



Sustainable Growth Coalition Transmission Guiding Principles

The Sustainable Growth Coalition (the Coalition), a business led partnership, works to advance growth and prosperity to keep the region, communities and companies competitive. Our Vision for Minnesota's Clean Energy Future is that Minnesota will be known for:

- Surpassing the State of Minnesota's current economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) targets of 30 percent reduction by 2025 and 80 percent reduction by 2050
- Increasing access to affordable, reliable, clean energy to improve racial, economic, social and public health outcomes
- Fueling economic growth for all Minnesotans

Two focal areas of our Vision in particular relate to these principles:

Focal Area	Rationale	Desired State
Transition to Clean Energy	A transition to lower-carbon and carbon-free fuels allows us to better achieve our goals and addresses the health and social impacts of energy production, storage, transportation, and use.	Minnesota has a low-carbon energy supply that leverages its renewable resources and optimizes distributed energy. Individuals and organizations have many opportunities to equitably participate in the clean-energy market transition.
Optimized Energy Systems	Optimization of the energy system allows for greater innovation and resilience while increasing access to affordable, reliable clean energy.	Minnesota is home to a modern energy system that makes effective and efficient use of our energy resources and infrastructure.

Why are these principles important?

- To accommodate demand for renewables and electrification as demonstrated by Coalition members' voluntary corporate goals (see Appendix)
- To contribute to economic and workforce development by investing in renewable energy and its associated infrastructure including transmission. Through these efforts, the private and public sectors can meet electric sector needs, attract investment to our region, sustain and build our clean energy workforce, keep our region thriving, ensure healthy communities and open up new markets
- To consider plans for infrastructure investments that meet increased renewable energy demand *above and beyond* that which is needed to directly meet state statutes. Utilities are going beyond state renewable goals and mandates in their Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), as well as increasingly offering voluntary clean energy options for their customers such as green tariffs. Furthermore, many voluntary corporate goals go beyond statutes and therefore should be modelled as additional renewable energy demand. These voluntary drivers are not insignificant

additions; because the landscape is shifting rapidly, it is justified that some transmission planning models are beginning to account for these drivers

- To support higher and faster adoption rates of electrification, driven by customer, investor, and employee demand, coupled with renewables to meet GHG reduction goals

What principles are important to the future of transmission?

- **Low-cost:**
 - Maintain low-cost and affordability for consumers, businesses and communities
 - Consider fairness in terms of cost allocation
 - Explore benefits of spreading costs through increased load from cost effective, beneficial electrification
- **Reliability:**
 - Ensure a reliable grid for businesses and communities that meet the region's end use needs
 - Manage variability of renewable energy throughout the grid to maintain reliability
- **Economic Development:**
 - Manage disruption, support economic development and the prosperity of the region associated with a clean energy transition, including equitable outcomes for all
 - Create the workforce needed to aid in the transition to keep our region competitive
 - Keep businesses competitive by helping them meet their voluntary corporate energy and climate goals by working to increase transmission infrastructure, evolve grid management processes and advance grid modernization
- **Environmental:**
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that is supported by science and data. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that urgent measures must be taken in the next decade to reduce climate risks on society. Action must be taken to decrease greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, which threatens our natural resources, health and well-being, as well as business continuity and growth.
 - Energy contributes significantly to the State of Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions and, while the electric sector is exceeding those goals, the State as a whole in other sectors is not on track to meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals
 - pointing to the need to reduce emissions in other sectors, in some cases through beneficial electrification.
- **Equitable and Inclusive Outcomes:**
 - Ensure that the benefits of the system – in terms of emission benefits, economic benefits, public health benefits, job opportunities and energy affordability benefits – are experienced among all community members and do not create



new inequities in terms of costs and benefits. Communities of color, rural communities, Tribal Nations and economically disadvantaged communities too often disproportionately bear the negative consequences of environmental impacts, while having been marginalized or excluded from the decisions that affect their health and wellbeing

- Consider the different conditions and priorities of local communities in developing solutions and identify how their feedback will be gathered and incorporated into decision making