

# Energy Efficiency = Better Buildings

Minnesotans from all walks of life see the benefits of energy efficiency every day. Energy efficient buildings keep us cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. They save us money on our power bills, while reducing the amount of pollution we create by limiting our electricity waste.

Today, Minnesota has the opportunity to capture the full benefits of energy efficiency by improving our state's standards for new commercial buildings.



## Setting the Right Standard

A new piece of proposed legislation will bring Minnesota's commercial building standards into the 21st century and ensure Minnesotans continue see the benefits of energy-efficient buildings. The proposed law would adopt new efficiency codes for commercial buildings every three years, instead of six years as the law stands today. **These updates will NOT impact single-family homes.**

Under the law, all newly-constructed commercial buildings will achieve net-zero energy use by 2036.



## Why do our communities want better building standards?

Making buildings more energy efficient creates local jobs, saves money on energy bills, and reduces pollution resulting in cleaner air and healthier citizens. Communities across Minnesota are realizing the potential for energy efficiency to improve their quality of life and are calling for better building standards to make this a reality.

Contact Ben Rabe at [rabe@fresh-energy.org](mailto:rabe@fresh-energy.org) for more information on the benefits Minnesota will see from leading on energy efficiency standards.



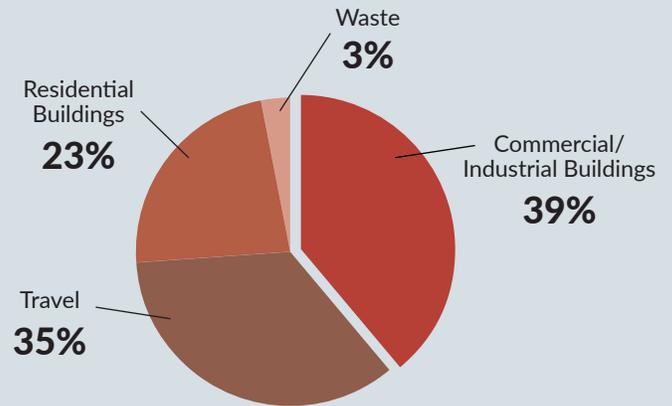
## Meeting Our Goals

Minnesota is not meeting our greenhouse gas reduction goals. Our state's emissions have only dropped 8% from 2005 levels – missing our goal of 15% reduction by 2015 and setting us up for failure to meet a 30% reduction by 2030.

Commercial and industrial buildings account for 39% of greenhouse gas emissions from Minnesota's cities. Making these buildings more efficient will play a key role in meeting our goals.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Breakdown for Minnesota Cities

Source: Regional Indicators Initiative Average



## Listening to Minnesotans

The proposed updates to Minnesota's efficiency standards reflect an extensive stakeholder engagement process conducted by the state. Polling also shows Minnesotans support these measures.

- 81%** favored requiring all new or gut-renovated multi-unit buildings to be more energy efficient.
- 79%** favored a new statewide standard to ensure buildings are more energy efficient.
- 65%** favored requiring all new commercial buildings to achieve net-zero energy use.

Source: ALG Research, July 2020

## The Benefits of Better Buildings



### Lower Energy Bills

Improved efficiency standards will reduce energy bills for businesses, families and individuals that rent space in large buildings across the state.



### Climate Leadership

Adopting new building standards will make Minnesota a national leader in modernizing new construction practices that significantly reduce our climate impact.



### Cleaner Air & Water

Energy efficient buildings will create clearer air and water for Minnesota by reducing pollution caused by energy waste.



### New, Local Jobs

Implementing better energy efficiency standards will create 2,500 new construction jobs every year that cannot be outsourced.