



**PARTNERS IN ENERGY**  
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

# Energy Action Planning – Background and Purpose

Since 2014, Partners in Energy has been helping communities gather local governments, community-based organizations, businesses and residents to develop and implement energy action plans that address local energy challenges and priorities with actionable strategies and resources. In addition to offering support for community-based energy action plan development and implementation, Partners in Energy is evolving to include a broader spectrum of community engagement that includes supporting returning Partners in Energy communities as they define new goals and strategies, working with communities that have existing energy goals and strategies but need help implementing them, supporting smaller communities or geographic areas (i.e., districts or neighborhoods) that may benefit from a more tailored approach, or even convening collaborations that don't fit the traditional definition of a community but are focused on increased efficiency, beneficial electrification and renewable energy opportunities in diverse settings.

## **Planning and implementation Services**

The planning and implementation process is tailored to the unique needs and priorities of each community. Partners in Energy offers tools, data, and expertise to help communities analyze their energy trends, establish energy goals, identify energy strategies, and implement their energy priorities. Through the Partners in Energy process, Xcel Energy supports communities in convening stakeholders to develop custom roadmaps to achieve their energy goals. Xcel Energy also helps communities implement their energy strategies. Accepted communities will participate in a scoping meeting to determine the pathway that best aligns with the community's interests and capabilities.

## **A no-cost resource**

Partners in Energy is offered at no cost to participating communities in Colorado and Minnesota, with the expectation that both Xcel Energy and the community will invest in the process. This investment includes staff and financial resources from Xcel Energy during both the planning and implementation phases. It also includes community staff time during both the planning and implementation phases and your community's plan may require financial support to implement strategies.

Clear form

Xcel Energy wants to work with motivated, engaged, and action-oriented communities and champions who are willing to commit to the process and the outcomes. This application will help us better determine good community alignment for our limited, but valuable, resources. While completing the application does not guarantee acceptance as a participant, your application will be evaluated against other applicants using criteria that include, but may not be limited to, community size and structure, planning experience, stakeholder capacity, available resources (staff and otherwise), and willingness to share results publicly. Applying for the program does not obligate you to move forward with the process if community priorities change or moving forward is no longer in the best interest of the community.

If you have questions about the application or the opportunity, please visit [xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy](https://xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy), email us at [PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com](mailto:PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com) or call 800-369-4362.

Please email the completed application to [PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com](mailto:PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed quarterly on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15. We will confirm acceptance into the program or ask for more details within the month following the respective deadline. We reserve the right to pause or discontinue any or all application cycles at the sole discretion of Xcel Energy.

### Qualifying customers

Communities in Colorado and Minnesota with retail energy services from Xcel Energy qualify to participate in Partners in Energy.

### Community customer information

Community name \_\_\_\_\_

Community jurisdiction (e.g., city, association, partnerships, county): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Community profile

Approximate business count \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate household count \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate population \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate area in square miles \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be able to provide a GIS shapefile of your community that would define the geographic boundaries of the area?

Yes  No

Current community energy-related utility providers (e.g. gas service providers)

1) Name of company \_\_\_\_\_

Gas, electric or both: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name of company \_\_\_\_\_

Gas, electric or both: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name of company \_\_\_\_\_

Gas, electric or both: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest in Partners in Energy**

1. Why are you applying to Partners In Energy? Please provide any relevant background needed to understand your community and its energy use planning objectives.

2. What are the most pressing energy-related issues facing your community today?

3. If you're accepted as a participant in Partners in Energy, what additional approvals within your community would you need to obtain prior to starting? (examples: City Council, City Manager, Sustainability Commission, etc.)

**Planning and energy management experience**

4. Does your community currently have any energy, sustainability, environmental justice or climate goals? If so, please share.

5. What energy, sustainability, environmental justice or climate change initiatives or programs has your community recently implemented or have underway?

**Community resources and commitment**

6. Who will be the point(s) of contact to manage your Partners In Energy participation? Please indicate whether the point(s) of contact are paid staff or volunteers. If listing multiple points of contact, please clarify the role of each.

7. While Partners in Energy is offered to communities in Colorado and Minnesota at no cost, communities are responsible for expenses associated with implementation. Does your community have staff, volunteers, existing budgets or other funding resources dedicated to the implementation of the energy initiatives that may be identified or supported through the Partners in Energy process?

Yes    No   If no, please explain.

### Community involvement

8. Who from your community do you anticipate engaging in the development of your energy plan? This may include city or county staff, homeowners and renters, nonprofit service organizations, local businesses, education institutions, multifamily housing managers or owners, and representatives from under-served communities.

9. Partners in Energy is designed to promote communities learning from each other and sharing best practices. Will you allow your final work products to be shared publicly?

Yes    No   If no, please explain.

10. Will you provide Xcel Energy the opportunity to review any marketing materials that incorporate the Xcel Energy logo or reference any of the company's products or services?

Yes  No If no, please explain.

11. Is there anything else you would like us to consider when evaluating your application?

### Customer declaration

I certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete and I am authorized to make this application on behalf of my community. Your signature confirms your community is interested in participating in Partners in Energy and is willing to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Xcel Energy that will define responsibilities and expectations of both parties.

Community name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

By checking the box and indicating my name below, I am signing this application in declaration of its accuracy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_