



**DOWNTOWN  
MINNEAPOLIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

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February 11, 2019

Andrew Liska, City Planner  
City of Minneapolis CPED  
250 South 4th Street, Room 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

RE: Cooperative Energy Futures – Conditional Use Permit for the Ramp A Solar Garden (101 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street)

Dear Andrew:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association regarding the Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Cooperative Energy Futures to install a Community Solar Garden on Ramp A. Bruce Konewko from CEF presented the application to the DMNA Land Use Committee on February 5, 2019.

Konewko explained that the Community Solar Garden is a joint project with MNDOT and the City of Minneapolis. MNDOT owns Ramp A and the City of Minneapolis operates it. The proposed Community Solar Garden will cover approximately half of the rooftop. DenHerder-Thomas explained that Xcel Energy will use the solar energy from the project to credit the utility bills of participating residents who choose to sign up as subscribers. Cooperative Energy Futures has been working with community-organizations to recruit Minneapolis residents as subscribers, and subscriptions are currently 60% full. The solar garden will generate enough clean energy to offset the full energy use of around 170 Minneapolis households.

Konewko further explained that the proposed design of the solar garden will create a structural canopy approximately 4 feet higher than the existing perimeter wall of Ramp A, and approximately 13 feet above the top deck of the parking garage. The project has secured its electrical permit and Interconnection Agreement, and CEF plans to apply for a building permit after the City approves the Conditional Use Permit. CEF intends to start construction in March of this year with the plan to be finished by late summer. The top deck of Ramp A will not be available during construction, but the other 6 levels of Ramp A will remain open.

After some questions and discussion, the Land Use Committee recommended approval of Cooperative Energy Futures Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction of a Community Solar Garden on the rooftop of Ramp A. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at [christie@thedmna.org](mailto:christie@thedmna.org) or by phone at 320-583-4573.

Sincerely,

Christie Rock Hantge  
DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator

CC: Council Member Steve Fletcher  
Joe Tamburino, DMNA Board Chair  
Kevin Frazell, DMNA Land Use Committee Chair  
Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, Cooperative Energy Futures  
Bruce Konewko, Cooperative Energy Futures