



## Legislative Energy Commission

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### Executive Director Updates

June 30, 2014

#### Propane Alternatives Inquiry

The omnibus energy bill (H.F. 2834) requests the LEC “investigate the feasibility of converting propane gas users to natural gas or other alternative sources of energy.” Staff has begun working with staff from the Department of Commerce and Public Utilities Commission and will convene an informal working group via conference calls. Interested participants: contact Annie Levenson-Falk ([annie.levensonfalk@lec.leg.mn](mailto:annie.levensonfalk@lec.leg.mn), 651-297-7137).

#### National Governors Association Clean Energy and Economic Development Policy Academy

The LEC is a partner on Minnesota’s effort. The State is engaging industry partners in the solar, wind, energy efficiency, bio, and smart grid sectors; conducting a survey and deep industry analysis; and convening a July 17 Clean Energy Economy Summit.

#### Energy Future Framework

A core leadership team has been engaged to help develop the project plan, based on the scoping report (<http://bit.ly/OV86ZE>) delivered by Rocky Mountain Institute in January 2014. Team members include:

- Minnesota Department of Commerce
- Xcel Energy
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Fresh Energy
- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Great Plains Institute
- Cummins Power Generation
- Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

The team is being expanded to include additional perspectives, and team members and LEC staff are engaging others in utilities, agriculture, forest resources, business, nonprofit and many other sectors.

Two funding requests are being pursued:

- A request by the Department of Commerce to the U.S. Department of Energy proposes Commerce work with Rocky Mountain Institute to conduct data baselining and modeling. The LEC would issue an RFP for stakeholder engagement in conjunction. The process would evaluate resource pathways for energy planning toward benchmarks of 2020 and 2025.
- A request to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources would allow the LEC to issue an RFP for a comprehensive analytical study. The study team would work together with stakeholders from all energy sectors to develop short-term “no regrets” strategies and longer term pathways and policy options to transition Minnesota to 80% or 100% clean energy by 2030 or 2050, while maximizing affordability, reliability, environmental protection, and other criteria.

#### Upcoming LEC meetings

Date	Description	Time	Topic	Location
Mon., July 28	LEC meeting and site visits	Tour times TBD. Meeting 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Propane supply and alternatives. Tour hosted by RREAL to view solar thermal and ground-source heating in multiple applications, followed by LEC meeting.	Brainerd and Pine River area. Exact locations TBD
Thurs., Aug. 14	LEC meeting	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Utility business model	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul
Thurs., Sept. 25	LEC meeting	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Biogas	Room 5 State Office Building, St. Paul
Thurs., Nov. 13	LEC meeting and site visits	All day. Exact times TBD.	Tour: Biogas Meeting: Alternative fuel vehicles	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul
Wed., Dec. 10	LEC meeting	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Propane supply and alternatives	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul