City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

Building Electrification Working Group- Workshop

Date	April 14, 2022
Location	Zoom Virtual Workshop
Participants	<u>Electrification Working Group</u>
	Pat Hillmeyer, Wayne Seltzer, George Craft, Stephanie Hsiung, Andy Sayler
	<u>Boulder Xcel Team</u>
	Iffie Jennings, Xcel Energy; Carolyn Elam, City of Boulder; Emily Sandoval, City of Boulder
	<u>Institute for the Built Environment</u>
	Josie Plaut, Facilitator; Carter Cape, Recorder

Workshop Summary

Topic	Notes
Multifamily Updates	*Carolyn updated the electrification working group on the multifamily and the investments and changes that are coming out of Denver.* **Updates** • New partnership with Housing Partners and Energy Outreach Colorado and engineering firm consultant. The partnership will proactively plan for new commercial projects, including multifamily affordable housing. New incentives will be implemented to improve the electrification of these projects. • The state of Colorado has started monthly working group meetings that are focused on electrification of multifamily projects. • Presentations about new financing programs through infrastructure and other forms of funding to help tackle electrification of affordable housing. • There will not be marketing outreach program to encourage electric appliances because of supply chain issues and how long projects are being scheduled in advance. • The solar industry has not been able to produce new panels which will also slow the electrification of many projects.

Develop Multifaceted Commercial Electrification Strategy	**Review of Recommendation Goals and Barriers / Solutions** • 30-35% is a good target for reducing natural gas, but not an official goal for the City • Changed the solution towards gas industry resistance to education and marketing efforts to counter industry lobbying through a joint effort between Xcel Energy and city staff. • Acknowledge on the recommendation document that Xcel may have conflicting interests towards reduction of natural gas use. • For increased utility cost adding that time of use pricing could be involved in the solution. • Educating the public on the restrictions of transitioning to clean coal energy production is required to debunk myths. • Working with members of Xcel who are supportive of renewable energy practices could strengthen the results of the working group. • Finding the mutually beneficial strategies that benefit both Xcel and Boulder is the best strategy to strengthen the conversation with Xcel. **Review of Initial Steps/ Activities** • Using language that allows gas appliances with CO_2 filtering technology that still results in zero emissions. • Be open to all forms of clean energy will allow people to be innovative in solutions to meeting emission standards. • Don't narrow the goal to just emissions - include all pollutants to allow for targeting more issues. • Add language of a clear roadmap to track progress for commercial and industrial buildings under prioritize and track commercial electrification progress. • The BlocPower model identifies turnkey solutions that breakdown financial and logistical barriers to electrification. Such a programs make the process simpler for thereby supports adoption.
Expand Residential Electrification Programs	**Review of Title, Description, and Goals** • Change title to acknowledge the work that has already been done and will continue to be worked on. • Create a title that catches people's attention in both English and Spanish to encourage education of electrification. • The key metrics chosen were questioned on how they were chosen. These came from a model developed by Boulder based off their future goals and what is attainable. **Review of Solutions and Problems** • Add split incentives as a problem with a solution of providing incentives to landlords.

	• Add the complexity of electrifying residences as a significant challenge. The solution is exploring turnkey solutions and providers to reduce complexity for homeowners. **Review of Initial Steps/ Activities** • Loosening the current Energy Smart eligibility requirements has already had major steps allowing more heat pumps to qualify for rebates. • Add language that describes the referencing of Denver's codes that have sunset dates for gas appliances. • Add in a note that describes the need for more stringent building codes and performance standards focusing on low to zero emissions. • Set a date that prohibits the installation of certain types of appliances that do not comply with high efficiency standards. • Look at the revision of selling electrification a different way. Changing this to educating the public on how electrification will benefit them through both their utility bill and health improvements.
Address Service Upgrades for Electrification	**Review of Solutions and Problems** • The significant cost of upgrading a transformer can be offset by distributing the cost to all residents instead of allocating the complete cost to one household. One solution could be to change regulation to allow rate payers to pay for upgrades. • Arguments against having ratepayers become burdened by the upgrade costs that could be taken on by Xcel (e.g., Xcel shareholders' investment) because they will have increased energy sales. • Incentivizing self-reliance of energy in households would limit the strain on the grid. This could lower the need for new transformers and the cost associated with these upgrades. Residents can store energy in batteries, limiting the electrical demand during peak hours from the grid and lowering the need for upgraded infrastructure. • Ask the Utility Commission on how service upgrades can be addressed with Xcel's help.
Preparation for Advisory Panel Meeting	**General Overview** • Documents will be left open until the April 22nd for revisions. The current drafts will be finalized and included in a packet for the Advisory Panel. • Once reviewed by the Advisory Panel, recommendations will be shared with the Executive Team and the Program Oversight team will integrate recommendations into their work plans. • Stephanie and has volunteered as a presenter to the advisory panel, and Andy Sayler also volunteered to speak to the advisory Panel.