

24/7 ACCESS GUIDELINES TO SOLAR GARDENS IN MINNESOTA SNOW

INFORMATION SHEET
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA WINTER PERIOD IS DEFINED AS NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31



During Minnesota winter, the following program expectations apply:

1. During winter months, 24/7 access is outlined by Xcel Energy as a trigger of four-inch snowfall.*
 - a. A four-inch snowfall trigger can occur within a single event, or an accumulation.
 - b. Any single event that produces four-inches of snow or more will require removal.
 - c. Similarly, any 72-hour accumulative snow total that exceeds four inches of snow will require removal.
2. In the event of no communication with a gardens meter, Xcel Energy will trigger a field trip to investigate the error and manually gather a meter reading. If Xcel Energy provides advanced notice of access needed, and is unable to access the site (due to snow or other), Xcel Energy will be compensated for the field trip.
3. Access to gardens is required once active, and during design and construction.
4. Lack of communication or access can be grounds for Notice of Disconnection.

*If Xcel Energy is unable to access a site due to snow accumulation under the four-inch trigger, Xcel Energy reserves the right to request snow removal to enable 24/7 access.

I own or operate a solar garden in Minnesota and therefore in Minnesota winters.

- Minnesota's snow season typically spans November 1 through March 31.
- Average annual snowfall for Minnesota varies from 36-70 inches:
 - 36-inch southwest average
 - 70 inch northeast (Lake Superior) average
 - 55 inch Twin Cities average
- Typical snow removal triggers:
 - No tolerance to trace is typical for hospitals/schools or high traffic businesses
 - Most retail/businesses have a 1- inch or 2- inch trigger
 - From there, "triggers" vary widely, typically every ½" (1½", 2", 2 ½", 3"...)
 - Average plow-able events depending on contract is 20 to 25 times per season
- Many solar garden operators outsource snow removal via contract for plowing
- Typical snow/plowing contract structure:
 - Per time and based on snow total "Trigger"
 - Monthly and based on snow total "Trigger"



Still have questions? Reach out to SRCMN@xcelenergy.com for additional guidance.