



Energy Access & Equity: Ensuring no one is left behind in the transition to clean energy

A changing climate and extreme weather are already impacting Minnesota's health and environment. Large storms—those with three inches or more of rainfall in a single day— have more than doubled in Minnesota in just over 50 years, and the impacts of a warming climate can be seen in our fish populations and forest ecosystems.

Fortunately, Minnesota is in a position to secure policies that can change our trajectory by advancing electricity from wind and solar, building codes that allow for low cost, low carbon heating and cooling, and transportation powered by renewables instead of oil and gas. These solutions will directly address climate change and benefit Minnesota's communities for generations to come.

Fresh Energy's Energy Access & Equity program is committed to ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to clean energy. Our team of experts is working to increase access through programs that offer more energy efficiency opportunities for renters, low-income pilots and programs in community solar and energy efficiency laws, and efforts to increase access to clean transportation.



Director of Energy Access and Equity, **Ben Passer** directs Fresh Energy's work to advance equitable outcomes across Minnesota's energy system. Ben's previous experience includes legal clerkships with the Minnesota Department of Commerce and Honeywell International, and internships with Governor Mark Dayton and Senator John Marty. He is a member of the Minnesota Bar.



Policy associate, **Janiece Watts** plays a key role in advancing equitable outcomes across Minnesota's energy system. Her current projects include a unique, joint partnership with Community Stabilization Project, and collaborative work with environmental justice groups to improve air quality and reduce demand for oil through electrification of transportation. Janiece has a long background in environmental justice organizing.

Rental housing that is affordable, healthy, and efficient.

Fresh Energy is co-leading the Minnesota Multifamily Affordable Housing Energy Network as a critical forum for bringing together housing and energy leaders, in collaboration with renters' organizations, toward increased investment in multifamily building efficiency. In partnership with the Community Stabilization Project and others, we are working to improve the efficiency of rental housing and increasing transparency on energy costs in Saint Paul. This project elevates renter voices and includes a guide for use by both landlord and renters.

Reduced energy burden on Minnesotan families, particularly those in low-income households.

Working with individual utilities, we are reducing barriers that prevent low-income people from benefiting from utility efficiency programs. Because the Conservation Improvement Program sets statewide priorities and goals for conservation, we will be working hard on this law in 2019, specifically seeking to maximize the mechanisms that will increase energy efficiency with benefits for low-income families and people living in multifamily housing.

Equitable access to the benefits of renewable energy.

As the solar market expands in Minnesota we are working with utilities, solar developers, and others to access to solar programs for Minnesotans of all income levels. With private impact investing on the rise, we are working to ensure that investors, entrepreneurs, communities, and nonprofits can effectively work together on energy projects that speed access for people being left behind in the current clean energy market.

Electrifying the transportation sector to reduce pollution in our communities.

Health and livability are greatly impacted by air pollution from transportation so we are working to achieve a commitment from Metro Transit that it will purchase no more diesel buses after 2020. Working with major cities and through public education we are making the case that fleet cars should be all electric, and charging should be available to people who have an interest in electric cars even if they don't have a garage for charging.

Redefining affordable housing.

Fresh Energy is working to ensure that energy costs are included as long-term affordability is considered. As the Ford site and other major new developments move forward, we are leveraging opportunities to model affordable housing that is super-efficient with heating and cooling powered by renewable electricity.

Developing relationships with additional voices to drive change.

Fresh Energy is building a shared sense of purpose between energy and equity advocates in Minnesota and beyond. Our collaborative work in statewide efforts, like the Coalition for Clean Transportation and the 100% Campaign, ensure that together, we can make change that benefits all.