

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

AGENDA

Monday, November 10, 2025
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) ____ Georgiana May ____
 John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) ____ David Smith ____
 Adam Keester ____ Nuz Sanidad ____
 Monika Chandler ____

 Staff Liaison Lynch ____
 Council Liaison Mielke ____

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 13, 2025

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Boulevard Tree Plantings
2. Energy Action Plan Update
3. SCORE Funding

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff Liaison Report
2. Council Liaison Report

G. ADJOURN

Next regular meeting date: December 8, 2025

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpentour Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, October 13, 2025
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) X Georgiana May X
 John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) X David Smith X
 Adam Keester X Nuz Sanidad X
 Monika Chandler A

Staff Liaison Lynch X
Council Liaison Mielke X

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed by consent.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 8, 2025

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Green-To-Go Ordinance

Staff Liaison Lynch went through the drafted Green-To-Go ordinance. She explained this is heavily taken from the City of Roseville, but it may be good to have similar language amongst the cities doing this to make it easier for businesses who have locations in multiple cities. She explained food trucks should probably be removed since these are regulated by the State of Minnesota and we do not currently have regulations for them in City Code. She explained a potential timeline for implementation, including speaking with City Council, an introductory letter to businesses, an Open House at City Hall, individual meetings at businesses, adoption of the ordinance, then several months before compliance is expected and enforced. Businesses should be allowed time to use of their existing supply of non-compostable/non-recyclable goods before forcing them to purchase compliant versions.

She mentioned she is concerned around the financial impact to businesses but that BizRecycling could help with this. She asked for advice from Nuz Sanidad who worked on Green-To-Go in St. Paul. Sanidad explained a lot of the existing products that businesses are

using are recyclable and thus already in compliance, but agreed that BizRecycling can help. She also stated she did outreach with sample bags of materials for the businesses to test, feel, etc.

Commissioners discussed compliance and how to ensure compliance, and Staff Liaison Lynch explained the current code enforcement process at the City. Currently it can be a long process involving letters back and forth and discussions with the property owner before a harsher solution is sought. She explained compliance is what is wanted, not necessarily punishing someone. Council Liaison Mielke suggested rewarding compliant businesses by featuring them in the newsletter or perhaps offering a decal window cling to showcase their compliance.

Staff Liaison Lynch stated the next steps would be to make a few more changes to the drafted ordinance before taking it to City Council for an initial review.

2. Landscaping Updates to City Code

Staff Liaison Lynch went through drafted updates to landscaping requirements in City Code. Commissioners discussed boulevard plantings and the best way to regulate these. It was determined the Environment Commission wants to promote and encourage native landscaping instead of turf grass, but that raising the height of turf grass to 8" to match other cities would be a good option. However it would also be good to match the ordinance to what is currently being seen in Falcon Heights, which includes many longer native plantings and no-mow lawns that may have longer grass, all things the Commission supports.

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch gave an update on GreenCorps Member Siebert's new service assignment for Great Plains Institute. She also advised the City Hall solar panels will be fully installed in the next few weeks, boulevard trees will be delivered to roughly 20 homes in the next week or two, and gave an overview and update on the Les Bolstad Golf Course sale by the University.

2. Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison Mielke asked Commissioners about adding a transportation component to the Environment Commission. Commissioners were in support and mentioned the Climate Action Plan advises on transportation and this would be a good fit for the Environment Commission to discuss.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: November 10, 2025



ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	November 10, 2025
Agenda Item	E-1
Attachment	None.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Boulevard Trees
Description	The City of Falcon Heights has been working to replant boulevard trees in specific neighborhoods. The first round of plantings is now complete. City Staff will be providing an update on the result of those plantings and an updated map of boulevard tree placement.
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	None.
Action(s) Requested	No action requested.



ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	November 10, 2025
Agenda Item	E-2
Attachment	See below.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Energy Action Plan Update
Description	The City of Falcon Heights has been working to implement their Energy Action Plan. Staff recently met with representatives from the Partners in Energy program and received the mid-year update for the plan. This is an overview of that update.
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 Falcon Heights Data Dashboard – Mid-Year Program Summary• Falcon Heights Energy Action Plan – Work Plan
Action(s) Requested	No action requested.

2025 Community Data Dashboard Xcel Energy Mid Year Program Summary



Falcon Heights strives to:

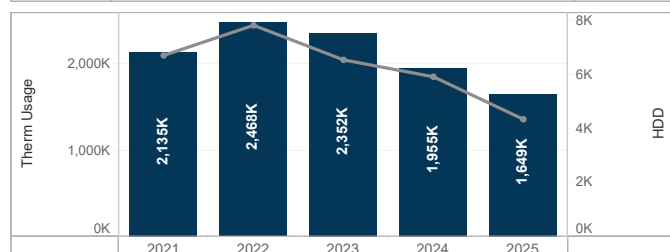
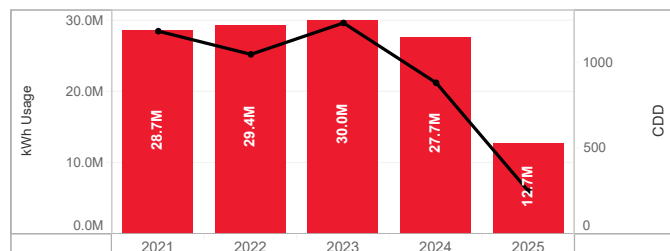
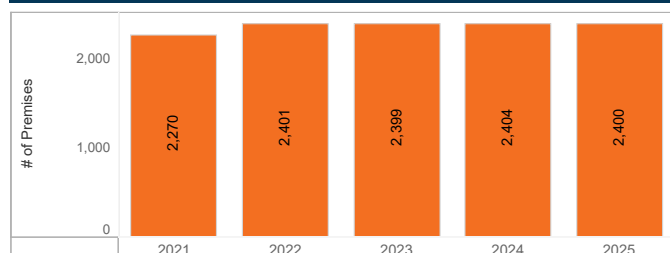
Baseline

-Increase energy savings by 53% and avoid an additional 34% emissions through participation in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs

2023

2025 data covers January - June

Utility Consumption & Premise Trends



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cooling Degree Days (CDD)	1,184	1,049	1,232	883	249
Heating Degree Days (HDD)	6,731	7,849	6,565	5,938	4,360

Line: CDD/HDD totals; Colored Bar: Total Consumption & Premises
Balance Temp: 65F; Source: www.weatherdatadepot.com and NOAA.gov

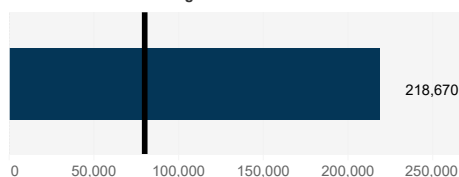
Energy Action Plan Impact

Implementation Period: November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2026

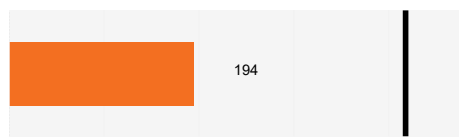
Cumulative kWh Savings



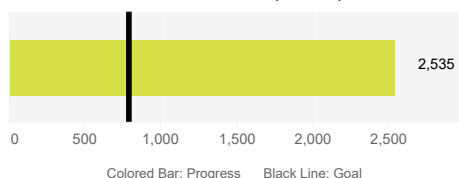
Cumulative Therm Savings



Cumulative DSM Participation



Cumulative GHG Emissions Avoided (MTCO2e)



Colored Bar: Progress Black Line: Goal

Annual Program Trends

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
DSM kWh Savings	975,187	1,035,716	386,763	2,335,520	1,296,839
DSM Therm Savings	243,360	104,102	161,327	149,540	213,252
DSM Participation Count	240	254	278	243	127
Total Renewable Energy Participation	402	407	263	261	267
Total Renewable Energy kWh Savings	7,097,581	6,573,316	6,647,037	12,432,486	8,937,973
Total DSM & RE GHG Savings, MT CO2e	1,788	1,042	1,149	2,794	2,378

Annual % Change

	2022	2023	2024	2025
% Change in Premise Count	6%	0%	0%	0%
% Change in kWh Usage	2%	2%	-8%	-54%
% Change in Therm Usage	16%	-5%	-17%	-16%

Partners in Energy is a collaboration of the Community and Xcel Energy.
GHG emission estimates reflect the most accurate and current information available, but the data may change slightly after third-party verification.

Participation counts for rebate programs reflect Xcel Energy offerings only. Xcel Energy provides electricity and natural gas to the community.

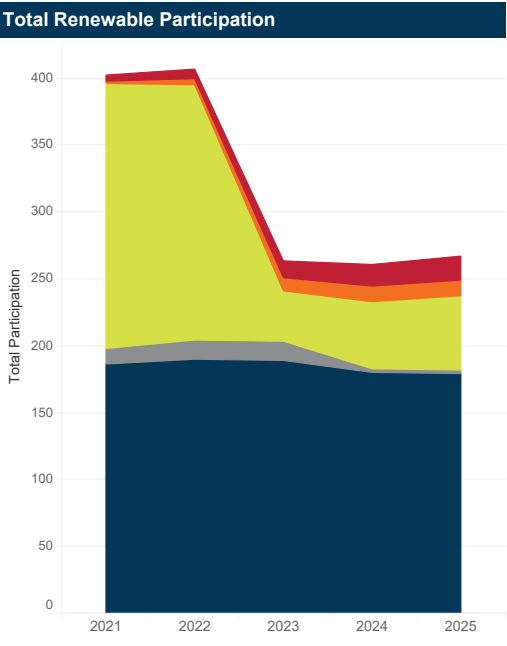
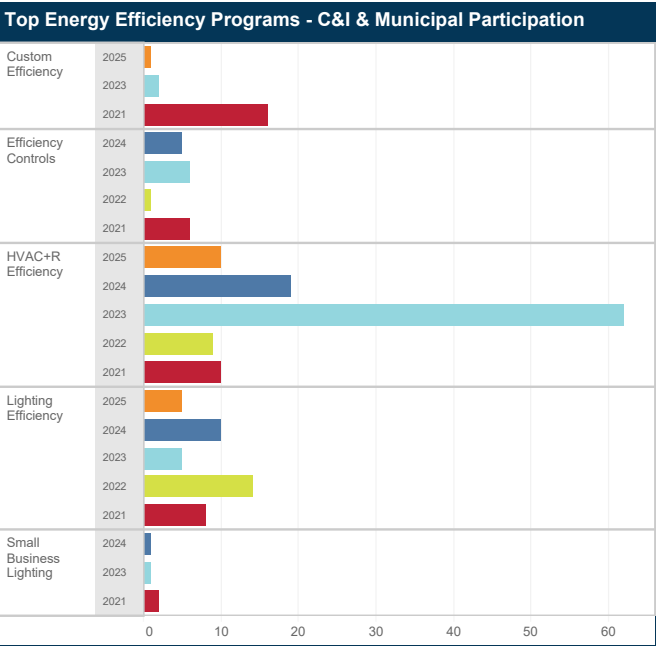


PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

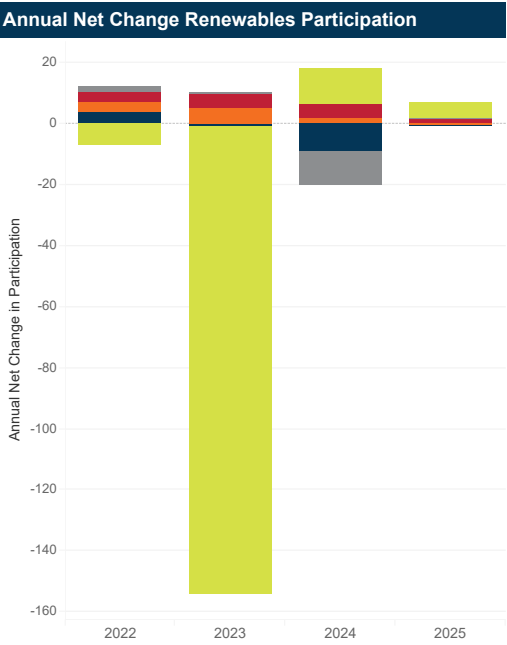
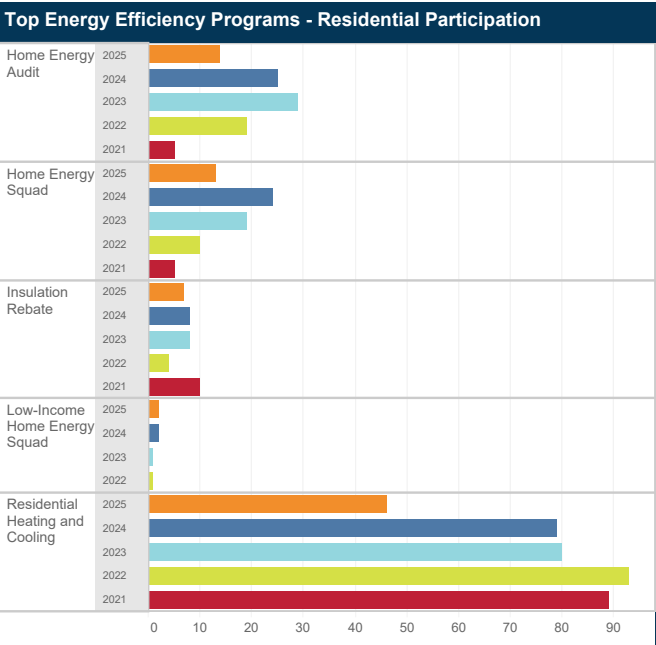
2025 Community Data Dashboard
Xcel Energy Mid Year Program Summary



2025 data covers January - June



Implementation Metrics					
Energy Efficiency Program Participation					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Commercial & Industrial	53	35	77	42	20
Municipal	1	0	1	0	0
Residential	186	219	200	201	107
Renewable Program Participation					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Commercial & Industrial	9	9	8	9	8
Municipal	6	6	6	6	6
Residential	387	392	249	246	253
Total Renewable Program kWh					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Commercial & Industrial	5,769,592	5,370,462	5,641,263	11,369,743	8,335,131
Residential	1,273,632	1,147,598	950,266	1,004,319	567,298
Municipal	54,358	55,256	55,508	58,425	35,545
Total Renewable Program Participation					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Solar*Rewards		4	7	12	16
Non-Solar*Rewards Net Metering		2	5	10	12
Solar*Rewards Community Participation	198	191	38	50	55
Windsorsource & Renewable*Connect Flex Participation	186	190	189	180	179
Renewable*Connect Participation	12	14	14	3	3
Total Renewable Energy Participation	402	407	263	261	267



- Solar*Rewards Community
- Renewable*Connect
- Solar*Rewards
- Non-Solar*Rewards
- Windsorsource & Renewable*Connect Flex

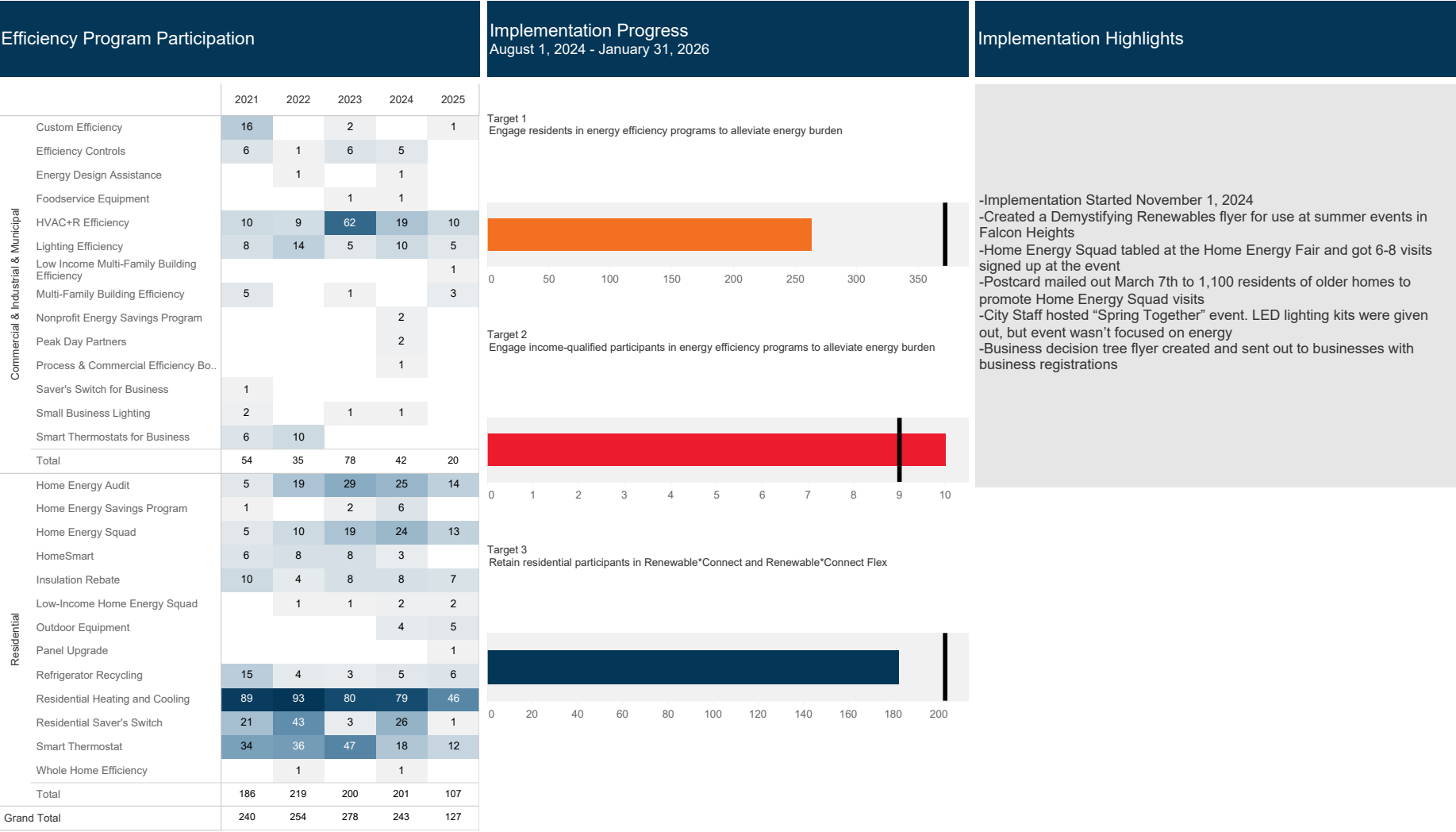


2025 Community Data Dashboard

Xcel Energy Mid Year Program Summary



2025 data covers January - June



Xcel Energy filed a new DSM plan in 2024 which resulted in some programs being reorganized and renamed.

2025 Community Data Dashboard Xcel Energy Mid Year Program Summary



2025 data covers January - June

Energy Efficiency Programs Participation and Savings

	DSM Participation Count					DSM Therm Savings					DSM kWh Savings				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Commercial															
Custom Efficiency	16		2		1	49,407		8,430		0	272,351		71,892		321,214
Efficiency Controls	6	1	6	5		20,501	1,194	13,238	1,683		171,206	0	79,524	68,763	
Energy Design Assistance		1		1			17,820		0			356,667		577,671	
Foodservice Equipment			1	1				754	8,792				0	0	
HVAC+R Efficiency	10	9	62	19	10	154,254	68,754	123,366	123,898	205,586	52,472	16,568	164,005	227,677	94,762
Lighting Efficiency	8	14	5	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	359,194	631,479	34,191	1,411,879	863,244
Low Income Multi-Family Building Efficiency					1					116					0
Multi-Family Building Efficiency	5		1		3	3,133		0		26	63,274		0		1,124
Nonprofit Energy Savings Program				2					0					11,003	
Peak Day Partners				2					0					0	
Process & Commercial Efficiency Bonus				1					0					0	
Saver's Switch for Business	1					0					2				
Small Business Lighting	2		1	1		0		0	0		8,181		5,104	5,074	
Smart Thermostats for Business	6	10				385	385				1,933	1,950			
Total	54	35	78	42	20	227,680	88,153	145,788	134,373	205,728	928,613	1,006,664	354,716	2,302,067	1,280,344
Residential															
Home Energy Audit	5	19	29	25	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Energy Savings Program	1		2	6		0		156	935		1,065		79	1,485	
Home Energy Squad	5	10	19	24	13	318	275	571	660	313	3,258	6,368	8,056	12,592	5,250
HomeSmart	6	8	8	3		0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	
Insulation Rebate	10	4	8	8	7	3,384	1,104	3,085	2,687	1,366	1,801	474	2,269	1,181	563
Low-Income Home Energy Squad		1	1	2	2		18	15	14	101		408	0	1,237	271
Outdoor Equipment				4	5				0	0				0	0
Panel Upgrade					1					0					0
Refrigerator Recycling	15	4	3	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	12,260	4,305	2,147	3,767	4,037
Residential Heating and Cooling	89	93	80	79	46	11,058	13,888	11,657	10,451	5,744	26,492	16,619	18,543	12,943	6,349
Residential Saver's Switch	21	43	3	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	45	3	28	1
Smart Thermostat	34	36	47	18	12	920	165	55	0	0	1,674	598	950	36	24
Whole Home Efficiency		1		1			499		420			235		184	
Total	186	219	200	201	107	15,680	15,949	15,539	15,167	7,524	46,574	29,052	32,047	33,453	16,495
Grand Total	240	254	278	243	127	243,360	104,102	161,327	149,540	213,252	975,187	1,035,716	386,763	2,335,520	1,296,839

Xcel Energy filed a new DSM plan in 2024 which resulted in some programs being reorganized and renamed.

ENERGY DATA GLOSSARY

Definitions

Demand Side Management (DSM): Demand side management aims to encourage consumers to decrease energy consumption. Xcel Energy offers DSM programs, like efficiency rebates and energy assessments, to help consumers reduce and shift their energy consumption.

Premise: A unique identifier for the location of electricity or natural gas service. In most cases it is a facility location. There can be multiple premises per building, and multiple premises per individual customer.

Heating Degree Days (HDD): Heating degree days (HDDs) are a measure of how cold the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days and correlates to heating demand. For example, the more HDDs there are, the higher furnace use is likely to be. This is often seen through an increase in natural gas consumption.

Cooling Degree Days (CDD): Cooling degree days (CDDs) are a measure of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days and correlates to cooling demand. For example, the more CDDs there are, the higher air conditioner use is likely to be. This is often seen through an increase in electricity consumption.

Units of Measure

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.

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

Therm (thm): A unit of natural gas consumption.

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.

Data Privacy

4/50 Rule: Xcel Energy applies the "4/50 rule" as an aggregation standard to the energy consumption data within this report. So long as a given aggregated value contains 4 or more customers and no single customer makes up 50 percent or more of the aggregated value, the value can be publicized in this report. If these conditions are not met, customer(s) will be removed from energy consumption data.

Renewable Energy Programs

Renewable*Connect Flex (Formerly Windsource): An Xcel Energy subscription program enabling customers to source their electricity from wind for an additional monthly cost. Annual participation is calculated as a count of unique customers in both programs.

Solar*Rewards Community: A community solar garden subscription program where customers subscribe to a nearby, third-party community solar garden. Customers receive a credit for the energy produced by the portion of the solar garden represented by their subscription. Annual participation is calculated as a count of unique customers in the program.

Renewable*Connect: An Xcel Energy subscription program enabling customers to source their electricity from solar and wind for an additional monthly cost. Annual participation is calculated as a count of unique customers in the program.

Solar*Rewards: An incentivized Xcel Energy program for on-site solar installations. Excess energy generation is sold back to Xcel Energy.

Net-Metering: A non-incentivized Xcel Energy program for on-site solar installations. Excess energy generation is sold back to Xcel Energy.

Popular Energy Efficiency Programs

Home Energy Squad: A residential energy assessment program from Xcel Energy that includes a home energy audit and installation of energy efficient materials.

Residential Heating and Cooling: A rebate program for residential customers who purchase high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment, including heat pumps, water heaters and more.

HVAC+R: A rebate program where businesses can earn rebates from Xcel Energy on high-efficiency heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, refrigeration, and more.

Small Business Energy Solutions: A free lighting and HVAC assessment program for small and medium-sized business customers.

Lighting Efficiency: Business customers can earn rebates from Xcel Energy for purchasing and installing LED lighting fixtures, bulbs, and control systems.

Focus Area	Strategy	Action Items	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	2026
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Alleviating energy burden for homeowners and renters	1) Conduct Energy Outreach in Schools	A Identify school and teacher partnerships and work with those partners to understand classroom needs.						
		B Develop materials and activities that support appropriate energy engagement according to school partners						
		C Ask school library or other entities to host educational events regarding energy efficiency / conservation and renewable energy						
		D Encourage partnering with "EmPowered Schools" program to Neighboring School Districts						
		E Utilize the Minnesota GreenStep School Program to show students that their school is leading the way in energy conservation and reducing environmental impacts						
	2) Develop Neighborhood Energy Liaisons	A Call for community volunteers by the City						
		B Provide Xcel Energy and supporting energy resources to the volunteers to share with their neighbors / associations						
		C Develop resources for volunteers to share with neighbors (e.g., template emails, National Night Out activities, NextDoor posts, website content, etc.)						
	3) Increase Access to Renter Resources	A Provide renters with information about applicable energy rebates						
		B Raise awareness of assistance programs for those renters who are affected by a higher energy burden or lower-income household						
	4) Promote Home Energy Assessments	A Promote home energy assessments						
		B Showcase residents who have had home energy assessments and made improvements in their home as a result						
	5) Provide Accessible Energy Communication	A Create an Energy Action Hub on the City of Falcon Heights' website to disseminate information about energy resources						
		B Establish partnerships with community organizations and/or Falcon Heights specific publications to bring awareness to residents						
		C Include energy educational resources on the City of Falcon Heights email newsletter						
	6) Highlight Energy Saving and Clean Energy Testimonials	A Showcase positive testimonials in the City's newsletter, blog and articles in local media						
		B Postcard mail out campaign of testimonials from residents to other residents						
		D Postcard mail out campaign of testimonials from business owners to other businesses						
		D Share testimonials at St Paul Chamber of Commerce meetings						
	7) Develop and Sustain Partnerships that Support Community Energy Equity Goals	A Connect with Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative (CTC) to Improve Living Conditions through energy projects for Student Housing						
		B Form partnership with neighboring city councils to coordinate energy equity projects that are mutually beneficial						
Enhancing Energy Efficiencies in Buildings	1) Support Energy Improvments	A Create and promote City incentives and/or recognition for energy efficient multi-family buildings						
		B Review and revise City code to remove barriers to more energy efficient multi-family buildings						
		C Support the adoption of standards requiring buildings larger than 5 units to periodically re-invest in energy efficient improvements that have a reasonable payback period						
		D Support incentives for retrofits and redevelopment of existing multi-family buildings to improve energy while respecting the historic integrity of buildings and communities						
	2) Incentivize and Recognize Energy Efficiency Projects	A Be present at community events with resources and tips to encourage businesses and residents to reduce energy consumption						
		B Request that homeowners who have made significant energy efficiency improvements temporarily display an energy conservation yard sign						
		C Publicly acknowledge homeowners and business owners in the City's email newsletter for energy conservation efforts						
	3) Partner with the State Fair to Encourage Energy	A Draft proposal to partner with State Fair to encourage joint energy projects						
	4) Encourage Efficient Electric Heating Technologies	A Create targeted outreach programs to educate business owners and owners of multi-family buildings about the benefits of electric heating options						
		B Host workshops and informational sessions to highlight benefits of adopting efficient electric heating technologies						
		C Encourage building owners who have already installed air source heat pumps to share their success stories with other building owners through presentations, open houses and business networking events						
		D Assist businesses and workforce to keep up to date on technological advances in building energy. Provide outreach to local businesses to assist in these educational efforts						
		E Recommend energy improvements for rental properties during annual inspections. Provide an opportunity to educate building owners about energy improvements annually, giving updates on electrification technology and available incentives						
	5) Form Climate Action Partnership with U of M	A Draft a proposal for collaboration between the City Council and the University of Minnesota and find a way forward						
		B Advocate for increasing EV charging infrastructure on and off campus						
		C Encourage charging infrastructure on new developments and retrofits, especially multi-family buildings and businesses. Support the continued development of charging infrastructure for Evs						
	6) Collaborate with Metro Transit	A Draft, send and follow up on a request to Metro Transit to have electric buses on Route 121 and on the Rapid Transit A Line						
	7) Reduce Costs of Home Energy Assessments for Residents	A Address economic barriers for residents who may be hard to reach or under-represented in the community and increase home energy assessment visits by promoting free visits						
	8) Showcase Existing Energy Projects in Homes and Businesses	A Identify homes and businesses that have already undergone energy projects						
		B Recognize those who would wish to participate in open house tours and set up tour dates for groups to visit						
		C Host a local energy fair in Falcon Heights and encourage citizen and local business participation						
Embracing Clean, Renewable Energy	1) Support a Group-Buy Solar	A Contact and form a collaboration with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) to help residents and businesses bulk buy solar						
		B Pursue grants to assist with the installation of solar panels on homes and businesses. This financial support will make renewable energy a viable option for more residents, reducing the City's overall carbon footprint						
	2) Solar Arrays on Future Buildings	A Request proposals for solar installations on future municipal buildings						
		B Partner with one or more solar installation companies to recommend to buildings in the City.						
		C Explore grants for installation of onsite solar on businesses and buildings						
	3) Promote Renewable Subscription and On-site Options for Residents	A Encourage subscription and on-site opportunities to residents during events and on the City website						
		B Share incentives for renewable energy options with renters though email and mailing campaigns						
	4) Partner with the University of Minnesota to Encourage Renewable Energy	A Reach out to the University of Minnesota to form a collaboration centered on renewable energy technologies						
		B Partner with the University of Minnesota to help share incentives for renewable energy programs to multi-family building owners, residents and students						
	5) Establish a Reliable Workforce in Renewable Energy Applications	A Host workshops to educate the community on renewable energy topics and resources while connecting professionals with residents and residents with training options						
		B Support and promote workforce opportunities in renewable energy industry						



ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	November 10, 2025
Agenda Item	E-3
Attachment	None.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	SCORE Funding
Description	<p>Every year, Ramsey County receives SCORE (Governor's Select Committee On Recycling and the Environment) funding from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These funds are passed through to the municipalities to provide partial support for municipal recycling and related programs. To receive SCORE funding, municipalities must apply for the funding annually as well as adhere to the SCORE funding requirements.</p> <p>Billing is currently taking place for projects eligible for SCORE funding which have already been completed for the year (such as textile recycling, e-waste recycling, and paper shredding at the Sustainability Fair), but there will likely be funds left over. This agenda item is for Environment Commissioners to brainstorm a potential project or event to hold between now and the end of the year.</p> <p>Up-to-date funding that is still available will be provided at the meeting.</p>
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	None.
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests the Environment Commission discuss a potential quick recycling project or event between now and the end of the year.