

ENERGY MATTERS



CLEAN ENERGY POLICY TO PEOPLE

For 25 years, Fresh Energy has worked hard to speed the transition to a clean energy economy. And this transition is not just about kilowatts and megawatts. Done right, people and communities across Minnesota benefit—and so do the farmlands and clean water that make Minnesota home.

How does your support help Fresh Energy work to achieve multiple benefits from clean energy? Let us count the ways.

NEW GOOD-PAYING JOBS

Fresh Energy-led policies to spur more renewable electricity and energy efficiency have created vital new job growth. Minnesota now has more than 57,000 total clean energy jobs. From people building components for wind turbines, to solar installers, weatherization experts, and people who maintain energy projects—like Moventas, a large upper Midwest wind maintenance company that set up shop on Saint Paul's East Side—these jobs offer a living wage across the state.

PROSPERITY IN GREATER MINNESOTA

For years, rural communities in Minnesota have had a tough time growing jobs and businesses that could recruit new families—the life blood of any town. Now, with rural wind and solar projects going up across Greater

Minnesota, communities are reinvigorated. Counties, cities, and school districts feel less pressure on their local property tax levy thanks to production taxes paid by wind and solar. Mower County alone gets more than \$2.3 million a year to repair roads and bridges and hold down property taxes.

FAIR ACCESS FOR RENTERS AND LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

Without the right policies, clean energy markets can leave low-income communities behind. Fresh Energy is expanding work to increase clean energy access in low-income communities—and taking action to improve energy, data access, and quality of life in rental housing through a new Tenant-Landlord Energy Project, in partnership with the Community Stabilization Project.

CLEANER AIR

Pollution from cars, trucks, and buses contributes to an estimated 53,000 premature deaths per year nationwide. Transportation pollution disproportionately harms children, the elderly, people of color, and low-income communities. Fresh Energy is advancing solutions that shift cars and buses onto electricity, to reduce carbon emissions while also improving the quality of life in communities currently burdened by air pollution.



Left to right: J. Drake Hamilton, Nicholas Garbis, Raj V. Rajan, Kim Norton, Michael Noble, and Dan Reicher

Fresh Energy was truly thrilled by the amazing turnout, generous donations, and positive energy in the room at our second annual Benefit Breakfast on October 4, 2017.

Thank you to the over 500 attendees and sponsors who helped Fresh Energy raise more than \$206,000 to support our work to speed the transition to a clean energy economy in Minnesota.

There were many terrific moments at the event, including our keynote speaker Dan Reicher who talked about the exciting intersection of policy, technology, and finance and the urgency of acting now on climate solutions.

We truly appreciate the table captains, event speakers, volunteers, and event co-chairs Nicholas Garbis and Raj V. Rajan who worked so hard to bring everyone together and inspire the crowd.

Check out our Facebook page to see event photos and the new video we premiered at the event about our work to drive positive clean energy solutions that benefit our local economy and health.

We hope to see you there next year!

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TWITTER: @nobleideas

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER STORIES
AT FRESH-ENERGY.ORG

FRESH ENERGY AT COP23

J. Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy's science policy director, will be part of the annual international climate negotiations, COP23, where 195 countries are expected to participate. She will be sharing the nation-leading carbon pollution cuts Minnesota has achieved through smart policy and business decisions as well as encouraging other U.S. regions to scale up and accelerate their own carbon reductions. For more information and updates from J. while in Bonn, visit fresh-energy.org/cop23.



A FAIRER PRICE ON POLLUTION

In a victory for public health, clean air, and homegrown clean energy this summer, Minnesota updated calculations to reflect the true cost that air pollution imposes on Minnesotans. The values now more accurately represent the best science on health and climate impacts of pollution and will be taken into account when considering plans for new power plants—leveling the playing field for Minnesota's clean energy industry.



ENERGY NEWS NETWORK EXPANDING

With many news outlets reducing their energy reporting and attention turning to climate action in the states, there is a vital need for credible, nonpartisan journalism to explain complex energy issues and watchdog the decision-making bodies that are shaping the future. Energy News Network—published by Fresh Energy and operating independently with a journalistic firewall—fills that need and is recognized as a go-to source for the latest news on clean energy progress, innovation, and roadblocks. Launched as Midwest Energy News with the recent addition of the Southeast, the Energy News Network will be expanding to six regions across the country in the coming years thanks to major new support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Sign up today for this free news service at midwestenergynews.com or southeastenergynews.com.



Congratulations 2017 Midwest Energy News 40 Under 40 Honorees. See full list at: midwestenergynews.com/40under40



FULLY FOCUSED ON AN ALL-ELECTRIC ECONOMY

Thanks to strong energy policy and rapidly changing markets for wind and solar, we are getting the carbon pollution out of our electric supply. But even when we achieve an electric sector that's emission-free, other sectors of our economy are woefully behind schedule on our economy-wide goal in state law to cut carbon emissions by at least 30 percent by 2025, and 80 percent by 2050.

Powering the rest of our economy with cost-effective clean electricity is the clearest path to reducing emissions in other sectors and Fresh Energy is aiming squarely at that goal. The path to electrifying our economy starts with the low hanging fruit—improving the way we power our cars, the way we heat our homes, and the way we connect to our grid.

Lower fuel and maintenance costs mean electric cars and buses are already cost effective. First, we're working to transition fleet vehicles and transit buses, which drive the most miles. In parts of the state that still rely on delivered fuels like propane and fuel oil, transitioning to electric water heaters and heat pumps is a no-brainer. Adding this kind of flexible load in turn helps utilities take advantage of low-cost wind that's abundant at night.

But if we're going to add more electric vehicles and electric heat pumps, we have to chart a path toward a modern, flexible grid that can handle large expansions in renewable electricity. Fresh Energy is working to spur grid improvements and rate designs that truly move our economy into the 21st century.

Join Terry and Minnesota Solar Connection in making a Power Circle donation by visiting our website or contacting individual giving director Meggie LaValley at lavalley@fresh-energy.org.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

As an entrepreneur with a commitment to community service and protecting our environment, Terry Troy believes that a clean energy future is necessary. "Supporting Fresh Energy was a natural fit. I give both personally and through my business because our missions are aligned. Fresh Energy has been essential in advocating for the legislation that has made our mission possible: to deliver solar electricity to rental properties."

Terry has always been attracted to tackling "unsolvable problems" and turning them into opportunities. One such problem emerged when Minnesota passed the Community Solar Law in 2013: How would we give clean energy access to renters who've previously been unable to participate?

After working in real estate for over 40 years, Terry saw the potential for apartment landlords—a previously untapped solar market—to become solar garden customers. Terry jumped on this opportunity, and after a year of hard work aligning lenders, investors, lawyers, and Xcel Energy around the idea, he formed Minnesota Solar Connection with Joe Borkowski to build and administer community solar gardens. Now they are breaking ground on two gardens that will serve over 4,000 renters and their landlords.



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FEATURE EVENT | POWER PAIRINGS

ENERGIZING IMPACT:

HOW CAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT
SPUR CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL?



YOU'RE INVITED!

Today's investors want to help people and the planet as they make a profit. Join Fresh Energy and two experts for a conversation about impact investing and a case study on its role in low-income solar.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

7:00 - 8:30 AM

TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB
300 NORTH MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLVD.
SAINT PAUL, MN 55104

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SANDHYA MURALI is putting dollars to work increasing access to community solar as CFO and co-founder of Massachusetts-based Solstice.



SUSAN HAMMEL, CFA, is an impact investment expert currently serving as the executive in residence at the Minnesota Council on Foundations.