

Interim 2019-2021 Work Plan Progress Report – Q1 2022
Clean Energy Partnership Q1 Board Meeting
April 26, 2022

Progress to Date (April 2022)

EE.1 REDUCE NATURAL GAS USE FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

This activity has been closed out. See previous updates for more information.

EE.2 REDUCE ENERGY USE FOR HIGH ENERGY SAVING POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

This activity has been closed out. See previous updates for more information.

EE.3 PURSUE ENERGY EFFICIENCY “PERFORMANCE PATH” AT CITY FACILITIES

This activity has been closed out. See previous updates for more information.

EE.4 FIELD TEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY

EE.4 aims to pilot energy efficiency and carbon capture technology, called CARBiNX at commercial facilities in Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs.

In 2020, the CARBiNX pilot experienced delays due to permitting challenges and COVID-19. While permitting the CARBiNX unit is permissible under current law, permitting is at the discretion of building code officials who are not familiar with the technology and have to prioritize more standard projects. Therefore, CenterPoint Energy and the makers of CARBiNX, CleanO₂ Technology, have had to invest more time and resources than expected into municipal code official engagement. A virtual meeting was held in late June 2020, to provide a demonstration of the technology and determine permitting criteria and procedures with code officials. The pilot also experienced several months of delays as code officials and project partners focused on other work related to adjusting to COVID-19.

In April 2021, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry approved the permitting to install the first CARBiNX unit in Minnesota. The project team is coordinating logistics to install the unit in the coming weeks.

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EE.5 SUPPORT RESIDENTIAL ENERGY DISCLOSURE POLICIES BY MAKING DATA ACCESSIBLE WITH TOOLS

EE.5 proposes new and enhanced utility data access tools to support implementation of the City's energy disclosure policies.

5+ unit Properties

The webtools for each utility were completed and functional by September 1, 2021, which represented the beginning of City outreach to rental license holders and property owners. Property owners began receiving notifications from the City on the ordinance's effective date of September 1, 2021 encouraging them to begin creating energy costs reports and guiding them to the tools and help resources developed by the Partners. Subsequent rounds of notifications were sent by the City, after which the City launched a renter awareness campaign in November 2021. Awareness campaigns and continued outreach continue into 2022 for both property owners and renters.

1-4 Unit Properties

On October 29th, the Utilities filed a Petition with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval of a process to release whole building data to facilitate local residential rental ordinance compliance, Docket Number G008/M-21-761. The petition also included a letter of support from the City. The Commission met on March 10 and heard testimony by the Utilities and the City in support of the confidence interval data methodology that they proposed. The Commission issued its Order April 13 [approving the petition with the addition of modifications](#) supported by the Utilities and the City.

The Utilities and the City will reconvene regular implementation meetings in May with the intent of launching 1-4 unit property data access and required compliance in the second half of 2022.

RE.1 INSTALL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CITY FLEET

RE.1 spurs the transition to an electric vehicle fleet for the City of Minneapolis.

Charging installations are nearly complete at the City's Aldrich facility and Currie Maintenance facility. Chargers will be fully installed and energized this spring, adding eight level 2 chargers and one DC fast charger to the city's fleet electric vehicle charging infrastructure. An additional six level 2 chargers will be installed at the City's Aldrich facility this fall. Xcel Energy and the City continue to work on the technical details for charging infrastructure at the Federal Court Ramp.

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RE.2 ACHIEVE 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY FOR CITY ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY PATHWAY

RE. 2 creates a pathway to the City's 100% renewable electricity goal.

The City has been working with US Solar under an exclusive agreement for a REC contract at a proposed fixed price of \$0.003/kWh, after US Solar was [selected](#) as the highest-scored proposal amongst eight received in 2021 for 80 million annual kWh from renewable resources located outside the City limits. US Solar's proposal is to build 8 to 20 solar arrays that vary between 5-10 MW each within adjacent counties to the 7 county-metro area and sell the generated electricity directly to Xcel Energy. The renewable energy generated from these US Solar arrays will allow the City of Minneapolis to claim that approximately 90% of our Municipal operations are powered by renewable electricity. The City anticipates needing to partner with Xcel Energy to bring to fruition this concept and has begun engagement with Xcel Energy.

RE.3 PROVIDE SOLAR GARDEN AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

RE.3 aims to establish a low-income community solar garden.

In July of 2021, Xcel Energy received approval from the Commission for the adjusted Renewable Development Fund (RDF) grant contract from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) that alters the timeline per the request of the grantee and establish the final grant amount. Xcel Energy has submitted the compliance filing with the grantee that provides additional solar garden detail. Subscribers and participants in the energy efficiency roll-out plan may be identified through the City's 4D program. Xcel Energy will work with the City on the income qualified energy efficiency engagement at the appropriate build stage of the community solar garden. The entire solar industry is facing significant supply chain challenges, but Xcel Energy is still working to move this project forward as soon as possible.

WD.1 IMPROVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

WD.1 aims to build the Partner's collective understanding of the obstacles and opportunities of achieving a diverse clean energy workforce.

Xcel Energy has submitted a proposal to the PUC for a \$4 million workforce development program aimed at helping Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and women find training and energy related careers. Xcel Energy met with local organizations and the unions – as well as the City -

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that offer such programs to determine what should be included in our RFP and program structure.

Additionally, Xcel Energy filed and received approval of a CIP modification to work with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) on a \$5.7M proposed energy efficiency workforce training program that is focused on engaging participants in areas of concentrated poverty, providing training in energy efficiency skills such as energy audits, insulation installation, assisting participants with job placement, or establishing their own business. The program also includes a scholarship fund to assist income qualified students at two- and four-year institutions pursuing careers in energy efficiency. Xcel Energy is also partnering with workforce development experts, community leaders and companies from the region that would eventually hire the CIP-WDE participants.

The first cohort of the program kicked off on March 28, 2022 with 92% of the training participants from income-eligible households and 100% identifying as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian or a person of color. The Workforce Training Manager has been instructing and engaging participants daily in building science and sharing more about his career journey in energy auditing. Community leaders spoke with participants about their experiences getting into solar and clean energy careers, the energy efficiency industry in Minnesota, and the many career paths they can take in addition to energy auditing and insulation, including solar installation.

Xcel Energy and City have worked together on employment communications and outreach, including newsletters and job fairs.

In January 2022, CenterPoint Energy issued a notification to fund \$2.5 million in Workforce Development programs and projects in 2022-2023. The Company received and evaluated project proposals throughout Q1. The Company is in the process of contracting with selected project implementers and will publicly identify the funding recipients and projects in the coming weeks. The projects focus investments on developing an educated workforce of trades people, building operators, engineers, and others involved in completing infrastructure and residential projects, with a focus on energy efficiency, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The City's ongoing Green Career Exploratory Program was recently highlighted in [Midwest Energy News](#) and other media outlets for its successes since inception in 2020.

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IF.1 IMPROVE ACCESS TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY BY PROVIDING INCLUSIVE FINANCING

IF.1 proposes an Inclusive Financing pilot.

On September 1, CenterPoint Energy and the City of Minneapolis submitted a Petition to Introduce a Tariffed On Bill Pilot Program to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), [Docket No. G-008/M-21-377](#). Initial comments were received from stakeholders in February 2022. Minneapolis and the Company received two extensions to submit reply comments which are now due May 13th. EVAC and Board members will meet in May to discuss the status of the TOB filing at EVAC's request.