

Minnesota Needs a Plan for Power Plant Communities & Workers



Minnesota's power plant host communities have powered our state for decades.

As Minnesota shifts toward newer, cleaner energy technology, the benefits of this transition will spread across the entire state but a specific set of communities and workers will be deeply impacted.

The Facts:

- All of Minnesota's largest investor-owned power plants are already scheduled for early retirement or will be considered for retirement within the next 20 years
- Power Plants are often a community's largest employer and property tax contributor, sometimes contributing as much as 70% of the local community's tax base
- Minnesota's five largest power plants employ nearly 1,100 permanent unionized workers
- 770 additional workers are employed each year for short-term maintenance work

These communities and workers will bear the brunt of a transition that they can't overcome on their own. To get it right, Minnesota needs a thoughtful, coordinated approach.

The Proposal:

Minnesota needs a plan and the infrastructure to implement it.

Our bill, SF 1566/HF 1750, would order the creation of Minnesota Energy Transition Legacy Plan and create the Minnesota Energy Transition Legacy Office to carry out its vision.

The Details:

Creating a Comprehensive Transition Plan

- The bill orders the creation of Minnesota's first-ever comprehensive transition plan to address the impacts of plant retirements on host communities and workers.
- The plan will include a full-scale review of the projected impacts of plant retirements as well as an evaluation of existing state programs and their sufficiency in responding to plant retirement impacts
- The plan will also provide recommendations for new or modified tools to support impacted local governments and workers



Carrying Out a Successful, Responsible Transition

- The creation of a state office to administer and oversee implementation of the transition plan over time
- Modeled after a similar concept created by the State of Colorado
- Housed under the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, with cross-agency coordination built in

Promoting Cross-Agency Collaboration and Stakeholder Responsiveness

- Oversight, input, and collaboration will be supported by an advisory committee of key stakeholders, including:
 - Representatives of impacted local governments, workers, utilities and advocacy organizations
 - Ex-officio members representing key state agencies

