



Glossary of Terms & Program Descriptions

Glossary of Energy Terms

15 x 15: Xcel Energy's privacy rule, which require all data summary statistics to contain at least 15 premises, with no single premise responsible for more than 15% of the total. Following these rules, if a premise is responsible for more than 15% of the total for that data set, it is removed from the summary.

British Thermal Unit (BTU): the amount of heat needed to raise one pound of water at maximum density through one degree Fahrenheit

Carbon-free: Carbon-free refers to sources of energy that will not emit additional carbon dioxide into the air. Wind, solar and nuclear energy are all carbon free sources but only wind and solar are renewable.

Carbon-neutral: Carbon-neutral, also described as "net zero" could include carbon free sources but is broader and refers to energy that removes or avoids as much carbon dioxide as is released over a set period of time. Carbon-neutral is sometimes used to describe a site that produces an excess amount of electricity from a renewable energy source, such as solar, compared to what it consumes. That excess energy is put back into the grid in an amount that offsets the carbon dioxide produced from the electricity it draws from the grid when it is not producing renewable energy.

Conservation Improvement Programs (CIP): Portfolio of approved utility energy efficiency and demand management programs. Minnesota electric utilities have a goal of saving 1.5% of their total energy sales each year via customer conservation efforts. Minnesota natural gas utilities have a goal of saving 0.5% of their total energy sales each year via customer conservation efforts.

Energy Burden: Percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs.

Energy Reduction: The result of behavior changes that cause less energy to be used. Setting the thermostat lower *reduces* the energy used in your home during the winter. Since energy reductions can be easily reversed, they are not accounted for when calculating changes in energy usage.

Energy Savings: Comes from a permanent change that results in using less energy to achieve the same results. A new furnace uses X% less to keep your home at the same temperature (all things being equal). For accounting purposes, energy savings are only counted in the year the new equipment is installed

Greenhouse Gases (GHG): Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation and significantly contribute to climate change. The primary greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.



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Grid Decarbonization: The current planned reduction in the carbon intensity of electricity provided by electric utilities through the addition of low- or no-carbon energy sources to the electricity grid.

Kilowatt-hour (kWh): A unit of electricity consumption.

Million British Thermal Units (MMBtu): A unit of energy consumption that allows both electricity and natural gas consumption to be combined.

Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCO_{2e}): A unit of measure for greenhouse gas emissions. The unit "CO_{2e}" represents an amount of a greenhouse gas whose atmospheric impact has been standardized to that of one unit mass of carbon dioxide (CO₂), based on the global warming potential (GWP) of the gas.

Premise: A unique identifier for the location of electricity or natural gas service. In most cases it is a facility location. There can be multiple premises per building, and multiple premises per individual debtor.

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC): For every megawatt-hour of clean, renewable electricity generation, a renewable energy certificate (REC) is created. A REC embodies all of the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked and traded separately from the underlying electricity. Also known as a Renewable Energy Credit.

Resilience: The ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents

Therm (thm): A unit of natural gas consumption. A therm is equal to 100,000 British Thermal Units (BTU).

Trade Partner: Trade Partners, also known as Trade Allies or Business Trade Partners, are vendors and contractors who work with business and residential customers servicing, installing, and providing consulting services regarding the equipment associated with utility rebate programs. Their support for utility programs can range from providing equipment to assisting with rebate paperwork for equipment sold.

Popular Xcel Energy Programs

Residential Programs

AC Rewards Smart Thermostat: By participating in AC Rewards, adjustments are made to residents' smart thermostat during the hottest summer days. When the demand for electricity is the highest, you'll help Xcel Energy manage these peaks and ease the strain on the electrical grid. Customers receive an annual \$25 bill credit for every year they participate in the program.

Cooling Rebates: Rebate for new, high efficiency central air conditioners and air source heat pumps. Rebates lower the initial cost of high-efficiency equipment, which costs less to operate,

and it's better for the environment. In order to be eligible, your contractor must be a current participating contractor.

Efficient New Home Construction: This program provides incentives for builders to build homes that exceed local energy code and baseline requirements for energy efficiency by at least 10%. Homes must be evaluated by a RESNET accredited Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater.

Home Energy Savings Program: Program for income-qualified households to help customers save on energy bills, receive free advice from an energy expert, take advantage of free energy-saving improvements, and if eligible, replace older appliances with newer models.

Heating Equipment Rebates: Heating equipment rebates for new high-efficiency models. In order to be eligible, your contractor must be a current participating contractor.

Home Energy Squad®: Joint program offered by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help customers reduce energy use through in-home and virtual energy audits. Residential customers who live in a 1-4 unit property are eligible. All visits include on-the-spot installation of energy saving items like LED bulbs and weather stripping at no extra cost. Visit cost ranges from \$70-\$100. No-cost visits are available to income-qualified families.

Refrigerator Recycling: Xcel Energy program for residential customers to recycle their primary or secondary refrigerator or freezer. Units must be operational to be eligible. There is no cost to participate and customers receive a \$50 cash rebate after their unit is picked up.

Commercial & Industrial Programs

Commercial Refrigeration Efficiency: A free, on-site refrigeration assessment to determine how a business can reduce energy use and costs. Plus, businesses receive complimentary, energy-saving products that will be installed right on the spot.

Energy Design Assistance: For large construction or renovation projects of 20,000 square feet or more, this service offers comprehensive energy modeling to identify both energy and cost-savings and rebates based on a whole-building energy efficiency approach.

Energy Efficient Buildings: Often used for construction or renovation projects of 20,000 square feet or less, this service identifies energy-saving opportunities and offers rebates for installing high-efficiency equipment.

HVAC-R Rebates: Businesses can save energy and money by taking steps to boost the efficiency of their HVAC and refrigeration systems; or if it's time for a replacement, upgrade to a high-efficiency system. Businesses can earn rebates on a wide range of energy-efficient equipment including furnaces, boilers, water heaters, chillers, ventilation equipment, heat pumps, and motors.

Lighting Rebates: Rebates for businesses who upgrade to new, energy-efficiency LED tubes, lamps, and fixtures.

Multi-family Building Efficiency Program: Joint program offered by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help multi-family customers reduce energy use. Eligible participants will receive a no-cost, on-site energy analysis and installation of energy-savings items in common areas and residential units such as LED lightbulbs, energy-saving faucet and shower aerators, and more. It also includes a report with recommendations to improve energy performance and consultation support for implementing recommended projects, and incentives for making energy-efficiency upgrades.

One-Stop Efficiency Shop: Full-service rebate program specifically designed to address concerns small business owners face when choosing more efficient lighting and HVAC equipment. Includes free audit with details recommendations and start-to-finish oversight of the work.

Turn Key: An on-site assessment conducted at your facility that identifies improvements to reduce your energy costs, and provides an assessment report that outlines energy savings opportunities, as well as assistance completing rebate paperwork.

Renewable Energy Programs

Renewable*Connect[®]: Subscription program from Xcel Energy that offers an affordable way to benefit from renewable energy, with no equipment necessary and access to a blend of wind and solar energy produced in Minnesota. The Renewable Energy Certificates are retired on behalf of customers who subscribe to Renewable* Connect.

Solar*Rewards: An incentivized program from Xcel Energy, with monthly payments made to the owner (Xcel Energy customer) of the solar energy system in exchange for Renewable Energy Certificates for the energy produced by the solar energy system.

Solar*Rewards Community: The nation's largest community solar garden program from Xcel Energy. Solar*Rewards Community gives customers who subscribe the opportunity to support the development of nearby solar gardens and receive an Xcel Energy bill credit monthly for the solar energy produced by their subscription. Customers work with directly with the community solar garden developer to subscribe.

Windsource[®]: Subscription program from Xcel Energy that offers access to renewable energy benefits from wind farms within the state of Minnesota renewable energy, with no equipment necessary for a small monthly charge. The Renewable Energy Certificates for customers who subscribe to Windsource are retired on behalf of the customers who subscribe. Subscriptions blocks can be purchased in increments of 100 kWh up to 100% of your electricity usage.