



City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

Community Advisory Panel Webinar

Date	February 16, 2022
Location	Zoom Virtual Conference
Participants	Leah Kelleher, Carolyn Elam, Josie Plaut, Tom Hootman, Matt Lehrman, Iffie Jennings, Cherie Marczyk, Bryn Grunwald, Dennis Arfmann, Eli Feldman, Stephanie Hsiung, Jack Vultaggio, Julie Zahniser, Pat Hillmeyer, Ramesh Bhatt, George Craft, David Kang, Wayne Seltzer, Peter Lilienthal, Emily Swallow
	Members of the public

Meeting Summary

Topic	Notes
Welcome	<i>Leah Kelleher welcomed everyone and briefly provided an overview for meeting webinar format. Members of the public were instructed to send questions to Emily Sandoval, and Carolyn Elam thanked everyone for their participation before handing off facilitation to Josie.</i>
Meeting Agenda	<p><i>Josie shared the agenda for the meeting and gave other board members the opportunity to add in additional topics.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Partnership Progress and Updates- What has been achieved in the last 18 months in relation to partnership activities.</i> <i>Review Working Group Progress - Reports on progress of both renewable energy and building electrification working groups.</i> <i>Discussion of Additional Activities- Creating a plan based off progress from working groups.</i> <i>Public Communications and Involvement- Discussion about the panel’s communications and outreach to and from community members.</i>
Xcel Energy and City of Boulder	<i>Iffie Jennings, Cherie Marczyk, and Matt Lehrman presented the purpose, tasks, and progress of the partnership.</i>

Energy Partnership Agreement

Purpose

- Provide strategies from City of Boulder and Xcel Energy to cooperate and achieve shared vision.
- Focus on reducing greenhouse gas emission, testing and promoting new technology, and Electrification.

Governing Structure

- Base- Project Teams
- Community Advisory Panel
- Boulder Oversight Team
- Top- Executive Team

Working Groups

- Data- Both partners have agreed that necessary information must be distributed, for the team must have a clear understanding of effects on the system.
- Distribution System Planning- Improving the grid to provide capability to transition to zero-carbon electricity.
 - First 1% project, North Broadway, is expected to finish in April.
 - Three more 1% projects in evaluation stage.
 - FLISR, fault location isolation and service restoration, locations to improve reactions to power outages are being chosen.
- Renewable Electricity- Use 100% renewable electricity throughout the community.
 - Permitting solar systems to be sized to 200% of customers average load.
 - Determine the amount of carbon used during hours of the day. This can allow for planning that takes changes in energy demand into account.
- Transportation Electrification- Provide carbon-free transportation for the Boulder community.
 - City of Boulder and Xcel could work together to create charging hubs to improve the practicality of EVs.
- Streetlights- Improve the performance of streetlights to benefit the community's safety and health.
 - Preliminary estimates for new streetlights have been provided.
- Community Advisory Panel- Provide transparency about the project to the public.

Questions & Answers

Pat - asked if 200% rule is already in effect so that community members can start working on getting approved.

- Carolyn answered that the 200% has been integrated and has passed legislation.

Pat asked a follow up question, and he asked if the approval process was faster for customers with existing solar panels.

- Iffie answered that the process is not faster for those who already have solar panels.

Julie asked if any of the working groups had developed anything that other committee members can contribute too.

- Cheriese answered that both Xcel and city members have been providing help to answering the questions. For example, looking at the amount of energy that can be produced on sites.
- Julie added on that after discovering these locations, community members input could be beneficial to provide the most help to Boulder.

George asked for clarification on what the 1% projects were.

- Cheriese answered that the 1% projects are an amount of the budget that the city sets aside and leverage for projects.

Ramesh commented that 200% may not be enough because consumers electricity consumption may increase when switching away from gas heating. He suggested that the allowable solar is based on total energy use, not just electricity. Pat added on to Ramesh's idea by stating that Xcel could assign a certain amount of energy to the amount of gas a home use.

Building Electrification Working Group

Dennis gave a description of what happened at the first Building Electrification Working Group Workshop, which is the first of four meetings that will be taking place through May. Dennis reported on the commercial building aspect, and George reported on the residential building aspect.

Commercial Buildings- 53% of greenhouse gases in Boulder

- Data Gaps- The team needs more granular data about the energy uses of buildings because this would allow for more specific solutions.
- District Scale Systems- Using geothermal heat or capturing heat from sewer lines to decrease amount of heating required in commercial buildings.

- Regulations and Incentives- Boulder is currently creating more sustainability regulations for developers. Boulder will be seeking the input of the advisory board and developers to create a thorough plan.
- Partnership opportunities for volunteering, workforce development, and thermal energy as a service from Xcel.

Residential Buildings- 15% of greenhouse gases in Boulder

- 4 groups in residential sector- renters, landlords, homeowner, multifamily residents.
- The team is seeking input from heating and cooling installers to understand what opportunities are present.
- Developing solutions to help low-income households electrify their homes.
- Debating ideas for credits that could be given to homeowners after electrifying their homes.
- Educating the public on the negative effects that come with the use of gas in homes.
- Before all homes can be electrified the grid in Boulder would need to be improved to handle the increased electrical load.

Questions & Answers

Bryn and Peter explained how education on heat pumps should focus both on residents and contractors to reduce myths and stigmas related to heat pumps in cold climates. David added that installers need training/education to combat negative experiences with heat pumps for those who will not want to switch because of hearing bad stories.

Julie asked if there were any statistics about the effects that electrification would have on the power grid.

- George answered that they were seeking statistics about this topic to give them better insight into what strategies they could implement.
- Cheriese added on saying that Xcel is always evaluating the grid and is looking ahead to work with the increasing demand.

Renewable Energy Working Group

George reviewed outcomes from the Renewable Energy Working Group Workshop. He mentioned the webinars provided by Boulder and Xcel to help provide baseline understanding and shared outcomes from the January 29th workshop.

- General Discussion- While Xcel has done a good job communicating its plans, there are areas that the working group feels they do not have enough information on to know what's

happening. More frequent updates would be helpful for community understanding.

- Renewable Energy Credits- Instead of using energy produced outside of Boulder, the working group wants the energy to be produced close by or in Boulder.
- Work Group Goals- 100% emission free is not attainable yet, so there should be a realistic goal that is well defined.
- Future Meeting Topics- Resiliency from renewable energy sources, as the recent fire took out some of Boulder's solar fields. New sources of renewable energy that are more diverse, and one example of increased diversity would be more hydro energy use.
- The equity of renewable energy sources and their project financing must be planned, for this is the best method to complete the city's goals.

Questions & Answers

David commented that more solar locations should be identified early on. He also asked who is orchestrating the planning of the new renewable energy to make sure that all requirements are met for the projects to benefit the community.

- Carolyn answered that the work group had not had a deep dive into the specifics, logistics, or complications surrounding local energy generation.

Ramesh asked how the renewable energy working group was involved in the agreement between Xcel and Boulder that was due in June.

- Matt answered that discussing the complete plan will be the main topic for the renewable energy working groups next meeting.

Public Communications and Involvement

Carolyn began the conversation about public communication and how the advisory team and working groups need transparency throughout the process of Xcel and Boulder working together. She also discussed how community members need to have ways to share their ideas with the advisory board. Lastly asked, "are there other tools can the panel members use would like to use to increase their ability to communicate information internally and with the community?"

Increasing Public Input

- Carolyn - a form could be added to the website where community members can add their thoughts and input.
- Eli - the advisory panel is the public involvement because there is a diverse group of people on the panel. There is also the ability for the public to contact anyone on the panel with their own

	<p>thoughts. He thanked Carolyn for what she has already done to give the community input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George - the public should have the ability to see and know what is happening, but to keep efficiently in the meetings there should not be public comments during meetings or public participation at working group meetings. • Wayne - continuing the recording of the meetings and giving people who watch the ability to provide comments will increase the amount of Boulder that is represented. • Bryn described how the people who are not represented on the panel are sometimes those most effected by its decisions, and that there needs to be a balance between efficiency and community involvement. • Stephanie elaborated on that there should be comments from the community, but to maintain workgroup efficiency live comments should not be allowed. Collecting comments or having specific meetings would be most beneficial for the advisory board.
<p>Closing Thoughts</p>	<p>Pat – how might the opinions of commercial developers and contractors should be heard because they have a significant impact on the electrification of buildings?</p> <p>Eli – clarified that he is a developer and that there is also commercial building owner representation on the advisory panel. He offered to weigh in on specific questions and topics as needed.</p> <p>David - thankful for the new opportunities that will continue to be created through the partnership of Xcel Energy and Boulder.</p> <p>Peter – could someone with more knowledge of property assessed clean energy explain the issue in an upcoming working group meetings.</p>
<p>Meeting Schedules and Looking Ahead</p>	<p>Each working group will have an additional 3 meetings before the Advisory Panel meeting in May.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Advisory Panel Website: https://bouldercolorado.gov/xcel-energy-partnership-advisory-panel</p> <p>Direct link to slides: https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/6424/download?inline</p>