



City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

Community Advisory Panel Kickoff Meeting

Date	July 28, 2021
Location	Zoom Virtual Conference
Participants	<p>Advisory Panel: Dennis Arfmann, George Craft, Bryn Grunwald, Kenny Gillis, Pat Hillmeyer, Julie Zahniser, Ramesh Bhatt, Peter Lilienthal, David Kang, Eli Feldman, Emily Swallow, Erick Abrahamson, Jack Vultaggio, Justin Brant, Wayne A Seltzer, Andy Saylor</p> <p>Staff: Josie Plaut (facilitator), Susan Hsin (recorder), Emily Sandoval (City), Becky Harris Sullivan (City), Carolyn Elam (City), Iffie Jennings (Xcel), Susan Davis (Xcel), Cheriese Marczyk (Xcel)</p>

Meeting Summary

Topic	Notes
Welcome	<p>Josie Plaut, facilitator, welcomed the group, and initiated introductions</p> <p>Carolyn Elam from the City of Boulder introduced staff members from the City of Boulder and Xcel Energy</p> <p>A brief overview of Zoom etiquette and platform features was offered to participants.</p>
Introductions	<p>Participants were randomly assigned to breakout rooms of about 4 participants each and were asked to reflect on and share responses to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What led you to believe that this was an important thing to do?</i> • <i>What would you like to see as the outcomes of our work together?</i> • <i>What is your personal commitment to this group?</i> <p>Participants spent about 25 minutes in breakout rooms and were then brought back to the main room</p> <p>Participants were invited to share thoughts from the introductions, including the following reflections, comments, and sentiments:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and playful competition over electrification was appreciated in one group • Many people expressed interest in making this a model/blueprint for other municipalities dealing with similar challenges; could be a win-win and help the City of Boulder advance as well as other cities implementing climate initiatives; “What we are doing is beyond Boulder”; sense of a pioneering spirit • Roadmap needs to be developed for not only the utilities involved, but for other communities similar in size to Boulder • Intention to work on real projects with practical outcomes, rather than just something written on paper; the desire to collectively experience progress; concern that people will feel frustration if things cannot get done • Connections between people representing “world class” organizations and companies, making this a really great opportunity to move forward • Strong sense of commitment coming from participants for achieving 100% renewable energy in the City of Boulder by 2030; shared concern about the future • Shared sense of urgency, but also a need to bring calamity into the present to move forward • Desire to learn from each other, but also being able to challenge the City of Boulder and Xcel Energy to accomplish what they are set out to do
<p>Group Agreements, Principles & Practices</p>	<p>Participants were asked a second set of questions and randomly assigned to new breakout rooms of 4-5 individuals. The following prompters were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What individual practices and group processes will be needed to support us in realizing our work together? • If you could offer a single guiding principle for our work together, what might that be? <p>The following is a summary of the report backs from the groups:</p> <p>Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember we are all on the same team and this work is bigger than us • Remember people who are not at the table - be a voice of the people (Equity) • Prioritizing concrete actions that lead to results

- Meet GHG goals while ensuring reliability, equity, and affordability
- Critical thinking, accountability, curiosity

Personal Practices

- Assure all voices are being heard
- Be open minded
- Humor and levity
- Listen to each other
- Let your perspective be heard

Group Processes

- Effective group management and communications (agendas, decisions, goals, meeting structures)
- Work in sub-groups as appropriate
- Clear understanding of group purview, but not limited by it
- Understand how to engage and communicate back to the community
- Utilize surveys and polls to engage the community and in the team

Questions from this Session

- How can we relay this information back the community to keep the ones who cannot participate informed?
- Who makes up the group? Why are some important figures not here?

Advisory Panel Overview

Staff members from the City of Boulder and Xcel Energy presented an overview of the project, purpose, and progress of the partnership. See separate PowerPoint document available on the website for additional information. Topics include in the presentation were:

- Project overview and purpose
- Governance Structure
- Project Plan and Accomplishments
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Clarifying Questions and Concerns from the Panel

- Does the panel have any opportunity for input in identifying initiatives that need to be prioritized?
 - Yes – the panel will be able to provide input on prioritization of initiatives.
- Could you provide a copy of the A & B project lists so that panel knows what has already been done? (Panel participants were unaware of these A & B lists)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes – they are included in the project plan document. Staff will direct Panel Members to the appropriate location in the document. • Emphasis on importance of transparency • What is the relationship between the Advisory Panel and the Executive Committee? Why is the Executive Committee not present? Some expressed concern about conversations being lost in translation and asked how to assure communication is clear and effective between the Executive Committee and the advisory panel. The group worked through understand the AP relationship to the EC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The resolution was that the AP requested facetime with the EC, but that EC members would not be attending all AP meetings. Staff agreed to work on this. • How is the committee going to avoid greenwashing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is part of the purpose of the Advisor Panel, and we are relying on shared accountability
<p>Current efforts, barriers, opportunities, additional thoughts (Ideaboardz)</p>	<p>The group responded to the following questions via an online platform called IdeaBoardz:</p> <p><u>Questions in the Idea Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What are your current efforts?</i> ○ <i>Where are there gaps or barriers?</i> ○ <i>What are the opportunities or services we might offer?</i> ○ <i>What else might help you realize your goals?</i> <p>*IdeaBoardz data exported and attached as an addendum</p>
<p>Review AP Charter</p>	<p>The group engaged in a conversation around the scope, impact, and logistics of the Advisor Panel.</p> <p><u>Comments from the Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was expressed about the Panel’s role regarding criteria and prioritization of efforts; they had imagined that they would be more involved in the creation of these criteria, instead of coming into these meetings with established criteria given to them • Some participants want to an opportunity to interact with the project teams • Expressed concern about where the true community benefit is in this project → making sure we are doing this for the right reasons and discussing how we are going to get there

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realization from the Xcel team and City of Boulder that there needs to be some reconfigurations in the plans and agendas to make sure panel members are discussing the things they value and the areas they want to give input in• There is a lot of work to do; the buckets on the A & B lists are very large and generalized at this moment• Large agreement that the discussions are available to the public and being transparent in this process
Closing Round	<p>Participants were asked to share a couple of words that summarized their state of being and thinking. Responses included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curious• Eager• Optimistic• Cautious• Uncertain• Appreciative• Inspired• Processing• Urgency• Motivated• Wanting a call to action <p>Josie thanked everyone for their time and spoke on optimism for future action.</p>