

**E** Environment Committee  
Meeting date: July 22, 2008

**M** Management Committee  
Meeting Date: July 23, 2008

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of August 13, 2008

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	July 11, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	Amendment to the 2008 Annual Budget
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	MS 473.1565
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Jason Willett, 651-602-1196
<b>Division/Department:</b>	MCES c/o William G. Moore, 651-602-1162

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council approve increased 2008 expenses of \$500,000 for an “Algae to Biofuel” research program in collaboration with the University of Minnesota.

**Background**

Previously this work was granted \$150,000 by Xcel Energy and with seed money of \$40,000 each from MCES and University of Minnesota/Renewable Energy and Environment (IREE).

**Rationale**

The algae to biofuel research program is part of the Council’s energy research collaboration with the University of Minnesota’s Institute on Renewable Energy and Environment (IREE). It is hoped that economic methods developed from this research will: 1) produce a clean renewable fuel from local resources 2) reduce the cost of water pollution mitigation through the absorption of phosphorus and nitrogen out of the wastewater, and 3) reduce air pollution by absorption of carbon dioxide from flue gas or ambient air around our treatment plants.

**Funding**

The increased expenses will be funded by an appropriation of \$500,000 made by the 2008 Legislature.

**Known Support / Opposition**

The University of Minnesota and the State Department of Commerce/Office of Energy Security have been supportive. No known opposition exists.