

Executive Summary

Winona has set a bold goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. This Energy Action Plan represents an important first step that will ultimately lead to an estimated 34 percent reduction in the city's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Winona is a unique community that stands out as a regional leader in taking action to both reduce energy bills and substantially decrease carbon emissions. Accomplishing the goals outlined in this plan will require proactive action by both residents and businesses in the community, and it will not happen without the support and engagement of a myriad of community groups and individuals.

In releasing this plan, the Energy Action Team hopes to spur interest and motivation among community and business leaders. There has been significant effort over the last two years to build momentum around energy and its relationship to climate change. The goals and strategies outlined in this plan will accelerate that momentum and generate some important and tangible results.

Our Vision

Winona will be a leader in efforts to reduce energy consumption and produce renewable energy, in pursuit of long-term environmental sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint. These efforts will be available to all, will maintain our high quality of life and vibrant economy, and will not limit growth.

Our Goals

The City of Winona aims to:

- Reduce energy use 10 percent over a 2016 baseline by 2025
- Achieve a 100 percent reduction in energy-related greenhouse emission (carbon neutrality) by 2050



Images from downtown Winona

How Will We Get There?

To achieve these results, Winona outlined a set of goals and strategies in four focus areas:

Residential Energy	Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double annual participation in conservation programs.• Double the average number of renewable energy subscribers and double the average monthly subscription amount within one year.
Institutions	Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce institutional energy use by 15 percent below a 2016 baseline by 2025.• Engage Winona institutions to support renewable energy development equal to 10 percent of their energy use by 2030.
Large Commercial/Industrial Energy Users	Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage 90 percent of large commercial/industrial customers to participate in at least one conservation program within three years.• Ensure at least three large commercial/industrial customers commit to adding on-site renewable energy generation within three years.
Small- and Medium-Size Businesses	Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage at least 40 small/medium size businesses to participate in conservation programs annually.• Double annual energy use reductions among small/medium businesses.• Ensure at least one small business subscribes to or installs renewable energy generation annually.

Starting in the fall of 2017, Winona will begin the process of implementing this Energy Action Plan. Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy will work with Winona for the first 18 months, providing marketing, project management, technical, and data tracking support. Key players from the City of Winona and the Energy Action Team will play an important role in implementing the plan, and the City will also seek community volunteers to help with outreach and community engagement. Interested individuals should contact John Howard, Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator, at jhoward@ci.winona.mn.us, or at 507-457-8273.