

An Energy Action Plan for Bloomington, Minnesota

Executive Summary

Bloomington's Energy Action Plan, developed by and for the community, supports One Bloomington and its strategic priorities by outlining how the City can responsibly address climate change through energy efficiency and renewable energy. Successful implementation will result in improved public health, a stronger economy, increased resiliency, and less pollution. The plan proposes a number of goals and strategies. Specific budget items will be brought forward annually for Council consideration, during the budget process.

Our Goals

Community Energy Goal

75% reduction in city-wide energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, relative to 2016 levels

Electricity Goal

95% reduction in city-wide electricity-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, relative to 2016 levels

Natural Gas

33% reduction in city-wide natural gas-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, relative to 2016 levels

Transportation

Pursue all viable opportunities for promoting the elimination of vehicle emissions, including support for electric vehicles, increased public transportation, higher-density and mixed-use zoning, additional biking and pedestrian infrastructure, and telecommuting

Focus Areas

Near-term Energy Focus Areas (Begin in the next 2 years)

- Business energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Electric vehicles (EVs)
- Municipal energy – City of Bloomington SolSmart participation and public building efficiency
- Residential energy efficiency and renewable energy

Long-term Energy Focus Areas (Begin after 2 years)

- Continue the implementation and momentum of successful residential, business, and municipal and electric vehicle initiatives launched prior to 2020
- Explore and promote onsite renewable energy opportunities
- Identify energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities in new construction
- Increase bicycle use and safety
- Increase the use of mass transit and shift away from single-occupancy vehicles

Near-term Priorities and Goals

Business

By 2020:

- Have 70 businesses participate in an energy audit or recommissioning study
- Double baseline energy efficiency program participation
- Sign up an additional 10 businesses in Bloomington for Xcel Energy's Windsource[®] program, Renewable Connect[®] program, or a community solar garden subscription

Municipal

- Hire a full-time sustainability professional, responsible for reducing both municipal and city-wide greenhouse gas emissions
- Benchmark city facility energy use and develop a strategic plan for identifying savings opportunities and begin plan implementation
- Join SolSmart and review city practices around solar

Residential

- Sign up 850 households for Home Energy Squad[®] visits in Bloomington – 350 in 2018 and 500 in 2019
- Sign up an additional 850 households in Bloomington for Xcel Energy's Windsource or Renewable Connect programs – 350 in (2018) and 500 in (2019)
- Have at least four Bloomington multifamily buildings engage in energy efficiency programs annually, during 2018 and 2019

Electric Vehicles

- Aid in the acceleration of electric vehicle (EV) adoption by installing two-five EV chargers at popular municipal locations (e.g. parks) throughout the city