

Take Action!


**for clean energy
and climate.**



A checklist for
making change in your life.



Fresh Energy



Fresh Energy is changing the world through bold policy solutions that move us to a just, carbon-free future. We're helping Minnesota and everyone who lives here end dependence on fossil fuel, electrify their lives, and build a healthy, clean energy economy where all can thrive.

www.fresh-energy.org

Fresh Energy's work encompasses...

Clean Electricity: Creating a carbon-free electricity system in the near term with renewable power replacing coal and other polluting fossil fuels.

The Energy Transition: Harnessing modern energy efficiency opportunities and moving carbon-intensive parts of our economy—like transportation and heating—onto clean electricity.

Energy Access and Equity: Ensuring a just and equitable energy transition for marginalized communities.

Education and Mobilization: Building a shared commitment to climate action by catalyzing support for a carbon-neutral economy—from education to action.

The future is now and you can join Fresh Energy to be part of the solution! Connect with Fresh Energy using the checklist below and refer to this booklet for individual actions you can take to fight climate change.



Read and Connect: Keep up with the latest clean energy news and developments in Minnesota by subscribing to our monthly newsletter at fresh-energy.org and staying in touch on social media.



Listen: Subscribe to “Decarbonize: The Clean Energy Podcast” from Fresh Energy on your favorite podcasting app or stream at fresh-energy.org/decarbonize.



Take Action: Visit fresh-energy.org/take-action for the latest opportunities to speak up for clean energy in Minnesota and at the federal level.



Donate: Support Fresh Energy’s work with a donation! Go to fresh-energy.org/waystogive.



Switch to clean power

Clean power generation is the foundation of a carbon-free electricity supply. As the energy transition continues and we electrify everything that we can—like home heating, transportation, and more—it's crucial that the electricity we're using comes from carbon-free and renewable energy sources like wind and solar. There are things you can do where you live, work, and play to speed this switch.

Clean power options



Install solar: Install rooftop or ground-mounted solar arrays at your home or business. In Minnesota, systems generally pay for themselves in eight to 10 years.



Subscribe to solar: Community solar programs allow you to subscribe to a portion of a solar garden and receive credits for that power on your electric bill.



Opt in to a green tariff (aka renewable electricity program): Green tariffs are utility programs that allow customers to choose clean energy instead of the utility's standard fuel mix, usually for a small premium above standard electric service.



Avoid the peak: The heaviest electric use occurs between 3 and 8 p.m. If you avoid these peak times, such as by using your programmable thermostat or the “delay start” function on home appliances, you’ll help prevent use of the dirtiest power sources and demonstrate to your utility that we don’t need more fossil power plants. Many utilities have special “time of use” rates with low off-peak electricity costs, so you can save money too!



Learn more about clean power options and check out resources at fresh-energy.org/making-sense-of-your-clean-energy-options.

Transportation is the largest source of climate pollution in Minnesota, accounting for a staggering 25% of emissions. Moving off oil and gas for our transportation is essential for a carbon-free future. Paired with walkable and rollable communities, electric transportation via buses, bikes, trains, cars, and trucks are the next frontier of travel.

Clean transportation options



Bike and walk more: Minnesotans take about 90 million bicycle and e-bike trips annually on their own bikes and via bikeshare. Whether it's a trip to the grocery store, daycare, work, or just for fun, it all adds up to reducing emissions.



Drive an electric vehicle (EV): Now that Minnesota is a clean cars state, more EV options will be available for sale. As the EV market grows, so too will the number of used EVs. A federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 is still available for many EV makes, but due to high sales by some manufacturers, credits for certain makes are phasing out.



Get on a utility rate for EVs: Many utilities offer a reduced electric price for EV owners who charge at home during the night and on weekends when the grid is least busy.







Try out and opt in to carshare and transit: Some areas of Minnesota—including the Twin Cities and Rochester—have car-sharing programs, and HOURCAR in Minneapolis/Saint Paul has even launched an EV fleet which makes trips around town less carbon-intensive!



Learn more about clean transportation options and check out resources at fresh-energy.org/goelectric.

Electrifying our lives one appliance, vehicle, and tool at a time is a key part of the puzzle as we strive to cut our dependence on fossil fuel and make significant carbon reductions. These individual consumer choices are driving market innovation and sending a signal to our utilities that we demand clean, renewable power.

Home electrification options

-  **Home heating and cooling:** Heat pumps are an efficient, affordable, and all-electric choice for home heating and cooling in cold weather climates like Minnesota. From air-source to ground-source, heat pumps are the MVP of home electrification.
-  **Mow electric:** Cut emissions by going electric with yard care at home and advocating for it around town. Options abound for electric lawn mowers, saws, trimmers, leaf blowers, and even snow blowers.
-  **Switch to electric appliances:** Combusting natural gas inside your home releases nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and more harmful toxins into the air you breathe. As you replace your water heater, dryer, and range, make the switch to electric. There is great new technology—including modern induction stoves—that perform as well or better than their gas counterparts.
-  **Amp up efficiency:** The kilowatt-hour you don't use is always the cleanest and cheapest. Both homeowners and apartment dwellers can make a plan to increase energy efficiency.








Learn more about clean transportation options and check out resources at fresh-energy.org/goelectric.

Advocate for clean energy solutions large and small! It's a way all Minnesotans can join together to catalyze support for our shared clean energy future. From calling your legislators to pushing your town to adopt a Climate Action Plan to telling your neighbor about the benefits of a kitchen without gas—it all adds up!



Stand up, speak up

Ways to speak up

-  **Connect with leaders:** Even the most progressive leaders and decision makers need to hear from you. To avoid the very worst impacts of climate change, we must transition our entire economy to be carbon-neutral by 2050—and that means we need all hands on deck right now.
-  **Go local:** Towns, schools and colleges, churches, businesses, and more have established sustainability groups. Join up and ensure clean energy solutions like the ones mentioned in this booklet are part of the conversation.
-  **Take a leadership role:** The Minnesota Legislature and U.S. Congress aren't the only places where individuals can lead on clean energy. Clean energy and climate issues are being taken up by parks boards to school boards to the boards of your favorite nonprofits and everywhere in between—get involved!
-  **Vote:** Minnesotans must vote with climate in mind in every election—local, state, and national. Casting your vote in smaller-scale venues, like your electric cooperative elections, is also important and can have a ripple effect. Don't miss your chance!
-  **Take action with Fresh Energy:** Fresh Energy works hard to connect Minnesotans with clean energy issues at the Minnesota Legislature and at the federal level, but also at state agencies including the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Stay up to date on the latest opportunities at fresh-energy.org/take-action.

Pass it on: Share this booklet with friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Request more by emailing info@fresh-energy.org.