Five Policy Directions for Minnesota in 2019

As Minnesotans, we’re at our best when we’re solving big problems together. Carbon polluters are damaging our climate, impacting our communities, and affecting the health & prospects of everyday Minnesotans. We know how to fix this. And we can, if we come together to support comprehensive climate solutions at scale. In 2019, we need solutions that move us in five directions.

1) Renewables: We need to accelerate as quickly as possible our transition to equitable, renewable energy for everyone across the state. This includes:

- **100% Clean Energy:** We can shape our own future by creating a pathway to 100% clean energy in our electricity system with scheduled increases in our Renewable Energy Standard.

- **Solar Energy Expansion:** We should pass measures that improve our Solar Rewards & Community Solar Gardens programs and expand solar on schools and public buildings.

2) Efficiency: We need to strengthen our commitment to making all our buildings more efficient while creating equitable pathways to high-paying, sustainable jobs. This includes:

- **Low-Income Efficiency:** We should increase investment in the homes of low-income Minnesotans via the energy conservation programs within our Conservation Improvement Program.

- **1Workforce Investments & Standards:** We need to support public & private workforce development programs, targeted local hiring, enforcing prevailing wage laws, and improving incentives for people of color & women-owned firms in energy-related industries in Minnesota.

3) Electrification: We need to invest in electrification of our vehicles and homes, prioritizing our low-income, rural, and most-impacted communities. This means investing in the following:

- **Electric Vehicles Infrastructure:** The State of Minnesota should invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the state.

- **Electrify Buses & Fleets:** Our state and local governments can lead by buying and using electric vehicles for public transit and public fleets. We should use them in our most impacted places first.

- **Beneficial Electrification:** With the right mix of incentives and supports, we can make our homes and businesses both cleaner and less costly by electrifying our appliances & heating systems.

4) Sequestration: We need to improve our land, water, & air by promoting healthy forestry and land use in urban, suburban, & greater Minnesota. We can reduce carbon pollution while protecting our land.

- **Perennial and Cover Crops:** We should invest in market development for perennial and cover crop programs by increasing the state’s investment in innovative programs at our research institutions.

- **Research Investments:** We should provide major new funding for research into soil & forestry carbon sequestration.
5) **Transition & Adaptation**: We must prioritize the communities most impacted by a changing climate and the transition away from fossil fuels and build new infrastructure to support our transition.

- **Transition Planning**: We should fund new staff at the Department of Employment and Economic Development who are dedicated to supporting communities that are planning for transition.

- **Restore Local Control**: We should repeal state laws restrict local governments from improving their own energy systems.

- **100% Climate Literacy**: We must ensure that all students in Minnesota can access high-quality, science-based education on climate change, and that communities with historic disparities in education and employment are prepared to succeed in a green economy.

To find out more, please visit [www.100percentmn.org](http://www.100percentmn.org) or contact Chris Conry at chris@100percentmn.org.