



**City Council Work Session
Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Public Meeting Room**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Items for Discussion

- A. Review Faribault's Draft Energy Action Plan Update
- B. Nature Everywhere Program Participation
- C. City Administrator Recruitment Process Discussion

3. Future Discussion

4. Adjournment

(The Council may meet as a group for dinner)

Please contact the City Administrator's Office if you need special accommodations while attending this meeting



Council Work Session Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Environmental Commission
Tim Murray, City Administrator
FROM: David Wanberg, Community and Economic
Development Director
MEETING DATE: October 3, 2023
SUBJECT: Review Faribault's Draft Energy Action Plan
Update

Discussion:

The City coordinated with Xcel's Partners in Energy Program in 2017 to create Faribault's Energy Action Plan, which aims to reduce community-wide energy expenditure by one percent (1%) annually. Xcel Energy estimated that the Plan will save residents and businesses over \$8 million a year. Due to the efforts of residents and businesses, as of 2022, the City was on track to exceed Xcel's original estimate. In fact, the City received an award for having the highest percentage of low-income residents sign up for Home Energy Squad visits. The implementation of the 2017 Plan has been highly successful.

However, regulations, incentives, and technology have evolved since the City adopted its 2017 Energy Action Plan. Consequently, given the Plan's success, Xcel's Partners in Energy Program offered the City an opportunity to update its 2017 plan with no direct financial cost to the City. Every dollar of energy savings is a dollar that residents and businesses can circulate within the community and grow the Faribault economy.

In January of 2023, the City of Faribault entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy Program to develop an updated Energy Action Plan. The Partners in Energy Program provided substantial support to engage the community in the Energy Action Plan Update. An Energy Action Team, which included elected officials, residents, business leaders, city staff, utility representatives, and others, guided the planning process. The City held four community planning workshops (virtually and in person), engaged with over 100 people at 14 events, and received 190 surveys. A wide section of the community provided input into the Plan.

The Energy Action Plan's vision is as follows:

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.

The Plan includes four focus areas: energy efficiency, renewable energy, beneficial electrification, and transportation. It aims to avoid an additional 50% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 while saving the community energy and money. Xcel estimates achieving this goal will lower community-wide spending on energy bills by an additional \$5.6 million. Pages 18-28 of the attached draft Energy Action Plan outline detailed strategies and actions.

The Environmental Commission recommended that the City Council approve the Energy Action Plan included in the Council's packet. Deirdre Coleman and Sofia Troutman of the Partners in Energy Program will be at the Council work session to provide an overview of the Plan and answer any questions the Council may have. While the Partners in Energy Program was instrumental in helping the community prepare the Energy Action Plan, the Plan represents the community's vision, strategies, and actions related to energy use.

Presuming the Council intends to approve the Energy Action Plan, Staff will prepare an approval resolution for Council action at its October 10 meeting. Staff will also prepare an approval resolution for a memorandum of understanding that will enable the City and Partners in Energy to work together over the next 18 months to implement the Plan (see the attached memorandum of understanding). Implementation will not require direct financial support from the City. In fact, the Partners in Energy program will provide \$2,550 to cover outreach activities and similar expenses.

Attachments:

1. Draft Energy Action Plan Update
2. Draft Memorandum of Understanding



An Energy Action Plan for Faribault

2023



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

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.

Energy Action Team	
Name	Affiliation
AJ Smith	Trystar & Economic Development Authority
Brad Phenow	Communications Coordinator, City of Faribault
Cynthia Diessner	Environmental Commission
Danil Thorstensson	MPCA GreenCorps Member
Dave Wanberg	Community & Economic Development Director, City of Faribault
Debbie Graham	Children's Fund
Eric Delgado	Faribault Futures & Planning Commission
Karl Vohs	Downtown Building Owner
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Kevin Vorcek	Mayor, City of Faribault
Martha Brown	Environmental Commission
Mathias Hughey	Community Development Coordinator, City of Faribault
Mike Miller	Commission applicant - Planning
Nort Johnson	Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce
Roger Steinkamp	Environmental Commission
Ron Dweik	Faribault Futures & Trystar
Partners in Energy Team	
Anna Thill	Community Relations Manager, Xcel Energy
Deirdre Coleman	Partners in Energy Community Facilitator
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Tami Gunderzik	Manager of Partners in Energy, Xcel Energy

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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

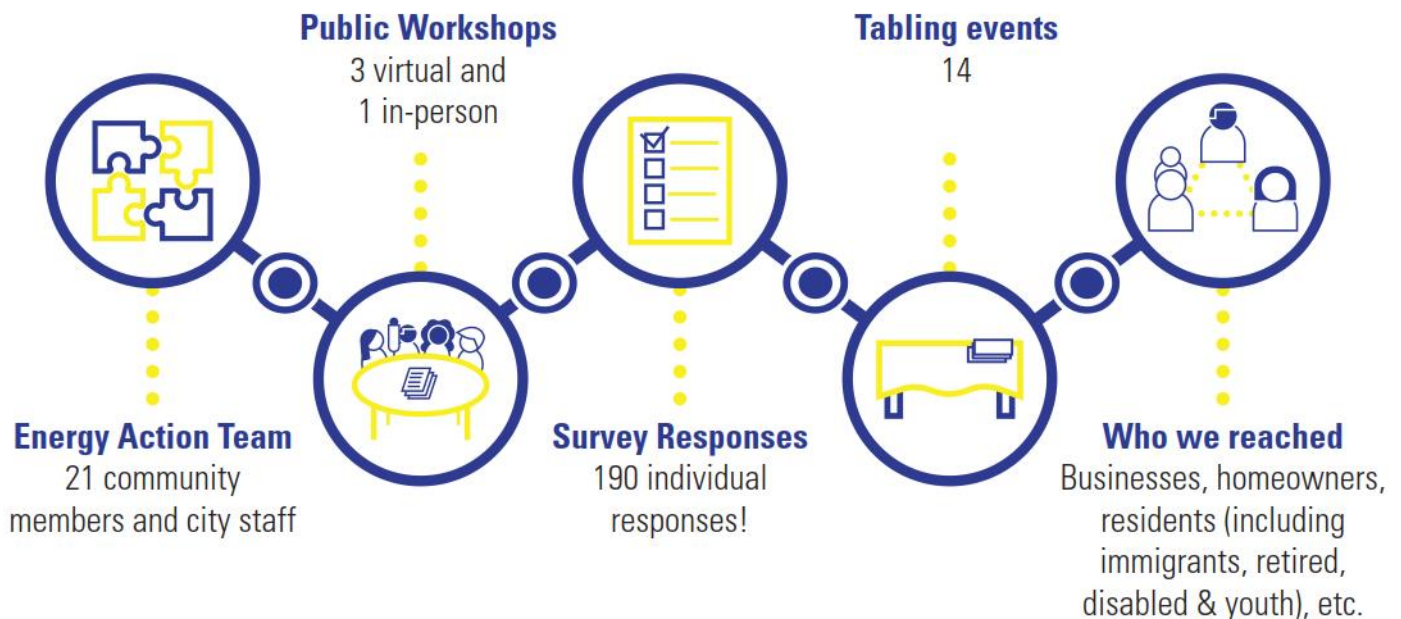


Transportation



Electrification

Community Engagement



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.

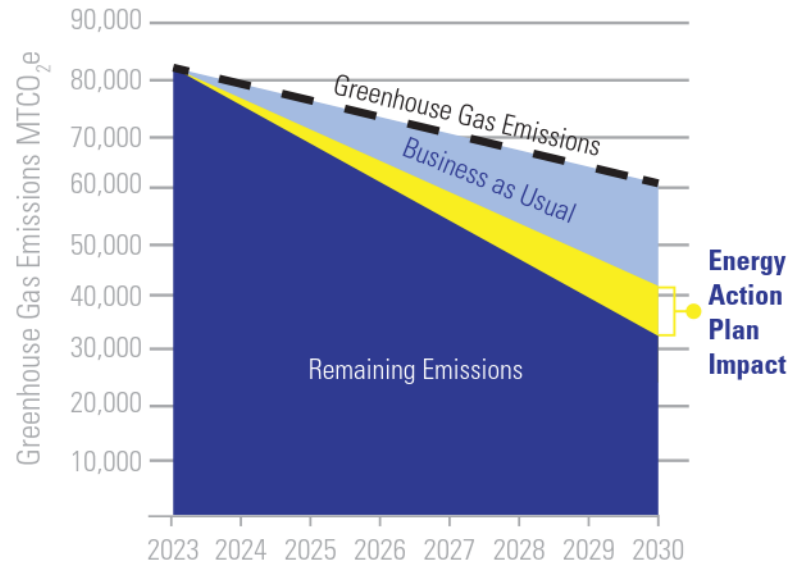


By reaching this goal, we estimate Faribault will avoid spending an additional **\$5.6 million** on energy bills through increased energy efficiency.



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?

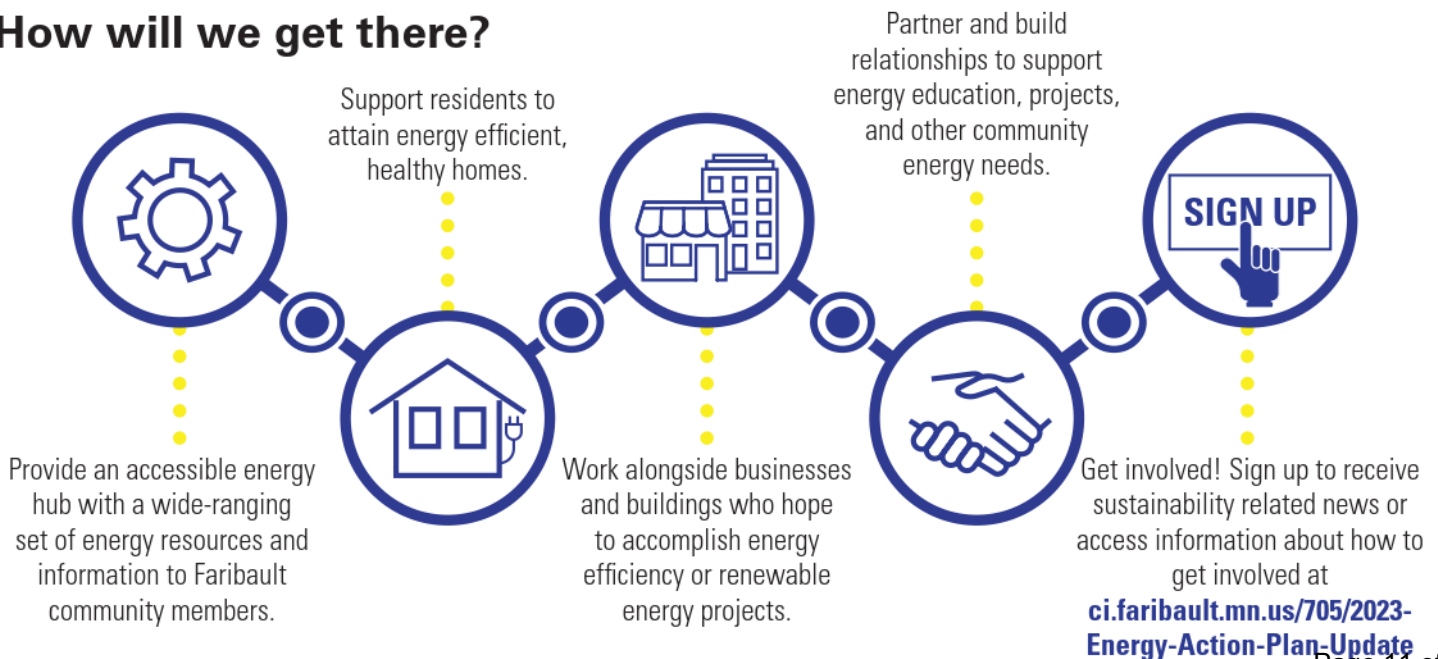
A **clean** and **healthy** environment that is affordable to sustain."

—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

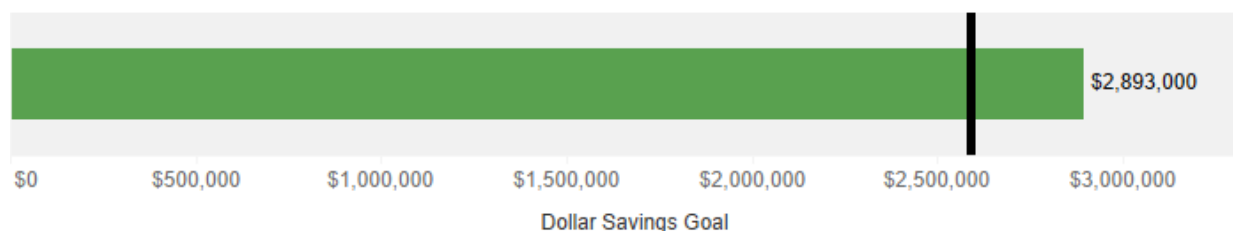
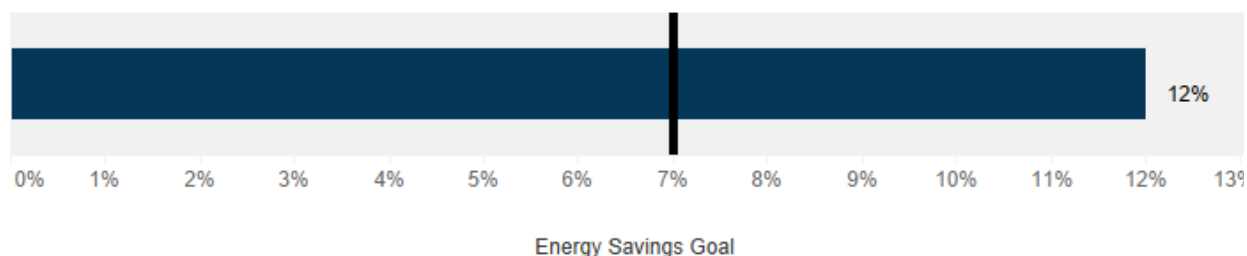


Figure 2. Progress toward community energy savings goal, 2017-2021



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.



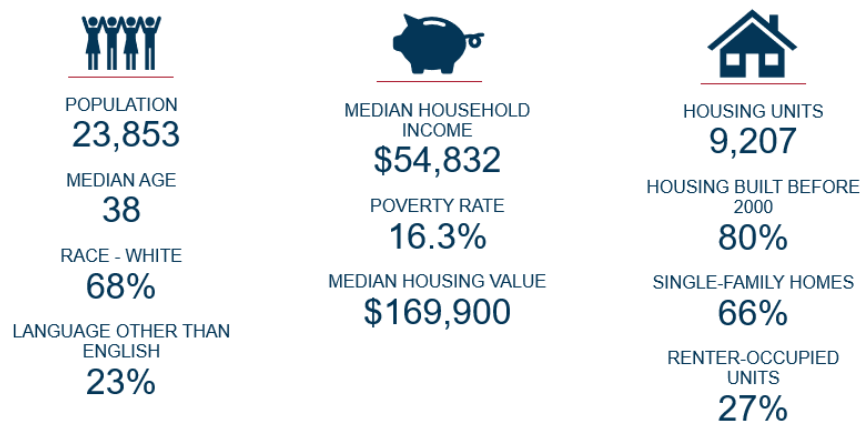
WHERE WE ARE NOW

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

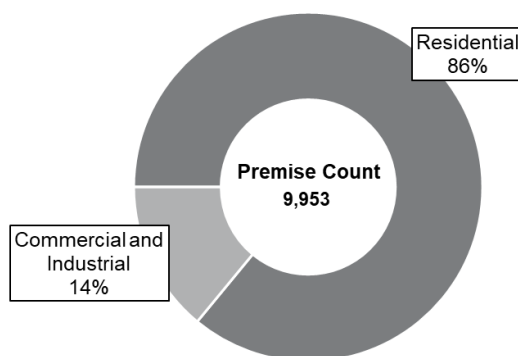
Energy Use and Savings

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.

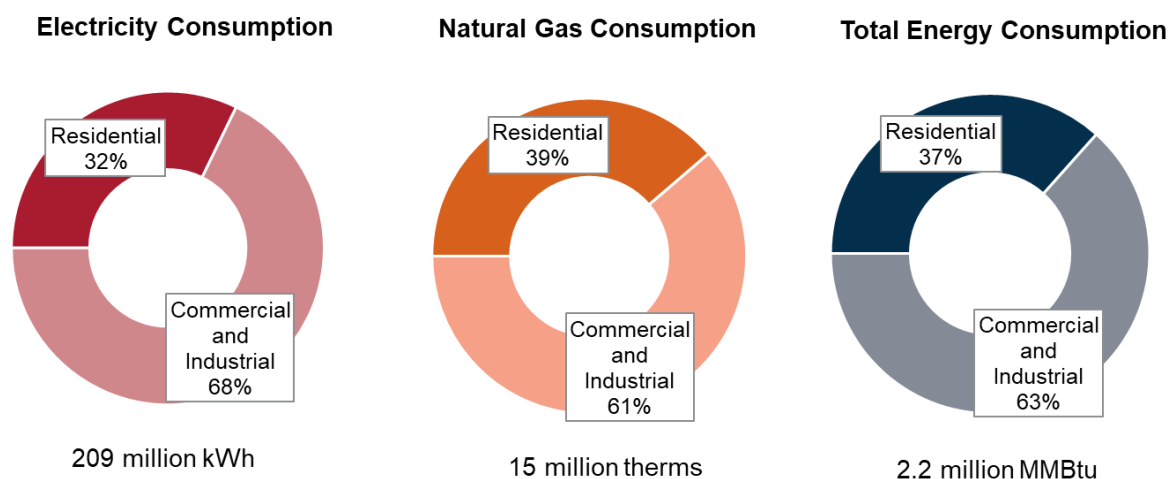
Figure 4. Xcel Energy Premise count by sector, 2021



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

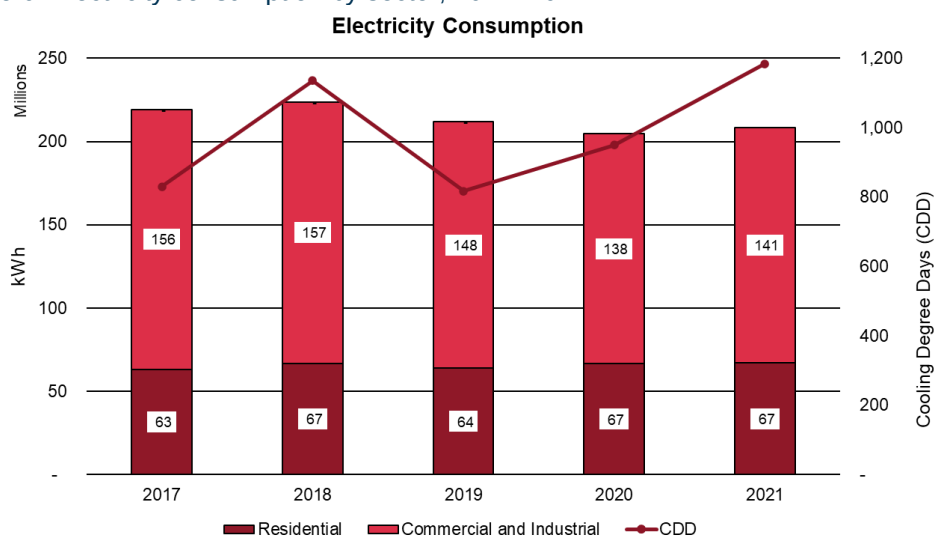
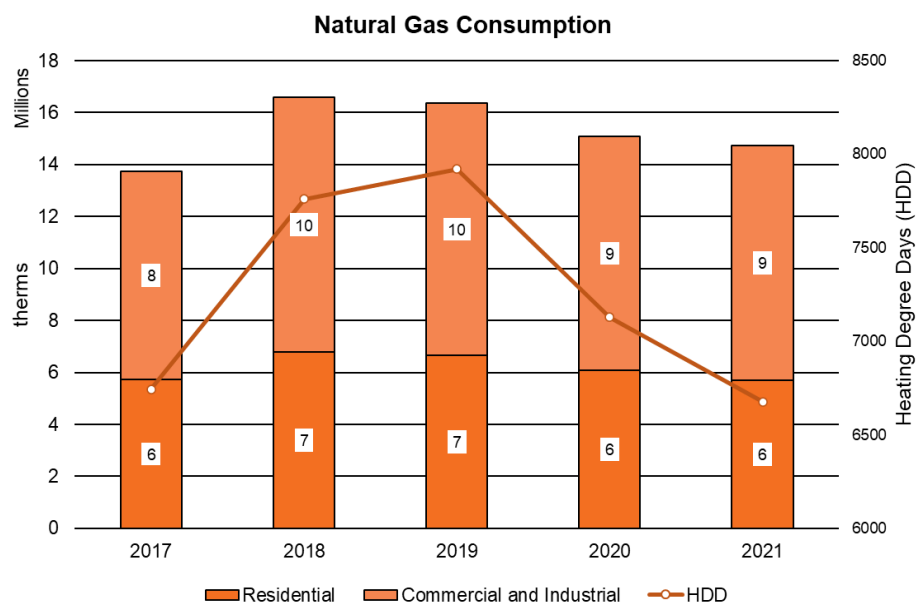
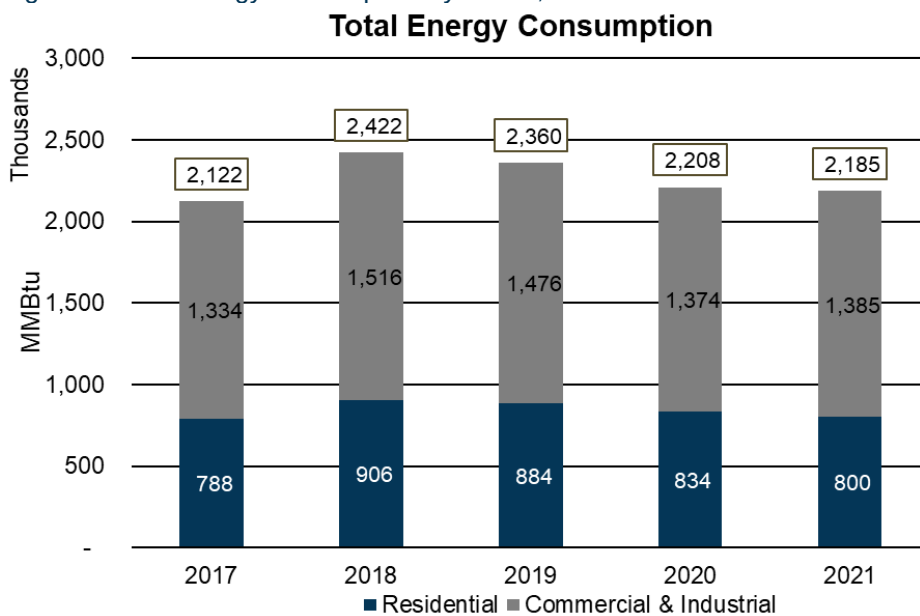


Figure 7. Natural gas consumption by sector, 2017-2021



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

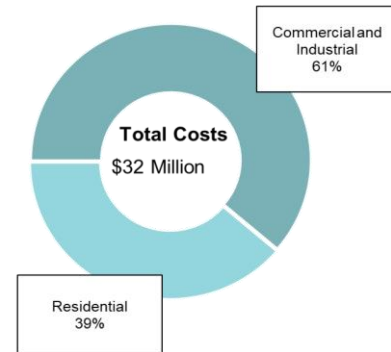
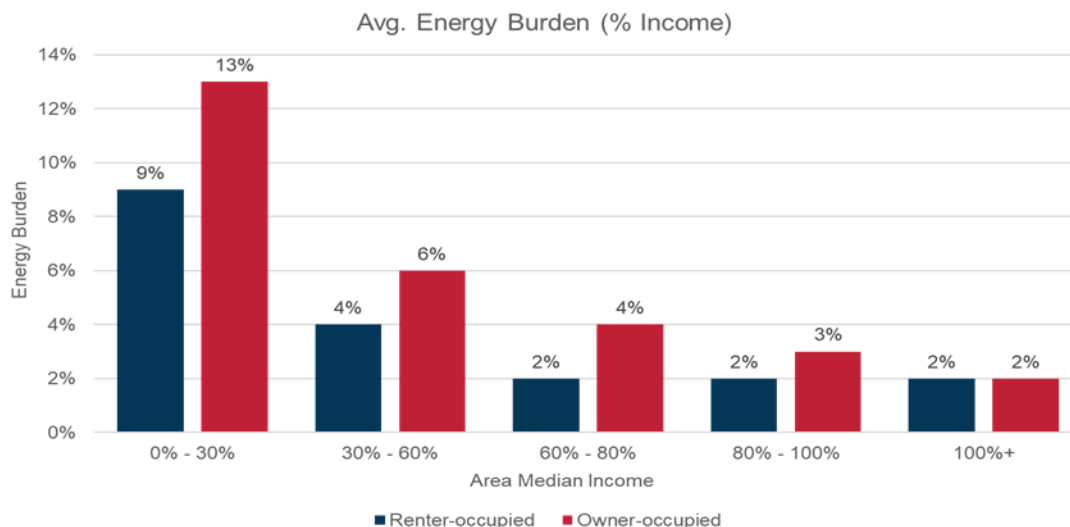


Table 1. Average annual energy costs by sector, 2017–2021

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

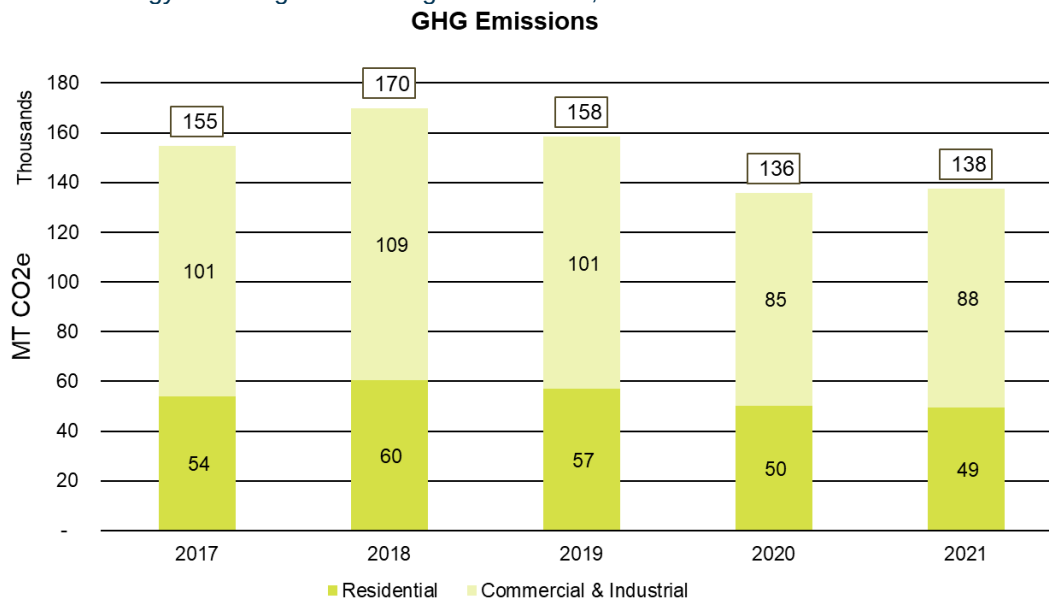


³ Department of Energy Low-income Energy Affordability Tool

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 almost 38 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)	2,705,000	34,813,000
Percent of Sector Xcel Energy Electricity Use	4.0%	24.6%
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)	3,534,000	37,876,000

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

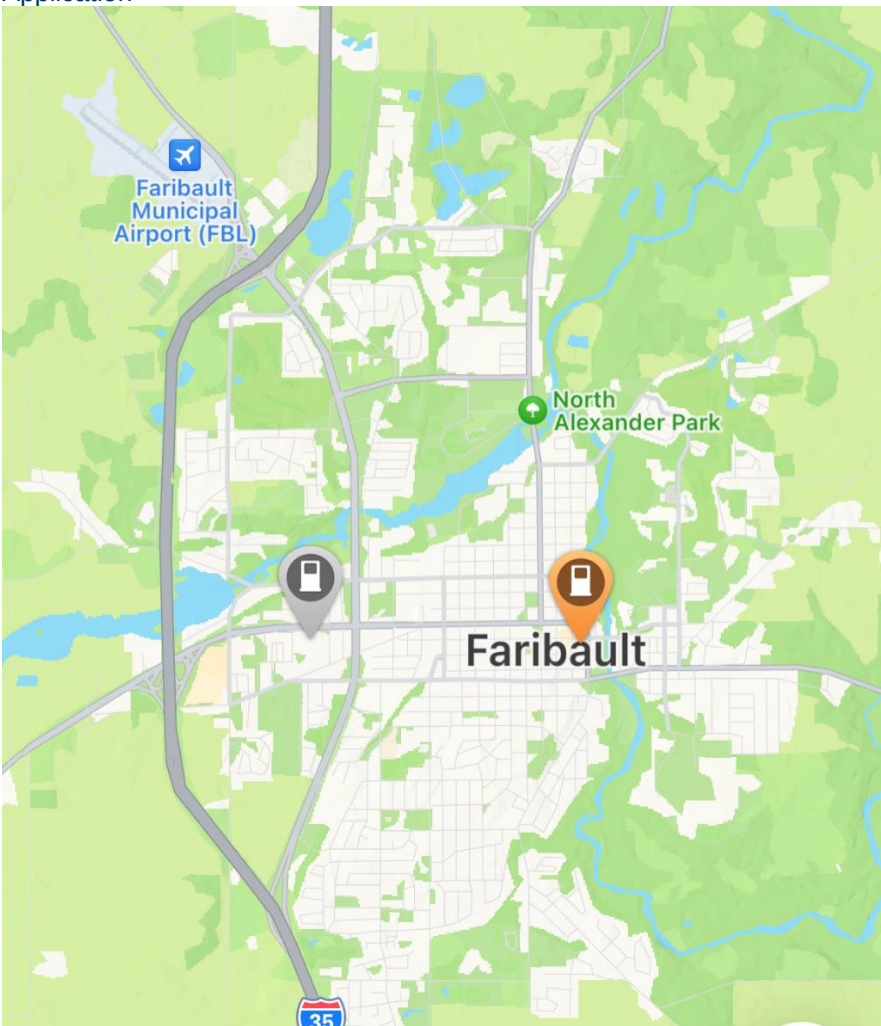
⁶ The Residential HVAC program consisted of Residential Cooling and Residential Heating until 2021, at which point the two programs were combined and renamed.

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.

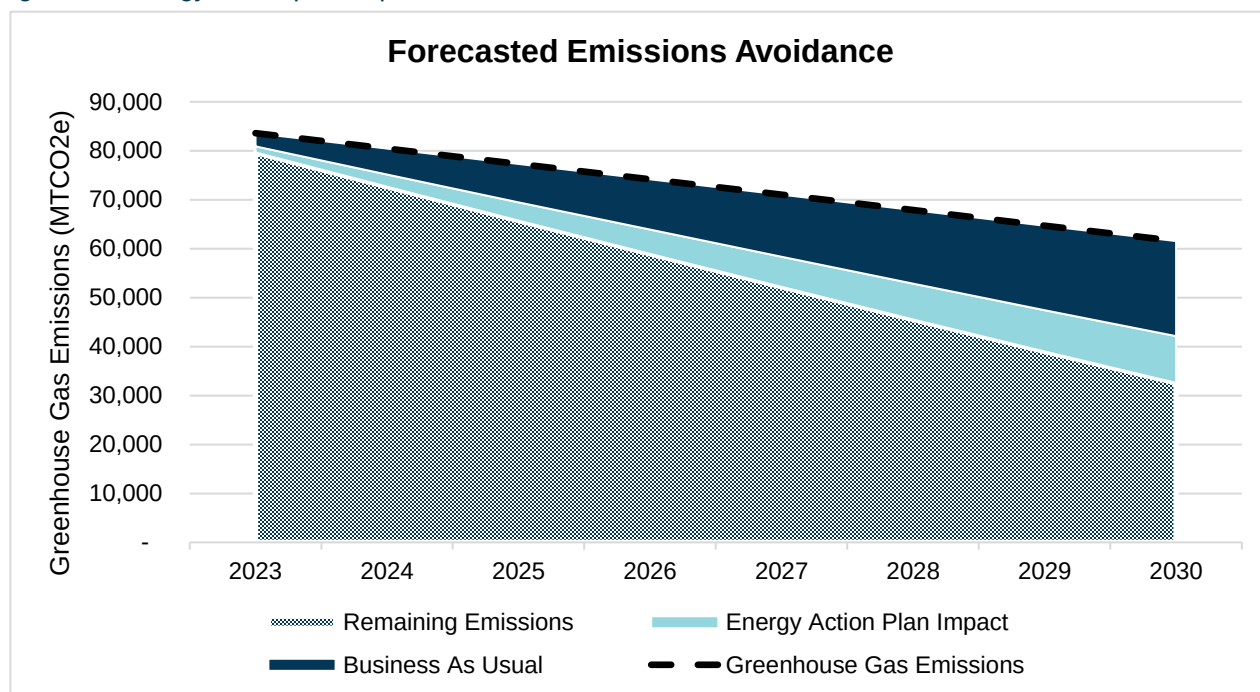
Community-wide Goal

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.

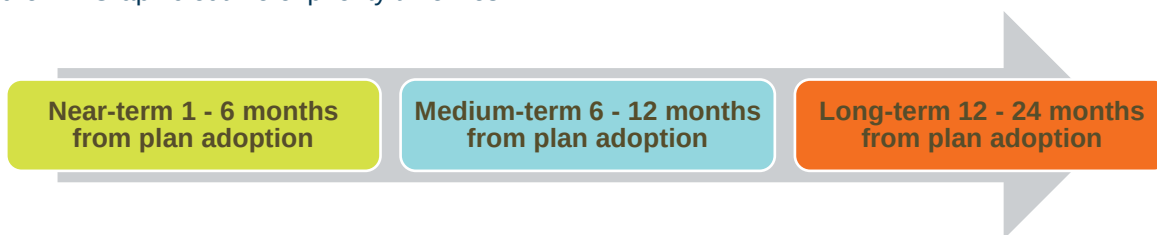
Informed: Keep apprised of and continue to update information available for all energy resources, including emerging technologies as they become relevant, available and financially accessible. These can include geothermal energy, ground source and air source heat pumps, HVAC rooftop unit heat-pumps, and electric vehicle changing 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: Consider the development of an efficient building policy that sets standards for building projects that obtain city incentives.

Grid reliability will also rely on Faribault's buildings to be efficient. Setting some standard for projects that apply for city incentives can increase efficient building stock, and therefore help grid reliability.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Connect with other communities who have building standard policies and review costs and benefits.	Community and Economic Development and Engineering departments
2) Write conclusions and recommendations to be reviewed by city staff, council, and public.	Community and Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce.
Communication:	City, Chamber of Commerce and elected official communications
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 3: 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:
3) 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
4) 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
5) Lead by example through a City partnership with the Housing Redevelopment Authority to develop a plan to replace existing appliances with energy-efficient models.	Xcel Energy, Housing and Redevelopment, Partners in Energy, HUD, Community and Econ. Development Dept.
Communication:	City, Chamber of Commerce and elected official communications
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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 7: Increase access to energy and utility data to renters and buyers.

Knowledge of energy efficiency of a property or knowing the cost of an average utility bill can be a useful tool prior to entering into agreements when renting or buying homes.

Actions:	Partnerships/Resources:
1) Explore and consider a time of sale energy disclosure or energy audit for properties prior to selling a home or prior to renting to new tenants.	Peer communities, City departments, commissions and council, realtor and property owner groups.
Communication:	City communications
Timeline: 6–12 Months	

Strategy 8: 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:
2) Acquire and create a collection of tools including an infrared camera, kilowatt 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
3) 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	

Strategy 9: 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
3) Review and update city code to reduce barriers to constructing missing middle housing.	Use other community examples and work with city council/commissions
Communication:	On-on-one outreach
Timeline: 12–24 Months	

Strategy 10: 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) Review and update city code to reduce barriers to impervious surfaces.	City council and commissions
4) 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.

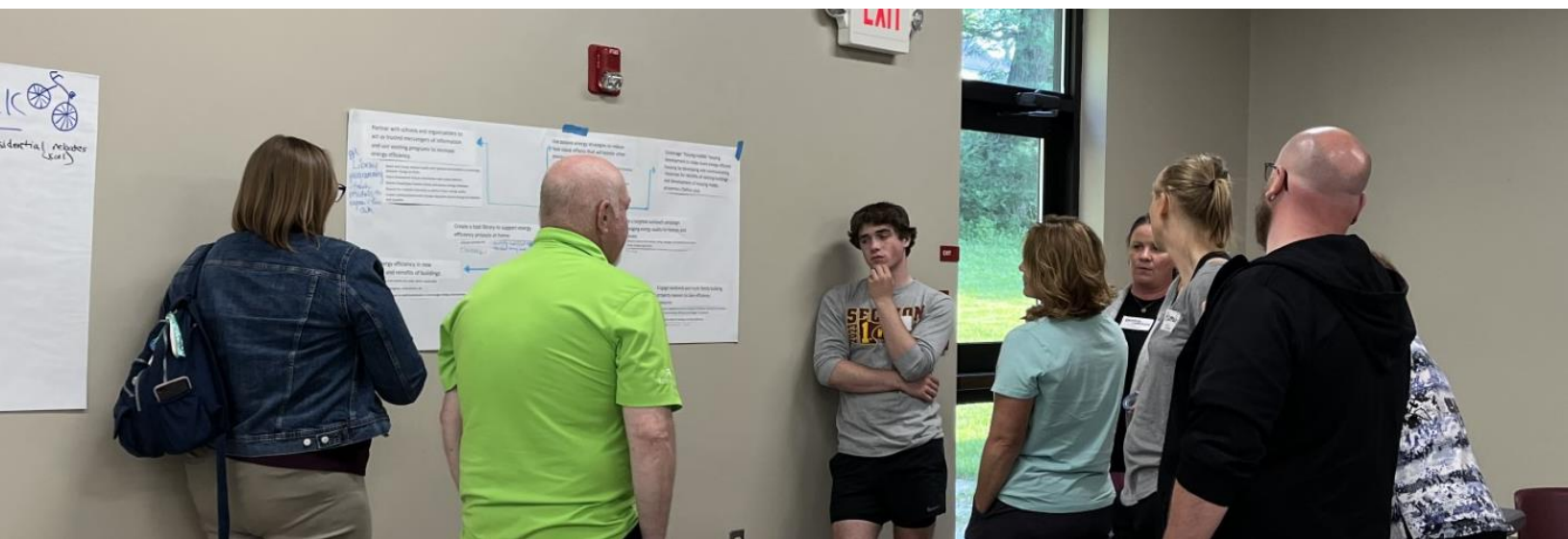
The workforce will be informed of new technology transitions, options, available incentives and installation best practices.

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.

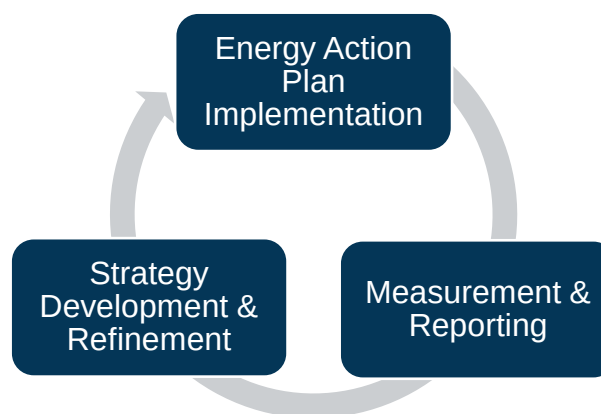


Figure 15. Actions and tracking

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.

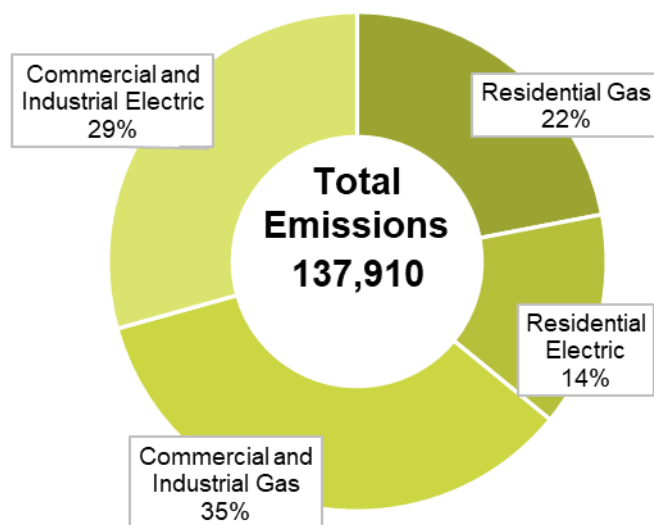
Table 12. Energy-related greenhouse gas emissions in MTCO₂e, 2017–2021

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

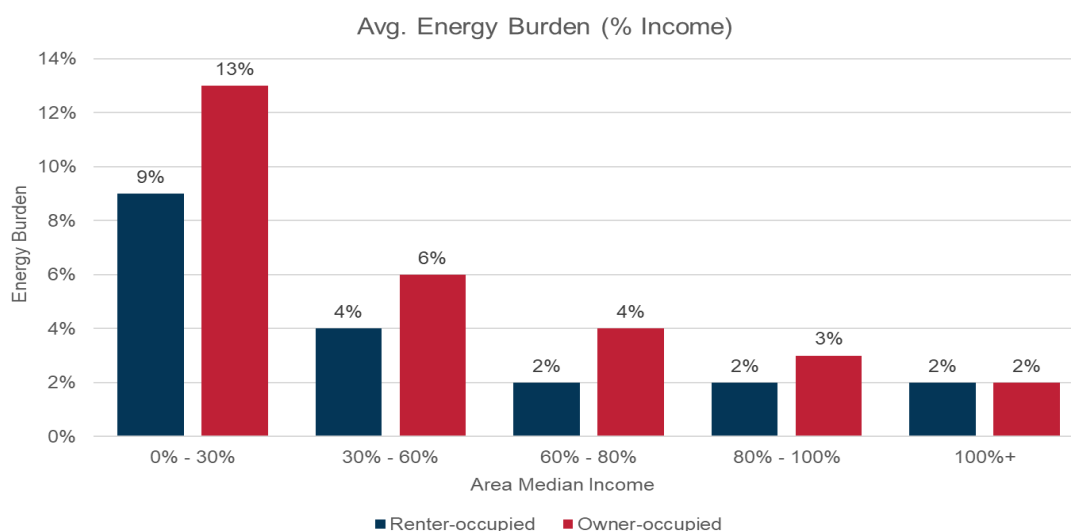
Sector	Year	Annual Electricity Costs	Annual Natural Gas Costs	Annual Total Costs	Annual Cost per Premise
Residential	2017	\$7,861,040	\$3,581,415	\$11,442,455	\$1,343
	2018	\$8,775,704	\$4,176,942	\$12,952,646	\$1,515
	2019	\$8,113,356	\$4,101,794	\$12,215,150	\$1,427
	2020	\$8,577,229	\$3,422,387	\$11,999,616	\$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						
	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 3,534,000 kWh of their electricity to renewable sources, the equivalent of taking 340 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 37,876,000 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)	2,705,000	34,813,000
Percent of Sector Xcel Energy Electricity Use	4.0%	24.6%
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)	3,534,000	37,876,000

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

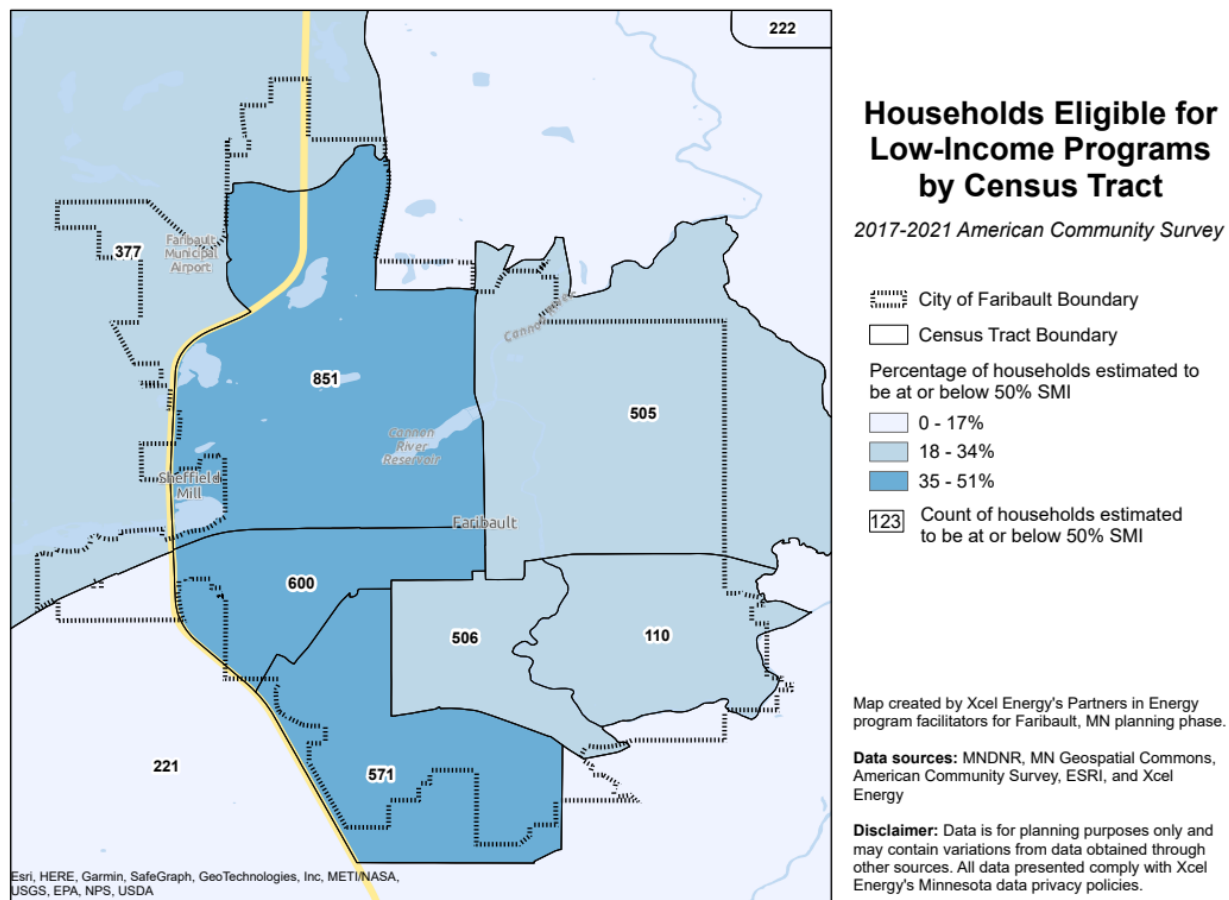


Figure 19. Faribault renter-occupied units by census tract, 2017–2021

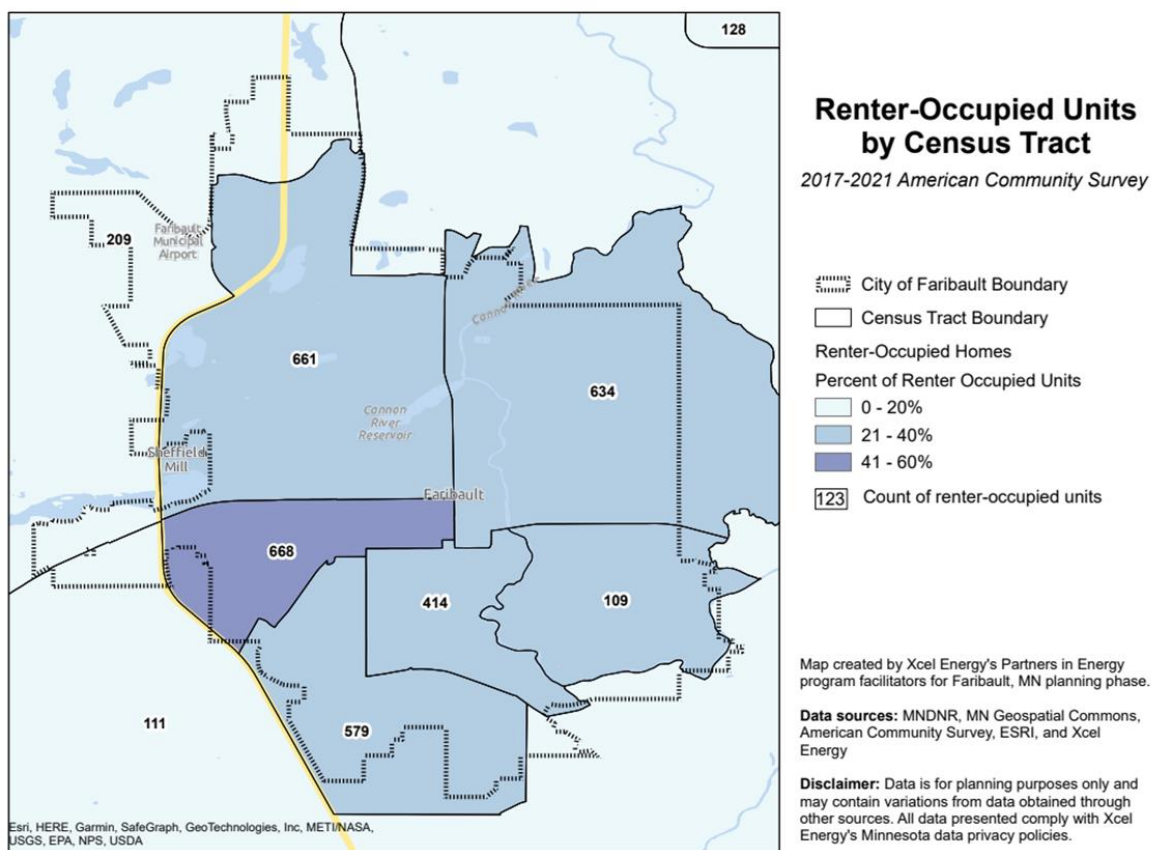
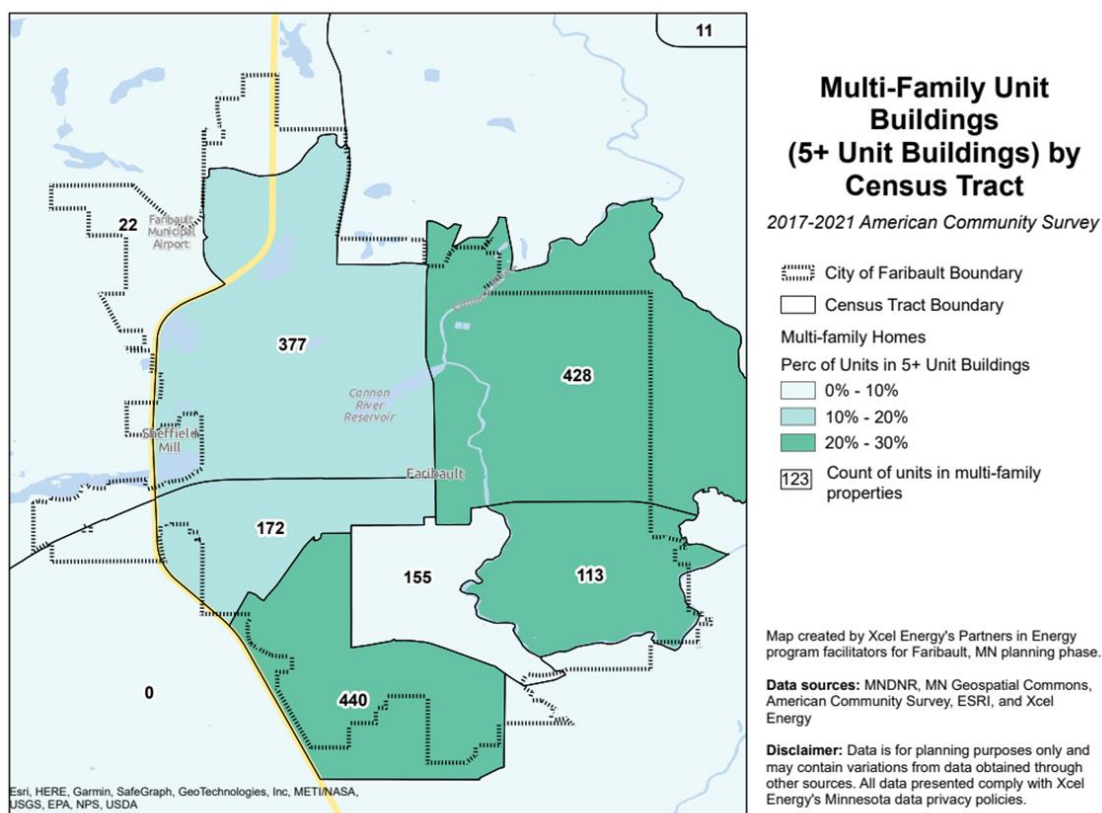


Figure 20. Faribault multi-family unit buildings by census tract, 2017–2022





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?”

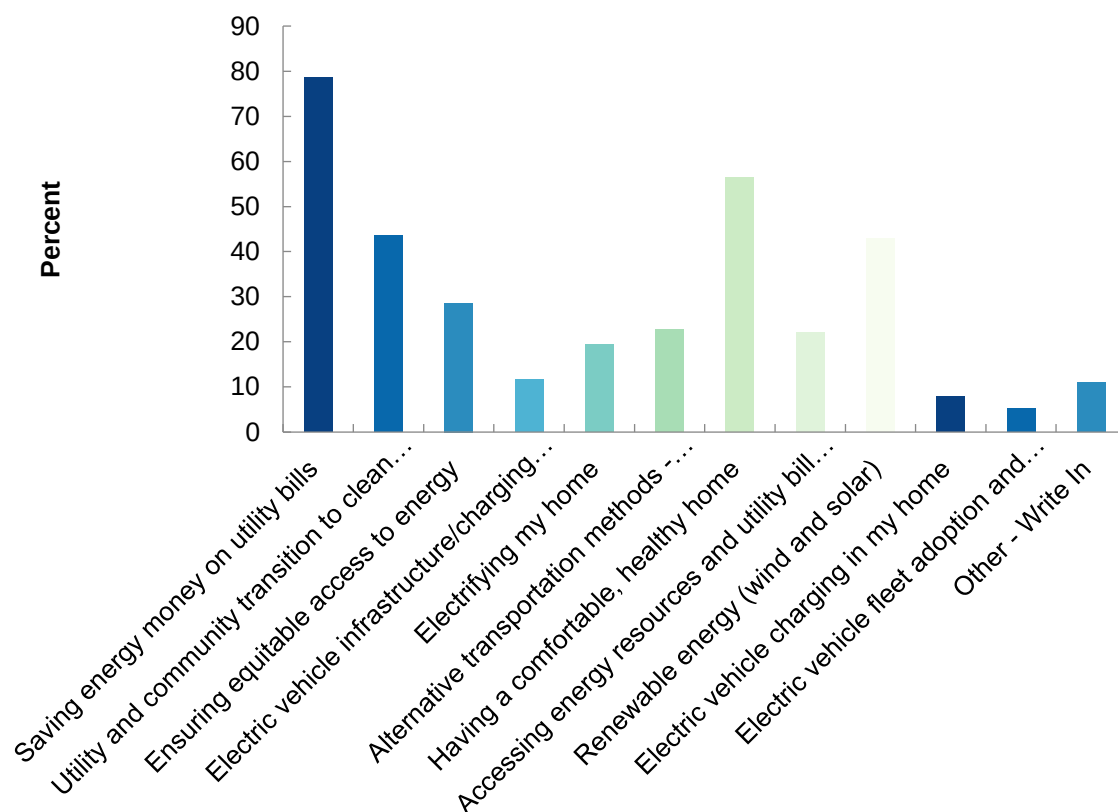


Figure 23: Word cloud image of responses to the question, “How would you describe yourself as a part of the Faribault community?”



APPENDIX D: IMPLEMENTATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Memorandum of Understanding Phase 2 – Plan Implementation

Mathias Hughey
City of Faribault
208 1st Ave. NW
Faribault, MN 55021

The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding is to recognize the achievement of the City of Faribault in developing an updated Energy Action Plan. Northern States Power Company doing business as Xcel Energy, through its Partners in Energy offering, has supported the development of this Energy Action Plan. This document outlines how the City of Faribault and Xcel Energy will continue to work together to implement this Energy Action Plan. The term of this joint support, as defined in this document, will extend from October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2025.

Xcel Energy will support Faribault in achieving the goals of its Energy Action Plan in the following ways:

Project Management Activities

- Provide presentation content outlining Partners in Energy process, identified focus areas and goals, and benefits to community to be presented to City Council as part of update process.
- Facilitate regular check-in meetings, track and report energy impacts and activities (process annual data from Xcel Energy) and help coordinate implementation kick-off activities.
- Provide up to \$2,550 for reimbursed expenses related to printing and distribution of co-branded marketing materials, venue fees, food, and other related needs associated with outreach and education. Xcel Energy funding will not be provided for the purchase of alcohol.
- Serve as liaison between City and Xcel Energy Account Managers and communications staff and develop a detailed outreach plans.
- Support tracking and reporting progress to goals with bi-annual progress reports.

Support funded by Xcel Energy for project management is not to exceed 112 hours. These hours will include those provided through the Partners in Energy team from Center for Energy and Environment and do not include support provided by Xcel Energy internal program staff.

Energy Efficiency Activities

- **Promoting Home and Business Assessments**
 - Develop campaigns for resident and business energy assessments.
 - Connect the City to utility and state program resources and other incentive opportunities.
 - Support partnerships with other community and business organizations.
 - Develop campaign details and designed, co-branded, community materials for campaign promotions.

- Support community events with planning and promotional materials.
- **Multi-family Building Efficiency Outreach**
 - Develop campaign to reach building owners.
 - Create collateral and materials for outreach and to support events/trainings.
 - Identify utility and state programs, and create materials to support city appliance replacement campaign.
- **New Construction Promotions**
 - Develop a resource guide for industry partners.
 - Connect new technology and program offerings to support outreach.
 - Make connections to all incentives that are available for new construction efficiency projects.
- **Residential Outreach**
 - Develop campaign and materials encouraging behaviors and actions that support energy efficiency in homes.
 - Develop a weekly tips (in a quarterly deliverable) for promotional materials.
- **Partnership Development**
 - Connect city with utility school programs (e.g., Xcel Energy school kits).
 - Develop library program event promoting efficiency to residents.
 - Create a library tool for residents to check-out and make efficiency decisions about their homes.
 - Develop materials for student and teacher audiences.
- **Development**
 - Connect resources and data to help incentivize targeted housing projects.
 - Include passive energy strategies with materials and messaging around other projects or development.
 - Update existing development review materials with current utility and state programs and incentives.

Support funded by Xcel Energy for this strategy is not to exceed 105 hours. These hours will include those provided through the Partners in Energy team from Center for Energy and Environment and do not include support provided by Xcel Energy internal program staff.

Renewable Energy Activities

- **Increase Residential Participation in Renewable Energy Subscription Programs**
 - Create accessible city website language for renewable energy options.
 - Create videos and infographics as a part of the campaign materials.
 - Support partnerships and share renewable energy options and incentives with partners.
 - Develop renewable subscription campaign.
- **Partner and Outreach Support**
 - Support community contractors' event on renewable energy options and benefits.
 - Develop case studies of local businesses who are participating in renewable energy projects.
- **Large Building Participation**

- Develop campaign to reach renters and/or property owners.
- Connect City to utility renewable energy programs, and support projects on municipal buildings.
- Support outreach to schools about rooftop solar projects.
- Include messaging around additional benefits and options with solar installations on informational materials.

Support funded by Xcel Energy for this strategy is not to exceed 56 hours. These hours will include those provided through the Partners in Energy team from Center for Energy and Environment and do not include support provided by Xcel Energy internal program staff.

Transportation Energy Activities

- **EV Access Education**
 - Develop EV residential materials for outreach.
 - Support EV event planning and/or promotions.
 - Develop resource guide for residents.
- **Increase Charging Access**
 - Connect utility programs and incentives to city development review materials.
 - Connect city with other community projects of similar scope.
- **Fleet Vehicle Adoption**
 - Develop accessible website language and materials for businesses to access programs, funding and incentives for EV fleet vehicles.

Support funded by Xcel Energy for this strategy is not to exceed 41 hours. These hours will include those provided through the Partners in Energy team from Center for Energy and Environment and do not include support provided by Xcel Energy internal program staff.

Beneficial Electrification Activities

- **Residential Campaign**
 - Develop a campaign and resources for outreach and education.
 - Develop materials and activities aimed at student education.
 - Support community electrification events with planning and promotions.
 - Support partnership development and connect resources.
- **New Construction**
 - Create a packet of materials for new construction industry partners.

Support funded by Xcel Energy for this strategy is not to exceed 37 hours. These hours will include those provided through the Partners in Energy team from Center for Energy and Environment and do not include support provided by Xcel Energy internal program staff.

Faribault commits to supporting the Energy Action Plan to the best of its ability by:

- Achieving the energy savings impacts outlined in the energy action plan and shown in the table below:

Faribault Conservation Goals

	Electricity Savings (in kWh)	Natural Gas Savings (in therms)
Baseline Historic Energy Savings	3,186,000	359,000
Incremental Plan Energy Savings (10/1/23-3/31/25)	1,577,000	289,000
Total Plan Energy Savings (baseline + plan energy savings)	4.763,000	648,000

- Performing the coordination, tracking, and outreach duties as outlined in the Energy Action Plan that include but are not limited to the following:

Project Management Activities

- Participate in coordination and tracking of scheduled check-ins, activities, and events.
- Provide Xcel Energy an opportunity to review marketing materials to assure accuracy when they incorporate the Xcel Energy logo or reference any of Xcel Energy's products or services.
- Share the plan document, supporting work documents, collateral, and implementation results from the Energy Action Plan with the public. The experience, successes, and lessons learned from this community will inform others looking at similar or expanded initiatives.
- Share progress on upcoming sustainability planning as it relates to activities outlined in the Energy Action Plan.
- Review and approve campaign materials in a timely manner.
- Update city website with relevant information.

Energy Efficiency Activities

- **Promoting Home and Business Assessments**
 - Engage city communications or other city departments to distribute campaign materials as developed.
 - Develop partnerships to support campaign efforts.
- **Multi-family Building Efficiency Outreach**
 - Engage with multi-family building owners to communicate campaign asks.
 - Access city data and other departments as useful to campaign efforts.
 - Host event for multi-family building training and invite appropriate partners.
 - Partner with organizations to develop an appliance replacement campaign.
- **New Construction Promotions**
 - Use city resources to connect with industry partners.
 - Evaluated city code and permit requirements as they relate to efficiency.
 - Design and implement a city incentive and recognition program.
- **Residential Outreach**

- Use city communications and partnerships to support outreach campaign.
- **Partnership Development**
 - Develop school partnerships to aid campaign efforts.
 - Host residential library event, including support with planning the event.
- **Disclosures**
 - Explore energy disclosure options within the city to better inform renters and buyers about energy use and costs.
- **Development**
 - Use city resources to create code and incentive for efficiency projects and activities.

Renewable Energy Activities

- **Increase Residential Participation in Renewable Energy Subscription Programs**
 - Update website language with renewable energy options.
 - Support campaign with city communications efforts.
 - Partner with organizations to support campaign efforts.
- **Partner and Outreach Support**
 - Host community contractors' event on renewable energy options and benefits.
 - Share case studies of local businesses who are participating in renewable energy projects.
- **Large Building Participation**
 - Use city communications and partnerships for campaign outreach to renters and/or property owners.
 - Explore renewable options for municipal buildings.
 - Continue outreach on school rooftop solar projects.

Transportation Energy Activities

- **EV Access Education**
 - Host EV event.
 - Distribute campaign materials and update web resources as needed.
- **Increase Charging Access**
 - Work with city development to explore charging rules and incentives.
- **Fleet Vehicle Adoption**
 - Update website language and materials for businesses to access programs, funding and incentives for EV fleet vehicles.

Beneficial Electrification Activities

- **Residential Campaign**
 - Distribute campaign materials and support campaign efforts through partner relationships.
 - Host community electrification events.
- **New Construction**
 - Distribute a packet of materials for new construction industry partners.

Single Points of Contact

All communications pertaining to this agreement shall be directed to Mathias Hughey on behalf of Faribault and Sofia Troutman on behalf of Xcel Energy.

Legal Applicability and Waiver

This is a voluntary agreement and not intended to be legally binding for either party. This Memorandum of Understanding has no impact, nor does it alter or modify any existing Franchise Agreement or other existing agreements between Xcel Energy and Faribault. Parties agree that this Memorandum of Understanding is to memorialize the intent of the Parties regarding Partners in Energy but does not create a legal agreement between the Parties. It is agreed by the Parties that nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding will be deemed or construed as creating a joint venture, trust, partnership, or any other legal relationship among the Parties. This Memorandum of Understanding is for the benefit of the Parties and does not create third party rights. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding constitutes a waiver of Faribault ordinances, Faribault regulatory jurisdiction, or Minnesota's utility regulatory jurisdiction.

Xcel Energy is excited about this opportunity to support Faribault in advancing its goals. The resources outlined above and provided through Partners in Energy are provided as a part of our commitment to the communities we serve and Xcel Energy's support of energy efficiency and renewable energy as important resources to meet your future energy needs.

For the City of Faribault:

For Xcel Energy:

Signature:

Signature:

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Date:

Date:



Council Work Session Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH:
FROM: Tim Murray, City Administrator
MEETING DATE: October 3, 2023
SUBJECT: Nature Everywhere Program Participation

Discussion:

River Bend Nature Center (RBNC) submitted an application for participation in the Nature Everywhere program, the primary mission of which is to create equitable access to nature for children. RBNC was recently notified that they were selected to participate in this program, which will run over the next two years. As part of participating in this program, a "community team" is required to be designated, which could include an elected official. If supportive of having an elected official as part of the team, the Council is asked to identify which member would be designated to participate in this program. Other than staff time, there is no cost to the City for participation in this program.

Attachments:

1. Email Brad Bourn 2023-09-20 Award Notification
2. Faribault Responses to Nature Everywhere
3. Nature Everywhere - Children & Nature Network

From: Brad Bourn <bourn@rbnc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:40 PM
To: Kevin O'Brien <kobrien@ci.faribault.mn.us>; Paul Peanasky <ppeanasky@ci.faribault.mn.us>
Subject: Fwd: Congratulations on Your Nature Everywhere 2023 Selection!

Here is the award notification email.

I also attached our narrative responses to the application and there is also a link to the FAQ page about Nature Everywhere communities.

I will also send this along to Mayor Voracek. He was invited to the conference and expressed interest in attending and possibly have the topic be on a work session agenda.

FAQ: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/resources/nature-everywhere-2023-faq/#fundere-and-partners>

Brad Bourn (He/His/Him)
Executive Director
River Bend Nature Center
1000 Rustad Road
PO Box 186
Faribault, MN 55021

<http://www.rbnc.org/>

The mission of River Bend Nature Center is to "help people discover, enjoy, understand and preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us."

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **C&NN Nature Everywhere** <natureeverywhere@childrenandnature.org>
Date: Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 3:42 PM
Subject: Congratulations on Your Nature Everywhere 2023 Selection!
To: <bourn@rbnc.org>

Dear Brad Bourn and the Faribault Region, MN team,

On behalf of the Nature Everywhere team, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your application and the dedication you've shown toward creating equitable access to nature everywhere children live, learn and play.

After careful review and consideration of all applications, our selection committee recognizes your team's commitment to Nature Everywhere. **On behalf of our review and selection committee, we are pleased to invite you to join the 2-year Nature Everywhere technical assistance program.**

Your team is invited to kick off our work together at a **Vision Lab in Austin, Texas November 1-3, 2023.**

By confirming your acceptance to Nature Everywhere, your team commits to:

- Bring the team members named in your application.
- Engage your institutional leaders in committing leadership and resources to your local Nature Everywhere initiative.
- Actively participate in community visioning, assessment, action planning, and implementation activities to more equitably connect children to nature
- Participate in the Peer Learning Network (PLN) through scheduled activities and Trailhead PLN Group.
- Track and contribute to evaluation measures for reporting outcomes, measuring community impact, and contributing to initiative learning.

Please respond to this email by September 20th to confirm that you intend to attend the Vision Labs and participate in Nature Everywhere.

- In your email, please provide us with a final team roster that includes each person's First and Last Name, Organization, Title, and email address.
- *Our review team noted that you listed 4 team members. We encourage you to extend an invitation to elected officials to build support for your efforts at this early stage. Please let us know if you would like to consult with our team for suggestions in this area.*
- Our selection committee will approve your team roster and then provide registration and travel information for your team September 20th–22nd.
- Your team members will need to complete the forthcoming **registration no later than September 27th.**

We are looking forward to collaborating with you! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at natureeverywhere@childrenandnature.org.

Best,

Erin Allaman & the Nature Everywhere Team

Apply to Nature Everywhere

1. Tell us your inspiration for applying.*

Faribault is a global community with a population of 24,000 people and is one of the most racially diverse areas in Greater Minnesota. Today, BIPOC students comprise 60% of the Faribault Public School population (primarily Somali and Latinx) and approximately 24% of them are English Language Learners. Faribault also is home to the Minnesota Academies for the Deaf and Blind giving the Faribault area national significance for the Deaf and Blind communities and disproportionately larger populations of both communities in Faribault.

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that BIPOC communities and people with physical barriers in Minnesota are not engaging in outdoor recreation and education activities at the same rate as whites and those without physical barriers. Most notably a 2017 report from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources showed that BIPOC communities make up only 5.1% of state park visitors while making up more than 22% of Minnesota's population. Park district after park district across the state reinforce the existence of this disparity in access to outdoor recreation and education activities.

In Faribault, we see the same disparities to accessing the outdoors and nature based on race and physical ability. Over the last several years, leaders in outdoor recreation and culturally specific organizations have been increasing our efforts to work together to improve access for youth and families from all of Faribault's diverse communities to better experience the outdoors. Due to competing resources and demands on time, we've mostly only been able to do this collaboration in an ad-hoc manner and as time allows. This work is simply too important to the future vibrancy of Faribault's community to continue to only be fit in as time allows. Becoming a Nature Everywhere community will allow partner organizations in the outdoor education and culturally specific organizations to have the space to plan, work intentionally, and implement a common vision to make the outdoors accessible to everyone!

2. What does equitable access to nature mean for your community? On what equity issues do you aim to focus? (Examples include public health, environmental justice, academic engagement, health and well-being, climate resilience, and more.)

We believe that having quality access and exposure to the outdoors is a basic human right and that there are too many health, wellness, and quality of life benefits to being outdoors to simply be left to chance. That is why River Bend Nature Center, in partnership with the Faribault Parks and Recreation Department, Somali Community Resettlement Services, and the Minnesota State Academies for the Blind and Deaf, have been working together to remove barriers to accessing nature across race and physical ability.

Much of our work to date has been focused on providing access to career paths in outdoor recreation and conservation for BIPOC and immigrant youth who have been traditionally left out from the outdoor recreation and conservation fields. With our partners at the State Academies for the Blind and Deaf we've been working on improvements to wayfinding, interpretive displays, trails, and programming opportunities for youth in Faribault's blind and Deaf communities.

Our hope is that as a Nature Everywhere Community team we will be able to expand on some of our current work to create an intentional, community-wide, outdoor inclusion and access plan that can guide our future investments and programs connected to access to nature across the region. It is also the hope of the project team that through participation as a Nature Everywhere community, that we can provide guidance and shape the work of other outdoor and nature

based organizations in the Southern Minnesota Region including the Dept of Natural Resources, the Trust for Public Land, and surrounding local park districts.

3. How will your community's participation in Nature Everywhere address current needs and build on your community's assets? Describe any specific city/district/regional plans developed or under implementation that hold implications or opportunities for your local effort.

The City of Faribault, the Parks and Recreation Department, and River Bend Nature Center have all completed or are in the process of completing long-term strategic plans to address the growing needs for outdoor recreation and access to green space across our diversifying community. As of today, most of the community's access to nature and green spaces are focused on just a few parks and regional trails. This localized focus paired with the rapidly increasing diversity of Faribault creates a recipe where more people from different backgrounds can be left on the margins when it comes to accessing nature. The long term plans of each organization aims to balance future improvements and programming to provide everyone safe and equitable access to the green spaces like River Bend Nature Center and the parks system while creating a welcoming environment for new users from all walks of life and all corners of the globe.

The City's long term Parks, Trails, and Open Space plan developed in 2019 seeks to create more access to nature based excursions throughout the community, improve park amenities with an eye towards physical accessibility, and wayfinding in multiple languages.

Concurrently, River Bend Nature Center is in the process of completing its strategic plan in Q4 of 2023. All signs currently point to incorporation of expanding opportunities for new Minnesotans, and youth with physical barriers to participating in nature and outdoor recreation.

Both the City's Parks, Trails, and Open Space plan and River Bend's strategic plan are designed to have measurable annual performance metrics tied to each broad goal.

Participating as a Nature Everywhere Community will allow us to work with culturally specific partners to meet our goals while being able to learn from and share best practices around nature inclusion with other Nature Everywhere communities.

4. Describe your team composition: who are the participating organizations and agencies, what sectors do they represent, what perspectives do they bring to the team, and how your team will be positioned to lead this effort. Are there any additional organizations or stakeholders you intend to foster relationships with to build upon your described team?

Our Nature Everywhere Community project team has both the commitment to a shared vision of more equitable access to the outdoors and the acumen to achieve that vision. Our confirmed partners consist of the following cross functional team of organizations with backgrounds in outdoor recreation, nature access, and culturally specific community organizations:

Project lead: River Bend Nature Center (RBNC): RBNC is a 501(c)3 organization that provides and maintains the largest green space in the City of Faribault. River Bend is a 750 acre natural space consisting of multiple biomes and is home to several different threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. RBNC maintains 10 miles of multi seasonal, multi use trails and provides structured programming in STEAM and outdoor recreation to over 10,000 participants each year in addition to hosting approximately 100,000 park visitors annually.

Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and Blind (MSADB): MSADB have been serving Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Blind/Visually Impaired children statewide for over 150 years. MSADB is a public school with a statewide reach, offering both residential and day programs to students with varying degrees of hearing and/or vision loss from all corners of the state and the midwest. Students receive tailored education in an environment designed to meet their individual needs, delivered by professionally trained and licensed teachers in Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Blind Visually Impaired (BVI) education. Because MSADB is located in Faribault, the entire region is significant for the Deaf and Blind communities and Faribault has a disproportionately large population of community members who are part of the Deaf and Blind communities and MSADB serves as a trusted leader and ambassador for those communities.

Faribault Parks and Recreation Department: Faribault Parks and Rec is the largest provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in the region providing aquatics, special leisure programs, athletic and sports programs, community events, and enrichment in addition to providing access to nature through the development and maintenance of trails, and various facilities.

Somali Community Resettlement Services(SCRS): SCRS is a state-wide, refugee-led 501(c)3 organization that has been serving the Faribault area since 2000. SCRS assists newly arrived and established refugees and immigrants from Somalia and other East African countries to secure basic needs and resources for self-sufficiency and to acclimate to a new way of life.

SCRS has built community trust in many BIPOC communities in Rice County through employing culturally reflective staff who share the same experiences, language, and culture of the folks they are serving. SCRS has more than two decades of experience with creatively pairing community members with economic opportunities through providing job training services, career exploration, mentorship, and job training opportunities.

Beyond our confirmed partners, we work closely with the Faribault Public School system, Trust for Public Land, Nature Conservancy, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and plan to invite them to participate in our work if selected as a Nature Everywhere Community.

5. If you are submitting a video, please add the link to your YouTube video submission here. If you submitted written responses, please type N/A in the space below.

NA

END*****

Nature Everywhere

*Creating equitable access to nature everywhere
children live, learn and play*

The evidence is clear: spending time outdoors, in nature, is essential for children's healthy development. From improving academic and social-emotional learning outcomes, to supporting physical and mental health, children thrive when they have frequent access to outdoor spaces, experiences and learning.



Nature Everywhere in 100 communities by 2025

Every child deserves a meaningful connection to a healthy, natural world. But the systems that create disparities in housing, employment, food, health and education are also present in the design, distribution and programming of green spaces and natural areas. This is especially troubling because research indicates that children impacted by the greatest disparities can experience proportionally greater benefits from regular time in nature.

We are working to advance **Nature Everywhere in 100 U.S. communities by 2025**. Participating communities are selected through an open application process.

THE NATURE EVERYWHERE PROCESS



We will provide the following support to help selected communities achieve their **Nature Everywhere** goals:

- **Community visioning** – resulting in a culturally relevant, cross-sector community vision for creating equitable access to nature
- **Seed grants** – to support start-up planning and community engagement
- **Equity, policy and funding assessments** – resulting in a shared understanding of community needs and assets to inform equitable decision making
- **Planning resources and support** – resulting in community-led, data-informed and measurable plans for increasing equitable access to nature
- **Catalytic grants** – to ensure communities have resources to implement plans

- **Peer learning** – Nature Everywhere community teams join our national peer learning networks, conferences and professional development opportunities
- **Tracking and communicating impact** – to support measurement, outcome reporting, ongoing funding and ability to make equitable decisions and investments

To learn more about becoming a **Nature Everywhere** community, visit the 2023 Request for Applications page for more details about the application process and to apply.

[LEARN MORE](#)

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE



Nature Everywhere is designed to support communities in bringing about these transformational changes:



- Access to the benefits of nature will not be determined by a child's skin color, ethnicity, culture, income, ability, identity, sexual orientation or zip code.
- The diversity that exists in communities will be reflected in those who design, program, visit and care for natural areas.
- Nature-based experiences, learning opportunities and infrastructure will be equitably designed, programmed and resourced with the recognition that connection to nature is fundamental to human health and happiness.
- Narratives about who belongs in the outdoors, in nature, will reflect the ways that people from all cultures and backgrounds connect to the natural world.

Bring **Nature Everywhere** to your community!

[LEARN MORE](#)

PROVEN RESULTS



Our work with communities and national partners over the past 15 years helps us understand what it takes to achieve – and scale – transformational change. Through a joint initiative with the [National League of Cities](#), we've provided multi-year technical assistance, training, resources and catalytic grants to advance equitable access to nature in more than 50 communities like these:



The Power of Partnerships: Grand Rapids, Michigan, has become a national leader in connecting children to nature

In Grand Rapids, MI, every eighth grader in the public schools puts on a life jacket, grabs a paddle, and learns to canoe. Many have never set foot in the Grand River, which runs through the city. But that's the point—helping young people feel comfortable and safe in Grand Rapids' natural environment.

[READ MORE](#)



In Flagstaff, Arizona, green schoolyards sprout after climate-related disasters

Climate-related fires and floods are all too common these days for cities in the western United States. Unfortunately, this is precisely the story of Flagstaff, Arizona and for the students at Killip Elementary. But today, Killip Elementary is a model of what can sprout, literally, after traumatic natural disasters.

[READ MORE](#)



Stumps, jumps and tree cookies: Bringing nature's benefits to young children in cities

A 4-year-old boy pounds a branch on a round slice of tree trunk, known as a "tree cookie." Realizing he can make music, he smiles and begins to pound in rhythm. Across the yard, another group of preschoolers follow a teacher along a log on the ground. The kids hold their arms wide, balancing and following directions. Ahead of them are children who are jumping from rock to rock, squealing as one kid yells "ground is lava!"

[READ MORE](#)



Minnesota's capital city brings more people to nature with a focus on innovation, equity and resilience

The summer of 2020 was one of social distancing and shuttered public spaces due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minnesota's capital city of Saint Paul was also swept up in the civil unrest following the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by police in the neighboring city of Minneapolis. Saint Paul residents, especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color, found it challenging to find places where they felt safe to gather and connect—at a time when they needed it most.

[READ MORE](#)



Connecting Children to Nature: Austin, Texas

The city of Austin, Texas publicly declared its belief that all children — regardless of race or income level — deserve access to nature's benefits when the city council passed the Austin Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. And, thanks to the leadership in Austin's Parks and Recreation Department and strong partnerships across the city, the community is taking steps to bring this commitment to life by making regular nature access a reality for young children in Austin.

[READ MORE](#)

SUPPORT NATURE EVERYWHERE

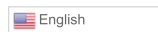


If you would like to invest in **Nature Everywhere** in your community or help fund this effort nationwide, contact [Jaime Zaplatosch Ehrenberg](#), Sr. Vice President, Development and Partnerships.

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Council Work Session Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Tim Murray, City Administrator
FROM: Kevin Bushard, Human Resources Director
MEETING DATE: October 3, 2023
SUBJECT: City Administrator Recruitment Process Discussion

Discussion:

With the anticipated retirement of City Administrator Tim Murray in March of 2024, staff would like to have an initial discussion with the City Council regarding the recruitment process for the position. The most recent recruitment, done in late 2017, was managed by David Drown Associates (DDA), a firm that does executive searches. For the search prior to that, in 2012, City staff managed the advertising and recruiting for the position. In 2010, the City also used an executive search firm to manage the process.

Consultant firms specializing in this type of recruitment process often have access to a broader applicant pool. While the City hired an Interim City Administrator to manage the day-to-day functions and oversee the City Administrator replacement process in 2012 and 2017, this is not expected to be necessary given the lead time provided. Staff is seeking direction from the City Council on the timeline of when City Council would like to begin the recruitment process and how to proceed with recruiting for the position, including the use of consultant services as well as the interview process.

Attachments: