

LOUISVILLE'S COMMUNITY DECARBONIZATION PLAN FACT SHEET

What is “decarbonization”?

Decarbonization refers to activities that reduce our carbon emissions from the atmosphere. This can include activities that **prevent emissions**, like burning fewer fossil fuels. It can also include activities that **absorb emissions**, like planting trees! This effort is focused on identifying strategies to reduce communitywide emissions associated with energy supply, building energy use, and vehicle energy use.

Why is Louisville planning for decarbonization?

It's no surprise Louisville is planning for decarbonization; Louisville seeks to provide a high quality of life to residents and decarbonization offers a lot of benefits! Decarbonization reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves air quality, and bolsters resiliency. Did you know electric equipment is up to three times more energy efficient than gas-powered equipment? This is true for both building mechanical systems and cars.

Establishing a measurable decarbonization future

In 2019, Louisville's City Council adopted Resolution 25, Series 2019. This resolution established two clear decarbonization goals for the community:

1. Generate 75% of Louisville's residential and commercial/industrial electric needs from carbon-free sources by 2030
2. Reduce core community GHG emissions annually below the 2016 baseline through 2030

How does this planning effort fit in with other Louisville plans?

In 2020, Louisville updated the City's Sustainability Action Plan. This plan identifies several key strategies necessary to make progress toward the City's decarbonization goals, and beyond. Through Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy offering, Louisville intends to build upon the following goals and objectives with an eye toward implementation, tracking, and reporting. The full Sustainability Action Plan and current progress can be found at LouisvilleCO.gov/Sustainability.

Energy

...increase the use of carbon-free energy and transition away from fossil fuels.

- Increase energy efficiency in residential and commercial properties across Louisville
- Increase renewable energy adoption at residential and commercial properties in Louisville

Transportation

Provide and maintain sustainable and safe transportation ...while reducing environmental impact.

- Support the public adoption of EVs and assist in the installation of public charging stations

What details will this plan include?

Through this planning effort, we will answer the following questions:

1. What will it really take to achieve Louisville's current decarbonization goals, and what would it mean to set our sights on a more ambitious decarbonization goal?
2. What resources are available to support community decarbonization activities and where are our resource gaps?
3. Are there key policies, programs, or financing solutions that can help us fill identified resource gaps?
4. How will we measure success and hold ourselves accountable?

What will the planning process look like?

The City of Louisville identified a team of community stakeholders, including residents and business owners, to help guide the development of Louisville's first-ever Community Decarbonization Plan. This stakeholder team will convene across four workshops, to help develop a strategic action plan that will guide community decarbonization efforts. Additional input will be garnered through four key informant interviews, a financing workshop, and through community engagement and outreach efforts. This project will include two City Council presentations. The first presentation will provide City Council with a mid-project report on the planning effort and the second presentation will bring the final plan before Council for adoption. After the plan is complete, City staff, partners and leadership will evaluate implementation strategies with the support of Partners in Energy.

What is Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy?

Xcel Energy is the electric and natural gas utility that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Each community Xcel Energy serves has its own unique priorities and vision. To continue supporting their communities, Xcel Energy launched Partners in Energy in the summer of 2014 as a collaborative resource with tailored services to help each community advance their energy priorities. Partners in Energy includes professional facilitation, data analysis services, marketing and communications, and project management to support communities in developing actionable and measurable energy plans. Planning processes typically last between 6-8 months. Partners in Energy applies these same services to support plan implementation, and to measure plan progress, over 18 months following plan adoption.

Louisville was one of the first participants in Partners in Energy, completing their first Energy Action Plan in 2016. The community successfully met or exceeded the energy savings goals identified in the plan.