

City of Northfield

*City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov*



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Environmental Quality Commission

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The proposed consent agenda is included on the Council Chamber screens. The purpose of a consent agenda is to allow for routine motions, resolutions, and ordinances, or those previously discussed with consensus made, to be passed with one motion. These are still important and necessary considerations and full background memo and materials are publicly available on the website and a copy on the table in the room. Board/Commission Members may ask questions for clarification of an item. If a Member wants to discuss an item, our rules request it be made by advance notice by noon on the Monday immediately prior to the meeting date to the Chair and Staff Liaison, or without said prior notice, during the approval of the agenda. The agenda was passed earlier including the consent agenda.

1. [26-315](#) May 20, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - May 20, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes](#)

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons may take one opportunity to address the Board/Commission for two (2) minutes (not including interpreter's time) on any topic, even if on the agenda, with the condition that they may not speak on the same item later in the meeting. No notification of the Chair is required. However, speakers are asked to complete a sign up card. Persons wanting a response to a question must submit the question in writing to the recording secretary. Questions must include name and information on how to contact. You may use the back side of the comment cards available in the meeting room. Persons cannot gift their 2 minute speaking time to other members of the public.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

REGULAR AGENDA

Persons that wish to speak on a regular agenda item must provide name and address by completing & submitting a sign up card. Persons may also contact the staff liaison via the City's website no later than 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting. The Chair will call up individuals to speak, based on preregistration and cards submitted, after the staff report on an item. Please be respectful of the public's and the Commission's time. Members of the public wishing to speak must adhere to the following guidelines:

- *Speak only once for no more than two minutes (not including interpreter's time) on the topic unless the speaker is addressed by the Commission;*
- *Identify your relationship to the topic;*
- *Have a spokesperson or two for your group to present your comments;*
- *Persons wanting a response to a question must submit the question in writing to the recording secretary, including name and how you would like to be contacted.*

2. [26-316](#) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update through Regional Indicators

Attachments: [1 - Northfield Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)

3. [26-317](#) Consider Recommendation on Pathway for Organics Recycling

Attachments: [1 - Composting EQC Presentation](#)

4. [26-318](#) 2026-2027 Work Plan and Commission Priorities

Attachments: [1 - 2026 Work Plan Tracker FINAL](#)
[2 - 2026-2027 Work Plan Final Initiatives](#)

STAFF UPDATES

5. [26-319](#) Staff Update

ADJOURNMENT



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Legislation Text

File #: 26-315, Version: 2



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Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Provancha called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Vice Chair Rob Hanson, Commissioner Ava Podracky, Commissioner Kimberly Haroldson and Commissioner Simon Pryor

Also present: Ben Martig, City Administrator; Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate; Alex Halverson, Youth Representative

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hanson, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Podracky, to approve the consent agenda containing the April 15, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

1. [26-271](#) April 15, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Mitchell spoke in favor of the City supporting No Mow May (now Slow Mow Summer).

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Pryor introduced himself to the EQC.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [26-272](#) Election of Environmental Quality Commission Officers of Chair and

Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Shmurak nominated Vice Chair Hanson as Chair. Hanson accepted.

Commissioner Petri nominated Shmurak as Vice Chair. Shmurak declined. Shmurak nominated Chair Provancha as Vice Chair. Provancha accepted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Podracky, to approve the election of Vice Chair Hanson as Chair for 2026-2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

A motion was made by Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the election of Chair Provancha as Vice Chair for 2026-2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor

3. [26-273](#)

Annual Board and Commission Onboarding and Refresher.

City Administrator Ben Martig and Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich provided the Annual Board and Commission Onboarding and Refresher, giving information on the roles and responsibilities of the EQC and its relationship with City staff.

4. [26-274](#)

2026-2027 Work Plan Updates

The EQC reported on their recent activity on the 2026-2027 EQC Work Plan initiatives.

- Energy Efficiency Education for Residents: Commissioner Petri and others will be tabling at Riverwalk Market Fair and will be checking with Rotary to see what materials they have that can be distributed at the tabling.*
- Electric Vehicle Community Showcase: Vice Chair Hanson reported that there will be an EV outreach event in conjunction with Recharge America on September 26, 2026.*
- Active Transportation Awareness Campaign: Vice Chair Hanson reported that the subcommittee has met and discussed ways to keep pedestrians, runners, and bicyclists to be more visible and safe at night including lights and reflective materials that could be distributed by the EQC.*
- Landscaping & Native Planting Research: Commissioner Shmurak reported on passing out seed packets and fliers at the Earth Day event and hopes to continue that at the tabling at Riverwalk. The subcommittee also hopes to provide more information and education to the public regarding Slow Mow Summer (formerly No Mow May) and best practices regarding plantings supporting pollinators, possibly through the City's website and social media accounts.*
- Waste Reduction Library Research: Provancha reported on the research and discussions conducted by the subcommittee on establishing a toy library at the Northfield Public Library.*
- Recycling and Compost Education Toolkit: Commissioner Haroldson reported on the presentation kit she has developed for public education. She hopes to present it to the EQC for approval at the July or August 2026 EQC meeting.*

The EQC discussed next steps and protocol for the operation of these subcommittees.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [26-275](#) Staff Update

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich provided updates from City staff.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Podracky, seconded by Vice Chair Hanson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Podracky, Commissioner Haroldson and Commissioner Pryor



Legislation Text

File #: 26-316, Version: 1

EQC Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update through Regional Indicators

Action Requested:

EQC Commissioners receive a presentation on the Regional Indicators Initiative by LHB and ask questions.

Summary Report:

LHB will present updated Regional Indicators Initiative data for the City of Northfield through 2024. Northfield has participated in the Regional Indicators Initiative since 2015, and the updated dataset provides a community wide snapshot of energy use, water consumption, vehicle travel, waste generation, and associated greenhouse gas emissions. The information helps establish a baseline for measuring progress, identifying trends, and informing future climate and sustainability initiatives.

The Regional Indicators Initiative provides Minnesota communities with consistent data and tools to support local climate action and track progress toward greenhouse gas reduction goals. By collecting annual data on energy, water, travel, and waste, the program allows communities to better understand community level trends and evaluate changes over time. The presentation will provide an overview of Northfield's updated indicators and allow Commissioners to ask questions about the data and methodology.

Slide deck is publicly accessible here: [City-Specific Greenhouse Gas Inventory Slides | Tableau Public](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mauricio.leon/viz/shared/STR3M3933) [<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mauricio.leon/viz/shared/STR3M3933>](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mauricio.leon/viz/shared/STR3M3933). Users will need to make sure Northfield is selected in the upper right dropdown.

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Tentative Timelines:

N/A



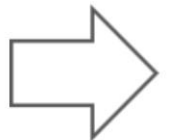
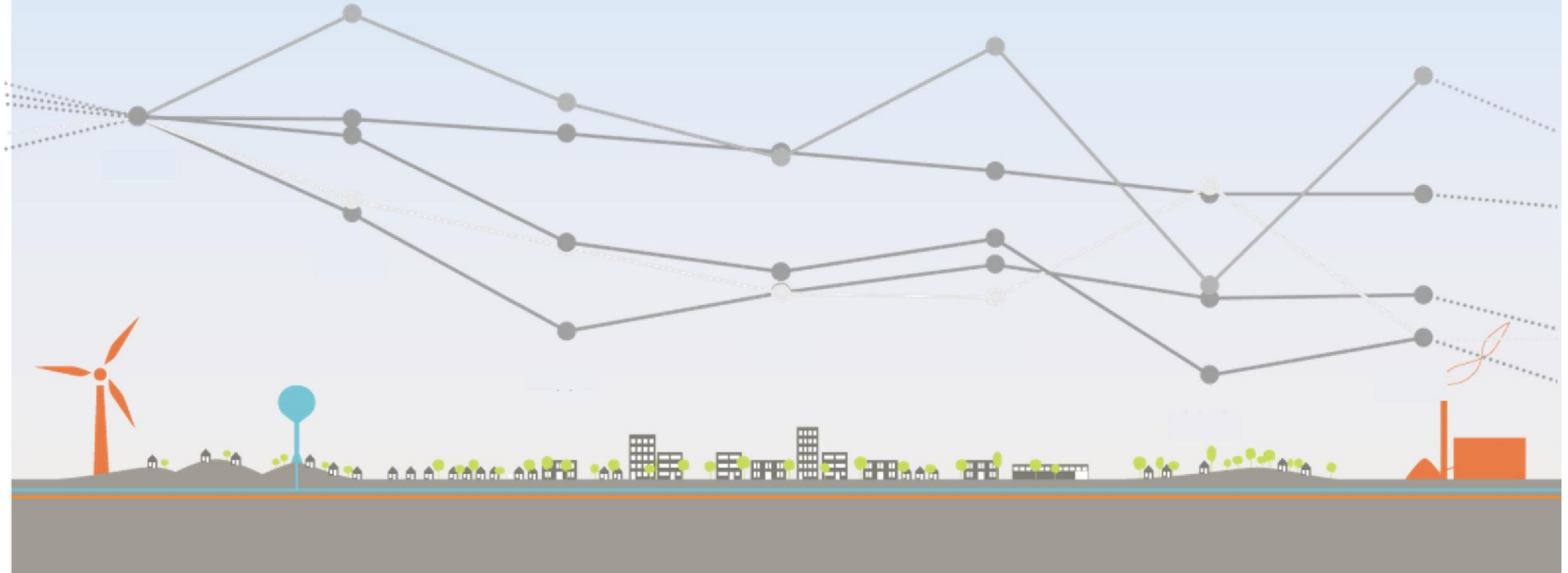
REGIONAL INDICATORS INITIATIVE



Northfield

Select community:

Northfield





IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK

Climate change is impacting Minnesotans.

Acting now will help us protect our communities and natural resources.





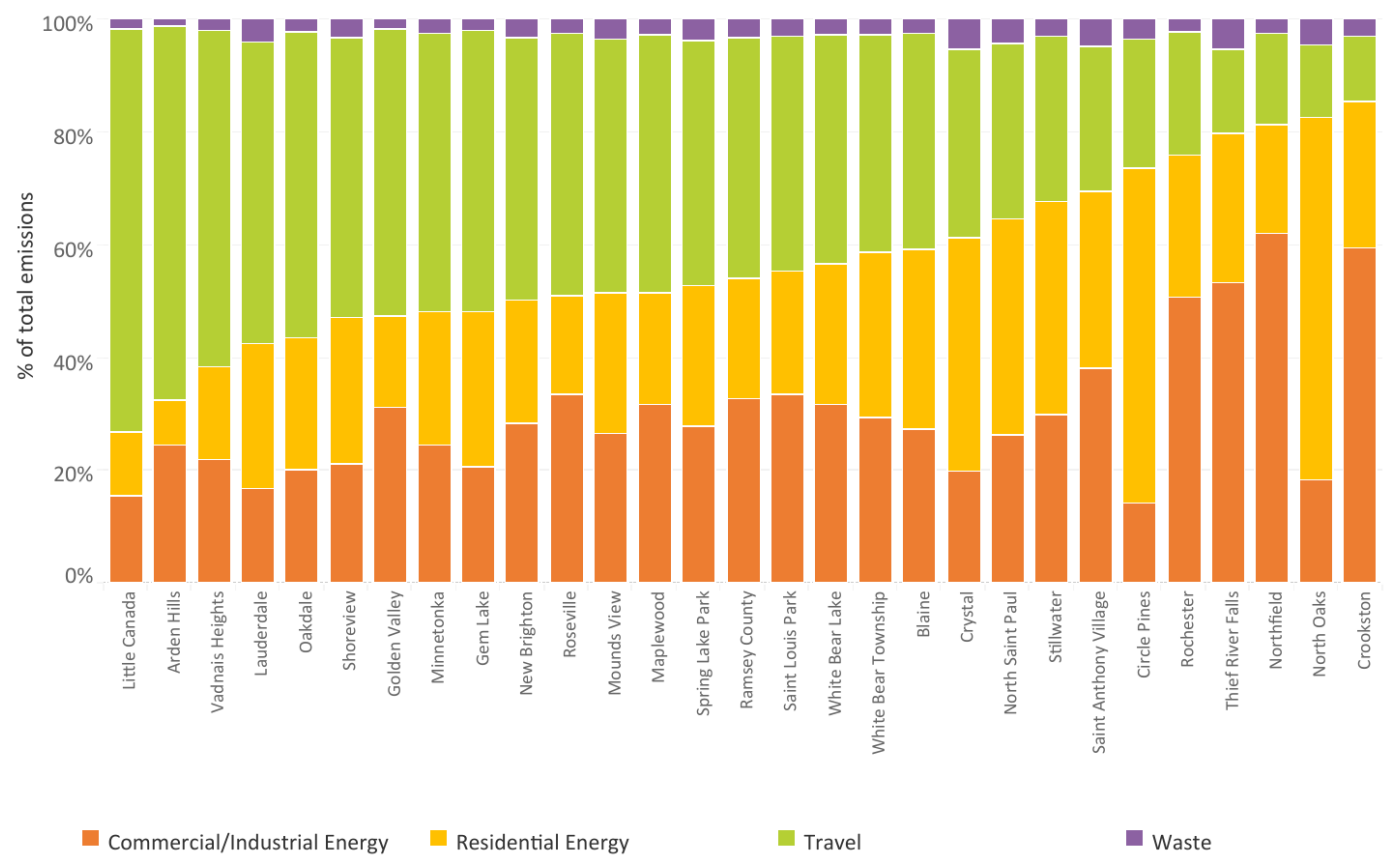
SCOPE

87 communities with 1+ years of complete data

- A** Andover, Apple Valley, Arden Hills, Arlington, Austin
- B** Belle Plaine, Bemidji, Big Lake, Blaine, Bloomington, Brainerd, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville
- C-D** Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Crookston, Crystal, Duluth
- E-F** Eagan, Eden Prairie, Edina, Elk River, Falcon Heights, Fridley
- G-H** Gem Lake, Golden Valley, Grand Marais, Hastings, Hopkins, Hutchinson
- I-L** Inver Grove Heights, Isanti, Jordan, Lake Elmo, Lauderdale, Lexington, Little Canada
- M** Mahtomedi, Mankato, Maplewood, Marine on St. Croix, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Moorhead, Morris, Mounds View
- N** New Brighton, New Germany, Newport, Nisswa, North Mankato, North Oaks, North Saint Paul, Northfield
- O-R** Oak Park Heights, Oakdale, Orono, Ramsey County, Red Wing, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Rochester, Rosemount, Roseville, Royalton
- S** Saint Anthony Village, St. Louis Park, Saint Paul, St. Paul Park, Shoreview, South St. Paul, Spring Lake Park, Stillwater, Sunfish Lake
- T-Z** Thief River Falls, Vadnais Heights, Victoria, Warren, Wayzata, West Saint Paul, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Willmar, Winona, Woodbury



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN

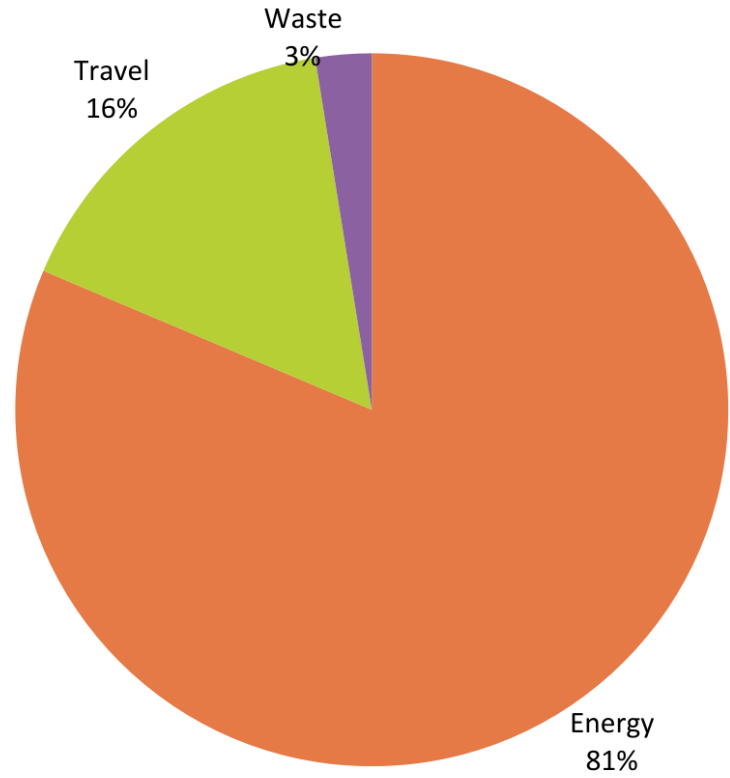


Breakdowns vary by city.
Tracking your own data over time matters most.



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Northfield - 2024



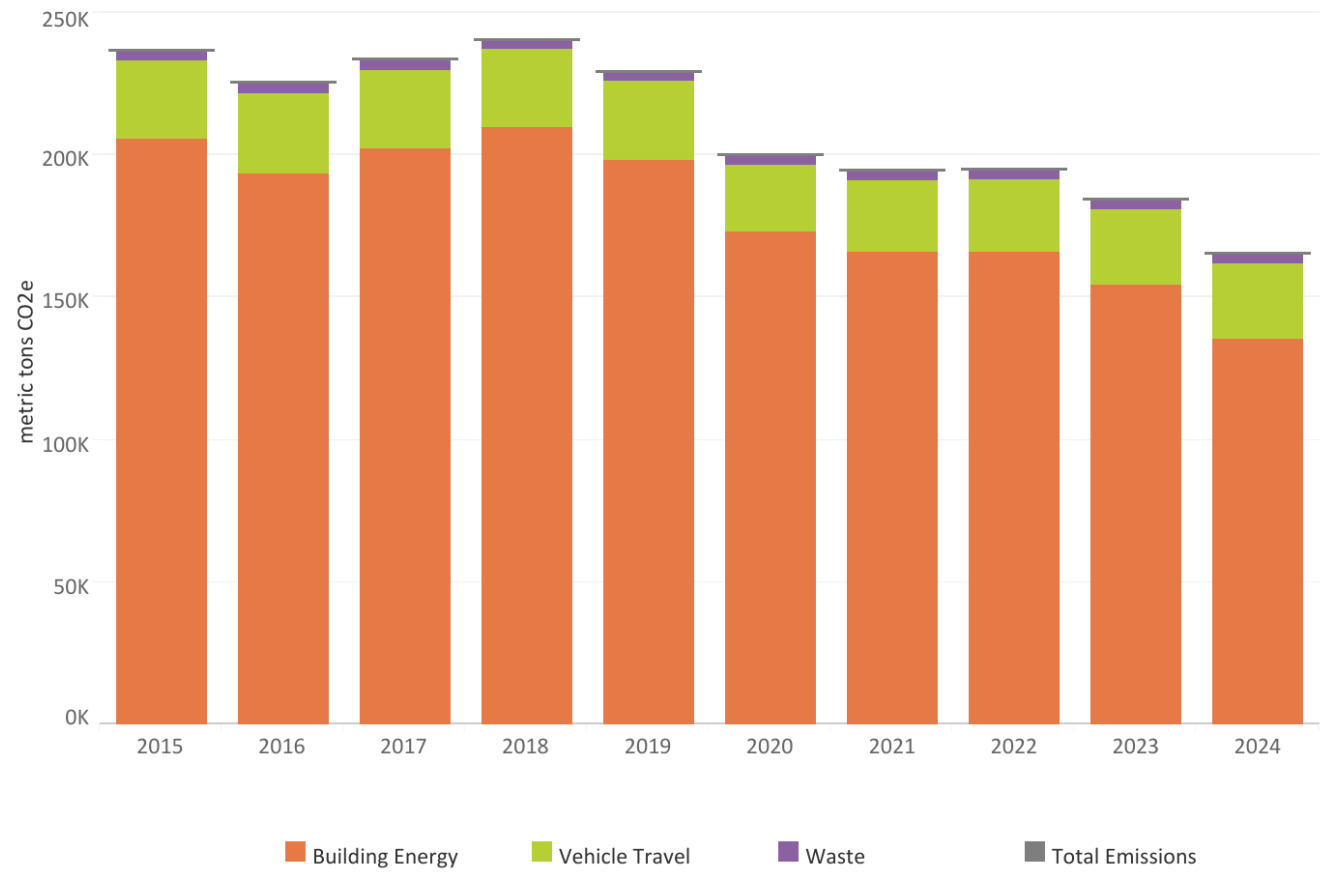
81% of the community's GHG footprint is from the energy used in buildings.

Prioritize building strategies.



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Northfield



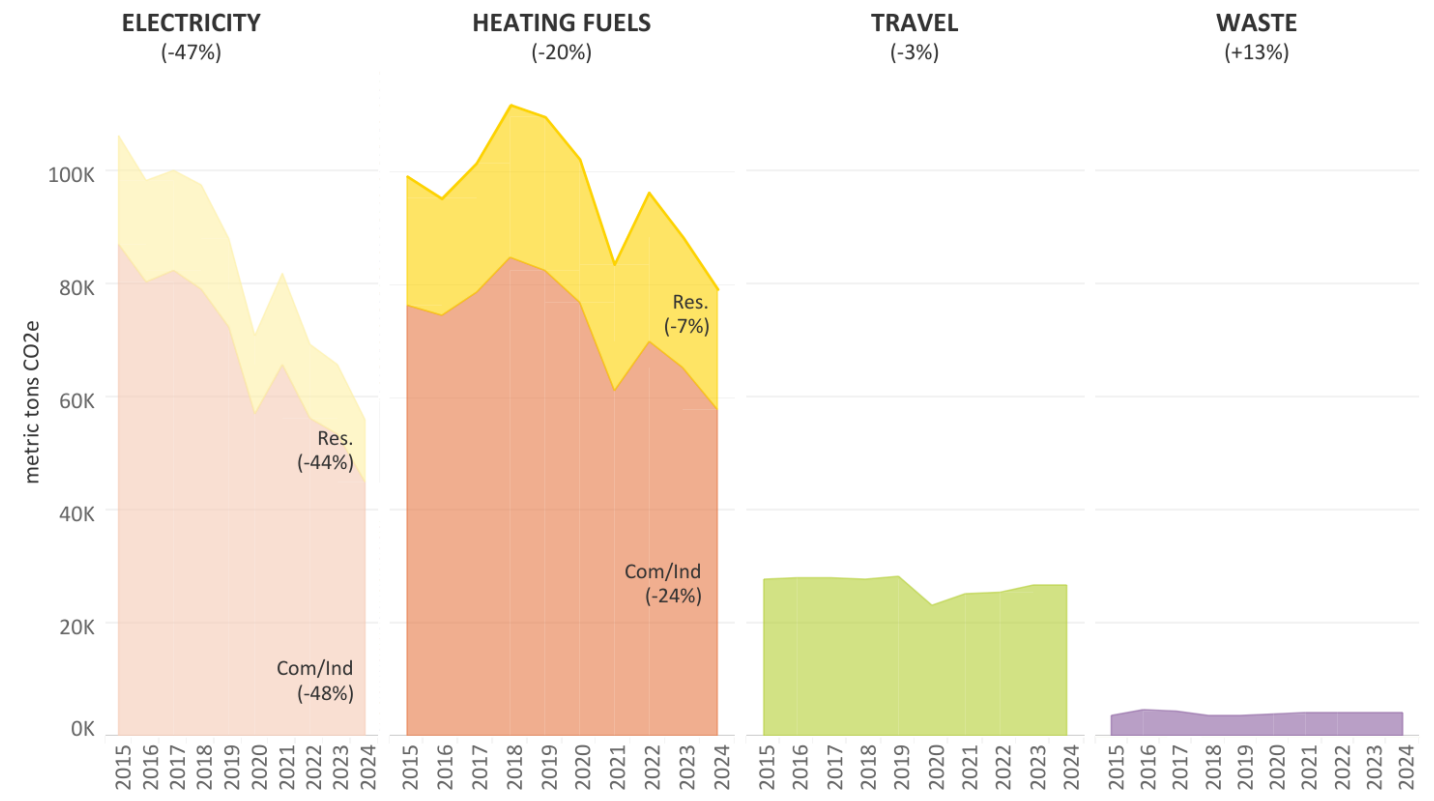
Greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 30% since 2015.

Build on this momentum.



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Northfield



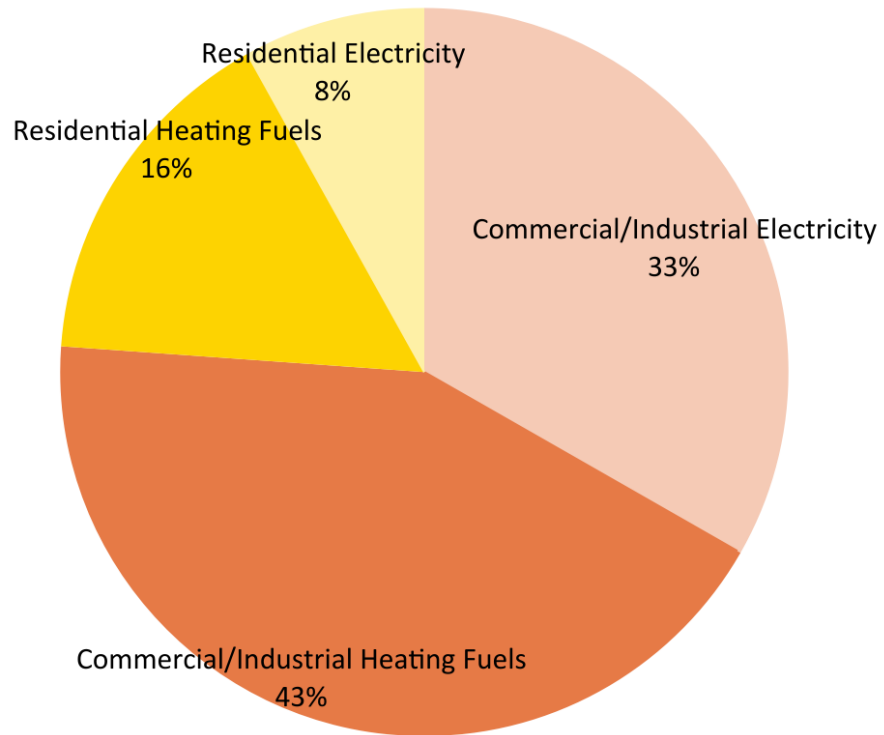
Emissions have dropped in most sectors.

Keep pushing electricity while finding long-term solutions for gas and travel.



ENERGY EMISSIONS

Northfield - 2024



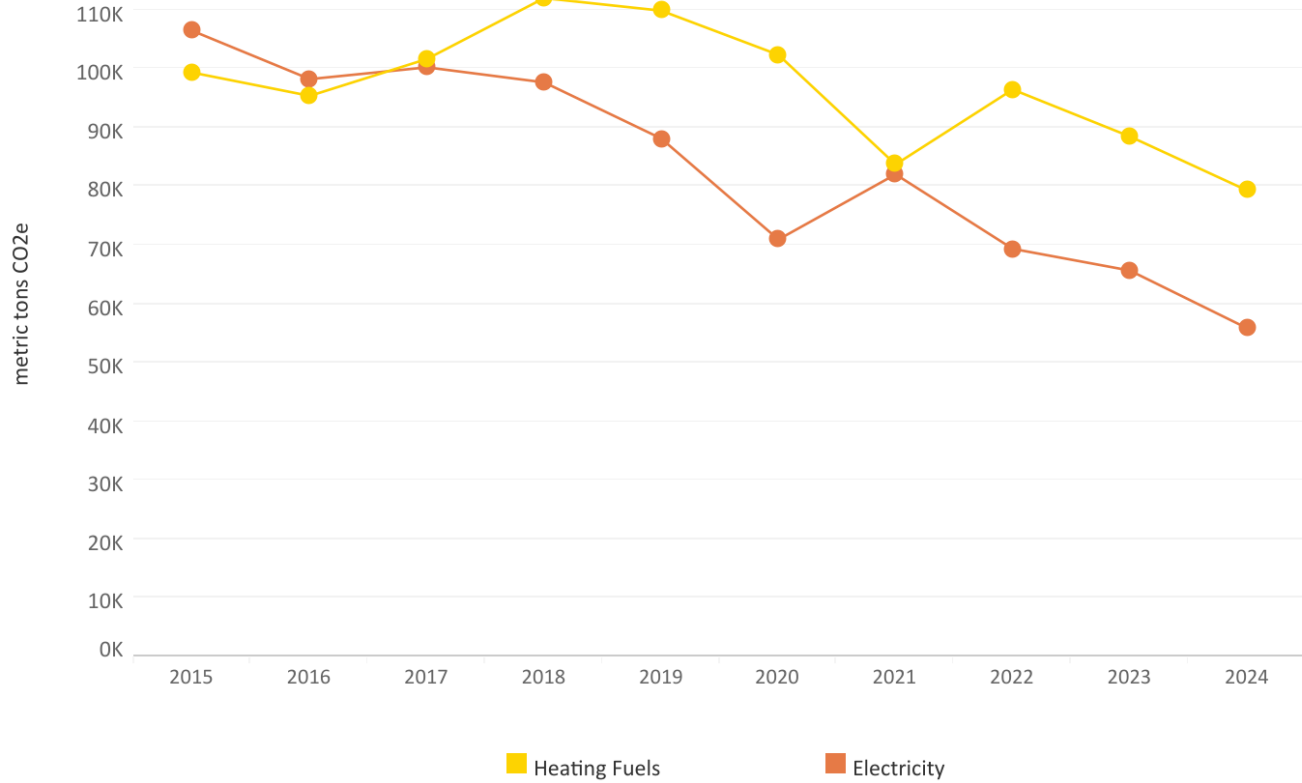
In 2024, more emissions came from heating fuels than electricity.

More emissions came from businesses and industry than homes.



ENERGY EMISSIONS

Northfield



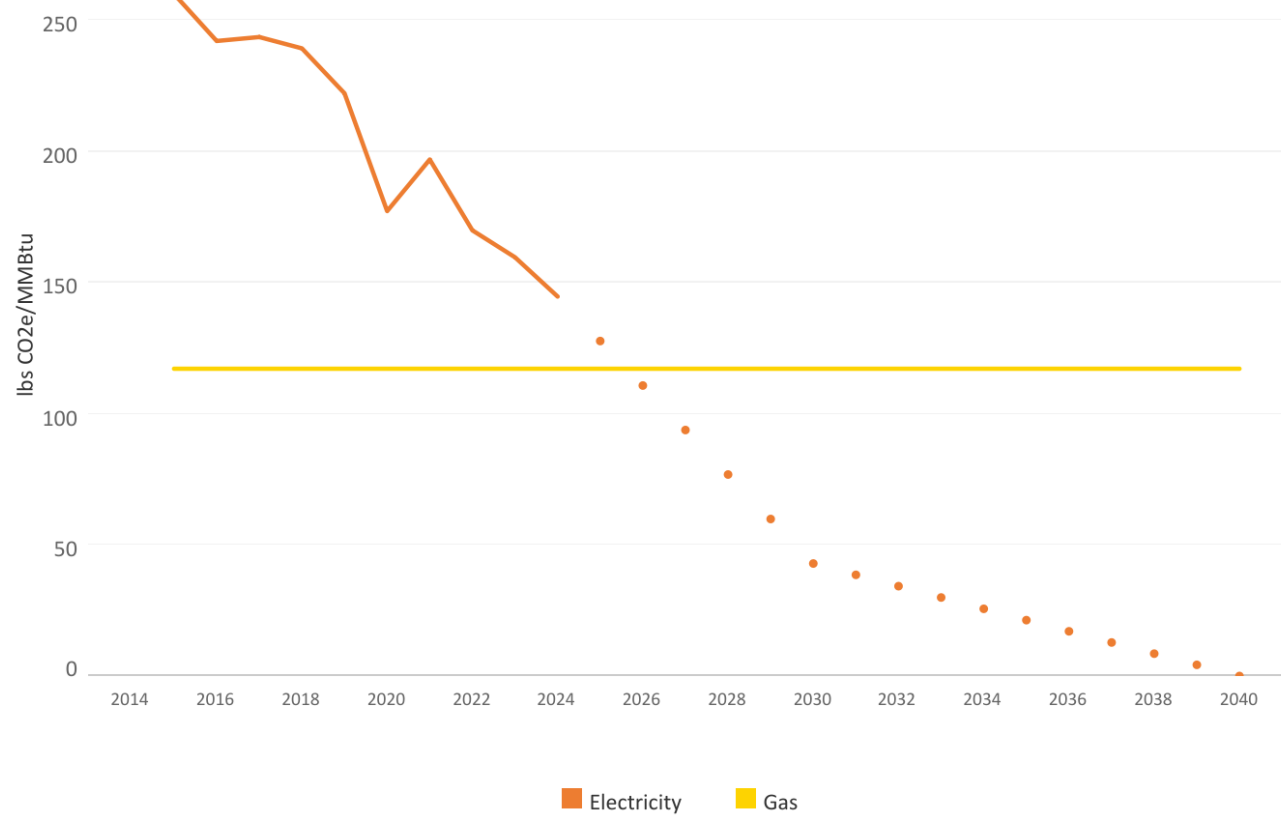
Across Minnesota, heating fuel emissions are an increasingly large percentage of total energy emissions.

Switch from gas to electric equipment.



ENERGY EMISSIONS RATES

Northfield



Minnesota will have carbon-free electricity by 2040. Communities can support this by investing in local renewable energy.

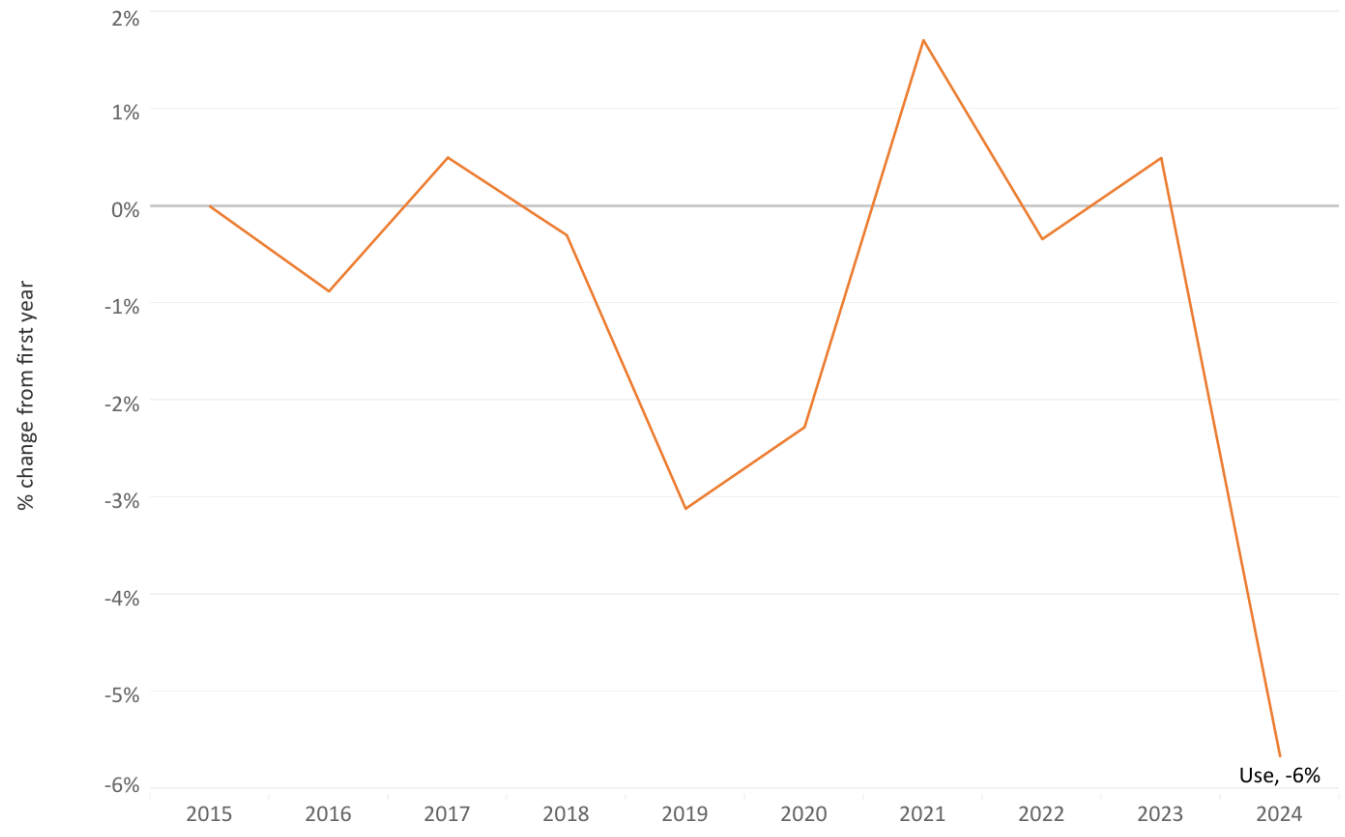
Electric equipment is more efficient than gas, and cleaner over its lifetime.



ELECTRICITY TRENDS

Northfield

Electricity use On Electricity emissions rate Off Total electricity emissions Off

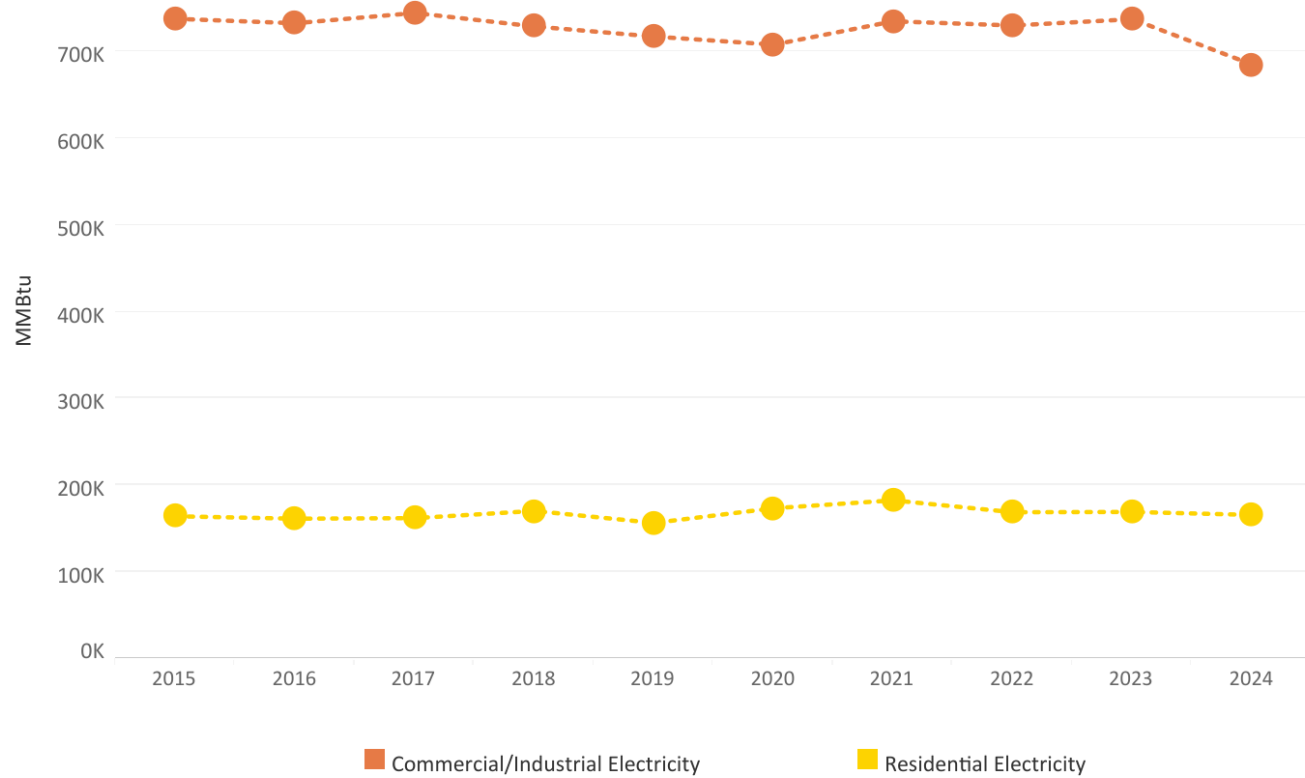


Reduce electricity emissions by using less electricity, from cleaner sources.



ELECTRICITY USE

Northfield



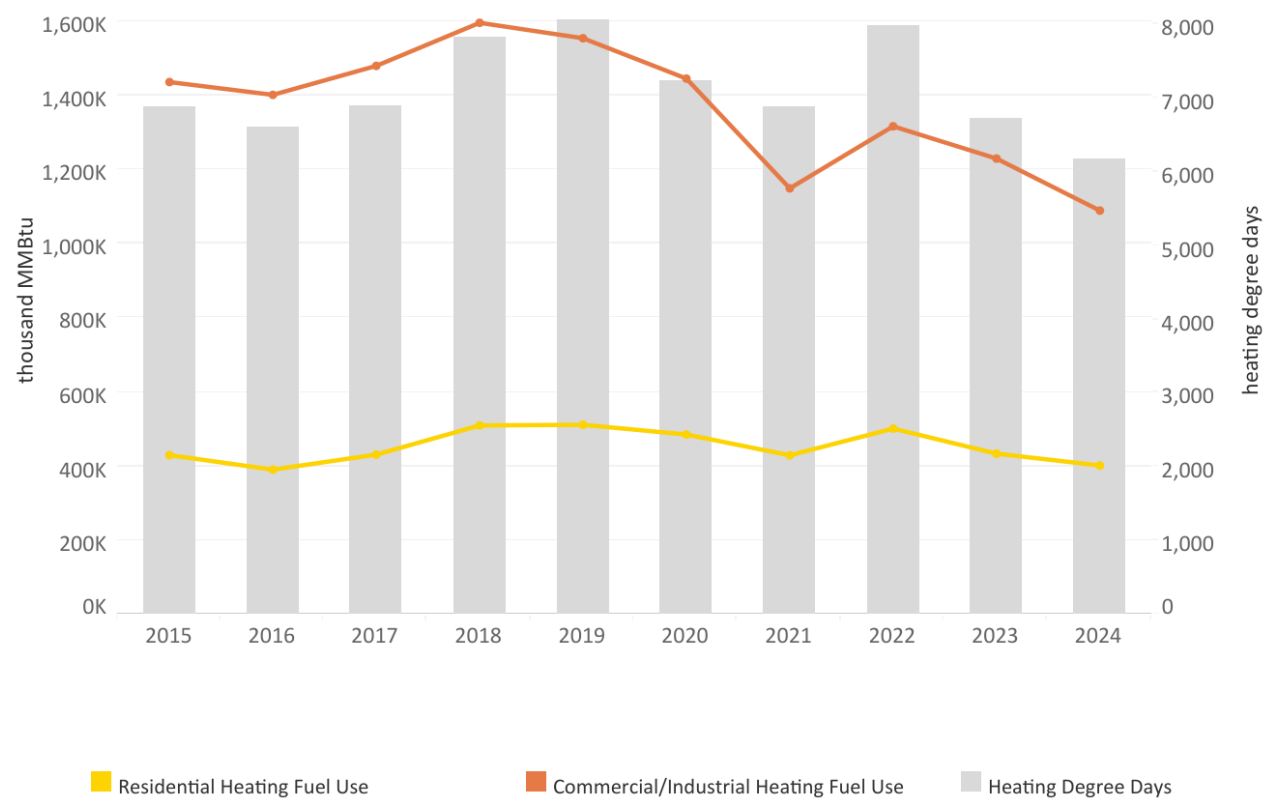
Commercial/industrial electricity use decreased by 7% since 2015, while residential increased by 1%.

Support additional commercial and residential efficiency projects.



HEATING FUEL USE

Northfield



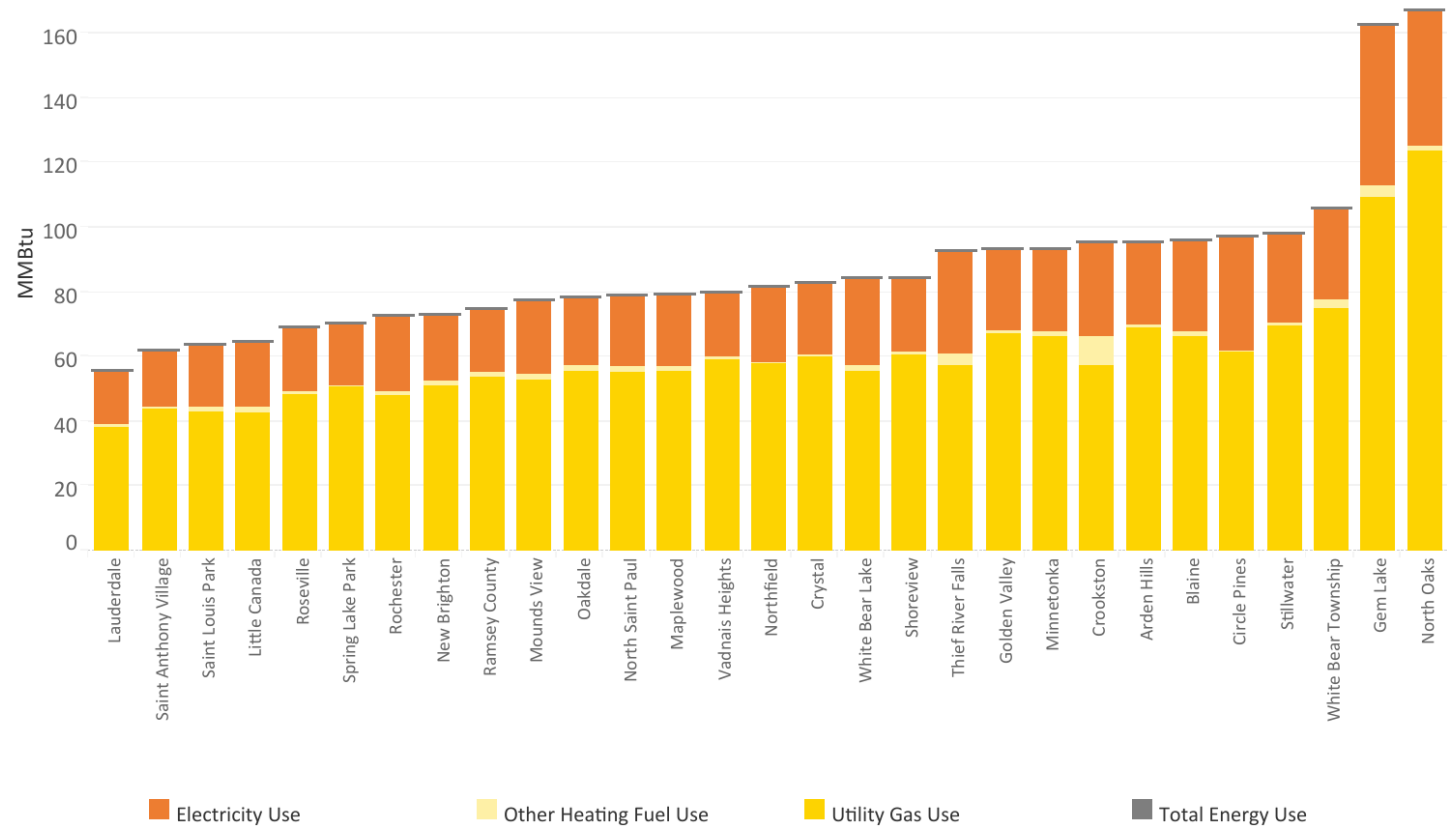
Heating fuel use is weather-dependent.

Weatherize buildings.



ENERGY USE PER HOUSEHOLD

All communities - 2024

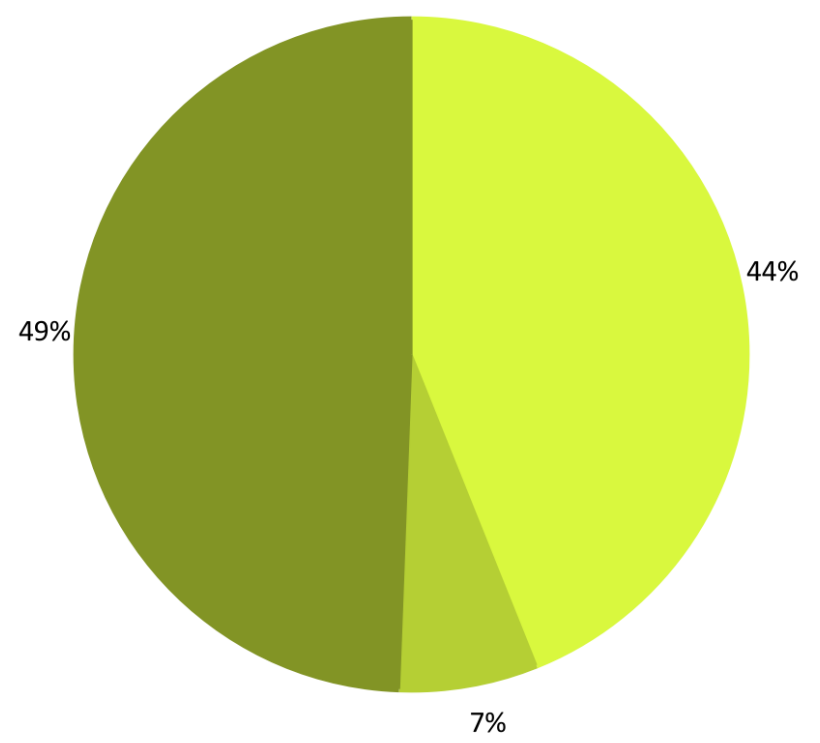


Energy-efficient homes are small, well-insulated, and use electric heat pumps for heating and cooling.



MILES TRAVELED BY ROAD TYPE

Northfield - 2024



Local Roads County Roads State Highways Federal Highways & Interstates

Community action can make a difference in reducing local and pass-through traffic.



VEHICLE TRAVEL

Northfield



Travel emissions depend on miles traveled, vehicle efficiency, and fuel type.

Accelerate travel reduction and electric vehicle adoption.



CHANGE IN VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED PER RESIDENT

Northfield



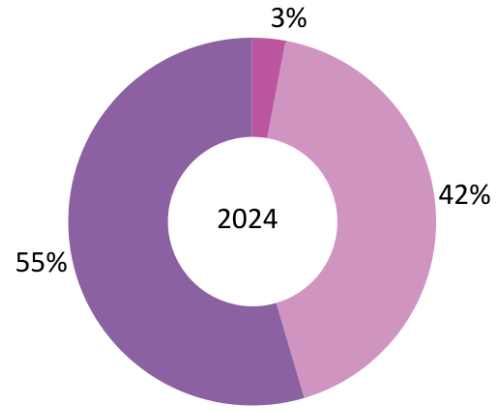
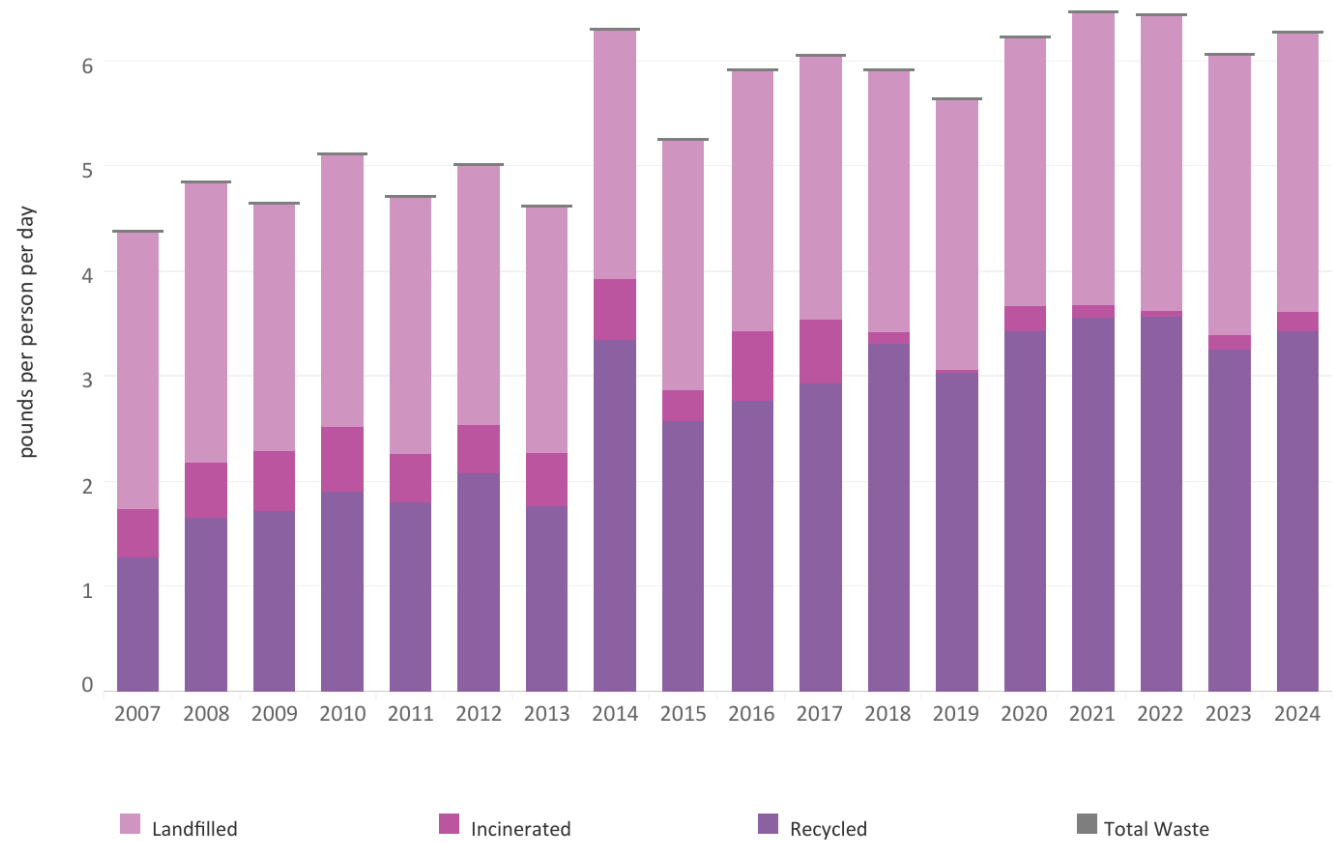
Travel emissions depend on miles traveled, vehicle efficiency, and fuel type.

Accelerate travel reduction and electric vehicle adoption.



WASTE PER PERSON PER DAY

Northfield



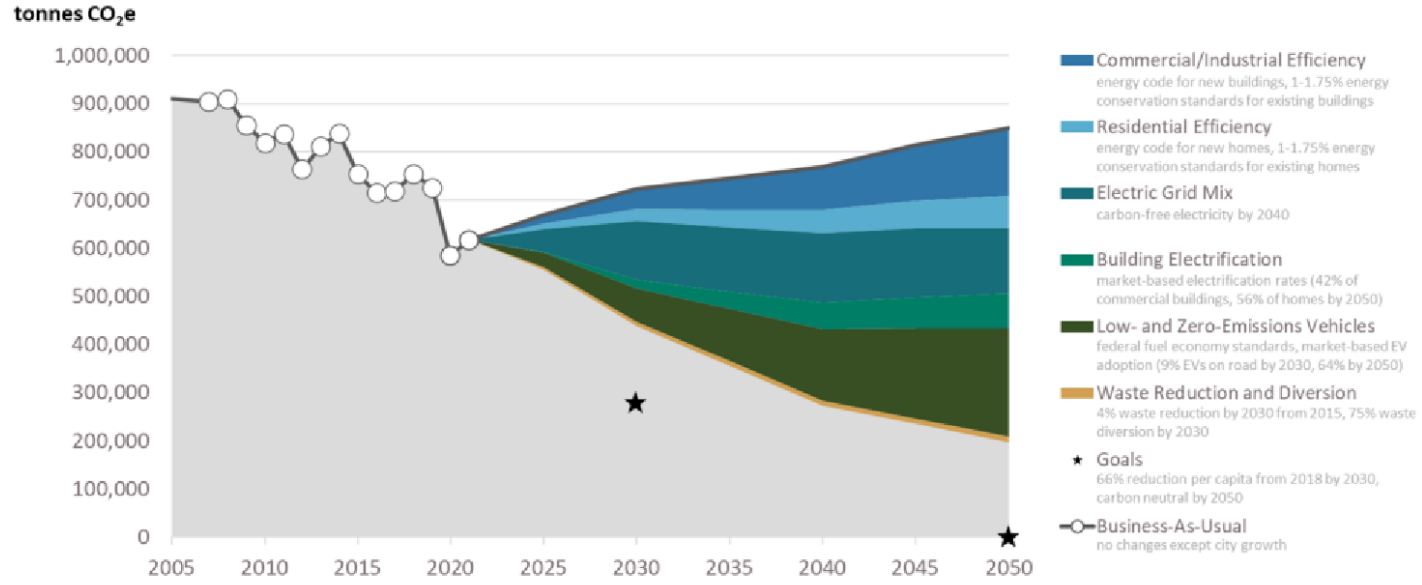
The recycling rate has increased over time. Reduce waste while increasing recycling rates.



CALL TO ACTION

Your community is not alone in this work. To make an even bigger impact:

- Make sure all new buildings are meeting code - and older ones are weatherized.
- Support electrifying homes, businesses, and vehicles.
- Find opportunities to decrease local vehicle travel.



Minnetonka Climate Action & Adaptation Plan: Existing Policies and Market Trends



QUESTIONS?

Becky Alexander, LHB Inc.
becky.alexander@lhbcorp.com



Legislation Text

File #: 26-317, **Version:** 1

EQC Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator

Consider Recommendation on Pathway for Organics Recycling

Action Requested:

EQC Commissioners makes a recommendation to City Council to move forward with Pathway 1, 2, or 3.

Summary Report:

Staff will present an overview of organic recycling options in Northfield, including the current voluntary curbside program, expanded drop-off opportunities, and a potential universal organics collection program. The presentation summarizes recent research, policy and legal considerations, participation trends, and estimated cost impacts.

The discussion will provide Commissioners with information on how organics recycling aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan. Following the presentation and discussion, the EQC is asked to provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the future direction of the City's organics recycling program.

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

Preliminary cost estimates for a universal organics program will be presented for discussion; no financial action is requested.

Tentative Timelines:

Present at a City Council work session in July 2026.



Organic Recycling Options & Council Direction

Agenda

1. Why staff revisited organics Recycling
2. What Staff Learned
3. Policy & Legal Considerations
4. Pathways forward
5. Request for Council Direction



Context of Discussion



Composting was removed from the residential waste contract in December 2025.

Staff identified three pathways forward. The presentation will share the tradeoffs, estimated impacts, and questions requiring Council direction.

City Goals & Priorities



Strategy 5: Reduce solid waste through diversion, recycling, and reuse

Northfield will be a zero-waste community.

Guiding values



Outcomes

1. Northfield has robust policies and procedures in place to reduce the quantity of solid waste that is sent to the Rice County landfill.
2. All organic materials are diverted from the waste stream through a community-wide curbside compost collection system available to all property owners and renters.

Comprehensive Plan

- Coordinate with local waste and recycling haulers to offer curbside compost pick up for residents

Climate Action Plan

- Calls out Materials & Waste as one of six core areas of focus
 - Zero Waste Plan
- Greenhouse Gas emissions: In 2024, waste was 3% of community wide emissions

Composting: New Information



[MN State Statute 115A.93](#)

- Mandates all residents be charged equally for recycling services, including organics recycling
 - All residents must be charged for the service
- Example City of Bloomington:
 - Minnesota State Statute 115A.93 requires licensing authorities, like the City, to require that residents who recycle organics and regular recycling must not pay more than residents who do not recycle organics or regular recycling. Therefore, the City is required by Hennepin County to offer organics and State law requires that in communities where organics recycling service is available, **all residents must be charged for the service.**

Northfield Today



Waste Contract (2026-2030) does not include organic recycling

- Serves about 5,058 residential households

Organics Recycling

- City provides two locations for residents to drop off their organics
 - Free service
 - Drop off locations: Composting site & Streets Shop
- Voluntary Program residents can sign up for Curbside Compost
 - \$15/month
 - Approximately 15% of the residential households participate in curbside service

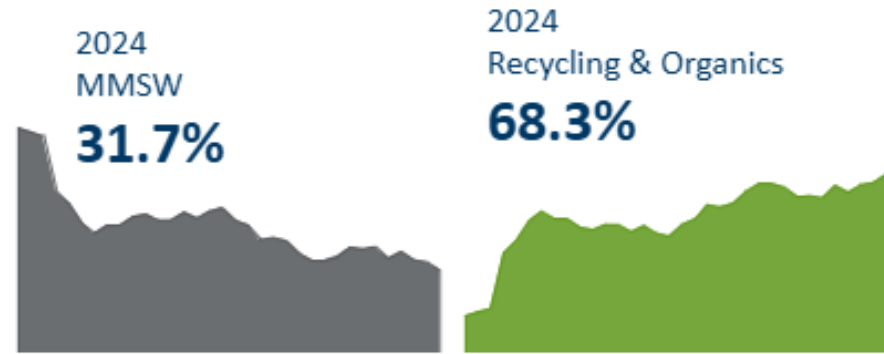
Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan



Primary Recycling Goals

- 2030: Recycling rate 75%
 - 2024: Rice County's recycling rate was 68.3%
 - 2024: State average recycling rate was 44.7%
- Make residential curbside collection available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030

Trends in MMSW and recycling rates (1991-2024)



[Data comes from 2024 Score Report](#)

What Staff learned from other Communities



- Participation is highest when service is universally available
 - Voluntary subscription programs tend to remain limited
- Most cities begin with food scraps only
- Education and contamination management are critical
- Regional communities are increasingly expanding organics access

ORGANICS

Put these items in your organics collection– **use BPI-certified compostable bags.**

Food scraps

- Bakery and dry goods
- Coffee grounds
- Dairy products
- Eggs and eggshells
- Meat, fish and bones
- Produce: fruit and vegetables



No Recyclables



No Yard Waste



No Trash

For more information, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *organics collection*.

Comparison Cities



- Have curbside collection of residential organics

City	Population	Start Date	% Participation
New Hope, MN	Approximately 22,990	Spring 2025	11%
Crystal, MN	Approximately 23,300	2025	11%
Robbinsdale, MN	Approximately 14,700	Spring 2025	20%
Golden Valley, MN	Approximately 22,700	2022	39%
Minneapolis, MN	Approximately 430,000	2015	53% (Highest)

Northfield*

Approximately 20,700

2017

About 15%

Pathways Forward



Options	Description
Status Quo	Voluntary subscription
Phased Expansion	Align with Dakota County & look at expanding drop of sites for composting
Universal Composting Service	All residents pay for service

Pathways Forward: Option 1



Status Quo: Residents sign up to receive organics recycling program in Northfield

- Flexible for residents – only those who are interested sign up
 - At higher cost for interested residents (\$15)
 - Is available at on a sliding scale to make it more affordable to all residents if they want to participate
- Participation rates are likely to remain limited under a opt-in
- Lower impact on waste diversion & sustainability goals

Pathways Forward: Option 2



Phased Expansion: Align with Dakota County timeline of expanding organics recycling. Add additional composting drop-off sites

- Alignment with County rollout
 - Discussions with haulers expected to happen in 2027
- Additional drop off locations
- Participation rates may remain limited
- Slower progress toward waste diversion and sustainability goals

Pathways Forward: Option 3



Universal Organics Recycling: Have a single hauler waste contract for organics recycling

- Alignment with Comprehensive Plan & Climate Action Plan
- Lower cost entry is expected to increase participation
- Greater participation = more progress on waste diversion and sustainability goals

- Requires resident fee regardless of participation
- Would require request for proposals and coordination with hauler

Universal Organics Recycling Program



- Estimated Cost of Single Hauler Curbside Compost

Participation Percentage	Estimated Monthly Price for Residents
15%	\$4.00
20%	\$4.50
25%	\$5.20
30%	\$5.70

*Estimates are preliminary intended to support policy discussion only

Questions to City Council



Should staff:

- A. Maintain the current voluntary model?
- B. Further evaluate additional drop off locations & align with Dakota County timeline of organics implementation?
- C. Explore a universal organics program?

If Council wishes to explore universal organic program, staff would return with refined operational and cost information.

**Dave Bennett, Public
Works Director**

**Sara Pabich,
Sustainability
Coordinator**





Legislation Text

File #: 26-318, **Version:** 1

EQC Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator

2026-2027 Work Plan and Commission Priorities

Action Requested:

Provide feedback and discuss priorities for the Environmental Quality Commission's 2026-2027 Work Plan and future activities.

Summary Report:

Staff will lead a discussion on the future direction of the Environmental Quality Commission, including opportunities to better align Commission activities with annual work plan priorities and City sustainability initiatives. The discussion will include how existing subcommittee efforts can continue through Commission meetings, community outreach, and ongoing City programs while creating additional opportunities for all commissioners to participate in policy and program discussions.

EQC members provide work plan updates and progress. The 2026-2027 EQC work plan is attached for reference.

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Tentative Timelines:

Commission: Environmental Quality Commission 2026 Annual Work Plan

Initiative # 1	Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event	
Initiative Title: Energy Efficiency Education for Residents	Commissioners: Petri Podracky	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: Planning to table at Riverwalk Series		
Progress Q2 April-June: Plan to reach out to Rotary Climate Action		
Progress Q3 July-September:		
Progress Q4 October-December:		
Progress Q5 January-March:		

Initiative # 2	Initiative Type <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Event	
Initiative Title: Electric Vehicle Community Showcase	Commissioners: Hason Halverson	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: Meeting at the end of March		
Progress Q2 April-June: Met with ReCharge America – Working to finalize date and location for the event. - Shared the event date will be September 26, 2026.		
Progress Q3 July- September:		
Progress Q4 October -December:		
Progress Q5 January-March:		



Initiative # 3 Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event		
Initiative Title: Active Transportation Awareness Campaign	Commissioners: Hason Provancha Podracky	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: No Update.		
Progress Q2 April-June: Met the past month to discuss pedestrian and biker visibility.		
Progress Q3 July- September:		
Progress Q4 October -December:		
Progress Q5 January-March:		

Initiative # 4 Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event		
Initiative Title: Landscaping & Native Planting Research	Commissioners: Petri Haverson Shmurak	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: No Update.		
Progress Q2 April-June: Subcommittee meet and discussed education materials that might be shared with the public.		
Progress Q3 July- September:		
Progress Q4 October -December:		
Progress Q5 January-March:		

Initiative # 5	Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event	
Initiative Title: Waste Reduction Library Research	Commissioners: Shmurak Haroldson Provancha	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: Meeting with the Library about Toy library.		
Progress Q2 April-June: Met with Library. - Learned the Library does not have the capacity to support a toy library at this time		
Progress Q3 July-September:		
Progress Q4 October-December:		
Progress Q5 January-March:		

Initiative # 6	Initiative Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing / Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Event	
Zero Waste: Recycling and Compost Education Toolkit	Commissioners: Haroldson	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: Recycling education toolkit almost ready		
Progress Q2 April-June: Working on refining education toolkit.		
Progress Q3 July-September:		
Progress Q4 October-December:		
Progress Q5 January-March:		

Parking Lot: (These items have been considered by the Commission, but not proposed as part of this year’s work plan. If the Commission decides they would like to work on them in the current year, it would need to be approved by a Majority vote of the Commission.)

1. Energy Efficiency Education for Residents

Goal: Help residents understand cost savings and energy-efficient HVAC practices.

- Collaborate with partners to coordinate educational outreach and materials.
- Research and summarize current incentives, rebates, and best practices.
- Develop a short handout highlighting cost savings and upgrades.

2. Electric Vehicle Community Showcase

Goal: Educate the public about EV adoption, charging infrastructure, and cost savings.

- Organize a showcase event featuring local EV owners, dealerships, and informational displays.
- Prepare a one-page summary or talking points outlining EV adoption, available rebates, and charging options.
- Provide volunteer support to assist with event coordination and engagement on the day of the event.

3. Active Transportation Awareness Campaign

Goal: Increase safety and visibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

- Create a public education campaign promoting active transportation.
- Support and promote initiatives such as Bike to School Day through volunteering to encourage safe, active travel among youth and families.
- Educate community stakeholders on upcoming and ongoing pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements to support and promote active transportation.
- Focus on low-cost awareness strategies: social media posts, flyers, and research of low cost solutions such as visibility (lights, reflective vests).

4. Landscaping & Native Planting Research

Goal: Promote better use of city parks and private lands through native planting.

- Support and promote native planting initiatives through programs like Lawns to Legumes, increasing pollinator-friendly plants, and encouraging community gardens with partner organizations.
- Research best practices for native planting and community gardens, including pollinator gardens, rain gardens, native grasses and flowers, and shared food-growing spaces.
- Develop resources for residents, including one-pagers on invasive species and recommended native plants, to encourage native gardening and biodiversity.

5. Waste Reduction Library Research

Goal: Explore opportunities for community lending libraries for sustainable items.

- Research what current waste reduction spaces exist in the community (i.e. Carleton Maker Space, Library Repair desk, Swap events happening, etc.)
- Research models like toy libraries, tool libraries, diaper banks, and other reusable item programs.
- Analyze potential benefits and challenges for the community.
- Written summary documenting current community initiatives, ongoing research efforts, and identified best practices to support continued waste reduction (2 pages max)

6. Zero Waste: Recycling and Compost Education Toolkit

Goal: Provide resources to improve household recycling and organics management.

- Develop a draft educational toolkit for recycling and organics outreach, including short handouts, example visuals, and a basic presentation.
- Conduct an internal pilot with City staff or volunteers to gather feedback and identify gaps.
- Finalize the toolkit and produce a brief summary report with findings, lessons learned, and recommendations for potential future expansion or implementation.



Legislation Text

File #: 26-319, Version: 1

EQC Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator

Staff Update

Action Requested:

The EQC receives an update regarding staff activities.

Summary Report:

This update includes items not included as agenda items for this meeting.

Parks: Sharing an upcoming opportunity for public engagement related 2027 park projects. Community members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the project, ask questions, and provide feedback that will help inform ongoing planning and design work.

- Sibley Swale: June 25 from 4:00-7:00 PM near Prairie Street Playground.
- Oddfellows (tentative date): July 1 from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Pavilion

Riverwalk: Environmental Quality Commission members are scheduled to table at Riverwalk on July 18, 2025. Staff will have outreach materials prepared for distribution at the July 15 EQC meeting and is hoping that a commissioner attending the morning session can transport the materials to the event.

For the July 18 event, the EQC has been assigned Space #62. As a reminder, Riverwalk will provide a tent;

however, EQC members are responsible for bringing their own table and chairs.



Alternative Options:

NA

Financial Impacts:

NA

Tentative Timelines:

NA