



City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

Joint Advisory Panel/Executive Team Meeting

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| Date | December 1, 2021 |
| Location | Zoom Virtual Conference |
| Participants | <p><u>Executive Team Members - Boulder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nuria Rivera-Vandermyle, City Manager• Chris Meschuk, Deputy City Manager• Sarah Huntley, Director of Communications and Engagement• Carl Castillo, Chief Policy Advisor• Jonathan Koehn, Interim Director of Climate Initiatives <p><u>Executive Team Members – Xcel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alice Jackson, President, Xcel Energy-Colorado• Hollie Velasquez-Horvath, Regional Vice President, State Affairs and Community Relations• Rachael Nance, Senior Director of Customer Relations and Strategic Accounts• Kelly Flenniken, Director of Community Relations <p><u>Project Oversight Team – Boulder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carolyn Elam, Senior Manager, Climate Initiatives• Matthew Lehrman, Policy Advisor, Climate Initiatives• Lex Telischak, Electrical Engineer, Climate Initiatives <p><u>Project Oversight Team – Xcel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iffie Jennings, Area Manager, Community Relations-Boulder Region & Mountain Communities• Susan Davis, Account Manager• Cheriese Marczyk, Builder Developer Representative <p><u>Advisory Panel Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erik Abrahamson• Dennis Arfmann• Ramesh Bhatt• Justin Brant• George Graft |

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- Eli Feldman
 - Kenny Gillis
 - Bryn Grunwald
 - Patrick Hillmeyer
 - Stephanie Hsiung
 - David Kang
 - Peter Lilienthal
 - Andy Saylor
 - Wayne Seltzer
 - Emily Swallow
 - Jack Vultaggio
 - Julie Zahniser

Institute for the Built Environment

- Josie Plaut, Facilitator
- Susan Hsin, Recorder

City of Boulder Staff

- Emily Sandoval, Senior Communication Program Manager, Climate Initiatives

Members of the public were able to listen in on this meeting, but participation is limited

Meeting Objectives

1. Create opportunity for AP members to speak directly to and hear from Executive Leadership within the City and Xcel Energy.
2. Clarify how the AP contributions will inform achieving the city’s energy and climate goals
3. Develop a better sense of roles/responsibilities, workflow, and contribution of the AP with the Executive and Project Oversight Team

Meeting Summary

| Topic | Notes |
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| Welcome – Emily, Carolyn, and Josie | <p><i>Overview of the public meeting and webinar logistics from Emily.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public are observers only, similar to an in-person meeting. The chat function is disabled to allow focusing on the panel and so the chat isn’t disruptive or distracting for the meeting. • Follow-up question or feedback can be submitted to energyfuture@bouldercolorado.gov • Notification that the meeting is being recorded. <p><i>Carolyn introduced facilitator Josie Plaut from Institute from the Built Environment to give a brief overview of the meeting agenda.</i></p> |

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| <p>Introductory Remarks – Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Alice Jackson</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuria spoke on her past experiences with partnerships, and shares her excitement for this particular project because of the participation of the advisory group. • Stated that change of pace with this work is not going to happen immediately due to city and Xcel processes. There are times where we can sprint, and other times where we need to thoughtfully proceed with data-informed decisions. • This partnership is critical for creating systemic change that will lead the City of Boulder to accomplish their climate goals. • The conversation is geared towards the question: how can we partner with the state to achieve net zero emissions at a quicker pace while keeping social equity and environmental justice in mind? • This kind of work requires input and involvement from the community in order to hold the partnership accountable for inclusivity. This advisory panel will play a key role in helping this partnership reach their inclusivity and community engagement goals by serving as the bridge between the community and decision makers. <p><i>Nuria introduced Alice Jackson for her opening remarks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged the AP and Executive Team to help reflect as we move through our process because this is the first time this partnership is making such an ambitious transition, and the state of the world has changed drastically over a short period of time. • We must take into account the unique viewpoints and perspectives that Colorado offers Xcel. • Emphasized the importance of collaboration and urgency in this journey in order for this partnership to work in the long-term and achieve all the goal of zero-carbon system by 2050. There needs to be buy-in from the entire community. • There has already been a lot of time, effort and investment poured into this process, and much longer to go, but we must keep up the positive momentum and maintain accountability between all groups involved in order to make this possible. <p><i>Facilitation was handed-back to Josie after Alice concluded her remarks. Josie provided a brief overview of the flow of information between the Executive Team, Project Oversight Team, Advisory Panel, and Working Groups, and an overview of the workplan for the coming 12-14 months.</i></p> |
| <p>Introductions</p> | <p><u>Executive Team – City of Boulder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Meschuk, Deputy City Manager |

- **Sarah Huntley**, Director of Communications and Engagement - Has been involved about Boulder's energy future since 2009
- **Carl Castillo**, Chief Policy Advisor
- **Jonathon Koehn**, Interim Director of Climate Initiatives

Executive Team – Xcel Energy

- **Hollie Velasquez-Horvath**, Regional VP for State Affairs and Community Relations – worked alongside Jonathan and Alice last summer to build the partnership agreement
- **Kelly Flenniken**, Director of Community Relations
- **Rachel Nance**, Senior Director of Customer Relations and Strategic Accounts

Project Oversight Team – Boulder

- **Matthew Lehrman**, Policy Advisor for Energy Utilities, Department of Climate Initiatives
- **Lex Telischak**, Electrical Engineer, Department of Climate Initiatives – leading the city distribution efforts for the City
- **Carolyn Elam**, Energy Systems Senior Manager, Department of Climate Initiatives, Partnership manager on behalf of the City

Project Oversight Team – Xcel Energy

- **Susan Davis**, Account Manager - Taking the lead on transportation electrification efforts
- **Cheriese Marczyk**, Distribution Operations Builder Developer Representative – Partnering with Lex of distribution planning
- **Iffie Jennings**, Area Manager of Community Relations-Boulder Region & Mountain Communities - Managing the partnership agreement alongside Carolyn

Josie stated the importance of introducing each member of the Advisory Panel and invited panel members to share a brief personal statement along with a key message they have for the Boulder Xcel Partnership leadership.

Advisory Panel

- **Erik Abrahamson**, Resident of Boulder, Commercial Real Estate Broker - Representing building owners and business community of Boulder. Inspired to be involved because of his experience with leasing and building electrification.
- **Dennis Arfmann**, Retired Clean Air + Energy Attorney, Resident of Boulder for over 30 years - Passionate about combatting climate change with beneficial electrification in this partnership. Involved with the Boulder Bridge House.

- **Ramesh Bhatt**, Homeowner in South Boulder, Retired Scientist and Professor - Has experience volunteering with environmental organizations and replacing all natural gas energy from his own home with solar panels. Passionate about getting to 100% renewable energy as quickly as possible.
- **Justin Brant**, Homeowner in Boulder, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project - Hoping to create meaningful change with this partnership.
- **George Craft**, 40-year Resident of Boulder with background in Engineering and IT - Joined the AP because of his concern with climate change for future generations, the existing conditions of the power infrastructure, and Valmont Powerplant. Wants to proceed in this partnership with integrity, make good compromises, not rush into things.
- **Eli Feldman**, President of Conscious Bay Commercial Real Estate company in Boulder - Extensive practical experience with improving building performance of all building types. Participates on the board of Western Resource Collaboration.
- **Kenny Gillis**, Representing the lower income housing group in Boulder and Boulder HOA - Wanted to join the AP to expand advocacy for an underrepresented group; has made efforts to incorporate solar energy but has come across challenges with affordability.
- **Bryn Grunwald**, Renter in Boulder, Associate on the Urban Transportation Team at Rocky Mountain Institute – Was interested in joining the AP to represent renters and younger population that might not have as much of a say in choices that impact the environment.
- **Patrick Hillmeyer**, Resident of Boulder - Wants to help the AP to find a way to expedite the process and encourage electrification of the built environment. Hoping to bring in the perspectives of contractors, installers, and others who are actually doing the work from a top-down approach.
- **Stephanie Hsiung**, Homeowner in Boulder, Customer Representative at a Clean Tech Company - Inspired to join the AP because she envisions Boulder to be her long-term home and lead the path forward and other cities across the US and globally that need to decarbonize.
- **David Kang** – Instructor of Sustainability at the University of Colorado and resident of Boulder - Excited to leverage his valuable experiences to help this partnership make true impact in this community and showcase this progress to the rest of the world.
- **Peter Lilienthal**, Founder of HOMER Energy - Focus on distributed energy and hybrid power systems and would like to see

more support for these both globally and in Boulder, especially as it contributes to resilience. Boulder is truly unique in the density of professionals working in clean energy. Would like to develop this network of local expertise and its global reputation.

- **Andy Saylor**, Resident of Boulder and Security Engineer at Twitter - Spends a lot of time studying how complex systems fail, and hopes to avoid that with this project. Has decarbonized his own house and switched to solar technology. Recognizes his privilege as an early adopter, but hopes to make this more accessible for all.
- **Wayne Seltzer**, Homeowner in Boulder and Retired Electrical Engineer - Wants to represent the grassroots spirit of Boulder, looking forward to sharing what progress is being made to his peers.
- **Emily Swallow**, Homeowner in Boulder and Educator in Boulder Valley School District - Wants to advocate for equity and justice in this community, deeply concerned about the climate emergency, hopes to bridge the gap between decision makers and the rest of the community.
- **Jack Vultaggio**, Energy Manager for Kyndryl - Wanted to be on this panel for its uniqueness and sees it as a great opportunity for community involvement. Wants to ensure that we can maintain reliability and consistency on the grid for the residents and customers of Boulder.
- **Julie Zahniser**, Resident of Boulder since 1976 - Wanted to be on this panel to ensure that this planet is liveable for her children and future generations. Passionate about community engagement and education, and hopes to find ways to get people excited and have hope for the future.

Josie pointed out the tremendous amount of care and commitment from this Advisory Panel for the community, future generations, and finding realistic solutions to address climate and social issues in Boulder and beyond. There is so much expertise between this Advisory Panel and Executive Team that will be critical for carrying this partnership forward.

Q&A Session

Josie transitioned the meeting to the Q&A session and briefly explained how the AP arrived to these questions. Most of these questions were directed towards the Executive Team.

1. What is the priority for you and this particular group? How can the AP be the most helpful to this partnership?
 - Nuria – This group is already doing a lot of it. She is feeling grateful that this group represents so many important perspectives that need a voice in this process. She wants

members want to be bold, creative, and passionate, and hopes that this group's expertise, lived experience, and voice will live outside of this partnership.

- Alice – Will be looking towards the AP to know if the solutions are working for the citizens, and she will be looking towards the AP for giving this feedback to Xcel. Xcel would appreciate the help for prioritizing so that they can make the most impactful decisions in the quickest time frame. She is going to look towards this group to help the partnership 'keep our eyes on the ball'.

2. Are we initiating and leading projects or just giving community feedback on what's already moving forward? Are we providing feedback on questions that the executive committee has? Is there a budget we are providing input to regarding priorities? Are we supposed to be generating new ideas? Something else?

- Jonathan – The role of this group is to bring forward new ideas, and challenge the ideas of the Xcel. His expectation for accountability is that everyone is willing to try hard things, pivoting if necessary, and finding the sweet spots in the "eco-zones" all around us. We are looking forward help with communicating the partnership's work and progress to the rest of the community. His hope is to create a safe and trusted space where everyone can be honest so that we can really gain the horsepower needed to make progress across this group.
- Hollie – Strongly believes that there are many opportunities for new ideas from the AP, and that has been proven to be beneficial in the past (townhall meeting example). It is really empowering for Xcel to make decisions based off of the lived experiences of the community, and that encourages them to move forward with the legislative process and hard work that is required to create positive change.

Josie summarized the key themes that she heard in the responses of accountability between the groups, moving forward with integrity, and providing ground-truths. Circled back to the only part of the question that was not addressed, which was the budget.

- Hollie – There are existing funds and budgets to work with, and the City and Xcel are waiting for innovative and opportunistic programs and ideas to move forward with. The exact budget is still to be determined because the City because projects are still being decided on in hopes of leaving space for input from the community. If we have the opportunity to scale this project,

we will have to engage in the regulatory process. The budget must be very flexible.

- Jonathan – We need to be mindful of when it makes sense to scale, what this process looks like, and when is appropriate.
- Nuria – The AP will help with prioritization, especially with the federal dollars that being awarded for these initiatives.

3. Is anything we do or say going to make a difference for project selection? Is this panel just a token of community engagement, or is there true opportunity to influence the outcomes of this partnership?

- Hollie – Yes there is absolutely opportunity to make a difference because the liveable expertise that the AP and community brings to the table must be leveraged. There is a reason they were very particular about the voices selected to represent the community in the AP. Xcel will rely on the AP for extending their expertise and reach into the community. Xcel is here to learn from the perspectives offered by the AP.
- Jonathan – The projects outlined in the partnership agreement was by no means an exhaustive list, and they had full-intentions from the start to work with the AP to make changes and improvements to these projects. In the past, they have had very rich experiences when they get working groups involved in the decision-making process. Jonathon reassures the panel that this is absolutely not a 'token' committee, and they truly value everyone's commitment, perspectives, and passion they can provide.

Josie recognizes that the next question about closing the gap between 100% renewable energy is a loaded question and it that deserves more than 2-3 minutes of conversation. There will be an upcoming webinar in December that will cover this topic at length. Asked Alice for a high level response in the interim.

4. What is being done to ensure that Boulder meets its goal of getting 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030? When will concrete plans for 100% renewable electricity be available? What are the most challenging gaps in meeting your climate goals?

- Alice – As of last week, a settlement agreement was made to retire all coal-sourced energy in the state of Colorado by 2030 and accelerate carbon reduction right away. This will eliminate 14 million metric tons of carbon by 2025. This is a huge step in progress as a state, but now the task at hand is to look at the City of Boulder and identify the remaining gaps. Looking to implement creative strategies to send signals to customers to make adjustments to their behaviors in efforts to lower carbon content. In comparison

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| | <p>to the rest of the state and country, Boulder is unique in the way that many residents pay a lot of attention to energy consumption. The 100% renewable energy working group is going to be starting soon that will dive into the technical side of how this is going to come into fruition. There is a lot of the way that has already been accomplished, but still much more that needed to bridge the gap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolyn – Excited to see the working group work on the transition from natural gas to electricity in the built environment. <p>5. Does the executive team have criteria at this point for whether or not to exit the partnership in 2026?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuria – No, there are not explicit criteria at this point. The AP will play a critical role in accountability and providing feedback as to whether or not Xcel is keeping their promises and reaching their milestones. <p><i>In order close the meeting on time, Josie ended the Q&A session without covering each question from the AP. The Executive Team agreed to respond to unanswered questions in written form.</i></p> |
| <p>Closing Remarks & Next Steps</p> | <p><i>Nuria and Alice shared closing remarks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice – It was really great to meet everyone, hear about the unique backgrounds of the AP members, and providing the in-depth questions that encouraged productive conversation. Thanked everyone for investing their time in this process. • Nuria – Amazed by the willingness of this group to volunteer their time to initiatives like this because these moments of engagement are so important and not easy. In addition to looking for the items that will move the partnership forward, we need to continue to find creative ways to bring the community along with us and create buy-in. Her priority is to create trust between the City, Xcel, and the community when we are thinking about climate justice, which is a wicked problem that must be addressed collectively from all interest groups. |
| <p>Action Items</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up with Executive Team to receive a response for unanswered questions from tonight, as well as any other questions that might have surfaced from this conversation. • Refer to action items from the last AP meeting about organizing the working groups and getting them up and running. • Emily to make the meeting recording available to everyone for them to reference on their own time. |

Resources

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