

Environmental Commission

September 30, 2020 – 6:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

This meeting will be held via Cisco Webex in accordance with the local emergency declaration made by the City under Minn. Stat. § 12.37. The public may monitor this meeting by calling 1-415-655-0001 and entering the meeting code 133 298 1930. For technical assistance, please contact support staff at 763-593-8007 or webexsupport@goldenvalleymn.gov. If you incur costs to call into the meeting, you may submit the costs to the City for reimbursement consideration. Additional information about for monitoring electronic meetings is available on the City website.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes (5 min)
5. Old Business
 - A. Environmental Justice Collaboration Update (5 min)
 - B. Partners In Energy Update (20 min)
 - C. Curbside Organics Collection Update (5 min)
6. New Business
 - A. New GreenCorps Member (Story Schwantes) (5 min)
 - B. GreenStep Cities - Best Practice 13.2 Efficient City Fleets (5 min)
(Action Requested)
 - C. R-3 Density Bonus Standards (25 min)
 - D. Program/Project Updates (10 min)
 - E. Council Updates (5 min)
 - F. Other Business (5 min)
7. Adjournment



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Environmental Commission

August 24, 2020 – 6:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Seys at 6:31.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Scott Seys, Debra Yahle, Tonia Galonska, Dawn Hill, Jim Stremel, Shannon Hansen, Wendy Weirich

Commissioners absent: None

Council Members present: None

Staff present: Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor;
Drew Chirpich, Environmental Specialist;
Carrie Nelson, Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Stremel to approve the agenda of August 24, 2020 and the motion carried.

4. Approval of July 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Galonska, seconded by Commissioner Weirich to approve the minutes of July 27, 2020 as submitted and the motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Partners in Energy Update (PIE)

- i. Commissioner Golonska is the representative from the EC.
- ii. There was a survey for the team members to get to know each other and their backgrounds/experience/knowledge before the first meeting.
- iii. First meeting was August 25. Facilitators are from Xcel Energy and the Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE).
 1. There will be an overview of the entire program and plan developed over the next 6 months.
 2. Team will review the demographics and energy consumption data in Golden Valley.



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3. Team will create an energy vision statement for the community from a proposed draft vision.
- iv. Groups represented on the team:
 1. Business
 2. Schools and Institutions
 3. Residents
 4. Prism
 5. Corporate – General Mills, Allianz, and Mortenson Construction

B. Curbside Organics Collection Update – All in – Everyone Pays

- i. Looking to send out the Request for Proposals (RFP) by December/January along with draft contracts for both organics and mixed recycling.
- ii. Will share with EC in September before sitting down with Council.
- iii. There is a chance the organics and mixed recycling company could be the same contractor.
 1. It wouldn't cut down on the number of trucks. Separate trucks to separate places. Pushing companies to look into things such as smaller bins, and trucks the can accommodate more than one stream of waste and recycling.
 2. Carts couldn't be shared.
 3. Better pricing for residents?

C. Environmental Justice Collaboration

- i. A time to meet hasn't been scheduled yet. Hopefully sooner rather than later.
- ii. Anyone else interested in joining the sub-committee?

6. New Business

A. Using Goats for Vegetation Management

- i. Looking to provide a recommendation in September or October to bring to council.
- ii. Using goats would cut down on the amount of chemicals used. It would also reduce our carbon footprint by not using machines
- iii. Questions to consider:
 1. Is there a way to keep them from eating the good native plants?
 2. How do you choose the location?
 - a. City Forester and Drew will look at each location.
 - b. We have a natural resources inventory and can look at areas with a higher percentage of buckthorn.
 - c. Would use in targeted areas with double-row of fencing.
 3. Cost? Using Goats vs. Paying a Company or, if residential, Doing it Yourself.
 4. How can we decrease seed spread?
 - a. Possibly remove the large berry producing trees before using the goats.
 5. How many goats and for how long per area size?
 6. How can we keep goat waste out of waterways?
 - a. Use a vegetative buffer as well as two rows of erosion control barrier before the water.

- iv. Residential Goat Use:
 - 1. Make it clear that goats are to be rented from a licensed herder who manages them and can only be on the property for a certain amount of time.
 - 2. Residents will need to submit a permit application to propose the area goats will be used for staff to review and advise.
 - 3. The City will send notices to adjacent properties. These homeowners will have the option to object. If a certain percentage of properties object the permit would go before the Council for approval.
 - 4. There will be a limitation to how many goats can be used based on the size of the property.
- v. Hold off on Sheep for now. Look at allowing them in the future after we see how goat use goes.
- vi. Look at the other City Codes as examples of what we would like to model ours to look like.

B. Energy Update

- i. Solar Production Data:
 - 1. The City has installed four – 40-Kilowatt solar arrays on top of buildings at the City Hall Campus. The arrays produce about 10% of the energy consumed by the City each year – this helps offset our GHG emissions.
- ii. GreenStep Cities Step 4-5 Energy Metric
 - 1. Made improvements from 2016 to 2017 in every area with the exception of Annual Renewable Energy Purchases by the City (14.4).
 - a. This is the purchase of renewable energy generated by, for example, solar or wind from Xcel or a 3rd party. Can purchase credits and invest in big solar farms or community solar gardens outside of Golden Valley.
 - b. The previous Council's thinking was that we are producing energy already with the solar arrays so it wouldn't make sense to purchase it from outside the City.
 - c. We spoke with the Council a couple years ago and they decided we wanted to do more locally and invest in the community.
 - d. Wait to see what the Energy Action Team comes up with for energy goals and plans.
 - e. Do we track how much solar power from the Cities arrays is being sold back to the grid? Credits back?
 - f. Do we have enough to get a Step 5?
 - i. We have to fulfill the green sections to achieve step 5. We're working to document year over year to maintain Step 4 status and accumulate multiple Step 4 years.
 - ii. Green Step Cities Program keeps evolving. 14.4 may not be a requirement forever. If it comes down to needing it to get to Step 5 maybe the council would be receptive to that and

there will be a program we could buy into that would make sense and could save the taxpayers money.

MOTION by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Yahle to approve the Energy Metric as submitted within the GreenSteps Program and the motion carried.

C. Program/Project Updates

- i. Wildwood Park / SEA School Survey
 1. Potential Above/Below Ground Floodwater Storage in under-utilized areas of the park.
 2. Communication Staff put together a Community Input Report available on the website. This was used to put together three different concept plans for the community to review.
 - a. A letter will be sent out with the concept plans and to point people to the Community Input Report and ask for community input on the concept plans.
 3. Possible for the Commission to have input?
 4. Come back to this next month?
 5. Eric will need to ask about this to see if it's something that can have further discussion. Will it need to go to council to amend the 2020 workplan?
 6. Commissioners can take the survey online and give feedback that way.

D. Council Updates

None

E. Other Business

- i. Light Rail
 1. Leasing from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and co-locating the light rail with the freight rail, no agreement could be reached.
 2. Will need to take a fresh look at the route and alignment. The Committees are starting to meet.

7. Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Fettig, seconded by Commissioner Hill to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm and the motion carried.

ATTEST:

Carrie Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Scott Seys, Chair



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: September 25, 2020
To: Environmental Commission
From: Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor
Subject: Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy Update

The City was formally accepted into the Partners In Energy program in February 2020. The project kickoff meeting took place in April and the Energy Action Planning Team was assembled in summer 2020 to develop an energy action plan for the community. The first workshop took place in August and presentation slides are attached for Commission information.

The second workshop is scheduled for September 29, 2020. The team will finalize the vision statement and set the goals and focus areas for the plan.

Commissioner Galonska and staff will present information and provide a progress update to the Commission.



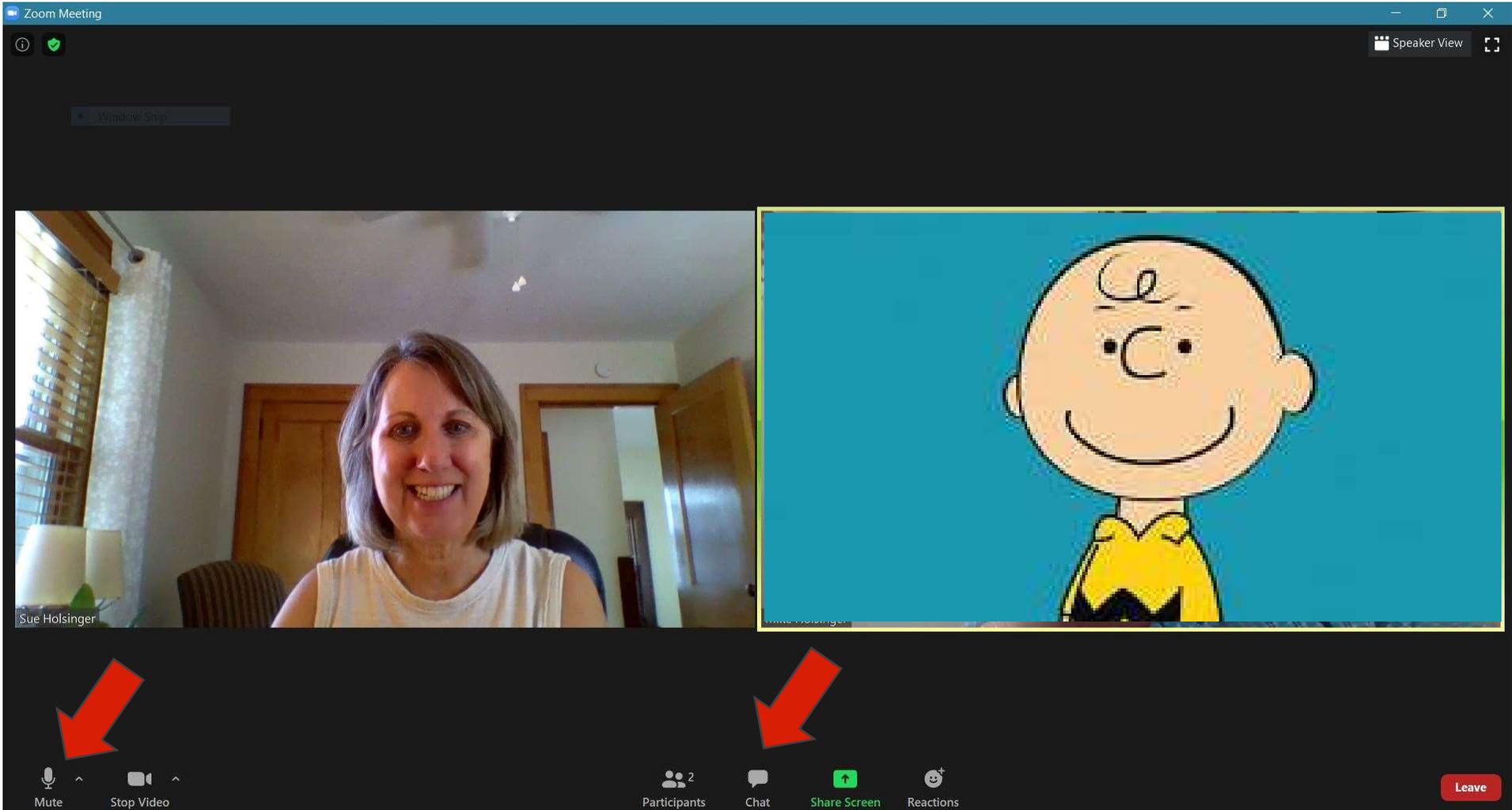
PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

WELCOME!

Zoom Meeting

Speaker View

Window: Stop



Sue Holsinger

Mute Stop Video

Participants 2 Chat Share Screen Reactions

Leave

The image shows a Zoom meeting window. At the top, the title bar reads "Zoom Meeting" and the system tray shows "Speaker View" and window control icons. Below the title bar is a "Window: Stop" button. The main area is split into two video feeds. The left feed shows a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a white sleeveless top, smiling. Her name "Sue Holsinger" is visible in the bottom-left corner of her video. The right feed shows a cartoon character, Charlie Brown, with a blue background. At the bottom is a dark control bar. On the left, there are "Mute" and "Stop Video" buttons, both with red arrows pointing to them. In the center, there are "Participants" (with a "2" icon), "Chat", "Share Screen" (with a green icon), and "Reactions" (with a smiley icon). On the far right is a red "Leave" button.



Xcel Energy[®]

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An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

Golden Valley Planning Workshop 1

Tuesday, August 25
Zoom Meeting



Mute Stop Video

Participants 2 Chat Share Screen Reactions

Leave



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
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Golden Valley Planning Workshop 1

Tuesday, August 25
Zoom Meeting





PARTNERS IN ENERGY
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Golden Valley Planning Workshop 1

Tuesday, August 25
Zoom Meeting

Agenda & Objectives



Welcome & Introductions

Partners in Energy Overview

What Happens Next?

BREAK

Golden Valley Data: Part 1, Demographics

Golden valley Data: Part 2, Energy

Getting Started on Vision

Wrap up

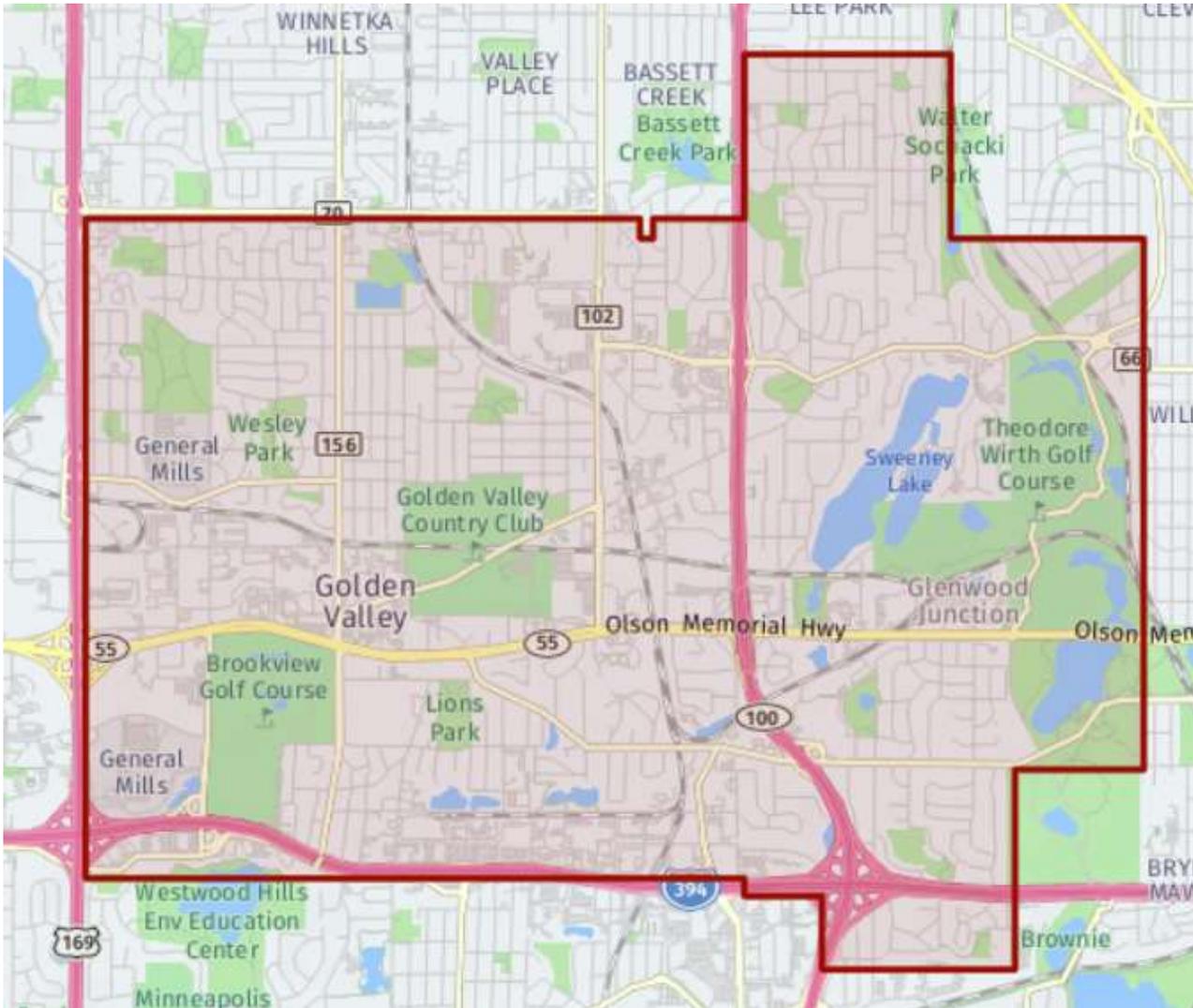


**Welcome from Golden
Valley Councilman
Larry Fonnest**



Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- Where is your favorite spot in Golden Valley?



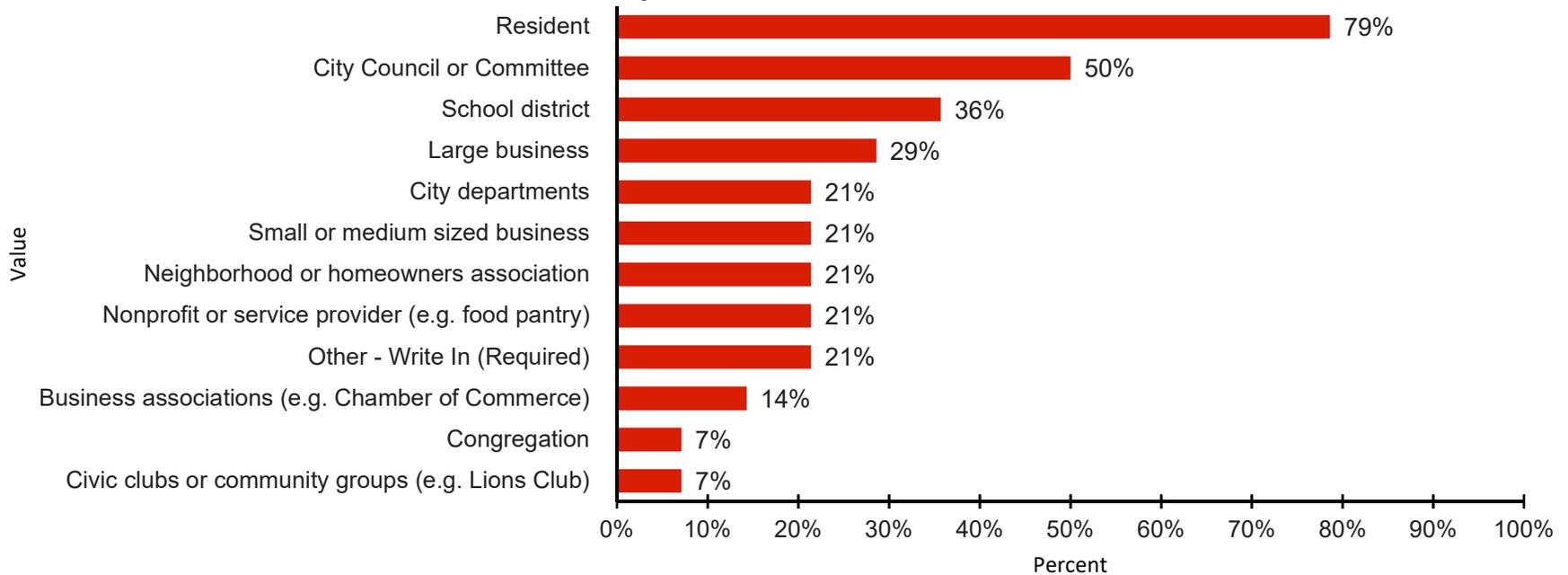
Use the
“Annotate” tool
to put a stamp at
your favorite
spot in Golden
Valley

Energy Action Team Demographics

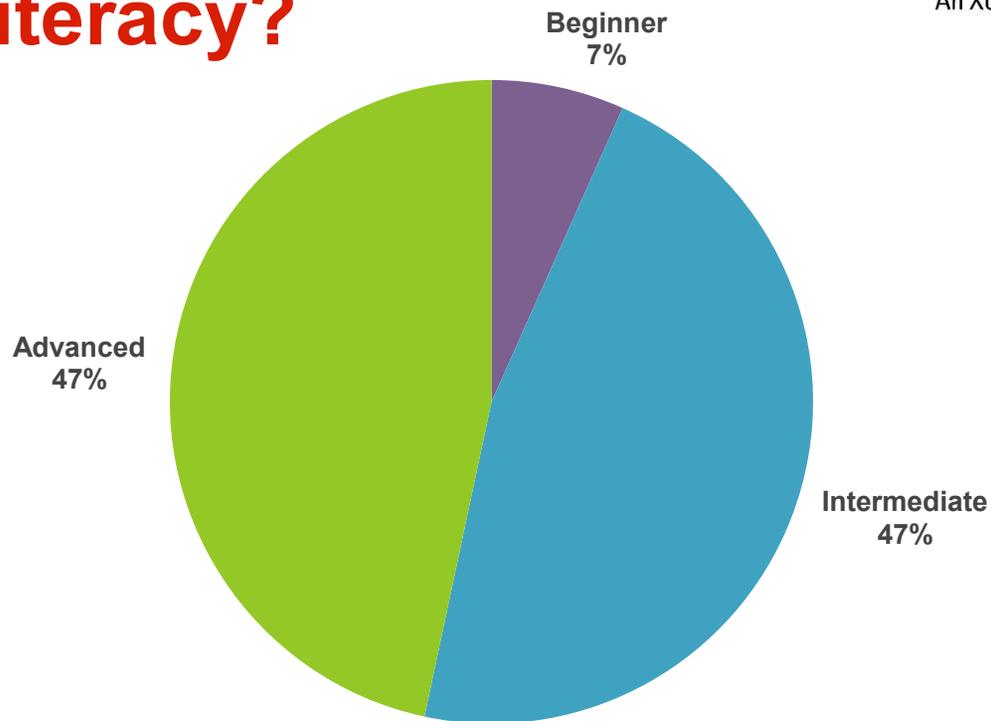


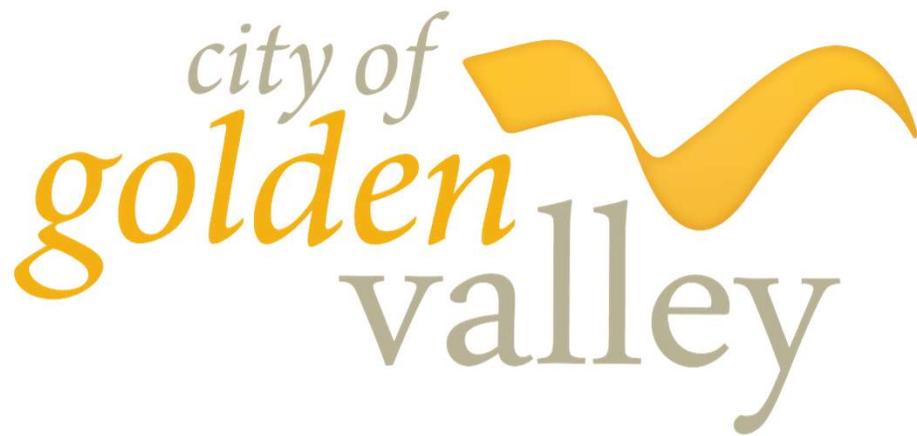
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An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

What organizations and community networks are you connected to in Golden Valley?



How would you define your energy literacy?





**Overview from
Eric Eckman**

Partners In Energy Program

- *Why are we doing this?*
- Response to a changing climate
- Address local impacts, existing disparities, promote equity
- 2040 Comp Plan –
Resilience & Sustainability Chapter
 - ▣ Includes energy efficiency and renewable energy goals and policies
- GreenStep Cities – many energy actions!
- Council and Commission priority
- City has been working on energy initiatives for years



Partners In Energy Program

- Examples of energy actions:
 - ▣ Installing solar arrays on city bldgs
 - ▣ Installing EV charger at city hall
 - ▣ B3 Benchmarking (more efficient city bldgs)
 - ▣ LED changeouts (street lights, signals, lighting)
 - ▣ SolSmart Bronze certification
- Partners in Energy is next logical step to engage entire community in improving efficiency; developing renewable energy; and reducing consumption and carbon emissions



Partners in Energy Team



Xcel Energy



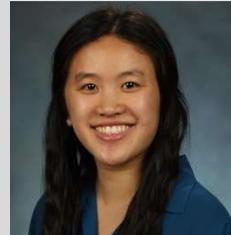
**Tami
Gunderzik**



**Yvonne
Pfeifer**



**Michelle
Swanson**



**Ashley
Haung**

Community Facilitators



**Mike
Holsinger**

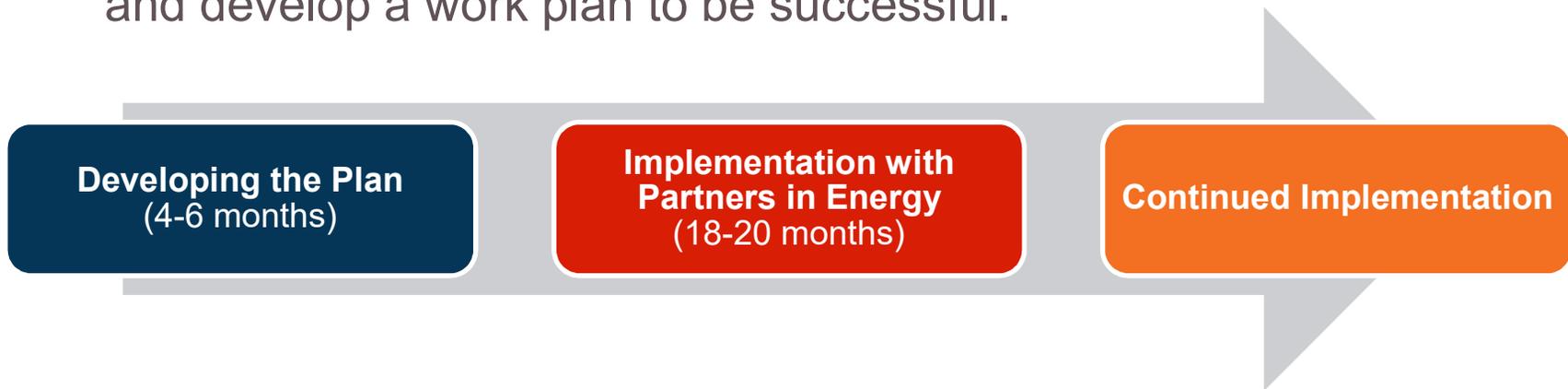


**Brady
Steigauf**

What is Partners in Energy?



- Partners in Energy is a **two-year** collaboration with Xcel Energy to develop and implement your individual community energy plan goals.
- Opportunity to engage stakeholders, create goals and strategies, and develop a work plan to be successful.



Xcel Energy's Goals



- Develop a better understanding of the energy needs of communities we serve
- Better align the services and programs we offer with customer needs to save energy and advance clean energy goals
- Strengthen relationships with the community and support the Xcel Energy philosophy of community engagement

Energy Action Team Roles



- Attend planning workshops
- Contribute to the planning process
(Active participant)
- Represent your organization (Representative)
- Be a critical eye for credibility, transparency, and accuracy
(Critical Thinking)
- Advise City Council (Advisor)
- Be a conduit to your network (Ambassador)

Xcel Energy Team Roles



- Provide facilitation for the Energy Action Plan development
- Gather, process, and share data
- Actively learn more about community's goals and needs
- Provide customized access to Xcel Energy programs & resources
- Provide transition into and support during implementation

Plan Development Steps



Plan Framework



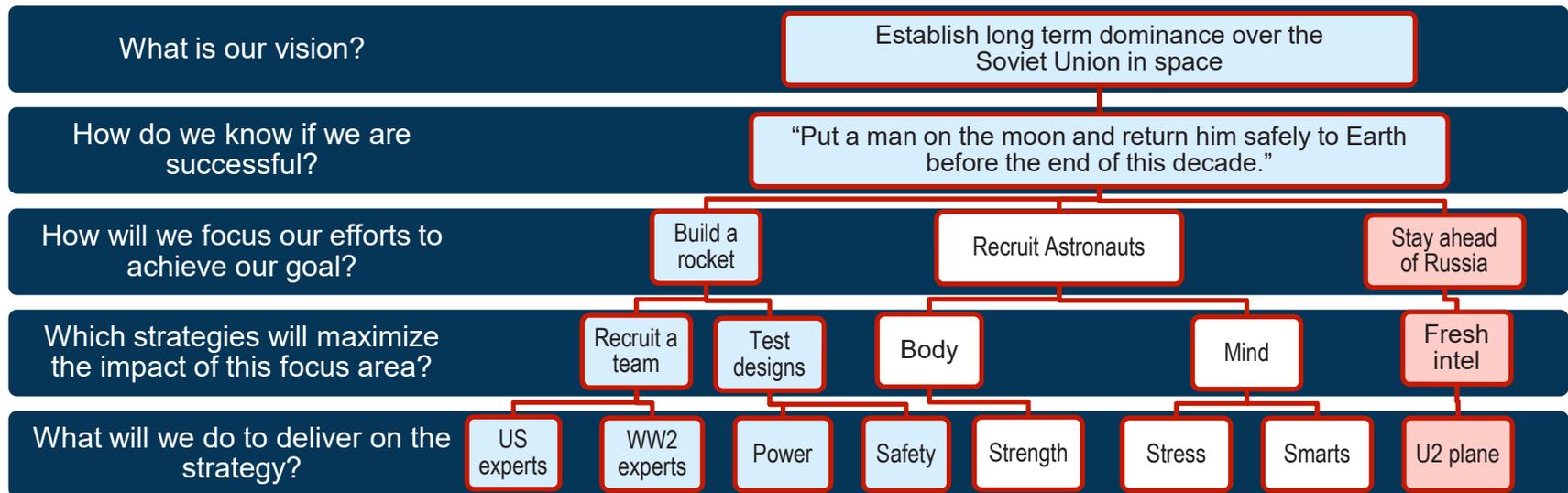


Rice University Speech, September 12, 1962

JFK's Plan



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Planning Timeline



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	August				September				October					November				December				January				February				
	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22
Workshop 1																														
Intro's & Overview																														
Vision & Goal																														
Workshop 2																														
Confirm Vision & Goal																														
Develop Focus Areas																														
Workshop 3																														
Confirm Focus Areas																														
Strategy Exploration																														
Workshop 4																														
Confirm Strategies																														
Brainstorm Tactics																														
Workshop 5																														
Confirm Tactics																														
Review 1st Draft of Plan																														
Plan Development																														

Questions about Partners in Energy



- In terms of the process and my 'personal style,' I appreciate agendas, time for reflection and consultation. My hope is the PIE approach to team functionality will allow for that as well as in-the-moment brainstorming.
- Will we learn about programs that allow residents to reduce barriers to improvements (i.e. rebates, energy assistance, city initiatives to cost match or reduce barriers to participation).
- What is Xcel and CEE's involvement with Golden Valley after this planning process?
- When will we obtain an Xcel Energy/ Partners in Energy account so we can view information that requires a login?
- I would only be critical of the use of dated imagery showing indoor groups which are not part of a responsible promotional video as we navigate a global health pandemic.
- Will this group influence or change policies or operations of Xcel, the city, local businesses, or residents? What is the return for nonprofits who already work on a very thin margin?
- Lower overall energy prices work against conservation returns. How are the plans affected by low energy costs?

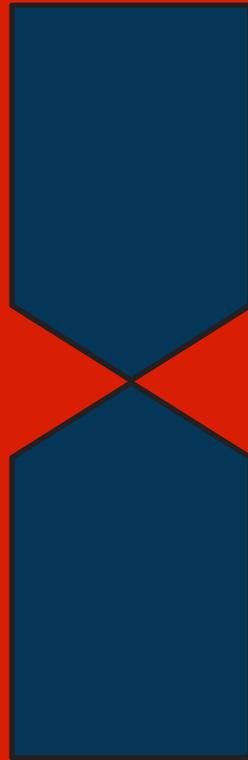
A red banner with a white border and a white arrow pointing to the right. The text is centered in white.

Break
Returning in 10 minutes

10 Minute Break

5 Minutes Left!

2 Minutes Left!





Data Overview

- Demographics
- Energy usage
- Energy Saving Activities

Demographic Data



- Population estimate **21,364** in 2018
- Median age **46.5 years**
 - Older than state average of 37.8, as well as Hopkins, New Hope, Plymouth
- **9,042** households in Golden Valley
- **15%** families with children
- **86%** of Golden Valley residents are white
- **10%** speak a language other than English at home
- **8%** of residents live below the **poverty level**

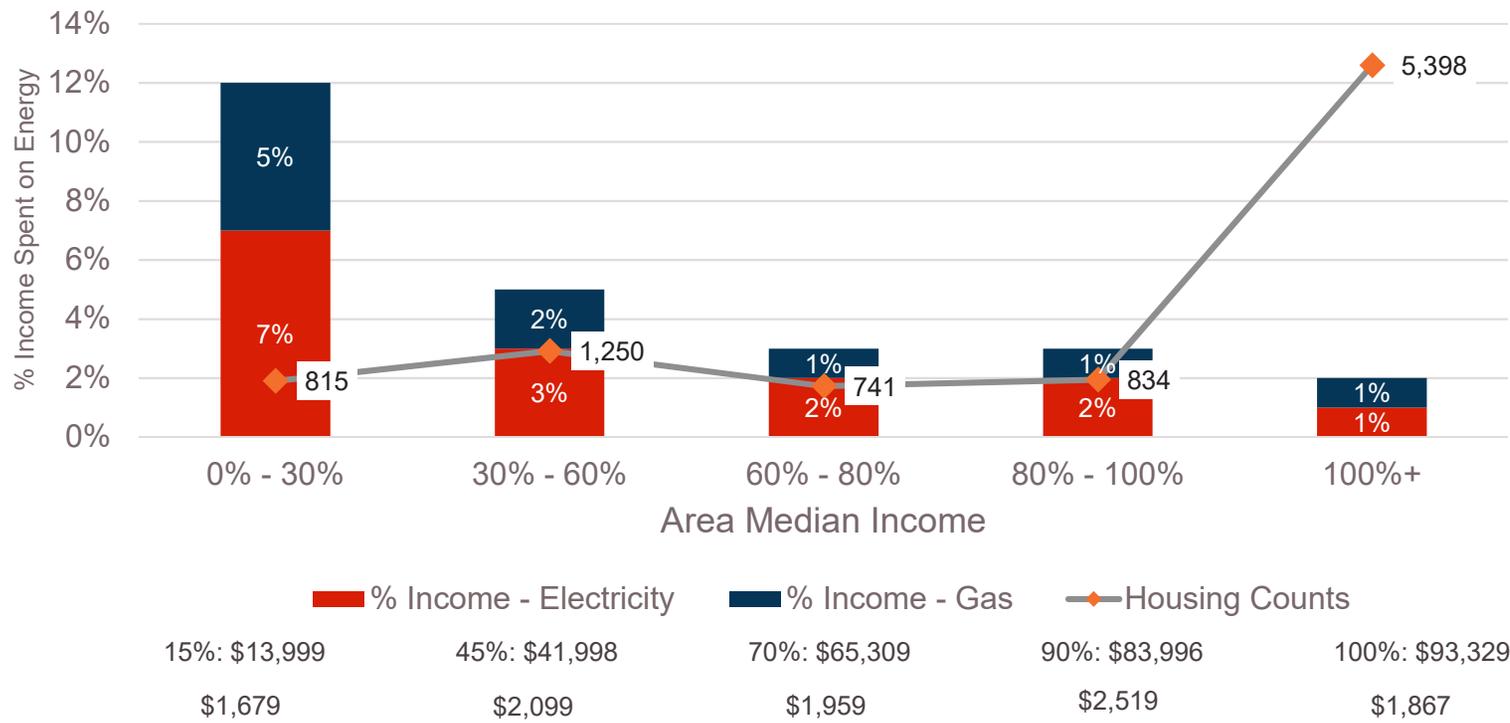
From Metropolitan Council Community Profile Data <https://stats.metc.state.mn.us/profile/>

Demographic Data



- **\$93,329** median income
 - Vs. \$68,411 in Minnesota
- **8%** of residents live below the **poverty level**
 - **Vs. 10.1% in Minnesota**
- Average energy burden is **2%**
 - Residents below 60% of AMI spend **5%** of their income with lowest-income residents spending **12%**

Golden Valley Energy Burden by % Area Median Income



Source: US Census, US Dept. of Energy

Golden Valley Housing Data



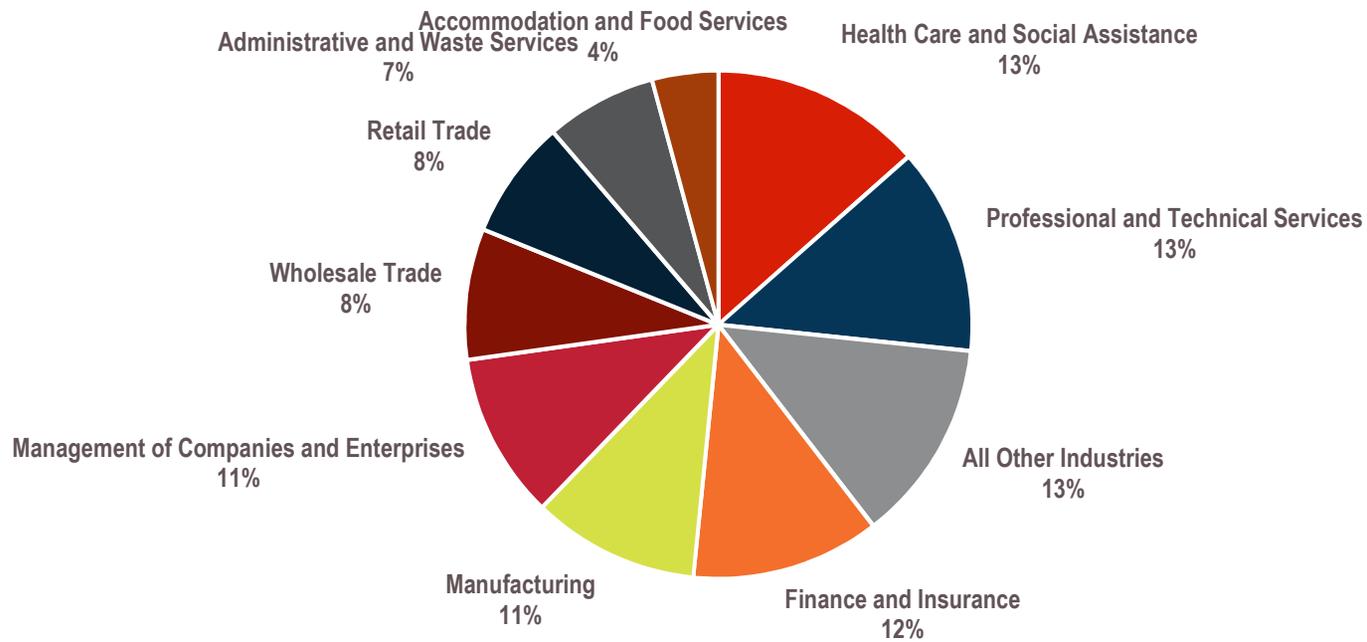
- Housing type and count: **9,540 Units**
 - **68%** single-family detached
 - **9%** single-family attached, duplex, triplex or quad
 - **22%** 5+ unit
- Own/Rent
 - **75%** owner-occupied
 - **25%** renter-occupied

Golden Valley Housing Data



- Median housing value **\$288,700**
- Median gross rent **\$1,231/mo**
- **27%** of households experience housing cost burden
 - Spend more than 30% of their income on mortgage or rent

2019 Golden Valley Employment by Industry



Golden Valley Demographics

- What surprised you?
- Is there a data point we missed?



Energy Data 101



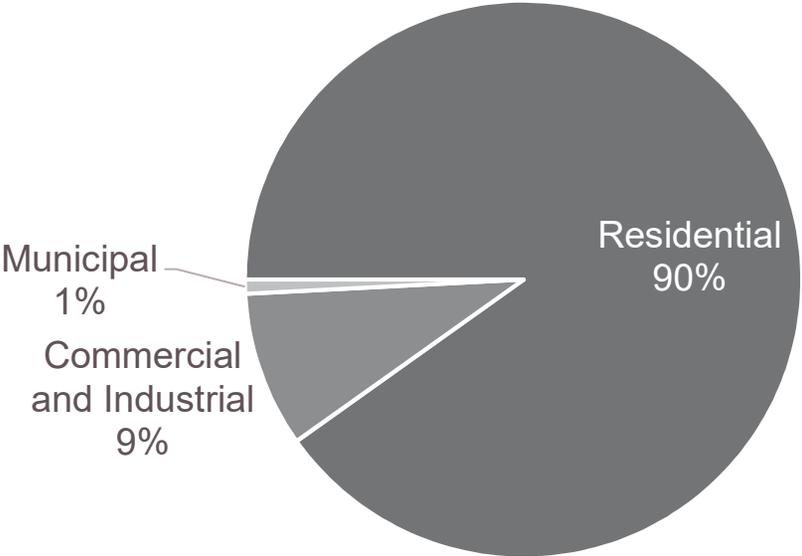
- Both Xcel Energy electric and CenterPoint Energy natural gas data included unless otherwise noted
- 15x15 Data Privacy Rule
 - Must be greater than 15 entities
 - No single entity can account for more than 15 percent of the usage
- Data is pulled for 2017-2019 to provide baseline to measure goals
- Both consumption and savings data provided
- Data are unofficial for planning purposes, and results may change slightly

Energy Data 101



- **Residential:** represents residential premises, including single-family and townhomes
- **Commercial & Industrial:** represents business customers, such as restaurants, gas stations, office buildings, hotels, manufacturing facilities
- **Premise:** Unique identifier for location of service; premise \neq customer
- **Multi-family** properties are metered differently and vary between residential and commercial categorization

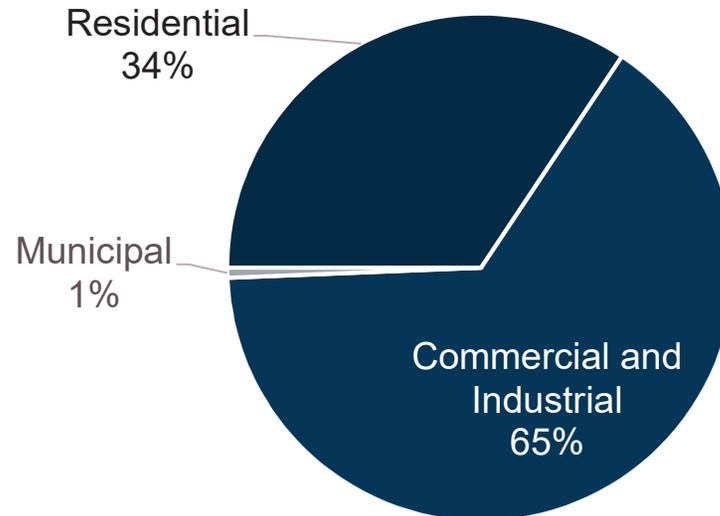
Golden Valley Premise Count



Total Premises: 10,950

Data note: Xcel Energy electric premises only

2019 Energy Consumption (MMBtu)

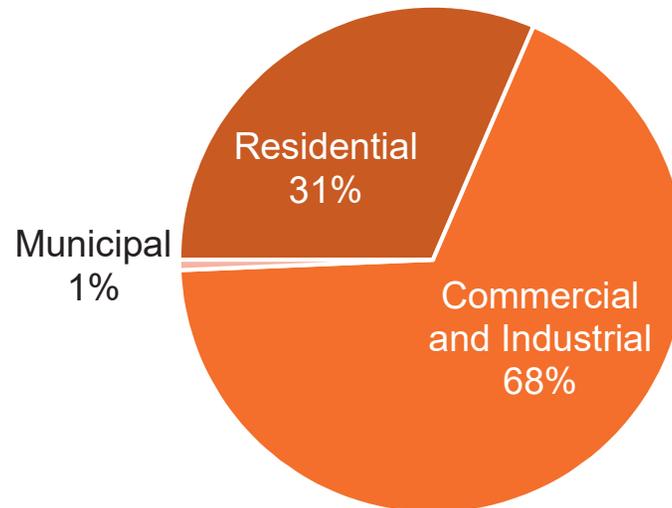


3,299,666 MMBtu
\$49.2 Million

Data note: Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy consumption data

GHG Emissions (MTCO₂)

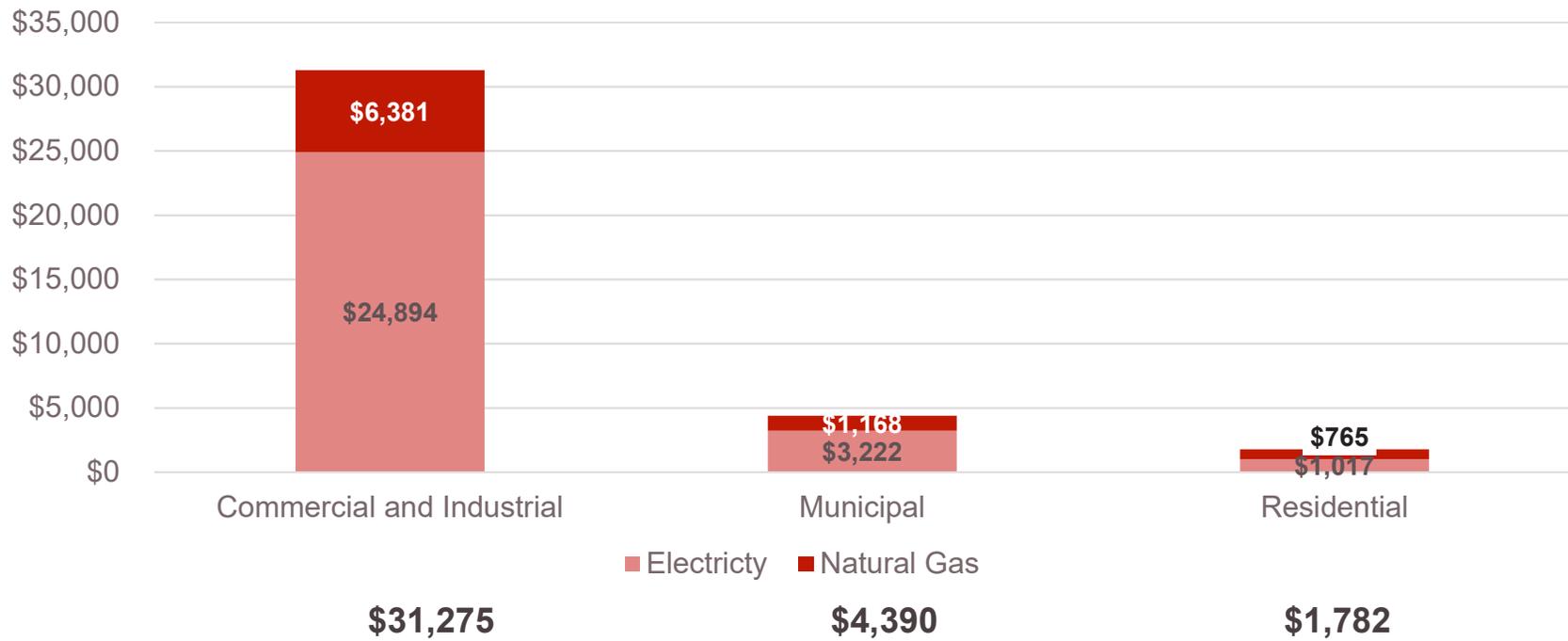
2016 – 2019 average



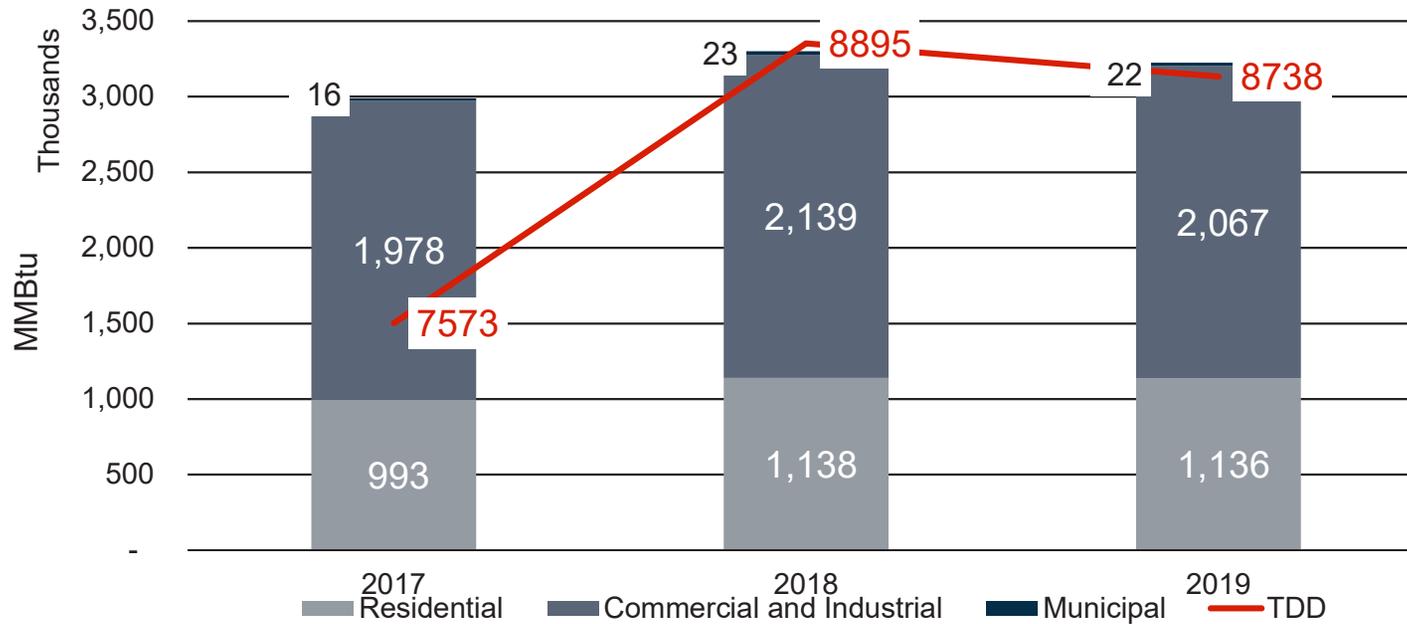
226,090 MTCO₂e

Data note: Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy data

Golden Valley Annual Energy Costs per Premise

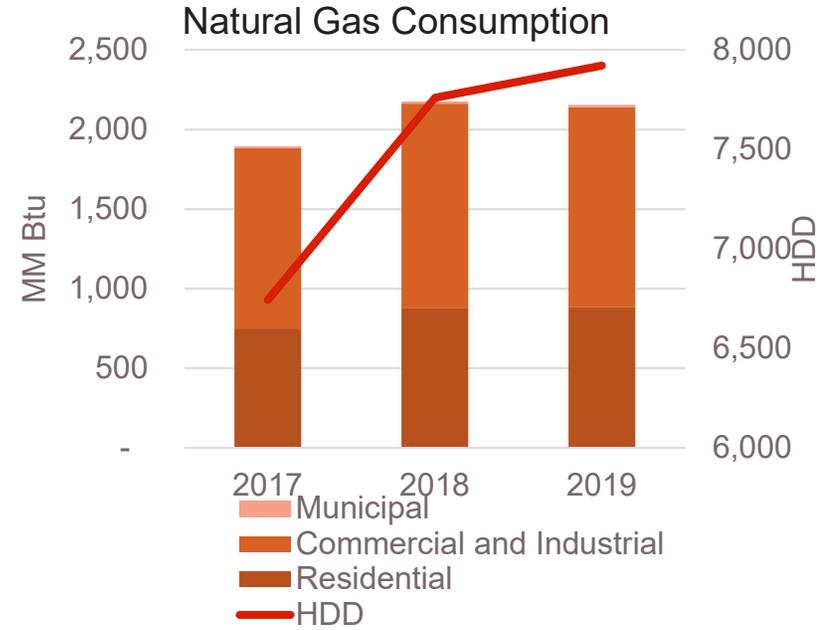
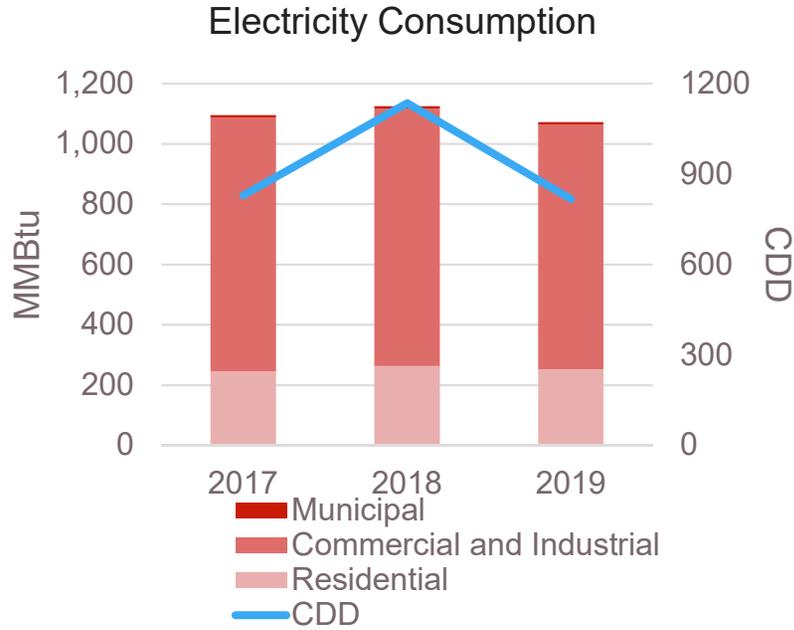


Total Energy Consumption by Premise Type



Data note: Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy consumption data

Consumption by Energy Type by Premise Type



Data note: Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy consumption data

Xcel Energy Residential Program Participation



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3-Year Average Actual kWh Savings

Residential Heating	116,146	Efficient New Home Construction	9,126
Residential Cooling	67,534	Home Energy Savings Program	5,078
Home Energy Squad	52,038	Low-Income Home Energy Squad	2,080
Refrigerator Recycling	47,528	Insulation Rebate	1,867
Multi-Family Energy Savings Program	12,389	Smart Thermostat	964

Xcel Energy Commercial / Industrial Program Participation



3-Year Average Actual kWh Savings

Lighting Efficiency	2,870,039	Data Center Efficiency	452,552
Energy Design Assistance	893,642	Motor Efficiency	345,398
Small Business Lighting	827,721	Fluid System Optimization	281,966
Efficiency Controls	686,558	Custom Efficiency	106,873
Recommissioning	487,853	Cooling	84,234

Renewable Energy Program Participation



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	Residential	Commercial & Industrial
Subscription Programs (Windsor[®] & Renewable*Connect[®])		
Subscriber Count	618	9
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	2,370,272	9,308,023
Percent of Sector Electricity Use	4%	4%
On-Site and Community Solar (Solar*Rewards[®] & Solar*Rewards Community[®])		
Subscriber Count	311	82
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	1,769,920	9,564,511
Percent of Sector Electricity Use	2%	4%
Total Renewable Energy Support		
Subscriber Count	929	91
Total Annual Electricity Subscribed (kWh)	4,140,192	18,872,534
Percent of Sector Electricity Use	6%	8%

Data note: 2019 participation, Xcel Energy programs only, classification done by community facilitators

Energy Data Highlights



- Total energy use has increased over the 3 year baseline
 - Attributed to heating/cooling degree day changes
- Even though Commercial & Industrial sector represent only 9% of premises, they consume 65% of energy used
- Residents spend about \$1,800 on energy/year
- Average Commercial / Industrial premise spends about \$31,000 per year

Residential Program Participation Recap



Five residential programs deliver significant savings

Average Annual Savings (kWh)	
Residential Heating	116,146
Residential Cooling	67,534
Home Energy Squad	52,038
Refrigerator Recycling	47,528
Multi-Family Energy Savings Program	12,389
“Big 5” Average Annual Savings	295,635
% of Total Annual kWh Savings	94%

C/I Program Participation Recap



Six commercial / industrial programs deliver significant savings

Average Annual Savings (kWh)	
Lighting Efficiency	2,870,039
Energy Design Assistance	893,642
Small Business Lighting	827,721
Efficiency Controls	686,558
Recommissioning	487,853
Data Center Efficiency	452,552
“Big 6” Average Annual Savings	6,218,365
% of Total Annual kWh Savings	88%

Data Questions

- What surprised you?
- Do you have lingering questions?

Energy Action Plan Vision



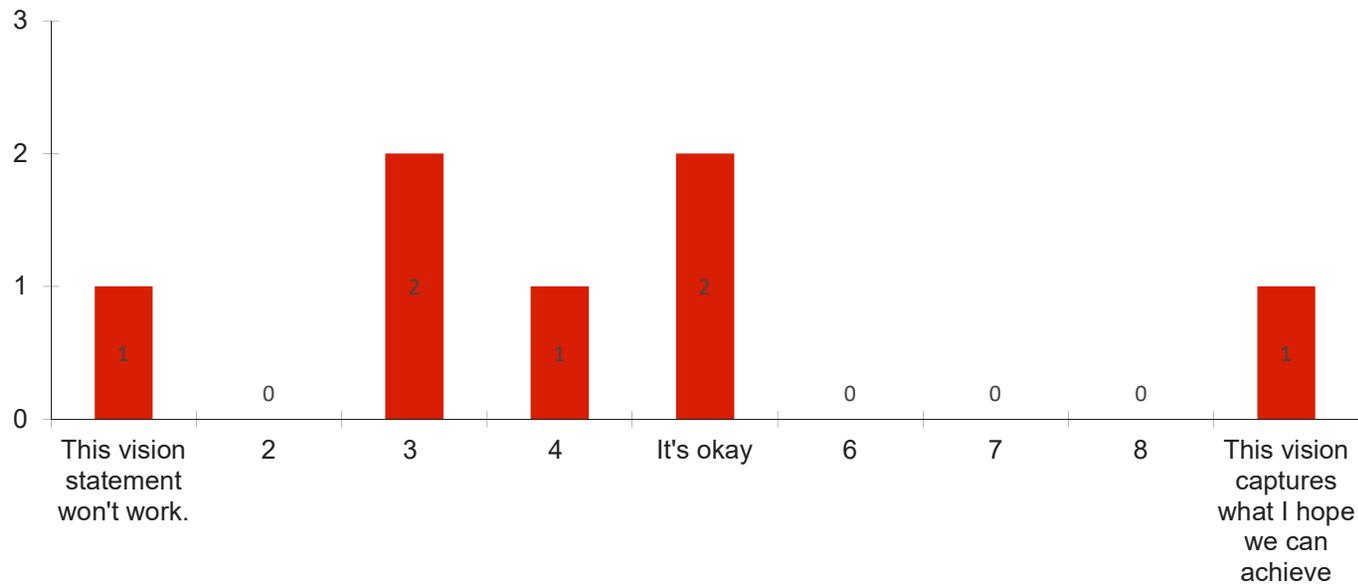
- A few years from now, how will people describe Golden Valley in terms of its use of energy?
- What will have changed?
- How will it compare to other cities?

Draft Vision Statement Tested in Survey



The City of Golden Valley will earn a reputation among peer communities as the place where living is a little bit easier because of smart energy conservation and initiatives that can reduce energy costs for everyone. The Energy Action Plan will make Golden Valley a more sustainable, resilient community by assuring that the benefits of energy efficiency accrue to every resident, business, and visitor.

Vision Feedback



Vision Feedback Detail



Likes	
I like the second half. Sustainable and resilient are not synonyms so having both terms included is a real positive.	A little pie in the sky statement. What is the reality of it? Not really getting the equation of "a little bit easier" and reduced energy costs.
The last sentence stating that the plan will create more sustainability & resiliency for all.	I think we can improve upon the phrase: "...living is a little bit easier..."
Initiatives that reduce energy costs for everyone	The second sentence is, in my opinion, perfect on its own.
It captures the essence of the PIE effort.	The second sentence is very clear
It seems to accentuate the positive aspects of conserving energy.	I like that it is all inclusive to everyone.
Vision, values, future	ranking/status among peers; smart energy conservation; \$ saving; equitable impact on community members

Vision Feedback Detail



What's Missing?	
I really dislike the focus on <u>peer communities</u> . This process is not about Robbinsdale or St. Louis Park, its about Golden Valley.It is not a competition, its a common good. The PIE video even talked about learning from other communities.	Conservation will not get us where we need to be in alignment with the worlds scientific evidence. <u>Goals</u> and implementation of renewable energies and a conscious move away from fossil fuel consumption needs to be the focus.
It does not discuss the beneficial aspects of using renewable wind and solar or increased use of EVs in place of internal combustion engine cars.	Who informs the plans/vision? Will safety or health be impacted? What is the timeframe? I really like the vision statement...these are just a few thoughts.
Connection to climate and environmental resources. Conservation of energy will help the planet.	It focuses too much on the <u>city's reputation with other cities</u> and not enough on the benefits to residents and businesses.
<u>More definite & measurable</u> terminology and less terms like "a little bit", "smart" & "that can".	<u>Not real specific</u> . When I read this, I'm not sure what the actual plan is? But I guess that's why they call it a vision.
Passion: A Call to Action! The success of the PIE effort will depend on individual and institutional commitments practiced every day.	something about..."become a leader in energy initiatives that help reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life for all." big initiatives: renewable energy production EV adoption efficient buildings
I think it is missing <u>goals that are measurable</u> .	Not missing but I do think the first sentence is extra and not needed

Revised Vision Statement?



The Energy Action Plan will make Golden Valley a more sustainable, resilient community by assuring that the benefits of energy efficiency accrue to every resident, business, and visitor.



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Follow – Ups from Workshop 1

August 27, 2020

Contents



- “Professional & Technical Services”
 - Where are Electricians, Plumbers, etc.
- Age of residences
 - Portion of Golden Valley homes built over 30 years ago
- Length of home ownership
- Average home size
- Renewables
 - Commercial / Industrial
 - Residential
- Golden Valley residents’ age distribution vs. neighboring cities
- Golden Valley’s largest employers
- A correction



Which occupations are included in “Professional & Technical Services”?



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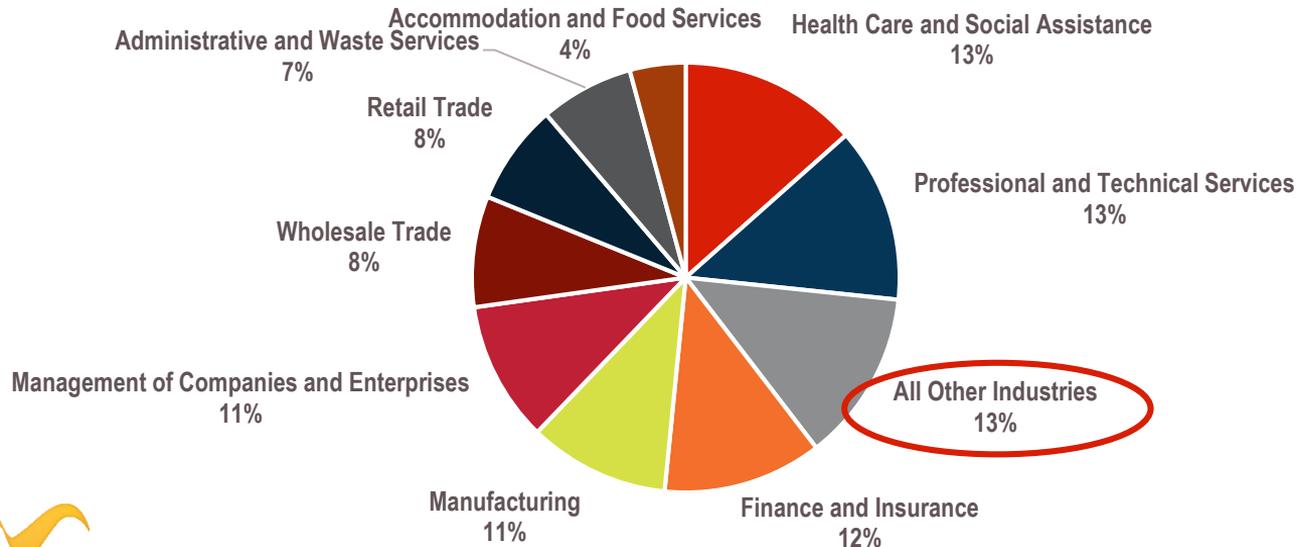
The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector comprises establishments that specialize in performing professional, scientific, and technical activities for others. These activities require a high degree of expertise and training. ... Activities performed include: legal advice and representation; accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll services; architectural, engineering, and specialized design services; computer services; consulting services; research services; advertising services; photographic services; translation and interpretation services; veterinary services; and other professional, scientific, and technical services.

What about electricians, plumbers, etc.



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- Occupations are located in “Construction” category
- Included in “All other industries” in Golden Valley chart.

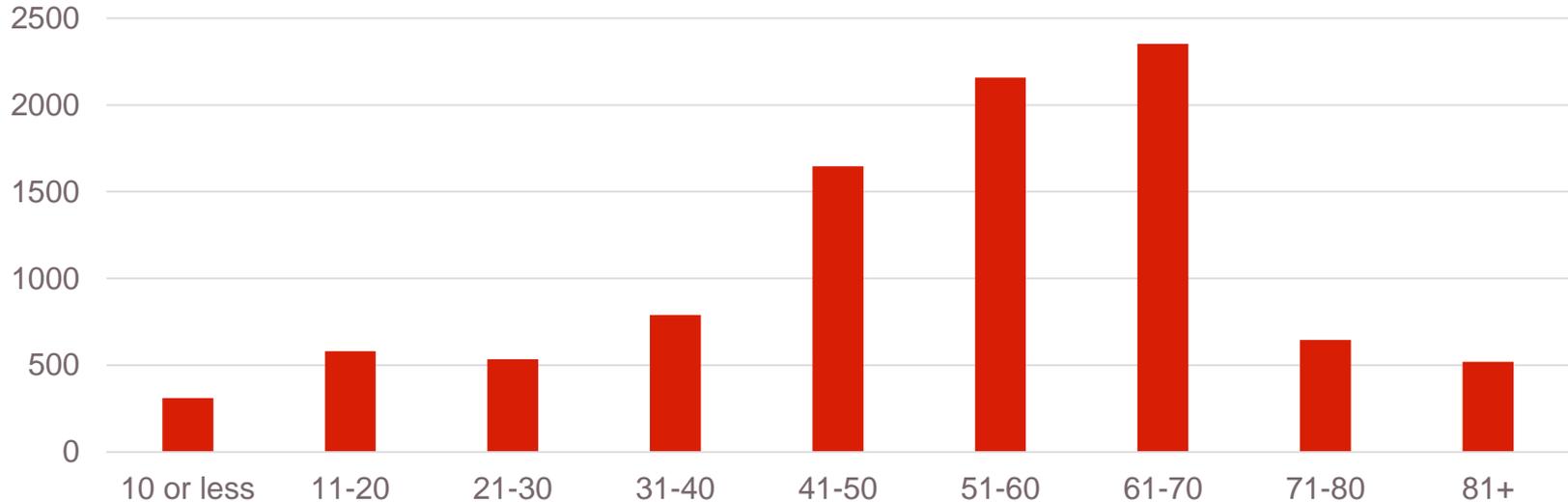


Age of residences



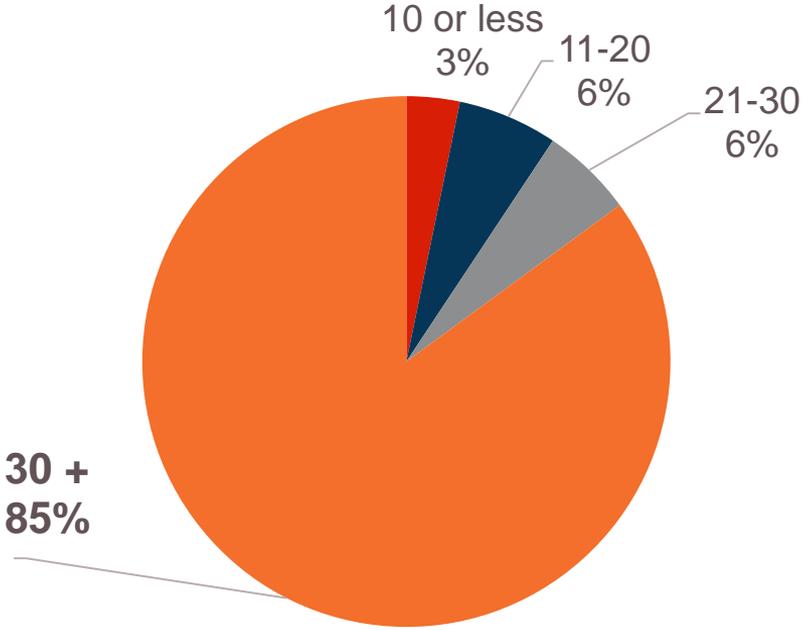
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Age of Homes in Golden Valley



Average residence age

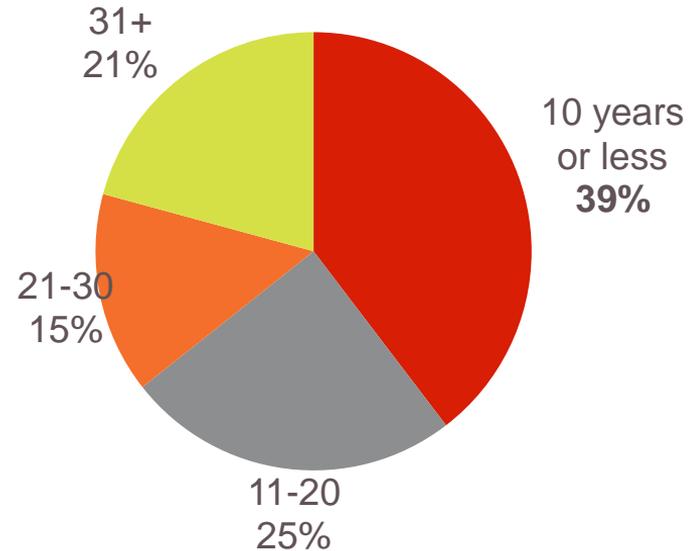
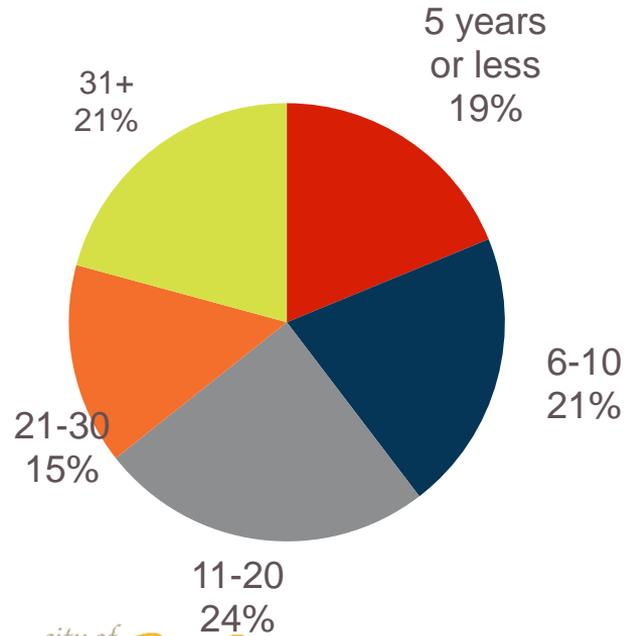
Age of Homes in Golden Valley



Average Length of Ownership



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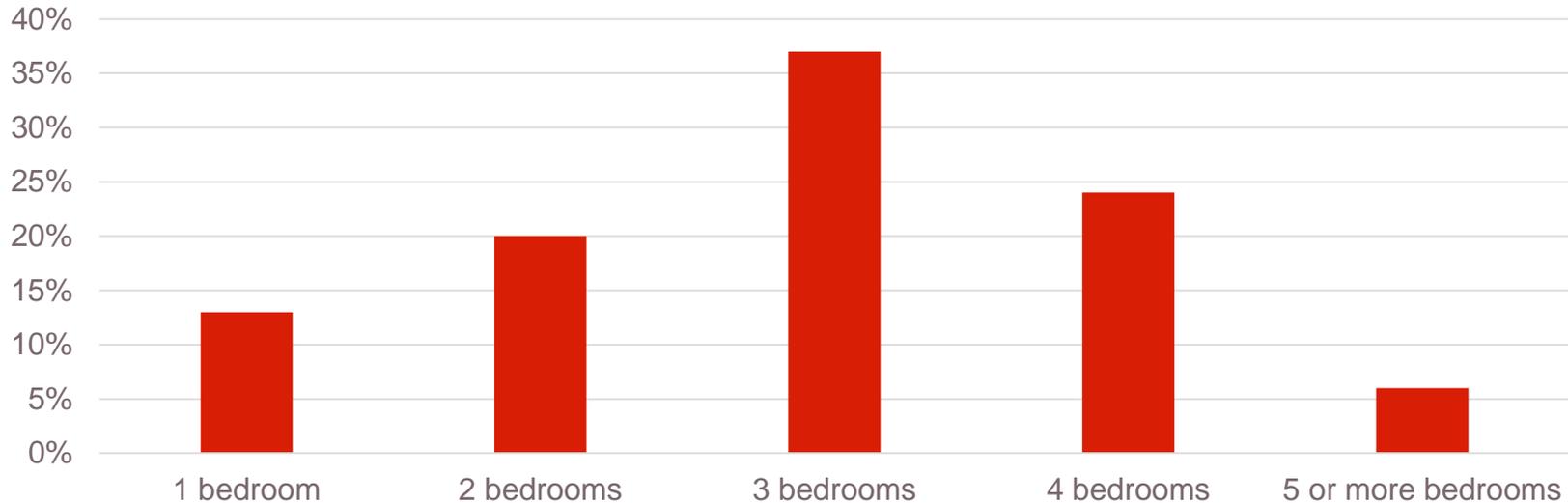


Average home size (# of bedrooms)



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Homes by number of bedrooms in Golden Valley



Renewables: Golden Valley vs. Neighbors



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Commercial / Industrial Renewables: Subscribers and kWh subscribed



PiE Communities > 1MM kWh Commercial / Industrial renewables annually

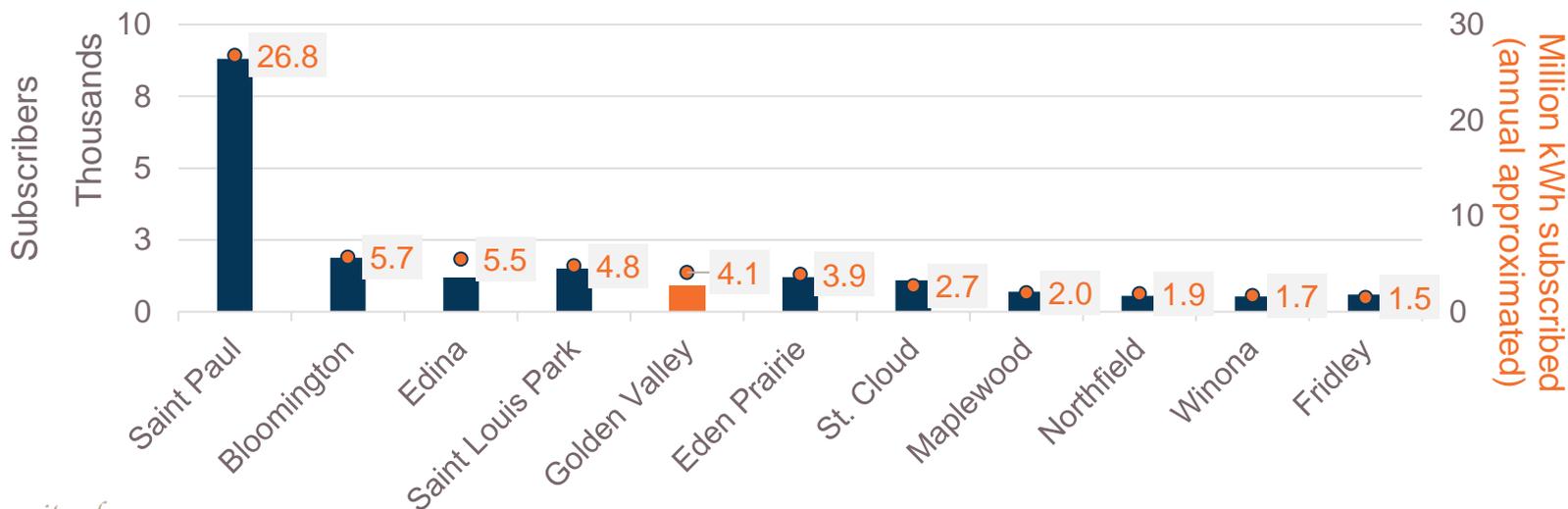
Xcel Energy data

Renewables: Golden Valley vs. Neighbors



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Residential Renewables: Subscribers and kWh subscribed



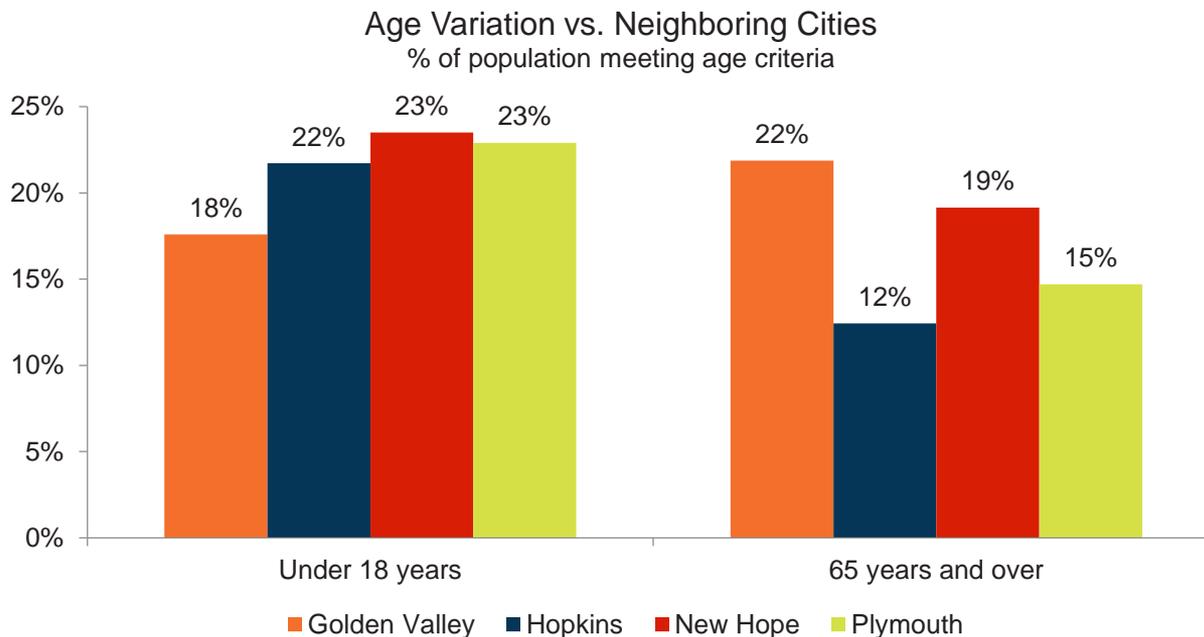
PiE Communities > 1MM kWh Residential renewables annually

Xcel Energy data

Golden Valley: Older than its neighbors



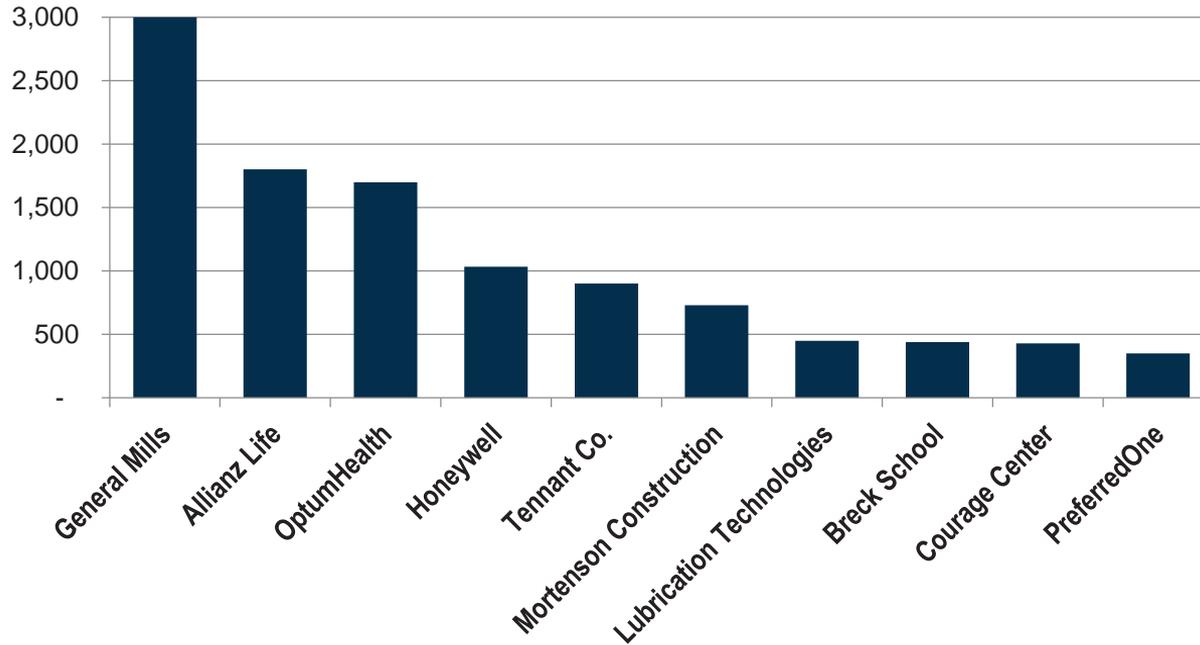
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Golden Valley's Largest Employers



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A correction



22% of Golden Valley households have children under 18





MEMORANDUM

Physical Development Department

763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: September 23, 2020

To: Environmental Commission

From: Drew Chirpich, Environmental Specialist

Subject: GreenStep Cities- Best Practice 13.2

Golden Valley entered the GreenStep Cities program in April 2016 and was recognized as a “Step 4” city on May 31st 2019. Each best practice encompasses a variety of actions a city may take in order to complete it.

The City recently purchased a 2020 Hybrid Ford Explorer, to help increase the efficiency of its fleet.



The police and fire departments purchased the first of its kind hybrid vehicle to test the usage, performance, miles per gallon (mpg), and costs over time. It will be driven by the rotating duty officer which will allow it to gain the highest amount of miles in the fleet annually. The hybrid model has a better average mpg than the non-hybrid AWD Explorer (23 mpg combined city/hwy vs hybrid 25 mpg).

This purchase should qualify as Best Practice 13.2 for the GreenStep Cities Program.

Please review this action for the September Commission meeting. After brief discussion, staff requests that the Commission consider making a motion to approve this for entry into the GreenStep Cities website.

Attachments:

GreenStep City Best Practices: Transportation

Efficient City Fleets {BP No. 13}

Implement a city fleet investment, operations and maintenance plan.

Best Practice Actions

1. **Efficiently use your existing fleet** of city vehicles by encouraging trip bundling, video conferencing, carpooling, vehicle sharing and incentives/technology.
2. **Right-size/down-size** the city fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles that are of an optimal size and capacity for their intended functions.
3. Phase-in **operational changes, equipment changes including electric vehicles**, and no-idling practices for city or local transit fleets.
4. Phase in **bike, e-bike, foot or horseback** modes for police, inspectors and other city staff.
5. Document that the local **school bus fleet** has optimized routes, start times, boundaries, vehicle efficiency and fuels, driver actions to cut costs including idling reduction, and shifting students from the bus to walking, biking and city transit.
6. Retrofit **city diesel engines** or install auxiliary power units and/or electrified parking spaces, utilizing Project GreenFleet or the like.



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

Date: September 25, 2020
To: Environmental Commission
From: Eric Eckman, Environmental Resources Supervisor
Subject: Density Bonuses in Medium Density (R-3) Zoning District

At its August 24 meeting, the Planning Commission requested the Environmental Commission review the City's proposed R-3 density bonuses and assist in developing a policy document that will more specifically outline and detail the allowable density bonuses based on certain environmental performance standards. The R-3 zoning district typically includes medium density housing (townhomes, apartments & condominiums, senior housing) up to 10 units per acre.

For context, the allowed densities in the [R-3 zoning district](#) are being updated to align with the land uses in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The current code language provides density bonuses of 1-2 units per acre if certain conditions are met, including providing underground parking, locating along a high frequency transit line, and construction of recreational amenities within the development. In order to update these bonuses, the Commission looked to the goals and priorities included in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan – mostly around energy efficiency and sustainability.

What you'll see below are the topics the Planning Commission voted to approve, along with draft language that was mostly pulled from the [PUD Amenity Options](#) in city code. Ultimately, the Planning Commission decided to leave the details of each topic to be worked out in a separate policy document so they can be updated more easily as technologies and standards change over time. The Planning Commission requested the Environmental Commission review the language below and assist in developing a policy document that can be approved by City Council in 2020.

Density Bonus. Multifamily buildings shall be eligible for a density bonus of up to an additional three units per acre and senior and physical disability housing shall be eligible for a density bonus of up to an additional five units per acre, provided the corresponding conditions are met:

(1) *Underground Parking.* The provision of one or more underground parking stalls per dwelling unit shall increase the maximum allowable density by two units per acre.

(2) *Green Certified Buildings*. Buildings that achieve LEED Platinum certification by a LEED accredited professional shall increase the maximum allowable density by two units per acre. Buildings that achieve LEED Gold certification by a LEED accredited professional shall increase the maximum allowable density by one unit per acre.

(3) *Renewable Energy*. Use of a photovoltaic or wind electrical system, solar thermal system, and/or a geothermal heating and cooling system for at least 50 percent of the annual energy demand shall increase the maximum allowable density by two units per acre.

(4) *Microgrids*. Construction of microgrid infrastructure that contributes efficiency, security, and back-up power to a local system shall increase the maximum allowable density by two units per acre.

(5) *Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*. An electric vehicle charging station accessible to residents, employees, and/or the public providing connections at the rate of five percent of the required parking spaces shall increase the maximum allowable density by one unit per acre.

(6) *Stormwater Facilities*. Above ground, multi-benefit green infrastructure designed to enhance water quality and reduce stormwater runoff rates, volumes, and nutrient loads beyond what is required by the City and Watershed shall increase the maximum allowable density by one unit per acre. The design must serve as a visual amenity to the property and be reflective of innovative techniques.

Planning Commissioners and Planning staff added some notes and questions raised on each topic:

- Underground parking – What is the right ratio of underground parking to surface parking needed to qualify for a bonus?
- Green certified buildings – Should the bonus be reserved for Platinum level (or the equivalent) and not for the Gold level, as that may be too easy to achieve? Are there other types of certifications that should be considered?
- Renewable energy – Is the 50% of annual energy threshold the right one?
- Microgrids – There were a number of questions around this topic, including how to measure it.
- Electric vehicle charging stations – Commissioners wanted to encourage quick charge vs. slow charge stations and to be sure they were available for public use (not just for the tenants). Also, they wanted to be sure enough were required above and beyond what a developer might be planning to install anyway.

- Stormwater facilities – There were questions around how to measure this and what a qualifying design might look like.
- There are other questions that need to be asked and thought through as well, including how many units/acre are the conditions and performance standards worth? The thought is that each may be worth 1, 2, or 3 units per acre and they can be mixed and matched and layered to add up to the maximum allowable density.

Commissioners are asked to read through the draft language and come to the meeting with questions, comments, and thoughts on specific performance standards and corresponding density bonuses. Input from this meeting will be used to draft a policy document that will be reviewed by the Environmental Commission at a future meeting, and forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council for final consideration and approval.

PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES – September 2020

GREENCORPS

Member for 2020-2021 service term – The City has been informed that they have been selected to host a GreenCorps member for the upcoming 2020-2021 service term and a member has accepted the position with Golden Valley. The member will be in the Air Pollution Reduction track and will work on many of the City's sustainability and energy reduction goals.

RECYCLING

Hennepin County SCORE funds- The City was recently informed that the County will be extending its existing funding agreement with cities to assist with their Recycling programs. The current allocation of funds is distributed 50% for recycling programs and 50% for organics programs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania Woods DNR Habitat Grant – The City recently received confirmation that it was selected to receive a habitat grant for areas of the Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area that are outside of the DeCola Ponds B and C Flood Mitigation project boundaries. The project will involve the removal of buckthorn and other invasive species, and the planting and establishment of native vegetation. The contract has been awarded to Landbridge Ecological, and the project is expected to commence late fall 2020.

Pollinator Plots – The City recently sent out a request for quotes to install two new pollinator plots along Douglas Drive on parcels currently being mowed as turf grass. Staff is currently reviewing the quotes and will notify the apparent lowest responsible bidder in the coming weeks. Staff anticipates these pollinator plots being installed this fall with residual work next spring.

Pollinator Signs - The GV Garden Club is selling yard signs to show we all care about pollinators. See the attachment to find out how to get your sign and to learn simple steps for helping pollinators. Signs will be available for sale at the GV Farmer's Market (9 am - 1 pm) the next two Sundays (September 27 and October 4). Also available - "Simple Steps" information resources table/display. Thank you from the Golden Valley Garden Club and People for Pollinators Golden Valley!

WATER RESOURCES

DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Projects - The DeCola Ponds B and C Project is complete with the exception of ongoing native vegetation establishment over the next few growing seasons.

The City and Bassett Creek Watershed are beginning to plan and study the next flood mitigation project areas. The SEA School-Wildwood Park area has been identified as having potential for flood storage to benefit properties around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F. A planning level study to understand opportunities and challenges and develop concepts is underway and includes engagement with the community, the school, and nearby stakeholders. The Isaacson Park/Industrial Area is also being looked at for potential future flood storage. The DNR is supportive of the projects in Golden Valley and has requested flood damage reduction funding in the 2020 state bonding bill this legislative session. It is still unclear whether a bonding bill will move forward this fall.

Below is a link to a community engagement opportunity to review the concept plans developed for the SEA School-Wildwood Park area based on input provided by residents and stakeholders.

<http://goldenvalleymn.gov/stormwater/projects/2020/sea-school.php>

Share Your Thoughts On The SEA School–Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Study Planning–Level Concepts

POSTED September 17, 2020

After gathering feedback from the SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Study virtual open house in June 2020, the City created three concept plans for potential flood storage in the SEA School/Wildwood Park area. Now residents are asked to share feedback on the concepts.



Watch the video above and share questions, concerns, or general feedback [here](#) by Oct 2, 2020. All submitted feedback will be used to inform and refine the concept plans.

To learn more, visit the [SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project web page](#).

Medley Park Stormwater Improvement Study

The Bassett Creek Watershed in partnership with the City of Golden Valley is engaging in a feasibility study to look at options for providing water quality treatment and flood storage in the western portion of Medley Park to benefit the local area and protect and improve downstream waters such as Medicine Lake. The study will include community engagement to better understand existing conditions, issues, and needs and help develop concept plans for consideration this winter. Look for an opportunity to engage in a virtual open house in the coming weeks.

MS4 Stormwater Permit – MPCA announced this week that it plans to release the new 5-year municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit in November. Cities will have about a year to update ordinances, plans, policies, and procedures to maintain compliance with the state permit requirements. If you have questions or comments about the City's stormwater program, please email Drew Chirpich at dchirpich@goldenvalleymn.gov.

CLIMATE ACTION

Hennepin County Climate Action Plan – In late summer, Hennepin County staff hosted another listening session with partner entities like cities, watersheds, and park boards and provided a stakeholder survey for additional input. Slides from the meeting are attached. County staff took the information from its internal and external meetings this spring and summer to continue the development of its climate action plan. On September 24, Hennepin County staff briefed the County Board on its proposed goals and strategies and received input and direction from County Board members on how these strategies can translate into budget priorities and investments. Look for more information by the end of 2020.

Pollinator Signs Attachment

Most flowering plants need pollinators, which include bees, butterflies, moths and birds. Unfortunately, pollinators are under pressure from diseases, destruction of habitat, and overuse of chemicals.

You can help! It's easy! At GVGardenClub.com, learn some simple steps you can take that will have a big impact. Celebrate every step you take, and encourage your neighbors to join in.

To recognize your efforts, you can buy and display a "Simple Steps" yard sign for only \$5.

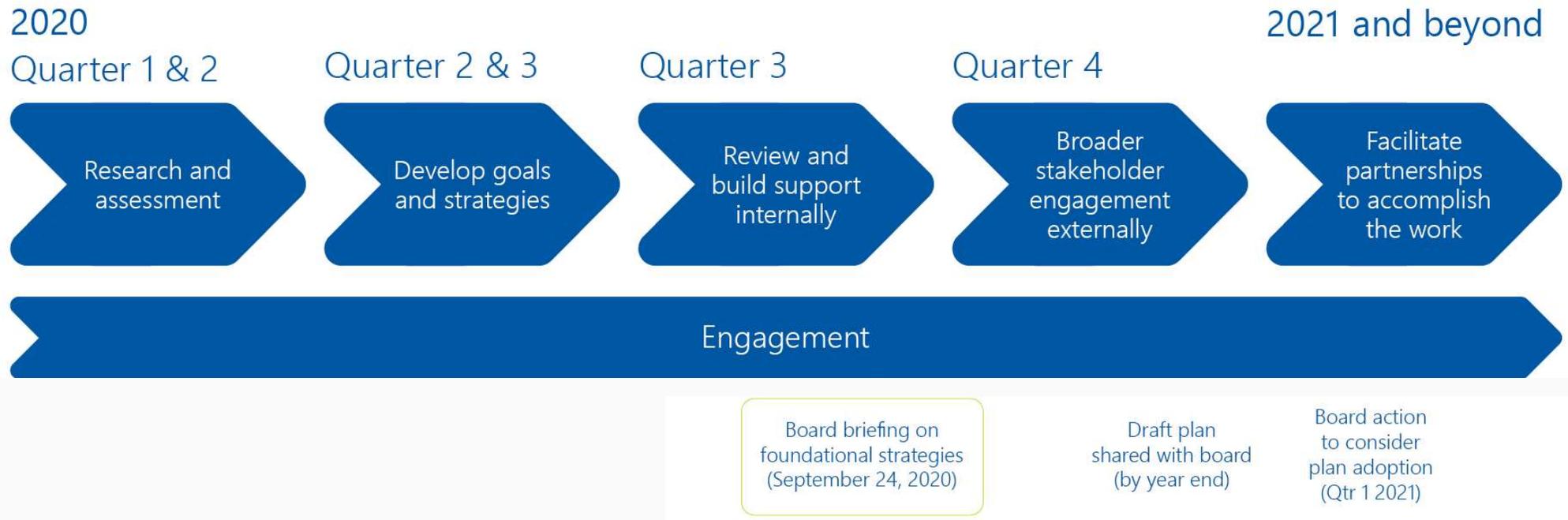


Signs will be available at the Golden Valley Farmer's Market on Sept. 27 and Oct. 4. You can also pick up signs from Jeanne (612-590-1938) at 1437 Orkla Drive, or Barb (763-544-0897) at 6916 Winsdale St. Just call ahead to make sure someone is home.

Agenda

- Provide an update on the county's climate action planning
- Review and discuss proposed strategies focused on external partnership and greater coordination
- Wrap up and outline next steps

Climate planning timeline



Developing climate strategies

Climate action teams developed strategies in the following categories:

- Protect people and reduce racial disparities
- Emissions reduction
- Adaptation and resiliency
- Leading by example in county operations
- **Partnership and advocacy**

For each set of strategies, please share:

- In what ways do these strategies align strongly with your organization's priorities for partnership?
- Are there ways in which these strategies do not align with your priorities for partnership?
- What other strategies do you want to see the county pursue in support of partnership and greater coordination?

Foster long-term, integrated planning

- Jointly collect and analyze data to track evolving climate vulnerabilities and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Explore partnership models driven by mutual and regionally beneficial climate goals.
- Develop and include a climate analysis framework with a lens on health and racial equity.
- Plan for resilient and sustainable buildings and infrastructure.
- Engage a broad range of stakeholders - public partners, businesses, community organizations, employees, and residents, especially those who will be most impacted by climate change – in understanding the impacts and developing solutions.

Reduce vehicle
emissions and
align
transportation
activities with
climate-friendly
community
design



- Reduce travel delays through Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS).
- Promote EV infrastructure regionally by working with electrical utilities to install EV charging stations.
- Support increased and more efficient transit usage of county roadways.
- Continue to partner and advocate for the buildout of transit (and TOD), bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
- Reassess flexible work schedules and facilitate telecommuting for employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Reduce flooding and manage stormwater

- Coordinate regional stormwater resiliency efforts.
- Build stormwater facilities within county right of way as part of capital-improvement projects in opportunistic ways that share costs when achieving both county and city water management goals.
- Dedicate land at time of plat review for climate change mitigation and stormwater facilities.
- Coordinate climate change response actions with partners, avoid exacerbating water quality degradation downstream.
- Seek opportunities for managed retreat in areas most vulnerable to flash flooding e.g. finding opportunity zones with Hennepin County's tax forfeiture group, city economic development authorities, and local watersheds.

Influencing land use

- Use land use planning strategies to expand the use of green infrastructure, minimize impervious surfaces, and lower overall vehicle miles traveled.
- Consider resiliency and climate change mitigation when determining the highest and best use of areas zoned for development or re-development; use creative zoning, ordinance, taxing, and incentive structures to protect and retain values of natural and open areas, like flood storage.
- Expand collaboration on natural resource preservation and habitat improvement using conservation easements and restoration projects.
- Plant more trees and native plants and promote agricultural best management practices to manage stormwater, improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, and expand carbon sequestration.

Transition to renewable energy sources and decrease energy usage overall

- Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from new buildings throughout the county.
- Become more engaged in developing state Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) benchmarks and strategies, adopting state building code standards, especially in supporting regional initiatives.
- Coordinate efforts to achieve minimum energy performance targets for new construction and major renovations on both public and private properties.
- Coordinate equitable access to energy-efficiency and renewable energy resources, incentives, outreach, and other tools for residents and businesses.

Mitigate the
climate impacts of
the materials we
consume and
how we manage
waste

- Prevent food waste and diverting organic material from the trash.
- Divert construction and demolition waste for reuse or recycling instead.
- Evaluate sustainable purchasing best practices and provide guidance on how to reduce climate impacts with all purchases.
- Use Life Cycle Analysis for selecting climate-friendly building materials and furnishings.
- Increase the use of compost to sequester carbon, regenerate soils, manage stormwater and close the loop with organics recycling.

Educate and
engage the public
in taking
collective action

- Clearly communicate climate risks and vulnerabilities.
- Understand our residents' attitudes barriers and motivation toward taking action to address climate change and develop effective programs, messages, and outreach efforts to support collective action.

Use the county's legislative platform to raise a collective voice for climate policy at the state and federal level

- Support legislation and policies to further county goals of mitigating the impacts of climate change, protecting and enhancing natural environments, and promoting sustainability in county operations.

Wrapping up the discussion

- Are we moving in the right direction?
 - Overall, do the strategies proposed meet your expectations for the county's response to climate change?

Next steps

- Take the survey by Sept 9
 - Summary of survey feedback and discussion today will be shared back
- Board briefing September 24
- Conduct broader stakeholder engagement externally
- Continue to refine strategies based on feedback received
- Draft plan document and prepare to share with commissioners by year end