



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

April 13, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

AGENDA

Pursuant to Mayoral Declaration 20-01 and Ordinance No. 1380, the April 13, 2021 meeting of the Fridley Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting will be held virtually.

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/96329314788>

or call 312-626-6799, webinar ID:963 2931 4788

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) Approve March 9 Meeting Minutes

New Business

- [2.](#) Commission Updates
- [3.](#) Parks Master Plan update

Old Business

- [4.](#) Energy Action Plan update

Other Items

5. Informal Staff Reports

Adjournment



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Approve March 9 Meeting Minutes

Background

Recommendation

Approve the minutes from the March 9 EQEC Meeting

Attachments and Other Resources

- Draft March 9 Meeting Minutes

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center, 7071 University Ave Ne

MINUTES

March 9, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

Call to Order

Commissioner Olberding called the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Amy Dritz, Justin Foell, Nick Olberding, Heidi Ferris, and Sam Stoxen

Absent: Mark Hanson

Staff: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Approval of Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes

1. Review January 12, Minutes

A spelling error was noted in the first section of new business, add a "w" to hole.

Commissioner Dritz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Commissioner Ferris seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

New Business

1. Environmental Events Update

a. Earth Day EcoDash

SpringBrook Nature Center did an event with the goose app to replace Pumpkin Night in the Park in October. The goose app will be used for Earth Day offering challenges throughout the City and activities that can also be done at home. Any ideas send to Rachel.

b. Trails Day Bingo

The May newsletter will feature a bingo card featuring Fridley trails. Fridley residents can participate in the 50k challenge that encourages people to walk 50k in May.

Commissioner Ferris asked if the 50k could include skateboarding.

Ms. Workin replied that people can walk, bike, or roll.

Commissioner Ferris asked if the libraries were involved with any activities as they could help promote these events.

Ms. Working replied that they are involved in the EcoDash but people could ride their bike to the library in the 50k for May activity.

Commission Foell thought that kayaking with small groups may be an opportunity to promote a trails day event but that would be dependent on rainfall.

Ms. Workin will mention that idea to Fridley recreation but agreed that it is a weather dependent activity.

2. Rice Creek Terrace Rain Gardens

A small section of streets will be redone in the neighborhood between Mississippi Street and the creek for the Living Streets 2021 Street Project. The Rice Creek Watershed District has identified priority locations for rain gardens. Letters were sent out to property owners that their property was identified as a priority location and the cost of a rain garden would be shared as part of this project. This is the first time doing intentional rain gardens with Rice Creek Watershed District. If it is successful maybe this can be considered in the future.

Commissioner Ferris asked if there was a place to post a plant identification tool for homeowners to help them identify what are plants and what are weeds.

Ms. Workin replied yes, something could be posted on the website along with the landscaping plans. There may also be online data bases to refer on the website.

Commissioner Ferris suggested to keep the landscaping plans consistent in raingardens for easier identification.

Commissioner Foell mentioned there is an app where you can take a picture of the plant and the app would tell you what it is.

Ms. Workin thought information on common weeds that are found in rain gardens would also be good information to help identify weeds vs. deliberately planted plants.

3. Bike Workshop Updates

Ms. Workin said that the workshop will be held early May and then maybe do a bike ride instead of the May EQEC meeting.

Commissioner Dritz asked what was submitted in the application.

Ms. Workin replied address physical barriers, incorporate the active transportation plan and bike friendly infrastructure into developments, bike friendly businesses, encourage more destination trips, look into bike advocacy, barriers unique to specific age groups or underrepresented groups in the biking community.

Commissioner Ferris asked about the public transit and new construction with high density housing and how does that fit into public transit.

Ms. Workin will extend the invitation to those developments to see if any residents are interested in participating.

Commissioner Foell asked how the "road diet" plans are going.

Ms. Workin replied that something may be in the March newsletter.

Old Business

1. Tree Sale Update

Ms. Workin noted that the tree list that was mailed is different than what was printed in the newsletter because the trees that were ordered were not available. Staff tried to find comparable plants and identified neighborhoods that had less than 40% coverage and sent postcards with a code for 50% off. So far 35 trees were sold to 16 people. 65% of those people are in the under forested area. Only half of them used the discount code. Staff also reached out to owners of apartment buildings and if they wanted to use discount code they could. People really want smaller ornamental trees rather than the larger trees. There are a large number of ash trees that appear to be advanced in ash borer in south Fridley and are considered hazardous. It is more cost effective to treat the ash trees over 30 years than to remove the ash trees.

Commissioner Stoxen thought the prices listed reflected the 50% discount, he wondered if people thought the discount was already applied.

2. Grants Update

Ms. Workin said that the City received a grant from Coon Creek Watershed District for Craig Park. People want to see native plants and better water quality. Other items included garbage and recycle bins and support for pickle ball.

The Rice Creek Watershed District road conversion grant was also received.

3. WindUp Challenge and HES Updates

Ms. Workin said that the goal was 50 people to sign up for the WindUp Challenge in January/February and 64 signed up. Wind up challenge and home energy quad update.

48 people received Home Energy Squad visits and was great to see that four of the visits were income qualified visits. Prior to outreach we didn't see any visits from this population.

Commissioner Foell noted that the WindUp challenge is no longer going on but thought that a Q & A in a future newsletter about WindUp would be helpful to answer questions about it.

4. Parks Master Plan Update

Ms. Workin said that a presentation on the Parks Master Plan will be made at our next meeting.

Adjourn

Commissioner Stoxen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ferris seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Commission Updates

Background

Following recent vacancies on the EQEC and Planning Commission, Aaron Klemz has been appointed as a new commissioner on the EQEC and Mark Hansen has been appointed as chair of the planning commission. Since the chair of the planning commission is an at-large position, it cannot be fulfilled by a chair representative. A new EQEC chair who will also serve as the EQEC representative to the planning commission should be selected.

Recommendation

Commissioners should appoint a new chair of the EQEC.

Attachments and Other Resources

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Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 6, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Parks Master Plan update

Background

Community services staff will provide an update on the parks master planning process. Park plans can be viewed at FridleyMN.gov/FindingYourFun-Updates

Recommendation

Attachments and Other Resources

-

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy (EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Energy Action Plan update

Background

In November 2018 the City of Fridley City Council adopted an Energy Action Plan that established the goal of a 5% reduction in community energy use in 2020 compared to business as usual. The plan set additional goals for program participation. Xcel Energy supported the implementation of this plan through the Partners in Energy program. The original support period was for 18 months, which was then extended through February 2021. Program activities conducted during this time include:

- Preparation of multiple fliers and outreach material
- Sponsorship of the Business Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy breakfasts
- Three targeted direct mailers to Fridley residents
- Direct mailer to large commercial energy users
- Site visits to grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations
- Inclusion of energy efficiency language in Special Use Permits
- Hundreds of light bulbs and magnets for outreach at events like Winterfest, the Environmental Fun Fair, Fare for All, and the 49ers Day parade
- Material content and designated Home Energy Squad times for presentations at Park Plaza Cooperative and the Fridley Community Center
- Presentation to Cops and Clergy group on sustainability and forming green teams
- Direct phone calls to all multi-family property managers

Program achievements include:

- 18 multi-family properties participated in energy analyses, compared to 0 before program
- 50 businesses undertook refrigeration, lighting, and HVAC-R upgrades
- 3 Energy efficient building participants
- 1,331 residential actions toward energy conservation and renewal energy (goal 1,200)
- 275 subscribers to renewable energy (goal 211)
- Leased an EV
- Subscribed to community solar garden

Total Xcel Energy program participation increased 50% from baseline and saved 3,162 MTCO₂e.. Electricity consumption decreased 7% from baseline; natural gas consumption increased 7% from baseline, resulting in an overall increase in 1% energy usage from the baseline. This consumption is not

Vision Statement

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normalized for weather, economic trends, or market changes. Partners in Energy will continue to provide ongoing support for Fridley's Energy goals.

Recommendation

Attachments and Other Resources

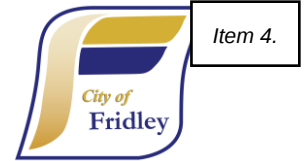
- 2020 Implementation Report

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Fridley Data Dashboard

Xcel Energy 2020 Program Summary



Community-wide Goal

Fridley will reduce community energy use 5% by 2020, and 20% by 2030

Implementation Activity Highlights

- Conducted one on one outreach to multi-family building owners to encourage participation in free energy analysis from the Multi-Family Building Efficiency Program, resulting in 18 participants in 2020.
- Promoted Home Energy Squad on City channels and participated in inter-city Home Energy Squad challenge to encourage residents to sign up for virtual and in-home visits to residents. More than 30 households participated in 2020.
- Promoted free assessment programs to businesses to promote refrigeration, lighting and HVAC-R upgrades, resulting in 50 businesses taking advantage of these free assessments.
- Shared energy efficiency and renewable energy program information on City communication channels, including Facebook, online and print newsletter, and emails.
- Created guide for faith-based organizations to form their own green teams.

Cumulative Stats Since Implementation Launch

Greenhouse Gas
Emissions Savings (MTCO₂e)

3,162

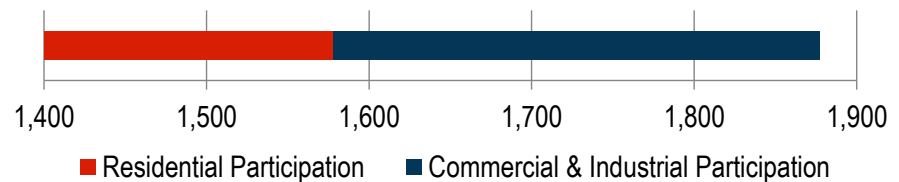
Electricity Savings (kWh)

9,471,152

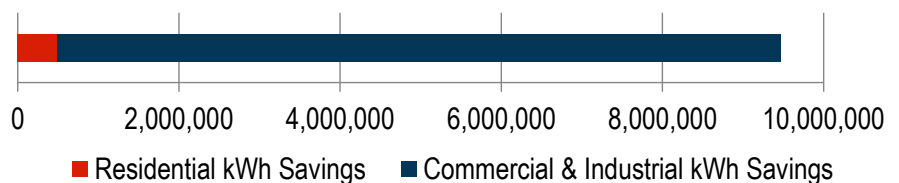
Program Participants

1,877

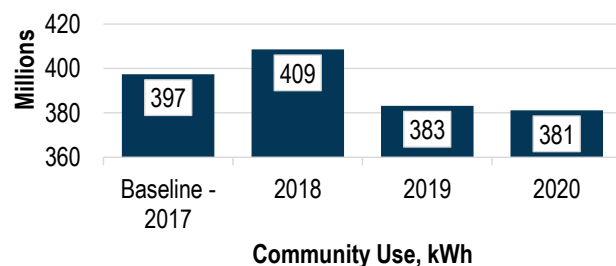
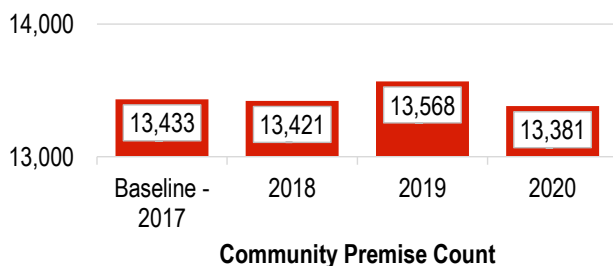
Cumulative Participation Counts



Cumulative Electricity Savings (kWh)



Utility Consumption & Premise Trends



Xcel Energy provides Electricity to Fridley.

Participation counts for rebate programs reflect Xcel Energy offerings only

Partners in Energy is a collaboration of the Community, Brendle Group (CO), CEE (MN), and Xcel Energy



PARTNERS IN ENERGY
An Xcel Energy Community Collaboration

Fridley Data Dashboard

Xcel Energy 2020 Program Summary

Participation & Savings Highlights

- Residential and Commercial & Industrial program participation and electricity savings are higher in 2020 as compared to the same time period in 2019.
- Top programs for residents include heating and cooling rebates, Home Energy Squad, and refrigerator recycling.
- Commercial & industrial customers are actively participating in lighting programs, and participating in new programs, including Multi-family Building Efficiency and Commercial Refrigeration Efficiency, with 18 participants in the multi-family program this year.

2019 vs. 2020

Residential Program Participation

2019: 635

2020: 943

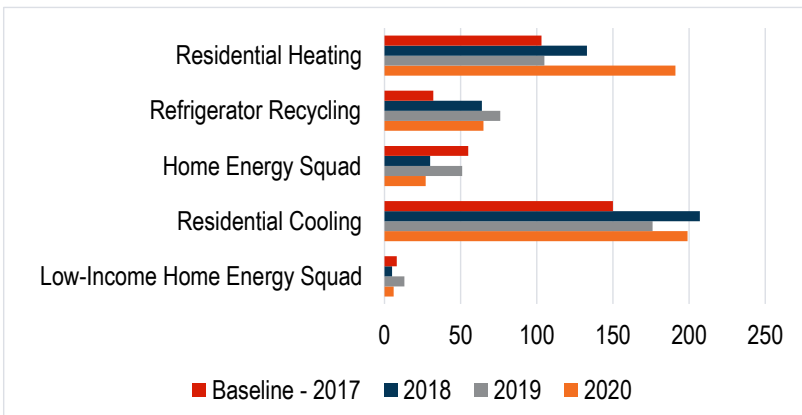
Commercial & Industrial Program Participation

2019: 133

2020: 166

Top Programs - Residential Participation

Year-To-Date Total Participation: **943**

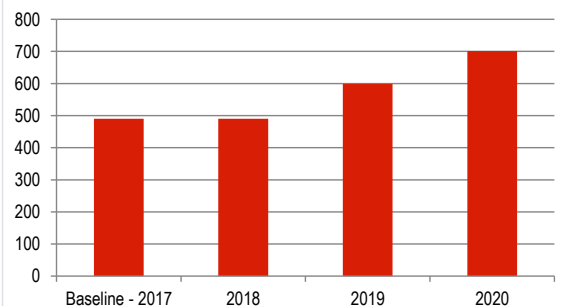


Renewable Energy

Total kWh Subscribed: **30,617,601**

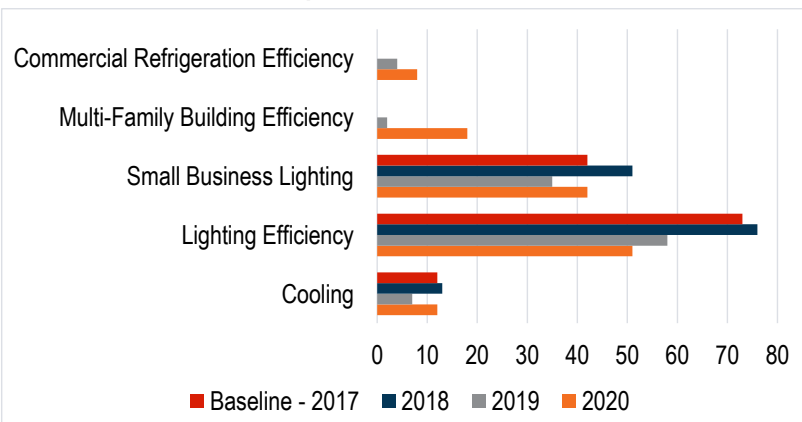
Renewable Energy Subscriptions

Residential Renewable Subscriptions



Top Programs - Commercial & Industrial Participation

Year-To-Date Total Participation: **166**



Commercial & Industrial Renewable Subscriptions

