



# City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

## Community Advisory Panel Meeting

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<b>Date</b>	Nov. 10, 2021
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Virtual Conference
<b>Staff</b>	Carolyn Elam (Boulder), Emily Sandoval (Boulder), Iffie Jennings (Xcel), Susan Davis (Xcel), Josie Plaut (facilitator), Susan Hsin (recorder)
<b>Panel Members Attending</b>	Dennis Arfmann, George Craft, Bryn Grunwald, Iffie Jennings, Pat Hillmeyer, Julie Zahniser, Ramesh Bhatt, Peter Lilienthal, David Kang, Emily Swallow, Jack Vultaggio, Justin Brant, Wayne A Seltzer, Andy Sayler, Stephanie Hsiung
	Members of the public

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### Meeting Summary

Topic	Notes
<b>Welcome</b>	<i>Emily Sandoval welcomed everyone and briefly provided an overview for meeting webinar format. Members of the public were present. Carolyn Elam thanked everyone for their participation before handing off facilitation to Josie.</i>
<b>Boulder’s Approach to Engagement</b>	<p><i>Emily Sandoval shared the City of Boulder’s community engagement approach, highlighting the commitments that the city makes at three levels of engagement. She explained that the Advisory Panel (AP) will be involved in each of three levels, informed, consulted, and involved, depending on the activity.</i></p> <p><u>Informed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory panel and the community will be informed about key partnership activities and progress.</li> </ul> <p><u>Consulted</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City and Boulder will actively seek advisory panel input on drafts and proposals for key activities. Perspective offered by the</li> </ul>

	<p>advisory panel will be used to inform planning and decision making.</p> <p><u>Involved</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that advisory panel concerns and aspirations are integrated into plans and projects, to the extent possible.</li> <li>• The city will share the feedback on how community input has influenced decisions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Emily Sandoval explained the structure of the meeting was to inform and consult the AP regarding upcoming AP activities with the need to move through a substantial agenda. Comments from the listening public were encouraged via email to City and Xcel staff.</i></p>
<p><b>Scope and Work of the AP</b></p>	<p>AP will be informed about and have the opportunity to provide input on current and future partnership activities (e.g., 120% rule, Chautauqua, undergrounding) and will be consulted and involved for additional projects (e.g., microgrids, electrification strategy, customer programs).</p> <p>Over the coming months the AP will provide input for initial programmatic recommendations and for complex projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial recommendations are those that likely require staff time, but relatively low capital investment.</li> <li>• Complex projects are those that will require long lead times, significant capital investments, and/or regulatory or legislative changes to move forward.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Information Flows</b></p>	<p>Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topical working groups will focus on in-depth work to develop recommendations to share with AP.</li> </ul> <p>Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress and recommendations from working groups and make final recommendations to share with the program oversight team and executive team.</li> </ul> <p>Executive Team &amp; Program Oversight Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers recommendations from AP and integrate into the work plan as possible.</li> </ul> <p>Program Oversight Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for assuring implementation of the work plan and communicating progress back to the AP.</li> </ul> <p>Questions from the AP</p>

- Julie – What has already been decided by the Program Oversight Team? What is currently underway and what is in the works?

*Current activities and progress will be shared through webinars available to the AP and to the community at large and in more depth with working groups.*

- George – Who is on the program oversight team?

*Core team is comprised of leadership team from Xcel (Iffie, Susan Davis, Cherie Marczyk) and the City (Carolyn, Matt Lerhman, Lex Telischak)*

- Pat – With the recent passage of the new infrastructure bill, is there a list of projects that are ready to implement within the next 16 months? What is new work that the team should be looking forward to?

*We will start addressing the answers to this question with the commencement of working groups.*

- Dennis – how many working groups are currently set up?

*Working groups, beyond internal City and Xcel staff work teams, are not currently set up. We intend to identify working groups in this meeting and start setting them up in the coming weeks. More about the structure for these groups will be discussed later in this meeting.*

- David – What is the budget we are working with? It would be helpful to know before we decide on initiatives to move forward with.

*There is not a fixed budget. We are and will continue to seek a variety of funding source and approaches. Sources of additional funding could come from the utilities commission, setting aside money from existing programs, and public private partnerships, in addition to the money already set aside by the City and contained within already approved Xcel programs. We will explore further once projects get more specific.*

- Julie – Are the existing working groups feeding information of the Program Oversight Team?

*There are already a few internal working groups underway, particularly related to our energy distribution system planning, 100% renewables, gap analysis, transportation electrification, and building electrification. The vision is to bring the learnings, leadership, opportunities for feedback of those working groups to the AP.*

## Structure and Work Plan

*Josie provided an overview of the plan for the next 12-16 months*

### **Quarterly AP Meetings**

- AP meetings will focus on making recommendations for strategies and priority projects to share with the project oversight team and executive team.
- AP meetings will also include partnership updates.

### **Working Groups**

- Two to three working groups will be initiated as soon as possible. Membership of the working groups will include interested AP members, additional subject matter experts (SME's), and relevant staff from Boulder and Xcel.
- Groups will meet at an intensity and frequency that is agreed upon by each group.
- There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> round, and likely more rounds in the future, of working groups to follow the first round to address additional topics.
- Working groups will take on specific in-depth topics for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing recommendations.
- Recommendations from each working group will be shared at quarterly advisory panel meetings.
- Some recommendation may be integrated into partnership activities immediately, if appropriate.
- Participation in these groups is optional based on interest and availability of AP members.

*Working group process that participants might expect if they choose to participate.*

- *City and Xcel to provide baseline understanding of current efforts*
- *Working group to develop, evaluate, and prioritize additional ideas*
- *Share work with AP and advance priority ideas through the partnership.*

*Overview of the evaluation criteria.*

- Closing the gap on goals (100% renewables, GHG reductions, local generation, energy equity)
- Risk benefit analysis (costs and benefits, feasibility, community impact)
- Realizing opportunities that are unique because of the partnership

*Outcomes from the recent advisory panel survey regarding AP member prioritization of each of five topical areas.*

- The survey results indicated that reaching 100% renewable electricity and building electrification were the top areas of interest, followed by transportation electrification, customer programs and innovative technologies.

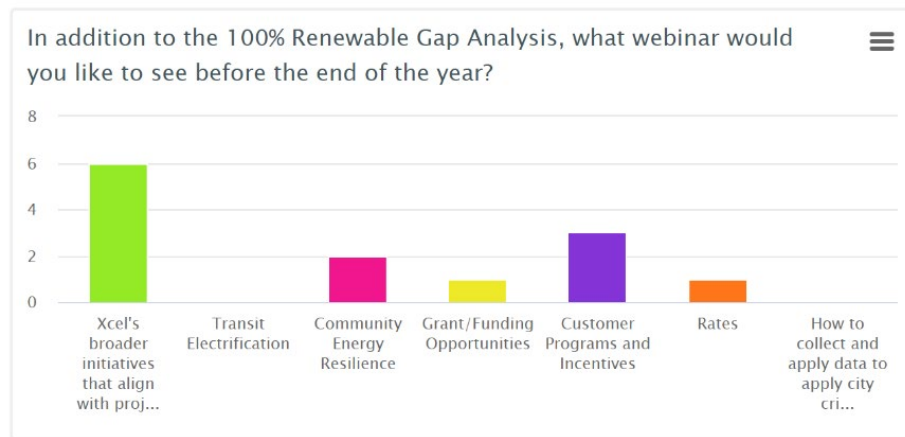
**Informational Webinars**

- The city and Xcel will provide informational webinars on select topics
- Topics and frequencies are up for discussion based on what the AP and public would like more information on

*The panel was asked to respond to a poll about which webinar topics are of most interest to AP members, in addition to the already planned webinar on achieving 100% renewable electricity planned for December, date and time TBD.*

**Webinar Topic Choices**

- Updates on 100% renewable electricity plans
- Xcel’s broader initiatives that align with project themes
- Transit electrification
- Community energy resilience
- Grant/funding opportunities
- Customer programs/incentives
- Rates
- How to collect and apply data to apply city criteria for project selection



*Figure 1: Live Polling results*

The top priority for the webinar after the 100% renewable gap analysis was an overview on Xcel’s broader initiatives that align with project themes followed by customer programs and incentives.

## Initial Recommendation Sessions

- The team will host 1-2 meetings focused on initial ideas and recommendations, likely programmatic in nature.
- Participation is optional.

## Question and Answer Session

*After providing an explanation of working group structure for meeting participants, Josie opened the floor for questions.*

- Justin – How many times do you think working groups will meet? What is the level of engagement and commitment required? How are subject matter experts going to be identified outside of the working groups?

*Currently thinking six meetings per working group to start with, but there will be flexibility on number of meetings. Frequency and timing would be determined by the working group, knowing the AP would prefer to make progress quickly.*

*In-house experts from the City and Xcel will be joining, plus additional subject matter experts (SMEs). Working group members will be able to recommend SMEs. A selection process can be implemented, if needed.*

- Julie – How are the recommendations of the AP fitting into the overall evaluation criteria? Are projects going to be exclusively those that are related to the partnership between Boulder and Xcel?

*Carolyn will provide the background on how these criteria were developed. The greatest opportunities for impact and insight for the AP will be further established in this process. Projects and recommendations will not be limited to those that are related only to the partnership.*

- Peter – What exactly are the working groups, what is the relationship between them, and if these working groups already exist, could a list be provided to share with AP?

*There are already internal working groups focused on 120% Rule, Chautauqua, and Undergrounding. The AP working groups will be focused on additional relevant topics, such as closing the gap on renewables and building electrification. The City will share a summary of the existing internal working groups and members.*

- David – What are some existing programs that could use some help (e.g., existing renewable programs)? Are there opportunities

to find other partners in the Boulder community or is it exclusively between The City and Xcel (i.e., University of Colorado)

*What will be discussed is not explicitly bound by the partnership. Other partnerships can be discussed.*

- Emily Swallow – What should the “finished” deliverable look like? What is the format of the product of the working groups? What is the ultimate goal?

*The working group goal or product would be a prioritized list of recommendations with annotations that would be shared with the AP. The AP would then review the recommendations and provide any additional input before recommendations are considered by the program oversight team. This will likely be an iterative and dynamic process between the different groups.*

- Dennis – Does the 100% renewable goal include storage? If it does, is there opportunity to change the name to 100% renewable and long-term storage?

*Yes – the 100% renewable goal includes storage. The group can consider adjusting the language.*

**AP Working  
Group  
Selection  
Survey Result  
Debrief**

The AP survey indicated two clear priorities

- 100% renewable electricity
- Building electrification

*Josie opened the floor for anyone to express support or opposition for starting with these two AP working groups.*

- Julie – Would microgrids fit into building electrification?

*This is a focused topic that will be discussed in our innovative technology discussion. There will be overlap between subject matters.*

- Wayne – Proposed two working groups focused on 100% renewable energy, rather than having just one group focused on renewables to expedite the process. The working groups should be focused on 100% renewable electricity because if all buildings were to be electrified, we would be sourcing from coal; struggling to answer his peers when they ask, “what are you working towards?”

*This is a feasible option that the AP could support.*

- George – Could clarification be provided about the innovative technologies?

	<p><i>The idea around innovative technologies is to focus on novel solutions that may need additional research and exploration like hydrogen or microgrids, and may include a long lead time and/or be higher risk solutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David – voiced his opinion that the AP should tackle building electrification, but we have to be careful so that unintended consequences of shooting up the demand of electricity and end up not meeting the city’s GHG goals.</li> </ul> <p><i>The facilitation team will follow up with a survey to determine final path forward for first round of working groups.</i></p>
<p><b>Meeting Schedules and Looking Ahead</b></p>	<p>Joint meeting between AP and Executive team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dec. 1, 5-7PM</li> </ul> <p>2022 AP Quarterly Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan. 10</li> <li>• April 11</li> <li>• July 12</li> <li>• Oct. 10</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional Questions for the Executive Team</b></p>	<p><i>Josie presented to the group the list of questions the AP came up with for the executive team. Feedback was positive overall. Additional questions for the executive team include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dennis – Xcel is doing a hosting capacity analysis (HCA), will this be done before the next meeting? Can this be explained in layman’s terms?</li> <li>• David – is there opportunity to make local energy generation a priority?</li> <li>• Emily Swallow – does the executive team have criteria at this point for whether to exit the partnership in 2026 or not?</li> <li>• Dennis – would like to see working group meetings scheduled soon</li> <li>• Pat – are there any educational resources or customer incentives to get the sustainable technology installed?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing and Next Steps</b></p>	<p><i>Carolyn extended the invite for any other thoughts or questions that come up to be emailed to her after this meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Emily Sandoval will post the presentation slides and webinar recording to the website. Webinar and notes will take some more time to process.</i></p> <p><i>Josie, Iffie and Carolyn thanked everyone for their time and efforts.</i></p>



## Resources

Advisory Panel Website: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/xcel-energy-partnership-advisory-panel>

Direct link to

slides: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/6424/download?inline>