



Clean Energy Partnership Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) Q1 2023 Meeting Partner Updates

Legislative Update on 100% Clean Energy by 2040:

Minnesota's new clean energy standards, signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on February 7, call for energy companies like Xcel Energy to meet targets for both carbon-free and renewable electricity, with guardrails in place to ensure customers continue to have reliable and affordable service. These standards include:

- Providing 80% carbon-free electricity by 2030, 90% carbon-free electricity by 2035 and 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040.
- Providing 55% of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2035.

Xcel Energy is well positioned to meet the ambitious new goals, and the company already has approved energy resource plans that will retire all of its coal facilities and achieve both the 2030 carbon-free standard and the 2035 renewable energy standard. And, Xcel Energy will partner with industry groups, national laboratories, and venture capital to pursue new technologies to support Minnesota's 2040 goal.

Xcel Energy will also use provisions in recent federal legislation, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, to drive innovation and reduce the cost of major energy generation and energy storage projects. With the Inflation Reduction Act alone, the company aims to save Minnesota customers over \$1.4 billion in costs over the next 10 years.

Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan: The Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan has largely wrapped up topic-specific work group meetings and city staff are currently presenting the goals and strategies arising from these work groups to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee over the next month or so will discuss and finalize the goals and strategies and will assist in setting overall broad goals that traverse different topic areas. A draft of the Plan is scheduled to be released and presented to City Council on April 19, after which Council will consider the Plan and receive public feedback. A final Plan is anticipated to be adopted a month or two after.

More information can be found [here](#).

CenterPoint Energy 2024-2026 Triennial Plan: In late February, CenterPoint held the second stakeholder meeting for the CIP Enhanced Programs and Services for Low- and Moderate-

Charge: EVAC is charged with reviewing and providing feedback on the biennial work plan and measurement and performance reports; providing feedback on special initiatives as requested by the Board; and, communicating to members' respective constituencies about EVAC and Board decisions and activities.



Income Households. These meetings are the outcome of a Public Utilities Commission process on tariffed on-bill financing. They're focused primarily on programs and services for households not interested in or eligible for the Energy Assistance and Weatherization Assistance Programs, and by extension CenterPoint Energy's biggest CIP low-income program.

In addition, we'll have another triennial planning stakeholder meeting on March 20th. The CenterPoint team will continue having internal meetings to review the themes that emerged from the stakeholder meetings and to review changes to the triennial that might address some of those themes.

There will be a final stakeholder meeting in May summarizing changes. The filing is due on June 1st.

CenterPoint Energy Innovation Plan: CenterPoint Energy is in the process of developing its first 5-year Innovation Plan under the Natural Gas Innovation Act. On February 24th we held our second of three public engagement meetings for all interested parties to review and provide input on proposed pilots and their GHG/cost-benefit analyses assumptions.

We're offering stipends to reduce barriers for participation in this process. The stipends are available for those representing low income, environmental justice, racial equity, or other perspectives historically underrepresented in energy regulatory proceedings. Two organizations have applied (and been approved for) a stipend, and they do represent communities in Minneapolis.

On March 17th, we'll hold a meeting for regulatory parties to engage in in-depth discussion of regulatory topics. One topic of discussion will be the interaction between NGIA and CIP for energy efficiency and strategic electrification pilots.

Please note, we're also available for stand-alone meetings with individuals or small groups to check in on progress and take input.

We invite EVAC members to participate in this process and share with your networks the opportunity to engage and take advantage of the stipend. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kat (Kathryn.Knudson@centerpointenergy.com/ 612-321-4321) or see the information below.

Ways to connect in CenterPoint Energy Innovation Planning Process:

- Visit our website to learn more about our work under the [Minnesota Natural Gas Innovation Act](#).

Charge: EVAC is charged with reviewing and providing feedback on the biennial work plan and measurement and performance reports; providing feedback on special initiatives as requested by the Board; and, communicating to members' respective constituencies about EVAC and Board decisions and activities.



- Sign-up to receive email updates and invitations to participate in engagement meetings by filing out this [brief survey](#).
- Apply for a participation stipend by filling out [this form](#).
- Send questions and comments to InnovationPlan@centerpointenergy.com.

Theme 1 Updates: City staff and their contractor, CEE, engaged a City staff group and a community stakeholder group to develop a residential electrification and weatherization feasibility pathway. The City staff group comprised members whose work involves energy, sustainability, city planning, or residential buildings. The community stakeholder group consisted of members who could represent a diversity of concerns, perspectives, geographic areas, and lived experiences that would be relevant for any future electrification plan. These members included utility representatives, members of relevant City committees, energy experts, and community advocates.

The City and CEE convened three two-hour workshops with each respective group for a total of six workshops during Q4 of 2022. During each workshop, CEE presented modeling work and facilitated discussion. CEE refined and expanded their modeling and pathway design for each successive workshop based on the group's questions and interests.

The final report ([MINNEAPOLIS 1–4 UNIT RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION AND ELECTRIFICATION ROADMAP](#)) was released on Feb 17. A webinar on the topic was publicly held on Mar 7.

An [Electrify Everything MN website](#) was also launched in February. Electrify Everything MN is a collaboration between CEE and the Cities of Minneapolis, Edina, St. Louis Park, and Eden Prairie. Electrify Everything answers the question “Why electrify?” and provides practical guidance on the cost of electrification equipment, contractor considerations, and financial resources from local to national for electrification projects.

Theme 2 Updates: Work on Theme 2 - equitably accelerate in-boundary solar - since the Q4 2022 EVAC meeting has focused largely on collaboration between the City and Xcel Energy on municipal operations renewable energy. The City and Xcel Energy met twice. The first meeting included a broad discussion of ideas for areas of collaboration related to renewable electricity. The second meeting was more focused on discussing ideas for how the City might be able to install more solar on City land and rooftops, especially where there may not be matching load on site. Recognizing the many working groups that were underway to inform the City's Climate Equity Plan, the in-boundary solar working group has not met since the last EVAC meeting.

Theme 3 Updates: This Theme is focused on reducing commercial and industrial natural gas use with the majority of the usage reduction through the New Normal Campaign. Throughout Q1

Charge: EVAC is charged with reviewing and providing feedback on the biennial work plan and measurement and performance reports; providing feedback on special initiatives as requested by the Board; and, communicating to members' respective constituencies about EVAC and Board decisions and activities.



CenterPoint staff held a series of meetings with the vendor partners implementing components of the Campaign's energy pathway: Frontier Energy for the City-sponsored energy audit/NGEA and Michaels Energy on the building controls tune-up. For the new offering (the tune-up) an updated Scope of Work and customer-facing documentation is being developed. The first building controls tune-up "pilots" will be scheduled in late Q1, and learnings will be included in the remaining tune-ups.

City Benchmarking staff and CenterPoint staff have also met on the energy audit segment of the pathway, to ensure we continue to be aligned on budget availability and refine the outreach effort needs. The City is supplying Frontier and CenterPoint with an updated lowest quartile list and the two staffs will coordinate on contacting those properties to encourage scheduling their City-sponsored audit. As committed to in the Work Plan, in addition to private commercial benchmarked properties, City-owned facilities are being encouraged to participate through the Campaign, and the City and CenterPoint are excited that Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) will be participating.

The next Theme 3 EVAC working group will be scheduled for April.

Charge: EVAC is charged with reviewing and providing feedback on the biennial work plan and measurement and performance reports; providing feedback on special initiatives as requested by the Board; and, communicating to members' respective constituencies about EVAC and Board decisions and activities.