



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. Proposed Ordinance Amendments related to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
 - B. Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance
 - C. Updated Energy Action Plan Draft
 - D. Composting at City Facilities
 - E. ElectriFUN Faribault
 - F. CERTs Seed Grants Ideas
 - G. Complete Streets and Walk Audit
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:07 p.m. In attendance were Teresa DeMars, Cynthia Diessner, Dick Huston, Vice Chair Martha Brown, Roger Steinkamp, and Chair Sonny Wasilowski. Absent from the meeting was Lee Nordmeyer. Also in attendance was Staff Liaison, Mathias Hughey.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Dick Houston, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to Approve the meeting minutes as presented.. The motion passed on a 6/0 vote..

3. Items for Discussion

A. Draft Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance

The commission discussed the draft tree ordinance. Clarification was offered as to some of the technical points of the draft, and commissioner DeMars provided suggestions provided by Rice County SWCD staff. Commissioners had several questions about the engagement process and suggested making a one-page summary to improve communication. The commission approved the draft ordinance as a starting point for public and stakeholder engagement. Motion made by Dick Houston, second by Roger Steinkamp, the motion carried on a 6/0 vote.

B. Future Work Plan Items

Hughey proposed a worksheet that commissioners could fill out with information and assessment of prospective work plan items or projects. A blank work sheet, and a filled example were provided for commissioners to review. The commission moved to approve the worksheet as the method for proposing new projects, the motion was made by Martha Brown, second by Sonny Wasilowski, the motion carried on a 6/0 vote.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

Community Compost Cooperative

Hughey let commissioners know that a local business currently operating in Northfield was actively looking to expand to Faribault. The Community Compost Cooperative provides curbside compost collection service to residents.

Wayland Mayor's Challenge Results

Hughey updated the commission on the results of the Wyland Mayor's Challenge.

Commissioners suggested that the results be shared with the public via social media or other means.

Commissioners would like to participate next year.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Teresa DeMars, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.. The motion passed on a 6/0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mathias Hughey
Community Development Coordinator



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:18 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023. In attendance were Teresa DeMars, Cindy Diessner, Dick Huston, Lee Nordmeyer, Roger Steinkamp and Chair Sonny Wasilowski. Also in attendance were Mathias Hughey and Kari Casper. Special guests were Cliff and Ray from Curbsidde Compost.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were not attached in the packet.

3. Items for Discussion

A. Curbside Compost Co-op Presentation

Cliff and Ray were here to present their business of curbside composting. Right now they are active in Northfield and are looking to expand into Faribault. They currently have 50 potential customers but are looking for between 100 to 150 to get rolling here in Faribault.

They are able to take all organic matter and currently send it to a spot in Shakopee with the SMSC to compost. They are actively looking for local land to compost on. This would have to be in the country, since there is an element of smell. They use buckets with small trucks at this time and would like to service larger commercial businesses. However, they do not have the equipment at this time. As they grow, they hope to begin using those materials to help compost and keep this organic matter out of our landfill. Some of their funding comes from grants through the MPCA which, if we are interested, pass through municipalities and we could assist them next year when the time is right to get the next grant. Their fee is minimal and is based on ability to pay.

B. ElectroFUN Faribault with ReCharge America

This is a collaborative work with Trystar and will take place at their facility on September 23 from 10:00 to 2:00. Ideas to maybe table the event for the Environmental Commission; maybe sponsor a level at the event. The ENV has a small budget and the could come up with promotional items and/or brochures to run by Mathias to see if it is something we could do?

4. Announcements and Updates

A. Tree Preservation Engagement Update

Mathias Hughey is in the process of developing a survey to the general public.

B. Ground Mounted Solar RFP

The City Council has requested that RFP's go out for bids on the 2.5 acres at the Public Works Facility for ground mounted solar. The bids are going out to CERT's as well to see if

they know of anyone interested.

C. Community Solar Garden Subscription Expansion

The city is looking to expand on it's current subscription. Hughey indicated that the city saved approx. \$37,000 last year.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Teresa DeMars, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to adjourn at 7:43. The motion passed on a 6/0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Kari Casper



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Proposed Ordinance Amendments related to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Background:

Earlier this year, Great Plains Institute (GPI) selected the City to participate in GPI's EV Smart Pilot Program. This program, modeled on the successful SolSmart program, provides technical assistance, guidance, and resources to help cities of varying sizes prepare for the anticipated widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EV) by achieving their EV-readiness goals. In consultation with staff from GPI, the Community Development Coordinator has identified the goal of achieving a "Silver" rating in the program.

To achieve this goal, the City must amend existing ordinances to clarify, streamline, or incentivize the installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Infrastructure. To this end, the Community Development Coordinator, in consultation with the Community and Economic Development Director, prepared draft amendments to the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

For context, Chapter 6, Article 4 of the UDO regulates accessory uses and structures, including accessory buildings, private swimming pools, antennae, satellite dishes, solar and wind systems, etc. UDO Chapter 8, Article 3 regulates specific off-street parking requirements.

Recommendation:

Review and comment on the draft ordinance amendments. Once the Environmental Commission is satisfied with the draft ordinance amendments, City Staff will work with the Planning Commission and City Council to refine and adopt the final ordinances.

Attachments:

1. UDO Changes proposed
2. Electric Vehicle Ordinance Considerations

Proposed EV Changes:

(ADD) UDO Chapter 6 – General Regulations; Article 4 – accessory uses; Sec. 6-240. – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- (A) *Purpose.* This section is established for the purpose of providing for the appropriate location and development of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure to reduce potential negative impacts of such facilities, to maximize the use of
- (B) *Definitions*
 - a. Electric Vehicle Charging Station means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles.
 - b. Electric Vehicle Charging Space means a single automobile parking space where an electric vehicle may be parked while it's battery is being recharged.
 - c. Level 1 – considered slow charging. A standard 120-volt (or lower) outlet used to charge EVs. This charging level does not require extra equipment or installation.
 - d. Level 2 – considered medium charging. An outlet supplying 120 – 240 volts used to charge EVs. This charging level may require extra equipment be installed.
 - e. Level 3 – considered fast or rapid charging. An outlet and associated equipment are required to supply more than 240 volts.
 - f. Electric Vehicle means a vehicle that uses electricity as a primary means of propulsion.
- (C) *Permitted use.* Electric vehicle chargers are permitted in every zoning district, when accessory to the primary use and intended solely to charge vehicles that would otherwise be on site.
- (D) If the Primary use of the electric vehicle chargers is the retail charging of electric vehicles that would not otherwise be on site, then the use is considered an automobile convenience facility for zoning purposes and allowed only in zoning districts that permit automobile convenience facilities uses, and shall comply with the pertinent specific development standards applied to automobile convenience facilities. (see Chap.7 Sec. 7-30)
 - a. *Stacking.*
 - i. Electric vehicle charging facilities are exempt from the stacking requirements identified for Gas Stations in Sec. 8-270.
- (E) Building permits shall be required for the installation of building-mounted and free-standing electric vehicle charging stations. All such systems shall be designed and installed in compliance with pertinent building codes and other regulations.
- (F) Pedestrian access shall not be obstructed or crossed by cords, cables or other elements of electric vehicle charging stations.
- (G) Private single family home electric vehicle charger standards. Electric vehicle chargers located on properties used for single family, or multi-family homes with fewer than 6 units must meet the following standards:
 - a. Must be solely for the private use of the property owner, resident or their guests;
 - b. Must be located in a garage, on the exterior wall of the home or garage, or freestanding pole with footing, adjacent to a parking space, and setback no less than ten (10) feet from the front or corner-side property line.
 - c. When located outside of a garage, must be rated for outdoor use.

- (H) Electric Vehicle Charging Stations may be located on City property or within City rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis subject to approval by the Development Review Committee, and City Council.

(ADD) UDO Chapter 8 – Off-Street Parking and Loading; Article 3. – Specific off-street parking requirements, Sec. 8-270. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The standards of this section apply to the provision of publicly accessible parking spaces dedicated to the charging of electric vehicles.

- (A) *In general.* Publicly accessible parking spaces dedicated to electric vehicle charging will count towards any required automobile parking spaces.
- (B) *Accessible spaces requirement.* At minimum, the lesser of two (2) or 25% of total provided publicly accessible electric vehicle charging station spaces shall meet applicable state and federal ADA accessibility standards with the exception that those spaces are not required to be exclusively for use as ADA parking spaces. Unless specifically dedicated for exclusive use as an accessible parking space, electric vehicle charging station spaces will not count towards minimum accessible parking space requirements.
- (C) *Bonus.* Publicly accessible electric vehicle charging parking spaces level 2 or above provided in excess of any required electric vehicle parking spaces may, subject to approval by the Planning Administrator, reduce the total required parking spaces on a 1-for-1 basis not to exceed a maximum reduction of 20% of required parking.



**GREAT PLAINS
INSTITUTE**

ELECTRIC VEHICLE ORDINANCE CONSIDERATIONS

A guide for local governments

Updated March 2023



Table of Contents

Page 2 – [About this guide](#)

Page 4 – [Ordinance essentials](#)

Page 6 – [Ordinance recommendations](#)

Page 8 – [Additional recommendations](#)

Page 9 – [Resources](#)

About this guide

Author

This guide was authored by Rebecca Heisel, Communities program coordinator and Brian Ross, Renewable energy vice president at the Great Plains Institute, and originally published in September 2022 and updated in March 2023.

About Great Plains Institute

A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, the Great Plains Institute (GPI) is transforming the energy system to benefit the economy and environment. Working across the US, GPI combines a unique consensus-building approach, expert knowledge, research and analysis, and local action to find and implement lasting solutions. Learn more at www.betterenergy.org.

About EV Smart

GPI's EV Smart program provides a suite of actions a community can take to become electric vehicle (EV) ready. The actions, ranging from simple to complex, are organized into six categories: planning, regulation, utility engagement, education and incentives, government operations, and shared mobility. This program gives communities guidance in forming transportation electrification priorities and choices for how they can pursue those priorities. Note: In this document, local governments—cities, townships, and counties—are often referred to as “communities.”

Purpose of the ordinance guide

This guide supports the regulation category of the EV Smart program. In this category communities are advised to write or amend their regulations to include electric vehicles. This document will guide you through considerations about what to include in your community's electric vehicle (EV) ordinance(s). When developing an ordinance for EVs and charging infrastructure, we find that being as broad and simple as possible is best. This allows the ordinance to be a tool that is flexible and remains relevant for longer. Depending on your community's code, EVs and charging infrastructure can be adequately addressed in just a few sentences.

Definitions

Direct current fast charger (DC fast charger): These charging stations can fully charge an EV in 30 minutes, and stations range from 50 kilowatts to 350 kilowatts of output. The higher the power output, the faster the charge. DC fast chargers are often located along highways.

EV-capable: A parking stall with electrical panel capacity with all necessary wiring installed, but lacks an outlet and charging station, but maintains the ability to install a station in the future.

EV-installed: At a minimum, a Level 2 charging station has been installed.

EV-ready: A parking stall with electrical panel capacity, all necessary wiring, and an outlet installed, but lacks a charging station but allows for charging via the outlet and maintains the ability to install a station in the future.

Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE): Charging infrastructure used to recharge EVs includes the station and its connection to the grid.

Level 1: A standard 120-volt outlet used to charge EVs slowly. This charging level does not require extra equipment or installation and provides two to five miles of vehicle range per hour of vehicle connection.

Level 2: A 240-volt outlet which, on average, provides 10 to 50 miles of range per hour of vehicle connection. This charging level does require extra equipment and can include the installation of a charging station.

Smart charger: A charging station equipped with the ability to require payment for use, track charging statistics, control charging patterns, connect to on-site renewable energy, and network with other charging stations.

Steps to drafting an EV ordinance

1. Identify where electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) will fit into your code.
2. Decide on the various considerations listed in this guide.
3. Draft the language for your ordinance.

Ordinance essentials

This section details aspects that should be addressed in every ordinance.

Accessory use

Use a broad statement that allows EVSE as a permitted accessory use (even if a fee is being charged) rather than a principal use.

- **Example language:** Level 1 and Level 2 chargers are a permitted accessory use in existing parking structures or parking lots in all districts.

Parking standards

Require Level 2 EV-ready and/or EV-installed installations in your parking standards.

- **Decision:** What percentage of stalls will be required to be EV-ready or EV-installed?
- **Best practices:**
 - EV-ready: We typically see a range from 5 to 25 percent, although some communities have significantly higher percentages.
 - EV-installed: We typically see a range of 5-10 percent.
 - If the local electric utility has a make-ready program, you may want to tie the percentages to that incentive.

Parking minimums

State whether EV spaces will or will not count toward the parking minimum.

- **Decision:** Does the EV space count toward the parking minimum?
 - If yes: Clarify how EV-designated stalls are included in the parking standards. It is best practice to include EV stalls rather than excluding them.
 - If no: Clarify that EV-designated stalls are in addition to the parking minimums.

Standards for charging access

Ensuring access to charging for different populations or use cases is important. While most charging will occur at home, non-home charging provides access for people without home charging. Developing standards for non-home charging provides access to charging opportunities for renters and other populations without home charging. ** Note: If allowed in your state, standards for charging access may be better placed in your building code as was done in the [City of Denver](#). However, not all cities can change the building code, and it must be added in other ways. **

- Single-family homes:

- **Example language:** Single-family homes must include a charging port in all parking structures or areas.
- Multi-unit dwellings:
 - **Best practice:** Require a higher percentage of EVSE in multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) than a commercial parking lot because most people charge overnight at home. Level 1 charging can play an important role in MUDs and, in most instances, can be adequate for charging an EV.
 - **Example language:** Multi-family buildings must have 50 percent of parking spaces with charging access, and 20 percent of EV chargers must be Level 2.
- Commercial buildings:
 - Employment centers or workplaces provide critical charging access for households that do not have access to home charging. Some cities choose to distinguish charging level requirements based on the type of commercial land use.
 - **Best Practice:**
 - Since commercial land uses have a lower percentage of parking stalls required to be EV-ready compared to housing land use, we typically see anywhere from 5-20 percent of parking stalls required to be EV-ready.
 - Very small parking areas (i.e., lots with less than ten spaces) may be exempt from requirements.

Accessibility

Accessibility features in compliance with ADA guidelines should always be incorporated into EV charging station stalls. The US Access Board's [Design Recommendations for Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#) is an excellent resource to ensure charging stations are accessible to all.

- **Best practice:** At least one EV charging station stall per location should meet the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards.
- **Example Language:** Battery charging station outlets and connector devices shall be mounted to comply with state code and must comply with all relevant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements (City of St. Louis Park, §36-361).

Ordinance recommendations

This section covers additional considerations that could be included in your ordinance. While it is highly recommended to include these considerations, it is not necessary.

DC fast charging as separate land use

Consider classifying direct current fast charging (DCFC) as a separate land use from Level 1 or Level 2 charging. As EV adoption increases, DCFC stations may require attention to traffic circulation, so accounting for this ahead of time can future-proof installations.

- **Decision:** Should DCFC be denoted as a separate land use compared to Level 1 and Level 2 charging?
 - DCFC chargers can either be an accessory or principal use since this station type can be the charging equivalent of a gas station.
- **Example language:** “Level 1 and 2 electric vehicle charging stations are a permitted use in all zoning districts... Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations are a permitted use in the Warehouse and Industrial (WI), Highway Service Commercial (C-HS),..., zoning districts...” (City of Chelan, *Municipal Code* [§17.63.030](#))

Restricted parking

Limiting EV charging station parking stalls to only EV owners incentivizes transitioning to electric and ensures that the space will be available for charging. However, many communities find enforcement difficult or out of their jurisdiction.

- **Decision:** Do you want only EVs to be able to park in charging stalls? Or can any vehicle park in these locations?
- **Example language:** Each EV charging station and parking space for which any parking incentive was granted shall be reserved for use as an EV charging station or as electric reserved parking (City of Atlanta, *Code of Ordinances* [§16-28.017](#)).

Signage

Having signage at each charging station helps EV owners locate the charging stations. Having a standardized look for signage across the community can make the stations more recognizable.

- **Decision:** Do you have a standard (i.e., verbiage, iconography, or visual requirements) for the look of the signs advertising the spot as an EV charging station?
- **Example Language:** Information must be posted identifying voltage and amperage levels and any type of use, fees, or safety information related to the electric vehicle charging station (City of Kansas City, *Zoning and Development Code* [§1.8-23-2012](#)).

Aesthetics and design

Often communities want to regulate the aesthetics and design of charging installations; however, applying these standards uniquely to EV charging infrastructure could be deemed arbitrary.

- **Decision:** Should charging stations installed in your community have required aesthetic and design standards?
- **Best practice:** Charging stations should only be subject to aesthetic or landscaping standards where cities have established standards for surface parking lots.

Solar plus EVs

Allowing solar parking structures on surface lots better utilizes land, provides additional parking benefits (cover, shade, etc.), and allows easy synchronization of charging with clean energy production.

- **Best practice:** Permit solar and EV charging as a by-right use.
- **Example language:** Solar carports and associated EV charging equipment are a permitted accessory use on surface parking lots in all districts regardless of the existence of another building (State of Minnesota, *Model Solar Ordinance*).

Additional recommendations

Consider these additional recommendations while drafting language for your community's ordinance.

Technology-neutral language

Using technology-neutral language will future-proof the ordinance to any changes in terminology or advancements in EV technology.

- **Best Practice:** Require “EV-ready infrastructure” instead of explicitly listing models and brands of charging stations. Also, listing specific amp requirements is discouraged.

Smart or networked charging

Encourage the installation of smart charging and networked charging, particularly for public or commercial uses. Smart or networked chargers, while more expensive, enable charging management that can reduce electricity costs and synchronize with renewable energy production (either on-site production or grid production). Many utility EVSE rebate programs require smart chargers to allow the utility to balance system loads.

- **Best practice:** Encourage or incentivize smart chargers rather than require them. While smart charging benefits the community and site owner, the nexus with regulatory authority is indirect.

Resources

For additional information and real-life examples of codes addressing EV charging infrastructure, refer to GPI's [Summary of Best Practices in Electric Vehicle Ordinances](#). The [Climate Ordinance Database](#) for planners provides additional model ordinances and example language from ordinances across the country.

Example ordinances

Use the [Electric Vehicle Ordinance Database](#) to view more examples of how EVs have been incorporated into city zoning ordinances nationwide. The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's [EV Infrastructure Building Codes: Adoption Toolkit](#) also contains a list of example ordinances.

If you know of EV ordinances from your state that could be used as examples for other communities, please send them to Rebecca Heisel at rheisel@gpisd.net to be included in our ordinance database.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance

Background:

The City recently passed an updated Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance that permits naturalistic and native landscaping and streamlines enforcement of neglected lawns and landscapes. However, it can be difficult for enforcement officers and the general public to differentiate between weeds and desirable vegetation, especially in the early stages of establishing native plantings. Because the updated ordinance streamlines enforcement, this can leave property owners installing native or naturalistic plantings vulnerable to misidentification of their efforts.

Potential opportunities to reduce concerns about the misidentification of native landscaping efforts include the following:

1. Provide educational materials to improve success rates and reduce confusion about which plants are cover crops versus annual non-native weed grasses;
2. Create standardized signs that residents can obtain from the City to indicate that they are establishing native landscapes; and
3. Create an optional registration system where residents can add their project to a list of properties installing native plantings.

The above efforts would require staff time to develop and implement. However, without some mitigating factor, staff will spend time addressing disputed enforcement actions, property owners may be discouraged from establishing native landscapes, and the public may develop negative perceptions of native landscapes.

Recommendation:

Provide direction on the recommendations described above.

Attachments:

1. Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance

**CITY OF FARIBAULT
ORDINANCE No. 2023-9**

**REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 31 OF THE FARIBAULT CITY CODE OF
ORDINANCES REGARDING TALL GRASS AND WEED REGULATIONS**

THE CITY OF FARIBAULT ORDAINS: The City Code of Ordinances shall be amended as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 31 of the Faribault City Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. A new Chapter 31 of the Faribault City Code of Ordinances is hereby adopted as follows:

**Chapter 31 TALL GRASS, WEED, AND OTHER VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT**

Sec. 31-1. Legislative intent.

This chapter is intended to help protect neighborhood aesthetics and the public's health, safety, and welfare by regulating turf grass over eight inches tall, noxious weeds, and other vegetation. The city council finds that appropriately managed and regulated turf grass and other vegetation add diversity and richness to the community and reduce fire hazards and rodent habitat.

Sec. 31-2. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases have the following definitions in this chapter:

Buffer or buffer strip. A management area that separates landscapes and land uses to minimize the impact from adjacent land uses.

Landscaping. The encouragement of selected plants to grow on a site.

Meadow vegetation. Grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants (except weeds) that are native to or adapted to the State of Minnesota and commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities.

Native grasses. Grasses that existed in the area before European settlement, including but not limited to beach grass, wood chess grass, sand reed grass, wheat grass, bluestem

grass, grama grass, brome grass, buffalo grass, switch grass, Indian grass, wild rye.

Native plants. Plants that existed in the area before European settlement.

Natural landscaping. Groups of native plants in a style resembling naturally occurring plant communities.

Naturalistic landscaping. Native and non-native plants in a style resembling naturally occurring plant communities.

Natural preserve. An undisturbed natural area designated by the city council where the land and vegetation appear to not have been graded, landscaped, or disturbed by human actions in recent times.

Noxious weeds. Plants identified by the commissioner of agriculture as "noxious weeds" pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 18.77, subdivision 8.

Prairie. A plant community dominated by diverse native perennial herbaceous plants and grasses.

Public nuisance. An activity, or failure to act, that unreasonably interferes or obstructs the public's health, safety, welfare and/or comfort.

Temporary erosion control grasses. Grasses (including but not limited to winter wheat, oats, or annual rye) that are used as single-growing season cover or nurse crops to establish permanent vegetation.

Transitional period. A period not to exceed three (3) growing seasons to change from one type of landscaping to another.

Turf grass. Grass commonly used in regularly cut and maintained lawns or play areas (including, but not limited to, bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends) that is intended to be maintained at a height of no more than eight (8) inches.

Weeds. All noxious weeds and any undesirable or troublesome plants that are horticulturally out of place, especially profuse plants that grow where unwanted. This chapter does not define the common dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp.) as a weed.

Wetlands. Lands that are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is near the surface. The

boundary of wetlands, for purposes of this chapter, shall be determined according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (1987).

Sec. 31-3: Public nuisance declared.

It is against the law and a public nuisance for any person responsible for maintaining any property in the city to permit or maintain on that property any of the following:

- (1) Noxious weeds;
- (2) Turf grass or weeds over eight (8) inches tall; and
- (3) Other vegetation that presents a public health, safety, welfare, or nuisance concern.

Sec. 31-4. Exemptions.

This chapter exempts the following from the definition of a public nuisance:

- (1) Non-noxious weeds and grasses in wetland and wetland buffer areas as defined in Chapter 28 of the City Code of Ordinances;
- (2) Non-noxious weeds, grasses, and herbaceous vegetation that are within city-designated buffer areas of stormwater ponds, natural or altered creeks, rivers, and stream corridors, including riparian buffer strips that convey water;
- (3) Non-noxious weeds and grasses growing in actively farmed areas;
- (4) Temporary erosion control grasses as approved by the city engineer;
- (5) Prairie, meadow, or natural vegetation that is maintained and includes the cultivation of native grasses and does not contain noxious weeds;
- (6) Grass and non-noxious weed vegetation growing in areas designated by the city council as a natural preserve; and
- (7) Grass, non-noxious weed vegetation, and ornamental grasses growing on slopes steeper than 2:1.

Sec. 31-5. Turf grass and other vegetation management.

- (1) Turf grass must not exceed eight (8) inches in height unless expressly allowed by the city. Grass clippings are not allowed on impervious surfaces in the public right-of-way. Long grass clippings resulting in a public nuisance cannot remain on yards.
- (2) Noxious weed must be immediately removed.
- (3) Non-noxious weeds must not exceed eight (8) inches in height.
- (4) In general, vegetation exceeding eight (8) inches in height should not be within eighteen (18) inches of a public sidewalk, trail, road, or alley. In no case shall vegetation hang over the public right-of-way in a manner that creates a public hazard or nuisance.
- (5) In general, vegetation over eight (8) inches in height should not be located within four (4) feet of the neighboring property without the written consent of the neighboring property owner.

Sec. 31-6. Violations and abatement.

- (1) *Inspection and citation.* An authorized agent of the city will inspect properties to determine whether weeds, grass, or other vegetation constitute a public nuisance, as outlined in section 3 in this chapter. The agent is authorized to enter onto private property to conduct these inspections. If the agent finds a public nuisance, they may cite the property owner for the violation. The agent will send a copy of the citation and notice to the record owner of the property by certified mail, U.S. mail, or personal service. The owner must abate the nuisance within five (5) business days of the issuance of the citation or notice. The citation or notice will inform the owner that if they fail to abate the nuisance on time, the city will abate the nuisance and charge the owner the cost of the abatement. If the owner does not pay the abatement costs, the city will levy any unpaid amounts against the property as a special assessment. A property owner's refusal to accept the citation does not constitute a defense that the property owner did not receive the notice.
- (2) *Abatement by the city.* If the nuisance identified in the citation and notice is not abated within the time required,

the city may abate the nuisance. An authorized agent of the city will record the total cost of the abatement attributable to each property and report such information to the city clerk.

- (3) *Owner liability for cost.* Once abated and the cost determined, the city will prepare a bill and mail it to the owner. The amount will be immediately due and payable. If the owner fails to pay the bill, the total charges may be levied as an assessment against the property. This will be an additional remedy and not in lieu of any other penalty provided for in the city code or state law.

Section 3. This ordinance amendment shall take effect and be in force after its passage and publication per Section 3.05 of the city charter.

First Reading: June 13, 2023

Second Reading: June 27, 2023

Publication Date: July 5, 2023

Faribault City Council

DocuSigned by:

Kevin Voracek

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Kevin F. Voracek, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Timothy C. Murray

6DB99B870021410...

Timothy C. Murray, City Administrator



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Updated Energy Action Plan Draft

Background:

The City is updating its Energy Action Plan in partnership with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program. The update process has involved extensive community engagement from residents, business leaders, City staff, and other stakeholders. The updated plan will replace the original Energy Action Plan, which the City developed more than five years ago. The City has met or exceeded its energy goals outlined in its original plan.

The proposed update builds on the success of the original plan by setting more ambitious emissions and cost-savings goals. The 2017 Energy Action Plan goal was to reduce community-wide energy expenditures by 1% annually from a business as usual (2015 baseline) scenario. These savings were intended to come from energy efficiency improvements, and a special focus was placed on low-income households who often experience financial hardship due to high energy costs. In 2022, the City's outreach efforts earned Faribault an award for the highest percentage of low-income households to receive home energy assessments.

In the past five years, the state has set new, ambitious carbon-reduction goals, and introduced significant incentives to drive beneficial electrification. New technologies and trends towards electrification present significant opportunities and challenges. Improving energy efficiency remains critical to a successful transition to wide-spread electrification. From electric vehicle adoption to electrification of HVAC systems, reducing overall demand will ensure reliability and cost-effectiveness. The updated Energy Action Plan continues our focus on cost-savings through efficiency.

Recommendation:

Review and comment on the attached Draft Energy Action Plan. Focus on actions that directly impact energy use within the city. If the Environmental Commission finds the plan acceptable, it may recommend approval of the plan pending final edits.

Attachments:

1. Energy Action Plan Update Draft



An Energy Action Plan for Faribault

2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following individuals who contributed many hours of service to developing this Energy Action Plan.

The content of this plan is derived from a series of planning workshops hosted by Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy. Xcel Energy is the main electric and gas utility serving Faribault. Partners in Energy is a two-year collaboration to develop and implement a community's energy goals. For more information about the planning workshops, see Appendix C: Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Planning Process.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	i
Glossary of Terms	iii
Introduction	1
Existing Energy Action Plan.....	1
Energy Action Plan Update	3
Where We Are Now.....	4
Community Demographics	4
Energy Use and Savings	5
Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure	12
Where We Are Going	13
How We Are Going To Get There	17
Focus Area: Energy Efficiency	18
Focus Area: Renewable Energy	23
Focus Area: Transportation	25
Focus Area: Beneficial Electrification.....	27
How We Stay On Course	29
Appendix A: Baseline Energy Analysis.....	31
Appendix B: Methodology for Measuring Success	42
Appendix C: Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Planning Process	44
Plan Development Process	44
Community Engagement.....	44
Workshops	45
Community Energy Survey	45
Appendix D: Implementation Memorandum of Understanding	47

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

15 x 15: Xcel Energy's privacy rule, which requires all data summary statistics to contain at least 15 premises, with no single premise responsible for more than 15% of the total. Following these rules, if a premise(s) is responsible for more than 15% of the total for that data set, it is/they are removed from the summary.

Beneficial Electrification: The transition from fossil fuels to electricity where benefits are achieved through reduced emissions and energy costs.

British Thermal Unit (BTU): The amount of heat needed to raise one pound of water at maximum density through one degree Fahrenheit.

Carbon-free: Carbon-free refers to sources of energy that will not emit additional carbon dioxide into the air. Wind, solar and nuclear energy are all carbon-free sources but only wind and solar are renewable.

Carbon-neutral: Carbon-neutral, also described as "net zero," could include carbon-free sources but is broader and refers to energy that removes or avoids as much carbon dioxide as is released over a set period of time. Carbon-neutral is sometimes used to describe a site that produces an excess amount of electricity from a renewable energy source, such as solar, compared to what it consumes. That excess energy is put back into the grid in an amount that offsets the carbon dioxide produced from the electricity it draws from the grid when it is not producing renewable energy.

Community Data Mapping: A baseline analysis of energy data in a geospatial (map) format across the community.

Conservation Improvement Programs (CIP): Portfolio of approved utility energy efficiency and demand management programs. Minnesota electric utilities have a goal of saving 1.5% of their total energy sales each year via customer conservation efforts. Minnesota natural gas utilities have a goal of saving 0.5% of their total energy sales each year via customer conservation efforts.

Demand Side Management (DSM): Modification of consumer demand for energy through various methods, including education and financial incentives. DSM aims to encourage consumers to decrease energy consumption, especially during peak hours, or to shift time-of-energy use to off-peak periods such as nighttime and weekend.

Direct Installation: Free energy-saving equipment installed by Xcel Energy or other organizations, for program participants, that produces immediate energy savings.

Energy Burden: Percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs.

Energy Reduction: The result of behavior changes that cause less energy to be used. For example, setting the thermostat to a lower temperature *reduces* the energy used in

your home during the winter. Since energy reductions can be easily reversed, they are not accounted for when calculating changes in energy usage.

Energy Savings: Comes from a permanent change that results in using less energy to achieve the same results. A new furnace uses X% less energy to keep your home at the same temperature (all things being equal), resulting in energy *savings* of X%. For accounting purposes, energy savings are only counted in the year the new equipment is installed.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG): Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation and significantly contribute to climate change. The primary greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Grid Decarbonization: The current planned reduction in the carbon intensity of electricity provided by electric utilities through the addition of low- or no-carbon energy sources to the electricity grid.

Kilowatt-hour (kWh): A unit of electricity consumption.

Million British Thermal Units (MMBtu): A unit of energy consumption that allows electricity and natural gas consumption to be combined.

Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCO_{2e}): A unit of measure for greenhouse gas emissions. The unit "CO_{2e}" represents an amount of a greenhouse gas whose atmospheric impact has been standardized to that of one unit mass of carbon dioxide (CO₂), based on the global warming potential (GWP) of the gas.

Megawatt (MW): A unit of electric power equal to 1 million watts.

Premise: A unique combination of service address and meter. For residential customers, this is the equivalent of an individual house or dwelling unit in a multi-tenant building. For business customers, it is an individual business, or for a larger business, a separately metered portion of the business's load at that address.

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC): For every megawatt-hour of renewable electricity generation, a renewable energy certificate (REC) is created. A REC embodies all the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked and traded separately from the underlying electricity. Also known as a Renewable Energy Credit.

Resilience: The ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents.

Recommissioning: An energy efficiency service focused on identifying ways that existing building systems can be tuned up to run as efficiently as possible.

Solar Garden: Shared solar array with grid-connected subscribers who receive bill credits for their subscriptions.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV): Solar cells/panels that convert sunlight into electricity (convert light, or photons, into electricity, or voltage).

Subscription: An agreement to purchase a certain amount of something in regular intervals.

Therm (thm): A unit representing a quantity of heat. Can be used to measure natural gas based on the quantity of energy it contains.

Trade Partner: Trade Partners, also known as Trade Allies or Business Trade Partners, are vendors and contractors who work with business and residential customers servicing, installing, and providing consulting services regarding the equipment associated with utility rebate programs. Their support for utility programs can range from providing equipment and assisting with rebate paperwork, to receiving rebates for equipment sold.

FARIBAULT Energy Action Plan

Faribault is a vibrant, diverse community with equitable access to clean, affordable energy for all residents, businesses and institutions. We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy and creating a sustainable future where all can thrive.



Focus Areas

These focus areas were created to inspire a broad scope of strategic input from the Faribault community



Energy Efficiency



Renewable Energy

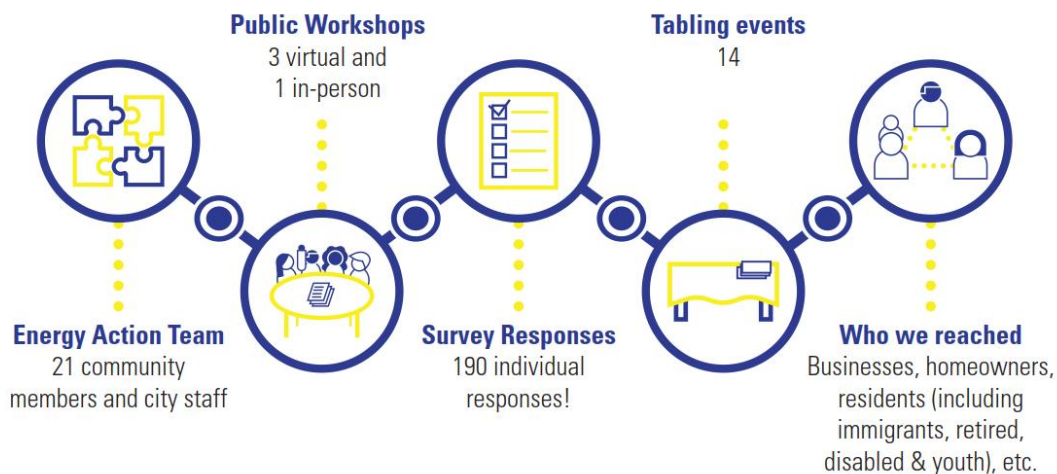


Transportation



Electrification

Community Engagement



The content of this plan is derived from a series of planning workshops hosted by Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy. Thank you to the Faribault Energy Action Team who contributed many hours of service to creating our vision, goals, and strategies for this plan.



Energy Action Plan Goal

Faribault will avoid an additional **50% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030 compared to business as usual, while saving the community energy and money.

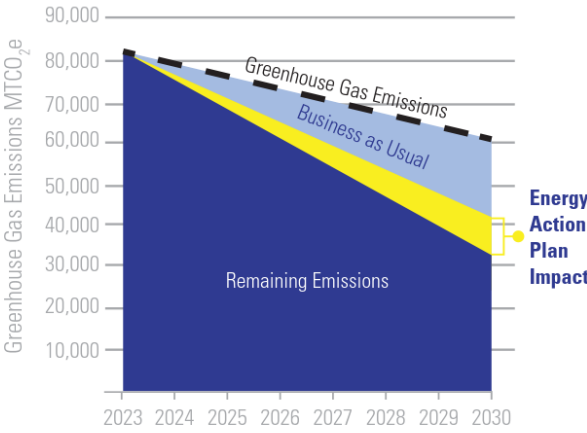


By reaching this goal, we estimate Faribault will avoid spending an additional **\$5.6 million** on energy bills through increased energy efficiency.



Achieving our goal will be equivalent to saving **34 million kWh** of electricity and **4.4 million therms** of natural gas by 2030.

Forecasted Emissions Avoidance



What are your hopes for Faribault’s energy future?

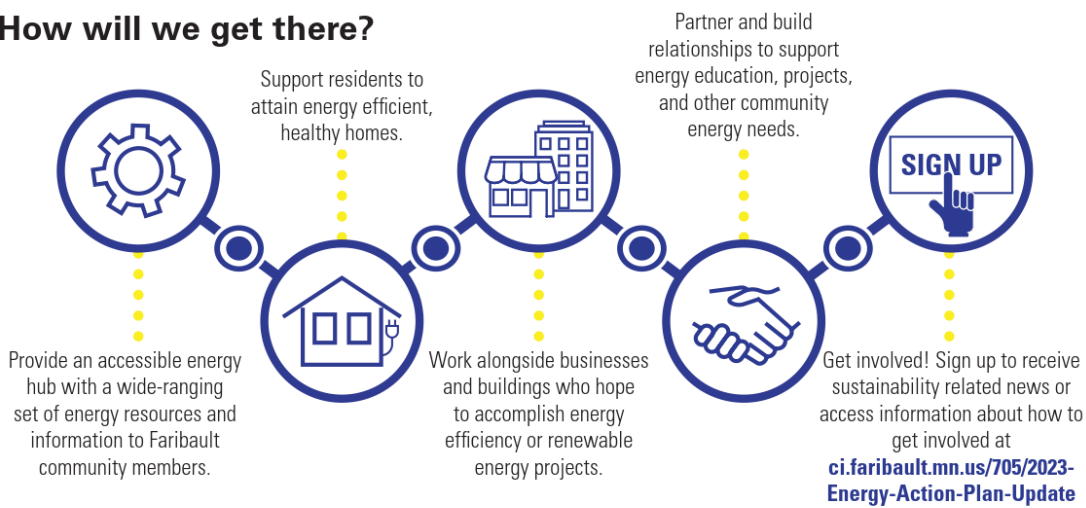
A **clean** and **healthy** environment that is affordable to sustain.”

—Faribault Community Member

To help **save money** and be **energy efficient** while keeping costs affordable for low-income families.”

—Faribault Community Member

How will we get there?





INTRODUCTION

The City of Faribault is dedicated to sustainability and has led several efforts to engage the community in environmental initiatives. In 2017, Faribault created an Energy Action Plan, then a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2020. Since that time, Faribault has implemented an environmental commission, planted pollinator gardens, completed stormwater projects, and completed many more sustainability projects in addition to energy projects and outreach.

2017 Energy Action Plan

Faribault's 2017 Energy Action Plan has a goal to reduce community-wide energy expenditure by 1% annually from business as usual (using a 2015 baseline). By 2040, this plan was estimated to save Faribault residents and businesses over \$8 million a year, with accumulated savings of over \$100 million. As of 2022, the City is on track to meet and exceed the expenditure and savings goal.

2017 Energy Action Plan Goal Progress¹

Figure 1. Progress toward community cost savings goal, 2017-2021

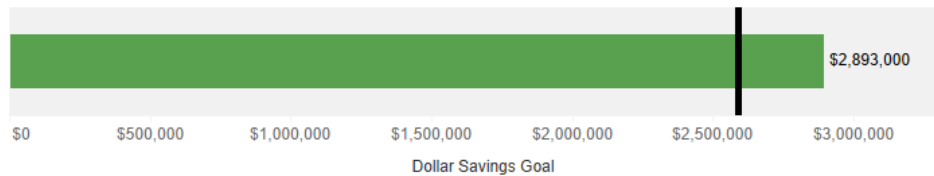
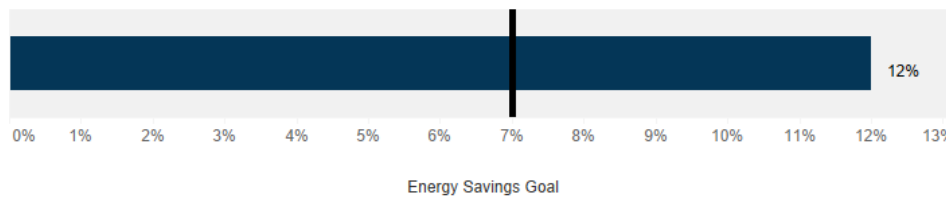


Figure 2. Progress toward community energy savings goal, 2017-2021



Faribault has saved residents dollars, connected with the community, and proved to be a useful educational conduit for energy information and resources.

2017 Energy Action Plan Implementation Highlights

- Facilitating manufactured home park residents' access to energy assessment services and energy resources such as weatherization and utility bill help.
- Conducting multi-family building outreach for building owners to take energy efficiency measures.
- Hosting forums for contractors and developers on energy efficiency.
- The residential energy outreach earned Faribault the 2022 Home Energy Squad[®] Intercity Challenge award for the highest percentage of low-income households to receive home energy assessments.

¹ The 2017 Energy Action Plan goal was to reduce community-wide energy expenditure by 1% annually and to save 1% of energy as a percentage of consumption from business as usual (2015 baseline year). Progress toward the 2017 plan goals were calculated by applying 1% of the baseline consumption and energy expenditure applied to each year and measuring the actual expenditure and energy savings between 2017 and 2021.

Energy Action Plan Update

There are now new state regulations on carbon emissions, new and emerging technologies, updated energy data from the utility, and additional funding for large and small energy projects. This presents a great opportunity to build on existing efforts and add new strategies, audiences and areas of focus into a new Energy Action Plan.

Faribault residents answer: Why an Energy Action Plan?

- "To help save money and be energy efficient while keeping costs affordable for low-income families/residents."
- "There are so many inefficient home and buildings updating with incentives would be so beneficial to the community. "
- "I hope we can strive towards being a carbon neutral city."
- "Stable, affordable, clean energy."

The opportunity for this plan to be more thoughtful in engaging residents was also an important reason to create new energy strategies. The City wanted to understand community members' priorities, needs, and hopes for Faribault's energy future, and to make sure all voices were represented in that process.

This plan sets new goals and targets for Faribault's energy future, that will build on the previous plan's goals and incorporate new areas of focus to adjust to the changing energy opportunities and landscape.

Faribault hopes to continue to work with residents and businesses to help them save energy and money and be a part of a clean energy transition that will increase the health and resilience of the community.

Our Engagement & Outreach Process

The creation of this updated Energy Action Plan was a six-month process to help Faribault review updated community energy use data, create new energy-related goals and develop engaging strategies to shape Faribault's energy future. The planning process began in February 2023 with a series of community planning workshops with a team composed of community members, City of Faribault staff and Xcel Energy.

Engagement by the numbers:

- More than **35 people** attended planning workshops
- **4** community planning **workshops** took place virtually and in-person
- **190** community energy **surveys** were completed in English and Spanish
- Faribault had a table at **14 events** that engaged more than **100 people**

See Appendix C: Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Planning Process for more information about the planning process and Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program.



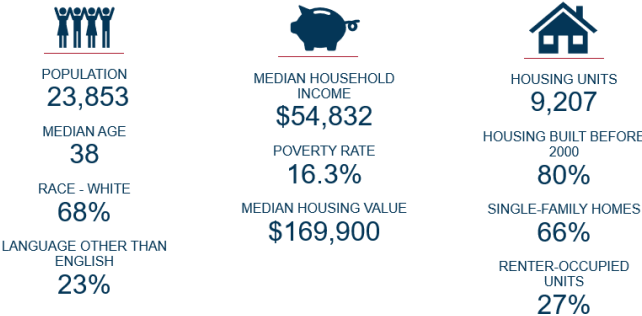
WHERE WE ARE NOW

An integral part of the Partners in Energy planning process is reviewing historic energy data that informs our community’s energy baseline. Xcel Energy serves Faribault for both electricity and natural gas, and provided updated data on energy use, participation counts, and utility energy conservation program savings, as detailed in the following sections. See Appendix A: Baseline Energy Analysis for a comprehensive picture of Faribault’s baseline energy data, ranging from 2017 to 2021.

Community Demographics

Demographic data from the American Community Survey provides a summary of Faribault, providing context to the city’s energy use (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The population of almost 24,000 has a median age of 38. Faribault’s median household income of almost \$55,000 is lower compared to Minnesota’s statewide household income of \$77,000. Faribault has a higher poverty rate of 16%, compared to the statewide average of 9%. Of the 9,200 housing units, 80% were built before the year 2000 and were subject to outdated energy codes, which presents an opportunity to improve energy efficiency.

Figure 3. An overview of Faribault's community demographics



SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2020 5-year estimates

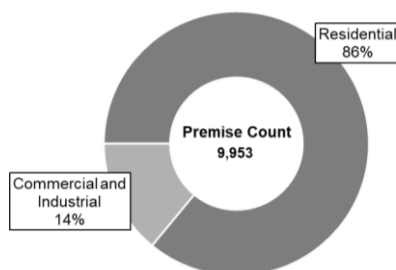
Energy Use and Savings

Premises

In 2021, Faribault consisted of 9,953 distinct premises (Figure 4), which are a unique combination of service address and meter.

For residential customers, this is the equivalent of an individual house or dwelling unit in a multi-tenant building. For business customers, it is an individual business, or for a larger business, a separately metered portion of the business's load at that address.² Most premises are residential, while the remaining 14% fall in the commercial and industrial sector.

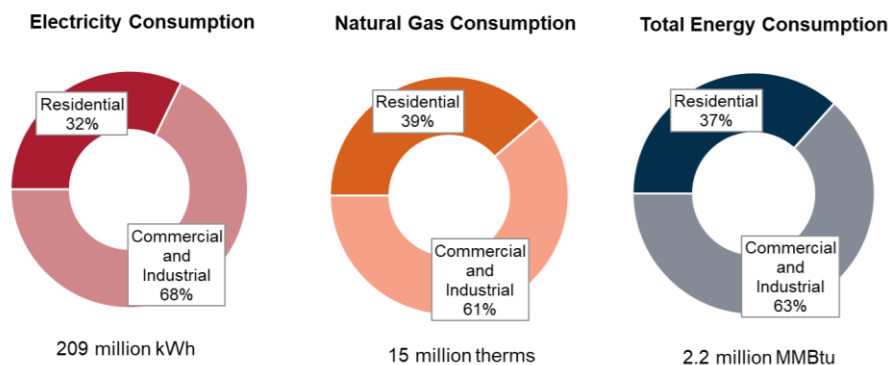
Figure 4. Xcel Energy Premise count by sector, 2021



Energy Consumption

In 2021, the Faribault community consumed 209 million kWh of electricity and 15 million therms of natural gas across all sectors per year. Although the commercial and industrial sector only comprises 14% of premises, it accounts for 63% of total energy consumption (Figure 5). Commercial and industrial premises use significantly more energy on average per premise than residential ones, a pattern typical of cities like Faribault.

Figure 5. Energy consumption by sector, 2021



² Please refer to *Glossary of Terms* for more detail on energy terms used in this plan.

Total energy consumption was calculated using both electricity and natural gas consumption from Xcel Energy premises converted into British thermal units, a unit of measure that allows electricity and natural gas to be compared based on a common measure of energy potential.

Since 2017, Faribault's total electricity consumption decreased almost 5% (Figure 6). This can be attributed to decreased consumption in the commercial and industrial sector. At the same time, residential electricity consumption increased by 6% from 2017 to 2021. This increase in residential electricity consumption could be due to weather fluctuations, with a higher number of cooling days (as indicated by CDD in Figure 6) each year driving the use of air conditioning.

Faribault's natural gas consumption increased by 7% between 2017 and 2021 due to increased use of natural gas in the commercial and industrial sector (Figure 7). As Figure 5 shows, natural gas use increases during colder years with more heating degree days (HDD on the chart) requiring an increase in space heating.

Figure 6. Electricity consumption by sector, 2017–2021

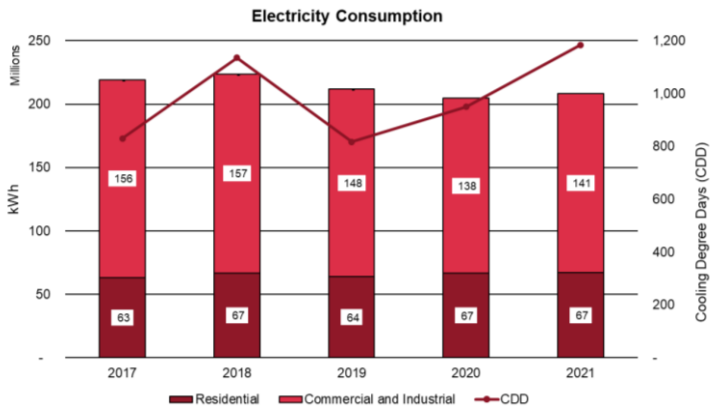
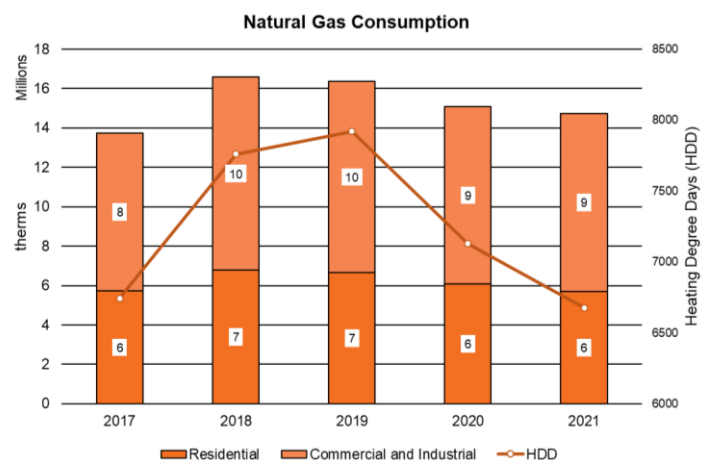
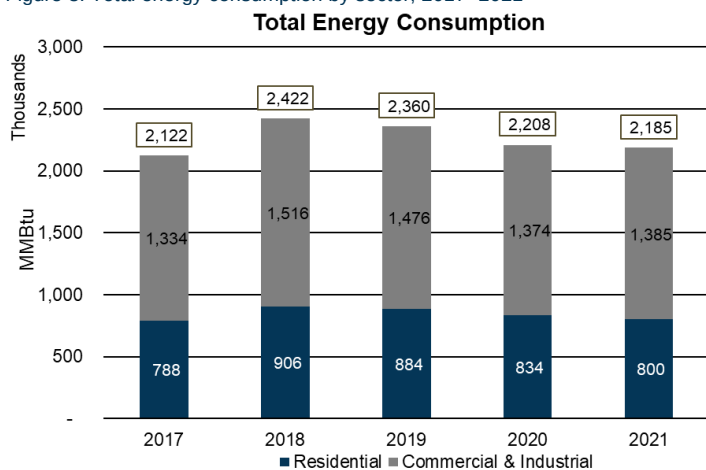


Figure 7. Natural gas consumption by sector, 2017-2021



Between 2017 and 2021, Faribault's total energy consumption was highest in 2018 and 2019 and increased almost 3% from the 2017 baseline to 2021, with both residential and commercial and industrial sectors experiencing higher energy consumption overall (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Total energy consumption by sector, 2017–2021



Energy Costs and Energy Burden

During an average year, all premises in Faribault spend an estimated \$32 million on energy for both electricity and natural gas (Figure 9). Most of these costs are paid by the commercial and industrial sector, with total annual average energy costs at \$19.3 million. While costs fluctuate greatly for commercial and industrial premises based on size and industry, on average these premises spend \$14,000 annually. The residential sector spends \$12.2 million annually on energy. An average residential premise spends \$1,400 annually on electricity and natural gas (Table 1).

Figure 9. Average total energy costs by sector, 2017–2021

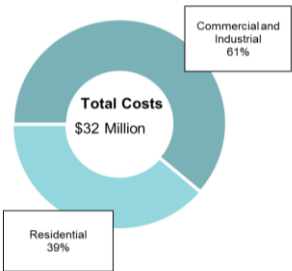
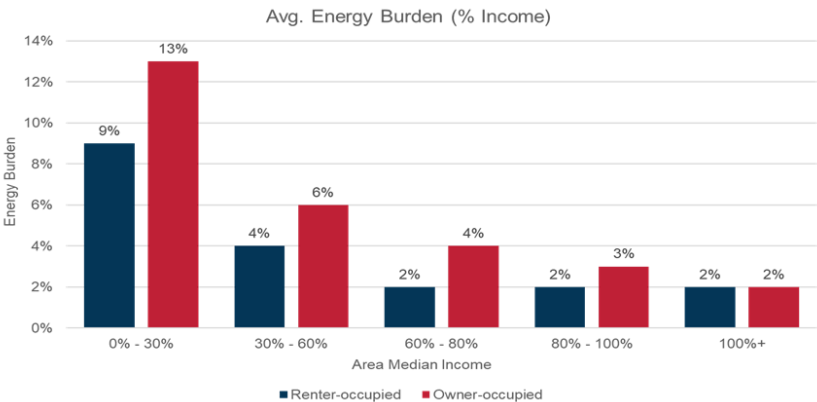


Table 1. Average annual energy costs by sector, 2017–2021

Sector	Average Annual Electricity Costs	Average Annual Natural Gas Costs	Average Annual Cost per Premise
Residential	\$8.4 million	\$3.8 million	\$1,400
Commercial & Industrial	\$14.8 million	\$4.5 million	\$14,000

Energy burden is the percentage of income that residents spend on energy. The energy burden for Faribault residents making 30% or less of the median income is up to 13% of their income.³ Energy burden is higher across every income group for homeowners compared to renters.

Figure 10. Energy burden by unit occupancy and median income

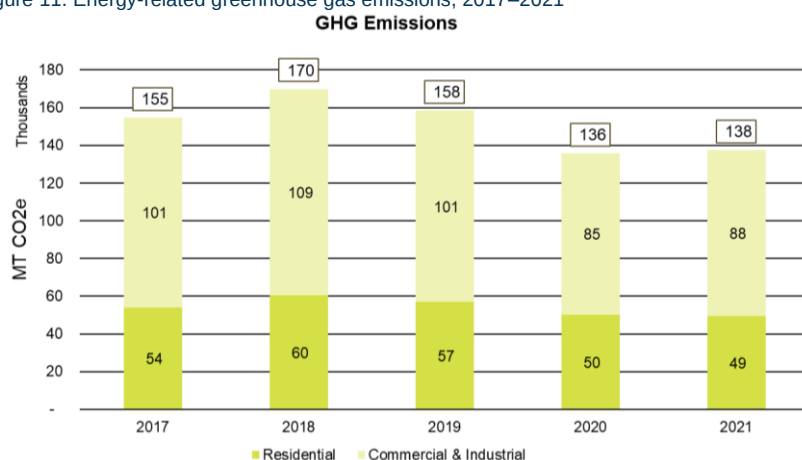


³ Department of Energy Low-income Energy Affordability Tool

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions are calculated for both electricity and natural gas consumption for all sectors in Faribault.⁴ Faribault's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 amount to 138,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e). Like total energy consumption, Faribault's commercial and industrial sector accounts for most energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions increased from 2017 to 2018 in all sectors, then declined over time, resulting in an 11% decrease from 2017 to 2021 (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, 2017–2021



Renewable Energy

Faribault residents and businesses use subscription programs and on-site options to support renewable energy. In Faribault, most renewable energy program participation is in the residential sector, where 671 residents support renewable energy through subscription programs including Windsource®, Renewable* Connect®, and community solar gardens, and 35 residents have on-site solar installations. The commercial/industrial sector supports renewable energy at a lower rate than the residential sector with 77 subscribers and 16 on-site installations, but those subscribers support a much higher amount of renewable electricity, with more than 42 million kWh of electricity subscribed to renewable energy programs.

⁴ Electricity emissions are calculated using Xcel Energy's preliminary and certified emissions factors for their Upper Midwest Fuel Mix. Emissions factors used during the planning process to calculate electricity consumption greenhouse gas emissions may change as Xcel Energy completes third-party verification for its emissions intensities. See **Error! Reference source not found.** for the emissions factors used to calculate Faribault's energy-related emissions.

Table 2. Renewable energy subscriptions and program participation, 2021

	Residential	Commercial / Industrial
Subscription Programs - Windsource & Renewable*Connect		
Subscriber Count	382	5
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	829,000	3,020,000
Percent of Sector Xcel Energy Electricity Use	1.2%	2.1%
Community Solar Gardens - Solar*Rewards® Community		
Subscriber Count	289	72
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	3,063,000	39,032,000
Percent of Sector Xcel Energy Electricity Use	4.6%	27.6%
On-site Solar - Solar*Rewards® and Net-Metering		
Participant Count	35	16
Total Electricity Capacity (kW)	452	1,589
Total Xcel Energy Renewable Energy Support⁵		
Subscriber Count	671	77
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	3,892,000	42,052,000

Energy Efficiency Program Participation & Savings

Both residents and commercial/industrial premises participate in efficiency programs from Xcel Energy where they can receive rebates for upgrading equipment, participate in a building audit to understand their energy opportunities, or participate in a rate savings program. Participation in all programs saved an annual average of almost 3.2 million kWh of electricity and 559,000 therms of natural gas (Table 3).

Table 3. Average annual program participation and energy savings by sector, 2017–2021

Sector	Average Annual Participation	Average Annual Energy Savings (kWh)	Average Annual Energy Savings (therms)
Residential	718	160,000	25,600
Commercial/Industrial	86	3,026,000	333,000
Total	804	3,186,000	359,000

Faribault residents and businesses rely on a few key programs from Xcel Energy to help them improve efficiency (Table 4). The Residential Saver's Switch program had the most participants while Residential HVAC resulted in the most savings. The commercial and industrial sector has multiple efficiency programs, with Lighting Efficiency having both the most participants and the most overall energy savings (Table 5).

⁵ Excludes on-site solar due to behind the meter generation.

Table 4. Average annual participation and energy savings in top five residential programs, 2017–2021

Residential Program	Average Annual Participation	Average Annual Energy Savings (kWh)	Average Annual Energy Savings (therms)
Home Energy Squad	14	21,000	1,070
Low-income Home Energy Squad	23	15,600	1,400
Refrigerator Recycling	40	34,200	--
Residential HVAC ⁶	187	74,500	20,200
Residential Saver's Switch	370	710	--

Table 5. Average annual participation and energy savings in top five commercial and industrial programs, 2017–2021

Commercial/Industrial Program	Average Annual Participation	Average Annual Energy Savings (kWh)	Average Annual Energy Savings (therms)
Lighting Efficiency	23	1,237,000	-
Energy Design Assistance	1	479,100	8,700
Custom Efficiency	3	415,500	258,000
Small Business Lighting	17	306,700	-
Commercial HVAC ⁷	19	269,800	41,500

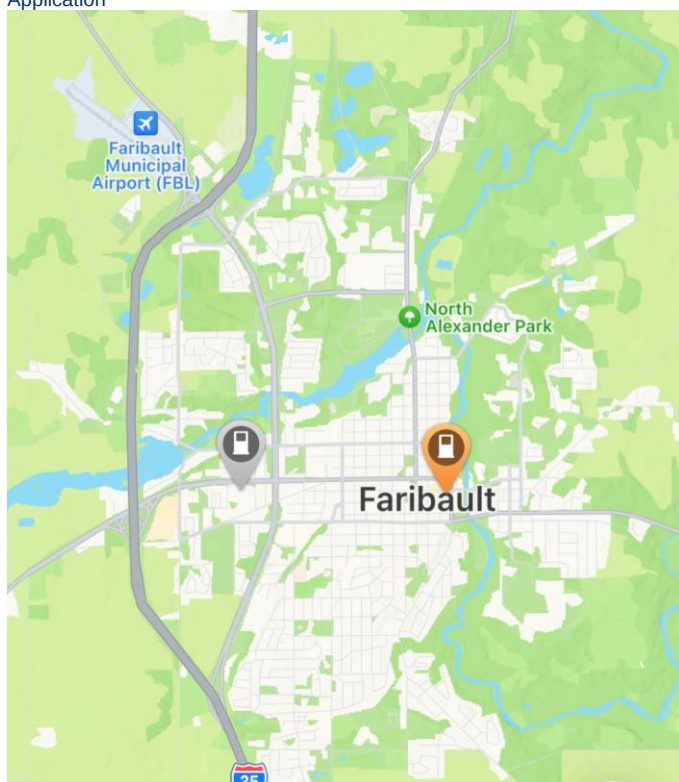
⁶ The Residential HVAC program consisted of Residential Cooling and Residential Heating until 2021, at which point the two programs were combined and renamed.

⁷ The Commercial HVAC group consisted of consisted of Commercial Refrigeration Efficiency, Cooling, Heating Efficiency, and Motor Efficiency until 2021, at which point the programs were merged and renamed as HVAC+R Efficiency.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Electric vehicles (EVs) are also of interest to the Faribault community and this Energy Action Plan. According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, as of December 2021, there are 49 registered EVs in Faribault, which is about 17% of all EVs registered in Rice County, and 36% of rice county residents live in the City of Faribault.⁸ The Faribault community also has four public EV charging stations according to PlugShare, including two Level 2 chargers and two Level 3 Fast Chargers.

Figure 12. Map of Faribault charging stations from the PlugShare Application



⁸ Minnesota Department of Transportation Electric Vehicle Dashboard, <https://www.dot.mn.gov/sustainability/electric-vehicle-dashboard.html>



WHERE WE ARE GOING

Energy Vision Statement

During the planning process, the Energy Action Team created an energy vision statement using responses from the community energy survey to the question, “What are your hopes for Faribault’s energy future?”

This statement guided the planning process and reflects the intention of the community when it comes to implementing this plan.

Faribault is a vibrant, diverse community with equitable access to clean, affordable energy for all residents, businesses, and institutions. We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy and creating a sustainable future where all can thrive.

Focus Areas

To achieve a community-wide commitment to energy stewardship, the Energy Action Team identified the following focus areas to prioritize strategies and resources.

- **Energy Efficiency:** Saving energy was the highest priority for both this plan and the previous plan. It was also identified as the first step to the clean energy transition.
- **Renewable Energy:** Faribault is already supporting a large amount of renewable energy through on-site solar, community solar and other utility subscription programs. This focus area was identified as a high priority for the community due to its contribution to the City’s health and resiliency.
- **Beneficial Electrification:** It was important to the team to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The City chose to focus on electrifying homes and buildings that

can be powered by clean energy, while contributing to the health of the people in those buildings. This can be achieved by replacing equipment fueled by natural gas with technology powered by electricity, where a growing percent is produced from carbon-free sources.

- **Transportation:** Transportation is recognized as a large contributor to the community's greenhouse gas emissions. Electrifying the transportation sector and adding transportation alternatives would help make strides toward emissions reductions.

These focus areas were chosen to provide a holistic approach to energy stewardship and to gain a broad range of input from the community during outreach.

Goals

The Energy Action Team set near-term and long-term goals to measure success. These goals will guide the actions of this plan.

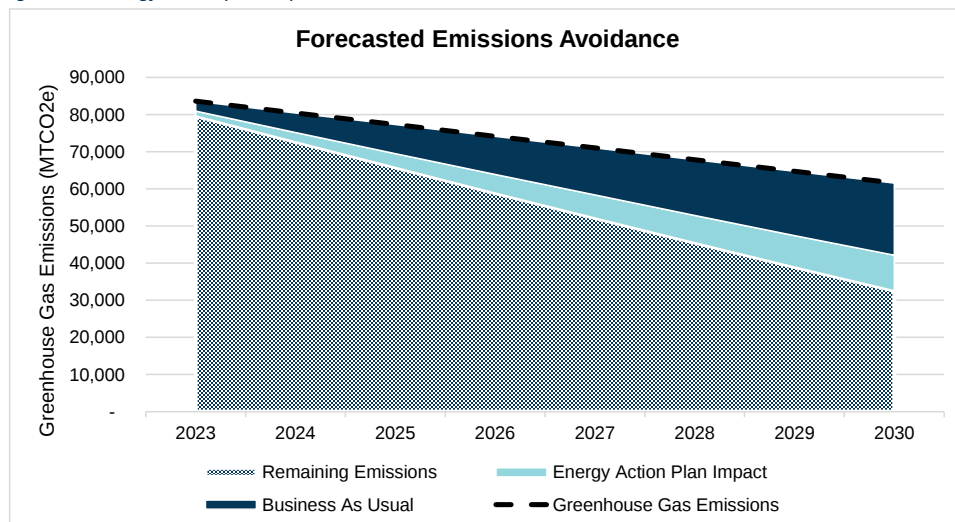
Community-wide Goal

Faribault will avoid an additional 50% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to business as usual, while saving the community energy and money.

In other measures, this goal equates to the following:

- By reaching this goal, the City estimates Faribault will avoid spending an additional \$5.6 million on energy bills through increased energy efficiency.
- Achieving this goal will be equivalent to saving 33.9 million kWh of electricity and 4.4 million therms of natural gas by 2030.
- 50% equates to 28,992 MTCO₂e cumulatively avoided by 2030.

Figure 13. Energy action plan impact toward emissions avoidance



The Energy Action Team set short-term targets to reach the 2030 goal. Since increased program participation resulted in higher energy savings, annual targets for some popular utility programs are listed in Table 7, with annual savings targets listed in Table 6.

Faribault can reach these annual savings targets through a variety of programs and targets, so the program targets are provided as a sample only.

Table 6. Annual energy savings and participation targets

	Business as Usual		Energy Action Plan Target	
	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial
Electricity Savings (kWh)	159,710	3,025,950	212,416	4,024,510
Natural Gas Savings (therms)	25,640	333,390	51,279	500,090
Participation	718	86	1,352	125

Table 7. Example annual program participation targets by sector

	Residential	Commercial/Industrial
Total Participation	1,352	125
Sample Program Targets	• 36 Home Energy Squad visits • 8 Insulation rebates • 351 Heating & Cooling rebates • 21 Water Heater rebates	• 28 HVAC+R rebates • 36 Lighting rebates • 3 Multi-family Building Efficiency participants • 4 Business Energy Assessment visits



HOW WE ARE GOING TO GET THERE

Considerations for all Focus Area activities

As the community and Energy Action Team planned the actions of this plan, the following considerations stood out from individual focus areas and should be applied to all work within this plan.

Equity: Be equitable in the implementation and intended outcomes of these strategies by translating materials where possible. Be deliberate with the means of communication to reach audiences equitably and build relationships within the community by attending community events and conversations.

Access: Build an approachable, updated, living resource hub of energy information relevant to the Faribault community that is easily accessed.

Our Business Community: Continue to be a business-friendly community when asking businesses to take energy actions.

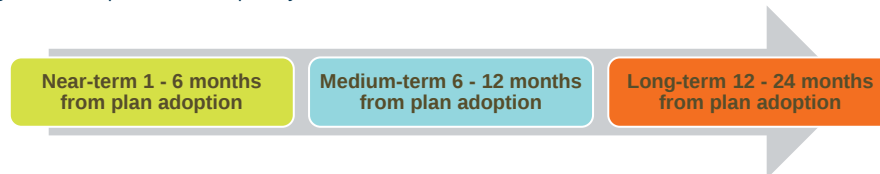
Informed: Keep apprised of and continue to update information available for all energy resources, including emerging technologies as they become relevant, available and financially accessible. These can include geothermal energy, ground source and air source heat pumps, HVAC rooftop unit heat-pumps, and electric vehicle charging incentives and programs.

Leadership and Recognition: Lead by example as a municipality and recognize the efforts of residents and businesses as they help reach this plan's goals through the following strategies.

Environmental impact: When promoting land and resource use, avoid doing more harm to that resource. For example, consider the full life cycle of products versus end-use.

Timelines: Each strategy has been given a color-coded timeline. That timeline includes near-, medium- and long-term timeframes. Partners in Energy offers support through an 18-month implementation period that supports the community's funding and capacity limitations. The work of these strategies will continue beyond these timelines to achieve the 2030 goal.

Figure 14. Graphic outline of priority timelines



Focus Area: Energy Efficiency

Strategy 1: Create a targeted outreach campaign encouraging energy assessments for homes and businesses.

As energy efficiency is the primary way to save energy, and it is difficult for audiences to act without advice or direction, energy assessments are a low to no-cost option for residents or businesses to learn about their energy use and inefficiencies. It will also indicate where they have the most potential for return on investment with energy projects.



Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Address barriers for residents such as cost, timing, language, and awareness and increase Home Energy Squad or other home energy assessment participation by promoting free visits and partnering with trusted messengers to reach underrepresented or hard to reach community members.	Growing up Healthy, Healthy Communities Initiative, school groups, higher education, senior center, community events
2) Showcase residents and businesses that undergo an energy assessment on the City's energy resource hub.	City communications
3) Conduct outreach to Faribault's business community through assessment program implementers and the Chamber of Commerce. Include case studies and incentive information in communications.	Chamber of Commerce, Faribault Futures, community events
4) Conduct a door-to-door campaign to small businesses to encourage energy assessments.	Energy Action Team, City Council Members, Mayor, Energy Smart, utility assessment programs
Communication:	Events, radio, weekly tips in Faribault Daily News/Weekly Shopper
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Strategy 2: Engage multi-family building property owners and managers to take efficiency measures.

Faribault's multi-family buildings constitute a large part of the housing community and significantly impact energy savings. These efficiency measures can be taken in existing buildings and new construction. Faribault has done outreach to multi-family building owners in the past and can build on those efforts and relationships.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Create a targeted outreach campaign to older, existing multi-family building owners and property managers to increase energy efficiency and engage in efficiency programs.	Community and Economic Development and Engineering departments
2) Conduct multi-family building trainings on energy efficiency options for developers, building owners, operations and management staff.	Xcel Energy's Multi-family Building Efficiency program, local HVAC and weatherization experts
Communication:	City, Chamber of Commerce and elected official communications
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 3: Promote energy efficiency in new construction and building retrofits.

As buildings are re-purposed or built, there is an opportunity to implement energy efficiency measures. Getting involved with those projects will require partnerships and communications to help promote these measures early in the design phase of a project.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Educate designers, contractors, etc. with a guide to resources for energy efficient buildings.	Community and Economic Development and Engineering departments, existing guides
2) Review and modify City code where applicable to require or incentivize more efficient buildings.	Other community examples, Community and Economic Development department
3) Encourage new technologies like motion lighting or efficient appliances/electronics through educational pieces.	Lighting consultants and utility programs
4) Promote city rebates, incentives and recognition for efficient buildings.	City webpage, Chamber of Commerce
Communication:	Chamber of Commerce, city permitting, elected official communications, social media
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 4: Create education and awareness campaigns to encourage behavior change and promote energy efficiency programs to residents.

To reach audiences who may not be able to do an energy assessment, or to reach populations that want to start with small steps or are renting their homes, behavior change campaigns can provide a first step to home energy efficiency.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Attend community events with business and resident energy resources and tips to encourage energy efficiency actions.	Parks and Recreation department, Nature Center, senior center, schools, Downtown Business Association
2) Create a weekly energy tip/action and promote them throughout the community.	Energy Hub, weekly shopper, Faribault Daily News, social media, utility bill inserts, radio
Communication:	City website and communications, press, community boards
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Strategy 5: Partner with schools, governmental and community organizations to act as trusted messengers of information and use existing programs to increase energy efficiency.

Creating messaging alongside community partners who may know the unique needs and communication methods of their networks will provide residents with energy information from trusted allies in the community, addressing energy needs more effectively.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Share Xcel Energy student toolkit with teachers and students to encourage behavior change at home.	Xcel Energy, K-12 schools, Partners in Energy
2) Share EmPowered Schools information with school districts.	EmPowered Schools, K-12 schools
3) Review GreenSteps Schools criteria and help in the pursuit of energy initiatives.	GreenSteps, K-12 schools
4) Recruit for a student internship to help perform basic energy assessments or guide residents toward utility programs.	Higher education or high school group

5) Develop energy-related library programming such as educational events on home energy efficiency, renewable energy and utility programs.	Library, community education
6) Create and distribute communications pieces that include education around energy for teachers and students.	K-12 schools and higher education
Communication:	School and library direct communications
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Strategy 6: Create a tool library resource to support energy efficiency projects at home.

Reach community members who want to do projects and learn more about their home or business energy use. A tool library could help residents and business owners access tools that aren't readily available or are expensive to purchase.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Acquire and create a plethora of tools including an infrared camera, kil-a-watt meter, LED kits, and a guide or set of directions on how to use the tools to find inefficiencies and next steps to take.	Xcel Energy, library, Partners in Energy, local hardware stores
2) Partner with energy library programming to promote and encourage use of this kit.	Library, Partners in Energy
Communication:	City web page, social media, video media, paper, library communications
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Commented [GU1]: Kilowatt meter "Kill-a-Watt" is a specific brand.

Strategy 7: Encourage energy efficient, affordable “missing middle” housing development by creating and communicating resources for retrofits of existing buildings and development of those properties.

Faribault is not unique in its position having a significant amount of single-family and multi-family housing stock and fewer “missing middle” housing, which includes duplexes, stacked and courtyard complexes, townhouses, and smaller multi-unit buildings in walkable neighborhoods. Encouraging this type of housing through energy efficiency incentives can grow that area of the housing community.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Work with City departments to identify housing stock and contacts to conduct outreach to existing buildings on available incentives.	City staff and Partners in Energy
2) Create a city/stacked incentive program that encourages developers to build missing middle properties.	Use other community examples and work with city council/commissions
Communication:	On-on-one outreach
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 8: Use passive energy strategies to reduce heat island effects that will bolster other energy strategies.

Faribault can make strides in reducing energy use (particularly during warm months) through measures that help reduce the urban heat island effects. This strategy can bolster the impact of the other energy efficiency strategies.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Consider green infrastructure and removal of unnecessary pavement or pavement alternatives when implementing or renovating projects.	Partners in Energy, Planning and Parks and Recreation departments
2) Consider light-colored pavement and roofs when building or renovating roofed structures, streets or paths.	Development, business associations
3) Plant trees for shade where possible.	Parks and Recreation department
Communication:	Internal to City departments
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Focus Area: Renewable Energy

Strategy 1: Remove barriers for residents to access community solar or other renewable energy subscription offerings.

Alternatives to on-site solar exist for community members or businesses who lease or cannot install solar on their properties. Education is needed to show other available options for participation in renewable energy.



Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Educate residents on community solar subscription opportunities through information sharing on the City website.	City communications, Partners in Energy
2) Create easily accessible videos and infographics for understanding subscription options.	Partners in Energy and city communications
3) Partner with civic and social service organizations to develop and share incentives to renewable energy options for multi-family building residents and low-income residents.	Community Action Center, senior center, library
4) Launch a renewable energy subscription campaign for residents to access clean energy without on-site installations.	Faith organizations, community education, Partners in Energy
Communication:	City communications, press release, social media
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 2: Build partnerships with organizations that can support outreach to encourage renewable energy among residents.

Organizations that act as a trusted resource can help shape messaging and communicate with their networks to promote renewable energy options. These partnerships can also lead to further sustainability messaging for future campaigns.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Host or partner with a contractor's event to share renewable energy benefits, resources and incentives.	Library, business associations, solar installers, community solar, Xcel Energy, Partners in Energy
2) Showcase businesses that have adopted renewable energy by creating case studies and articles and recognize them through City communications.	Partners in Energy, business association
Communication:	Social Media, direct email campaign
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 3: Create targeted outreach campaigns encouraging large buildings to adopt renewable energy practices.

Using solar suitability mapping and identifying large buildings that could host a large solar array can benefit the business or building itself, as well as make a large advance toward greenhouse gas emissions avoided.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Create an outreach campaign for renters and property owners to engage in renewable energy programs.	Housing department, Xcel Energy, local solar companies
2) Create incentives for multi-family buildings to adopt renewable energy practices while avoiding placing the cost burden on residents.	Planning department, City Council
3) Lead by example on municipal owned buildings and properties (e.g., parking lots and streetlights).	City Council, solar companies, building staff, development, planning
4) Create a targeted outreach campaign for businesses to support renewable energy, including information on funding available for on-site solar projects.	Downtown business association, Faribault Futures, Xcel Energy, Chamber of Commerce
5) Help schools access on-site renewable energy projects and funding.	Higher education and K-12 schools
Communication:	City communications, press release, social media
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 4: Help renewable installers to consider additional sustainability efforts when installing large solar arrays.

Additional sustainability efforts might include incorporating pollinator habitat or native grasses for water infiltration and carbon sequestration. This would provide dual purpose for the resources used.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Recognize efforts of solar installers who make additional sustainability actions to installations and include these actions on the Energy Hub.	Solar companies
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Focus Area: Transportation

Strategy 1: Increase access to EV education and resources.

As new incentives are rolled out and EV ownership is expected to increase significantly by 2030, education on available incentives and charging options will inform community members on the adoption of an electric vehicle.



Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Promote available information, resources and financing opportunities through the City's Energy Hub (such as IRA funds and other incentives).	City communications
2) Host ride and drive events.	Drive Electric MN, Xcel Energy, Parks and Recreation department, community events
3) Share educational materials at events.	Rice County Fair, Concerts in the Park, International Fest, Heritage Days
Communication:	City communications, Faribault Daily News
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 2: Increase convenient charging availability.

Best placement and other installation plans for public EV charging will help the adoption of electric vehicles, make visiting area businesses more attractive, and aid in accessible charging infrastructure.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Explore increasing public charging stations in downtown Faribault as a draw for business.	Xcel Energy, business associations, Chamber of Commerce
2) Develop a site plan and prioritize sites for public chargers to access funding as it becomes available.	Planning department, MnDOT charging infrastructure guides
3) Include charging guidelines/requirements for multi-family buildings and explore charging infrastructure ordinances in new development and retrofits of multi-family buildings.	Community examples of best practices and policies, City Council
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 3: Partner with the utility to ensure reliability in the grid as EV adoptions increase.

Being in close contact with the utility as electric vehicle charging increases will ensure grid reliability as charging is added to public and private locations.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Establish a contact person at the utility who can share information at a regular cadence on grid pressures and intake information on City plans or campaigns.	Xcel Energy
Communication:	Internal
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Strategy 4: Access and promote funding and opportunities for electrification of fleet vehicles.

When replacement is needed for fleets such as public transit, school busses, commercial vehicles, e-bikes, municipal fleets, postal vehicles, etc. the City, residents, and business owners can assess whether an EV makes economic sense. Help those organizations keep apprised of incentives and resources for those updates.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Keep the City website up to date on funding changes or updates to programs while establishing relationships with organizational fleet managers to keep them apprised of resources.	Xcel Energy, business associations, municipal fleet manager
Communication:	Internal
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 5: Support low-income communities in electric transportation by removing barriers to access.

Faribault's under-resourced community members should be kept apprised of electric vehicle options. Initial resources should include new incentives and low-maintenance costs of EV ownership.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Create a resource guide (digital and printable) for accessing federal and state dollars for EV adoption, e-bikes, and other electric transportation equipment	Xcel Energy, Partners in Energy
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 6: Support the development of a complete network of active transportation infrastructure.

Faribault can aid the energy strategies and add to the greenhouse gas reduction goals of this plan by removing vehicle transportation by adding alternative transportation methods.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Support the creation of more walking and biking infrastructure.	Transportation and Planning departments
2) Support the addition of options to the public transit network (e.g., trains, electric bikes, etc.).	Transportation and Planning departments
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Focus Area: Beneficial Electrification

Strategy 1: Create an education and outreach campaign to share the possibilities of home appliance electrification and qualified contractors.

As incentives and resources become available to homeowners and landlords, the City can help inform the public of those resources and the benefits of electrifying their properties.



Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Develop a school campaign to include in science courses.	Higher education, K-12 schools, Xcel Energy, Empowered Schools
2) Host community center and library educational sessions.	Transportation and Planning departments
3) Use and promote existing organizations' educational resources and preferred contractor lists.	ASHP Collaborative, MN Geothermal Heat Pump Association
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 1–6 Months	

Strategy 2: Incorporate beneficial electrification into new construction recommendations/requirements and promote existing programs and incentives.

As new homes and businesses are built, contractors or builders will be informed about available incentives and best practices to install electric HVAC and appliances.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Create recommendation packets to distribute to local builders, remodelers, and large construction projects.	Chamber of Commerce, Partners in Energy, Xcel Energy
2) Explore requirements for electric appliances and bring recommendations to City Council.	Other community examples of policy or ordinance
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 3: Support contractor trainings and education on new electrification technologies.

The workforce will be informed of new technology transitions, options, available incentives and installation best practices.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Partner with the MN Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative and other workforce training programs to conduct workshops for contractors.	ASHP Collaborative, Chamber of Commerce, Partners in Energy, Xcel Energy
Communication:	City communications, Chamber of Commerce network
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 4: Electrify parks maintenance equipment.

As equipment is replaced in Faribault's parks maintenance selection, electric options will be considered to reduce costs of fuel and maintenance.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Identify procurement processes and update language for considering or requiring electric equipment when replacement is needed for mowers, trimmers, etc.	Parks and Recreation department
Communication:	Internal communications
Timeline: 6–12 Months	



HOW WE STAY ON COURSE

This Energy Action Plan is a living document. Goals and strategies will be assessed and refined as needed based on data and community staff capacity.

Xcel Energy Support

Data and Reporting

Partners in Energy will provide biannual progress reports with metrics of success and overall progress toward goals for Xcel Energy rebates and programs. These reports will be available publicly and shared with both the community and Energy Action Team.

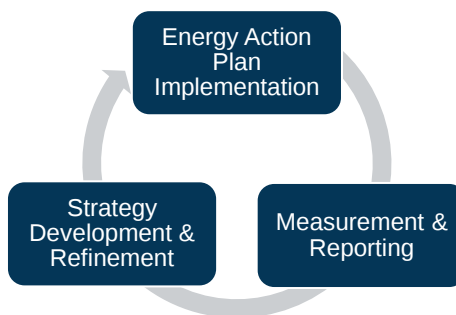


Figure 15. Actions and tracking

If available, ad-hoc participation reports for specific Xcel Energy programs (e.g., Home Energy Squad) can be provided to measure success of campaigns and to determine if we need to change course.

Project Management and Tracking

Partners in Energy will host regular project management check-in calls with staff to ensure we stay on course to achieve our strategies. If necessary, an implementation check-in meeting with the Energy Action Team can be convened to assess progress toward goals and discuss strategy refinement.

Energy Action Team and Community Commitment

The Energy Action Team formed to create this plan will support implementation by ensuring this document reflects the voices of the community and by helping implement the strategies that each team member was passionate about.

The community members who filled out surveys or responded to community listening boards have requested updates on the progress of the plan and the actions taken along the way. They have started a communication list for Faribault community members who are interested in the community's energy future.

The City of Faribault is committed to the municipal strategies in this plan and to working alongside the broader community to implement other strategies. The City is also committed to continue to build partnerships to continue to save the community money and energy.



APPENDIX A: BASELINE ENERGY ANALYSIS

Data was provided by Xcel Energy for all Faribault premises for 2017–2021. Xcel Energy provides electric and natural gas service to the community. The data helped the Energy Action Team understand Faribault’s energy use and identify opportunities for energy conservation and renewable energy. Data included in this section establishes a baseline against which progress toward goals will be compared in the future.

Electricity and Natural Gas Premises

Most Faribault premises are residential. Of the 9,953 distinct premises in Faribault in 2021, 86% (8,558) are residential, while commercial and industrial buildings represent 14% (1,395).

Table 8. Premise count by sector, 2021

Sector	Premise Count	Percent of Premises
Residential	8,558	86%
Commercial and Industrial	1,395	14%
Total	9,953	100%

Electricity and Natural Gas Consumption and Trends by Sector

On average from 2017-2021, the Faribault community consumed 214 million kWh of electricity and 15.3 million therms of natural gas across all sectors per year (Table 9). Total energy consumption increased by over the baseline period by 3%, which can be attributed to an increase in natural gas consumption in the commercial and industrial sector, as well as an increase in electricity consumption in the residential sector (Table 10). During the same period, electricity consumption in the commercial and industrial sector decreased by 9%.

Table 9. Average annual energy consumption by sector by fuel type, 2017–2021

Sector	Electricity Consumption (kWh)	Natural Gas Consumption (Therms)	Total Energy Consumption (MMBtu)	Percent of Total Energy Consumption
Residential	65,597,249	6,187,004	842,518	37%
Commercial and Industrial	148,012,439	9,119,306	1,416,949	63%
Total	213,609,688	15,306,310	2,259,467	100%

Table 10. Annual energy consumption by sector by fuel type, 2017–2021

	Fuel Type	Residential	Commercial and Industrial	Total
2017	Electric (kWh)	63,367,144	155,915,550	219,282,694
	Natural Gas (therm)	5,722,761	8,019,140	13,741,901
	Total (MMBtu)	788,485	1,333,898	2,122,383
2018	Electric (kWh)	66,844,111	156,897,927	223,742,038
	Natural Gas (therm)	6,775,128	9,805,872	16,581,000
	Total (MMBtu)	905,585	1,515,923	2,421,508
2019	Electric (kWh)	63,965,767	147,850,556	211,816,323
	Natural Gas (therm)	6,658,740	9,710,553	16,369,293
	Total (MMBtu)	884,125	1,475,521	2,359,647
2020	Electric (kWh)	66,628,789	138,058,609	204,687,398
	Natural Gas (therm)	6,068,915	9,030,378	15,099,293
	Total (MMBtu)	834,229	1,374,094	2,208,323
2021	Electric (kWh)	67,180,435	141,339,551	208,519,986
	Natural Gas (therm)	5,709,478	9,030,585	14,740,063
	Total (MMBtu)	800,167	1,385,309	2,185,476

Total energy consumption during the baseline period showed variation in each sector consistent with variation in weather. Hotter summers (those with more cooling degree days) and colder winters (those with more heating degree days) had higher energy consumption.

Table 11. Cooling degree and heating degree days, 2017–2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cooling Degree Days	830	1,135	817	950	1,184
Heating Degree Days	6,743	7,760	7,921	7,128	6,678

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Trends

Faribault's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increased from 2017 to 2018, and declined from 2018–2020, then grew slightly by 1.7% from 2020–2021. Overall, GHG emissions are 11% lower in 2021 compared to 2017 levels.

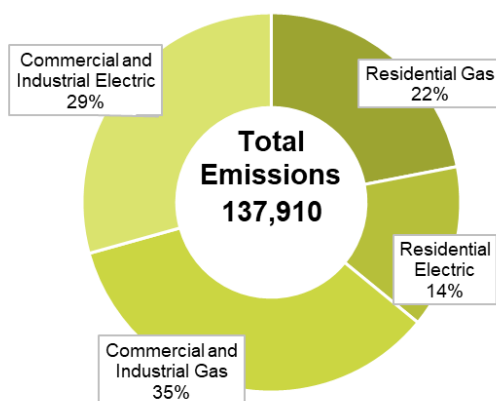
Table 12. Energy-related greenhouse gas emissions in MTCO₂e, 2017–2021

Customer Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Residential	53,998	60,425	56,955	50,281	49,529
Commercial and Industrial	100,693	109,474	101,498	85,374	88,380
Total Emissions	154,691	169,899	158,453	135,655	137,910

In 2021, the residential sector generated 36% of Faribault’s energy-related greenhouse emissions and the commercial sector generated 64% of the emissions. Natural gas consumption made up the largest proportion of emissions for both the residential and commercial sectors (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by sector and fuel type, 2021

**2021 GHG Emissions (MTCO₂E)
by Sector and Fuel Type**



To calculate Faribault’s energy-related emissions, preliminary and certified emissions factors from Xcel Energy’s Upper Midwest Fuel Mix and a standard emissions factor for natural gas emissions were used (Table 13). As Xcel Energy completes third-party verification, the emissions factors used during the planning process to estimate greenhouse gas emissions may change.

Table 13. Emissions factors used to calculate energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, 2017–2021

Fuel Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Electricity Emissions Factor (lbs/MWh)	822	807	745	598	631
Natural Gas Emissions Factor (MTCO ₂ e/Dth)	0.053071	0.053071	0.053071	0.053071	0.053071

Energy Costs

In total, Faribault premises spent an annual average of \$31.5 million on energy during the baseline period. Faribault residential premises made up 39% of that spending, while commercial premises made up the remaining 61%. Commercial and industrial premises spent more overall, and their average annual cost per premise was greater (\$14,027) than the average cost for residential premises (\$1,432). Table 15 shows the energy costs by year for 2017–2021 by sector and fuel type.

Table 14. Average annual energy costs by sector and fuel type, 2017–2021

Customer Type	Average Annual Electricity Costs	Average Annual Natural Gas Costs	Average Annual Total Costs	Average Annual Cost per Premise
Residential	\$8,408,174	\$3,814,248	\$12,222,422	\$1,432
Commercial and Industrial	\$14,785,939	\$4,514,551	\$19,300,491	\$14,027
Total	\$23,194,113	\$8,328,799	\$31,522,913	

Table 15. Annual energy costs by sector and fuel type, 2017–2021

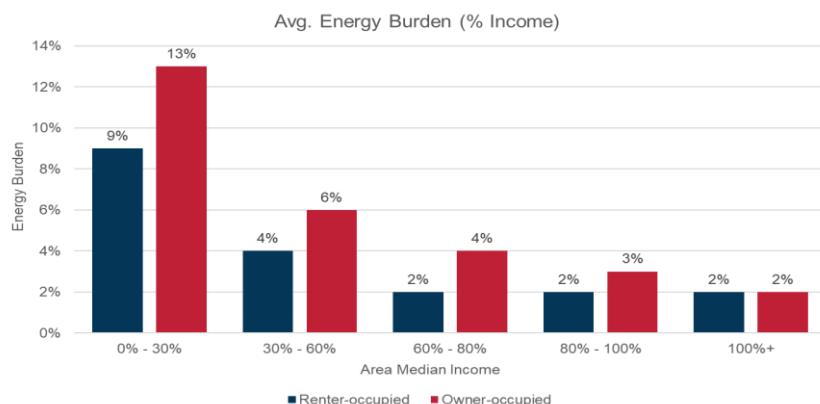
Sector	Year	Annual Electricity Costs	Annual Natural Gas Costs	Annual Total Costs	Annual Cost per Premise
Residential	2017	\$7,861,040	\$3,581,415	\$11,442,455	\$1,343
	2018	\$8,775,704	\$4,176,942	\$12,952,646	\$1,515
	2019	\$8,113,356	\$4,101,794	\$12,215,150	\$1,427
	2020	\$8,577,229	\$3,422,387	\$11,999,616	\$1,403
	2021	\$8,713,541	\$3,788,702	\$12,502,243	\$1,461
Commercial and Industrial	2017	\$15,125,860	\$4,005,169	\$19,131,029	\$13,843
	2018	\$15,571,055	\$4,871,435	\$20,442,490	\$14,602
	2019	\$14,514,878	\$4,731,585	\$19,246,463	\$13,906
	2020	\$13,588,281	\$3,889,638	\$17,477,919	\$12,767
	2021	\$15,129,622	\$5,074,930	\$20,204,552	\$14,484

Energy Burden

Energy burden is the percentage of income that residents spend on energy, and in Faribault it is greatest for owner-occupied homes with owners making 30% or less of the median income. This group of residents spends up to 13% of their income on energy costs.⁹ Notably, energy burden is higher across every income group for homeowners rather than renters.

⁹ Department of Energy LEAD Tool comparison

Figure 17. Energy burden by unit occupancy and median income, DOE LEAD Tool



Program Participation and Savings

Faribault already has a significant number of participants in energy efficiency programs from Xcel Energy, resulting in energy savings for residents and commercial premises. While fewer commercial premises participate, their participation results in larger savings per premise. Participation in these commercial programs saved an annual average of 3,185,660 kWh of electricity and 359,030 therms of natural gas.

Annual program participation counts, and electricity and natural gas savings are shown in Table 16 and Table 17. Savings values noted with an em dash (–) are not applicable, meaning there are no electricity or natural savings associated with that program.

Table 16. Annual residential sector efficiency program participation and savings, 2017–2021

Program		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Efficient New Home Construction	Count	4	7	2	0	0
	Savings (kWh)	2,751	5,380	2,561	0	0
	Savings (therms)	1,003	1,225	158	0	0
Home Energy Audit	Count	32	76	43	4	4
	Savings (kWh)	–	–	–	–	–
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Home Energy Savings Program	Count	1	13	9	0	1
	Savings (kWh)	0	1,828	2,262	0	158
	Savings (therms)	29	0	2,195	0	0
Home Energy Squad	Count	24	24	13	6	5
	Savings (kWh)	30,228	35,996	18,550	12,634	7,639
	Savings (therms)	2,009	1,791	956	421	173
Insulation Rebate	Count	0	4	4	5	4
	Savings (kWh)	0	511	1,028	1,311	4,633
	Savings (therms)	0	980	1,833	2,343	776
Low-Income Home Energy Squad	Count	11	74	3	24	2
	Savings (kWh)	10,546	48,375	2,575	13,663	2,938
	Savings (therms)	746	4,560	177	1,354	136
Multi-Family Energy Savings Program	Count	0	73	0	0	0
	Savings (kWh)	0	42,211	0	0	0
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Refrigerator Recycling	Count	26	53	50	30	43
	Savings (kWh)	28,695	44,815	46,903	21,577	28,888
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Residential Heating and Cooling	Count	148	190	167	186	243
	Savings (kWh)	61,793	78,930	73,116	94,961	63,600
	Savings (therms)	15,018	19,767	14,395	18,794	33,044
Residential Saver's Switch	Count	474	279	295	589	214
	Savings (kWh)	970	564	594	1,193	228
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Smart Thermostat	Count	10	15	6	4	53
	Savings (kWh)	64	552	274	532	2,531
	Savings (therms)	57	564	140	280	1,420
Water Heater Rebate	Count	20	9	11	4	0
	Savings (kWh)	–	–	–	–	–
	Savings (therms)	916	297	475	165	0
Total	Count	750	817	603	852	569
	Savings (kWh)	135,047	259,162	147,863	145,871	110,615
	Savings (therms)	19,778	29,184	20,329	23,357	35,549

Table 17. Annual commercial/industrial sector efficiency program participation and savings, 2017–2021¹⁰

Program		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Custom Efficiency	Count	3	2	5	1	3
	Savings (kWh)	138,406	129,722	1,808,906	0	445
	Savings (therms)	0	2,477	651	1,289,051	0
Efficiency Controls	Count	2	0	0	0	0
	Savings (kWh)	284,439	0	0	0	0
	Savings (therms)	30,874	0	0	0	0
Electric Rate Savings	Count	6	10	6	1	11
	Savings (kWh)	9,151	12,603	4,637	-1,239	-21,399
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Energy Design Assistance	Count	0	3	0	4	0
	Savings (kWh)	0	320,162	0	2,075,377	0
	Savings (therms)	0	24,066	0	19,340	0
Energy Efficient Buildings	Count	2	0	0	0	0
	Savings (kWh)	122,327	0	0	0	0
	Savings (therms)	1,012	0	0	0	0
Fluid System Optimization	Count	4	2	0	2	0
	Savings (kWh)	507,208	116,506	0	204,373	0
	Savings (therms)	0	0	0	0	0
Foodservice Equipment	Count	0	2	1	1	2
	Savings (kWh)	0	3,171	0	0	22,454
	Savings (therms)	0	20,109	4,049	274	3,174
HVAC +R Efficiency	Count	15	23	23	21	14
	Savings (kWh)	257,918	164,625	552,540	91,666	282,286
	Savings (therms)	9,054	1,454	10,645	181,826	4,689
Lighting Efficiency	Count	20	22	25	25	24
	Savings (kWh)	545,017	1,269,918	1,490,293	1,081,187	1,799,263
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Multi-Family Building Efficiency	Count	1	0	3	1	2
	Savings (kWh)	4,610	0	21,487	0	2,029
	Savings (therms)	899	0	1,982	0	0
Peak Partner Rewards	Count	0	0	0	0	1
	Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	0	167
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Recommissioning	Count	0	4	4	0	0
	Savings (kWh)	0	0	293,750	0	0
	Savings (therms)	0	0	60,941	0	0
Saver's Switch for Business	Count	2	0	3	1	10
	Savings (kWh)	58	0	53	27	43
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Small Business Lighting	Count	22	22	17	10	12
	Savings (kWh)	650,179	315,562	215,546	158,849	193,346
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Smart Thermostats for Business	Count	0	0	0	10	9
	Savings (kWh)	0	0	0	138	1,934
	Savings (therms)	0	0	0	0	385

¹⁰ In 2021, Commercial Refrigeration Efficiency, Cooling, Heating Efficiency and Motor Efficiency were merged in 2021 and renamed as HVAC+R Efficiency.

Program		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Turn Key Services	Count	0	2	4	0	4
	Savings (kWh)	–	–	–	–	–
	Savings (therms)	–	–	–	–	–
Total						
Total	Count	77	92	91	77	92
	Savings (kWh)	2,519,313	2,332,269	4,387,212	3,610,378	2,280,568
	Savings (therms)	41,839	48,106	78,268	1,490,491	8,248

Renewable Energy Support

There is support for renewable energy in Faribault with almost 700 residential premises subscribing to Xcel Energy renewable programs. These premises subscribe a total of 3,892,000 kWh of their electricity to renewable sources, the equivalent of taking 375 gas-powered cars off the road for a year.¹¹ Commercial and industrial premises also subscribe to Xcel Energy's renewable programs, with 77 subscribers subscribing a total of 42,052,000 kWh of electricity to renewable programs.

Table 18. Renewable energy subscriptions and program participation, 2021

	Residential	Commercial/ Industrial
Subscription Programs - Windsource & Renewable*Connect		
Subscriber Count	382	5
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	829,000	3,020,000
Percent of Sector Xcel Energy Electricity Use	1.23%	2.1%
Community Solar Gardens - Solar*Rewards Community		
Subscriber Count	289	72
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	3,063,000	39,032,000
Percent of Sector Xcel Energy Electricity Use	4.6%	27.6%
On-site Solar - Solar*Rewards and Net-Metering		
Subscriber Count	35	16
Total Electricity Capacity (kW)	452	1,589
Total Xcel Energy Renewable Energy Support ¹²		
Subscriber Count	671	77
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	3,892,000	42,052,000

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

¹² Excludes on-site solar due to behind the meter generation.

Community Maps

Using American Community Survey data, maps by census tracts were created to give context for the geographical distribution of key population and housing characteristics. Data include estimated counts of households eligible for low-income programs, renter-occupied units, and multi-family unit buildings.

Figure 18. Faribault households eligible for low-income programs by census tract, 2017–2021

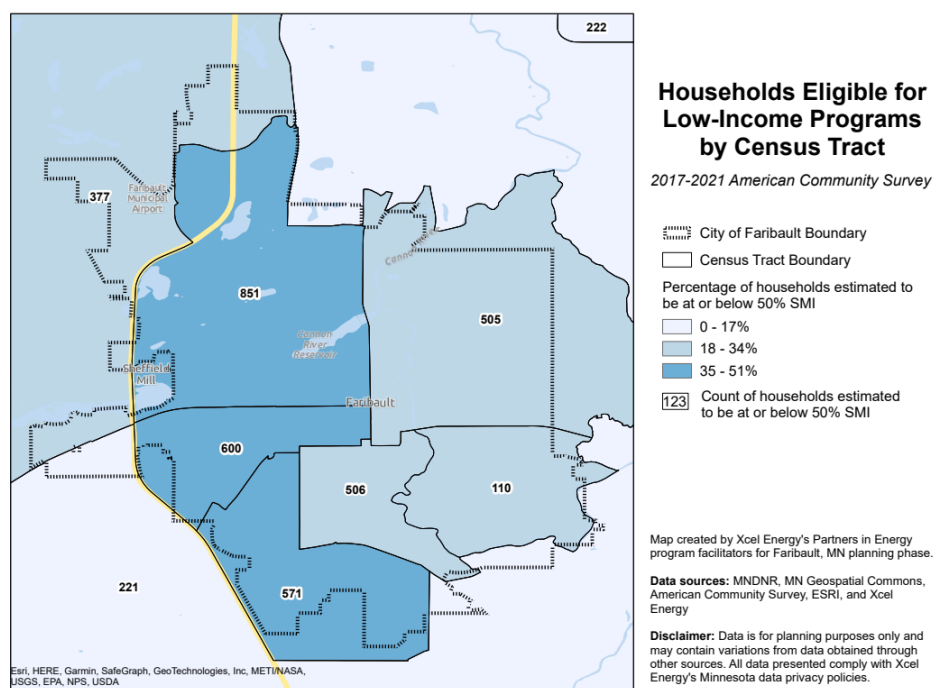


Figure 19. Faribault renter-occupied units by census tract, 2017–2021

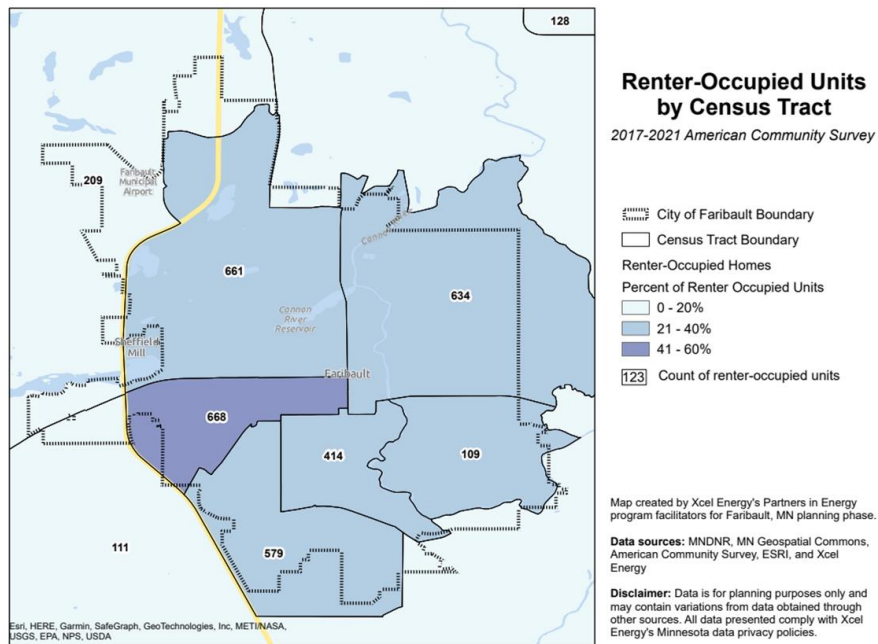
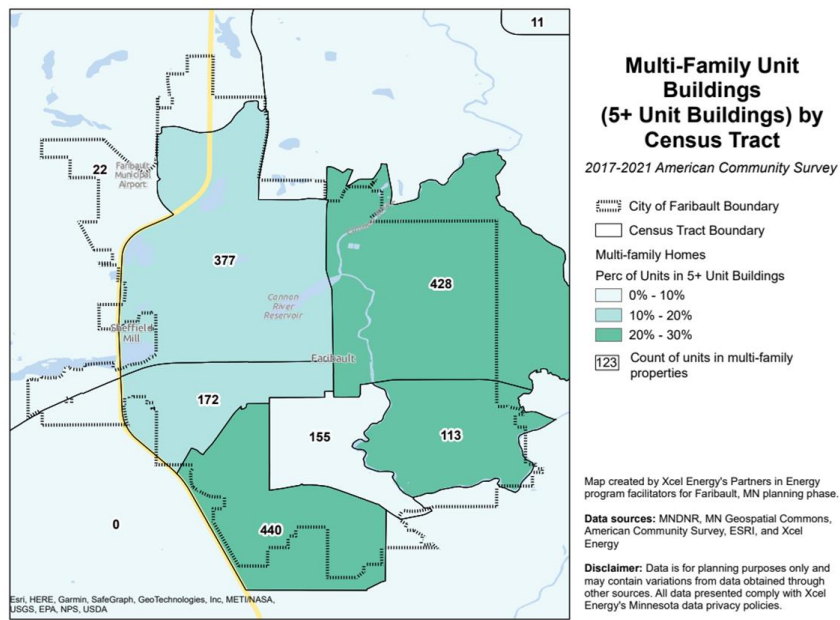


Figure 20. Faribault multi-family unit buildings by census tract, 2017–2022





APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING SUCCESS

As part of implementation support, Partners in Energy will provide biannual progress reports for Xcel Energy participation and savings data for Faribault. All goals will be measured against Faribault's business as usual scenario, which averages data from a three-year baseline of 2019–2021 unless otherwise noted.

The following section defines the values against which progress is measured, including Xcel Energy programs included in the assumptions.

Community-wide Goal

- Faribault will avoid an additional 50% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to business as usual, while saving the community energy and money.

This goal is measured against a business as usual (BAU) savings scenario based on the three-year baseline. The community-wide goal will be measured comparing cumulative energy savings, greenhouse gas emissions and estimated dollars saved for electricity and natural gas savings for all sectors between 2023 and 2030 against the estimated BAU value for the same period.

First-year savings data provided by Xcel Energy for current and future energy efficiency programs will be used to calculate electricity and natural gas savings. Partners in Energy facilitators will use energy savings by sector and fuel type to calculate estimated dollars saved in the community using sector specific rate assumptions. To calculate greenhouse gas emissions, Partners in Energy facilitators will use preliminary and certified emissions factors from Xcel Energy's Upper Midwest Fuel Mix.

Table 19. Cumulative savings scenarios

	Cumulative 2030 BAU Scenario	Cumulative 2030 Goal Scenario
Electricity Savings (kWh)	25,485,277	33,895,418
Natural Gas Savings (therms)	2,872,238	4,410,915
Total Energy Savings (MMBtu)	374,180	556,743
Greenhouse Gas Emission Savings (MTCO ₂ e)	19,441	28,992
Dollar Savings	\$3,969,058	\$5,644,853

Annual Energy Savings and Participation Targets

To meet Faribault's 2030 goal, the community will need to increase Xcel Energy program participation, saving more electricity and natural gas annually than the BAU scenario. Table 20 identifies the annual participation and energy savings targets needed to stay on track to meet the 2030 goal compared to the BAU scenario, assuming a linear increase to reach their 2030 goal. Participation includes Xcel Energy's current and future energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial/industrial customers and excludes renewable energy programs.

Table 20. Annual energy savings and participation targets

	Annual BAU Scenario	Annual Goal Scenario
Residential Participation	718	1,352
Commercial/Industrial Participation	86	125
Electricity Savings (kWh)	3,185,660	4,236,927
Natural Gas Savings (therms)	359,030	551,364
Total Energy Savings (MMBtu)	46,772	69,593



APPENDIX C: XCEL ENERGY'S PARTNERS IN ENERGY PLANNING PROCESS

About Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy

Xcel Energy is an electric and natural gas utility that provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Each community Xcel Energy serves has its own unique priorities and vision for its energy future. The energy landscape is dynamically changing with communities leading the way in setting energy and sustainability goals. To continue to innovatively support their communities, Xcel Energy launched Partners in Energy in the summer of 2014 as a collaborative resource with tailored services to complement each community's vision. The program offerings include support to develop an energy action plan or electric vehicle plan, tools to help implement the plan and deliver results, and resources designed to help each community stay informed and achieve their outlined goals.

Plan Development Process

The content of this plan is derived from a series of planning workshops, surveys, community input boards and event tabling held in the community with a planning team committed to representing local energy priorities and implementing plan strategies and interested community members.

Community Engagement

Community input was a priority of the City of Faribault in the energy planning process. Partners in Energy helped create a series of tools to use to gather community input

Figure 21. Partners in Energy Resources for Success



including listening boards, community surveys in English, Somali and Spanish languages, tabling tools, and interview questions.

Workshops

There were four workshops during the planning process that also combined input from the broader community. Two of these workshops were intended to include more community members that may only be able to come to one workshop. These workshops were promoted through the local paper, city website, and community email lists. One of these workshops was held virtually to hear from people who may not be able to travel, and one of them was held at the Faribault Community Center where dinner was provided in a family friendly atmosphere.

Community Energy Survey

The community energy survey reached over 170 people during the planning process and asked questions that helped inform the strategies of this plan and ensure we were reaching audiences that were diverse and representative of the Faribault community.

Examples Survey Questions and Responses

The following section includes examples of questions asked in the community energy survey.

Figure 22: Chart of responses to the question, “When thinking about energy, what is important to you and your family?”

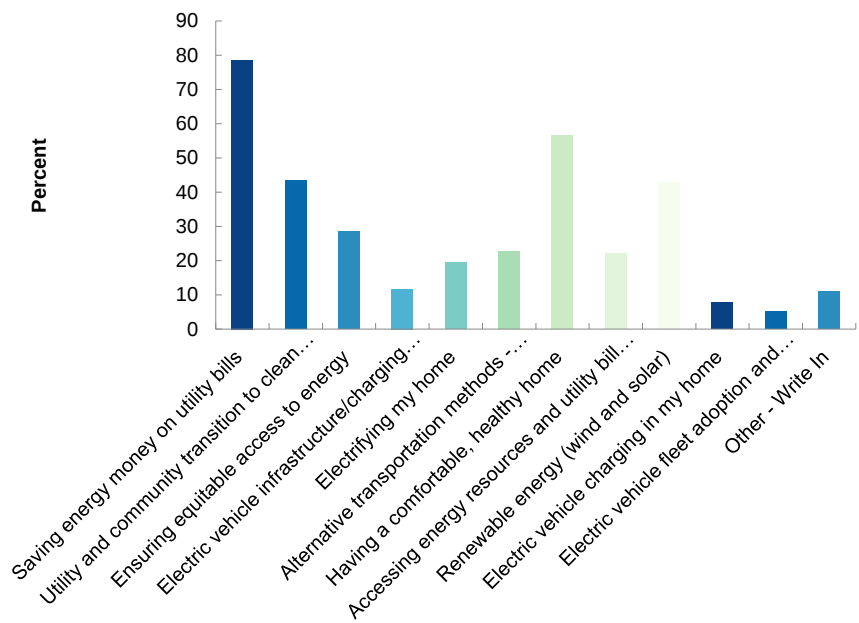


Figure 23: Word cloud image of responses to the question, “How would you describe yourself as a part of the Faribault community?”



APPENDIX D: IMPLEMENTATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Composting at City Facilities

Background:

Last month, the Environmental Commission heard a presentation from Curbside Compost Cooperative, which is looking to expand its operations to Faribault. The City recently began purchasing compostable plates and bowls for use by staff in the breakroom, and there have been discussions about replacing Styrofoam coffee cups and plastic utensils with BPI-certified compostable alternatives. So far, the costs have been comparable between these products.

The City does not currently engage in composting outside the yard waste and brush collection sites, nor does it receive compost collection services. Therefore, these compostable items and any food scraps or other potentially compostable materials are being landfilled. As discussed at last month's presentation, compostable items that get landfilled do not break down in the same manner as if they were composted, and do not deliver the benefits that a compost product does.

City staff discussions reveal that many city staff consistently discard recyclable and compostable items in the trash. If taken as an indication of existing knowledge and norms about proper disposal, an internal education campaign would likely need to accompany the rollout of composting services at City Hall. A 5-gallon bucket for compostable material is likely insufficient to collect all compostable materials generated at City Hall in one week, especially if plates, bowls, etc., are made of compostable material.

Recommendation:

Recommend that the City Council subscribe to Curbside Compost Collection. Points of discussion include:

1. The number of buckets appropriate for a given facility.
2. Which facilities to subscribe, and/or how facilities might opt into or out of compost collection.

3. The duration of subscriptions on a trial basis or when and how reevaluation of the program might occur.
4. Would the Environmental Commission be willing to use some of its allocated funds to pay for this service, at least on a trial basis?

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: ElectriFUN Faribault

Background:

The ElectricFUN Faribault Ride and Drive event is scheduled for September 23rd from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Trystar parking facilities at 15765 Acorn Trail, Faribault, MN 55021.

The event will feature a selection of electric vehicles and other electrification and sustainability-related vendors, and exhibitors. Several hundred attendees are expected to be present throughout the day, and while the focus will be largely on electrification, there is an opportunity to connect with members of the public and promote different Environmental Commission initiatives.

The Community Development Coordinator plans to attend the event with the City's Nissan LEAF as a showcase vehicle. The vehicle would not be available for test drives, but members of the public could explore and ask questions about the LEAF.

Recommendation:

Identify Environmental Commission members who will help table at the event. Points of discussion include:

1. Availability of commissioners to attend all or a portion of the event.
2. Projects/initiatives to promote or engage around.
3. Materials, supplies, etc. that might be required to successfully table at the event.

Attachments:

1. RMN_Faribault_Invite_IR3_080323

Test drive an EV and More at **ElectriFUN** Faribault

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A M E R I C A

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 2023 | 10 AM - 2 PM



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Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: CERTs Seed Grants Ideas

Background:

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) offers an annual grant program for grants of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for clean energy projects. More information can be found on CERTs' website at <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/certs-seed-grants>. The City has received grants through this program in the past. Examples of past projects are available on the CERTs website, and may provide inspiration for a new project here in Faribault.

Applications for grants are due October 10th, 2023, so suggestions must be received by the end of September.

Recommendation:

Offer suggestions for clean-energy projects that could be accomplished with a small grant and limited amount of staff time. If the Environmental Commission tables this discussion, there is an opportunity to discuss potential projects at the September meeting.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: August 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Complete Streets and Walk Audit

Background:

The City must adopt a complete streets policy to receive Green Step Level Three certification. According to the Green Step website, "Complete Streets are streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or public transportation riders."

Living Streets is another framework that is growing in popularity. This approach combines principles from Green Streets and Complete Streets, using street design and the integration of "green infrastructure" to reduce the environmental impact of streets while improving safety for all users. Common practices of green streets include reducing impervious surface, incorporating green stormwater infrastructure (like raingardens), and planting boulevard trees.

For more information, see the following links:

Smart Growth America's Complete Streets Policy Framework:
<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Complete-Streets-Policy-Framework.pdf>

ChangeLab Solutions' Guide to Building Healthy Streets:
https://www.changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/Building_Healthy_Streets_FINAL_20160630.pdf

Green Step Cities Best Practice Action 11.1:
<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bp-action-detail/81802>

Recommendation:

City Staff have tentatively scheduled a walk audit and community engagement event for September 16th - this will coincide with the Family Day at the Faribault Farmers Market. The focus of the event will be the "bumpouts" installed along 2nd Ave NW, with the intent of building

community support for safe street design throughout the city. The City is also considering putting together a committee to develop a Complete Streets policy. The Community Development Coordinator asks that any members of the Environmental Commission available for the event on the 16th plan to attend, and that any Commissioners interested in participating in developing a Complete Streets policy let the Community Development Coordinator know. Staff are looking to have a policy adopted by early 2024.

Attachments: