



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Items for Discussion
 - A. 2023 SWPPP Annual Report and Public Hearing
 - B. Gold Leaf Program Final Report
 - C. IRA Ambassador Program
4. Routine Business
 - A. Announcements and Updates
 - i Energy Action Plan Adopted
 - ii EV Ordinance Updates
5. Adjournment



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting Items

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Wasilowski at 6:00 pm. Commissioners Dick Huston, Martha Brown, Cindy Diessner, Teresa DeMars, Lee Nordmeyer and Roger Steinkamp. Also in attendance was Community Development Coordinator, Mathias Hughey and Administrative Assistant II, Kari Casper and Deb Kasper as the interpreter.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Martha Brown, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

3. Items for Discussion

A. Composting at City Facilities

Hughey began his presentation by stating that each building would be set for a commercial price which is a bit higher than the residential one, running at about \$25 to \$35 for each facility. Diessner stated that she thought the board had discussed just doing the City Hall for a six-month trial and Nordmeyer concurred. Brown asked if the company provides training and showed us how to do it? Hughey said that they thought that they could. Diessner asked if anyone had polled the facilities for participation, Hughey stated we have not done that. Nordmeyer stated that it is probably good to be a compostable city and worth the money. Brown inquired about educating. Casper added that they have literature available when they drop off the bucket. Chair Wasilowski asked if we could include in the motion that we ask the other faculties to participate in compostable products as well. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Martha Brown to recommend to city council that the city sign up for commercial compost collection at facilities where city staff are willing or interested and that those facilities switch from non-compostable to compostable BP certified products. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

B. Environmental Commission Budget Update

Hughey started out with literature to be on a flyer to go out with the water billing statements. Brown asked if it would be in three languages. The bill would be around \$1,000. There was some discussion on ways to make a mailing less expensive.

Diessner asked if the City had an email address list. Hughey stated that they do not but thought that maybe the Park 's department may have an emailing list. They have the list only for people who are interested in parks information.

After much discussion, Hughey asked if there were any additional projects that the commission would like to discuss for budgeting. Huston asked for some time and came back next month. Hughey suggested that the board email him with suggestions on initiatives or projects. Steinkamp asked for a tree plan. Diessner asked about the heat tape program that Hughey mentioned and Casper outlined the HRA's initiative on this

program.

Brown asked to have multiple languages for all communications.

Motion by Teresa DeMars, seconded by Roger Steinkamp to Table. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

C. ElectriFUN Faribault Ride and Drive Update

Hughey thanked the members for their presence at the event. Due to the weather, the tables were inside the building. Hughey reported that about 100 to 150 people attended the event. Test drives were done all day long. The event showcased many vehicles, two of which were two Teslas. They had a Prius Prime, Outlanders and the City's Leaf. Steinkamp added that it was a good event. DeMars had many conversations. Diessner stated that she was hoping there would have been information on the energy audits.

Diessner also recommended that we table more events and work with other organizations. Nordmeyer said that people were very interested in composting and appreciated letting people know that the City has an Environmental Commission. No action was taken at this time.

4. Routine Business

A. Announcements and Updates

i Native Landscaping Update

There is a new tall grass and weed ordinance. They are looking at raising awareness.

Hughey met with Grows. Grows has been working on social media posts and working with the city.

Hughey requested that the commission bring forward resources they would like to add to the city's media. Diessner suggested working with other organizations.

Steinkamp asked if Hughey had received any feedback from the police. Hughey has not. Steinkamp mentioned that he had been approached by the police regarding his crabapple tree.

Casper added that the City works on complaints and they do not actively go looking for violations.

ii Energy Action Plan Update

Hughey stated that the Energy Action Plan would go to a City Council work session on October 10 and invited members to attend. Diessner stated she wanted to attend.

Nordmeyer and Steinkamp asked about the time. Casper stated 6:00 p.m.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Lee Nordmeyer, seconded by Dick Huston to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. The motion passed on a 7/0 vote.

By: _____
Kari Casper, Recording Secretary



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH:
FROM: Mark DuChene, City Engineer
MEETING DATE: October 23, 2023
SUBJECT: 2023 SWPPP Annual Report and Public Hearing

Background:

The City Engineer will present the annual 2023 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) report and conduct the MS4 permit required annual public hearing to solicit feedback from the Environmental Commission and the public on the City's MS4 activities.

Recommendation:

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: October 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Gold Leaf Program Final Report

Background:

In late 2022, the City began participating in the Gold Leaf Pilot Program for GreenStep Cities facilitated by the Great Plains Institute. The program recognizes cities that accomplish new, high-impact climate actions by awarding them 'gold leaves'. The actions fall under four categories: climate mitigation (CM), climate planning (CP), climate adaptation (CA), and community connectedness for Minnesota's changing climate (CC). The former Green Corps member, Danil Thorstensen, Community Development Coordinator, Mathias Hughey, and Gold Leaf Intern, Ava Kharin worked on the Gold Leaf actions. The Community Development Coordinator has finished the final report and attached a copy of that document here. Participation in the pilot program was limited, and the city was selected from a pool of applicants to participate.

For more information on the Gold Leaf Program, visit:
<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/gold-leaf-pilot>

To review a complete list of all 44 high-impact, high-priority actions, visit:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mA68kB-uSAs5MAyNVMGPDxD_3tu82qOpQdYe-rpU8Pg/edit#gid=0

Recommendation:

No action is required.

Attachments:

1. Faribault Gold Leaf Final Report

October 19, 2023

Contact: Mathias Hughey,
Community Development Coordinator

City of Faribault Gold Leaf Final Report

Summary:

The City of Faribault made significant progress towards or accomplished 10 high-impact actions identified by the program worth 24 gold leaves. Through the program, City Staff also identified additional actions that they believe are achievable. The program offered an opportunity to narrow the focus of the Green Step Cities program, and additional incentives to accomplish the identified actions.

CM1 – Efficient Public building operations: *For one city-owned/school building, complete 12 months of facilities operations utilizing the B3/SB 2030 Energy Efficient Operations Manual (B3 EEOM).*

The City has updated its B3 benchmarking data through March of 2023, for all meters within the city. This included 15 buildings including, the aquatic center, four buildings at the airport, City Hall, the community center, the library, Buckham West Senior Center, the fire department, a warming house, the public works facility, Robinwood Manor Senior and Disabled housing, Washington Recreation Center, wastewater treatment plant, and multiple lift stations, park shelters, pumps, streetlights, and other uses. Multiple meters are receiving solar credits through solar garden subscriptions requiring that they be manually updated in B3.

CM6 – Public energy efficiency projects: *Invest in a new and significant energy efficiency project through performance contracting or other funding in city-owned/school buildings.*

The City has signed an MOU with ABM Industries to pursue performance contracting for energy efficiency projects. City staff and ABM staff are currently negotiating a scope of work and developing a shared understanding of the next steps in preparation to present an MDA to the City Council. The contractor initially reviewed seven buildings to develop their recommendations for further investigation.

CM10 – Telecommuter Forward: *Be certified as a Telecommuter Forward! Community.*

The City has created an action plan to pursue Telecommuter Forward! Certification

CM11 – Municipal renewable energy purchasing: *Purchase 100% clean energy used by the city government via the municipal utility, green tags, community solar garden, or 3rd party agreements.*

The city currently subscribes to community solar gardens for approximately 30% of its energy use. City Council has authorized staff to increase this to 100% of the city's electrical use, and staff is working out the details for increasing the subscribed amount.

CM12 - Community renewable energy projects: *Newly install or support the installation for community-owned or public sector/municipally-owned renewable energy technology—solar, wind, hydro, etc.*

The City issued a Request for Proposals to install a city-owned solar array at the public works facility. We have received responses from five contractors and city staff will be finalizing a recommendation to City Council.

CP6 - Municipal climate goals: *Newly adopt or strengthen existing climate or energy goal(s) (i.e. renewable energy, GHG emissions, carbon-neutral, etc.) with a deadline of 2030 or sooner.*

The City recently completed a Climate Action Plan update through the Partners in Energy program. Through this plan, the City adopted the following 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, it is estimated that the city will avoid nearly 10,000 MTCO_{2e}.

CP7 - Climate action plan: *Adopt a new or updated Climate Action Plan or be part of a regional Climate Action Plan effort (document participation). For Category C cities, participate in a regional Climate and/or Energy Action Plan.*

See CP6 for details.

CC2 - Youth Involvement: *Have at least two filled youth/student positions on a city environmental commission, green team, or other advisory body that addresses topics related to Minnesota's changing climate.*

The City has two non-voting youth seats on the Environmental Commission.

CC4 – Student Internship: *A city student internship includes issues related to Minnesota's changing climate in their work.*

Through the Gold Leaf program, the City hosted an intern focused on climate work including gold leaf actions. The intern created promotional materials, wrote multiple climate-related articles for the newspaper, updated the B3 Benchmarking data, conducted research, and created action plans for completing additional Gold Leaf actions.

CC8 – Tree Steward Community: *Participate in the Tree Steward Community Program.*

The City has researched and developed an action plan to pursue the Tree Steward Community Program.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: October 23, 2023
SUBJECT: IRA Ambassador Program

Background:

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) developed a program to bring information about various incentives for clean energy and energy efficiency to the public. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Ambassador program aims to create a corps of citizen experts who can help spread knowledge and encouragement through their communities, increasing the number of people who access federal, state, and utility incentives to implement energy- and money-saving measures. The program is entirely voluntary, and CERTs has hosted several webinars to help people understand the incentives available.

Rebates and tax credits are the two primary forms of incentives. The former will become available in 2024 and will apply at the point of purchase, meaning savings are instant. Tax credits will be claimed on annual taxes and reduce a household's annual tax bill by the stated amount. Additionally, a system has been created for tax credits for electric vehicles to allow purchases of qualifying vehicles to have tax credits applied at the time of the sale - effectively reducing the sale price. Other incentive-eligible actions/purchases include energy assessments, electric service upgrades, electric stoves/ranges/ovens/cooktops, electric wiring, heat pump clothes dryers, heat pump heating and cooling, heat pump water heaters, weatherization, solar installations, and more.

Information and resources for the IRA incentives and IRA Ambassador program are available here: <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/inflation-reduction-act-what-you-need-know>. There are also links to other great resources for understanding and accessing IRA incentives at that site. One important piece of information is that the Median Family Income for Rice County in 2023 is \$93,000 and incentives may be limited based on household income.

Attached is an article about an IRA Ambassador working in Northfield, MN.

Also attached is a document with links to various elements of the tool kit and an example of the PowerPoint presentations and associated scripts that are included in the toolkit.

Recommendation:

If anyone is interested in becoming an IRA Ambassador, they can access the information at the link provided above and are encouraged to connect with the Community Development Coordinator.

Attachments:

1. IRA Ambassador Story
2. IRA Materials CERTs
3. IRA Presentation Tax Credits and Rebates for Residents
4. IRA Presentation Script Tax Credits Rebates

NORTHFIELD, MN

Inflation Reduction Act Ambassador Story: Northfield man looks to protect his community's tomorrow

AUGUST, 2023

Story by Emily Haeg Nguyen

[Southeast, MN \(/taxonomy/term/24\)](#)

For Alan Anderson of Northfield, MN, retirement didn't signify the end of his working days. Instead, he saw it as an opportunity to look toward the future of his community.

"The earth is heating up. I think that the situation is far more dire than most people appreciate. If we want to preserve a livable world, we need people doing a whole lot more to bring down emissions." says Anderson.

With these aspirations in tow, Anderson and two fellow Rotarians kicked-off a **Climate Action Team** within their local Rotary Club. What started as three people in 2017, has blossomed into a 22 person effort. Among the group's



many achievements, Anderson is especially proud of partnering with the city of Northfield to install two electric vehicle charging stations and inspiring the launch of some 200 similar Rotary climate action teams across the world.

While Anderson's team is working to prevent earth-altering climate change, he says their approach is a bit smaller-scale.

“

“There are a lot of ways to try to reach people, but the chance to actually talk to people face to face, I think, is your best chance to share a message that will stick.”

ALAN ANDERSON

Part of meeting with the Northfield community means reaching them where

they're at. That includes giving educational presentations to community groups, service clubs, senior citizen groups, and tabling at local events.

"On a recent Saturday at the local farmers market, I talked to 65 different people and gave away 65 flyers," Anderson says. "If I can get them to stop for a moment, I can explain more and I find that they're very interested."

Inflation Reduction Act forges new paths

Eleven years into retirement and Anderson says he is still looking for new routes forward. One he's particularly excited about is the **Inflation Reduction Act (<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/inflation-reduction-act-what-you-need-know>)**, a landmark federal law. It's the largest climate bill in US history and it aims to curb inflation through a number of efforts, including the implementation of clean energy.

Anderson recently signed on as an **Inflation Reduction Act Ambassador with the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)**. The volunteer role is informal but crucial - developed by CERTs to help spread the word throughout Minnesota communities about the clean energy incentives within the new law.

Anderson is involved in various outreach efforts, but he's particularly excited about what the Inflation Reduction Act has available for contractors. He's using resources and information from CERTs Inflation Reduction Act Toolkit to move forward.

Safeguarding community

The Southeast Minnesota town of Northfield has 15,000 full-time residents, and 5,000 college students. It's a community that has shown impressive action toward a better tomorrow.

"I'm pleased to say that we have multiple organizations within our small town that are all interested in working together to get the word out about the Inflation Reduction Act, a key way to fight climate change."

When looking to the future, Anderson says his vision is clear. He hopes we achieve a clean energy world for future generations of his local community and his own family.

"My ultimate inspiration comes from my five little grandchildren. I am trying to do my part to preserve a livable world for them."

Become an Inflation Reduction Act Ambassador

Interested in sharing resources with your community?

We created slides, handouts, and other resources to help you spread the word about the clean energy incentives within the Inflation Reduction Act. Sign up to be an ambassador and you'll receive updates about rebates, tax credits, and new tools you can share.

Feel free to republish this story!



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Download Inflation Reduction Act Materials

Become an Inflation Reduction Act Ambassador

Clean Energy Resource Teams staff present tips to understanding the Inflation Reduction Act to different groups throughout Minnesota. But we can't reach everyone who wants to learn more about the Inflation Reduction Act. We need your help.

We're sharing parts of a recorded presentation which you can share with your group, as well as slide decks and scripts you can download and use to create your own presentation. Do what works best for you and your community, and **let us know how it goes (/contact-us)!**

Note: You can view the videos full screen from this page, or click through to YouTube and play the videos from there. **Access the full playlist of Inflation Reduction Act videos (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCY1yjyhPOPp6u57qUbXZ_WSjtoFppFwq).**

Questions? Feedback? Let us know (/contact-us)!

TAX CREDITS AND REBATES FOR RESIDENTS

Learn how the Inflation Reduction Act can save you money through tax credits and rebates, when you take action to make your home more energy efficient.

Download Tax Credit and Rebate Materials:

Powerpoint slides: **[CERTs_IRA_TaxCreditsRebatesResidents_202305.pptx \(/sites/default/files](#)**

[/pdfs/CERTs_IRA_TaxCreditsRebatesResidents_202305.pptx](#)

Talking points script: **[IRA Presentation Script Tax Credits Rebates 202305.docx \(/sites/default/files /pdfs/IRA%20Presentation%20Script%20Tax%20Credits%20Rebates%20202305.docx\)](#)**

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INCENTIVES

Learn how the Inflation Reduction Act can save you money through tax credits if you purchase a new or pre-owned electric vehicle.

Download Electric Vehicle Materials

Powerpoint slides: **[CERTs_IRA_EV_202305.pptx \(/sites/default/files /pdfs/CERTs_IRA_EV_202305.pptx\)](#)**

Talking points script: **[IRA Presentation Script EVs 202305.docx \(/sites/default /files/pdfs/IRA%20Presentation%20Script%20EVs%20202305.docx\)](#)**

HOUSEHOLD SCENARIOS

Learn how different household sizes and incomes could take advantage of the clean energy incentives within the Inflation Reduction Act.

Download Household Scenario Materials

Powerpoint slides: **[CERTs_IRA_Scenarios_202305.pptx \(/sites/default/files /pdfs/CERTs_IRA_Scenarios_202305v2.pptx\)](#)**

Talking points script: **[IRA Presentation Script Scenarios 202305.docx \(/sites](#)**

[/default/files](#)

[/pdfs/IRA%20Presentation%20Script%20Scenarios%20202305.docx](#)

COMMERCIAL SOLAR + STORAGE

Learn more about clean energy incentives for businesses within the Inflation Reduction Act.

Download Commercial Solar + Storage Materials

Powerpoint slides: **[CERTs_IRA_CommSolarStorage_202305.pptx \(/sites/default/files/pdfs/CERTs_IRA_CommSolarStorage_202305.pptx\)](#)**

Talking points script: **[IRA Presentation Script Commercial Solar Storage 202305.docx \(/sites/default/files/pdfs/IRA%20Presentation%20Script%20Commercial%20Solar%20Storage%20202305.docx\)](#)**

DIRECT PAY

Find out how Direct Pay can allow tax-exempt entities to take advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Download Direct Pay Materials

Powerpoint slides: **[CERTs_IRA_DirectPay_202305.pptx \(/sites/default/files/pdfs/CERTs_IRA_DirectPay_202305.pptx\)](#)**

Talking points script: **[IRA Presentation Script Direct Pay 202305.docx \(/sites/default/files/pdfs/IRA%20Presentation%20Script%20Direct%20Pay%20202305.docx\)](#)**

Direct Pay Resources

June 2023 Direct Pay Update email (<https://mailchi.mp/cleanenergyresourceteams/ira-ambassador-202306>)

DISCLAIMER

The Clean Energy Resource Teams is sharing resources to assist Minnesotans who are seeking information about federal funding opportunities. These resources are based on preliminary information released by the federal government. Program information may change as more guidance is provided by federal and state governments. For specific information on federal funding, please visit the relevant U.S. Government websites and consult with tax professionals regarding tax incentives that apply to you.

An Inflation Reduction Act Overview

on.mncerts.org/IRA

Top energy savings opportunities



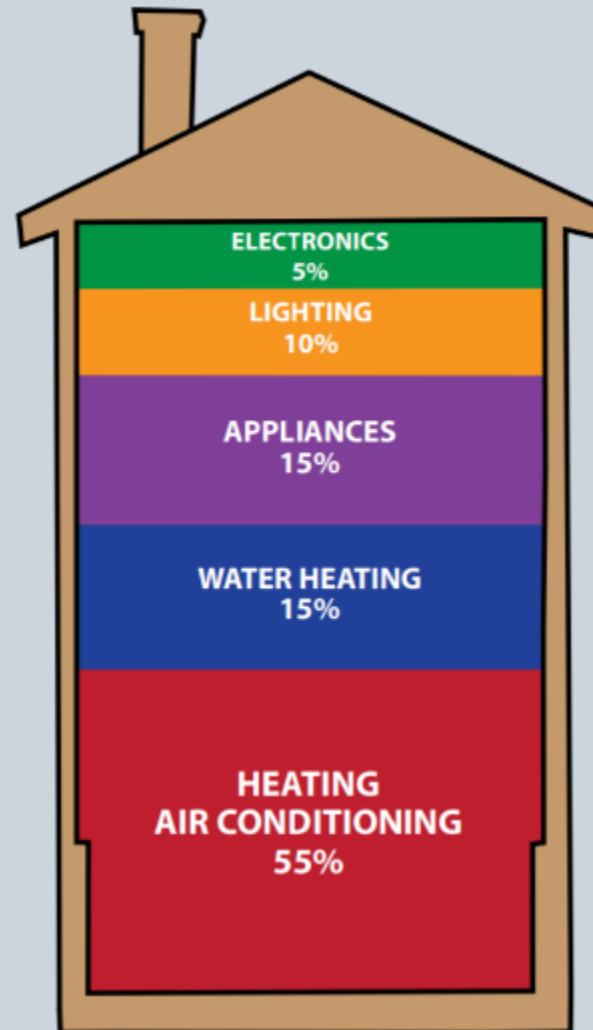
Attic Insulation

Heating System

Wall Insulation

Windows

Other Appliances



Tip: Get an energy audit

Contact your utility to get an energy audit to find out exactly what energy savings you can find at your home!

Tax Credits on these measures!



Maximum Annual Cap: **\$3,200**

Up to 30% tax credit; max amount listed by technology.

- Home Energy Audit: up to **\$150**
- Attic Insulation & Wall Insulation: up to **\$1,200**
- Heating System: for heat pumps: **\$2,000**
- Windows: **\$600**
- Doors: **\$250/door**, up to \$500
- Other Appliances: water heaters: **\$600**
(or if a heat pump water heater: **\$2,000**)

Tip: You can get a credit every year; so you could stage your projects to maximize your benefits.

For example: Heat pumps



Heat and Cool with



Air Source Heat Pumps

\$2,000 tax credit!

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) use electricity to heat and cool.

- ASHPs work like air conditioners to cool, and work in reverse to move warmth from outside air into your home to heat.
- ASHPs heat homes up to three times more efficiently than forced air and electric resistance heating systems.

MN awaiting DOE Guidance for Key Residential **Rebate** Programs



Program	IRA Funding Level	Timeline
Home Owner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) Rebates	\$4.3 B	Available through 2031
High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program	\$4.5 B	Available through 2031

Inflation Reduction Act: HOMES Rebates

(starting in late 2023/early 2024)



Who?

- Single-family homeowners and multifamily building owners

What?

- Rebates for energy efficiency
- Whole-house approach
- Rebate amounts based on energy savings:
 - \$2,000 for 20% energy savings
 - \$4,000 for 35% energy savings
 - **Doubled for LMI households!**



**Incentives for your
WHOLE HOME**

Start planning now!

High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act (HEEHRA) (*coming late 2023/early 2024*)



Eligible Use	\$ Limits
Electric Load Service Center Upgrades	\$4,000
Electric Stove, Cooktop, Range, and/or Oven	\$840
Electric Wiring	\$2,500
Heat Pump Clothes Dryer	\$840
Heat Pump Heating/Cooling	\$8,000
Heat Pump Water Heaters	\$1,750
Insulation and Air Sealing	\$1,600

Tip: You can combine these incentives with Utility Rebates for additional savings!

High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act

LMI

- Targets the most money to LMI households.
- LMI is based on relative to where you live and household size
- Less than 80% of AMI = Low Income. 100% rebate
- 80-150% AMI = Moderate Income. 50% rebate

Non-LMI

- Non-LMI = 150% or more AMI
- Do not qualify for upfront rebates
- Can utilize tax credits

Renters

- Upgrades apply to portable items (window unit heat pumps, induction cooktops, heat pump clothes dryer)
- Incentivizes energy retrofits in apartments

**Visit the CERTs Guide to
the Inflation Reduction
Act to learn more:
on.mncerts.org/IRA**



TAX CREDITS & REBATES FOR RESIDENTS

SLIDE 1

Today we're going to learn how the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 can save you money through tax credits and rebates, when you apply energy efficiency methods or upgrade to clean energy technologies within your home.

A little background about the Inflation Reduction Act. This bill represents the largest investment into [addressing climate change](#) in United States history.

Here the headline: The law is projected to reduce 2030 U.S. [greenhouse gas emissions](#) to 40% below 2005 levels. **This is a game changer.**

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is a landmark [federal law](#) which aims to curb [inflation](#) by

- [reducing the deficit](#),
- lowering [prescription drug prices](#), and
- investing into domestic energy production while promoting [clean energy](#).

It was passed by [Congress](#) and signed into law by President [Biden](#) on August 16, 2022.

The law will raise \$738 billion and authorize

- Nearly 400 billion in spending on [energy](#) and climate change initiatives,
- More than \$200 billion in deficit reduction,

3 years of [Affordable Care Act](#) subsidies, prescription drug reform; and more.

SLIDE 2

This is a slide that the Clean Energy Resource Teams, or CERTs, has been using for years. It is all about the things people can do in their own homes to be more energy efficient. And the great news is, the Inflation Reduction Act really taps into all of these energy saving opportunities with tax credits and rebates.

The first thing to consider is an energy audit for your home. If you're in Xcel Energy territory or Center Point Energy territory, the Home Energy Squad is the provider of these home energy audits. If you're outside of those territories, contact your utility. They'll be able to point you in the right direction. If you have to pay for your home energy audit, you may capture a 30% tax credit, up to \$150 through the Inflation Reduction Act. Learn more about Home Energy Audits, and DIY options from CERTs: cleanenergyresourceteams.org/energy-assessment-benchmarking

SLIDE 3

Tax credits for energy efficiency have been around for quite a while. Before the Inflation Reduction Act there was a lifetime cap or \$500 for energy efficiency tax credits. Now with the Inflation Reduction Act, the cap has changed to \$3,200 annually. It's broken down into a \$1,200 maximum annual tax credit for building envelope type improvements, such as windows, doors, insulation, and electrical, plus eligible

furnaces, boilers, and central air conditioners. And a \$2,000 annual tax credit cap for any combination of air source heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and biomass stoves or boilers. The Department of Energy created a Savings Hub for Homeowners to help you determine what qualifies for this credit and how to receive the credit, and all other energy efficiency tax credits, when you file your taxes: <https://www.energy.gov/save/homeowners>

SLIDE 4

One example of these energy efficient technologies is air source heat pumps. They transfer hot and cold air, instead of creating it. They cool your home in the summer, similar to how your refrigerator keeps your food cold, and they heat in the winter by efficiently transferring warm air back into your home. With technological advances air source heat pumps are practical appliances for our northern climate. And you can receive a 30% tax credit, up to \$2,000, for a qualified air source heat pump. CERTs shares more information on how air source heat pumps work, and what you should consider before purchasing one: cleanenergyresourceteams.org/ashp

SLIDE 5

Rebates through the Inflation Reduction Act are on their way. Currently the State of Minnesota is putting a plan together on how the rebates will be distributed. The rollout is expected later in 2023 or the beginning of 2024.

The two rebate programs are the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings Rebate, or the HOMES Rebate program. And the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act program, or HEEHRA (pronounced, here-ah).

SLIDE 6

The HOMES Rebates are for homeowners and multi-family building owners. This is a whole house improvement rebate, which is determined by either a modeled or a measured approach.

If you're working with a contractor and you use the modeled approach, the contractor will use a software program to determine the overall energy savings of the project you're taking on. If your project ends up reducing your energy use by 20%, you would be eligible for a \$2,000 rebate. If the model software shows a 35% energy savings or more, the rebate goes up to \$4,000.

For the measured approach, a contractor would come to your home and measure how much energy you currently consume. Then they would complete the energy efficiency improvements you agreed upon, and measure your energy use at the completion of the project. If the energy savings are 20% your rebate will be \$2,000. If the energy savings are 35% or more, the rebate is \$4,000.

If your household is low or moderate income, those rebates are doubled.

SLIDE 7

The High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act, or HEEHRA (pronounced here-ah) covers both equipment and installation costs. This slide shows the maximum rebate amount available for each equipment/installation, and these are point of sale rebates. The total amount that you can take advantage of through HEEHRA is \$14,000. This is not a tax credit, you don't need to wait to file your taxes or have a tax appetite. These are rebates that you will receive when you purchase the item, point of sale.

SLIDE 8

The HEERHA rebates also increase for households with low and moderate income. If your household income is 80% of the Area Median Income or lower, you get 100% of these rebates. If your household income is between 80% and 150% of the Area Median Income, these rebates are 50%.

If your income is above 150% of your Area Media Income, you're not eligible for the HEEHRA program, however you can still use the tax credits, up to 30%.

If you're a renter you can still tap into the HEEHRA program. Think about appliances that are more portable, a window unit heat pump, an induction cooktop, a heat pump clothes dryer, or something similar.

SLIDE 9

The Clean Energy Resource Teams share tools and resources to keep you informed on how to save energy and money with energy efficiency methods and clean energy options. Visit their Guide to the Inflation Reduction Act for updates to help you take advantage of the clean energy incentives within the bill: <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/inflation-reduction-act-what-you-need-know>

Thank you, this is the end of the Tax Credits and Rebates for Residents presentation.

Please note: We're sharing resources to assist Minnesotans who are seeking information about federal funding opportunities. These resources are based on preliminary information released by the federal government. Program information may change as more guidance is provided by federal and state governments. For specific information on federal funding, please visit the relevant U.S. Government websites and consult with tax professionals regarding tax incentives that apply to you.



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: October 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Energy Action Plan Adopted

Background:

The City Council adopted the Energy Action Plan at their October 10th meeting. Congratulations to the Environmental Commission on this achievement and thank you to everyone who contributed to developing a plan that reflects the community of Faribault.

Recommendation:

No action is required.

Attachments:



Environmental Commission Memorandum

TO: Environmental Commission
THROUGH: David Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director
FROM: Mathias Hughey, Community Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: October 23, 2023
SUBJECT: EV Ordinance Updates

Background:

The Planning Commission received the Environmental Commission's recommended EV Ordinance updates for review. At their last meeting, they voted to table their discussion of those proposed changes until they had addressed several other items in their work plan. Staff will keep the Environmental Commission updated on the progress of that proposal.

Recommendation:

Attachments: