



Legislative Energy Commission

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Chair, Senate Environment and Energy Committee, Senator John Marty
Chair, House Energy Policy Committee, Representative Patrick Garofalo

Dear Senator Marty and Representative Garofalo:

This letter serves as the annual report of the Legislative Energy Commission (LEC) on progress toward meeting the goals of the framework for Minnesota's energy future, as required by Minnesota Statute 3.8852.

M.S. 3.8852, passed in 2013, requires: "The Legislative Energy Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of commerce and other state agencies, shall develop a framework for the state of Minnesota to transition to a renewable energy economy that ends Minnesota's contribution to greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels within the next few decades." In addition, the duties of the LEC, stipulated in M.S. 3.8851, Subd. 3, require the commission to "evaluate the energy policies of this state and the degree to which they promote an environmentally and economically sustainable energy future," and to monitor progress towards the state's renewable energy standard and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals.

To fulfill these duties, the LEC in 2015:

- Met six times to provide members with foundational information on a range of energy policy topics: the Clean Power Plan, propane conversion strategies, energy storage, fracking, grid modernization, and transportation energy use. In addition, the LEC hosted a conversation with Dr. Harry Lehmann, head of the Environmental Planning and Sustainability Strategies Division at the Federal Environment Agency in Germany.
- Identified opportunities for the legislature to aid Minnesotans dependent on delivered LP heating fuel in a January report (<http://bit.ly/1Em8Fu>), as requested by the 2014 legislature. Three proposals from this report became law in 2015: a propane prepurchase program for energy assistance customers, a method to share natural gas extension costs across a utility's customer base, and the renewal of the Renewable Energy Equipment Grant Program.
- Co-led the 2025 Energy Action Plan project with the Department of Commerce. The project, which continues through 2016, brings together industry representatives to develop near-term energy strategies that will have stakeholder leadership. The LEC collaborated with the Department of Commerce in securing a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to make this project possible.

- Sent delegations to California for a research visit focused on energy technology, and to the ACEEE Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource.
- Issued regular energy updates (approximately weekly) to keep LEC members, other legislators, and staff informed about events in Minnesota, the United States, and around the world.

During the next year, the LEC will continue to provide information and research for members and staff on key energy policy issues.

Sincerely,



Annie Levenson-Falk, Executive Director
Legislative Energy Commission

cc: Legislative Energy Commission members
Greg Hubinger, Executive Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Elizabeth Lincoln, Director, Legislative Reference Library