



Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 4th, 2024 | 4 – 5:30 PM

Hybrid – Zoom and Public Works

Attendance				
✓	Michael Briscoe	✓	Thea Rodriguez	✓ George Andrews, Staff
✓	Brett Boston, City Councilor	✓	Tyler Surat	✓ Dan Fink, Guest
✓	Tom Corlett	✓	John Vigil	✓ Ellie Storer, Guest
✓	Ken Danti	✓	Anthony Vigil	✓ Michael Sapp, Guest,
✓	Nicole Ferguson	✓	Alan Ward	
	Dylan Goodman	✓	Edgie Walrath	
✓	Laura Getts	✓	Mike Wakefield	
✓	Patti Olenick			

Call to Order, Chair Ken Danti called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Michael moved to approve meeting minutes and from August 7th, 2024, Edgie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Presentation from Ellie Storer and Michael Sapp, Xcel Energy Clean Heat Plan

Xcel Energy is taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the entire natural gas value chain from production, delivery and customer use. Proposing an integrated set of infrastructure and customer program plans across its gas and electric business. Clean Heat Plan is a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas service. The Plan will make progress towards ambitious emission reduction targets laid out in Colorado’s Clean Heat Standard legislation. It will allow Colorado to explore a variety of strategies to reduce carbon emissions on the natural gas system while maintaining reliability and keeping costs as low as possible. The Clean Heat Plan was submitted to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in August 2023, and we received their decision in June 2024. Looking forward to implementing the Plan approved by the Commission to achieve significant emissions reductions in the natural gas system. Filing materials for this proposal is available on Xcel’s website and [CPUC E-Filings System \(external link\)](#). Proceeding No. 23A-0392EG. Senate Bill 21-264 (“SB 21-264”), passed in 2021, established specific clean heat targets applicable to Colorado’s gas, as well as a framework for the filing and approval of utility Clean Heat Plans to achieve those targets and associated provisions related to cost recovery. Explained that Xcel rebates are available to both gas and electric customers. Discussed the difference between a regular heat pump and cold climate heat pump. Exploring the options for on bill financing for efficiency upgrades. Customer Rate impacts of proposed Clean Heat Plan are still to be determined. Xcel will be holding stakeholder meetings to refine their Clean Heat Plan DSM spending and it was requested that at least one of these meetings be held in Pueblo.

2. City Updates, George Andrews

Fire stations 8 & 11, team is busy drilling the geothermal wells. The depth is about 400 feet. Anticipating state rebates from 6 – 30 % of entire project. In addition to the \$250k grant that was awarded. Anticipating about \$600k rebate to go toward paying off the financing. The net zero system cost is projected to be about \$3 million minimum for all 3 fire stations.

CFI grant just submitted 9/4/2024. Shared map of 65 site locations that were submitted. These locations were selected based on multi-family housing, key community sites with complementary vehicle dwell times, and qualified census tracts. Level 2 chargers 4 ports each site. This budget is about 14.4 million with the City's cost match requirement paid for by contractor Citizen Energy. DC Fast Charging plaza is underway with primary work being done. 4 units, dual port, 150 kW of capacity. The Colorado Energy office is funding \$445k with the City to appropriating the matching funds.

Shared City's ChargePoint data. All charts showing utilization and unique drivers growing – 73 unique drivers in August, up from 66 in July. Charging session – 422 in August, already 42 sessions in September. About 100 more sessions in August compared to July. Station Usage – Time of day shows increased utilization in the beginning part of the day, then tapering off in the evening. Energy Dispensed in August – almost 6 MWh. Compared to about 4 megawatt hours in July. Energy over the last 30 days – 2 of the 4 highest utilization days were during the State Fair, but the state fair looks on par during the rest of the month. Estimated financials – at 25 cents per kWh, it costs about \$1500 over the last month. City still offering free charging until the end of this month, so we may look at recouping those costs once the free charging ordinance ends.

The City of Pueblo and Pueblo County were jointly awarded an EECBG grant for staffing support. The grant terms will have cooperative deliverables between the City and the County, allowing for greater cooperation on energy issues.

3. Presentation from Dan Fink, Renewable Energy Coordinator, Pueblo Community College

Shared the PCC Solar + Energy Storage System Program that is NABCEP PV Associate Training. Completion qualifies students to sit for national exam proctored on campus. Final exam for PCC PV Certificate is the NABCEP PV Associate exam. PCC Solar Installation Certificate is based on IREC / NABCEP JTAs. Includes hands-on field experience labs. Includes dedicated NABCEP exam prep class and summer internship. NABCEP is not just residential solar. Career paths include Commissioning & Maintenance, Design, Project Management, System Inspector, Technical Sales, and more. The program is a broad scope, giving students experience in PV applications and equipment, Sales and Economics, Design, Installation, Operation and Maintenance, with emphasis in safety. Shared the PCC EV Technician program ASE certified EV training program, First of its kind in Colorado, Dedicated lab space, Specialized EV tools and diagnostic instrumentation, EV charging stations, PCC fleet of EVs. Photovoltaic training includes current Classroom, 20 kW grid-tie PV system, 6 kW grid-tie PV system, Outdoor stand-alone PV+ESS training building, PV installation mock roof, Future plans include: Indoor PV installation lab, Indoor PV microinverter commissioning lab, Indoor ESS installation and commissioning lab, Solar EV charging canopies, Mobile PV training labs. PCC is seeking industry partnerships for workforce development and training in underserved communities.

4. Strategy Discussion

Based on the results of the QSPM results, the top three themes were: Reduction of electricity usage through energy efficiency, New Storage Technologies Will Reduce Costs, Improve Energy Reliability, and Require Less Transmission, and Pursue Grant Funding Opportunities

Pursuing energy efficiency could encompass other opportunities, such as using thermal methods to store energy, changing building codes to promote net-zero buildings, and encouraging residential tax-exempt ordinances for electrification projects. Considering adding Public Education, to stimulate grass roots demand. Commission must be apolitical and advise based on data. Must understand the Investor Owned Utility process with PUC to better advise the City.

Considering a community survey to know the exact nature and degree of community sentiment. Commissioner knowledge is important when advising policy.

5. Suggestions for next meeting: Pueblo County LEED Gold Certification, Creation of subcommittees , Next steps of strategic planning.

Adjourned 5:32

Zoom chat log:

Laura Getts:

Communities served by Xcel Gas and Xcel Electric - https://xcelnew.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/1U0000011ttV/a/8b000002Y8vy/cDTZ25fPv.NuR_sx_peANfpfaxL47xQXr7fhoTJZoOw

Current Xcel rebates (gas is mixed in with electric) - https://www.xcelenergy.com/programs_and_rebates

Tyler Surat I have an investor that interested in the tax credits for \$150k for all 3 fire stations

Tyler Surat

They can . But for minimal and delayed returns. Investors will return more

Thomas Corlett Sr.

Terrific update Dan! Hope we can help with your ongoing success.

Patti Olenick

Can we schedule a tour for an upcoming meeting?

Tyler Surat

U can Join the advisory committee.

Patti Olenick

Great to see this moving forward!

I love the idea of involving the students again with a community survey. Unbiased and educational

Laura Getts

Hi all, appreciate this but unfortunately have to drop off.

Patti Olenick Agree Iris!

Iris Clark

Thanks, Patti!

Patti Olenick Thanks Everyone!!

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 2nd 4 – 5:30 pm