

City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

Xcel Advisory Panel November 2024 Quarterly Meeting

Date: November 18th, 2024, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Participants:

- *Advisory Panel Members:* Wayne Seltzer, Pat Hillmeyer, Brian Lindoerfer, George Craft, Peter Lilienthal, Stephanie Hsiung, Justin Brant, Dennis Arfmann; *Regrets:* Bryn Grunwald, Julie Zahniser, Amanda Meader, Jonathan Singer
- *Xcel Energy:* Jeff Lyng, Nicholas Cole, Anna Tatro, Jack Ihle, Beth Chacon, Yashar Kenarangui, Hyde Weissenfluh, Neil Cowan
- *NREL:* Annabell Pratt
- *City of Boulder:* Carolyn Elam, Matt Lehrman, and Lex Telischak; *Regrets:* Emily Sandoval
- *Institute for the Built Environment:* Josie Plaut, Facilitator; Emma Castiblanco, Recorder
- *Members of the public:* Two members of the public were present for at least a portion of the meeting.

Meeting Summary

Questionnaire Summary: The Institute for the Built Environment provided a summary of the governance and structure questionnaire completed by the Advisory Panel. The questionnaire showed a desire to move General Business Meetings to every other month for 1.5 hours and host 1-2 hybrid in-person/online general business meetings in 2025. The panel expressed a desire to increase the frequency of topical meetings and the frequency of working group meetings, keeping general business meetings and webinars open for public observation and working group meetings open to the public on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the panel expressed interest in being in more of a consultant role, helping to identify solutions and engage in problem solving, rather than primarily being given updates on partnership activities.

The panel expressed interest in filling the three vacant seats on the panel, utilizing the same process as was originally used to recruit and select the current panel. Recommended representation included business, technical experts, equity, and institutional representatives (e.g., BVSD or EPA).

The Advisory Panel members voted to prioritize their interests for future focus groups, resulting in the following distribution of involvement across various topics. Each member was offered three votes.

- **Microgrids & Virtual Power Plants (VPPs):** 8 votes
- **Building Electrification Pilot Oversight:** 4 votes
- **Increasing Heat Pump Adoption:** 4 votes

- **Resiliency & Reliability (Beyond VPPs & MGs):** 3 votes
- **Integrating Partnership with BVSD Efforts:** 2 votes
- **Small Nuclear Reactors:** 1 vote
- **Partnership Agreement Evaluation & Recommendations:** 1 vote

Additional working groups and webinars for 2025 will be scheduled accordingly.

Just Transition Solicitation: Xcel presented an overview the Just Transition Solicitation (JTS) application to the Public Utilities Commission. The JTS is resource plan for new electricity generation resources that will be needed in the coming years to replace retiring coal plants and meeting growth in electricity demand. Key aspects of the plan include reducing 80% of emissions by 2030, maintaining reliability, meeting load growth needs, addressing complexities, and seizing opportunities. Xcel is exploring 6 key areas within the Just Transition Plan. The Advisory Panel was given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the plan.

Virtual Power Plant (VPP) Grant Award: Xcel provided an update on the VPP grant, which is a partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Boulder and the University of Colorado. The project was selected for a \$12.7 million award by the Department of Energy (DOE). The focus areas for this energy partnership include energy efficiency, building electrification, transportation electrification, local renewables, innovative programs, and grid reliability & resiliency. NREL also shared an overview of its contributions to the technical aspects of the project.

City of Boulder Updates: The City of Boulder provided an update on the City Council's adoption of the Climate Action Plan as a key priority for the city and an update on the Healthy Buildings, Stronger Community program, which aligns with the city's broader climate goals.

Heat Pump Accelerator Pilot Update: Boulder has completed outreach and focus group efforts to the public for the pilot program. Boulder will be presenting a summary of the findings from this outreach to the panel in an upcoming webinar.

Local Generation 2.0: Boulder is planning to update its local generation target to move from just a MW of generation capacity target to one that more broadly incorporates energy storage and resilience. Boulder has also been conducting outreach efforts to better understand the community's needs and perceptions around resiliency. In Q1 of 2025, Boulder will establish a working group to engage with the community on resiliency strategies and gather more input.

Dashboard Update: Xcel provided an update on their progress of the dashboard creation. Xcel noted that because of current technology limitations, they are currently focusing on a newsletter format rather than web-based dashboard. Xcel will seek feedback from the Panel once they have a preliminary template ready to share.

Upcoming General Business Meetings: Meetings will be held every other month on the 1st Monday from 5:30 to 7pm (90m).

- February 3rd, 2025

- April 7th, 2025 (in-person/hybrid)
- June 2nd, 2025
- August 4th, 2025
- October 6th, 2025 (in-person/hybrid)
- December 1st, 2025

Action Items & Next Steps:

- The **February 2025** AP meeting will focus on preparations for the upcoming city council partnership progress update and discussions related to the 5-year franchise anniversary and associated opt-out opportunity.
- On **March 13th, 2025**, there will be a council work session focused on partnership progress.