

# City of Boulder – Xcel Energy Partnership

## Community Advisory Panel Quarterly Meeting

<b>Date</b>	November 14, 2022
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Virtual Workshop
<b>Participants</b>	<p><u>Community Advisory Panel Members</u></p> <p>Attendees: Andy Saylor; Brian Lindoefer; Dennis Arfmann; Emily Swallow; George Craft; Jack Vultaggio; Julie Zahniser; Pat Hillmeyer; Peter Lillenthal; Ramesh Bhatt; Bryn Grunwald</p> <p>Regrets: Stephanie Hsiung; Wayne Seltzer; Eli Feldman; Justin Brant</p> <p><u>Boulder Xcel Team</u></p> <p>City of Boulder: Carolyn Elam; Leah Kelleher; Lex Telischak</p> <p>Xcel Energy: Iffie Jennings; Kelly Flenniken; Tami Gunderzik; Neil Cowan; Cheriese Marczyk; Shelby Sommer, Imogen Ainsworth and Terry Hatfield (Brendle Group)</p> <p><u>Institute for the Built Environment</u></p> <p>Josie Plaut, Facilitator; Monica O’Reilly, Recorder</p> <p><u>Members of the public</u></p> <p>Four members of the public observed at least a portion of the meeting.</p>

### Meeting Summary

Topic	Notes
<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b>	<p>Leah Kelleher, City of Boulder, welcomed everyone to the Community Advisory Panel Quarterly Meeting. She reminded the group that the meeting was being recorded so that it can be made available on the City’s website. Additionally, she informed members of the public that the meeting was open to observation only.</p> <p>Josie welcomed the group and provided an overview of the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Past Quarter Review</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 Panel valuation</li> <li>• Boulder Xcel Work Plan Update</li> <li>• Look Ahead</li> </ul> <p>Carolyn thanked the group for a great, but difficult, first year and expressed her excitement for 2023.</p>
<p><b>Advisory Panel &amp; Partnership Activities</b></p>	<p>Josie reviewed the activities of the Advisory Panel since the last Quarterly Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Experience Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Panel members collaborated to provide recommendations for how to ease and improve the electrification experience for Xcel customers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Solar Hackathon Workshop and Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Panel members, Xcel, the City and County of Boulder, and the professional industry examined ways to expedite and improve the uptake for solar installations on residential and commercial properties.</li> <li>○ Recommendations currently being processed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Split Incentives Conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explored solutions to incentivize property owners and renters to be empowered to make changes and realize the financial benefits of energy efficient upgrades.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Webinar</li> <li>○ Equity lens development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The working group has been developing an equity lens which will be used to evaluate current advisory panel and partnership activities and recommendations, as well as serving as a tool to guide future recommendations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Iffie Jennings reported on the partnership activities that took place over the past quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplan Development</li> <li>• Distribution System Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ North Broadway 1% Project completed</li> <li>○ 19<sup>th</sup> Street 1% Project in progress</li> <li>○ Chautauqua Community Planning Meetings</li> <li>○ North and South Reliability Meetings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Electric Mobility Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To be completed at the end of this quarter. Implementation is planned to begin in Quarter 1.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There were no comments or questions from the Advisory Panel.</p>

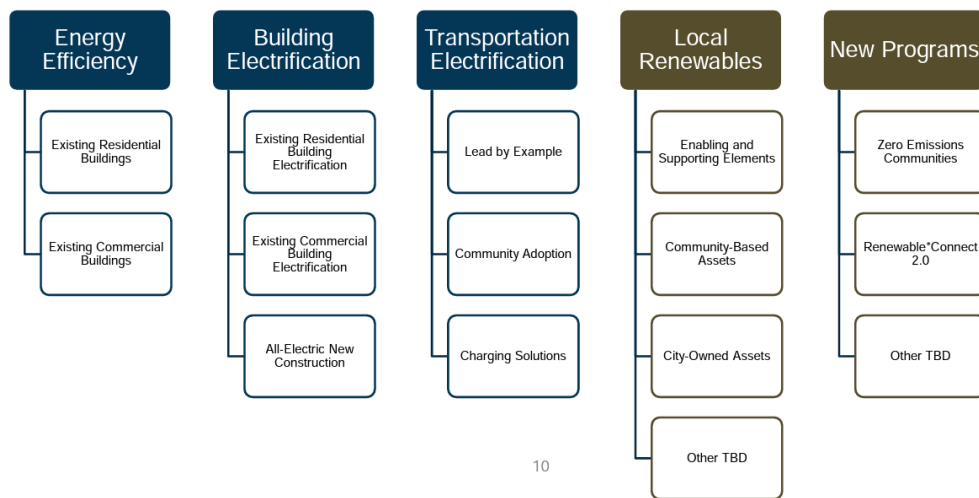
<p><b>Advisory Panel – 1 Year Review &amp; 2023 Direction</b></p>	<p>Advisory Panel Evaluation overview, highlighting the key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What’s Working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working groups and educational webinars</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Areas for Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clearly define strategies and projects, and find sources to meet Boulder’s renewable energy goals, including cost benefit analysis.</li> <li>○ See and participate in a more discrete and tangible plan to move forward on Boulder’s goals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increased Advisory Panel involvement and input for key strategies and decisions.</li> <li>• Better demonstrate how the partnership and the Advisory Panel are making a difference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How are conversations during our working groups and Advisory Panel meetings and beyond changing the course of what is being produced through the partnership?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Create a charter for the Advisory Panel that clearly articulates panel roles in influencing partnership strategy, resource allocations and direction making.</li> </ul> <p>A couple of graphs were presented that demonstrated the high degree of variability in Advisory Panel member responses regarding perceptions around overall effectiveness of the panel and how well their voices are being heard.</p> <p>Review the 2023 direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify tangible strategies, projects and programs, and associated budgets and sources of funding necessary to realize goals with input from the panel.</li> <li>• Make visible AP contributions.</li> <li>• Clarify panel role and contribution – charter</li> <li>• Explore Inflation Reduction Act – how to influence state and local allocations.</li> <li>• Explore microgrids and other technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish at least one additional working group focused on taking a deeper dive on microgrids.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There were no comments or questions from the Advisory Panel.</p>
<p><b>Boulder Xcel Workplan Update</b></p>	<p>Iffie thanked the group before introducing Kelly Flenniken, Xcel’s Director of Community Relations, who also sits on the Executive Committee for the partnership. Next, she introduced Shelby Sommer and Terry Hatfield, who are consultants from Brendle Group. She explained they provide technical assistance for Xcel’s partners and energy program. Then she introduced Tami Gunderzik, who works on Xcel’s portfolio plan, focusing on their demand side management programs and running their partners and energy and relationship with the Brendle Group. After, she introduced Neil Cowen, who</p>

spoke at the Renewable Webinar at the beginning of the year. Finally, she introduced Cheriese Marczyk, who sits on Xcel's core team and runs the distribution system planning initiatives.

Iffie overviewed the objectives and agenda for this section of the meeting. Slides will be available after the meeting and posted to the public website.

Iffie reviewed the following items:

- Partnership efforts to date – zero-emissions communities concept, gap analysis and modeling, strategy and work plan development, and 2023 focus on implementing the work plan.
- City of Boulder goals (Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2035, 100% renewable Electricity by 2030, 100 MW local Generation by 2030).
- Strategies and initiatives:



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Clarifying questions:

- What is the residential demand response battery pilot?
  - Neil shared that the pilot has been around since 2020 and is a robust program.

Neil provided a refresher on the zero-emissions community project. Iffie concluded by going over what is planned for the first quarter of 2023.

Discussion:

- How will Xcel achieve the following emission milestones? Where is Xcel in terms of greenhouse gas emissions?
  - Xcel is on track in terms of meeting emissions milestones. They did not have the exact numbers, but the trajectory is outlined in the ERP plans.

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- The Boulder community has hesitation because Xcel appears to want to put more resources into gas. How is that going to impact meeting these greenhouse gas emissions goals?
    - Iffie: Xcel is required to provide and regulate gas services if there is demand. However, Xcel is doing work on the gas system to lower methane emissions.
    - Kelly: Xcel is continuing to look at ways to lower emissions from their gas side of the business, emphasizing innovation in technology.
    - Neil: gas generation is needed to begin transitioning to full electric. He described this as a plug-in hybrid model that will be used until 2030, after which they can transition to full electric by utilizing more and new technologies.
  
  - Would like to see a more detailed modeling of how the presented work plan aligns with the emissions milestones.
  
  - Were the current numbers shown for local generation calculated before the passage of the IRA and the lock-in of 30% Federal tax credits for residential solar and storage (including standalone storage) for the next 10 years? How does Xcel prepare for a potential wave of increased residential solar and storage installs?
    - Iffie: Xcel gathered information on identifying where there are problems in solar installation and identified these roadblocks during the Solar Hackathon. Addressing them will be an ongoing process as there is an influx of more solar available.
    - Josie: Xcel has seen a doubling in their applications for solar installs across the state. She shared summary slides on relevant statistics for turnaround times from Xcel.
    - Neil: Delays can occur on the company and the developer side. However, there is going to be a steady increase in installations and Xcel needs to be resourced for that.
  
  - Do income-based electrification incentives allow Xcel and the city to focus on a geographic area for complete electrification, and thus allow Xcel to no longer have gas infrastructure maintenance requirements for that area?
    - Iffie: It would be great to look at a particular area as Xcel thinks about pilot programs for electrification and really focus on income qualified customers.
    - Carolyn: Yes, there will definitely be geotargeting of income qualified neighborhoods, in particular manufactured housing.
  
  - Another participant commented that they would like to see details of the "37% energy efficiency" with electrification. What is the bottom line
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in efficiency gains in terms of the use of energy to provide heat and air conditioning? What are the real numbers?

- Terry: Xcel is working from existing natural gas equipment that varies from relatively inefficient to very high efficiency heat pumps. Within the commercial space, the energy efficiency that comes along with building electrification is within a range of 37-50%.
  
  - A participant stated that they find it hard to believe that a heat pump is 37% more efficient than gas.
    - Terry acknowledged the significant jump in efficiency.
  
  - If Renewable Connect 2.0 provides priority subscriptions to Boulder, would this mean that other communities lose access to these subscriptions? Or would it involve the creation of additional renewables?
    - Neil: Since they opened subscriptions for the program in the summer of 2018, it's been in high demand. There is not one solution to everything as there are options, such as robust rooftops and community solar gardens. We are not intending to be exclusive but are trying to meet a lot of different needs.
  
  - The mention of local renewables included hydro. What kind of hydro is being referenced?
    - Terry answered that it is old hydro exclusively.
  
  - Is any of Renewable Connect RECs, or new generation?
    - Neil: RC 2.0 is incremental generation that is added to the system. Then, the RECs are retired on the behalf of customers.
  
  - Would like to see a chart with the increase in electricity use, and on the same chart, decreases of carbon production or energy use to see how all these plans compare.
  
  - How Xcel plans to get community input from the City of Boulder?
    - Iffie: Xcel will start with the Community Advisory Panel but will also work with the panel on extending outreach to bring new voices in.
    - Panel Member: Next year, the Community Advisory Panel could hold an outreach session, and the information provided by Xcel today could be shared with the community. Two or three of these sessions could include a high-level policy discussion about how we are going to fund it and equity considerations. This participant stressed they believe there is a need to figure out community outreach.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carolyn: Agreed – we need to integrate the local community into this work. The Advisory Panel should help lead community outreach – that way it is not just the city and Xcel.</li> <li>• With a significant chunk of the IRA funds going to state energy offices for distribution, what opportunities are there to influence the CO state energy office to support/accelerate our plans? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carolyn: Yes, we do expect some of those dollars to become available later in 2023. The city is already having conversations with the Governor’s Energy Office about their strategy. She assured the city is working hard on the IRA issue.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What can Xcel do for Boulder different than it does for other communities? How constrained are they in that? Where is the money coming from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kelly: There are various ways in which Xcel can uniquely serve Boulder, and many of them are at the forefront of this conversation, such as pilot projects. However, Xcel is constrained because they are a regulated utility, and they can’t discriminate one customer group from others. The goal of this project is to identify bigger picture solutions that can start small and then be scaled out. Xcel is constrained in how far they can go in terms of money to do something specific and unique to the City of Boulder.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Summary of key requests:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visualizations and Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify metrics that help track progress in each area that Xcel presented.</li> <li>○ Make visual the KPI’s, the strategies that are getting there and the contributions of those strategies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Begin Public Outreach and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Make information available at a high-level to guide conversations with the community.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Further Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One participant asked what panel members can be doing in preparation for moving forward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Josie responded that Advisory Panel members should go over and digest the information that was presented tonight. This information will guide the work for the next six to twelve months. She emphasized tonight was only an introduction to the material, and by becoming more familiar with the material, the Panel can better contribute to advancing the thinking around these issues.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Quarter Lookahead,</b></p>	<p>Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Panel Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplan Refinement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modeling review</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>Next Steps and Wrap-Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost benefit analysis</li><li>• KPIs &amp; dashboard</li><li>• Explore Inflation Reduction Act</li><li>• Equity Working Group</li><li>• Microgrids + Other Tech</li><li>• Charter</li><li>• Community Outreach</li></ul> <p>Surveys will be sent out to panel members to get a sense of what they are interested in participating in.</p> <p>Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feb 6th 2023, 5:30 to 7:30</li><li>• Executive Team Meeting (tentative), May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023, 5:30 to 7:30</li></ul> <p>Josie concluded the session by thanking the Xcel team, Brindle Group team and Advisory Panel members. She reminded the group that this is still a work in progress and there will be many opportunities to contribute and provide feedback.</p>
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