

Executive summary

Title: Climate change in response to COVID-19: Energy Efficiency Day/Home Energy Squad Challenge proclamation

Recommended action: **Due to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, this item is considered essential business and is categorized as Time-Sensitive**

- Mayor is asked to read the proclamation declaring Wednesday, October 7, 2020 as *Energy Efficiency Day*.

Policy consideration: Is the council supportive of a proclamation declaring October 7, 2020 as *Energy Efficiency Day* in St. Louis Park?

Summary: *Energy Efficiency Day* is an annual nationwide event recognizing the many benefits of energy efficiency—one of the cheapest, quickest and cleanest ways to meet our energy needs, create jobs and lower utility bills. Since the inaugural *Energy Efficiency Day* in 2016, the event has been supported by hundreds of organizations, companies, and government agencies.

Energy Efficiency Day falls on October 7, 2020. It is proposed that the city council approve a proclamation supporting participation in this initiative to demonstrate St. Louis Park's commitment to reducing greenhouse gases, lowering the household energy burden and meeting Climate Action Plan goals.

The City of St. Louis Park is currently participating in the 2020 Intercity Home Energy Squad Challenge. The purpose of the Challenge is to increase the number of Home Energy Squad (HES) visits across the region. In an HES visit, residents learn how their home uses energy and about potential energy-saving opportunities. At the end of 2020, the city with the highest number of HES visits per capita wins the challenge. St. Louis Park can use *Energy Efficiency Day* to further promote the HES program to residents and call on neighboring cities to increase their engagement in this friendly competition in the name of energy efficiency.

A proclamation declaring Oct. 7, 2020 as *Energy Efficiency Day* in St. Louis Park and highlighting the Challenge was discussed at the Sept. 14 city council study session; that proclamation is attached.

Financial or budget considerations: None

Strategic priority consideration: St. Louis Park is committed to continue to lead in environmental stewardship.

Supporting documents: Proclamation

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Reviewed by: Brian Hoffman, director of building and energy

Approved by: Tom Harmening, city manager



Proclamation

Energy Efficiency Day October 7, 2020

Whereas, global climate change is one of the most urgent and challenging problems we will face in the twenty-first century; and

Whereas, energy efficiency reduces the amount of electricity we need to power our lives, which helps avoid power plant emissions that can harm our health, pollute our air and warm our climate; and

Whereas, energy efficiency continues to be one of the cheapest, quickest and cleanest ways to meet our energy needs, create jobs and reduce utility bills for residential, business and industrial customers; and

Whereas, energy efficiency can also make our homes and workspaces healthier, safer and more comfortable; and

Whereas, less energy-efficient housing and appliances and limited access to energy efficiency programs contributes to high energy burdens, in which families devote a high proportion of their income to utility bills and make difficult trade-offs between heating and cooling and other necessities; and

Whereas, some Minnesotans spend 20-30% of their income on energy; and Black, Indigenous, People of Color and renters historically experience higher energy burdens than white property owners; and

Whereas, St. Louis Park is committed to being a leader in racial equity and inclusion in order to create a more just and inclusive community for all; and

Whereas, St. Louis Park is committed to a bold Climate Action Plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, significantly reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, Goal 4 of the St. Louis Park Climate Action Plan calls for reducing energy consumption in residential buildings by 35% by 2030; and

Whereas, to help meet this goal St. Louis Park is competing in the metro area-wide Intercity Home Energy Squad Challenge to promote Home Energy Squad visits and encourage residents to take action to improve home energy efficiency; and

Whereas, a nationwide network of energy efficiency groups and partners has designated the first Wednesday in October as the fifth national annual Energy Efficiency Day; and

Whereas, St. Louis Park can help residents continue to contribute to our Climate Action Plan efforts and reduce household energy burden by promoting accessible energy efficiency programs such as Home Energy Squad;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Louis Park do hereby proclaim Oct. 7, 2020 to be Energy Efficiency Day in St. Louis Park. We urge our community members to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses whenever possible, and we challenge neighboring communities to set high participation goals in energy assistance, weatherization and efficiency programs including the Intercity Home Energy Squad Challenge.

Wherefore, I set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the City of St. Louis Park to be affixed this day of Sept. 21, 2020.

DocuSigned by:



Jake Spano, Mayor