8.1 Environmental (Corporate Policy)

**Purpose**

Xcel Energy pursues environmental excellence and innovation in our corporate strategy and daily operations. We set a cornerstone of outstanding environmental compliance and build upon that foundation to pursue industry-leading initiatives that enhance customer and shareholder value while demonstrating respect for our communities and concern for the environment. We advance voluntary programs that go beyond current standards of environmental performance and demonstrate environmental leadership.

This policy provides specific expectations for aligning business practices with corporate commitment and environmental requirements.

**Applicability**

This policy applies to all employees of Xcel Energy Inc.’s subsidiaries and affiliates (“Xcel Energy”).

This policy also applies to contract workers and vendors.

**Requirements and Responsibilities**

All employees are accountable for performing their work in a manner that supports Xcel Energy’s environmental values and is compliant with our legal requirements.

Environmental Services is responsible for overseeing environmental compliance, obtaining environmental permits and submitting necessary reports, communicating with the regulatory agencies, providing consultation to business areas and/or projects, tracking and communicating the company’s environmental performance, and fostering the philosophy that supports our core environmental value.

Environmental Policy is responsible for defining and advancing corporate environmental policies and strategic initiatives. Environmental Policy will design and advocate for favorable federal and state policies associated with the environmental aspects of the utility business.
Environmental Commitment and Stewardship

Protection of the environment is one of our core values. All of our operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner including:

- monitor our operations and, where appropriate, take steps to mitigate the environmental impact;
- meet or surpass legal requirements, and invest in environmentally sound technologies;
- minimize corporate risk and liability arising from environmental issues;
- consider such issues as pollution prevention, energy efficiency, renewable energy, new technologies, emission reductions, resource conservation and wildlife protection in our business planning and decision-making processes;
- support environmental research and development, as well as environmental projects and partnerships in our communities;
- conduct the appropriate level of environmental due diligence or review in managing properties and easements or prior to the initiation of a new project or the transfer of any real property; and
- train and empower our employees to take responsibility for the environmental activities related to their jobs.

Continuous Improvement

- We will maintain and periodically audit our environmental management system to commonly accepted management standards.
- Annual environmental performance improvement objectives and targets will be established and our performance will be periodically audited.
- Our environmental performance and management system will be regularly reported to the board of directors.

Communication

We will communicate information about our environmental policy, issues and initiatives; the nature of our operations and facilities and their environmental impact; and our environmental performance toward meeting objectives and targets on an annual and on-going basis.

We will work with our communities to engage in constructive dialogue and seek input concerning decisions or issues that may affect them.

Public Policy

We will advocate public policies that achieve environmental improvement, regulatory certainty and cost-effective energy for our customers.
Definitions

Xcel Energy  Xcel Energy Inc.'s subsidiaries and affiliates. The use of “we,” “ours,” or “the Company” is synonymous with Xcel Energy.

References

Read and follow the [Code of Conduct](#) and other [corporate policies](#).

History of Revisions

September 17, 2015
December 19, 2013
February 1, 2011
March 31, 2010 – Executive Name Change
February 5, 2010 – Reviewed Only
January 12, 2009 – Reviewed Only
December 15, 2007 – Reviewed Only
January 23, 2006 – Reviewed Only
March 29, 2005 – Reviewed Only
January 18, 2005
October 2, 2000 – Initial Issuance

Approval

This policy was approved by Scott M. Wilensky, executive vice president and general counsel and Marvin E. McDaniel Jr., executive vice president, group president – utilities, and chief administrative officer.