## City of Falcon Heights

#### **Environment Commission**

City Hall 2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

#### **AGENDA**

Monday, May 13, 2024 6:30 p.m.

A.	CALL TO ORDER:	6:30 p.m.	
В.	ROLL CALL:	Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) Emma Kostecki Pedro De Filippo Vannucci	Jared Mehlhaff Amy Christiansen Adam Keester
		Staff Liaison Lynch Council Liaison Mielke	
C.	APPROVAL OF AGE	ENDA	
D.	. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 1. February 12, 2024 2. March 11, 2024		

- E. NEW BUSINESS
  - 1. Partners in Energy Update
  - 2. Boulevard Tree Replacement Discussion
- F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - 1. Staff Liaison Report
  - 2. Council Liaison Report
- G. ADJOURN

Next regular meeting date: June 10, 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) \_X\_

Pedro De Filippo Vannucci \_X\_ OEN

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 Wolfin 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

## **City of Falcon Heights**Environment Commission

City Hall 2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

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

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.
- B. ROLL CALL: Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) \_X\_

John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) \_X\_

Emma Kostecki \_X\_

Pedro De Filippo Vannucci \_A\_

Jared Mehlhaff \_A\_ Amy Christiansen \_X\_ Adam Keester \_X\_

Staff Liaison Lynch \_X\_ Council Liaison Mielke \_X\_

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 1. February 12, 2024

Staff Liaison Lynch noted some errors with the minutes from February 12, 2024. She stated she would revise and bring back for the April 8, 2024 meeting.

#### E. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Partners in Energy Update

Staff Liaison Lynch provided a draft PowerPoint presentation from the Partners in Energy team that is to be presented at the March 18, 2024 Energy Action Team workshop. The Commission went through the PowerPoint to consider the data to be presented and generate questions. There was a lot of discussion about the accuracy of the data, whether or not it was all including the State Fair and University of Minnesota data usage, and the ability to count renters in this and how to reach out to the renters.

#### F. Information and Announcements

#### 1. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Lynch stated the MN GreenCorps application is due on Wednesday. She asked briefly for additional guidance on the submission. The Environment Commission directed her to apply for the GreenCorps member to assist with reaching multifamily property owners and residents with promoting energy efficiency within their buildings and apartments.

Staff Liaison Lynch updated the Commission on the Purple Air Quality Monitoring project. She stated there is a monitor currently up and running at John Pellegrini's home, City Hall, and soon to be one running at Falcon Heights Elementary School.

Finally, she stated there have been a lot of solar webinars about upcoming grants for solar installations on municipal buildings. She is working to learn more about these and hopefully apply for them in the fall.

#### 2. Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison Mielke informed Commissioners about the policing survey now out in the City about partnering with St. Anthony Village for police services and encouraged all residents to take this survey. She stated there will also be multiple community engagement opportunities, both at Falcon Heights City Hall and St. Anthony Village City Hall, to discuss with City Council members.

#### G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: April 8, 2024



#### ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	May 13, 2024	
Agenda Item	E-1	
Attachment	See notes below.	
Submitted By	Submitted By Hannah Lynch, Communi	
	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.
<b>Budget Impact</b>	None.
Attachment(s)	Lunch and Learn Presentation
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests Environment Commission discuss Partners in Energy program.

City of Falcon Heights, Minnesota

## FALCON HEIGHTS ENERGY ACTION PLAN

FALCON HEIGHTS, MN 5/3/24





### **OBJECTIVES**

- Partners in Energy Clarifications
- Energy Action Team Survey Review and Decisions
- Xcel Energy Program Snapshot
- Spring Together planning review
- Discuss the Final Workshop and Next Steps

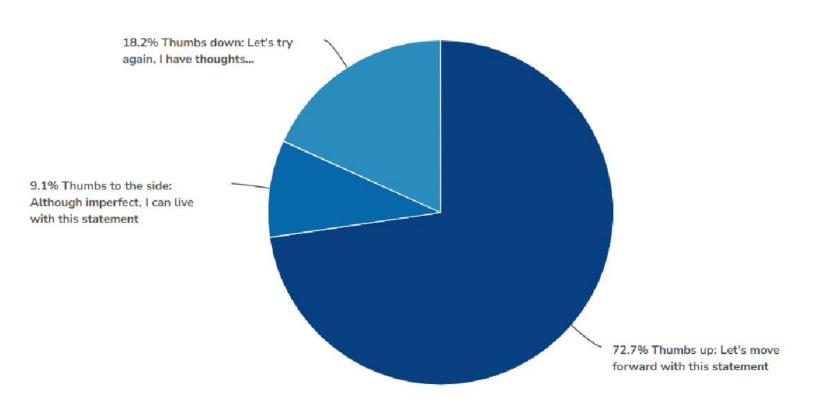




## Energy Action Team Survey Results

Vision....

Falcon Heights prioritizes energy strategies that lead to a sustainable and equitable future.



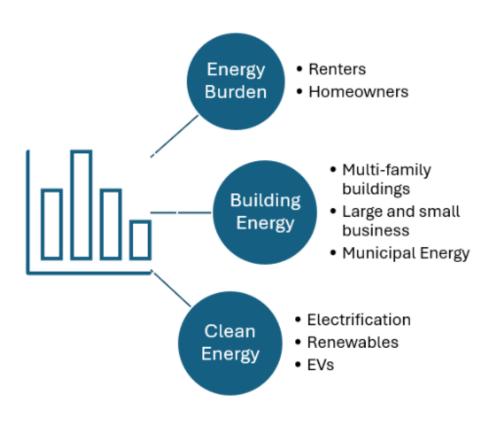




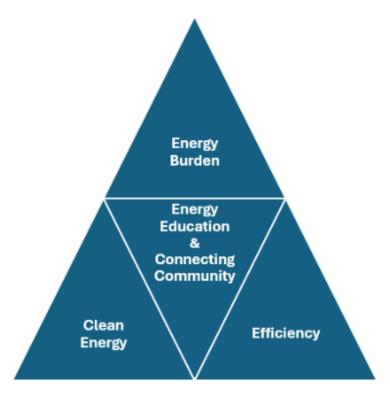
## **FOCUS AREA**

FALCON HEIGHTS
THE CITY THAT SOARS

#### Data Driven Approach:



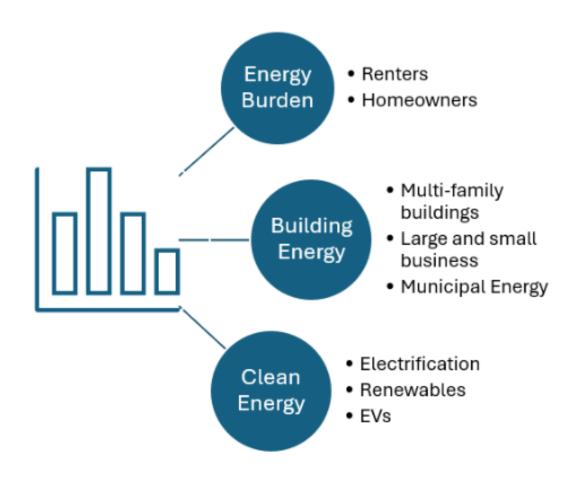
### **Education and Community Approach:**





## **FOCUS AREA**

### Data Driven Approach:







## STRATEGY APPROACH:

## **ENERGY EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION**

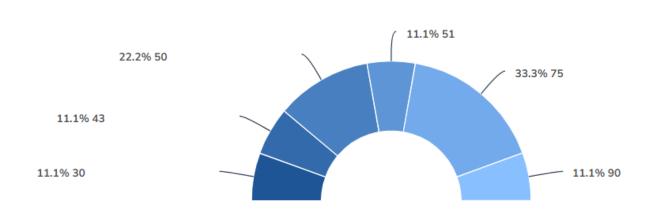
- Lower usage rewards
- Set EUI, Efficiency and Renewable Goals
- Energy burden and renter outreach
- Commercial property owner outreach
- Engaging the U of MN and State Fair
- Energy tours
- School outreach
- Outreach though neighborhood liaisons

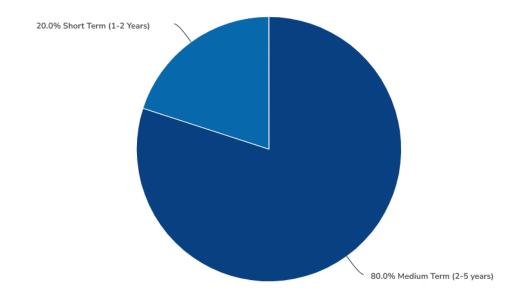




## GOAL LANGUAGE AND MODELING

#### **Ambition Level and Timeframe**









### GOAL LANGUAGE AND MODELING

- 1. Engagement in energy action
- 2. Energy Savings
- 3. Cost Savings
- Falcon Heights will increase our energy savings by XX% while reaching XXXX residents and businesses with energy programs and resources by 2030. This will result in XX dollars saved by our community members and businesses.





## HOW WE MEASURE AND MODEL

- Xcel Energy Programs have energy savings tied to them
  - Make assumptions on projected participation based on historical data and strategies
  - Use participation and consumption data to measure toward progress

E.G. Home Energy Squad savings averages XX MMBTU in savings....XX number of visits can lead to XX Savings.





### MID-AMBITION GOAL

- 1. Engagement in energy action
  - Increased participation in RES programs like Home Energy Squad, Insulation Rebate, and Residential Heating and Cooling
  - Increased participation CI programs like HVAC+R Efficiency, Lighting Efficiency, and Multi-Family Building Efficiency
- 2. Energy Savings
  - Participation in these programs leads to electric (kWh) and natural gas (therm) savings
- Cost Savings
  - Energy savings can lead to cost savings
- Falcon Heights will increase our energy savings by 50% while reaching 1,700 residents and businesses with energy programs and resources by 2030. This will result in \$450,000 dollars saved by our community members and businesses.





## **QUESTIONS:**

- What can Xcel do today to encourage lower energy use and reward those who conserve? Things predicted by 2040 are hard to understand and when things we all can do today can make a big difference, why not focus on those?
- It would seem particularly helpful if there were explanations of how to achieve particular metrics or how big of an impact particular actions would have. For e.g., if x number of Falcon Heights homes participated in program y, the greenhouse gas emission reduction would be z.
- Goals require detailed plans of action. Accomplishing plans requires resources and so far we haven't been given information about what resources would be available for carrying out plans.
- We want a medium-term plan that is AMBITIOUS enough to meet science-based standards from Paris Agreement, which means rapid deployment of efficiency and clean energy.





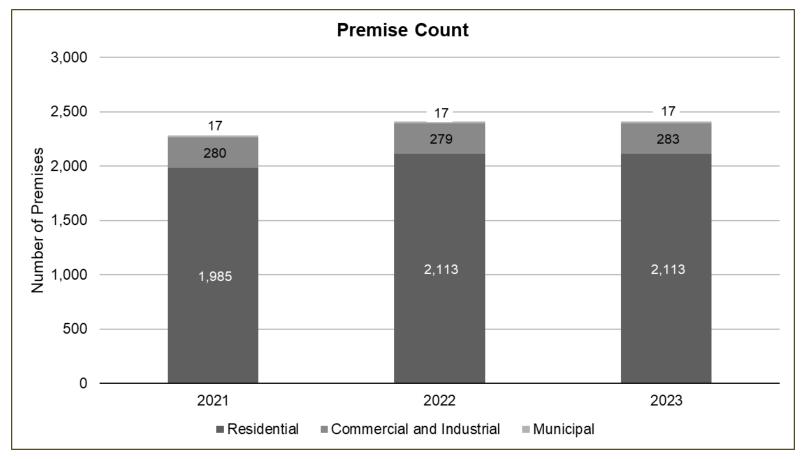
## DATA UPDATES

- Drone thermal imaging data (Warren Example)
  - Recommendation to move to plan strategy
- Monthly breakdown of usage
  - UMN stated not much different. Expect spike for State Fair. Heavy lift for little info.
  - Recommend moving partnership with SF to strategy and see if we can get the inside scoop.





# DATA FOLLOW UP: INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN

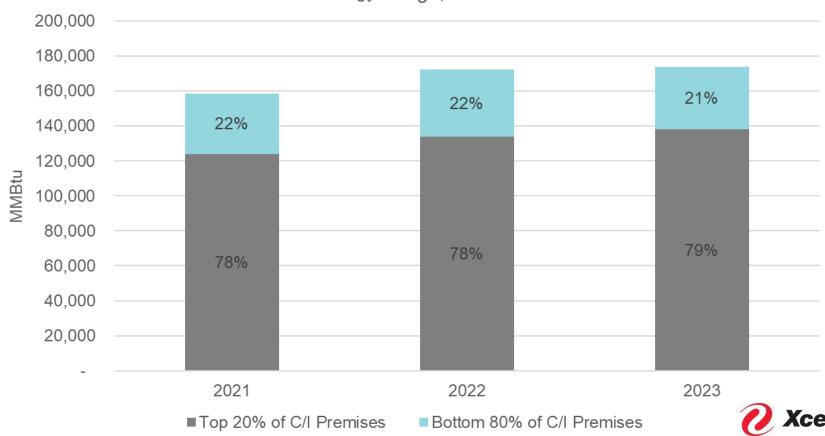






# DATA FOLLOW UP: TOP QUINTILE CONSUMING MORE OVER TIME

C&I Quintiles by Consumption Total Energy Usage, 2021 -2023



14



## **Implementation support**







## UTILITY PROGRAMS AND OFFERINGS





## UTILITY PROGRAMS

- Xcel Energy offers programs to help residents and businesses become more energy efficient and support renewable energy
- Programs delivered as part of Energy Conservation and Optimization Act, overseen by Department of Commerce
- Data is available to track participation and associated savings for these programs from utilities
- Information easily accessible online on utility websites







## XCEL ENERGY TRIENNIAL AND PROPOSED CHANGES

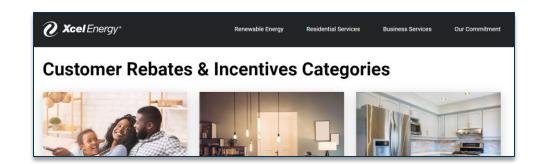
- 2024-2026 Triennial started January 2024
- Increased rebates for several income qualified programs
  - Non-Profit Energy Savings Program
  - Low Income Multi Family Building Efficiency Program
  - Home Energy Savings Program
- New electric lawn care equipment rebates available now
- Additional measures available in some programs that allow for rebates for fuel switching i.e. switching from a
  gas furnace to a heat pump. Includes rebates for:
  - Air source heat pumps
  - Insulation and air sealing
  - Heat Pump Water heaters





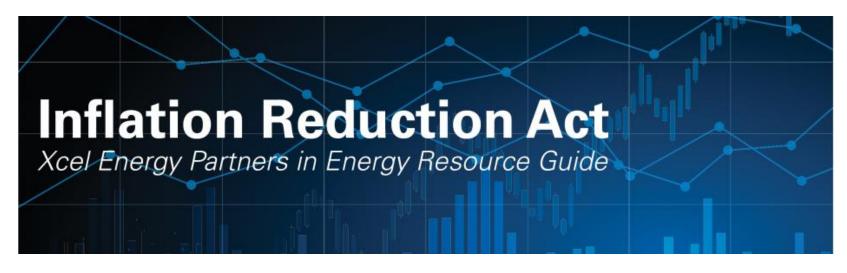
## TYPES OF XCEL ENERGY PROGRAMS

- Building Assessments: Help a business review and understand their energy use
- Equipment Rebates: Rebates for high-efficiency equipment to help reduce upfront costs
- Building & Remodeling: Programs to provide guidance and support on building an energy efficient building
- Demand Management and Rate Options: Programs to help reduce demand and options for special rates to reduce bills
- Renewable Energy: Programs help customers access renewable electricity sources like on-site or subscriptions
- Electric Vehicles: Programs helps customers install charging stations, evaluate their fleets, and access special rate options









- IRA programs for residents, businesses, and local governments
- Connects and stacks IRA programs with utility programs
- Visit <a href="https://xcelenergycommunities.com/iraguide">https://xcelenergycommunities.com/iraguide</a>





# 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
Income Qualified	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 (MESP) Program. Participation and savings from MESP not included in "Residential" to avoid double counting.





# MORE RESIDENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN SOLAR\*REWARDS COMMUNITY

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

*Note:* Program changed in 2024 to be managed by Department of Commerce.





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

2022	Residential	Commercial & Industrial	
Subscription Programs - Windsource® & Renewable*Connect® (Windsource® is now Renewable * Connect Flex)			
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	



## RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS









## RESIDENTIAL HOME ENERGY SQUAD®

- Home energy audit program
- Available to 1-4 unit properties
- Starts with a free pre-visit virtual consultation
- Two in-home visit options
  - Energy Saver Visit (\$70): Installation of energy saving materials (LED lightbulbs, weather stripping, programable thermostats, HE water fixtures)
  - Energy Planner Visit (\$100): Installation of materials AND blower door test, insulation inspections, and safety test on heating systems
- No-cost visit for eligible households









# RESIDENTIAL REBATES FOR HEATING & COOLING AND WATER HEATING

- Rebates for high-efficiency equipment
  - Air-source heat pumps
  - Central air conditioners
  - Furnaces
  - Water Heaters
- Recommended action during a Home Energy Squad visit
- Rebates now available for beneficial fuel-switching (as long as it improves efficiency)









## XCEL ENERGY RESIDENTIAL REFRIGERATOR RECYCLING

- \$50 rebate to recycle a working refrigerator or freezer
- No cost to participate
- Xcel Energy contractor picks up and recycles the refrigerator for you
- Will take dehumidifiers and room/window AC units if contractor is already there to pick up a refrigerator/freezer (no additional incentive for these)
- Residential customers only









## XCEL ENERGY HOME LIGHTING PROGRAM

- Up to \$3 discount on ENERGY STAR LEDs
- Discount found at local retailers (i.e. Home Depot, Walmart, Costco, Dollar Tree)
- Find participating retailers and bulb details at xcelenergy.com/lightingdeals
- ENERGY STAR LEDs save about \$55 in electricity costs over their lifetime and last at least 13 years.







# XCEL ENERGY RESIDENTIAL SMART THERMOSTAT & AC REWARDS

- Rebates for a smart (wi-fi enabled) thermostat
- AC Rewards program helps utility manage peaks when electricity use is the highest
  - Xcel Energy will make adjustments to your smart thermostat during the hottest days
- Enrollment bonus (\$75) and an annual bill credit (\$25)
- Recommended action during a Home Energy Squad visit









## RESIDENTIAL INSULATION REBATES

- Rebates for air sealing and insulation upgrades
- Must work with an Xcel Energy qualified contractor
- Recommended action during a Home Energy Squad visit
- Rebate provided based on the home's fuel source for heating

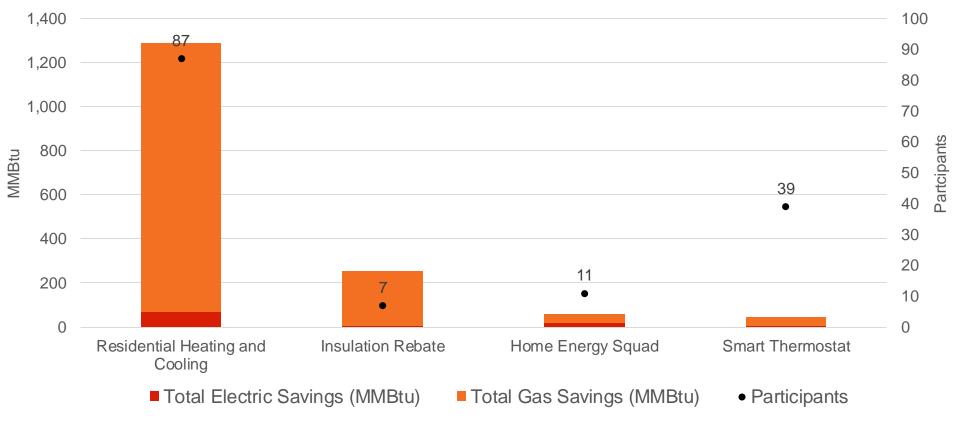








# XCEL ENERGY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND SAVINGS (MMBTU) IN AN AVERAGE YEAR

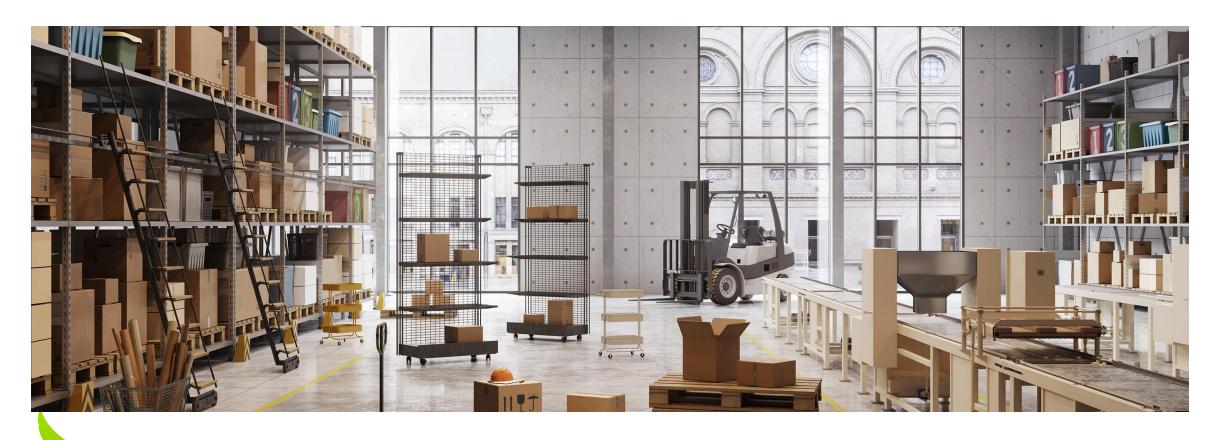




# XCEL ENERGY RESIDENTIAL PER PARTICIPANT PROGRAM IMPACT IN AN AVERAGE YEAR IN FALCON HEIGHTS

Program	Total Participants		Therms Savings per Participant	Dollar Savings per Participant	Pounds GHG Avoided per Participant
Residential HVAC	87	235	140	\$127	1,766
Insulation Rebate	7	207	344	\$271	4,143
Home Energy Squad	11	520	34	\$83	692
Smart Thermostat	39	28	10	\$10	129
Refrigerator Recycling	7	850	0	\$96	476

### COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS









#### NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROGRAMS

- Programs for new construction and major renovations for residential, multifamily and commercial buildings
- Energy savings varies greatly based on size and type of building
- Participation has to happen early in design process





#### Programs:

- Energy Design Assistance (EDA) for larger commercial and industrial buildings
- Energy Efficient Buildings (EEB)
   program for smaller commercial and
   industrial buildings
- Efficient New Home Construction for residential homes





# XCEL ENERGY COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING EFFICIENCY

- Rebates for replacing and retrofitting energy efficient lighting
- Often for LED replacements but can also include controls
- Low-hanging fruit for most businesses









## XCEL ENERGY COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HVAC+R REBATES

- Rebates for high-efficiency heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC+R) rebates
- Examples include rooftop units, chillers, heat pumps, water heaters, motors, defrosting controls, etc.









## ONE-STOP EFFICIENCY SHOP® (FUNDED BY XCEL ENERGY)

- Energy assessments for small and medium-sized businesses
- One-Stop Efficiency Shop has no cost for participation
- Looks at lighting and HVAC equipment, possible free smart thermostat
- Project implementation support along the way including rebate application support









### XCEL ENERGY BUSINESS ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

- Energy assessments help business identify energysaving projects
- Variety of assessments available to meet the needs and size of the business
  - Costs of energy assessments vary based on the customer need and how in-depth the visit is
- Customers receive a "roadmap" with options ranging from no- and low-cost options to more in-depth investments
- Project implementation support along the way









### MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

- Free whole-building energy assessment for 5+ multifamily buildings
- Includes on-the-spot installations in common areas, like LED bulbs
- Bonus rebates for projects recommended in the assessment
- New in 2024: Low-Income MFBE Program with:
  - 200% more bonus rebates available for income-qualified buildings
  - Attic, wall insulation benefits
  - New boiler rebates

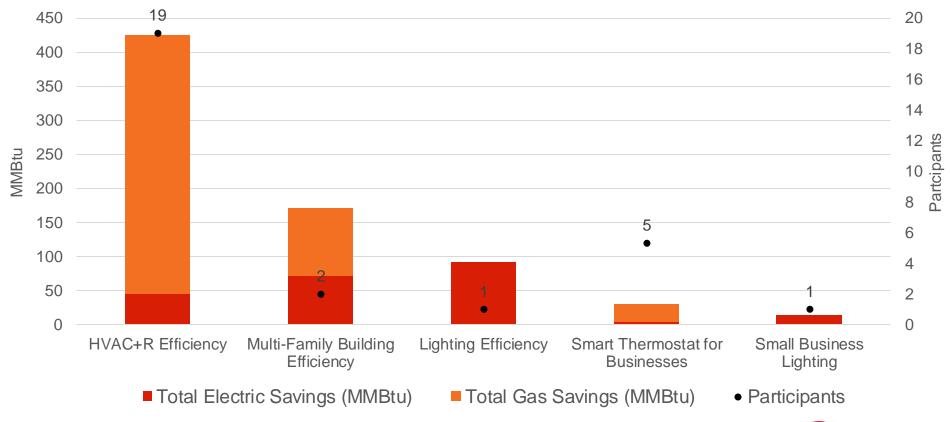








# XCEL ENERGY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND SAVINGS (MMBTU) IN AN AVERAGE YEAR





# XCEL ENERGY COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PER PARTICIPANT PROGRAM IMPACT IN AN AVERAGE YEAR IN FALCON HEIGHTS

Program	Total Participants	kWh Savings per Participant	Therms Savings per Participant	Dollar Savings per Participant	Pounds GHG Avoided per Participant
HVAC+R Efficiency	19	706	201	\$180	2,746
Multi-Family Building Efficiency	2	10,545	522	\$1,225	12,010
Lighting Efficiency	1	20,295	0	\$1,766	11,357
Smart Thermostat for Businesses	5	259	51	\$53	746
Small Business Lighting	1	4,428	0	\$385	2,478

## RENEWABLE ENERGY



Source: Microsoft Online Images



### RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

- Programs for residents and businesses
- Support renewable energy on the grid or on your building
- Renewable Energy Credits (REC) help track if your electricity is generated from renewable sources
  - Important to think about for greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals
  - 1 REC = attributes from 1 MWH renewable energy



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY





### RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

#### **ON-SITE PROGRAMS**

Helps you install solar PV on your home or building.

- Solar\*Rewards®
- Net Metering

#### SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAMS

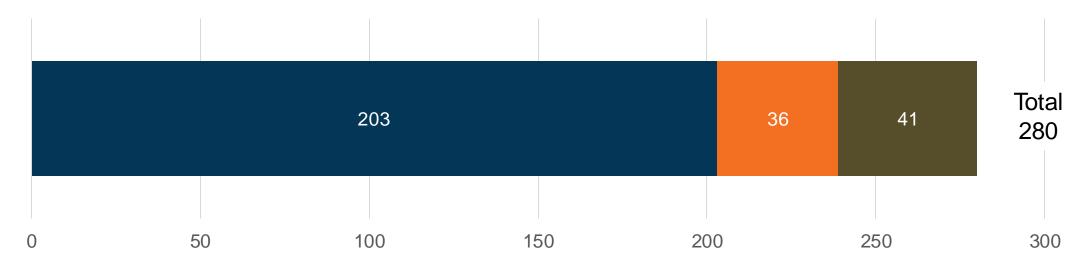
Subscription to a renewable energy system (solar or wind) off-site. Accessible to renters with no equipment needed.

- Renewable\*Connect Flex
- Solar\*Rewards Community®





# XCEL ENERGY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION IN FALCON HEIGHTS, 2023



Renewable*Connect – Utility Subscription Progra	ams
Residential	203
Municipal	0
Commercial/Industrial	0

Solar*Rewards Community - Community Solar Gardens	
Residential	25
Municipal	6
Commercial/Industrial	5

Solar*Rewards and Net Metering - On-site Solar			
Residential	36		
Commercial/Industrial	5		

#### **SPRING TOGETHER: MAY 18**

- Two Partners in Energy Tables
  - Engagement:
    - Showcase Data
    - Gain Input on Goals and Strategies
    - Kids Games
  - Food and Swag: Cookies, Candy, LEDs, Other Xcel
     Energy Swag

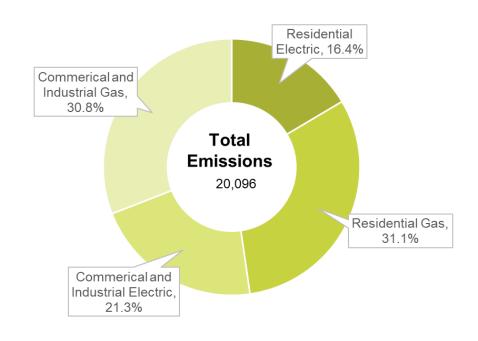




## SPRING TOGETHER

FALCON HEIGHTS
THE CITY THAT SOARS

#### 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MTCO2e)







### PLANNING WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH

#### Community Energy Survey

Workshop 1
February
21
City Hall

Workshop 2
March 18
6-8:30pm
U of MN

Lunch and Learn 5/3 Spring Together 5/18 Final Workshop

June 11
6-8:30pm

U of MN









### **PARTNERS IN ENERGY**

An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Baseline Analysis									
Workshop #1 Open House		2/21							
Workshop #2			3/18						
Office Hour				5/	/3				
Workshop #3 Open House					5/18				
Workshop #4						6/11			
Community and Council Approval									
Energy Action Plan Development									





## WHAT ARE YOUR QUESTIONS?









#### ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	May 13, 2024
Agenda Item	E-2
Attachment	See notes below.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community
	Development Coordinator / Planner

Item	Boulevard Tree Replacement Program
Description	The City of Falcon Heights has been removing diseased boulevard trees over the past few years, and there has not been a program to replace these. Trees are an important part of the community and to environmental efforts to reduce the heat island effect.
Budget Impact	None.
Attachment(s)	None.
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests Environment Commission discuss ways to replace boulevard trees and options for funding.

City of Falcon Heights, Minnesota