

Executive Summary

This Energy Action Plan outlines tangible steps for the City of Westminster to move the community toward its energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy facilitated a series of planning workshops with the Energy Action Planning Team (planning team) starting in the fall of 2017 and wrapping up in early 2018 to develop this plan. The planning team included representatives from Westminster's City operations, school districts and community colleges, United Power and Tri-State Generation, Westminster Chamber of Commerce, and citizens committed to representing local energy priorities and supporting implementation of the plan's strategies.

Our Energy Vision

The City of Westminster will facilitate an affordable, low-carbon future, community well-being, and a thriving economy through energy awareness, conservation, equity of access, alternative and renewable energy, and sustainable development.

Our Goals

The City of Westminster aims to be one of the most sustainable cities in America and supports the State of Colorado goals outlined in Executive Order D 2017-015:

- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions statewide by more than 26 percent by 2025 compared to 2005 levels.
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity sector by 25 percent by 2025 compared to 2012 levels.
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity sector by 35 percent by 2030 compared to 2012 levels.
- Achieve electricity savings of 2 percent of total electricity sales per year by 2020 through cost-effective energy efficiency.

Westminster will work toward setting specific community-wide GHG goals in upcoming sustainability planning that will include transportation and waste reduction in addition to energy reduction. In the meantime, the community can make actionable progress by implementing the strategies outlined in this Energy Action Plan:

- Through existing utility energy efficiency programs, achieve 1 percent electricity savings and 0.5 percent natural gas savings annually, leading to 12 percent electricity savings and 6 percent natural gas savings by 2030 compared to the City's 2014 baseline year.
- Through renewable energy offerings, increase the amount of energy produced from renewable energy sources by 10 percent annually, or about 1,640 megawatt hours (MWh) per year.
- Through these combined efforts and Xcel Energy's plans to include more renewable sources in its fuel mixture, reduce annual GHG emissions by 19 percent by 2030 compared to the 2014 baseline year.

While these goals do not line up exactly with the state goals, they show intent and actionable progress that will jumpstart other initiatives identified during sustainability planning. Estimated energy savings related to upgraded streetlighting and the Advanced Westminster Downtown Reduced Energy District are not included in the outcomes above as their timelines are uncertain and they require coordination beyond the

scope of this plan. However, as those strategies are implemented, the energy savings will positively and significantly affect progress toward statewide goals.

How Will We Get There?

To move toward its long-term goals, the City of Westminster's planning team identified strategic initiatives for each of four important focus areas and set shorter-term targets for these focus areas. These focus areas and strategic initiatives will be the working elements of the Energy Action Plan and will generate concrete actions and impacts. The focus areas are shown below, along with a playbook outlining highlighted activities and when they will be underway, as well as what will follow the Partners in Energy engagement.

Public Use Facilities

Strategies:

- Optimize Facilities and Increase Renewable/Alternative Energy Capacity
- Upgrade Streetlights to LED
- Advance Westminster Downtown Reduced Energy District

New Construction/ Development

Strategy:

- Raise Awareness Around New Building Standards and Available Resources

Residential Buildings

Strategy:

- Deliver Residential Education and Outreach

Commercial Buildings

Strategy:

- Implement Awareness Campaign Through Westminster Chamber of Commerce

Playbook for Achieving Our Goals

Ongoing

- Coordinate activities with upcoming sustainability planning efforts
- Have regular check-ins to stay on course and adjust as needed
- Track implementation of strategies over time
- Continue to identify new outreach channels and target program
- Recognize successes and high performing community members
- Regularly share outcomes with City Council and the public
- Refine strategy approaches to accommodate lessons learned

Near-term Actions (April 2018 – December 2019)

- Share Energy Action Plan with community through a press release and City website
- Convene strategy teams
- Finalize organizational priority lists for buildings
- Consider renewable energy options as part of annual planning
- Continue to coordinate with Xcel Energy on best option for streetlight conversion
- Develop contracts, agreements, and partnerships to facilitate progress on Downtown Westminster Reduced Energy District
- Begin to market downtown site to developers and potential tenants
- Establish City task force and hire building standards consultant
- Develop milestone building standards schedule and provide staff training
- Determine calendar of activities and responsibilities
- Develop key messages and first round of standards outreach materials
- Consolidate/disseminate targeted information on resources for residents and businesses

Long-term Actions (beyond 2019)

- Incorporate energy efficiency into annual capital improvement budgets
- Refresh/update building department materials as appropriate
- Publish progress on City website
- Implement additional energy improvement projects in public facilities
- Continue to educate community on benefits of Downtown Westminster Reduced Energy District
- Further develop initiatives for the commercial sector
- Incorporate this Energy Action Plan into the broader Sustainability Plan, with revisions as needed