



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

Partners in Energy

More communities are realizing energy planning plays a critical role in helping them reach their energy goals. The benefits of wise energy choices are diverse. Through collaborative work with citizens, businesses, and governments, a community can shave dollars off utility bills, promote renewable energy, drive resource conservation, and contribute to greenhouse gas reduction goals. Since 2014, Partners in Energy has been helping communities gather these stakeholders to develop and implement energy action plans that address the challenges of local energy 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 and renewable energy opportunities in unusual settings.

Partners in Energy continues to offer 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. The planning and implementation process is tailored to the unique needs and priorities of each community. Accepted communities will participate in a scoping meeting to determine the pathway that best aligns with your community's interests and capabilities.

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.

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.

If you have questions about the application or the opportunity, please visit xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy, email us at PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com or call **800.369.4362**.

Applications will be accepted two times per year—January and July. Return this application by 5:00 p.m. CST on the **15th of the month** in January or July. We reserve the right to cancel 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

Company 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 _____

Fuel type _____ Area served _____

2) Name of company _____

Fuel type _____ Area served _____

3) Name of company _____

Fuel type _____ Area served _____

Interest in Partners in Energy

Describe your interest in Partners in Energy and how you think Partners in Energy could provide value.

What is/are the most pressing energy-related issue(s) facing your community today?

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

Does your community currently have any sustainability or energy plans, policies, codes, regulations or initiatives? If yes, please identify them and indicate the date(s) they were last revised. (Describe your interest in Partners in Energy and how you think Partners in Energy could provide value.)

Describe any energy programs or energy management activities your community has participated in over the past two years. Please include goals/targets and results if applicable. This can include initiatives to track energy use in any part of your community (e.g., public buildings), a neighborhood energy challenge, etc. If you have participated in Partners in Energy before, what strategies would you like to pursue with additional support from Partners in Energy, and why? Additionally, please explain if your community is already engaged with Xcel Energy in other ways.

Community resources and commitment

Please indicate who in your community would be the point person (or people) to manage your Partners in Energy participation and describe his/her/their applicable experience and background relative to planning, energy and /or sustainability. Describe his/her/their availability to support this initiative through both strategy development and implementation (include multiple people as applicable for each stage). Describe whether they are paid staff or volunteers and the extent to which managing and/or implementing energy or sustainability initiatives is a component of their job duties.

While Partners in Energy is offered to communities at no cost, communities are responsible for expenses associated with implementation. Does your community have staff, volunteer, budget or other funding resources to implement the energy initiatives that will be identified in the Partners in Energy process?

Yes No If yes, please describe.

Community involvement

One of the keys of Partners in Energy is engaging representatives from your community to participate in developing and implementing strategies to meet your community goals. These representatives should be varied and willing to commit their time to the process. They may include city or town staff members, business association representatives, large local business representatives, local nonprofit staff members, school district staff members, county government officials, etc. Please describe who from the community you would anticipate engaging in developing your energy strategies. (Please list six to eight possible representatives.)

Partners in Energy is designed to promote communities learning from each other and sharing best practices. Are you willing to share your community work through Partners in Energy with community members and other participating communities? Will you allow your final work products to be shared publicly?

Yes No If no, please explain.

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 _____