

Clean Transportation for All

Whereas, Minnesota and the entire planet are experiencing a climate crisis,

Whereas, transportation is the #1 cause of climate change pollution in Minnesota,

Whereas, all Minnesotans need more equitable access to clean transportation options that connect us to our jobs, schools, businesses, and services;

Whereas, accessible, convenient, and efficient transit will save billions in reduced travel time for individuals and businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ party support:

Deep investment in clean transportation options such as public transit, bicycling, walking, and electric vehicles – options that are racially just, economically competitive, and safer and accessible for all users, of all ages and abilities.

100% Clean Energy

Whereas, everyone is impacted by the climate crisis, but some Minnesotans are experiencing it first and worst¹,

Whereas, Minnesota is not on track to meet our commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050²,

Whereas, we need to cut global carbon dioxide emissions to ‘net zero’ by around 2050 in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C³,

Whereas, a just transition to a 100% equitable & clean energy future would benefit everyone, black, brown, or white, indigenous or immigrant, every gender, every part of the state⁴,

Whereas, a just transition would mean cleaner air, family-supporting jobs, and better connected communities,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ party supports:

Transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2040 as part of a statewide plan that reduces racial, gender, & economic disparities while cutting greenhouse gases 45% by 2030 and to ‘net zero’ by 2050.

¹ Climate change is affecting everyone in Minnesota, but is affecting everyone differently. The disparate impacts related to health, Minnesotans who are black, indigenous, or people of color, agriculture, outdoors activities, and extreme weather events in Minnesota are well-documented.

² Minnesota’s Next Generation Energy Act commits Minnesota to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy “at least 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050”.

³ The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report on 2018 on the impacts of climate change finding that “limiting warming to 1.5°C implies reaching net zero CO₂ emissions globally around 2050”.

⁴ In 2021, the Minnesota House passed the 100% Clean Energy bill, a proposal to reach zero CO₂ emissions in the electricity sector by 2040. It is [H.F. 278](#) (Long) / [S.F. 643](#) (Frentz).

Prove It First

BE IT RESOLVED that, the _____ party supports:

a moratorium banning copper-nickel sulfide mining in Minnesota’s watersheds until it is proven first to be safe in water-rich environments for the protection of some of America’s greatest treasures including but not limited to Lake Superior, the BWCAW, Voyageurs National Park, and the Mississippi River.

Background:

- Non-ferrous sulfide mining has never been done in a water-rich environment like Minnesota without polluting, degrading, or destroying the surrounding waters.
- The potential harm to the region will displace residents and shutter small businesses that are dependent on the natural resources in our state for other purposes.
- Wildlife and humans depend on clean water and air and need the region protected from toxic sulfide mining

No New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

BE IT RESOLVED that, the _____ party supports mandate the calculation of climate impacts including external and social costs of carbon, for all new infrastructure projects; limit funding or deny permits for high impact projects and incentivize those with the lowest carbon footprint; remove existing fossil fuel-based infrastructure as quickly as possible.

Background: The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently published its flagship report titled “Net Zero by 2050”, and the verdict is clear. No new fossil fuel expansion projects can be built in order to get to net zero emissions by 2050 and keep temperatures under 1.5 Degree C of warming.

Soil-Healthy Farming

BE IT RESOLVED that, the _____ party prioritizes establishing and deeply investing in a comprehensive soil health program to provide accessible, motivating grants and direct payments to farmers to establish and sustain soil-healthy practices; provide education, technical assistance, and research around soil-healthy practices to farmers; and set a statewide goal to reach 5.75 million acres of farmland in soil-healthy practices by 2030, 11.5 million acres by 2035, and 23 million acres by 2040.

Background:

When we steward healthy soil, we are cultivating vibrant and resilient rural, urban, and suburban communities and economies. We cultivate thriving and resilient land that soaks up rain and sequesters carbon, while fostering healthy ecosystems with clean water and a sustainable climate for microorganisms, wildlife, and people. Yet, Minnesota’s farmers are facing compounding challenges of extreme weather, consolidation and financial stress, and degrading topsoil. No matter where we live or what we look like, we depend on having a sustainable and just farm and food system – which requires public investment in farming that provides a public good.

Maximize Forest Carbon Sequestration

BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ party support limiting the use of round wood for bioenergy and reducing the annual proposed commercial harvest of round wood to less than 700,000 cords. The major loss of forest carbon derives from the harvest of trees for use in the forest industries. The primary goal of the management of Minnesota State and County Forests must be to maximize carbon sequestration to fight climate warming.

The MFRC (Minnesota Forest Resources Council) should be directed to revise certain parts of the voluntary site management guidelines to enhance biodiversity and other ecosystem services. For example, expand riparian strips and prohibit harvest therein in order to reduce the effects of increased precipitation and provide relatively cool refugia to aid survival of native flora and fauna.