action: Ensure Minnesota maximizes benefits from the IIJA, CHIPS and Science Act, and the IRA by securing state matching funds.

Action: Encourage the legislature to pass a 100 percent clean energy standard in Minnesota’s electricity sector by 2040.

Action: Extend and secure additional funding for Solar*Rewards.

Action: Direct funding for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure to evaluate integration with buildings, the grid, and renewable energy sources.

Action: Support efforts to maximize National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program funding and efficient implementation to install fast chargers for EVs across Minnesota.

Action: Deter threats to renewable energy siting and improve permitting processes in order to continue to expand our clean energy economy, reduce energy bills, and strengthen local economies.

Action: Support component recycling efforts that advance rather than limit market opportunity while enhancing Minnesota’s competitiveness and attractiveness for development.

Action: Support efforts to implement a Clean Fuels Standard in Minnesota.

Action: Modernize the Community Solar Garden (CSG) program by removing arbitrary red tape policies like the contiguous county provision and allowing for more economically sustainable projects to be built.

Workforce & Innovation

Goal: Increase Minnesota's market competitiveness and access to clean energy technology solutions, while implementing equitable strategies to existing industry workforce challenges.

Action: Secure funding to assess and develop a clean energy workforce development plan for the state to deliver a just and inclusive clean energy future for all Minnesotans.

Action: Direct or leverage state funding to support clean energy technology commercialization.

Action: Support efforts to enhance manufacturing incentives leveraging new federal policies promoting domestic sourcing and manufacturing.

Regulatory Affairs & Policy Implementation

Goal: Assert the business voice of clean energy in regulatory proceedings.

Action: Continue to raise awareness of business impacts due to extended interconnection queues and the implementation of interconnection standards.

Action: Provide the Governor's office with insights and recommendations for PUC Commissioner appointment to deliver a thriving and equitable clean energy future.

Action: Support MISO and state level transmission development, market design, and business opportunities for distributed energy resources (DERs) to benefit consumers.

Action: Support regulations and standards that allow third-parties to access aggregated or anonymized customer energy use data to reduce energy waste, save money, and slash emissions.

Energy Storage

Goal: Advance market opportunities for energy storage to provide resiliency, security, and cost savings.

Action: Address and eliminate policy and market barriers to further the expansion of energy storage technologies.

Action: Support efforts to create an incentive program for the increased adoption of energy storage in Minnesota.

Bioenergy

Goal: Strengthen Minnesota's bioenergy sector through funding to expand markets.

Action: Support full funding for the AGRI Bioincentive Program.

Action: Support efforts to increase funding of programs that expand utilization of sustainable biomass & emerald ash borer waste.

Action: Support the expansion of anaerobic digestion projects in Minnesota while addressing barriers to accelerate project development timelines.

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