

Interim 2019-2021 Work Plan Progress Report – Q2 2020
Clean Energy Partnership Q2 Board Meeting - Cancelled
May 15, 2020

2019-2021 Partnership Activity	2020 Q2 Progress Description
<p>EE.1 REDUCE NATURAL GAS USE FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS</p>	<p>EE.1 aims to double residential participation in building envelop and high-efficiency equipment programs across the City. In order to achieve this goal, the Partners will use data-driven strategies to identify and engage customers with high energy savings potential with a specific focus on the City’s Green Zones. In 2019, CenterPoint Energy contracted with ILLUME, an energy data consulting firm, to develop a process to map and profile energy savings potential and customer characteristics across geographic areas. In Q4 2019, CenterPoint Energy presented a prototype of the Minnesota Community Profile Dashboard to EVAC for feedback on the software interface and functionality. In Q1 2020, CenterPoint Energy returned to EVAC with an updated version of the data mapping tool, complete with Minneapolis data, and solicited feedback on potential uses to help inform community engagement strategies. Through Q2 2020, CenterPoint Energy and ILLUME are continuing to make refinements to the Dashboard and developing a framework to identify customers suited for targeted marketing based on metrics for their corresponding Census tracts. The project team expects to have Minneapolis focused analysis ready in July. Given the current situation with COVID-19, CenterPoint Energy is considering how to conduct future discussions with stakeholders about energy efficiency marketing in a safe and sensitive way.</p>

2019-2021 Partnership Activity	2020 Q2 Progress Description
<p>EE.2 REDUCE ENERGY USE FOR HIGH ENERGY SAVING POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS</p>	<p>Xcel Energy continues to work on completing the contracting to its software vendor to help address the City’s bottom 25% performing benchmarked buildings for this pilot project. In the interim, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint are finalizing their reviews of the City’s list to discuss these customers’ previous program participation and best path forward. The Utilities’ large customer account managers have engaged in an initial meeting and will meet again once all benchmarking data is received and internal utility reviews are complete to determine an engagement plan. Xcel Energy, CenterPoint Energy, and City staff will then meet to discuss a comprehensive electric and gas approach to this large customer segment.</p> <p>CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy are currently in the process of evaluating whether a joint-utility audit program would be of value to their respective customers and how that offering might be structured. As part of this effort, CenterPoint Energy contracted with a third-party vendor to evaluate the Company’s existing audit offering against the landscape of various other energy audit services available to its customers. CenterPoint Energy will disclose and consider findings of the program evaluation as part of its 2021-2023 CIP Triennial Filing.</p>

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<p>EE.3 PURSUE ENERGY EFFICIENCY “PERFORMANCE PATH” AT CITY FACILITIES</p>	<p>Xcel Energy developed a pilot program to test with the City of Minneapolis in their facilities. This program is designed to incentivize higher levels of customer engagement in energy efficiency with higher levels of utility engagement through assessments/studies and rebates. Xcel Energy has been working with the City’s Energy Manager to help achieve a pilot goal of 10% electricity use reduction in City facilities.</p> <p>This pilot program found minimal new opportunities beyond previous work the Partners have done together, which has included building needs assessments, lighting upgrades, HVAC system upgrades, and street lighting LED conversion. As part of this pilot, additional building needs assessments were completed and an opportunity for Building Operator Certification training for City employees is currently being explored for 2020.</p> <p>CenterPoint Energy conducted site visits to evaluate over 70 gas meters at City facilities for possible upgrades for automated daily meter reads. City Facilities staff reviewed the information on meter upgrade potential and costs and has decided to proceed with upgrades to two-thirds of the evaluated meters at the City’s expense.</p>
<p>EE.4 FIELD TEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY</p>	<p>In Q1 2020, the City of Minneapolis and CleanO2 Carbon Capture Technologies finalized a contract to host a CARBiNX unit (carbon capture technology) at the City of Minneapolis water treatment facility in Columbia Heights.</p> <p>In Q4 2019, the first CARBiNX unit was delivered to the Radisson Blu at the Mall of America. Due to COVID-19, CenterPoint Energy cancelled an informational event for municipal code officials. Rescheduling the event is pending safer conditions and capacity by program partners.</p>

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<p>EE.5 SUPPORT RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISCLOSURE POLICIES BY MAKING DATA ACCESSIBLE WITH TOOLS</p>	<p>At the Q1 Board meeting, the Partners agreed on a path forward for utilities to create or modify tools enabling landlord’s reasonably easy compliance with the City’s residential rental disclosure policy. CenterPoint Energy will leverage their existing building benchmarking tool and is in the process of finalizing a scope of work with its vendor, Accelerated Innovations. Xcel Energy is working with the same vendor CenterPoint Energy has used to rebuild and/or enhance its existing building benchmarking tool to allow owners of 5+ unit rental buildings the ability to comply with the City’s ordinance with an planned completion date of 2020 or early 2021.</p> <p>To address data privacy implications for 1-4 unit buildings, the Partners are engaged in the Minnesota Public Utility Commission proceedings under DOCKET NO. E,G999/M-19-505. Both software solutions to be implemented by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy will have the technical ability to provide disclosure for 1-4 unit buildings if future data policies and standards allow.</p>
<p>RE.1 INSTALL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CITY FLEET</p>	<p>Xcel Energy and the City are finalizing the Customer User Agreement. The City is currently performing an assessment of design elements. Once the assessment is received Xcel Energy will work with their designers to lay out a formal plan for review and implementation.</p>

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<p>RE.2 ACHIEVE 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY FOR CITY ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY PATHWAY</p>	<p>The City met with Xcel Energy on April 30 and provided a high-level review of the concepts presented by the 11 submittals (including one from Xcel Energy) to the City’s Request for Information (RFI) for the City enterprise’s ongoing planning for achieving 100% renewable electricity and for a community-wide pathway. The City expressed interest in working with Xcel Energy on multiple concepts and a meeting will be convened in late May for feedback from Xcel Energy on these concepts, with additional detailed work occurring this summer.</p> <p>The City intends to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the near-future to maximize solar installations on City buildings and property in the near term. The City also intends to release a second RFP for additional concept(s) and would prefer to partner with Xcel Energy on this procurement on new resources. The exact pathway for the second RFP will be determined based upon the degree of progress achieved by the City and Xcel Energy prior to the Q3 Board meeting.</p>
<p>RE.3 PROVIDE SOLAR GARDEN AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>A lease agreement has recently been signed for the Low-Income Community Solar Garden site on City property in northeast Minneapolis, as determined by the RDF Grant recipient and City of Minneapolis. An adjusted Grantee contract with Xcel Energy needs to be signed now that the array specs are finalized. Grantee and City have indicated they would like to pursue an extension of the original grant offering due to construction and other project delays. Once Xcel Energy receives the amended contract, they will review and file with the PUC for final approval. The amended contract will be filed within 60 days of receipt. Subscribers may be identified through the City’s 4D program and energy efficiency roll-out plan.</p>

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<p>WD.1 IMPROVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY JOBS</p>	<p>Since the Q1 2020 update, the workforce situation in clean energy jobs, like all parts of the economy, has been altered due to the pandemic. The Partners will continue the previous productive conversations once the economic and jobs outlook stabilizes and is clearer.</p> <p>On May 1st, CenterPoint Energy filed its 2019 Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) Status Report which provides information about the diversity of its CIP vendors. In 2019, CenterPoint Energy’s Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) CIP vendor spend was \$1,725,763 or 14% of the total CIP Vendor Spend, an increase from 10% in 2017. The Company notes that \$5,886,116 or 47% of its vendor spend goes to non-profit entities; nonprofit entities cannot qualify as MWBEs under the definition CenterPoint Energy uses. If non-profit entities are excluded from the calculation, 26% of the Company’s remaining vendor spend went to MWBEs.</p>
<p>IF.1 IMPROVE ACCESS TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY BY PROVIDING INCLUSIVE FINANCING</p>	<p>The City held three working group meetings to draft the inclusive financing tariff proposal based on findings from the Cadmus study on <i>Tariffed On-Bill Financing Feasibility</i> and consistent with this work plan activity. By June 15th the City plans to file with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to request intervention status in CenterPoint Energy’s rate case and will file the inclusive financing proposal based on the Pay As You Save (PAYS) model following approval of the intervenor request. The City Attorney’s office is leading the PUC process, and the City’s Sustainability Division retained Clean Energy Works to provide technical assistance in the development of the tariff and support for the PUC process.</p> <p>A PUC Planning Meeting to hear the findings of the Tariffed On Bill Financing Feasibility Study is scheduled for May 15th.</p>