



Brighton Planning Workshop 1

July 14, 2025

AGENDA

Time	Item
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Planning Context
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	Where Are We Now?
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Where Do We Want to Go?
4:00 – 4:50 p.m.	How Will We Get There?
4:50 – 5:00 p.m.	Wrap Up & Next Steps

TODAY'S OBJECTIVES


- Get to know each other as the Energy Action Team
- Learn about the Partners in Energy process and outcomes
- Develop a common understanding of Brighton's existing goals and community energy baseline
- Review and discuss Brighton's energy vision and goals
- Start brainstorming and prioritizing energy strategies for near-term implementation

Photo credit: City of Brighton

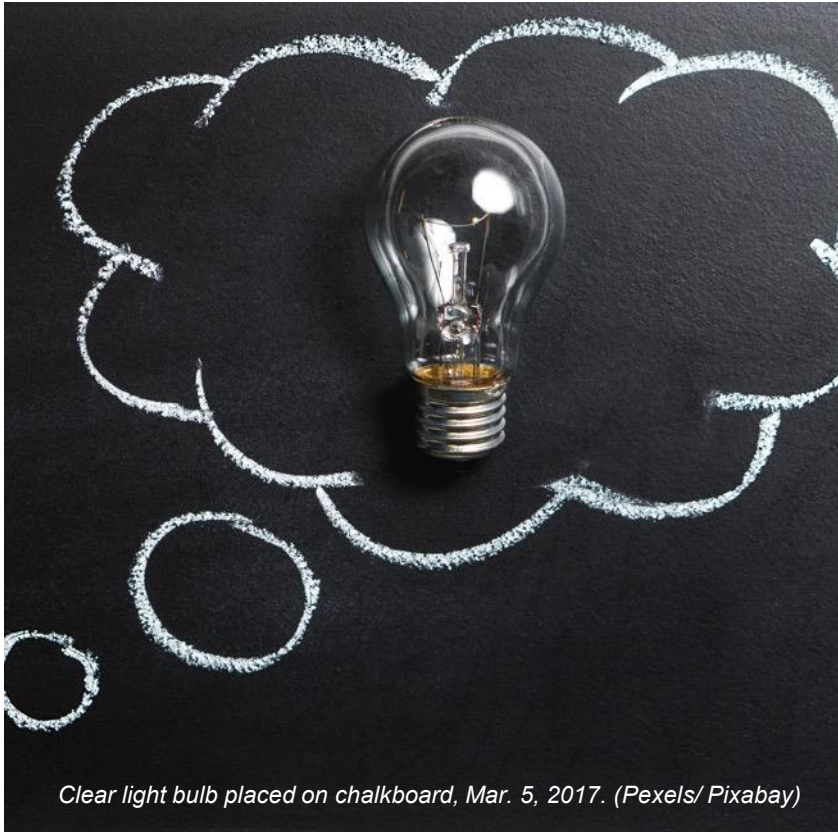


WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PARTNERS IN ENERGY CONTACTS

Xcel Energy		Community Facilitators				Brighton			
									
Sofia Troutman <i>Partners in Energy Program Manager</i>	Kelly Chapel <i>Key Account Manager</i>	Andrea McCarthy <i>Partner in Energy Facilitator</i>	Paul Schmiechen <i>Partner in Energy Facilitator</i>	Christi Mimra <i>Partner in Energy Data Lead</i>	Idalia Cabrales <i>Partner in Energy Facilitator</i>	Traci McLean <i>Sustainability Coordinator</i>	Jared Putnam <i>Senior Communications Specialist</i>	Marv Falconburg <i>Deputy City Manager</i>	Noe Martinez <i>Public Works Engineering Manager</i>

INTRODUCTIONS



Please share...

- Name
- Organization & Role
- What comes to your mind when you think of energy action in Brighton?

DO YOU CONSIDER ENERGY AS PART OF YOUR JOB?





HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR ENERGY LITERACY?





Microsoft Stock Images

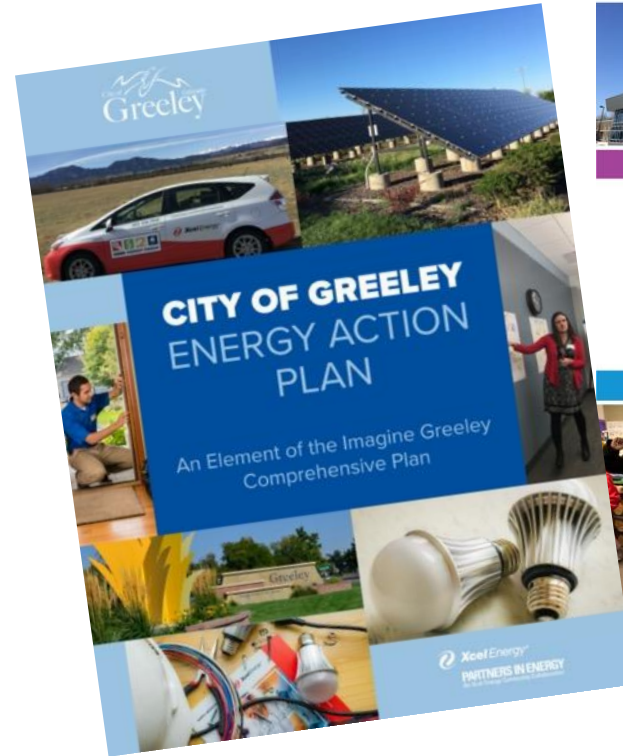
8

PLANNING CONTEXT

*INTRODUCTION TO
PARTNERS IN ENERGY AND
BRIGHTON'S PLANNING
CONTEXT AND ROLES*

WHAT IS AN ENERGY ACTION PLAN?

- Outlines a vision for the community's energy future
- Develops actionable strategies for pursuing that vision
- Acts as a strategic guide for implementation
- Builds on and contributes to existing community goals



CONNECTING TO BRIGHTON'S SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



- Developed with City staff collaboration, community engagement, including a survey, community open house, and stakeholder meetings
- Identifies goals and strategies within nine areas
- Energy plan will primarily focus on the **Energy Efficiency (Conservation) and Built Environment** area



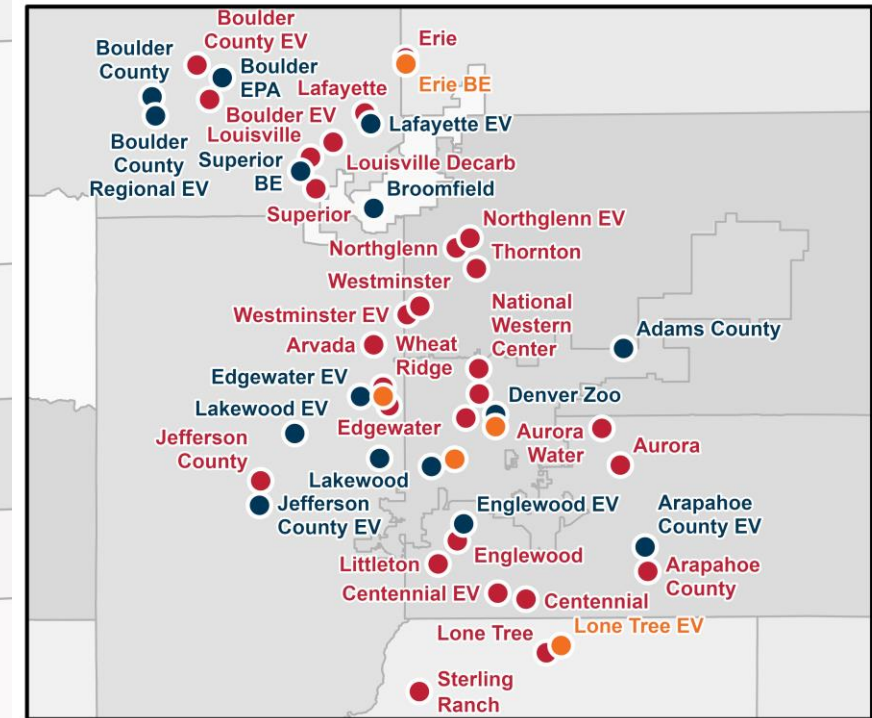
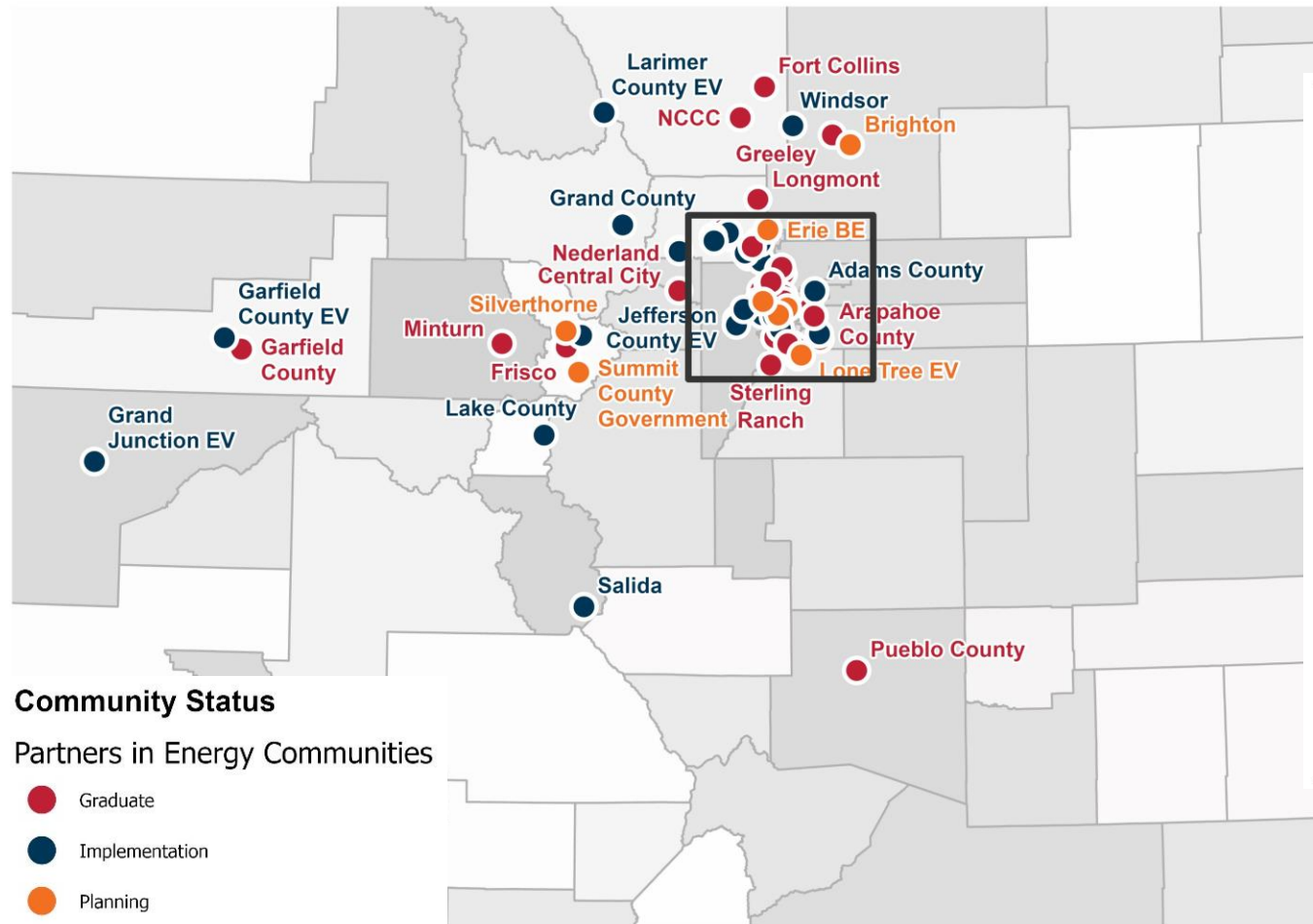
The Energy Action Plan will build on and refine specific energy-related strategies, actions, and targets to support implementation of the Sustainability Plan

WHAT IS PARTNERS IN ENERGY?

- **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.



CO PARTNERS IN ENERGY COMMUNITIES



PARTNERS IN ENERGY RESOURCES FOR PLANNING



PARTNERS IN ENERGY RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION



ANTICIPATED PLANNING TIMELINE

Task	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Kickoff									
Baseline									
Workshop #1									
Stakeholder Surveys									
Workshop #2									
Targeted Engagement									
Plan Development									

WHY PARTNERS IN ENERGY?

Xcel Energy

- Develop a **better understanding of the energy needs** for the communities we serve
- Better **align the services and programs we offer** with customer needs to save energy and advance clean energy goals
- **Support our communities** with a philosophy of engagement and partnership

City of Brighton

- **Advance goals** in the energy area of our Sustainability Plan to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy usage, and electrification
- Engage key community stakeholders to **identify energy-related solutions** and actionable items
- **Review community energy data** to inform decision making



PLANNING TEAM ROLES

City of Brighton

- Lead stakeholder identification and engagement
- Guide energy action plan development
- Provide connection to Sustainability Plan
- Review and evaluation of Energy Action Plan goals, strategies, and actions
- Distribution of Energy Action Plan

Xcel Energy

- Actively learn more about customers' goals and needs
- Share annual Community Energy Reports
- Provide ongoing support with traditional programs & resources
- Maintain strong relationships through and post implementation

Partners in Energy

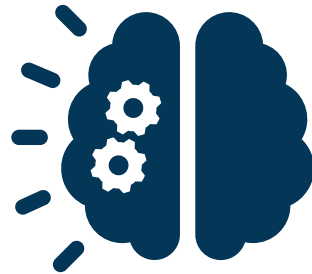
- Provide facilitation for the Energy Action Plan development
- Gather, process, and share select customized data
- Provide insights on and access to Xcel Energy programs & resources
- Provide transition into and support during implementation

YOUR ROLE IN ENERGY ACTION PLANNING



Representative

Represent your organization(s) perspective and voice



Critical Thinker

Be a critical eye for credibility, transparency, and accuracy



Advisor

Advise community leaders and decision makers



Ambassador

Be a conduit to your network

PLAN DEVELOPMENT STEPS

Approach

- ❑ Develop Brighton's plan to support Brighton's Sustainability Plan (2024)
- ❑ Discuss alignment with the vision, goals, and focus areas
- ❑ Coordinate with Adams County energy planning process as appropriate
- ❑ Consider strategies that align with Brighton



FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS

- What are the forces **for** energy action in your community
- What are the forces **against** energy action in your community?





Microsoft

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

*BRIGHTON'S COMMUNITY
CHARACTERISTICS AND
ENERGY BASELINE*

HOW DATA GET USED

- ▶ Show where energy is used in your community
- ▶ Show past program participation
- ▶ Support decision making on focus areas, goals, and targets
- ▶ Support scenario modeling during the planning phase
- ▶ Help track and report once plan is in implementation

ENERGY DATA 101



15 x15 Data Privacy Rule

Must be greater than 15 entities
No single entity can account for more than 15 percent of the usage



Caveats of data processing

“Premise” ≠ “Customer”
Customer types

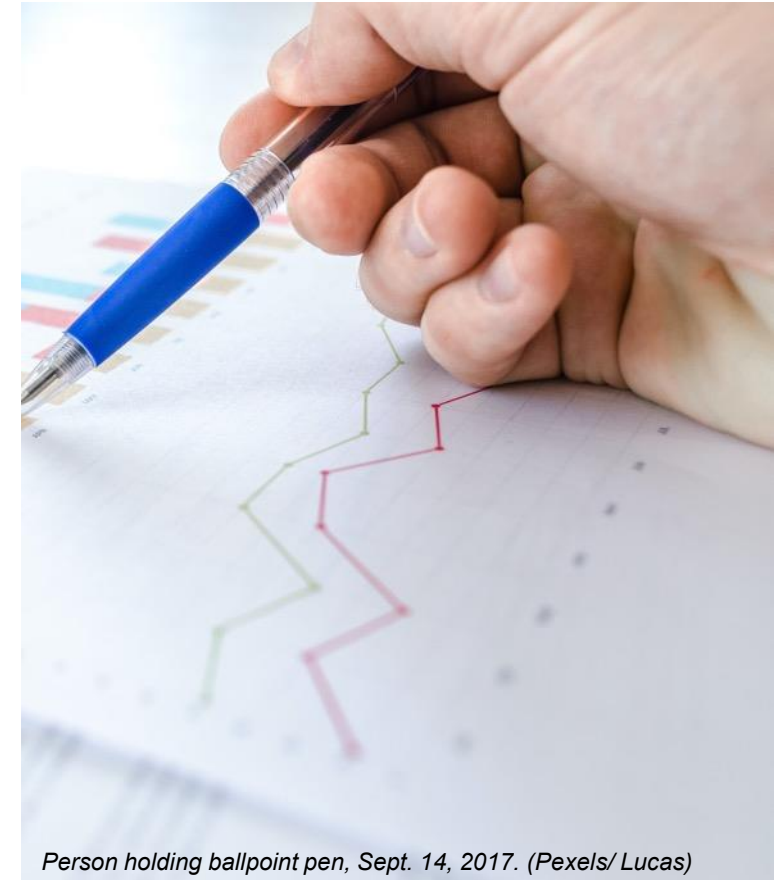


Data includes:

Xcel Energy: 2022-2024 Premises and Natural Gas Usage
United Power: 2022-2024 Total Electricity Usage



Data are unofficial for planning purposes, and results may change slightly over time



Person holding ballpoint pen, Sept. 14, 2017. (Pexels/ Lucas)

Sector Note: Sectors available include Res, Muni, C&I (including irrigation and oil wells) and exclude public street/highways.



BRIGHTON DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



POPULATION
43,518

MEDIAN AGE
33.5
State: 37.9

GROWTH RATE / YEAR
2.1%

MAX. BUILDOUT
135,000



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$89,709
State: \$92,000

POVERTY RATE
8.5%
State: 9.3%

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE
\$475,100

ENERGY BURDEN
1.5%



HOUSING UNITS
15,451

HOUSING BUILT BEFORE 2000
52.1%

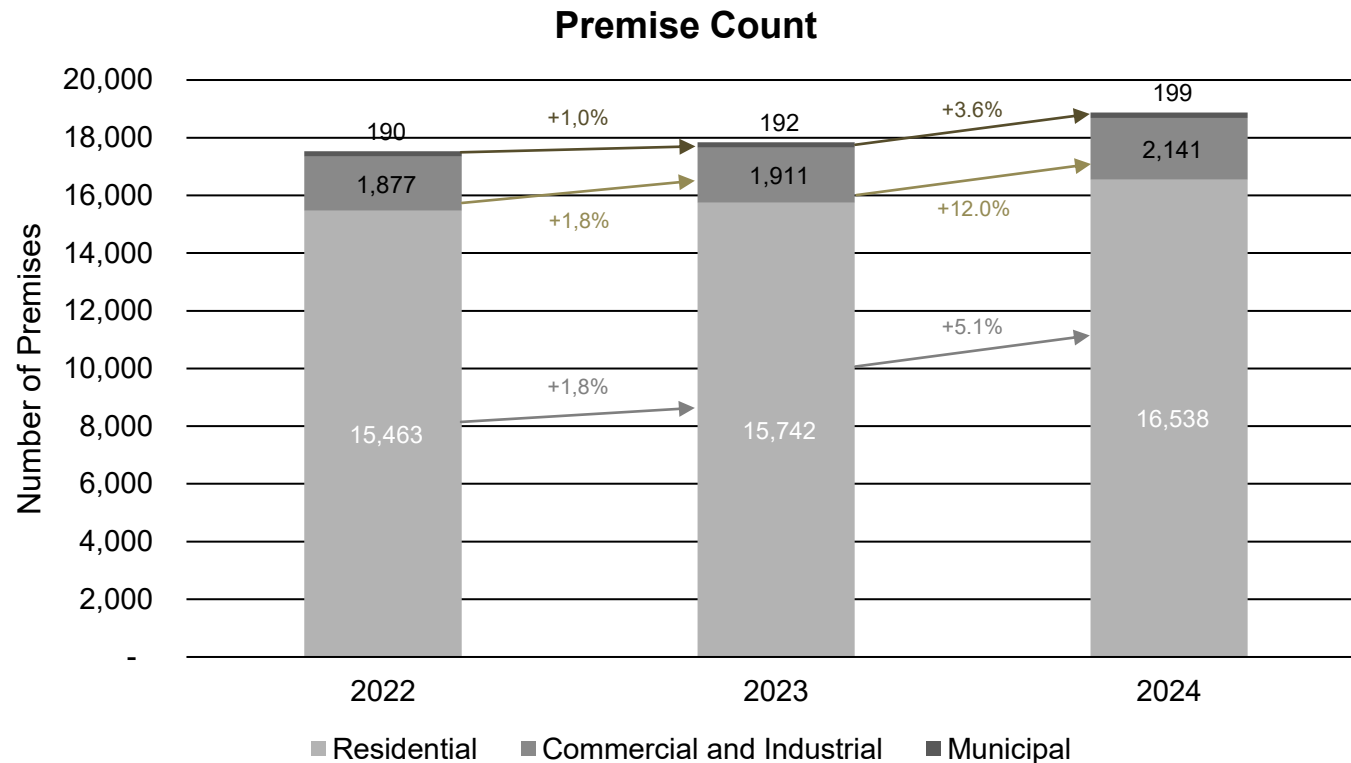
SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
72.2%

RENTER-OCCUPIED UNITS
29%
State: 34%

SOURCE: Census data, Brighton Sustainability Plan (2024), Brighton Growth and Infrastructure Forecast (2023), American Community Survey



REVIEWING COMMUNITY GROWTH THROUGH UTILITY PREMISES

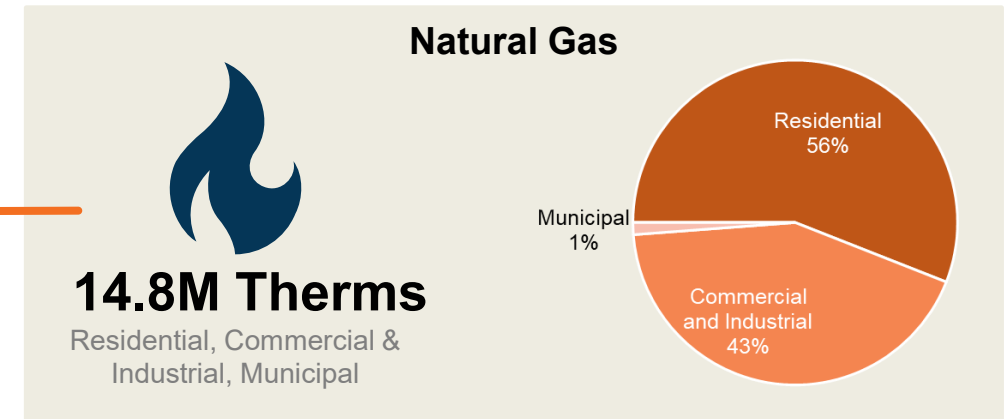
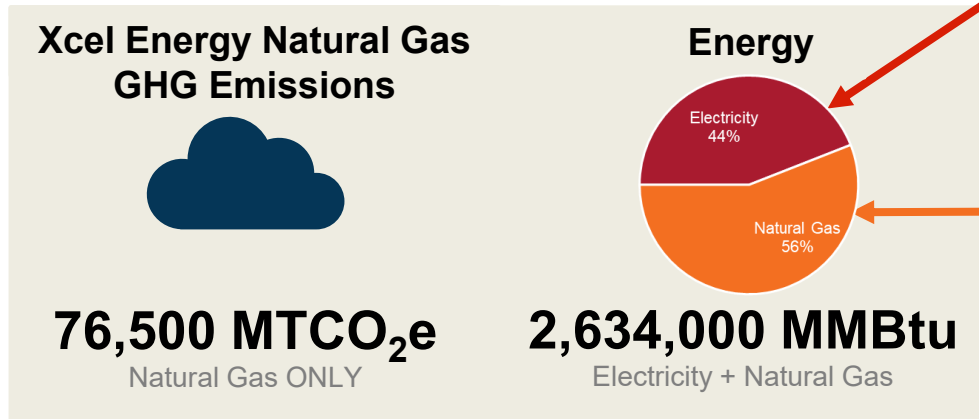
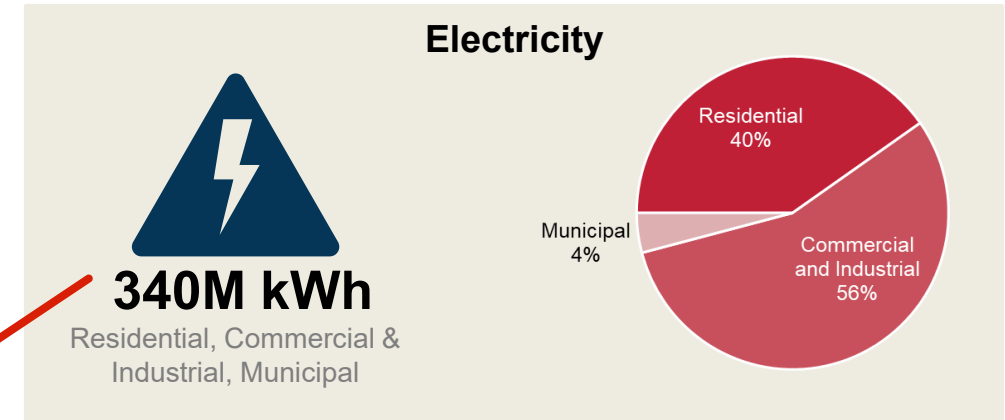
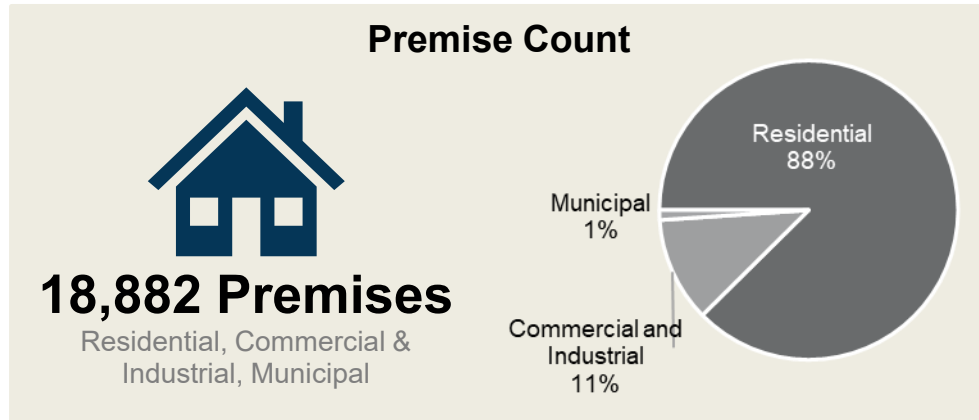


SOURCE: United Power data



- **Average growth rate: 3.8%**
- Growth rate for 2023 in line with Brighton's projected growth; growth rate for 2024 significantly higher
- Highest growth rate for Commercial and Industrial in 2024; accounting for about 50% of Brighton's energy consumption
- Residential premise count will increase due to significant buildout planned for the next years

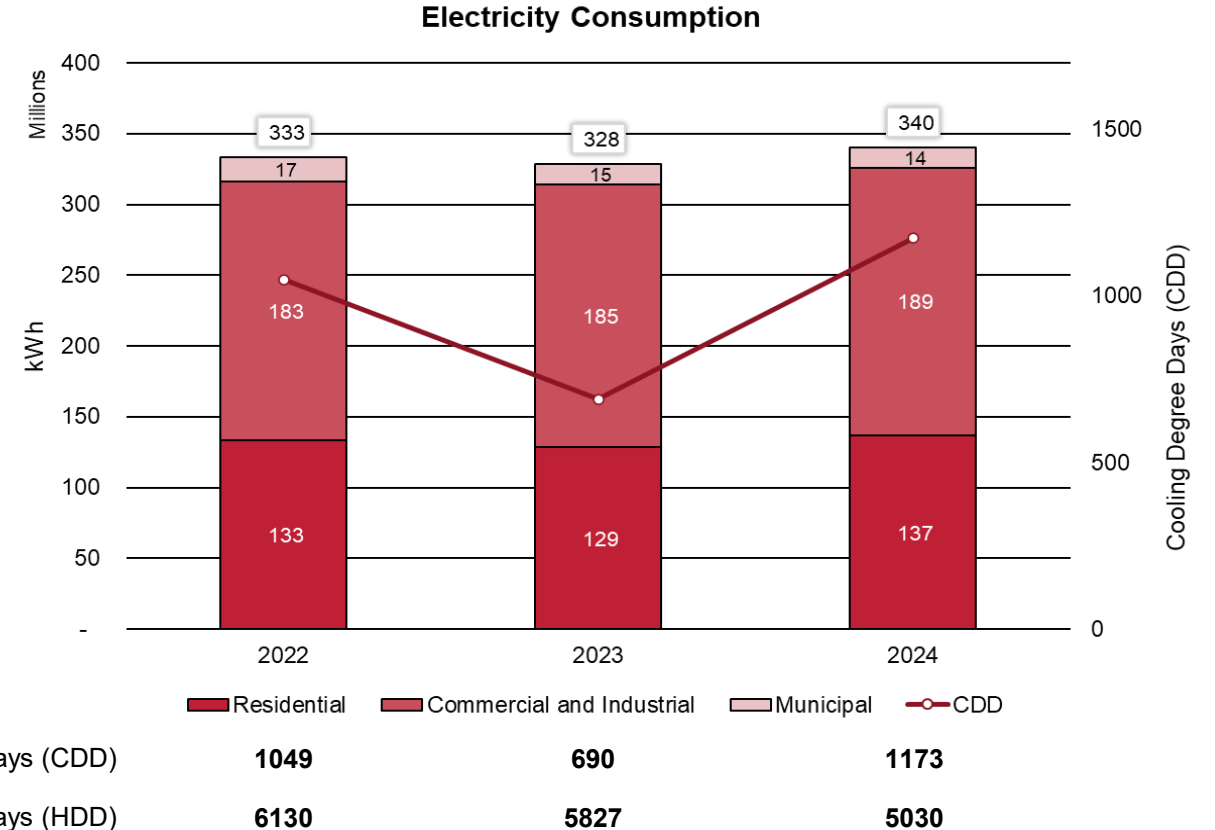
2024 DATA SNAPSHOT



SOURCE: Partners in Energy data, United Power data

YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGES - ELECTRICITY

- Compared to premise growth, electricity consumption does not grow proportionally, especially for commercial sector
- Weather plays a part in electricity usage due to AC units; higher electricity consumption in hot years (CDD)
- Fluctuation in electricity consumption for residential sector mainly correlating with weather changes
- High municipal electricity usage (high intensity facilities)



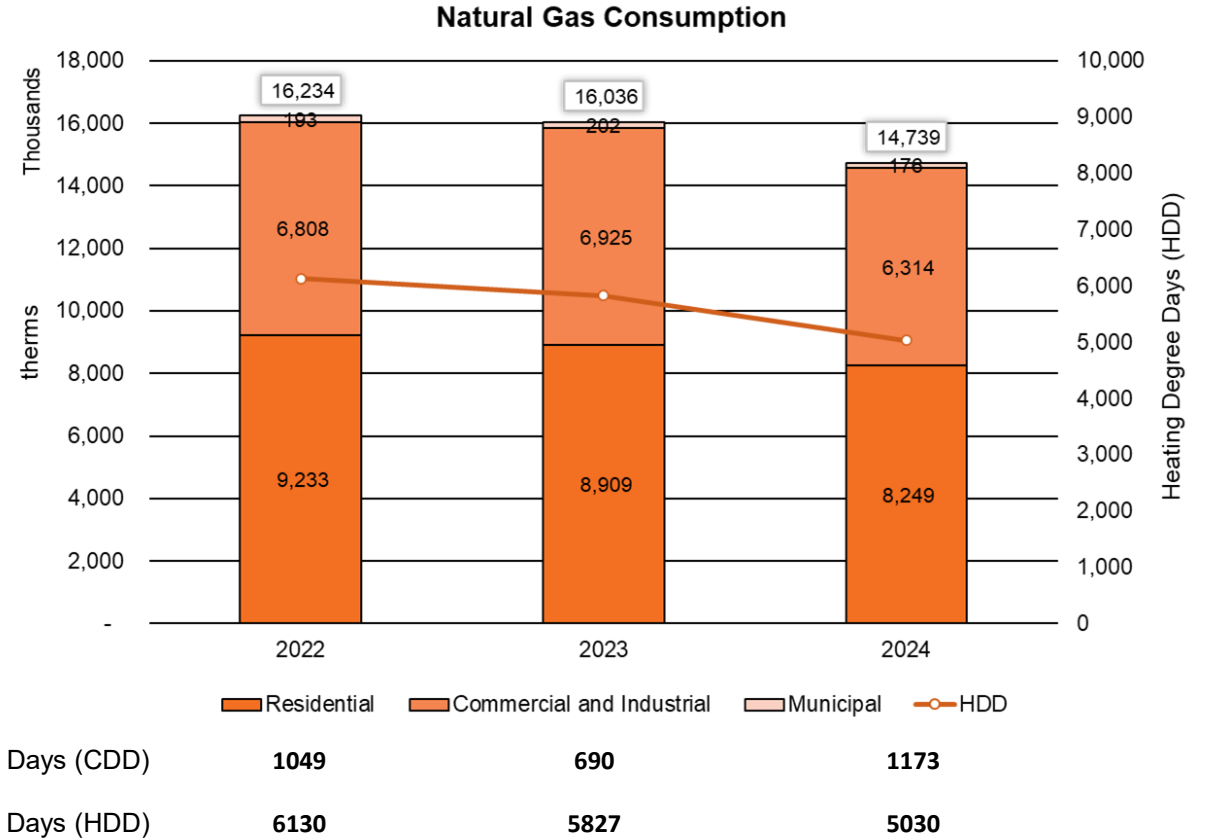
SOURCE: United Power data



Source: weatherdatadepot.com

YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGES – NATURAL GAS

- Decreased natural gas consumption in 2024 mainly due to mild winter and therefore less heating (HDD)



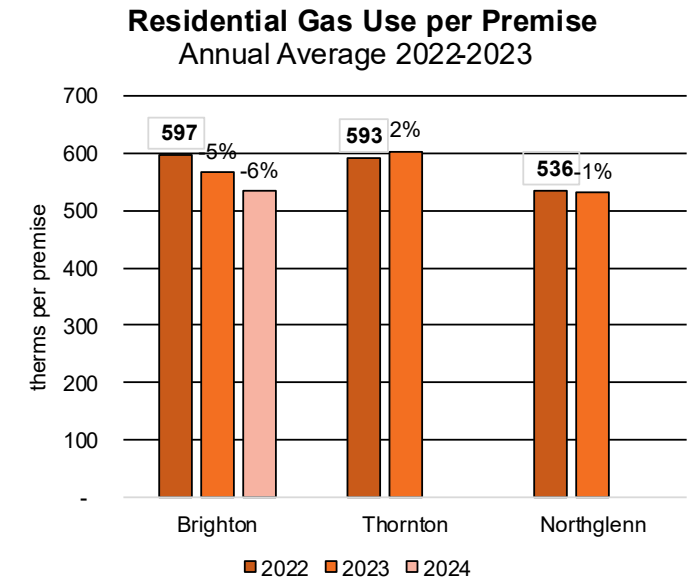
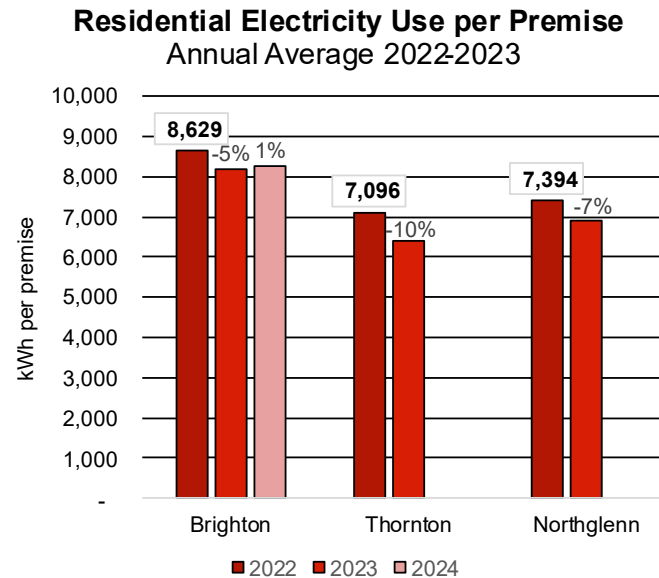
SOURCE: Partners in Energy data, United Power data



Source: [weatherdatadepot.com](https://www.weatherdatadepot.com)

BENCHMARKING RESIDENTIAL ENERGY METRICS

- 66.7% of Brighton's residents use gas for heating (ASC); same as Thornton and Northglenn
- Thornton and Northglenn have around 15% less residential electricity use per premise
- Northglenn has around 10% less natural gas usage per premise

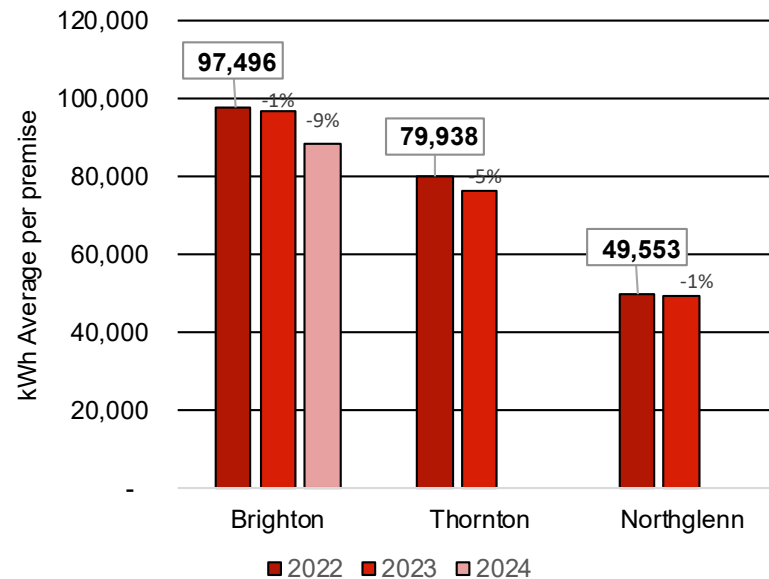


SOURCE: Partners in Energy data, United Power data, American Community Survey

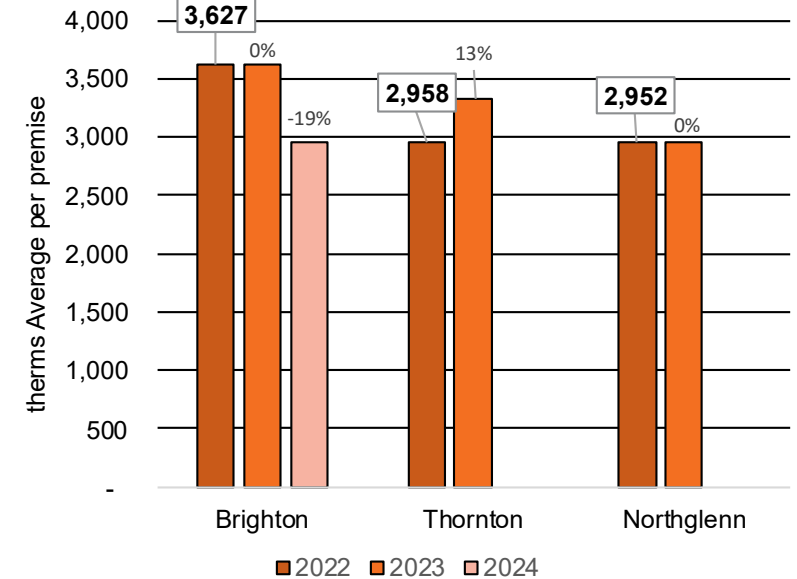
BENCHMARKING COMMERCIAL ENERGY METRICS

- Brighton has some big commercial facilities within city boundaries (Vestas Wind Systems, VSK Energy, Intertape Polymere Group)
- Brighton and Thornton both have big commercial presence, but while Brighton has industrial and manufacturing parks, Thornton has more office and business parks
- Northglenn has significantly less commercial presence overall

Commercial Electricity Use per Premise
Annual Average 2022-2023



Commercial Gas Use per Premise
Annual Average 2022-2023



SOURCE: Partners in Energy data, United Power data

BRIGHTON PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Xcel Energy

Residential Programs	2022	2023	2024
Energy Savings Kits	14	84	30
Home Energy Squad	1	4	4
Home Energy Audit	1	0	2
Insulation & Air Sealing	3	4	1
Residential HVAC	23	17	25
Residential New Home Construction	282	129	242
Singe-Family Weatherization	17	16	21
Total	341	254	325

United Power

Residential Programs	2022	2023	2024
Heat Pumps	28	50	28
Water Heaters	4	4	1
Electric Vehicles	16	25	28
Total	48	79	57

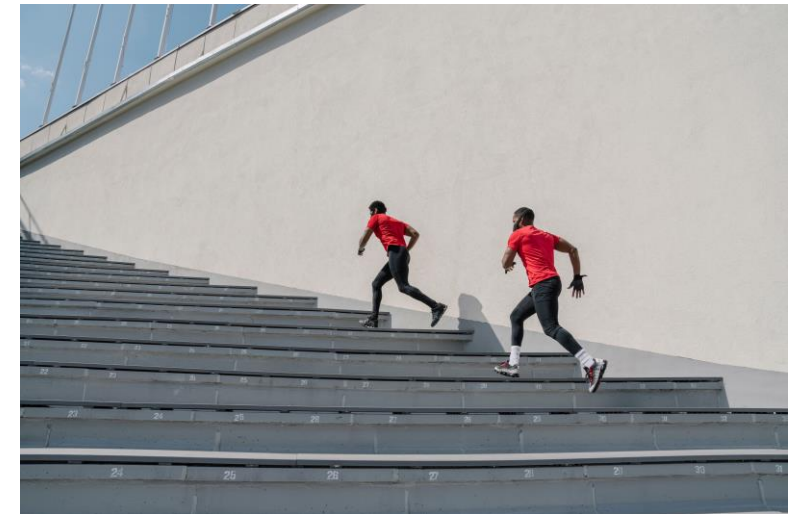
Commercial Programs	2022	2023	2024
LED	11	33	2
Total	48	79	57



EXISTING ENERGY EFFORTS

- Energy codes/policies
 - 2021 Building Codes
 - 2021 IECC
 - Don't have Electric-Ready/Electric Requirement; EV-Ready; Solar-Ready; ZERH/Zero Energy; EEOP or REMP
- Municipal projects
 - Facilities upgrades (LEDs, HVAC system)
 - Steet light LED conversion project
 - NREL fleet and EV charger analysis
 - Utility optimization of operations
 - Street and signage capital improvement: Renewable energy incorporation

What else is happening in your community?



EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS



COMMON EQUITY RECOGNITION VARIABLES

Common demographic variables

- Income / % in poverty
- Education & employment
- Race & ethnicity

Other demographic variables

- % without internet
- Linguistic isolation
- % without health insurance
- % with a disability
- Seniors living alone
- Single parent households

Climate variables

- Risk of floods, fire, heat waves, hurricanes
- Urban heat islands
- Adaptive capacity (emerging)

Pollution exposure

- Lead
- Proximity to hazardous waste
- Air, water, & soil quality

Health outcomes

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Cancer clusters
- Maternal & infant survival
- Life expectancy

Housing factors

- Energy insecurity
- Energy burden
- Age of housing
- Occupancy status (owner, renter)
- Eviction risk
- Median income of households adopting clean energy

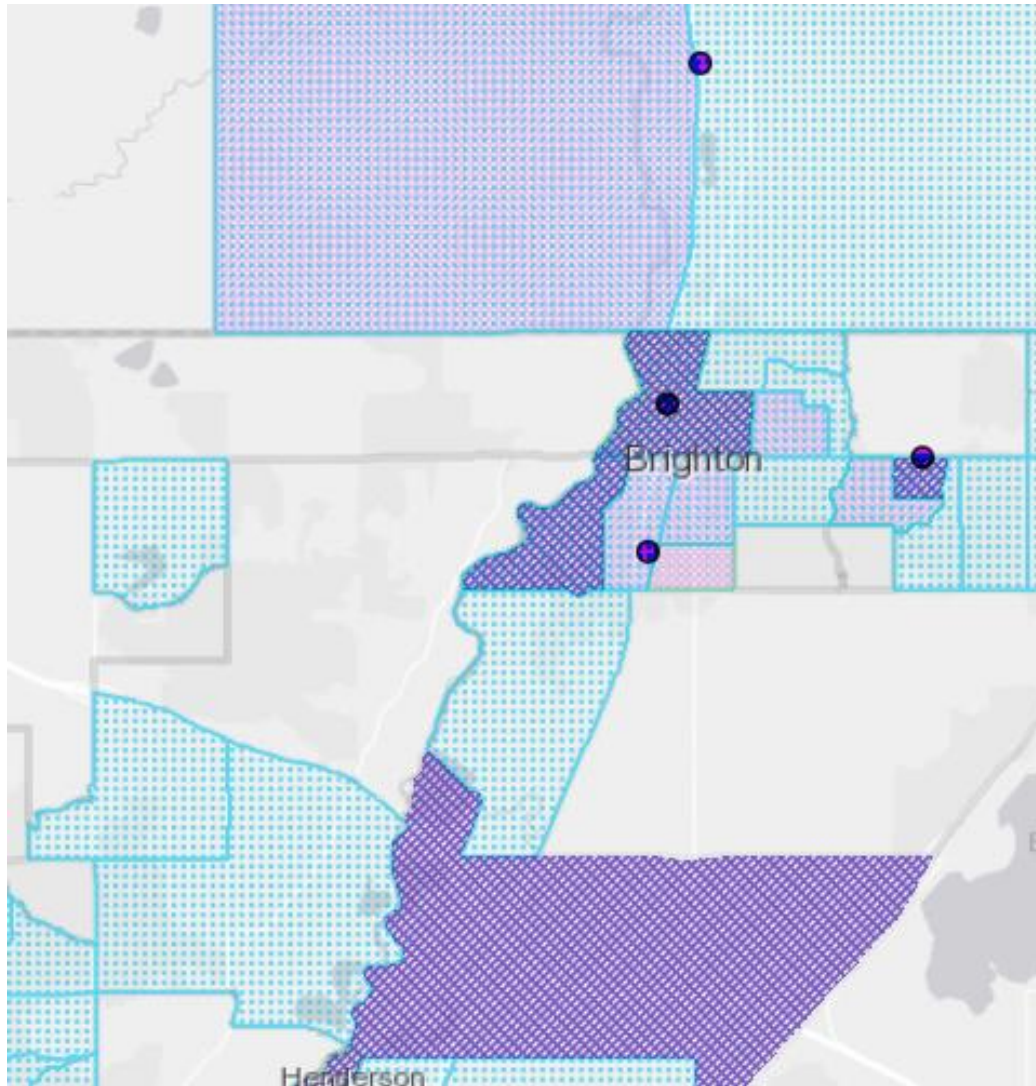
WHAT DOES EQUITY MEAN FOR BRIGHTON?



What are the equity concerns Brighton is currently facing?



How do you see equity being prioritized?



Mobile home communities



Low-income population above 40%



People of color population above 40%



Housing cost-burdened population above 50%



Linguistically isolated population above 20%



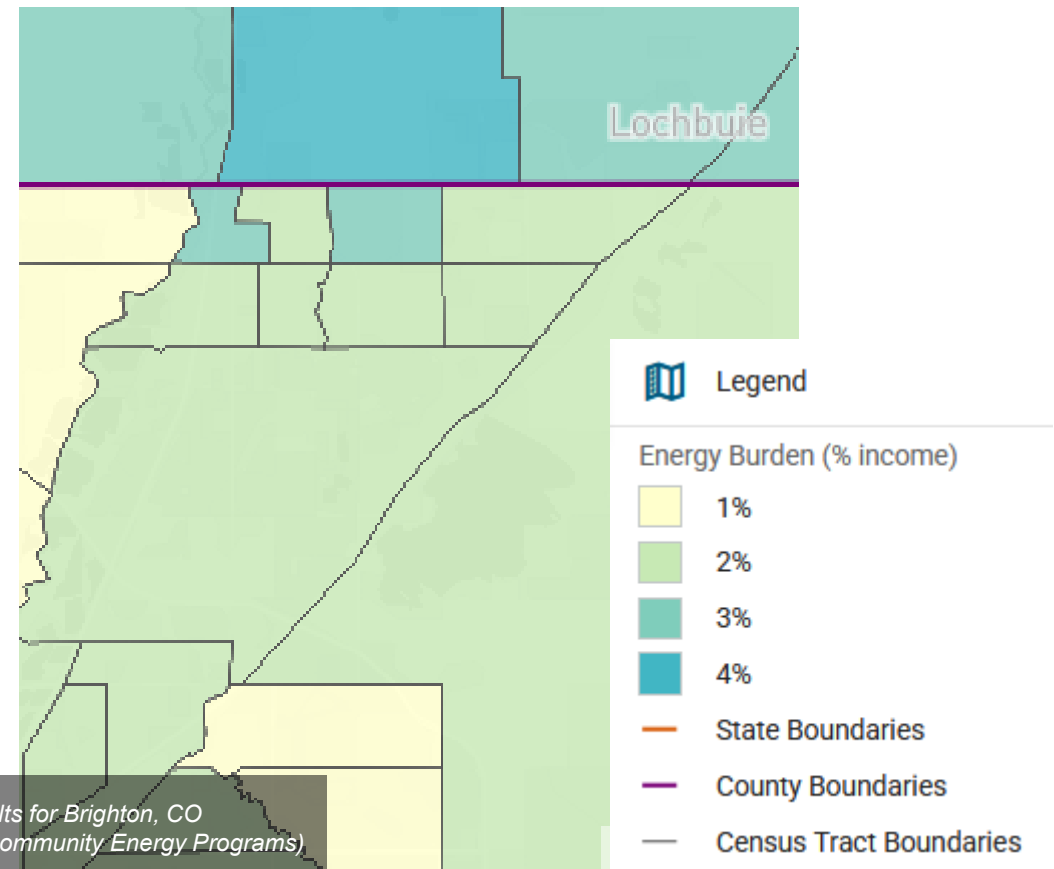
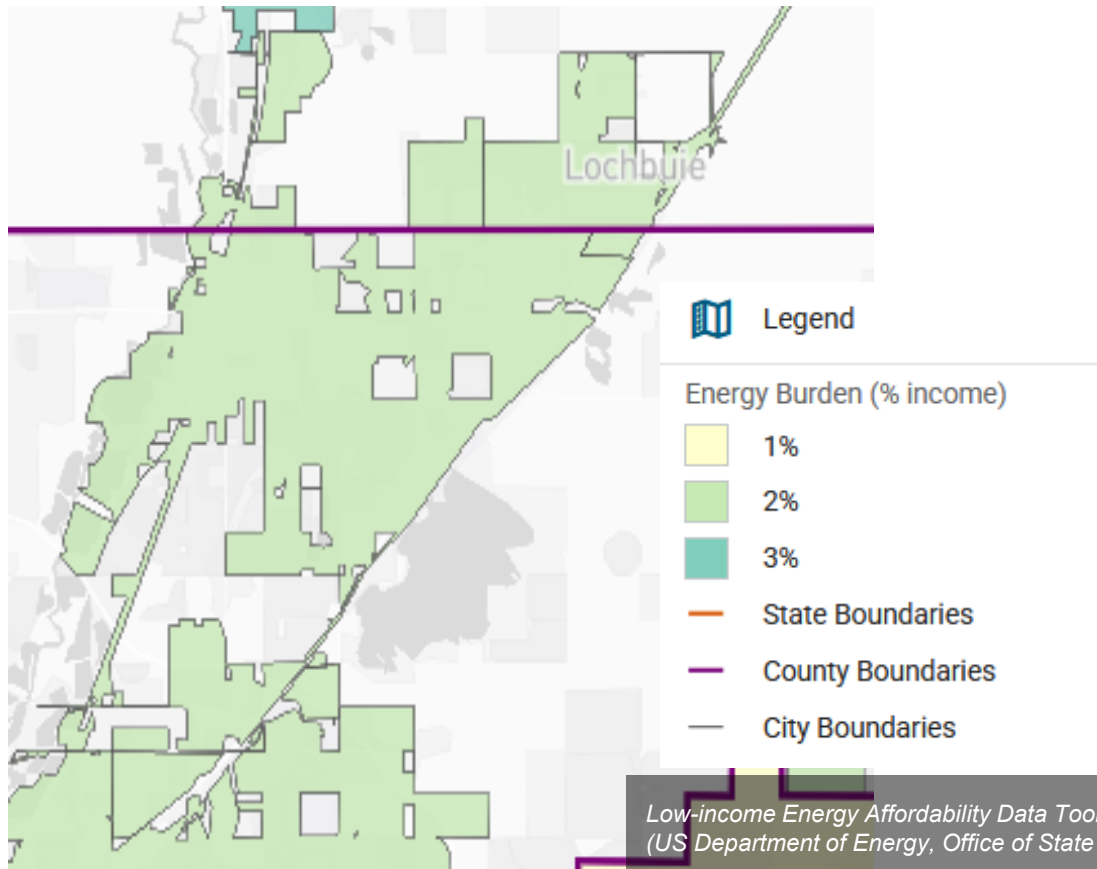
Colorado EnviroScreen percentile score above 80



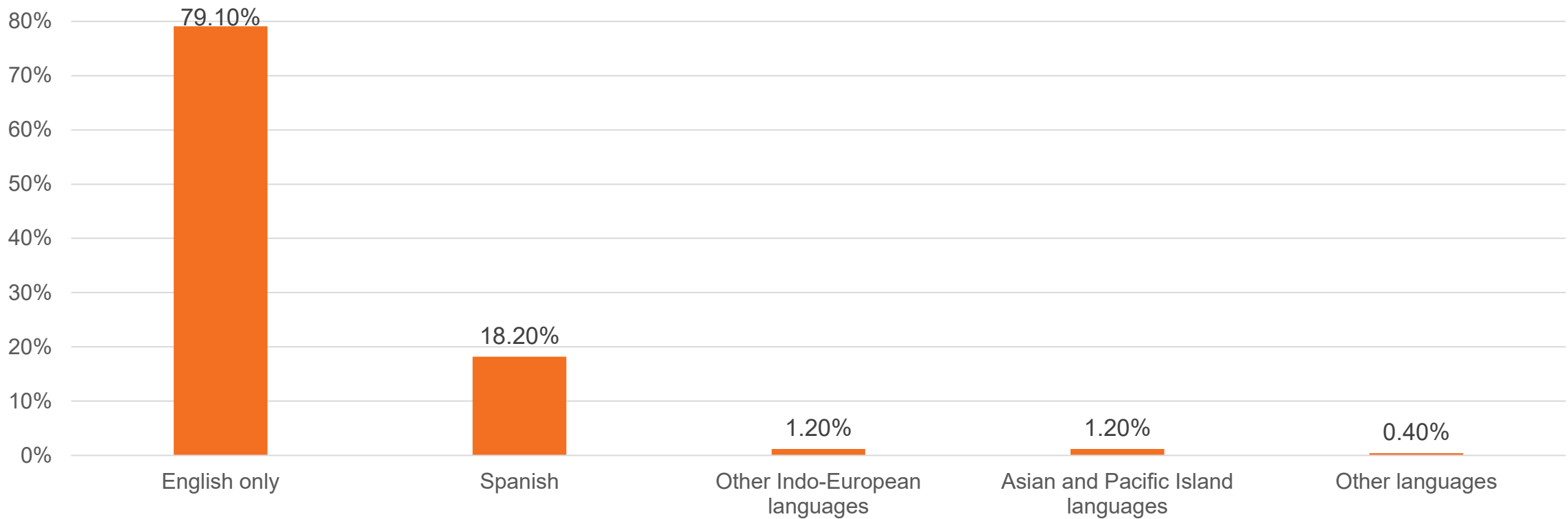
EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

SOURCE: Disproportionately Impacted Community map (<https://www.cohealthmaps.dphe.state.co.us/DICommunity/>)

ENERGY BURDEN



LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS



IMPLICATIONS FOR EQUITY

- *Are there barriers or opportunities based on income, language spoken, education?*
- *Are there key community participants who should be involved based on equity demographics?*



Kids recycling, Aug 17, 2022. (Pexels/Pixabay)



BREAK

10 MINUTE BREAK

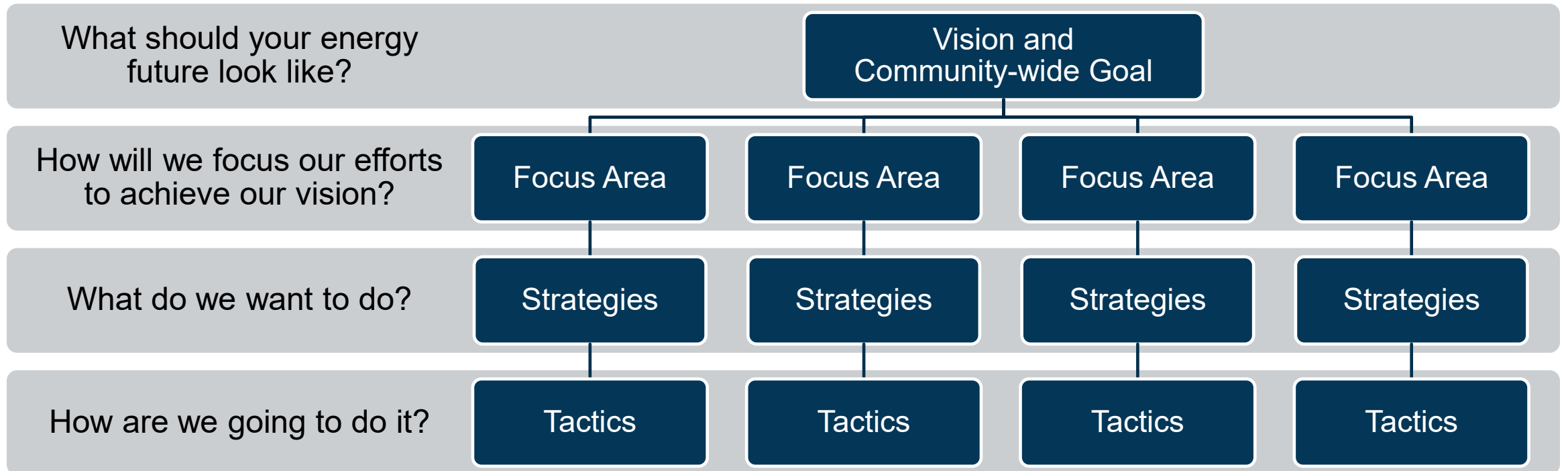




Photo Credit: City of Brighton

WHERE DO
WE WANT
TO GO?
VISION AND GOAL SETTING

PLAN FRAMEWORK



WHAT IS AN ENERGY VISION?

Expression of the community's shared energy intention

- Serves as a North Star in planning process
- Reflects community's voice
- Used as a focusing tool
 - How should we prioritize which strategies?
 - What should we track to measure success?
- Provides a “why” and “how” vs. a “what” and “who”

BRIGHTON SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONNECTION



Brighton aims to create a thriving and resilient future where sustainable practices are integrated into every aspect of our operations and community life, ensuring the well-being of our planet, our people, and our prosperity for generations to come.

DRAFT ENERGY VISION STATEMENT



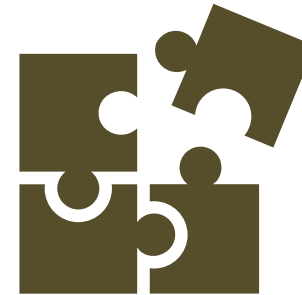
- Builds on Sustainability Plan vision and the energy efficiency and built environment objective

Brighton aims to create a thriving and resilient future by reducing our community-wide energy usage through energy efficiency, diversifying our energy sources to include more renewables, and promoting beneficial electrification ensuring the well-being of our planet, our people, and our prosperity for generations to come.

GROUP DISCUSSION: REFINE OUR ENERGY VISION STATEMENT



Initial thoughts on the draft statement?



Are there elements that are missing?

ELEMENTS OF A WELL-DEFINED GOAL

- S** **Specific** *Who, what, where, and why*
- M** **Measurable** *How much, how many*
- A** **Achievable** *Goals within reach to increase likelihood of success*
- R** **Realistic** *Tools to accomplish the goals should be available*
- T** **Time-bound** *Set a timeframe for accomplishing goals*
- I** **Inclusive** *Includes perspectives of historically marginalized populations*
- E** **Equitable** *Elements of fairness so everyone benefits*

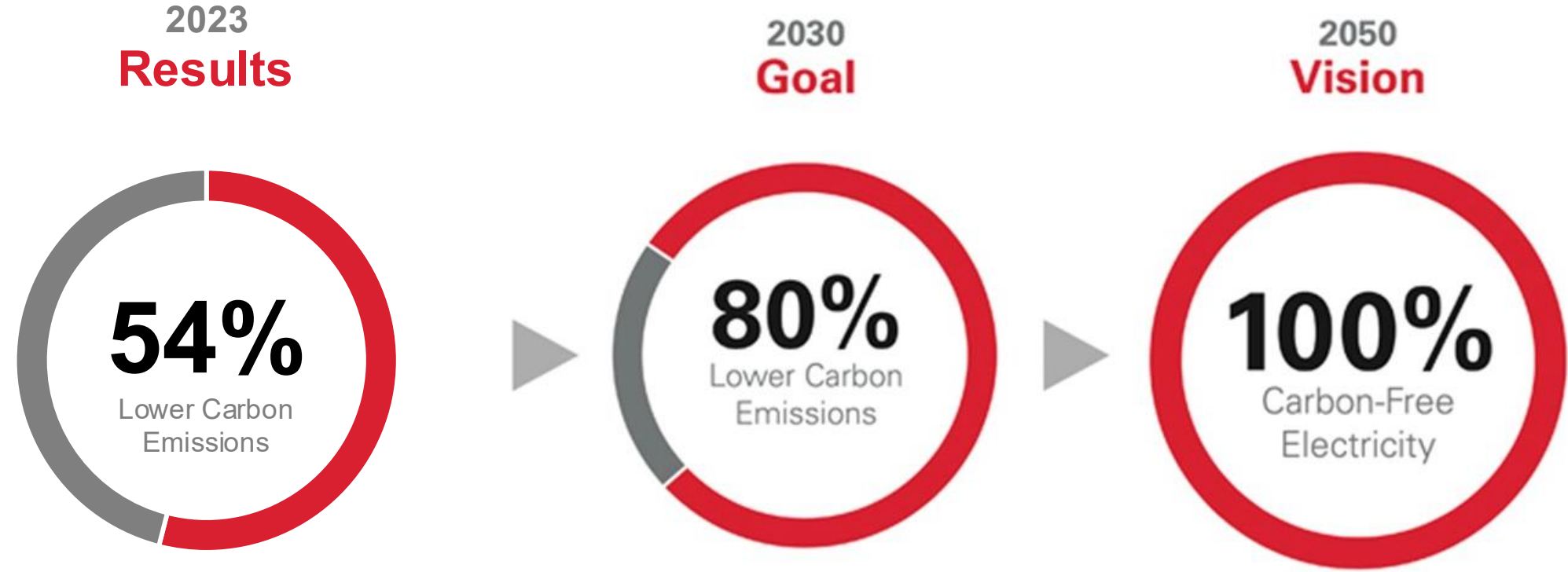
COLORADO CONTEXT

- Climate commitments
 - **By 2025**, reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least **26% from 2005 levels**
 - **By 2030**, reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least **50% from 2005 levels**
 - **By 2050**, reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by at least **90% from 2005 levels**
- Governor Polis' administration priorities
 - **By 2040, 100%** renewable energy

Sources:

- <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1261>
- <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6111385-Governor-Polis-Roadmap-to-100-Renewable.html>

XCEL ENERGY CARBON FREE FUTURE



COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION PLAN: GOAL EXAMPLE

■ Thornton

Objective: The planning team expressed a collective desire to “move the needle” on a community scale through energy efficiency improvements and promotion of renewable energy sources in the short term (2020-2022), and through alignment with the State of Colorado’s climate commitments in the long-term (2030 and beyond).

Based on these shared intentions, Thornton commits to:

- By 2022, increasing participation in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by 30% over the 2018 baseline year.
- By 2030, aligning with state climate and energy goals, which means reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% across all sectors.

BRIGHTON SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONNECTION



ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- **OBJECTIVE:** Reduce our community-wide energy usage and diversify our energy sources to include more renewables.

Goal	Baseline	Target
1. Reduce residential, commercial, and industrial energy usage.	280m kWh	TBD
2. Increase use of renewable energy sources throughout the community.	TBD	TBD
3. Increase residential, commercial, and industrial building electrification.	TBD	TBD

GOAL SETTING PROCESS



Step 1: Set a **Top-Down** Goal

- Begin with desired big picture impact
- Qualitative “level of ambition” or based on larger goals (e.g., state, climate)



Step 2: Refine Goal with **Bottom-Up** Analysis

- Refine by expected strategy impact
- May or may not change the initial goal



KEY QUESTIONS TO INFORM GOAL(S)

Time horizon

- **Short Term**
 - Align with our plan time horizon (2 years)
 - Dedicated support from Partners in Energy
 - Easier to determine feasibility
- **Long Term**
 - Demonstrate commitment
 - Guidepost for future short-term goals
 - Align with state/regional goals

Metric

- Energy Savings
- Total Energy Use/Cost
- Community Participation
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction
- Renewable Energy

Level of ambition

- **Conservative:** Achievable with current budget and workforce
- **Ambitious:** Requires additional investment, but doable
- **Aspirational:** Significant adjustment in current priorities to achieve

WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE METRIC FOR THIS PLAN'S GOAL(S)?

GHG Reduction

- Reflects energy efficiency and renewable energy impacts
- Aligns with State goals
- Units may not be intuitive

Energy Savings

- Most concrete
- Directly tied to community participation
- Units may not be intuitive

Energy Use

- Tangible metric
- Impacted by weather, population, etc.

Renewable Energy Adoption

- Could be overall (impacted by grid mix) or local generation
- Units may not be intuitive

Community Participation

- Easiest to track
- Intuitive units
- Impact is not as clear

Blue boxes indicate related to Sustainability Plan Energy Efficiency and Built Environment goals

WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF AMBITION FOR THIS PLAN'S GOAL?

Conservative

- Achievable with current budget and workforce

Ambitious

- Will require additional investment, but doable

Aspirational

- Would need significant adjustment in current priorities to achieve

BRIGHTON ENERGY GOALS



Direction

- Use Sustainability Plan goals?
- Develop a separate goal?
- Municipal goal?

Missing elements for a SMARTIE goal

- How much?
- By when?

Goal	Baseline
1. Reduce residential, commercial, and industrial energy usage.	280m kWh
2. Increase use of renewable energy sources throughout the community.	TBD
3. Increase residential, commercial, and industrial building electrification.	TBD



Photo Credit: Microsoft

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

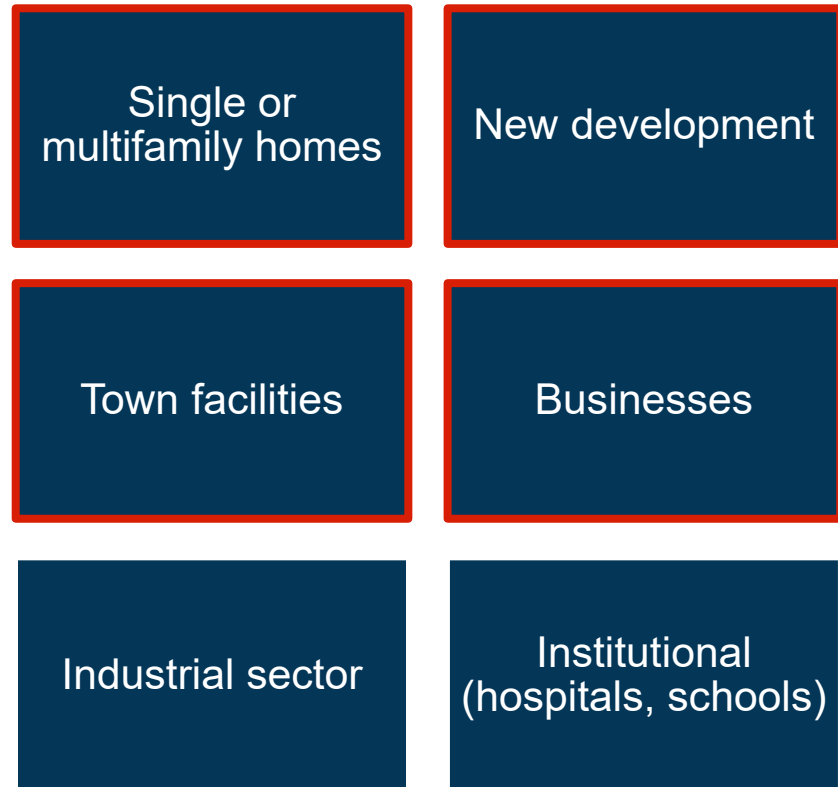
*FOCUS AREAS AND
STRATEGIES*

FOCUS AREAS – YOUR PRIORITIES

- Can include specific sectors, audiences, or topics
- Reflect opportunities identified through energy baseline
- Support the vision and organize the plan
- Suggest 2-4 for the plan (too many can make implementation difficult)

Example Focus Areas

Red border indicates PM priorities



STRATEGIES – WHAT GETS DONE

A strategy is an implementable and measurable **action** that addresses a focus area and makes progress toward goals

- Does it have a measurable outcome?
- Is it implementable by community?
- Does it have good support?
- Is it cost effective?



Photo of team near table, Nov. 5, 2019. (Pexels/ fauxels)

BRIGHTON SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONNECTION

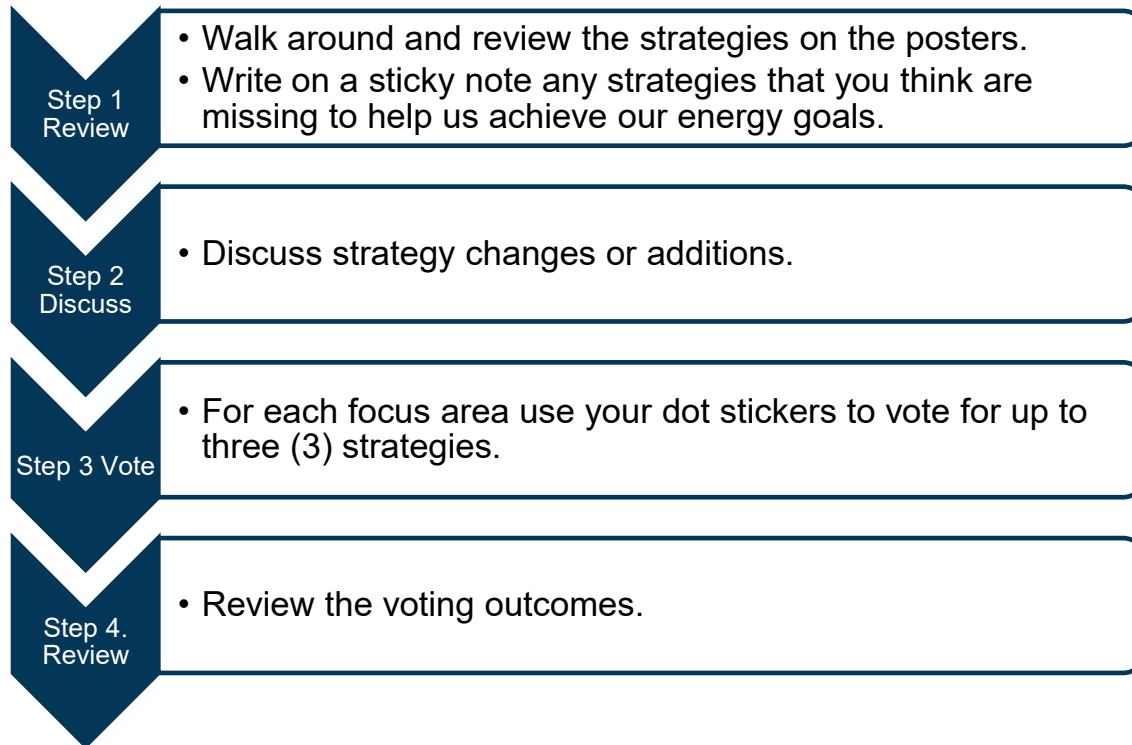


Tasks from Plan

- Develop strategies to incentivize developers and residents to participate in **renewable energy adoption and electrification initiatives**.
- Adopt the most current energy efficient **code amendments** and encourage building electrification and renewable energy usage in new developments.
- Work with United Power to **reduce residential energy consumption** through outreach and education on available programs, rebates, and benefits.
- Look for opportunities to install **solar panels on City facilities and City owned land**.
- **Update Land Use and Development Code** to include sustainability incentives for all new developments.
- **Assess and monitor energy use at City Facilities** via the free Energy Start Portfolio.
- Continue to look for opportunities to **increase energy efficiency at city owned buildings** through retrofits and automation.
- Provide **incentives for net zero new homes**.
- Develop an engagement toolkit of **sustainability resources** for residents.

STRATEGY BRAINSTORM

Activity



Proposed Focus Areas

Residential

Commercial/Businesses

New Development

Municipal Government

Other

WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS



PARTNERS IN ENERGY NETWORK RESOURCES



EVENTS

Learn and network together.



TOOLKITS

Start from the best ideas.



WEBINARS

Ask questions and share experiences.



E-NEWSLETTER

Stay current and share success.



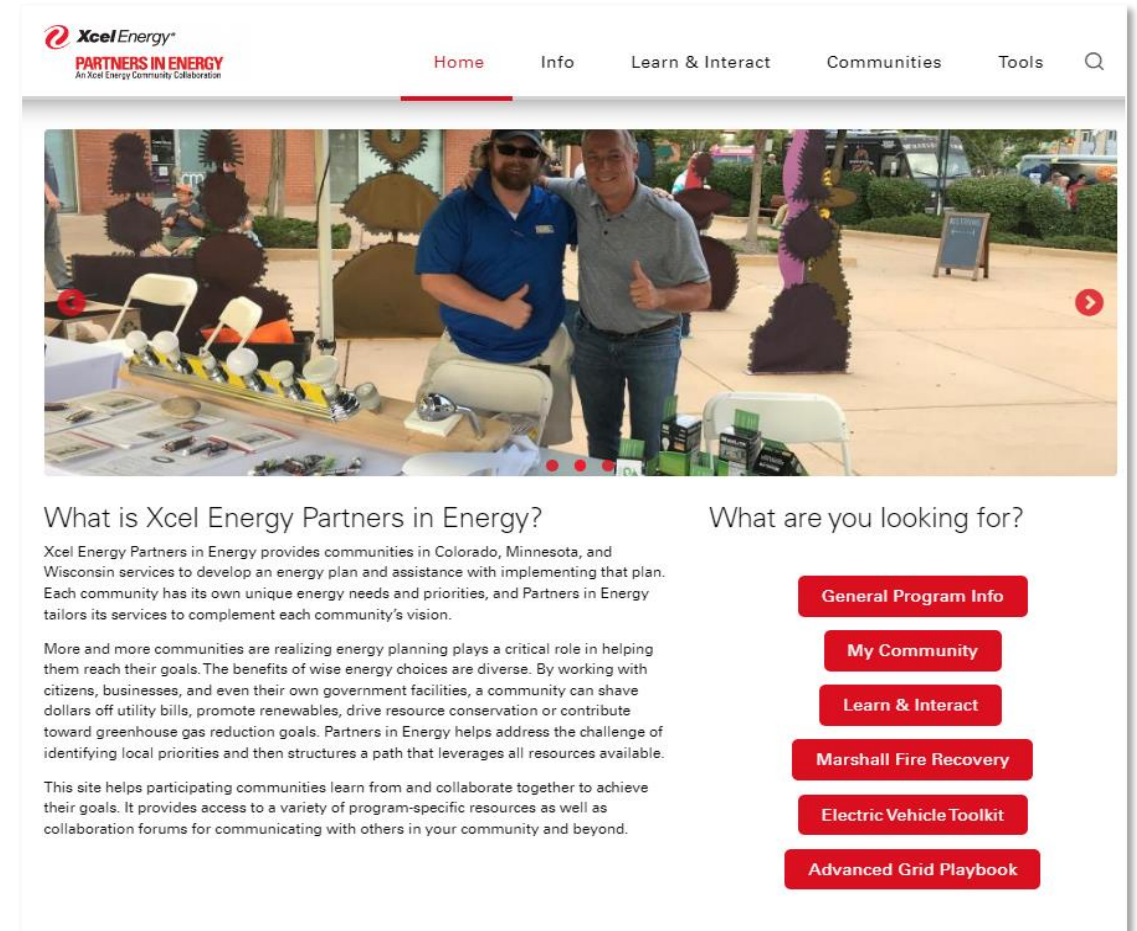
WEBSITE

Connect to resources.

PARTNERS IN ENERGY PORTAL

- Access tools and resources
- See what other communities are doing
- Enhance the Partners in Energy experience
- Centralize all community documents
- Connect participants with other communities
- Share important news and updates

Look for an invite!



NEXT STEPS

Mark your Calendars

- Next Workshop
 - September
 - Confirm plan vision and goal
 - Review relevant energy programs by focus
 - Confirm priority strategies based on survey results
 - Action plan components for prioritized strategies
 - Prepare for implementation



Network Offerings

- Monthly webinars
 - **Xcel Energy's Workforce Development Programs**
 - July 24th from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
 - [Register here](#)



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration