

City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

Xcel Advisory Panel May 2024 Quarterly Meeting

Date: Aug. 5th, 2024, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Participants:

- *Advisory Panel Members:* Wayne Seltzer, Pat Hillmeyer, Julie Zahniser, Brian Lindoerfer, Amanda Meader, Stephanie Hsiung, Eli Feldman, George Craft; *Regrets:*, Bryn Grunwald, Dennis Arfmann, Emily Swallow, Peter Lilienthal, Justin Brant
- *Xcel Energy:* Iffie Jennings, Neil Cowan and Nick Cole
- *City of Boulder:* Carolyn Elam, Emily Sandoval, Matt Lehrman, Lex Telischak and Jonathan Koehn
- *Institute for the Built Environment:* Josie Plaut, Facilitator; Katie Bond, Recorder
- *Members of the public:* At least 8 were present throughout at least a portion of the meeting.

Meeting Summary

New Xcel Member: Nick Cole will be replacing Iffie Jennings to represent Xcel.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) was awarded a \$200 million grant from the EPA to promote heat pump adoption in the Front Range over the next 3-5 years. This multi-pronged program is centered around equity. Components include full-service decarbonization, energy improvement advisor program, financial incentives & rebates, workforce development, local policy accelerator, and an innovation fund. A website is coming soon. A press release about the grant can be found [here](#).

Structure & Governance Meetings Summary: 4 ad hoc meetings were held with panel members to reflect on the process and collect feedback. One key outcome is a desire for a dashboard where progress can be tracked and would be publicly available. Other key topics of interest include local generation, zero-emission communities, microgrids, and virtual power plants. Discussions about panel membership will require further exploration.

Local Distributed Generation Discussion: Information about the current state and future goals for local distributed generation was shared. The City of Boulder adopted goals in 2016, and the 2030 goal of 100 MW of local energy generation was met at the end of 2022. Statewide, the system is expected to be 97% emissions-free by 2040. The current goal of 175 MW may no longer be aligned with larger goals – Local Generation 2.0 seeks to adopt a new goal centered around community resilience and equity, focusing on grid reliability and affordability. Key questions in this discussion included renewable technologies, storage, grid management, community engagement strategies, technical working groups, virtual power plants, and geothermal.

Zero Emissions Communities Discussion: An update on Zero Emissions Communities was shared with the group. The filing date for the ERP has moved to October. Updated modeling will show a current baseline for solar plus storage. Key questions in this discussion included modeling,

Virtual Power Plant Proposal Update: The interview with DOE was completed a few weeks ago. Awaiting award notification in August.

Microgrid and VPP Tech Team Discussion: Build this into Local Generation 2.0. Panel members will be invited to participate in working groups and learning sessions. The panel and the public will be informed of upcoming opportunities to be involved in the conversation.

Dashboard Development Discussion: It would be helpful for all parties to see the progress of the partnership and the panel would like to be involved in the development of the dashboard. Early concepts are being developed to share with the panel in August or September. Some key requests for the dashboard include carbon reduction metrics and quantitative data.

Action Items & Next Steps:

- Panel members have expressed interest in communicating between meetings. A chat tool is being explored for this purpose.
- Upcoming engagement opportunities:
 - City of Boulder Climate Conversation: September 24, 5:30-7:30 – Focus on Energy
 - Structure and Governance – Watch for a questionnaire and a possible follow-up meeting.
 - Dashboard Working Group – Upcoming opportunities to provide feedback on the dashboard will be shared with the panel.
- Next meeting will be held in November, TBD