

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

AGENDA

Monday, March 11, 2024
6:30 p.m.

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

B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) ____ Jared Mehlhaff ____
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) ____ Amy Christiansen ____
Emma Kostecki ____ Adam Keester ____
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci ____

Staff Liaison Lynch ____
Council Liaison Mielke ____

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 12, 2024

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Partners in Energy Update

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Staff Liaison Report
2. Council Liaison Report

G. ADJOURN

Next regular meeting date: April 8, 2024

City of Falcon Heights Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024
6:30 p.m.

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

B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) _A_
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) _X_ Jared Mehlhaff _A_
Emma Kostecki _A_ Amy Christiansen _X_
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci _A_ Stephanie Skarolid _A_

Staff Liaison Lynch _X_

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 8, 2024

Vice-Chair Pellegrini made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2024. Minutes were approved by consent.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Officer Nominations

Commissioners discussed officer nominations. Commissioner John Pellegrini nominated Commissioner Beth Mercer-Taylor for Chair, Commissioner Pedro De Filippo Vannucci nominated Commissioner John Pellegrini for Vice-Chair, and all Commissioners decided to have Staff Liaison Lynch continue recording minutes as Secretary. A motion was made by Commissioner Mercer-Taylor for these nominations. Motion was approved by consent.

2. Minnesota GreenCorps Discussion

Commissioners discussed the potential for the City to apply to receive a Minnesota GreenCorps member for the next 11 months to work on environmental-related projects. This is expected to be a 40-hour work week with at least 4-hours of supervision required. Projects must fall within one of four categories: Community readiness and outreach, energy conservation and green transportation, stormwater and forestry, or waste reduction and recycling. After discussing each option and potential projects for each, Commissioner Mercer-Taylor made a motion to direct Staff Liaison Lynch to apply for the Minnesota

GreenCorps Program with the focus on community readiness and outreach, seconded by Commissioner De Filippo Vannucci. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

3. Bee Lawn Discussion

Staff Liaison Lynch stated contact was received by Kari Logan from Minnehaha Falls Landscape about an educational opportunity for Falcon Heights residents about bee lawns. Russ Henry and James Wolfen are bee lawn experts and offer a one-hour bee lawn presentation for community groups. Commissioners discussed the opportunity and directed Staff Liaison Lynch to find out more about the form of the presentation, and the possibility of holding a community event. They also discussed potentially offering starter kits for these lawns, or partnering with another city to make it a larger event. Staff Liaison Lynch will discuss this with Kari Logan and bring more information back to the March meeting.

4. Partners in Energy Update

Staff Liaison Lynch gave an overview of the current status of the Partners in Energy program. She reminded Commissioners of upcoming meetings including an Open House on Wednesday, February 21 from 6-8 PM at City Hall, Workshop on Monday, March 18 at the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment LES-R370 from 6-8 PM, and a second Open House on Wednesday, April 17 from 6-8 PM location TBD.

5. Nature Newsflash Calendar

Staff Liaison Lynch went through Nature Newsflash article ideas again to fill in more of the calendar and advised she would keep it up to date and email it out periodically to Commissioners.

F. Information and Announcements

1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch stated City Hall would be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 for President's Day. She also let Commissioners know about two upcoming public hearings at the Planning Commission meeting on February 27, 2024 regarding updating City Code to include EVSE language and changing Hollywood Ct. to resident permit parking. Finally, she told Commissioners about the Plastic Free February program currently being held by Washington and Ramsey Counties.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: March 11, 2024



ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	March 11, 2024
Agenda Item	E-1
Attachment	See notes below.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator / Planner

Item	Partners in Energy Update
Description	The City of Falcon Heights has partnered with Xcel Energy and MNCEE to join the Partners in Energy Program. This is a brief overview of the current status of the program and upcoming events, as well as the slide deck for the upcoming workshop on March 18.
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	Draft Slide Deck - Partners in Energy Upcoming Workshop
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests Environment Commission discuss slide deck and data points and make suggestions/requests/comments for Staff to take back to PiE team.



WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?

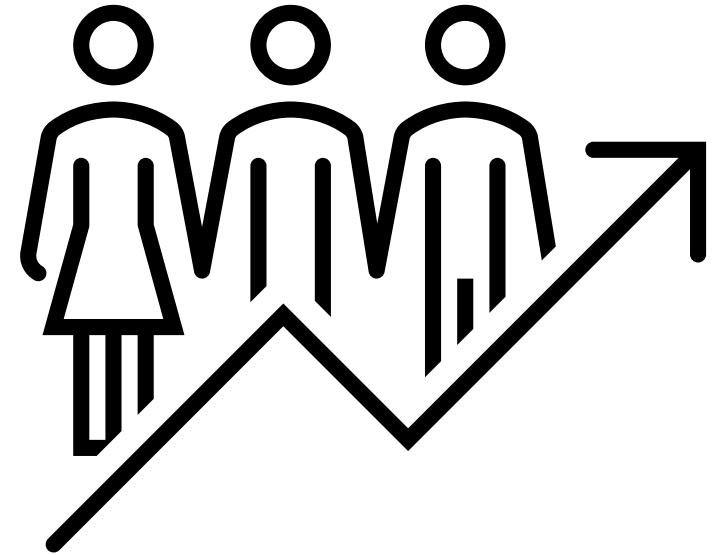
DATA REVIEW



WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?

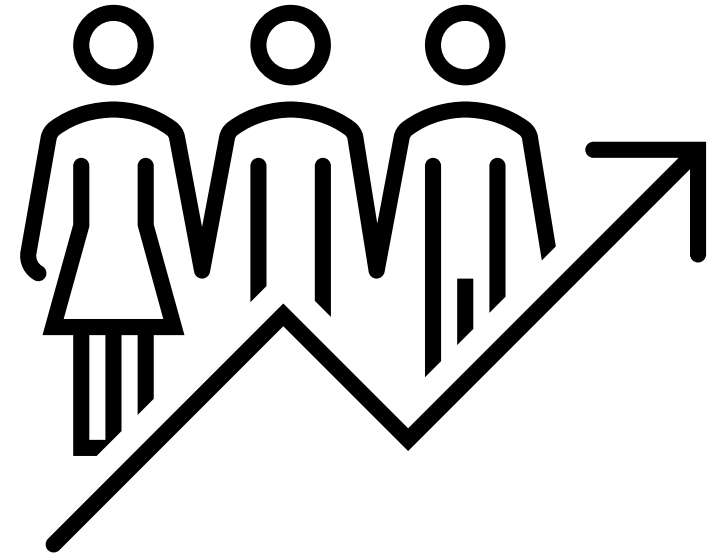
Baseline for Falcon Heights

- Demographic
- Energy
- Electric Vehicles



HOW WILL WE USE THIS DATA?

1. Determining **where to focus** your efforts
2. Making data-informed decisions about **target actions and activities**
3. Determining baselines from which to **measure goals**



FALCON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



POPULATION

5,232

MEDIAN AGE

36

RACE

75% White

13% Asian

6% Black

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
ENGLISH

22%



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

\$87,750

POVERTY RATE

7%

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE

\$351,500



HOUSING UNITS

2,155

HOUSING BUILT BEFORE
2000

90%

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

62%

RENTER-OCCUPIED
UNITS

39%

SMALLER POPULATION, SIMILAR DIVERSITY TO PEER CITIES

Falcon Heights



POPULATION

5,232

MEDIAN AGE

36

RACE

75% White

13% Asian

6% Black

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
ENGLISH

22%

Saint Paul



POPULATION

306,436

MEDIAN AGE

33

RACE

52% White

18% Asian

16% Black

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
ENGLISH

28%

Roseville



POPULATION

35,698

MEDIAN AGE

41

RACE

73% White

8% Asian

8% Black

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
ENGLISH

15%

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2022 5-year estimates

HIGHER HOUSING VALUE

Falcon Heights



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

\$87,750

POVERTY RATE

7%

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE

\$351,500

Saint Paul



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

\$69,919

POVERTY RATE

17%

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE

\$264,900

Roseville



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

\$87,702

POVERTY RATE

7%

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE

\$318,400



SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2022 5-year estimates



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

FEWER UNITS BUT SIMILAR HOUSING STOCK

Falcon Heights



HOUSING UNITS
2,155

HOUSING BUILT BEFORE
2000
90%

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
62%

RENTER-OCCUPIED
UNITS
39%

Saint Paul



HOUSING UNITS
129,525

HOUSING BUILT BEFORE
2000
91%

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
53%

RENTER-OCCUPIED
UNITS
47%

Roseville



HOUSING UNITS
16,559

HOUSING BUILT BEFORE
2000
92%

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
64%

RENTER-OCCUPIED
UNITS
31%



SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2022 5-year estimates



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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Small suburban city
- Fairly young population, some racial diversity
- Older housing stock, fewer renters than owner-occupied units



ENERGY DATA 101

- Energy consumption, energy savings, and renewable energy data provided from Xcel Energy
- Data is pulled from 2021-2023 to create a baseline against which to measure goals
 - Baseline does not change
- Xcel Energy Data Privacy Rule
 - Must be greater than 4 entities
 - No single entity can account for more than 50% of the usage
- Limitations to data
- Data are unofficial for planning purposes

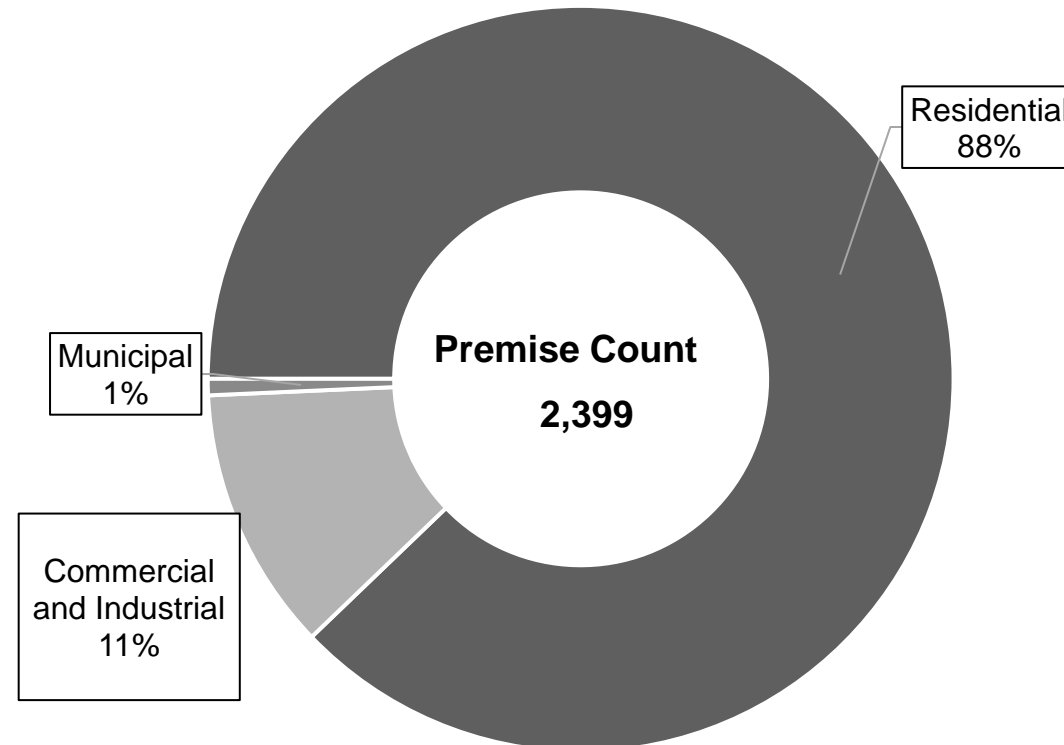


GROUNDING WITH ENERGY DATA 101

- **Premise:** Unique identifier for location of service; premise ≠ customer
- **Residential:** represents residential premises, including single-family and townhomes
- **Commercial & Industrial:** represents business customers, such as restaurants, gas stations, office buildings, and hotels
- **Municipal:** refers to the City of Falcon Heights only
- **DSM:** Demand Side Management aims to encourage decreased energy consumption. Xcel Energy offers DSM programs to help reduce and shift energy consumption
- **Kilowatt-hour (kWh):** A unit of electricity consumption
- **Therm:** A unit of natural gas consumption
- **MMBtu:** A unit of energy consumption that allows electricity and natural gas to be combined



MAJORITY OF ELECTRIC PREMISES ARE RESIDENTIAL



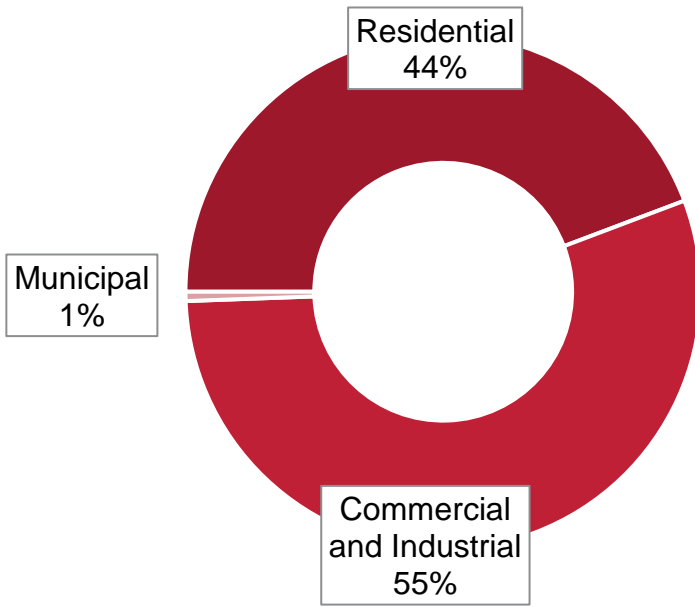
SOURCE: Xcel Energy Partners in Energy 2023 baseline



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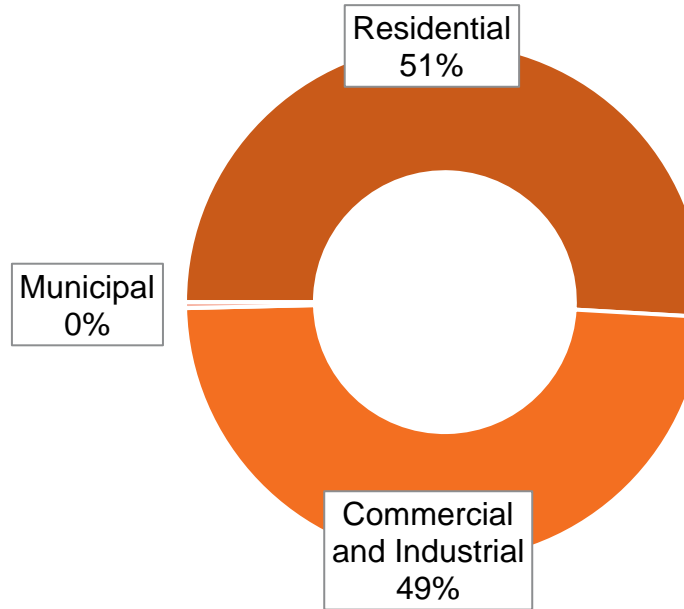
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL SECTOR CONSUMES 52% OF TOTAL ENERGY

Electricity Consumption



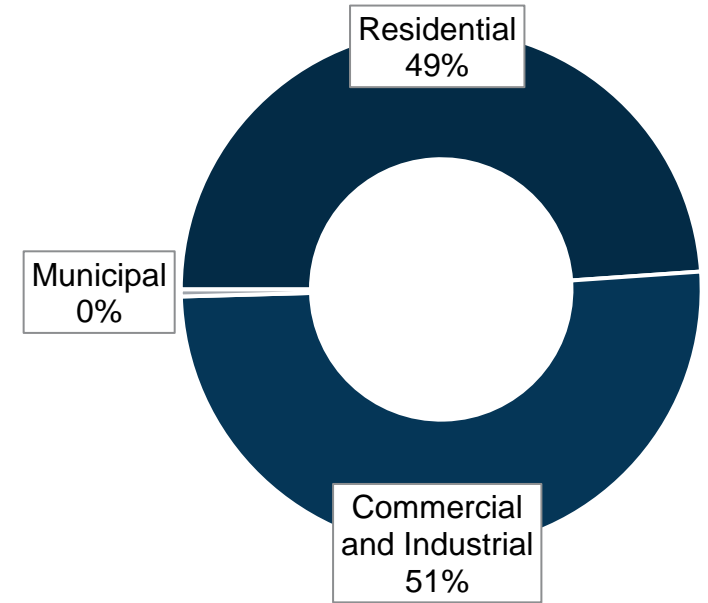
30 million kWh

Natural Gas Consumption



2.4 million therms

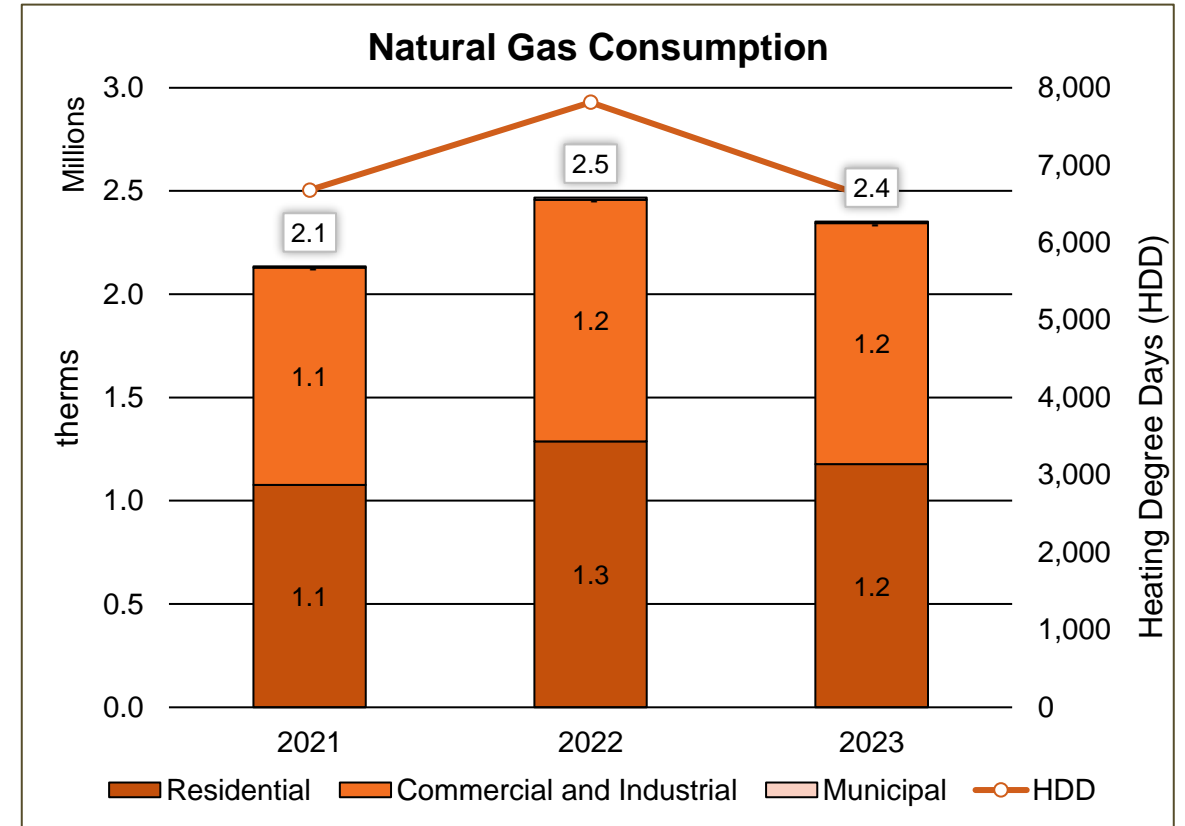
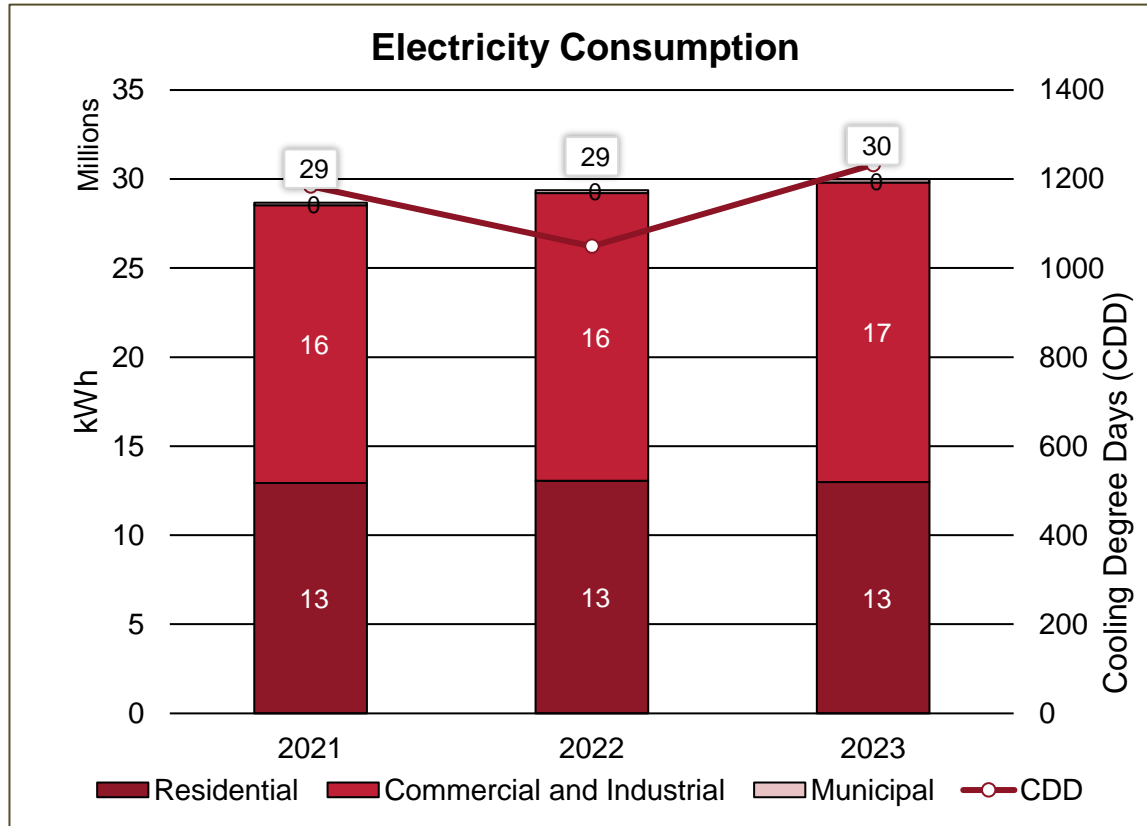
Total Energy Consumption



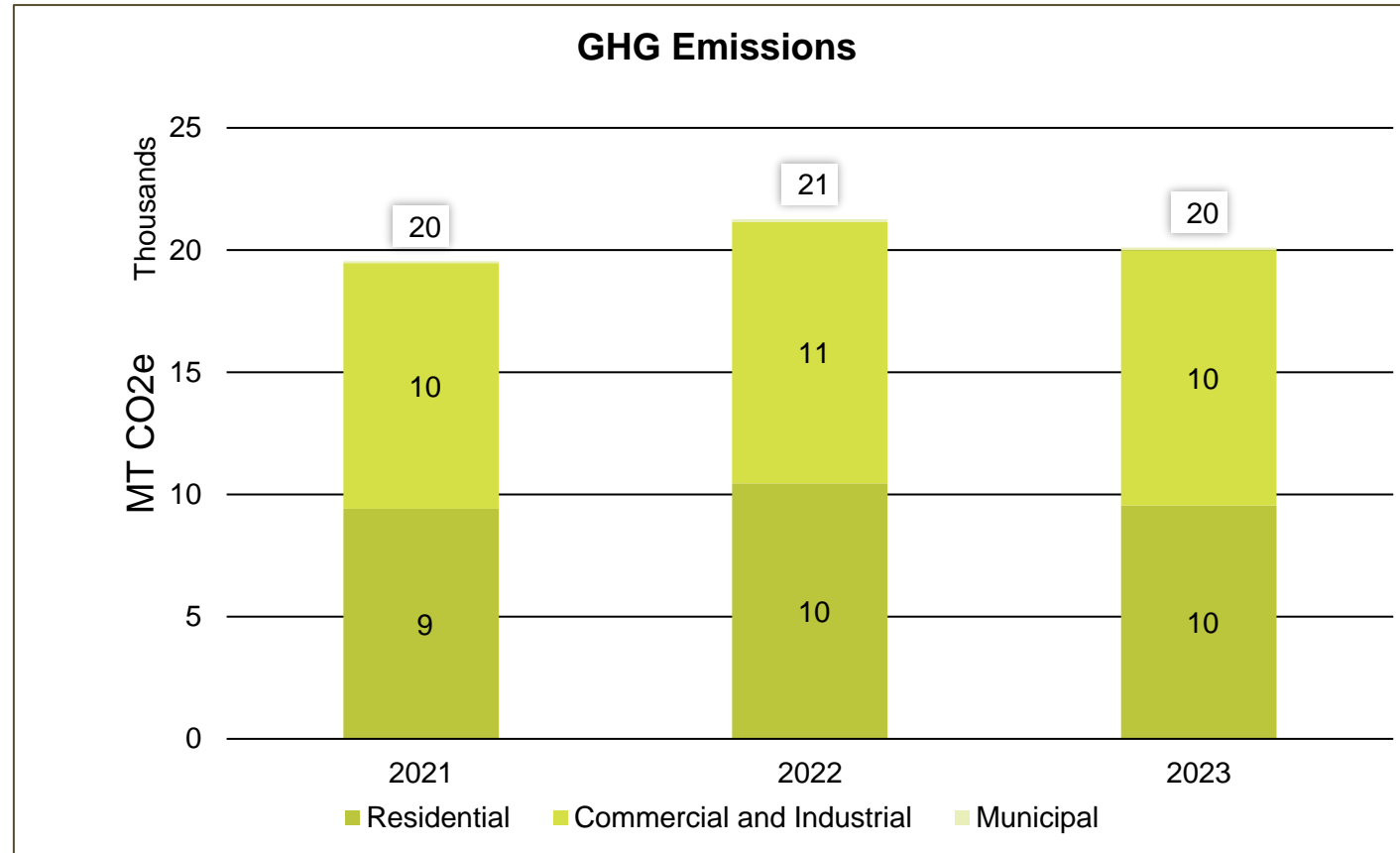
338,000 MMBtu



ELECTRICITY INCREASED FROM 2021 TO 2023; NATURAL GAS PEAKED WITH HEATING DEGREE DAYS

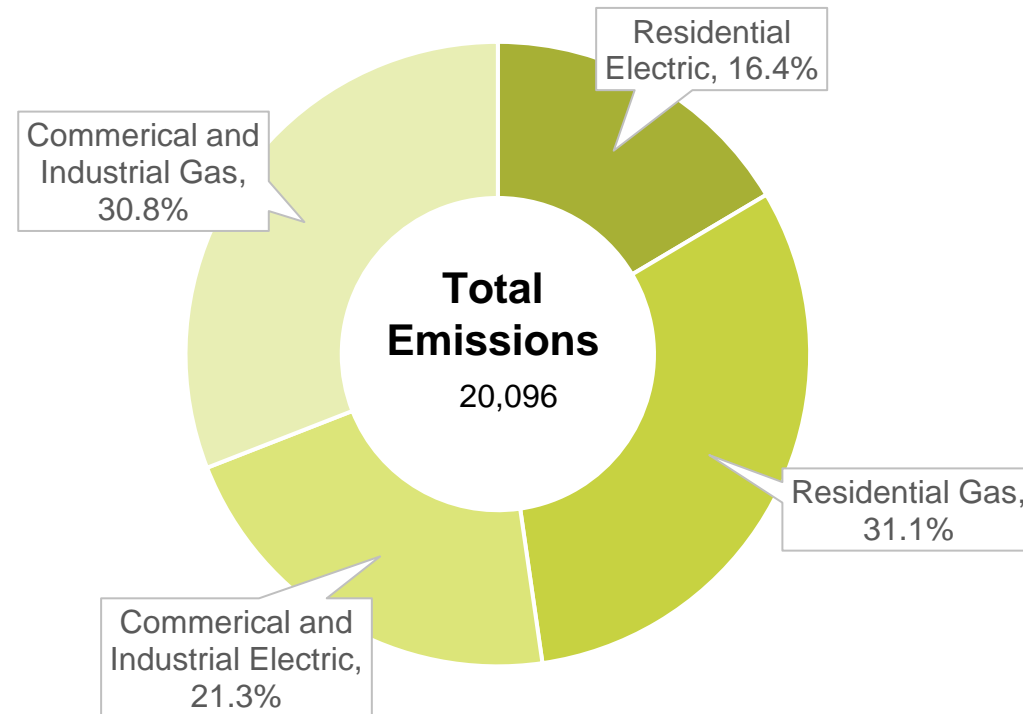


GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONSISTENT SINCE 2021

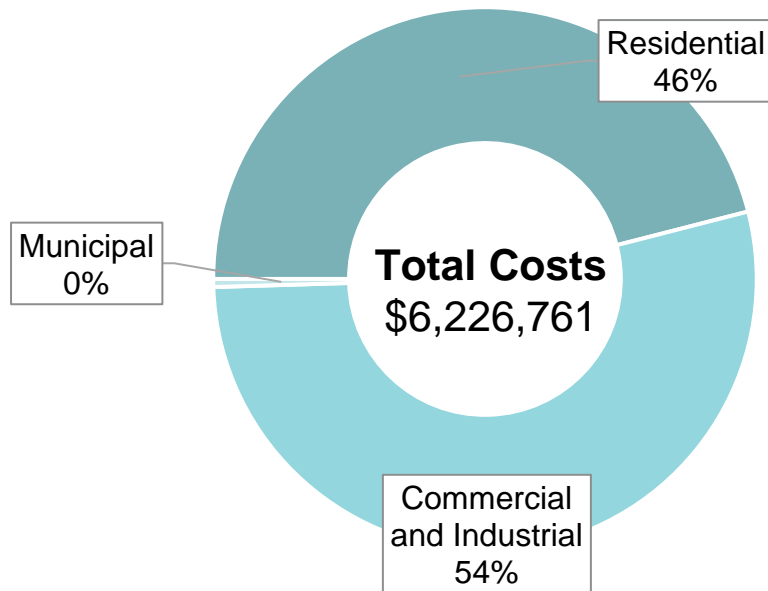


NATURAL GAS CONSUMPTION RESULTS IN MAJORITY OF EMISSIONS

2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MTCO₂e)



\$6.8 MILLION SPENT ON ENERGY DURING AVERAGE YEAR



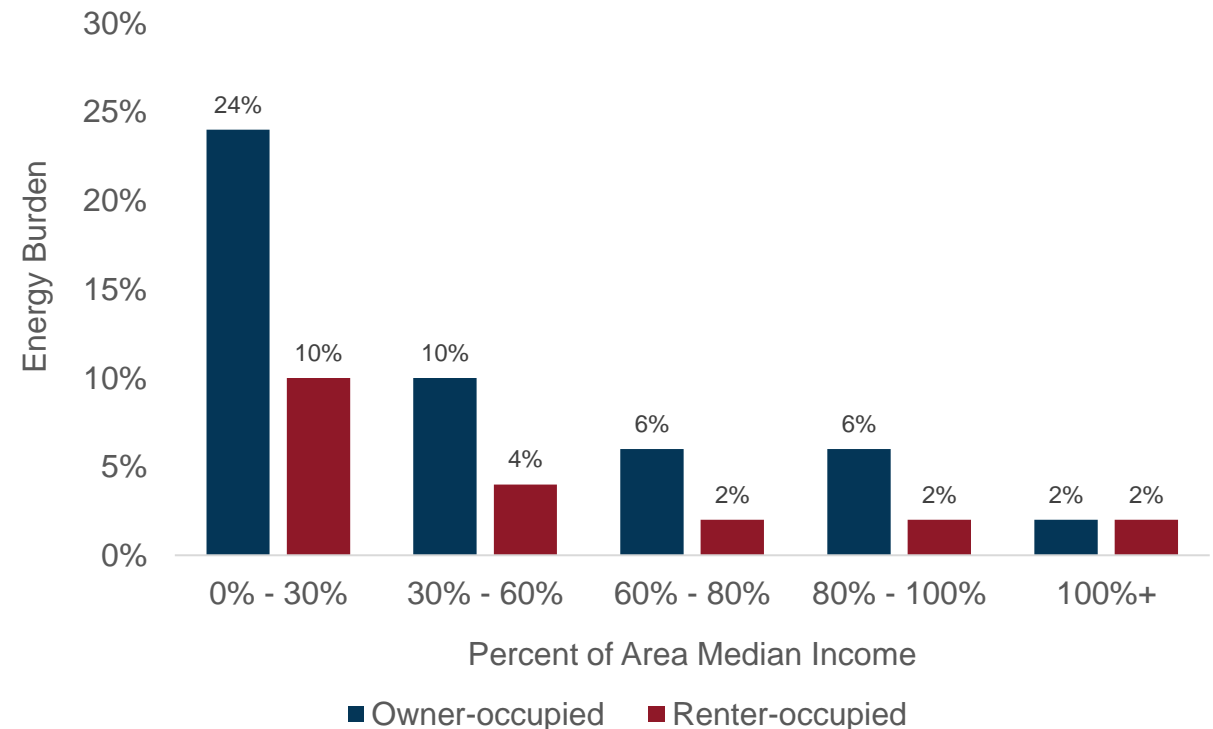
Sector	Electricity Costs	Natural Gas Costs	Costs per Premise
Residential	\$1.8 million	\$1 million	\$1,400
Commercial & Industrial	\$2.4 million	\$929,000	\$12,100
Municipal	\$22,000	\$7,400	\$1,700



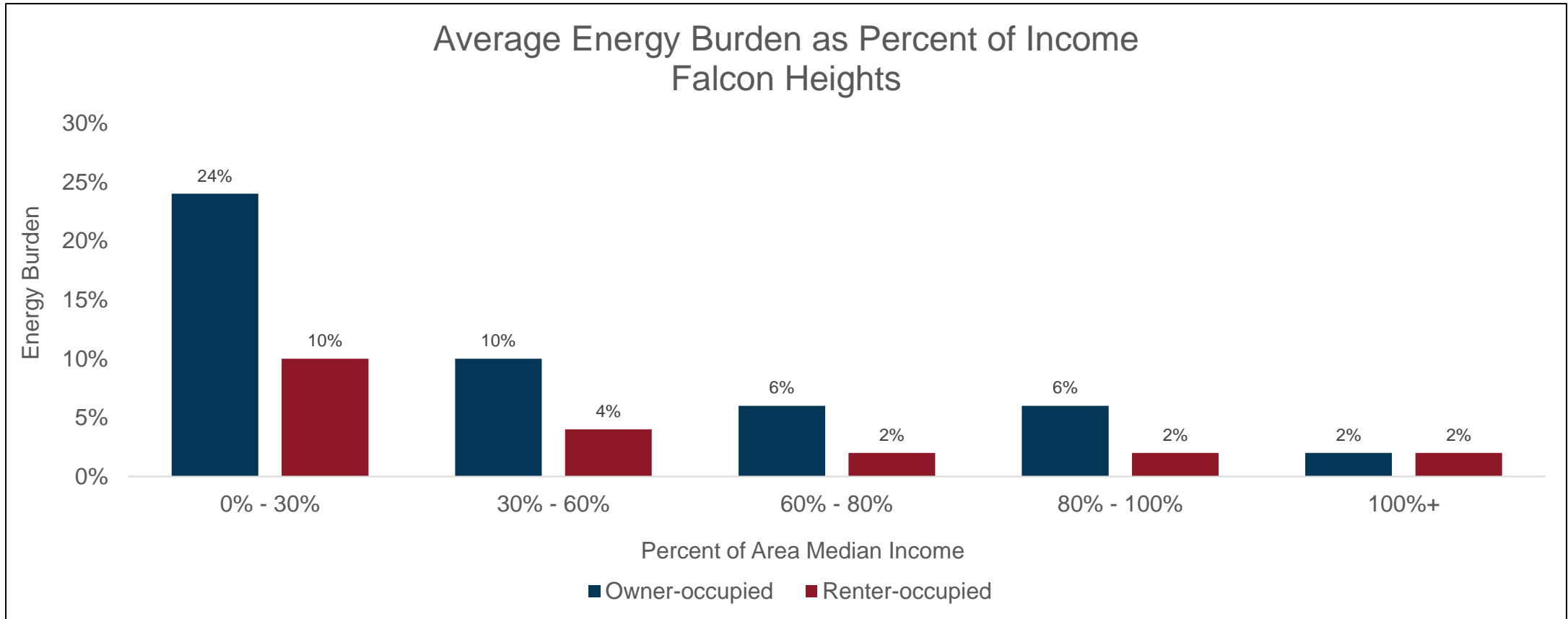
ENERGY BURDEN IN FALCON HEIGHTS

- Energy burden is the percentage of annual household income spent on energy bills
- A burden of 6% considered “high”
- Falcon Heights median household income is \$87,750
- Average Falcon Heights household spends about \$1,400 annually on energy costs for fuel alone

Average Energy Burden as Percent of Income
Falcon Heights



ENERGY BURDEN IN FALCON HEIGHTS HIGHER FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING; HIGH ACROSS INCOME LEVELS



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND SAVINGS IN XCEL ENERGY ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFERINGS

Sector	Avg. Participation	Total Avg. Savings (kWh)	Total Avg. Savings (therms)
Residential	200	35,374	15,660
Low-Income	2	517	63
Commercial/Industrial	32	186,183	23,326

Low-income programs include Home Energy Savings Program, Low-income Home Energy Squad, and Multi-family Energy Savings Program. Participation and savings from this program not included in “Residential” to avoid double counting.



MORE RESIDENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN SOLAR*REWARDS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community Solar Gardens - Solar*Rewards Community[®]			
2023	Residential	Commercial & Industrial	Municipal
Subscriber Count	25	5	6
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	169,924	180,904	55,508

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWABLES AND ON-SITE SOLAR MORE POPULAR WITH RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

2022	Residential	Commercial & Industrial
Subscription Programs - Windsource® & Renewable*Connect®		
Subscriber Count	180	0
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	818,449	0
On-site Solar - Solar*Rewards® and Net-Metering		
Subscriber Count	36	5
Total Electricity Capacity (kW)	244	696

ENERGY BASELINE HIGHLIGHTS

- Fewer Commercial and Industrial premises, but higher proportional energy usage
- Electricity consumption increased from 2021 to 2023, but natural gas consumption has fluctuated
- Residents spend about \$1,400 annually on fuel costs on average, or about \$115 a month
- Residential and Commercial/Industrial sectors are actively participating in efficiency programs and supporting renewable energy, but opportunity for growth



ELECTRIC VEHICLE DATA

- MN EV Adoption increasing
 - As of January 2023, over 34,000 electric vehicles were registered in MN
- Technology is increasing quickly
- Range is increasing to 110–520 miles on a single charge
- Influx of infrastructure funding to the State
 - Minnesota adopted an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan in 2022

Electric Vehicles in Minnesota

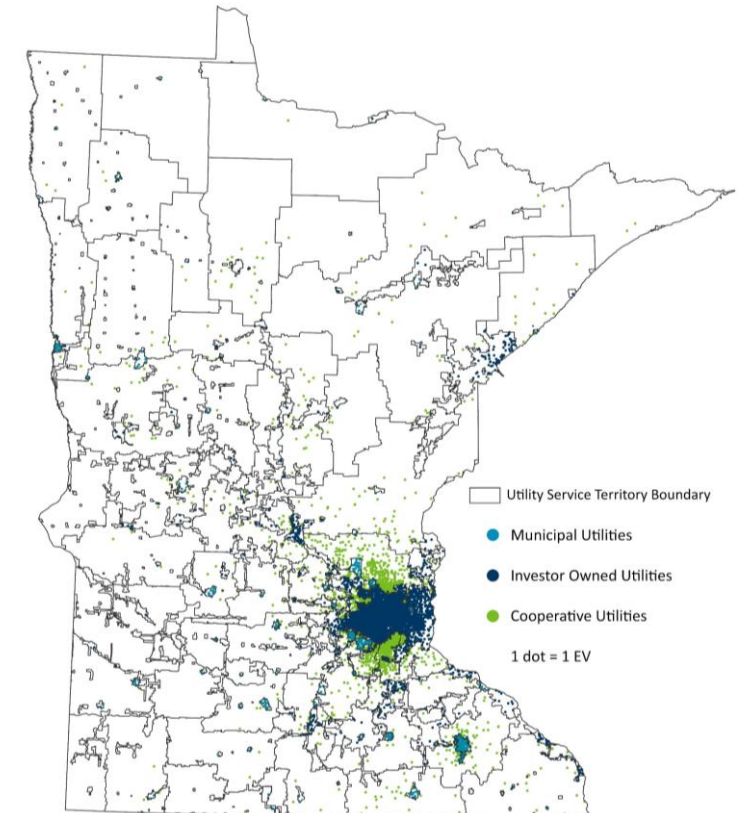


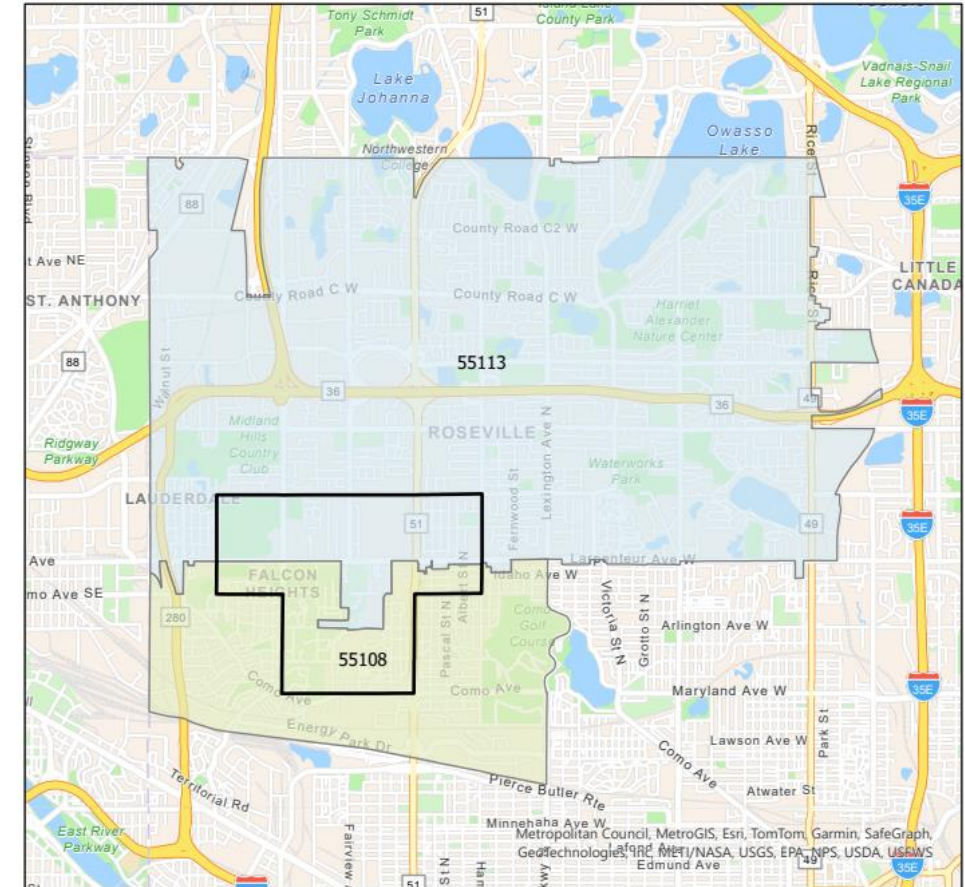
Image source: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/economic-analysis/electric-vehicles/>



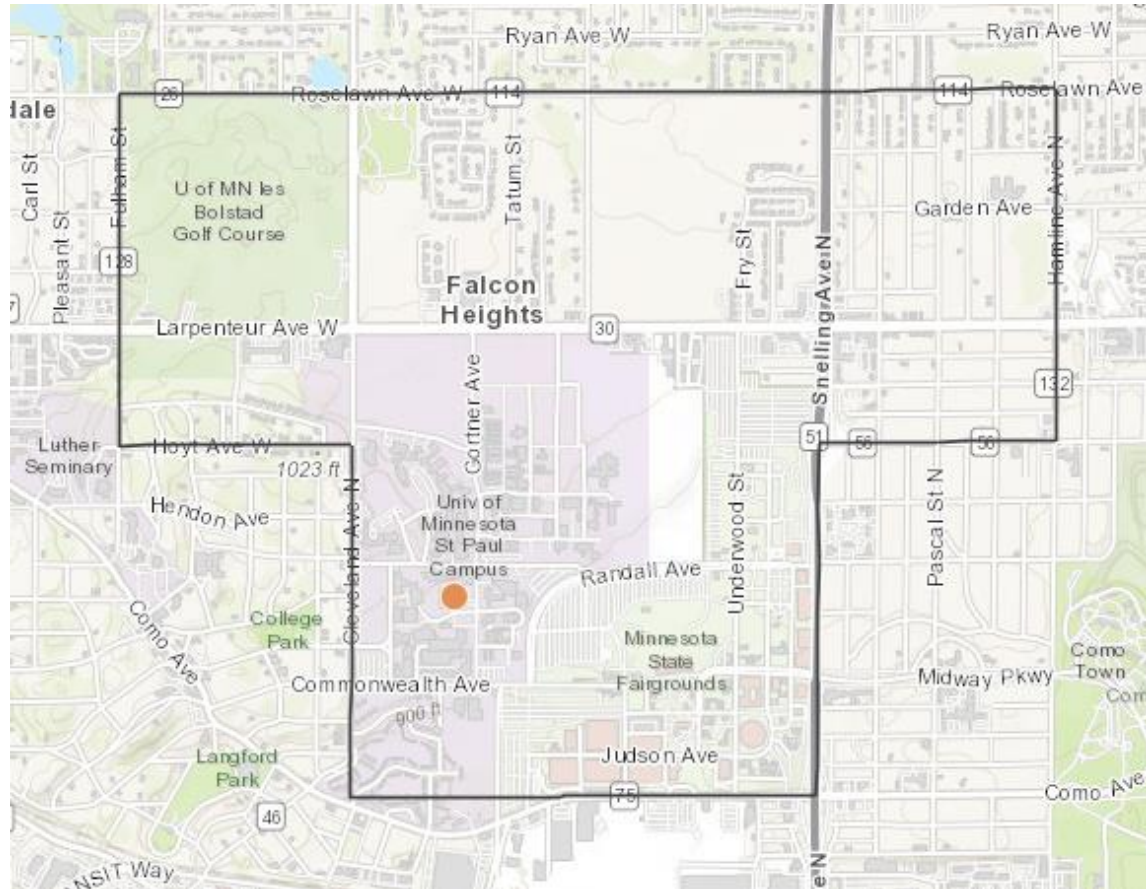
ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN FALCON HEIGHTS ZIP CODES

Electric Vehicle Type	Power Source	Travel Range
Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)	Electric Motor	80-345 miles
Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)	Electric Motor + Gasoline Engine	350-600 miles
Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV)	Electric Motor + Gasoline Engine	350-600 miles

Zip Code	Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs)	Plug-in Hybrids (PHEVs)	Total
55108	176	86	262
55113	357	145	502



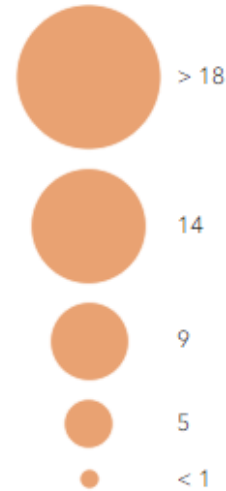
FALCON HEIGHTS EV CHARGING STATIONS



Level 2 Charging Ports

Level 2 Stations

Level 2 Stations



SOURCE: Partners in Energy Interactive EV Map



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QUESTIONS?

- What surprised you?
- Is there a data point we missed?
- What do you want to learn more about?

