



PARTNERS IN ENERGY – BRIGHTON

Workshop 1 Meeting Notes

Monday, July 14, 2025

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Brighton City Hall

500 S Fourth Ave, Brighton, CO 80601

6th Floor, City Council Study Session Chambers

Parking: lot in front of building

Agenda

Time	Agenda
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

Participants

Name	Organization
Amanda Perkins	Adams County
Arielle Gerstein	Adams County
Grace Sullivan	Brighton Resident
David Duran	City of Brighton
Holly Prather	City of Brighton
Jared Putnam	City of Brighton
Karen Borkowski Surine	City of Brighton
Kathryn Mortensen	City of Brighton
Marv Falconbur	City of Brighton
Noe Martinez	City of Brighton
Patrick Rome	City of Brighton
Robin Martinez	City of Brighton

Traci McLean	City of Brighton
Kim Bucci	United Power
Samantha Riblett	United Power
Andrea McCarthy	Xcel Energy Partners in Energy
Paul Schmiechen	Xcel Energy Partners in Energy

Notes

See slides for presentation details

Welcome

- Introductions
 - Traci McLean – elevate energy, develop a plan
 - Kathryn – working with Honeywell
 - Kim Bucci – United Power – EVs and charging stations
 - Patrick Rome – Facilities and Fleet; here for the ride
 - Noe – Public Works, challenges for transition for businesses and residential
 - Grace – Brighton resident, affordability and how to talk to Sustainability
 - Robin – how to guide businesses to efficiency and opportunities
 - Jared – how to get community involved when this is new and not top of mind
 - Arielle – where to collaborate with Adams County energy plan
 - Amanda – collaboration with Xcel Energy and United Power
 - Kim – partnership and collaboration in how to support for goals
 - Marv – hopeful in making progress in energy action and in a personal action about how to make Brighton a better place
 - Karen – assistant City manager
 - David – wanting to learn about what Brighton is doing
- Energy related to job
 - Use a computer, which uses energy/power
 - Deal with energy-related items such as paying bills, but not in day-to-day of energy topics
 - Have a job where we're doing projects related to energy - sustainability
- Energy Literacy
 - Beginner
 - Reasons: know kWhs and some terms, but not technical aspects
 - Intermediate
 - Know energy at a personal level and may deal with pieces in work tasks
 - Advanced
 - Have education or job/career is very tied to energy

Planning Context

- Force Field
 - For: technology, resources, state and local support,
 - Against: perceived misinformation, perceived lack of affordability, influential people providing inaccurate information, confirmation bias,

What are the forces for and against energy action in Brighton?



Where Are We Now?

- Is the Brighton program participation in line with other communities? Depends on the community. Increasing program participation is a common strategy.
- More information on the residential new home construction? Programs are available for new homes – electric efficiency, electric ready. Is Energy Star new homes part of the program participation?
- Brighton electric ready codes in process.
- Streetlight conversion. Phase 2 done by end of summer. Phase 3 2026 to early 2027.
- Work with local businesses on energy efficiency. Business visits to help identify opportunities.
- Equity
 - Equity concerns: language barriers, may have more people living in homes than actually tracked (multi-generational, multi-family), social isolation, outreach to different generations (some communities use Tik Tok), buildings at risk from climate, low-medium income, linguistically isolated.
 - Need to know the audience. Some want social media, some want letters/mailers. Free events at City Hall have reached many people. Local businesses prefer mailers.
 - How has equity been prioritized? Brighton has a Justice40 census tract.

Where Do We Want to Go?

- Holly Prather joined
- Plan framework
 - Vision
 - Draft vision statement builds on the Sustainable Plan vision and the building efficiency section.
 - Beginning and ending of the statement mirror
 - Reducing energy usage and promoting beneficial electrification – do they contradict?
 - “...By investing in energy efficiency...”
 - Beneficial electrification wasn’t a term that most people knew so may want to
 - The term “our” unclear if related only government facilities or community
 - Missing:
 - Education - may be more appropriate for strategy as how we do these actions.
 - Consensus is that this is good shape with the given comments
 - Goals
 - SMARTIE goal – want to be specific, measurable, actionable, realistic, time-bound
 - Colorado goals are examples of good goals
 - Xcel Energy goal baseline is from 2005.
 - Brighton has goals from the Sustainability Plan that we can build from
 - Goals can be top-down set a goal, bottom-up can be a check with the strategies to be completed
 - Considerations for the plan include short-term time horizon, what metric to use, and level of ambition or what resources can be put towards this.
 - Brighton does want a municipal goal.
 - Goals can change based on data and knowledge.
 - Westminster initially had a goal but weren’t going to meet
 - Discussion
 - Break out first one into electricity and natural gas.
 - Second one is clarity around what it means

- Increase renewable energy with government or community?
- Facilities can't do everything. What did Westminster do?
 - Heat pumps, LEDs, tune ups, HVAC
- What is the political appetite for the goals?
 - There is appetite in the community – renewable energy came up in community input, City Council is interested
 - Like to frame with very practical measures.
 - Have a goal with energy and cost savings?
 - It can be hard to guarantee.
 - Goals to address
 - Goals can be less direct for residents
- How does building performance benchmark play into it
 - Each building will have its own separate benchmark
 - Will help to drive down usage, but want to go above and beyond the State requirements.
 - Geothermal in rec center. Did everything to drive down energy.
- EV question on permit. Going forward can track, historical would be hard.
- Is there anything missing?
 - Reducing energy usage
 - May be hard in industrial to reduce energy use.
 - Important to include municipal goal.
 - Factor in growth in community – assumptions include energy reductions from state requirements.

How Will We Get There?

- Focus Areas
 - Ways to group actionable strategies. Strategies make the plan tactical and real.
 - Pulling from Sustainability plan tasks
 - Wanted to use carrots instead of sticks.
 - Adopting code amendments (EV, solar, electric ready)
 - Did a building energy performance
 - Incentives for net zero new homes – haven't done much yet
- Draft Strategies
 - Reviewed strategies, made comments, had discussion, added a couple additional strategies.
 - Voted on draft strategies that want to implement in the next couple of years.
 - See photos below with draft strategies, comments, and votes.

Residential

Strategy Name	Votes
Outreach to educate residents about energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy options and resources	<p><i>Partner with utilities for education + outreach?</i></p> <p><i>WORK WITH UNITED POWER A LOT TO PROMOTE EXISTING INCENTIVES THAT ARE AVAILABLE</i></p>
Provide outreach and training to residential developers, architects, and contractors on up-to-date energy codes and best practices	<p><i>I think CEO already does this but Brighton could organize locally.</i></p>
Sign up residents to participate in Home Energy Audits	<p><i>GIVE incentives for in home energy audit?</i></p>
Increase participation in low-income weatherization services	<p><i>What about household uses the service is low income but has property owner as most low-income; rental?</i></p>

This seems like it should be a quantitative target
→ maybe say increase participation

"Sign up"
↓
Facilitate?
increase?
encourage?

Strategy Name	Votes
<p>Assume this is also done with #3 below.</p> <p>Outreach to businesses to educate about energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy resources and options</p>	<p>Partner with utilities for outreach education?</p>
<p>Difficult as these are not usually the same... i.e. do a pop-up once in Brighton</p> <p>Provide outreach and training to commercial developers, architects, and contractors on energy efficiency and electrification best practices</p>	
<p>Could happen inside an outreach campaign or would Brighton be doing assessments?</p> <p>Conduct a small business energy assessment campaign</p>	<p>Businesses - especially equity priority. Businesses need Navigational Support on innovation level.</p>
<p>Explore joining Colorado Green Business Network</p> <p>Work-towards</p> <p>need - strategy for large businesses/ industrial</p> <p>Issues include: - Incentives Can you? Don't have funds?</p>	<p>Should we aim to join as just explore requirements?</p>



New Development

Strategy Name	Votes
Identify and implement developer incentives to increase renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency	<div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> </div>
Identify ^{or implementing} opportunities to update land use and development code to increase renewable energy adoption, electrification, and lower energy consumption	<div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> </div>
Update zoning to include new renewable energy overlay districts, and special zoning for high energy use developments such as data centers	<div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> </div>
Provide incentives for net zero new homes	<div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> <div>●</div> </div>
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Only Identify?
or
Identify & Implement?

provide education, training for contractors / developers?

Partner with utilities for incentives?

Water conservation Code

who are the incentives going to?

Municipal Government

Strategy Name	Votes
<p>Should this go under new development?</p> <p>Lower the local benchmarking threshold and square footage requirements for new buildings</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>
<p>Explore opportunities to increase energy efficiency at city owned buildings through retrofits and automation</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> </p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>
<p>Increase renewable energy usage and battery storage across all city facilities</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> </p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>
<p>Coordinate with initiatives for workforce readiness for green jobs</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>
<p> <p>Should this go under business?</p> <p>Change</p> </p>	<p> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p> <p> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> </p>

Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Workshop 2 in the fall, more details to come.
- Follow up survey about vision, goals, strategies
- Will be getting an email to join the Partners in Energy Portal.