

Climate Change and Minnesota

What's happening?

Next Generation Energy Act of 2007

This bill was signed into law in 2007 and has the goal of reducing greenhouse gases by:

- 15% by the year 2015
- 30% by the year 2025
- 80% by the year 2050

In February 2008, as required by the law, the Governor submitted a [Climate Change Action Plan](#) to the legislature. The Plan was pulled together by a group of representatives appointed by the Governor and led by the Commissioner of Commerce in consultation with the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Department of Transportation as well as the Metropolitan Council. Become involved! Unless you use your voice as a citizen of Minnesota, XCEL and other energy industry groups will guide policy for you!

What you should know

Legislative Session 2008-2009

In the next session, the Governor and the legislature will make decisions about how Minnesota will meet the goals of the Next Generation Energy Act of 2007. It's important to have your voice heard at this time! This is the time to demand accountability!



Transportation

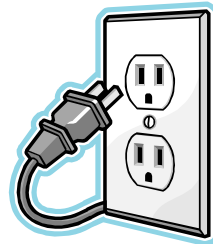
How will the legislature address access to buses and other public transportation

options? How can the state help you have access to lower cost transportation? The price of gasoline was almost 21% higher in May 2008 than in May 2007! The legislature will be developing laws affecting your transportation options, so become involved!



Winter Heating

How much do you pay for heat that escapes your home because it is not well insulated? How much can you reduce your monthly bill if you had a newer, more efficient furnace? State policies can help you weatherize your home and make buying new furnaces affordable. These options need to be voiced to legislators as priorities!



Electricity

Because electricity prices are connected to the prices of oil and coal, your electric bills are also rising. State and local programs can help you with higher efficiency appliances to reduce your energy bills and energy consumption! Some states specifically "carve out" programs to assist low-income families.

Jobs, Employment and Community

With rising energy prices, economic hardships for many families and communities become worse. Policies can make "green" job training, employment and economic development a priority for those families and communities in most need. The legislature and Governor determines priorities about where the state will invest in climate action. Your voice needs to be heard!



Global Warming Working Group.

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota - Women's Environmental Institute
Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy