



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

### **Municipal Center Council Chambers**

1616 Humboldt Ave, West St. Paul, MN 55118

FEBRUARY 7, 2024 at 6:00 PM

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call

3. Citizen Comments

4. New Business

4.A. Approve November 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[110123.PDF](#)

4.B. Discuss 2024 Events (EWSPD, Arbor Day, Etc.)

4.C. Discuss Xcel Partners In Energy Program

Documents:

[PARTNERS IN ENERGY INFORMATION SHEET 2020.PDF](#)  
[XCEL P.I.E. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.PDF](#)

5. Old Business

5.A. Review Committee Goals And Objectives

Documents:

[OCWS ITEM - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.PDF](#)

6. Updates

6.A. City Council

6.B. Staff

6.C. Subcommittee

6.D. Park & Recreation Committee

6.E. Planning Commission

7. Other

8. Adjourn

*If you need an accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at  
651-552-4108 or email [ADA@wspmn.gov](mailto:ADA@wspmn.gov) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting  
[www.wspmn.gov](http://www.wspmn.gov) EOE/AA*

**West St. Paul Environmental Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**6:00 pm, November 1, 2023**  
**West St. Paul Municipal Center- City Council Chambers**

**1. Call to order**

**2. Roll Call**

Committee members in attendance: Chair Jade Pennig, Robyn Anderson, Connye LaCombe, Ken Paulman, Liz Pearson, Joshua Przybylski

Non voting members in attendance: Lisa Eng-Sarne, Dave Schletty, Emily Vergin

**3. Citizen Comments-NA.**

**4. New Business**

**4a. Approve June 7, 2023 Minutes**

The June 7, 2023 minutes were approved by the committee.

**4b. Explore West St. Paul Days-Recap 2023/Plan 2024**

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Schletty gave a summary of the West St. Paul Days event. The activities were well attended, except for the concert which was rained out. City staff received very good feedback from the community. Planning for next year's event has started. The city plans to keep the celebration schedule the same for next year. Next year's event will take place Thursday- Saturday, June 6-June 8.

Committee members discussed recent events. Members suggested soliciting more feedback regarding environmental initiatives from residents at city events, inviting more artists/makers/food trucks and musical acts to participate in the event, and keeping the seed packets as giveaways for next year's event. Collaboration with other groups (like Pride) worked well. Other suggestions included having the Environmental Committee participate in the city open house event, and/or the Garlough World Fair.

**4c. Review Committee Goals and Objectives**

Schletty reported that Recycling Coordinator Selstad is working on the benchmarking for the GreenSteps program, (metrics for Step 4). The city will receive assistance with the data from a Greencorp member. West St. Paul (as an entire city) now has benchmarks for the regional indicators, (greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, etc.).

The committee asked Assistant Parks Director Schletty to proceed with the Energy in Action program (Xcel). Pearson suggested improved functionality for the Environmental Committee page.

The list of committee goals and objectives discussed by the committee included:

- Improvement of the functionality of the Environmental Committee webpage
- Review of city codes related to environmental initiatives and make recommendation to council
- Review options for Boulevard Plantings/ collaborate with Public Works Department.
- Education and outreach and community feedback with residents.

Schletty announced that the city was awarded a grant that would enable the city to convert the acre around City Hall to natural prairie.

#### **4d. Everything Trees- EAB, Grants and Robert Street**

1. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)/Tree grants-** Assistant Parks Director Schletty reported the city is following the EAB action plan developed in 2017. The city is treating trees, removing poor quality trees, and replacing them with new varieties. The city recently applied for two tree grants from the State of Minnesota. The city did not win the first grant; the second grant application status is pending. This grant (\$500K) would help to remove and replant new trees, and to update the city tree inventory as well.
2. **Robert Street Trees-** Some of the Robert Street tree plantings are outgrowing their spaces and heaving the sidewalk pavement and pavers and pulling up the grates around them. This is most evident in the northern end of town, (North of Butler Avenue). The Public Works Department is open to ideas for solutions to the tree growth problem.
3. **Sport Complex/Tree Trust-** Tree Trust partnering with Delta Airlines planted 50 trees about 50 trees at the Sports Complex. They will maintain them for two years to get the trees established.
4. **Park Plum Tree**  
Chair Pennig asked if there could be a posting regarding picking plums off the plum tree that had been planted last year by the committee. Assistant Parks Director Schletty said that the posting could be added to the Commission monthly column.

#### **5. Old Business**

- 5a. **Heritage Middle School Community Garden-**Assistant Parks Director Schletty reported the school kids finished painting the service shed and planted tomatoes, peppers, sunflowers, marigolds and cucumbers on 8 raised beds. It was a successful first year and collaboration between ISD 197 and the community of West St. Paul.

#### **6. Updates**

- 6a. **City Council-** Councilmember Eng-Sarne stated that Council would like feedback on upcoming projects, specifically the site of the former YMCA and the city property across from the Sports Complex. Currently a developer has interest in developing it into a brewpub taproom restaurant.
- 6b. **Staff**
  - (i) **Committee Vacancy-**There are two vacancies on the committee. The city will try to fill in January/February.
  - (ii) **Marthaler Park Project-**There were many delays in the reconstruction because of state permitting problems. Weather this month has been an issue as well. The project has been extended and the grand opening of the park will be early summer.

#### **6c. Planning Committee-NA**

#### **6d. Park and Recreation Committee-**

Member Vergin related that the Park Advisory Committee discussed the following items:

Possible expansion of the disc golf course in Garlough Park.

Park rental facility policy (primarily sports facilities)

Legalization of marijuana and what it means for park policy.

The West St. Paul Pool season

Citizen comments included having more variety of programs at the city pool. The committee also talked about the age/condition of the pool complex; this discussion may cross over into Environmental Committee topics.

**7. Other**

Assistant Parks Director Schletty reported that Eric Weiss was hired in July as the Parks and Recreation, Environmental and Sustainability Director. He would have come tonight to meet the committee but was part of the open house and could not attend. He wants to come and introduce himself at the December meeting.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G. Hatfield

# PARTNERS IN ENERGY

INFORMATION SHEET  
MINNESOTA

HELPING COMMUNITIES BUILD AN ENERGY FUTURE



**PARTNERS IN ENERGY**  
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

Partners in Energy provides the tools and resources to support communities in achieving their energy goals. The program offerings include support to develop an energy action plan or electric vehicle plan, tools to help implement your plan and deliver results, and resources designed to help the communities we serve stay informed and achieve their energy goals.



**56**  
COMMUNITIES  
SERVED SINCE 2014



## AVERAGE SAVINGS PER COMMUNITY IN 2019

**Electricity** 5.2 Million kWh

**Greenhouse Gas** Equivalent to removing 502 cars off the road



## TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN 2019

**Energy Efficiency Programs**  
43,500

**Renewable Energy Programs**  
24,500

## Planning support



## Implementation support



## Additional resources to boost results

In addition to our team, tools and resources, we provide opportunities for you to interact and network with other communities participating in Partners in Energy.



### COMMUNITY SUMMITS

Attend in-person events with other communities to share best practices. We provide educational opportunities that feature experts on current energy topics and opportunities to learn from each other.



### OFFICE HOURS

Attend monthly webinars that cover trending topics, plus access to and examples of initiatives and activities happening in Partners in Energy communities. Ask questions and share experiences.

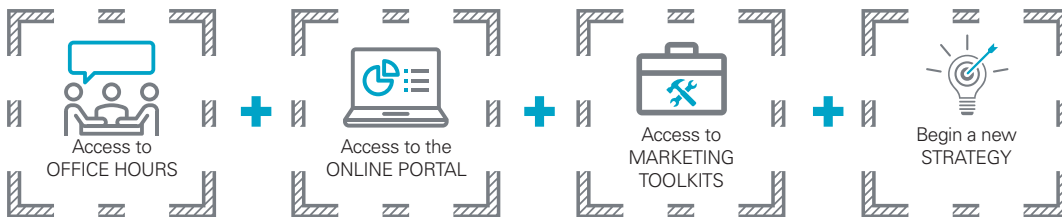


### ONLINE PORTAL

Get access to documents related to your community's work, and examples of other community goals, strategies, and collateral. It connects you to a variety of community program materials, a collateral library, toolkits for outreach and education, as well as collaboration forums.

## Keeping graduates energized

We invite communities that have participated to stay engaged. Since you've developed a blueprint for your energy future, we have resources to keep your momentum going and keep you up to date with what's new at Xcel Energy.



## Join us

Apply in January or July. Applications available at [xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy](https://xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy).

Questions: [PartnersinEnergy@xcelenergy.com](mailto:PartnersinEnergy@xcelenergy.com) or 800.369.4362.



**PARTNERS IN ENERGY**  
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# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is Partners in Energy?

Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy is available to communities in Minnesota and Colorado that are looking for resources to take their energy planning to the next level. Through a two-year commitment, we help you identify your community's energy objectives, develop a plan, and implement strategies that incorporate your unique, local resources. To facilitate and empower contributors, we've assembled a team of experts in energy consulting, process and implementation coaching to help your teams throughout the process.

## How can Partners in Energy benefit my community?

Partners in Energy offers flexibility, expertise and resources to develop and launch your energy planning. We supplement your local resources with our team of experts to guide you through the planning process and develop your plan document. If you're aiming to add renewable energy, reduce electric and natural gas consumption, or lower CO2 emissions, developing a robust Energy Action Plan will provide the first step to charting your energy course. The plan will outline actionable strategies that may include promotional outreach, education, events, PR and more. We help guide the project implementation and bring tools and resources to help your community overcome implementation barriers. Community engagement is a key component, which can help community leaders deliver good news stories to stakeholders, as well as position your community as an energy-savvy, environmentally conscious trendsetter.

## What information can Xcel Energy provide to help with the plan?

As part of developing the plan, your Partners in Energy team will begin by determining your baseline energy use, program offerings and program participation. In addition to working with energy data from Xcel Energy, we ask your team to share what they know about the local history of energy-related programs and offerings to develop a full profile of what your community has achieved to date. Through a series of workshops, we'll try to provide more in depth analysis to help the team answer questions on things like program participation by market segments, geographic differences or historical patterns. Once your plan is completed, we will track and report participation to be sure we are achieving measurable results.

## What resources are expected from us?

Ideally, you will assign a champion from your community who will help smooth the process of developing an Energy Action Plan and rolling out implementation. Our facilitators are supportive every step of the way by leading workshops and empowering the team with resources and energy expertise. Over the first six months of working together to develop your action plan, it may require up to 100 hours of time from your Partners in Energy champion. You will also need to identify a group of local participants to get involved in developing the plan. Throughout the planning and implementation, we will leverage your existing communications channels, such as your community website, social media, press media, newsletters or cable channels. Xcel Energy resources are there to support and provide tools and help throughout the process—but it is the community that owns the plan.



## **Is there a cost associated with Partners in Energy?**

There is no cost to participate in Partners in Energy—or for our resources. The amount you need to invest is driven by your needs or outreach strategies in your plan. The tactics in your energy action plan may be within your current budget, or you may identify needs for a more robust energy management program.

## **Who is involved?**

In addition to your community contributors, the Xcel Energy team will be at the table to provide resources, data and support during the planning and implementation. In addition, you will have access to energy planning experts and the ability to brainstorm with representatives from other communities participating in Partners in Energy concurrently. This is done through a series of webinars and “ask the expert” officehours delivered through our Exchange option.

## **How do we apply for Partners in Energy?**

To find out more about when additional communities can join or to download an application, visit [xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy](https://xcelenergy.com/PartnersInEnergy). If you have specific questions or want to request a presentation email us at [PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com](mailto:PartnersInEnergy@xcelenergy.com).

## **What are the first steps to participate?**

Once you've been accepted into the Partners in Energy program, Xcel Energy will organize preliminary kickoff meetings to build the framework to launch your energy action planning workshops. Anticipate six to eight weeks for preparation, and 20 to 26 weeks for development of the plan. Following the plan development, we will collaborate for 18 months to implement your strategies.

## Subject: Environmental Committee Goals & Objectives

<b>Meeting Date:</b> September 12, 2022	
<b>Submitted/Presented by/Department:</b> Dave Schletty - P&R	
<b>Action Type</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Action</b>	
Review and discuss the proposed goals and objectives of the Environmental Committee.	
<b>Background</b>	
<p>Over the last couple months members of the Environmental Committee have discussed the goals and objectives they would like to achieve over the next 1-2 years. The City Council's Strategic Initiatives were taken into account while developing this list. Their 5 main priority objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work to achieve steps 4 and 5 of the GreenStep Cities program</li> <li>2. Develop a Climate Action Plan for West St Paul</li> <li>3. Develop an Energy Action Plan for West St Paul</li> <li>4. Establish a list of Core Values for the Committee for future action items</li> <li>5. Develop a shared Calendar to increase communication between members and help with outreach to residents.</li> </ol> <p>Staff and committee members are interested in any comments and feedback regarding the goals and objectives listed above. The Environmental Committee will continue to work on other topics that may come along, but these 5 objectives will be at the center of their work over the next couple years.</p>	
<b>Attachments</b>	
<b>Previous Relevant Actions</b>	
<b>Alternatives</b>	
<b>Financial</b>	
Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Financial Impact
Fund:	
Department:	
Account:	