



Results from the 2019 Legislative Session

House and Senate bills were miles apart in spending authorizations, requiring several days of negotiations by Sen. Gazelka (Majority Leader, Senate), Melissa Hortman (Speaker of the House), and Gov. Walz (backed by his commissioners).

Even after determining final overall levels in each budget area, the conference committees ended up sending many things back to the leadership group for decision-making. Many committee meetings & leadership meetings happened in the middle of the night AFTER session was officially over, and a **special session to pass the final agreements occurred over Memorial Day Weekend!**

Housing & Homelessness

Thanks to advocates across the state, **legislators heard more about investment needs in housing and homelessness concerns than any other single issue** this session. **You helped that happen** with calls and emails to your legislators. **Your advocacy** at town hall meetings, and in other venues, **helped swing more attention to the need for that investment.**

What did we help achieve?

- **\$15 million** for MN Housing Finance Agency programs to **produce more homes for workers, match local community resources, assist families in attaining homeownership, and prevent homelessness** (\$5m of this one time funding)
- **\$3 million** for the Department of Human Services to **provide emergency shelter, supportive homeless services for individuals and families**
- **\$60 million** in Housing Infrastructure Bonds for preservation of federally subsidized rental housing, construction of permanent supportive housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness,

Clean Energy

Legislators have heard a lot about clean energy over the last 2-3 years. (We worked with and through three coalitions on clean energy). **Your calls and emails** to your legislators, and **legislative visits helped swing more attention** to the need for clean energy. The **participation** of many of you in **the Faith and Clean Energy Campaign** from October 2017 and fall of 2018 **helped to build important momentum.**

What did we help achieve legislatively?

- Passage by House & Senate of some **small funding amounts and policy that allow for solar in schools, electric vehicle charging infrastructure**, and a couple of other things.

What did we help achieve structurally that will help us in the future?

- The House of Representatives took energy related issues out of a massive committee that covered housing, jobs, energy and more. They **formed a new Energy & Climate Finance & Policy Division** (committee).
- House Energy Chair Jean Wagenius planned and held **numerous hearings**

and for Community Land Trust acquisitions for single family home ownership. That shows how much legislators heard from their districts about housing!]

Total new money: \$78 million

(Want the **nitty-gritty details** for each program? Click [here](#))

****The Homes for All Coalition can report that we achieved more for affordable housing this legislative session than any other issue or agency.**

What didn't we achieve?

Despite a number of champions (Republican Democrat, from House & Senate), affordable housing and homeless services was not prioritize by legislative leadership, particularly in the Senate. So, although this was a HUGE WIN, it was still LESS THAN NEEDED and less than the investment our coalition had highlighted. ([Homes for All "ask" vs. legislative result](#)). The Health & Human Services bill was the biggest disappointment!

What can you do?

Write a quick note to your legislators (MN representatives & senators in St. Paul)! Include...

- 1) **Why you care** about affordable housing & homelessness issues and/or what your church is doing to address issues,
- 2) **Thank legislators** for the attention to affordable housing and homelessness this session,
- 3) Remind them that **much more must still be done** (we're losing more housing to investors remodeling & making it luxury housing than we are able to replace each year & we were already short on housing that's affordable),
- 4) Urge them to **push their leaders to prioritize affordable housing and related services** in the next session. Tell them the full [Homes for All request](#) is needed to start to catch up after decades of getting behind,
- 5) Remember to put **your name and address** on both the envelope and at the end of your note (if mailing a card) and say

about the causes and impacts of the changing climate; the technology for solar, wind, batteries and grid enhancement;

- **Legislation for 100% clean electricity by 2050 was introduced** in both the House and Senate, with benchmarks for progress along the way, and lots of detail about the process.
- **Governor Walz proposed broad legislation**, with input from various sectors across the state including business and labor for 100% clean electricity by 2050, transition help for communities impacted by coal power plant closures, and more. It was subsequently introduced in the House of Representatives. (This legislation had goals that were less specific and prescriptive than the other House bill. Both bills had provisions for "Clean Energy First," Energy Optimization).
- With some changes, **the Walz bill was passed off the House Floor!**

What didn't we achieve?

- The **Senate Energy & Utilities Committee never gave a hearing on the clean energy bills**. Some members of the senate committee blocked movement on clean energy or clean electricity. (They were getting lots of pressure from fossil fuel interests with lots of money).
- **No bill for transfer to more clean electricity or energy was passed** (not the 100% bills, not Renewable Energy Standard changes from previous year legislation, or other bills that have had broad support in the past).

What can you do now?

- 1) Write a **quick note of thanks** to Governor Walz, House Speaker Melissa Hortman, Senator David Senjem, Rep. Jean Wagenius, Rep. Zack Stephenson, and Rep. Jamie Long for their **impressive leadership**. Sen. Karin Housley can also be thanked for standing firm on her co-sponsorship of the senate 100% bill, despite lots of pressure from some in her caucus and special interests to pull her name off the list.

<p>something in the first paragraph that mentions where you are from or that you are a constituent.</p>	<p>2) Continue to use the Clean Energy Talking Points from our website to continue to write, email, call, visit, and generally influence your legislators in the ways they can hear best.</p>
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