

Leveraging Community Engagement for Energy Planning

By: Shelby Sommer, AICP, LEED AP

More and more communities are realizing energy planning plays a critical role in helping them reach their economic, environmental, and social goals. The benefits of wise energy choices are diverse. By working with residents, businesses, and government facilities, a community can shave dollars off utility bills, promote renewable energy options, drive resource conservation, and ultimately affect progress toward greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Partners in Energy helps communities navigate the process of identifying local energy priorities and then structures a path of action that leverages all resources available. The collaboration between Xcel Energy and participating communities is pioneering in that it provides new opportunities for utilities and communities to explore goals and create custom plans with robust strategies to achieve them. The collaboration is especially unique because it includes support for developing an Energy Action Plan as well as dedicated resources and support for implementing the strategies outlined.



During the planning phase, Xcel Energy provides baseline energy data specific to each community to help identify priority energy focus areas around which the community can organize their action strategies and resources. These data are also used to help quantify potential impacts from community efforts to help level-set on realistic expectations while encouraging progress toward aspirational goals. During implementation each community builds on its individual strengths and resources, as well as those provided by Xcel Energy and other participating utilities, to optimize participation and impacts. Example community efforts include creative ideas like organization, neighborhood, or congregation challenges; educational events and workshops;

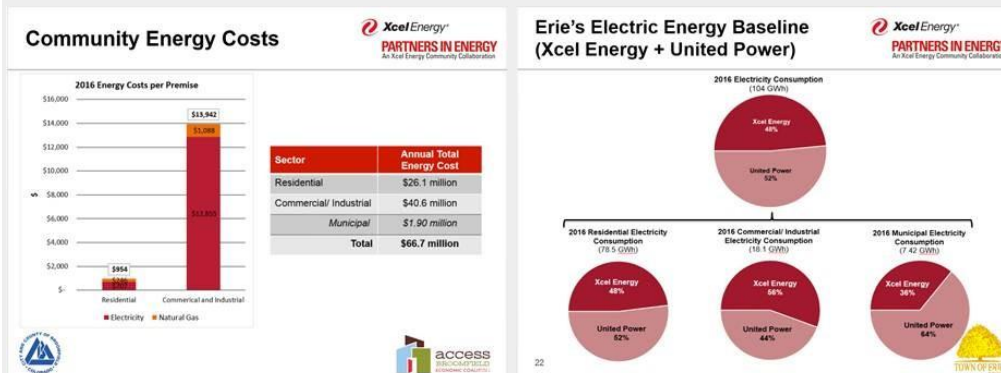
sustainable business programs; public recognition; extra incentive offerings, and media campaigns. And through the offering's peer-to-peer exchange network shared learnings can inform implementation activities. Communities can leverage experiences from around the state to learn what efforts are working, what strategies are motivating behavior changes, and how to overcome barriers and challenges. Xcel Energy welcomes support from other utilities and organizations that may be in the area to actively engage participants. For example, Garfield County is collaborating with two other utilities, Garfield Clean Energy, and additional community organizations to maximize their outreach and



energy efficiency successes.

Partners in Energy is a different way of thinking about engagement that builds lasting relationships with local governments and community members and a broader platform for educating customers about programs available for using less electricity and natural gas or more renewable energy sources. It also offers communities a path for collaboration with its utilities and its constituents in a way that resonates broadly and has much greater and longer-term impact to meet increasingly ambitious energy goals. By bringing a variety of stakeholders to the table, Xcel Energy Partners in Energy offers insight into untapped local ideas, resources, and capacity for action that can be combined with existing efforts and initiatives for a more strategic approach to energy efficiency and renewable energy, which results in much greater impact and long-term capacity development.

This unique program has enabled strategic, community focused energy planning in more than 14 communities across Colorado. Communities in Xcel Energy's service territory interested in participating are encouraged to contact partnersinenergy@xcelenergy.com or call 1-800-369-4362 to learn more.





2018 E3 SUMMIT

February 22nd, Civic Center Community Room, 6:00 p.m.

E3, Energy Efficient Englewood, is our community's approach to saving energy in municipal facilities, homes, and businesses. Efforts at the City are saving tax dollars and efforts by residents and businesses equal bottom line energy and money savings. Come learn about what the E3 teams have been up to in 2017, where we're headed in 2018, and how you can help.

When: Thursday, February 22
starting at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Civic Center Community Room
1000 Englewood Parkway

Progress and Plans for Continued Improvement

At the City

Accomplishments

- Current energy projects underway at city facilities
- Employee energy challenge
- Energy Design Assistance for new municipal construction

On the horizon

- Increased engagement with City staff
- Case studies of energy efficiency efforts in municipal facilities
- Identification of additional energy efficiency projects for implementation in 2018 and beyond

For Residents

Accomplishments

- A team approach with CSU Extension, City of Littleton, and Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy
- Energy efficiency workshops
- Renewable energy workshops

On the horizon

- Outreach to schools
- Ongoing residential energy workshops
- Visible presence at city-wide events to raise awareness

For Businesses

Accomplishments

- Energy efficiency information at Building Department
- Business for Breakfast Chamber event
- Survey to understand business energy interests and needs

On the horizon

- Sustainable business recognition in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce
- Targeted business outreach to increase program participation
- Direct City channels for efficiency and rebate information

To RSVP or for more information visit Englewoodco.gov/Energy-Efficient





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Be emPOWERED to make your home more comfortable & affordable.

Join the 700 families in Garfield County that have taken advantage of rebates and resources available for their homes. It's easy — talk with an energy coach at Garfield Clean Energy to learn more.

Start saving today!



(970) 704-9200



ActNow@GarfieldCleanEnergy.org



GarfieldCleanEnergy.org

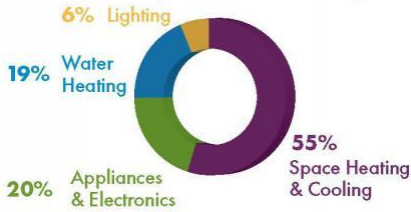
A collaboration brought to you by:



Here's what you can do NOW.

Knowing how your home uses energy can help you discover where you might be able to save.

Colorado Average Annual Home Energy Use:



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Space Heating & Cooling

- Install shades to keep sun out in summer and cold out in winter
- Weatherize to eliminate leaks **\$**
- Install high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment **\$**

Appliances & Electronics

- Manage plug loads with power strips and timers
- Buy ENERGY STAR® appliances and get rid of that old fridge or freezer **\$**

Water Heating

- Set your hot water heater to no higher than 120° F and insulate your hot water pipes
- Install an ENERGY STAR® water heater or an electric heat pump water heater **\$**

Lighting

- Turn off lights when leaving a room and use task lighting
- Reduce bulb wattage and switch out old incandescent bulbs for LEDs, which use less energy and last longer **\$**



Rebates and other resources may be available in your area.

