



Center for Energy and Environment

January 11, 2018

Dear Councilmember:

On behalf of the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), I urge your support for the Sustainable Building Policy Ordinance. By establishing this policy in ordinance, you will marry Saint Paul's values of common sense energy conservation with Saint Paul's economic vision of revitalizing the city through economic development.

CEE employs 130 people in the energy efficiency field in Saint Paul and Minneapolis. We work with our partners – local governments, utilities, contractors and building owners – to create pragmatic programs and offerings that make our buildings more energy efficient and keep more of our local dollars in our community. According to a recent study, clean energy jobs are growing 3.8 times faster than the rest of Minnesota's economy and 86% of those jobs are in energy efficiency.¹ While fuel consumption supports jobs in states with fossil fuel resources, energy efficiency jobs are inherently local – they cannot be exported. Policies such as the Sustainable Building Policy Ordinance help grow these jobs directly and indirectly. They spur that growth through increased energy efficiency investments that then spillover into architecture and building practices developers use in other projects. They also create economic savings through lower utility bills which cycle back into Saint Paul's economy.

While other policy levers might be more appropriate at the state or national level, development standards such as this one are best set locally. Creating a standard that reflects Saint Paul's energy conservation values to a level of significant investment in an economic development project makes common sense. Better yet, Saint Paul has eight years of experience with this policy and almost 50 projects that have met its standard. This policy is ready for implementation and Saint Paul has set itself out in front of other cities that are just exploring this concept now.

While we did not participate in the creation of this policy, we know critical partners that did, such as the University of Minnesota's Center for Sustainable Building Research. Their particular expertise in new building sustainable design standards along with Saint Paul staff leadership has helped to strike the right balance between an ambitious standard and a pragmatic standard that will improve the quality and durability of Saint Paul's building stock.

We applaud Saint Paul for aligning its values of local economic growth and environmental benefit with its local investment decisions. We urge your support of this policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Duffrin', written in a cursive style.

Chris Duffrin
President

¹ <https://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/state/minnesota>