

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 was historic with unprecedented policy and investments passed to move the energy efficiency and clean energy sectors forward in Minnesota. Governor Walz signed the 100% Clean Energy by 2040 law early in February, which was followed by Minnesota investing hundreds of millions in funding and other supportive policies accelerating the transformation of the state’s energy sector.

In 2024, CEEM will focus on the efficient implementation of new laws and funding while removing barriers and reducing red tape to enable the growth of the clean energy economy. This will enable the achievement of 100,000 clean energy jobs by 2030 while delivering economic benefits and prosperity for all Minnesotans. Permitting and interconnection reform, building transmission infrastructure, and advancing the deployment of hydrogen in decarbonizing economic sectors where emissions are hard to abate will be key. CEEM will continue to support the Walz-Flanagan Administration’s clean energy transition policy proposals as well as other action steps in [Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework](#). In addition, CEEM will also pursue the following goals and actions in 2024:

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 and economic development plan for the state to deliver a just and inclusive clean energy future for all Minnesotans.

Action: Support efforts to enhance manufacturing incentives and leverage state funding to support clean energy technology commercialization.

Implementation

Goal: Ensure timely implementation of recently passed programs from previous legislation to create business certainty to speed the clean energy transition.

Action: Ensure timely and effective execution of the early stages of the Minnesota Energy Alley Initiative.

Action: Monitor and provide support to the newly created Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority (MNCIFA.)

Action: Inform members on state implementation of programs related to the Carbon Free Law, State Competitiveness Fund, and other energy-efficient upgrade incentive programs for Minnesotans.

Transportation & Transportation Infrastructure

Goal: Support a range of policies that will decarbonize Minnesota’s transportation sector; including consumer and commercial vehicles as well as low and zero-carbon transportation infrastructure.

Action: Continue to raise awareness of business needs for state and federal incentives for EV automotive manufacturing to accelerate and deploy EV technology.

Action: Support statewide EV infrastructure, utilizing the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, to build a convenient and reliable fast-charging EV network across the state.

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

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: 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.

Regulatory Affairs

Goal: Assert the business voice of clean energy in regulatory proceedings, focusing on market development, and removing unnecessary barriers.

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

Action: Highlight new market development and economic opportunities in dockets related to recently passed legislation and transmission build-out.

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.

Clean Energy Policy

Goal: Build upon policies encouraging economy-wide decarbonization and market development for clean energy by reducing and eliminating key barriers.

Action: Support state policies to speed transmission build-out and grid enhancement across the state including streamlining the permitting process along public-owned right-of-ways.

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

Action: Support innovative solutions to make connecting projects to the grid faster and more efficient while preventing delays and aligning incentives for grid operators.

Action: Support development of the new Community Solar Garden (CSG) program and protect legacy projects to ensure a stable and predictable environment for projects and business in our state.

Action: Extend and secure funding for Solar*Rewards, energy storage, and other renewable energy incentives.

Action: Address policy and market barriers to expand energy storage technologies and leverage the Minnesota Department of Commerce study results to create effective and efficient policies.

Action: Educate policymakers and support the creation of infrastructure to support Minnesota taking the lead in creating the new hydrogen economy.

Action: Promote the research and commercialization of microgrids as a key tool for advancing resiliency, security, and clean energy solutions.

Action: Support modernization of the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) rules to align with national trends and allow for better use of this proven and successful financing tool.

Action: Support efforts to efficiently satisfy utility customers' demand for clean energy while helping to cost-effectively achieve the state's clean energy goals

Action: Support exploring how all carbon-free sources can be utilized to replace fossil fuels as a baseload source of low-cost and reliable generation.

Action: Advance the conversation around mining and critical minerals to create supply chain resiliency, economic prosperity on the Iron Range, and assert Minnesota's leadership in clean energy innovation and production.

Bioenergy

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

Action: Support language clarifying the importance and definition of biomass in Minnesota's Carbon Free Law.

Action: Support full funding for the AGRI Bioincentive Program.

Action: Support efforts to increase program funding that expands the utilization of sustainable biomass and emerald ash borer wood waste and decrease waste material buildup in counties across the state.

Action: Educate policymakers on the economic opportunity of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and the integral role SAF will play in decarbonizing the aviation industry while delivering benefits to Minnesota's economy.

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