

City of Northfield

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



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 15, 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. [26-182](#) March 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - March 18, 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. [26-183](#) Annual Report of the Carbon Reduction Fund (2025).

Attachments: [Carbon Reduction Fund 2025](#)

3. [26-184](#) Interconnection Process: Xcel Energy, Public Utilities Commission, and System Coordination

Attachments: [1 - Interconnection Presentation](#)

4. [26-185](#) 2026-2027 Work Plan Updates

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

STAFF UPDATES

5. [26-186](#) Staff Update

Attachments: [1 - Earth Day Flyer](#)
 [2 - Rain Garden Brochure - English](#)
 [3 - Rain Garden Brochure - Spanish](#)
 [4 - Rain Barrel Brochure - English](#)
 [5 - Rain Barrel Brochure - Spanish](#)
 [6 - Water Conversation Rebate - English](#)
 [7 - Water Conservation Rebate - Spanish](#)
 [8 - Native Planting Brochure - English](#)
 [9 - Native Planting Brochure - Spanish](#)
 [10 - Recycling Door Hanger](#)
 [11 -Northfield Climate Champion Card](#)

ADJOURNMENT



Legislation Text

File #: 26-182, Version: 1

Environmental Quality Commission Meeting Date: April 15, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate

March 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes

Action Requested:

Please review the March 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes and approve or approve with amendments.

Summary Report:

N/A

City Plans & Policies Relevance:

N/A

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Tentative Timelines:

N/A



City of Northfield

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801 Washington Street
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northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Draft Environmental Quality Commission

Wednesday, March 18, 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 6:01 p.m.

Present: 6 - Chair Michael Provancha, Commissioner Janet Petri, Commissioner George Kinney, Commissioner Susannah Shmurak, Vice Chair Rob Hanson and Commissioner Kimberly Haroldson

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Bruce Anderson and Commissioner Ava Podracky

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 Commissioner Shmurak, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Commissioner Halverson

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Vice Chair Hanson, to approve the consent agenda including the February 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes and a motion of support for a resolution proclaiming April 25, 2026 as Earth Day in Northfield. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Commissioner Halverson

1. [26-140](#) February 18, 2026 EQC Meeting Minutes
2. [Res. 2026-030](#) Consider a Motion of Support for Resolution Proclaiming April 25, 2026 as Earth Day in Northfield.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chair Provancha reminded the EQC that City parks are now under the purview of this commission. Provancha also requested more information from City staff on Northfield's solar interconnectivity issues.
- Commissioner Petri reported on some letters to the editor (including her own) concerning electrical grid congestion in the Northfield News. Petri also reported on a webinar on grid congestion sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency which elicited online comments from Northfielders as well.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. [26-141](#) Update on Amendments to the Sustainable Building Policy (Section 8.06)

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich presented an update on amendments to the Sustainable Building Policy (Section 8.06). Pabich responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

4. [26-142](#) 2026-2027 Work Plan Updates

The EQC and Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich reviewed the initiatives on the 2026-27 EQC Work Plan:

- 1 - Energy Efficiency Education: Commissioner Petri reported that this subgroup is planning tabling during RiverWalk. They will coordinate with Rotary Climate Action on outreach and materials, especially regarding available rebates. Pabich will send out a survey for EQC members to sign up for tabling dates and times.*
- 2 - Electric Vehicles: Vice-Chair Hanson reported on an upcoming virtual meeting with Recharge America, and he hopes one of their advocates might visit Northfield.*
- 3 - Active Transportation: Chair Provancha reported that this subgroup has not met yet.*
- 4 - Landscaping: Commissioner Shmurak reported that this subgroup has not met yet. Petri reported attending meetings of Prairie Partners, a local group focused on native plantings.*
- 5 - Waste Reduction: Commissioner Haraldson reported on her meeting scheduled for next week with the Northfield Public Library Youth Director regarding setting up a toy library.*
- 6 - Zero Waste: Haraldson is developing a training toolkit and will submit it to be put on the EQC agenda for review when it is complete.*

STAFF UPDATES

5. [26-143](#) Staff Update

Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich and City Administrator Ben Martig presented updates from City staff. Pabich and Martig responded to questions and comments from the EQC.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinney, seconded by Commissioner Petri, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Chair Provancha, Commissioner Petri, Commissioner Kinney, Commissioner Shmurak, Vice Chair Hanson, Commissioner Haroldson, and Commissioner Halverson



Legislation Text

File #: 26-183, **Version:** 1

Meeting Date: April 15, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Risi Karim, Assistant City Administrator

Annual Report of the Carbon Reduction Fund (2025).

Action Requested:

Commission receives the Annual Report of the Carbon Reduction Fund (2025).

Summary Report:

The Carbon Reduction Fund (CRF) was established in 2021 to support implementation of initiatives identified in the City's Climate Action Plan, particularly those focused on reducing reliance on carbon-based fuel sources.

The CRF is funded through a designated portion of the City's Franchise Fee Program. Under this program, Xcel Energy collects monthly franchise fees from utility subscribers and remits those funds to the City, where they are primarily used to support Capital Improvement Projects. Prior to 2026, annual CRF funding was capped at \$100,000.

Policy Change (Effective January 1, 2026):

On September 23, 2025, the Northfield City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1087, which amended the City's utility franchise fee structure. This change removed the \$100,000 annual cap on contributions to the Carbon Reduction Fund. The update was made to support funding for a full-time Sustainability Coordinator position and to increase available resources for climate action projects.

The updated ordinance language now states:

"The City shall use all franchise fee revenue collected pursuant to this Ordinance only for public streets, trails, and climate action projects. No more than eight percent (8.0%) of the annual revenues collected, pursuant to Ordinances 1017 and 1018, may be used for climate action projects."

As a result, CRF funding is no longer limited by a fixed dollar cap and will instead scale with total franchise fee revenues, up to 8% annually.

Budget balance and expenditures for 2025 are listed below:

2025 Beginning Budget Balance - \$243,627

2025 Expenditures

Professional Services

\$ 757 LHB (Sustainable Building Policy)
\$78,000 Wolf River Electric (NCRC Solar Installation)
\$ 4,530 Guth Electric (Liquor Store LED Light replacement)
\$ 307 City Attorney Services
\$8,600 Carbon Day LLC (EV Charging station cloud renewal 5-year)

\$92,215 Total

Programs & Public Services

\$500 Northfield Earth Day Sponsorship
\$100 Riverwalk Market Fair
\$ 647 Printing & Marketing Material - By All Means Graphic
\$ 155 EQC Programing
(October EE Community Program- Food & Material)

\$1,402 Total

Transfer Out

\$17,129 HRA rebate reimbursement - Residential Energy Efficiency

\$17,129 Total

\$110,746.55 Total Expense

2025 Revenue

\$48,000 State Grant & Aid (MN Solar on Public Buildings Grant- NCRC Solar)
\$100,000 Franchise Fee Allocation (8%)

\$148,000 Total Revenue

\$291,533* 2025 End Balance

*End balance includes \$10,652.06 revenue earned from market investment and interest

The Climate Action Plan highlights project options that would best align with the city's goal to reach 100% carbon-free electricity by 2030 and creating a 100% carbon-free community by 2040. In order to fund some of

the strategies in the Climate Action Plan, especially those focused on carbon sequestration, the Carbon Reduction Fund allows for an alternative source of revenue for projects without additional burden on the general operating fund.

Other Related Expenses to come from the CRF:

- **Energy Efficiency Processing:** \$20,000 is reserved annually to process rebate applications through the Energy Efficiency Program (HRA). These funds are covered by the HRA budget and reimbursed by the Carbon Reduction Fund.
- **Climate Champion Program:** Funds allocated annually for the Climate Champion Program for Northfield businesses. These funds are provided by the EDA and reimbursed by the Carbon Reduction Fund.
- **Tree Planting & Maintenance:** Funds may be used to supplement existing tree planting grants, enhance ongoing projects, or support Emerald Ash Borer management efforts.
- **NPSD Geothermal Feasibility Study:** The City Council authorized \$25,000 from the Carbon Reduction Fund to support the Northfield School District's study on the feasibility of a geothermal system for Northfield High School.
- **Solar Rooftop Project:** The NCRC solar rooftop project faces a potential funding shortfall due to uncertainty around federal tax credits. The City may need to cover the 40% funding gap, estimated at \$48,000.
- **Sustainable Building Policy Support:** LHB provides technical assistance to developers, builders, and City staff to implement the Sustainable Building Policy.
- **Education & Marketing:** Funds support outreach efforts for the Carbon Reduction Fund and Energy Efficiency Rebates.
- **Electric Vehicle & Charging Infrastructure:** Funds set aside for a Level 2 charging station at the NCRC building
- **Earth Day Sponsorship:** Funds support Northfield's Earth Day event and related activities.
- **Community Climate Program:** Funds used to provide financial assistance for Northfield residents who wish to participate in the Northfield Community Climate program

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Tentative Timelines:

N/A



Carbon Reduction Fund

2025 Annual Presentation

April 15, 2026

Carbon Reduction Fund



- Established in 2021

Subd.1 (b) reads:

The City shall use all franchise fee revenue collected pursuant to this Ordinance only for public streets, trails, and climate action projects. No more than eight percent (8.0%) of the annual revenues collected up to a cumulative annual \$100,000 collected, pursuant to Ordinance 1017 and 1018, may be used for climate action projects.

- Franchise Fee Agreement
 - CRF up to 8%, not to Exceed \$100,000

Franchise Fee Allocation Ordinance Update (2025)



- September 23, 2025, the Northfield City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1087

Policy Change (Effective January 1, 2026):

Subd.1 (b) reads: "The City shall use all franchise fee revenue collected pursuant to this Ordinance only for public streets, trails, and climate action projects. No more than eight percent (8.0%) of the annual revenues collected, pursuant to Ordinances 1017 and 1018, may be used for climate action projects."

- Current Franchise Fee Agreement
 - Adjust rates due to lower than expected revenues and to add inflationary increase
 - CRF 8%, No set cap
 - Increase funds needed for Sustainability Coordinator position
- Carbon Reduction Fund projected to receive \$144,000 in 2026

Revenue History



- 2021- \$59,096
- 2022- \$100,000
- 2023- \$94,459
- 2024- \$99,705
- 2025- \$100,000

The Carbon Reduction Fund has collected \$453,260 from Franchise Fee allocations to date.

2025 Expenditures



2025 Expenditures

Professional Services

\$ 757	LHB (Sustainable Building Policy)
\$78,000	Wolf River Electric (NCRC Solar Installation)
\$ 4,530	Guth Electric (Liquor Store LED Light replacement)
\$ 307	City Attorney Services
\$8,600	Carbon Day LLC (EV Charging station cloud renewal 5-year)
\$92,215	Total

Programs & Public Services

\$500	Northfield Earth Day Sponsorship
\$100	Riverwalk Market Fair
\$ 647	Printing & Marketing Material – By All Means Graphic
\$ 155	EQC Proqraming (October EE Community Program- Food & Material)
\$1,402	Total

Transfer Out

\$17,129	HRA rebate reimbursement – Residential Energy Efficiency
\$17,129	Total
\$110,746.55	Total Expense

2025 Revenue



\$48,000	State Grant & Aid (MN Solar on Public Buildings Grant- NCRC Solar)
\$100,000	Franchise Fee Allocation (8%)
\$148,000	Total Revenue

2026 Budget



EXPENSES			
Other Professional Services	xxx-xxxx-43300		
		\$ 30,000.00	SBP vendor - LHB
		\$ 5,000.00	City Attorney Fees
Programs and Public Services	xxx-xxxx-43309		
		\$ 500.00	Earth Day Event sponsorship
		\$ 20,000.00	Residential Energy Efficiency Rebates (HRA)
		\$ 10,000.00	Business Energy Efficiency Rebate Program (EDA)
		\$ 5,000.00	Zero Waste Education/ Composting Outreach
		\$ 4,000.00	Community Climate Leaders Program (U of M Ext)
		\$ 1,500.00	Supplies & Material
		\$ 4,000.00	FT Sustainability Coordinator (Confrence/Memebership Dues/Milleage Etc)
		\$ 10,000.00	PD EV Charger + Cloud Plan (5 years)
		\$ 15,000.00	Hauberg Woods Natural Lands Management Pilot project
		\$ 105,000.00	

Expenses to Come



- Northfield School District Geothermal Study (\$25,000)
- Solar Rooftop NCRC (\$48,000)
- Electrical Vehicle Fleet & Charging Infrastructure
- Sustainability Coordinator FT
- Geothermal Facility Study

Questions?

Risi Karim

Assistant City Administrator

Risi.karim@NorthfieldMN.gov





Legislation Text

File #: 26-184, **Version:** 1

EQC Meeting Date: April 15, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator

Interconnection Process: Xcel Energy, Public Utilities Commission, and System Coordination

Action Requested:

The Environmental Quality Commission will receive a presentation on interconnection, including the role of Xcel Energy, Public Utilities Commission oversight, and key coordination points across agencies

Summary Report:

This presentation provides an overview of how energy projects move through the interconnection process, beginning with applications to Xcel Energy and proceeding through technical review, system impact studies, and grid integration requirements. It also outlines the role of the Public Utilities Commission in regulatory oversight and approvals. The discussion highlights how interconnection is not a standalone step but part of a broader system involving utilities, regulators, developers, and infrastructure planning.

Alternative Options:

N/A

Financial Impacts:

N/A

Tentative Timelines:



Xcel Interconnection

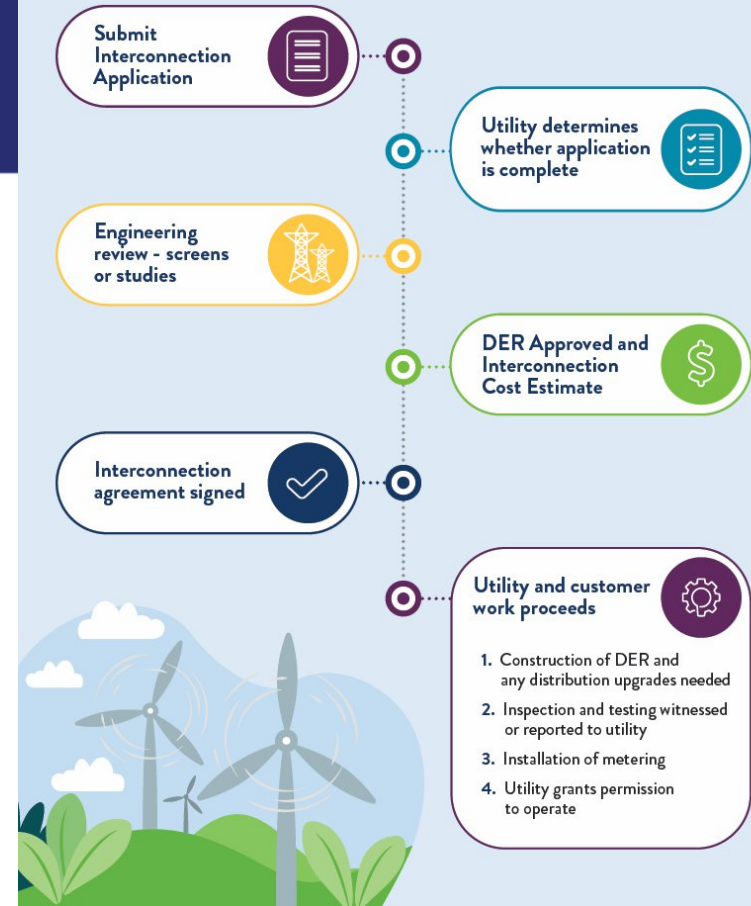
April 15, 2026

Environmental Quality Commission

What is interconnection?

- Regulatory process that allows a generation system (i.e. solar) to connect to the utility grid
- If one receives power from Xcel, the customer must go through an interconnection agreement

MINNESOTA DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE INTERCONNECTION PROCESS (MN DIP)



Interconnection Steps



Check Xcel's Hosting capacity map

- Hosting capacity: Amount of distributed energy resource generation that a specific substation can accommodate without requiring upgrades

Look at DER Queue

- Application by Substation
- Application by Feeder
- By known capacity constraints

Demo of Process

Public Utility Commission

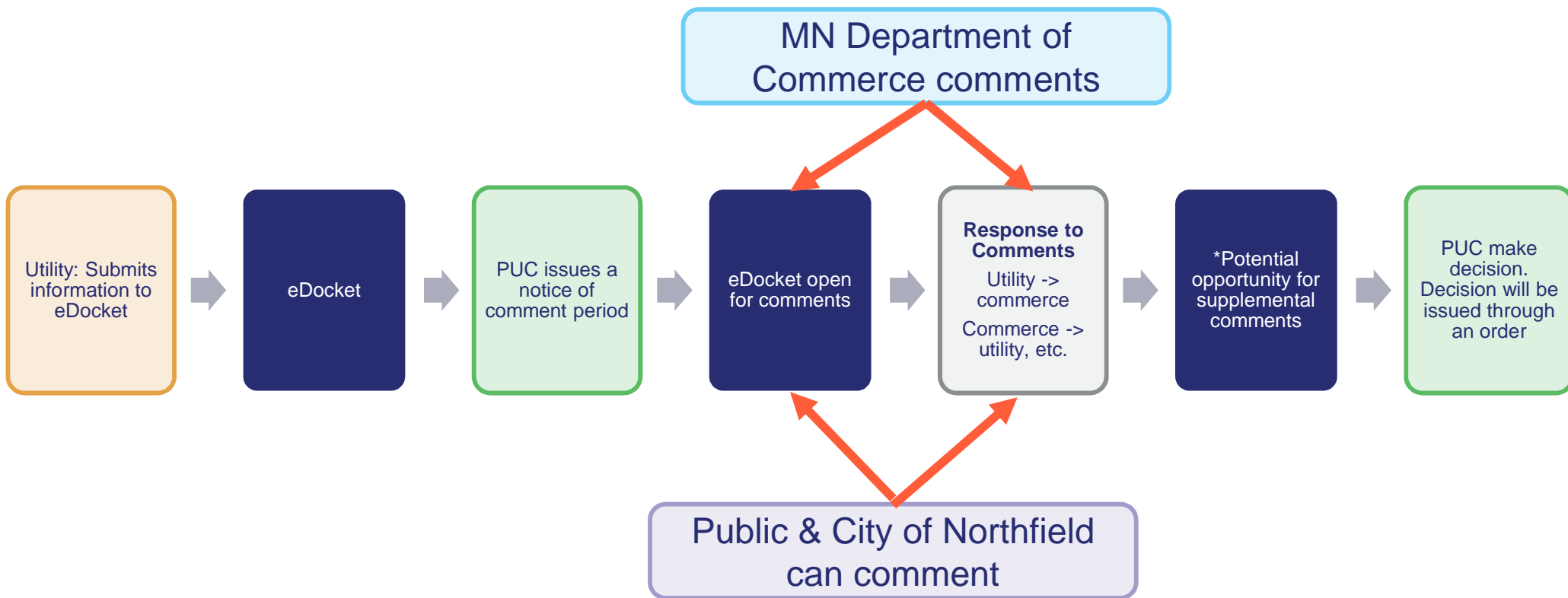


Purpose: Regulate investor-owned utilities like Xcel

Approves:

- New rates
- Sets interconnection rules
- Reviews integrated resources plans (IRP) & distributed energy resource planning (DERs)

Systems Map



What the City is tracking



- eDocket [23-458](#): Allocating 1.2 million from the Renewable Development Account to update feeders, including the Northfield
 - MN Department of Commerce to respond by Summer 2026
- eDocket [24-288](#): Developing standards for sharing the cost of distribution system upgrades required for the interconnection of distributed energy resources
 - Effects Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power and Otter Tail Power
 - PUC decision should be issued through an order soon

What the City is tracking



- Xcel's Integrated Distributed Plan: Likely will include a plan for Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems
- Flexible Interconnection: Discussion in Summer of 2026 – potential pilot in 2027
 - Temporary curtailment of generation during times of grid constraint

How to get involved



- Subscribe to [PUC e-newsletter](#)
 - Subscribe to specific e-dockets
- Submit written comments in open dockets
 - Review [Tips for Preparing an effective comment](#)
- Attend public hearings or stakeholder workshops

Sara Pabich

Sustainability Coordinator

Sara.Pabich@northfieldmn.gov





Legislation Text

File #: 26-185, **Version:** 1

EQC Meeting Date: April 15, 2026

To: Members of the Environmental Quality Commission

From: Sara Pabich, Sustainability Coordinator

2026-2027 Work Plan Updates

Action Requested:

EQC Commissioners provide updates of priority items for the 2026-2027 Work Plan.

Summary Report:

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 Anderson – until April 2026	Target Completion Date April 2027
Progress Q1 January-March: Planning to table at Riverwalk Series		
Progress Q2 April-June:		
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:		
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:		
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:		
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:		
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:		
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 #: 26-186, **Version:** 1

EQC Meeting Date: April 15, 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.

Zoning Code Update:

The City of Northfield is updating its Zoning Code to better meet community needs and align with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Residents are encouraged to share their input by completing an [online survey](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/75c0c9c8b572444388caab1468480094) [by April 22nd, 2026](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/75c0c9c8b572444388caab1468480094), as public feedback will help guide the future of the community.

EQC Tabling Events:

Staff emailed the Commission a volunteer sign-up form for tabling opportunities at the Earth Day event and the Riverwalk Market and request that EQC members sign up. Staff also provided a presentation to City Council on April 7 with an update on Earth Day activities. Attached are the Earth Day advertisement flyer, and copies of the flyers the City has ready to share at Earth Day.

Parks

- The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) continues to have a clear and important role in park-related matters following the City's decision to sunset the Parks Board in 2026. While the EQC is not intended to replace a parks-focused advisory body or take on operational park planning functions, its duties support providing input where environmental considerations are involved. This includes assessing environmental impacts of park projects, advising on alignment with environmental goals, and recommending approaches that enhance conservation and ecological health within park spaces.

Under Sec. 2-424 of the City Code, the EQC is tasked with advising on environmental impacts, evaluating city activities against environmental policies, and recommending actions to improve

environmental quality. Since parks are a key part of the City’s natural systems, it is appropriate-and generally expected-for the EQC to provide feedback on park planning and projects when issues such as habitat, tree canopy, water resources, or sustainability are involved. In short, the EQC does not function as a general parks board, but has and continues to play an important role in helping ensure park decisions reflect the City’s environmental values.

- On April 7, City Council approved the bid packages for three parks: Riverside Park, Dresden Hill and Central Park. The project included maintenance to be able to maintain equipment if feasible and salvage other equipment for re-use working with a local company. Additionally, mulch from projects that will not be used will be integrated with City composting at the site. For more information about the park projects, [click here <https://northfield.granicus.com/player/clip/2257?view_id=2&redirect=true>](https://northfield.granicus.com/player/clip/2257?view_id=2&redirect=true).

Annual Shade Tree Sale

Residents can place a tree order from April 1 until April 23 in the city’s annual shade tree sale. Supplies are limited and orders will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis. The City has 150 trees available in 15 species. Trees come in bare root, #3 containers or #7 containers and are between 5 to 8 feet tall and half inch to one and a quarter inch in trunk diameter. Prices range from \$36.95 to \$149 per tree.

This year trees will be available to pick up at the Streets and Parks Maintenance Facility May 12 through 15. Planting and tree care instructions will be provided to buyers to help their trees thrive.

If you don’t have room on your property or would like to donate a tree, you may donate a tree to a city park.

If you’re interested in ordering or donating, visit the city website: northfieldmn.gov/TreeSale
<<https://www.northfieldmn.gov/669/Tree-Sale>>

Resources:

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has published its 2026 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Cost Study. The purpose of the study is to estimate the scale of investment needed for climate adaptation in Minnesota and to better understand the financial risks of inaction under different future climate scenarios. This summary is being shared for awareness, and a [link to the full report <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/lrcc-mn-1sy26.pdf>](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/lrcc-mn-1sy26.pdf) is included for those interested in reviewing the findings in more detail.
- Minnesota Housing released its Climate Resilience and Housing Decarbonization Roadmap, a guide outlining climate-focused targets and recommendations for Agency teams and programs. This summary is shared for awareness, and the [full Roadmap <https://mnhousing.gov/documents/53610/climate-resilience-housing-decarbonization-roadmap-2026-a11y/view>](https://mnhousing.gov/documents/53610/climate-resilience-housing-decarbonization-roadmap-2026-a11y/view) is available for review.

Alternative Options:

NA

Financial Impacts:

NA

Tentative Timelines:

NA



EARTH DAY *Celebration*

STAND UP FOR OUR PLANET: SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 • 11am-4pm
ARMORY SQUARE, NORTHFIELD

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR LOCAL LANDS

ST. OLAF NATURAL LANDS RESTORATION Fri, April 24th - 3-5pm

CARLETON ARB TREE PLANTING Sat, April 25th - 9am & 10:30am

RIVERSIDE PARK CLEAN UP Sat, April 25th - 12:30pm

SALVATERRA FARM TOUR Sun, April 26th - 1-3pm

FRIDAY
APRIL 24th
KICK OFF EVENT!
**EARTH DAY
CONTRA DANCE**
ARMORY SQUARE
7-10pm

THANK YOU
TO OUR
SPONSORS!

PLATINUM SPONSORS










SILVER SPONSORS




BRONZE SPONSORS

- Curbside Compost
- League of Women Voters
- Deaf Friendly Biz
- Sharing Our Roots
- Imminent Brewing
- Citizen's Climate Lobby

EARTH DAY, GAME DAY • 10-11am • Northfield Public Library

WORKSHOPS, ECO EXHIBITORS, MARKET SQUARE VENDORS

Armory Square • 11am-4pm

- BOOKMOBILE 11am-2pm
 - BIKE SAFETY & MAINTENANCE 11am-2pm
 - INDIGO DYEING 11am-3pm
 - RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP 2-3pm
with Clean River Partners
 - BECOME A REGISTERED COTTAGE FOOD
PRODUCER CLASS 2-4pm
- More workshops & details on website.*

**CANNON VALLEY
MAKERS CRAFT**

LIVE MUSIC

\$4 PIZZA SLICES
at B & L Pizza

NORTHFIELD'S CLIMATE INFO SESSION 12-12:30pm

Mayor Erica Zweifel & Sustainability Coordinator Sara Pabich
Take action and participate in a community photo after the update!

Questions? Email us at:
NorthfieldEarthDay@gmail.com
All details on website!

NorthfieldEarthDay.com



About rain gardens

A rain garden is a dry depression in the landscape that is planted like a garden and allows rainwater to infiltrate into the ground rather than run into storm sewers where it flows untreated into our lakes and waterways.

Allowing rainwater runoff to soak into the ground improves the water quality of our rivers and lakes, reduces the risk of localized flooding, and recharges aquifers.

Benefits

- Improves water quality improvements
- Reduces risks of flooding
- Adds beauty and value to neighborhoods
- Provides wildlife habitat to attract beneficial birds, butterflies, and dragonflies

Maintenance

Like any perennial flower garden, rain gardens need to be watered the first year and weeded semi-annually. Filling in bare spots with mulch is also recommended.

Mosquitoes

Rain gardens hold water for no longer than 48 hours; far shorter than the 7 days of standing water needed to breed mosquitoes. In between rainfalls, the rain gardens are dry.

Why use native prairie plants?

Prairie plants native to Minnesota have deep roots that help break up compacted soils, even clay, to infiltrate water. They are also naturally drought, flood, and pest resistant.

THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
ESTD MINNESOTA 1855
COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Applying for a rebate

1. Install your rain garden.
2. Take a photo of your rain garden.
3. Submit your rebate form, receipt(s) and photo:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



or mail in to:

City of Northfield
Engineering Department
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

4. Look for your rebate on your utility account (all requirements must be met).

Contact us

James McDermott
Water Quality Technician
City of Northfield
507-645-3071
james.mcdermott@northfieldmn.gov



Rain Garden Rebate


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



How rain gardens work

Capture

A rain garden captures water runoff and holds standing water for no more than 48 hours.

Filter

In the soil, microbes break down pollutants and nutrients washed in by the rain.

Infiltrate

Deep-rooted native prairie plants loosen the soil, allowing water to soak in quickly and recharge groundwater aquifers.

About the rebate program

The City of Northfield is encouraging property owners to capture and infiltrate stormwater by installing residential rain gardens.

Eligibility

The program is available to all property owners in Northfield city limits with a Northfield utility account.

Amount of rebate

The City will reimburse homeowners 50% up to \$250 for the cost of materials in rain garden construction and rental of any construction equipment.

Grants will be awarded to the highest ranking projects until cost share funding for the fiscal year is expended.

The program is funded through stormwater utility fees.

Acerca de los jardines de lluvia

Un jardín de lluvia es una depresión seca en el paisaje que se planta como un jardín y permite que el agua de lluvia se infiltre en el suelo en lugar de correr hacia las alcantarillas pluviales donde fluye sin tratar hacia nuestros lagos y vías fluviales. Permitir que el agua de lluvia se infiltre en el suelo mejora la calidad del agua de nuestros ríos y lagos, reduce el riesgo de inundaciones localizadas y recarga los acuíferos.

Beneficios

- Mejora la calidad del agua
- Reduce el riesgo de inundaciones
- Añade belleza y valor a los barrios
- Proporciona un hábitat natural que atrae a aves, mariposas y libélulas beneficiosas

Mantenimiento

Como cualquier jardín de flores perenne, los jardines de lluvia deben regarse el primer año y desherbarse semestralmente. También se recomienda rellenar las zonas desnudas con mantillo.

Mosquitos

Los jardines de lluvia no retienen el agua más de 48 horas, mucho menos de los 7 días de agua estancada necesarios para que se reproduzcan los mosquitos. Entre lluvia y lluvia, los jardines de lluvia están secos.

¿Por qué utilizar plantas autóctonas de las praderas?

Las plantas de pradera autóctonas de Minnesota tienen raíces profundas que ayudan a romper los suelos compactos, incluso los arcillosos, para infiltrar el agua. También son resistentes por naturaleza a la sequía, las inundaciones y las plagas.

THE CITY OF
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COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Solicitar un reembolso

1. Instale su jardín de lluvia.
2. Haz una foto de tu jardín de lluvia.
3. Envíe el formulario de reembolso, los recibos y una foto:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



O por correo a:

City of Northfield
Engineering Department
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

4. Busque su reembolso en su cuenta de servicios públicos (deben cumplirse todos los requisitos).

Contáctenos

James McDermott
Técnico de calidad del agua
Ciudad de Northfield
507-645-3071
james.mcdermott@northfieldmn.gov



Reembolso por jardines de lluvia


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



Cómo funcionan los jardines de lluvia

Capturar

Un jardín de lluvia capta el agua de escorrentía y retiene el agua estancada durante no más de 48 horas.

Filtrar

En el suelo, los microbios descomponen los contaminantes y nutrientes arrastrados por la lluvia.

Infiltrar

Las plantas autóctonas de las praderas, de raíces profundas, aflojan el suelo, permitiendo que el agua penetre rápidamente y recargue los acuíferos subterráneos.

Menos agua en los desagües pluviales equivale a lagos y arroyos más limpios.

Sobre el programa de descuentos

La ciudad de Northfield anima a los propietarios a captar e infiltrar las aguas pluviales mediante la instalación de jardines de lluvia residenciales.

Elegibilidad

El programa está disponible para todos los propietarios de viviendas situadas dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Northfield que tengan una cuenta de servicios públicos en Northfield..

Importe del descuento

La Ciudad reembolsará a los propietarios de viviendas el 50% hasta \$250 dólares por el costo de los materiales en la construcción del jardín de lluvia y el alquiler de cualquier equipo de construcción.

Las subvenciones se concederán a los proyectos mejor clasificados hasta que se agote la financiación de los costos compartidos para el ejercicio fiscal.

El programa se financia con las tasas de los servicios públicos de aguas pluviales.

About rain barrels

A rain barrel is an easy way for residents and businesses to conserve water and reduce the amount of stormwater leaving their property. Usually around 55 gallons, rain barrels collect and store water from roof downspouts and allow it to be reused to water gardens.

Benefits of rain barrels

Rain barrels have many benefits, such as:

- Conserves our groundwater resources by using rainwater instead of municipal water to water plants.
- Rainwater is naturally soft so it's better for garden plants than tap water.
- Reduces the amount of stormwater runoff that goes directly into our storm sewers and into the Cannon River, reducing flood risks and streambank erosion.

Maintenance

Rain barrels must be emptied every fall to prevent ice damage. You must remove leaves and other debris that enter from roof downspouts to prevent clogging.

Mosquitoes

Properly installed rain barrels have a screen or another method to prevent mosquitoes from entering and breeding.

THE CITY OF
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COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Applying

Fill out a Rain Barrel Rebate form:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



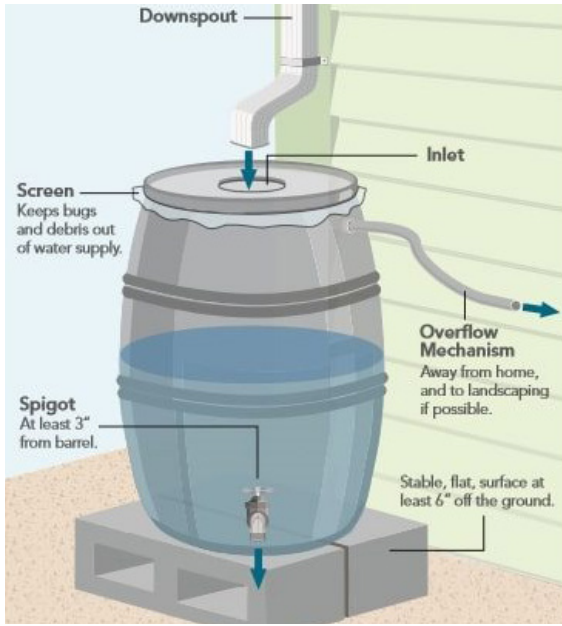
Contact us

James McDermott
Water Quality Technician
City of Northfield
507-645-3071
james.mcdermott@northfieldmn.gov



Rain Barrel Rebate


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



How rain barrels work

Capture

A rain barrel captures water from roof downspouts. Even small roofs and rainfalls can easily fill a 55-gallon rain barrel. When the rain barrel is full, water overflows through an overflow pipe.

Store

Water remains in the rain barrel until needed. Screens prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Use

Attach a hose or soaker hose to the rain barrel to water plants and fill water buckets. Elevate the rain barrel on blocks for more water pressure.

About the rebate program

The City of Northfield is encouraging property owners to capture and reuse stormwater by installing rain barrels.

Eligibility

The program is available to all property owners in Northfield city limits with a Northfield utility account.

Amount of rebate

A \$20 rebate is credited on your utility account. You can claim up to 3 rebates per utility account.

Rebates are given on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding for the fiscal year is exhausted.

The program is funded through stormwater utility fees.

Applying for a rebate

The Rain Barrel Rebate form is available at City Hall and on the City of Northfield website.

1. Buy a qualified rain barrel (over 40 gallons) and keep your receipt.
2. Install your rain barrel to a roof downspout.
3. Take a photo of your installed rain barrel.
4. Submit your rebate form, receipt and photo:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



or mail in to:

City of Northfield
 Attn: Water Quality Technician
 Engineering Department
 801 Washington Street
 Northfield, MN 55057

5. Look for your \$20 rebate on your utility account (all requirements must be met).

Sobre los barriles de lluvia

Un barril de lluvia es una forma sencilla para que los habitantes y las empresas conserven el agua y reduzcan la cantidad de agua de lluvia que sale de su propiedad. Los barriles de lluvia, que suelen tener unos 55 galones, recogen y almacenan el agua de las bajantes de los tejados y permiten reutilizarla para regar jardines.

Beneficios de los barriles de lluvia

Los barriles de lluvia tienen muchas ventajas, como, por ejemplo:

- Conservan nuestros recursos hídricos subterráneos al utilizar agua de lluvia en lugar de agua municipal para regar las plantas.
- El agua de lluvia es naturalmente blanda, por lo que es mejor para las plantas de jardín que el agua del grifo.
- Reduce la cantidad de escorrentía de aguas pluviales que va directamente a nuestros colectores de aguas pluviales y al río Cannon, reduciendo los riesgos de inundación y la erosión de las riberas.

Mantenimiento

Los barriles de lluvia deben vaciarse cada otoño para evitar daños por hielo. Debe retirar las hojas y otros residuos que entren por los bajantes del tejado para evitar atascos.

Mosquitos

Los barriles de lluvia correctamente instalados tienen una rejilla u otro método para evitar que los mosquitos entren y se reproduzcan.

THE CITY OF
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ESTD 1855
COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Aplicación

Rellene el formulario de reembolso por barril de lluvia:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



Contáctenos

James McDermott
Técnico de calidad del agua
Ciudad de Northfield
507-645-3071
james.mcdermott@northfieldmn.gov



Reembolso por barril de lluvia


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



Cómo funcionan los barriles de lluvia

Capturar

Un barril de lluvia recoge el agua de las bajantes del tejado. Incluso los tejados pequeños y las precipitaciones pueden llenar fácilmente un barril de lluvia de 55 galones. Cuando el barril está lleno, el agua se desborda por un tubo de rebose.

Almacenar

El agua permanece en el barril hasta que se necesita. Las rejillas evitan que se reproduzcan los mosquitos.

Utilice

Conecta una manguera al barril de lluvia para regar las plantas y llenar los cubos de agua. Eleva el barril de lluvia sobre bloques para tener más presión de agua.

Sobre el programa de descuentos

La ciudad de Northfield anima a los propietarios a capturar y reutilizar las aguas pluviales instalando barriles de lluvia.

Elegibilidad

El programa está disponible para todos los propietarios de viviendas situadas dentro de los límites de la ciudad de *Northfield* que tengan una cuenta de servicios públicos en *Northfield*.

Importe del reembolso

Se abonará un reembolso de \$20 en su cuenta de servicios públicos. Puede solicitar hasta 3 reembolsos por cuenta.

Los reembolsos se conceden por orden de llegada hasta que se agoten los fondos para el año fiscal.

El programa se financia a través de las tasas de los servicios públicos de aguas pluviales.

Solicitar un reembolso

El formulario de reembolso de barriles de lluvia está disponible en el Municipio y en el sitio web de la ciudad de Northfield.

1. Compre un barril de lluvia calificado (más de 40 galones) y guarde su recibo.
2. Instale su barril de lluvia a una bajante del techo.
3. Tome una foto de su barril de lluvia instalado.
4. Envíe el formulario de reembolso, el recibo y la foto:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



O por correo a:

City of Northfield
Attn: Water Quality Technician
Engineering Department
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

5. Busque su reembolso de \$20 en su cuenta de la compañía eléctrica (todos los requisitos deben cumplirse).



Why conserve water?

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. Water conservation is important for all residents and businesses to protect our natural resources and save money.

In Northfield with a wet spring in 2024, the average water use was about 43 gallons per person per day. Some agricultural regions in Minnesota are vulnerable to drought, which can affect crop yields and municipal water supplies.

Northfield is actively doing its part to protect the water supply for future generations.

THE CITY OF
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ESTD MINNESOTA 1855
COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Applying for a rebate

Fill out a Water Conservation Rebate form:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



Contact us

Justin Wagner
Utilities Manager
City of Northfield
507-645-3083
justin.wagner@northfieldmn.gov



Water Conservation Rebate


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



About the rebate program

The Water Conservation Rebate is an incentive for property owners to conserve water. Rebates are available for the cost of installing efficient items.

Eligibility

The program is available to all property owners in Northfield city limits with a Northfield utility account.



Amount of rebate

The rebate is credited on your utility account. Rebate amount will be \$25, \$50, or \$75.

Items that rebates are available

- Clothes washer – Energy Star Certified – \$25 per unit
- Showerheads – WaterSense® Label – \$25 per unit
- Toilets – WaterSense® Label – \$50 per unit
- Flushometer valve toilets for commercial use – WaterSense® Label – \$50 per unit
- Weather-based irrigation controllers – WaterSense® Label – \$75 per controller



Applying for a rebate

The Water Conservation Rebate form is available at City Hall and on the City of Northfield website.

1. Buy and install your item.
2. Submit your rebate form, receipt and photo:



northfieldmn.gov/rebates

or mail in to:
City of Northfield
Engineering Department
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

3. Look for your rebate on your utility account (all requirements must be met).



¿Por qué conservar el agua?

La conservación es esencial, incluso en la tierra de 10,000 lagos. La conservación del agua es importante para que todos los habitantes y empresas protejan nuestros recursos naturales y ahorren dinero.

En Northfield, con una primavera húmeda en 2024, el consume medio de agua fue de unos 43 galones por persona y día. Algunas regiones agrícolas de Minnesota son vulnerables a la sequía, que puede afectar al rendimiento de las cosechas y al suministro municipal de agua. Northfield contribuye activamente a proteger el suministro de agua para las generaciones futuras.

THE CITY OF
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ESTD MINNESOTA 1855
COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Solicitar un reembolso

Rellene un formulario de Reembolso por conservación del agua:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



Póngase en contacto con nosotros

Justin Wagner
Director de Servicios Públicos
Ciudad de *Northfield*
507-645-3083
justin.wagner@northfieldmn.gov



Reembolso por conservación del agua


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



Sobre el programa de descuentos

El reembolso para la conservación del agua es un incentivo para que los propietarios ahorren agua. Los reembolsos están disponibles para el costo de la instalación de elementos eficientes.

Elegibilidad

El programa está disponible para todos los propietarios de viviendas situadas dentro de los límites de la ciudad de *Northfield* que tengan una cuenta de servicios públicos en *Northfield*.



Importe del reembolso

El reembolso se abona en su cuenta de servicios públicos.

El importe del reembolso será de \$25, \$50, o \$75.

Artículos que se pueden rebajar

- Lavadora de ropa – Certificado *Energy Star* – \$25 por unidad
- Cabezales de ducha – *WaterSense® Label* – \$25 por unidad
- Inodoros – *WaterSense® Label* – \$50 por unidad
- Inodoros con válvula de descarga para uso comercial – *WaterSense® Label* – \$50 por unidad
- Controladores de Riego basados en la meteorología – *WaterSense® Label* – \$75 por controlador



Solicitar un reembolso

1. El formulario de reembolso para la conservación del agua está disponible en el Ayuntamiento y en el sitio web de la ciudad de *Northfield*.
2. Compra e instala tu artículo.
3. Envíe su formulario de reembolso, el recibo y una foto:



northfieldmn.gov/rebates

o por correo a

Ciudad de *Northfield*
Departamento de Ingeniería
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

4. Busque su reembolso en su cuenta de servicios públicos (deben cumplirse todos los requisitos).



Why native plants?

Native prairie, woodland, and wetland plants have evolved to thrive in our natural conditions. After a season or two, they usually require less maintenance than a conventional lawn or garden and can help reduce water runoff and erosion.

Native plants generally do not require the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides, which saves you money and reduces harm to the environment.

Many native plants are quite beautiful. A patch of them can give your yard or garden a rustic feel, while providing the additional benefit of providing food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects, which include pollinators such as butterflies and bees, but also dragonflies, which eat mosquitoes and other pests.

Benefits

- Plants thrive in area
- Less maintenance
- Reduces water runoff and erosion
- No need for fertilizers or pesticides
- Saves money
- Better for environment
- Beautiful
- Attracts pollinators
- Attracts dragonflies, which eat mosquitoes and other pests

THE CITY OF
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ESTD MINNESOTA 1855
COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Applying for a rebate

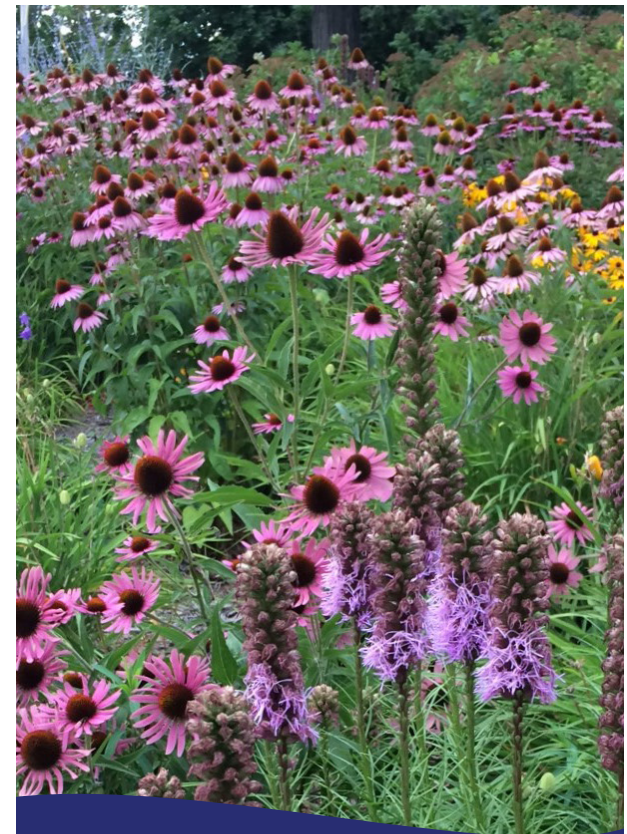
Fill out a Native Plant Rebate form:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



Contact us

James McDermott
Water Quality Technician
City of Northfield
507-645-3071
james.mcdermott@northfieldmn.gov



Native Plant Rebate


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



A growing trend

Recognizing the importance of conserving Minnesota's wildlife, thousands of people around the state have started to replace traditional green turf lawns with their own native plant landscaping projects. This is a great opportunity to join in and see what the buzz is about!

Talking with a specialist at a plant nursery or garden center can also help inform your decision.

Things to consider

There are many different types of native plants to select from, so being aware of the following can help you choose the plants best suited for your backyard:

- How much sun do you get in your backyard?
- What is the soil like?
- Are there any low areas that tend to collect water during rains?
- How much space is available for adding new plants?
- Can you remove some of your turf grass to make more room?



About the rebate program

Providing a wildflower-rich habitat is the most significant action you can take to support pollinators, which in turn supports the entire ecosystem.

Eligibility

The program is available to all property owners in Northfield city limits with a Northfield utility account.

Amount of rebate

The rebate is credited on your utility account.

You can receive a 33% rebate of up to \$75 on native plant purchases. Rebate amount will be \$25, \$50, or \$75.

Rebates are given on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding for the fiscal year is exhausted.



Applying for a rebate

The Native Plant Rebate form is available at City hall and on the City of Northfield website.

1. Buy plants or seeds on the Native Plant Rebate Approved Seed/Plant List.
2. Plant your plants or seeds.
3. Submit your rebate form, receipt and photo:



northfieldmn.gov/rebates

or mail in to:

City of Northfield
Engineering Department
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

4. Look for your rebate on your utility account (all requirements must be met).



¿Por qué plantas autóctonas?

Las plantas autóctonas de praderas, bosques y humedales han evolucionado para prosperar en nuestras condiciones naturales. Después de una o dos temporadas, suelen requerir menos mantenimiento que un césped o jardín convencional y pueden ayudar a reducir la escorrentía de agua y la erosión.

Por lo general, las plantas autóctonas no requieren el uso de fertilizantes o pesticidas químicos, lo que ahorra dinero y reduce los daños al medio ambiente.

Muchas plantas autóctonas son muy hermosas. Un parche de ellas puede dar su patio o jardín un toque rústico, al tiempo que proporciona el beneficio adicional de proporcionar alimento y refugio para las aves y los insectos beneficiosos, que incluyen polinizadores como las mariposas y las abejas, pero también libélulas, que comen mosquitos y otras plagas.

Beneficios

- Las plantas prosperan en la zona
- Menos mantenimiento
- Reduce la escorrentía y la erosión
- No necesita fertilizantes ni pesticidas
- Ahorra dinero
- Mejor para el medio ambiente
- Hermoso
- Atrae a los polinizadores
- Atrae a las libélulas, que se alimentan de mosquitos y otras plagas

THE CITY OF
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ESTD MINNESOTA 1855
COWS, COLLEGES & CONSERVATION

Aplicación

Rellene el formulario de reembolso para plantas autóctonas:

northfieldmn.gov/rebates



Contáctenos

James McDermott
Técnico de calidad del agua
Ciudad de Northfield
507-645-3071
james.mcdermott@northfieldmn.gov



Reembolso para plantas autéctonas


THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD
MINNESOTA



Una tendencia creciente

Reconociendo la importancia de conservar la vida salvaje de *Minnesota*, miles de personas de todo el estado han empezado a sustituir los tradicionales céspedes verdes por sus propios proyectos de paisajismo con plantas autóctonas.

Esta es una gran oportunidad para participar y ver de qué va todo esto. Hablar con un especialista en un vivero o centro de jardinería también puede ayudarle a tomar una decisión.

Aspectos que debe tener en cuenta

Hay muchos tipos diferentes de plantas autóctonas entre las que elegir, por lo que tener en cuenta lo siguiente puede ayudarle a elegir las plantas más adecuadas para su jardín:

- ¿Cuánto sol recibe en su jardín?
- ¿Cómo es el suelo?
- ¿Hay zonas bajas que tiendan a acumular agua durante las lluvias?
- ¿Cuánto espacio hay disponible para añadir nuevas plantas?
- ¿Puedes quitar parte del césped para hacer más sitio?



Sobre el programa de descuentos

Proporcionar un hábitat rico en flores silvestres es la medida más importante que puede tomar para ayudar a los polinizadores, que a su vez ayudan a todo el ecosistema.

Elegibilidad

El programa está disponible para todos los propietarios de viviendas situadas dentro de los límites de la ciudad de *Northfield* que tengan una cuenta de servicios públicos en *Northfield*.

Importe del descuento

El reembolso se abona en su cuenta de servicios públicos.

Puede recibir un reembolso del 33% de hasta \$75 por la compra de plantas autóctonas. El reembolso será de \$25, \$50, o \$75 dólares.

Los reembolsos se conceden por orden de llegada hasta que se agotan los fondos para el ejercicio fiscal.



Solicitar un reembolso

El formulario de reembolso para plantas autóctonas está disponible en el Municipio y en el sitio web de la ciudad de *Northfield*.

1. Compre plantas o semillas que figuren en la Lista de semillas/plantas aprobadas para el Reembolso para plantas autóctonas.
2. Planifica tus plantas o semillas.
3. Envíe su formulario de reembolso, el recibo y una foto:



northfieldmn.gov/rebates

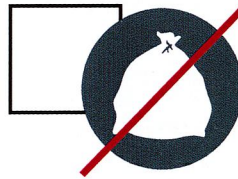
o por correo a:

City of Northfield (Ciudad de Northfield)
Engineering Department (Departamento de Ingeniería)
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

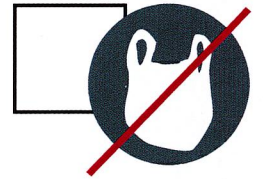
4. Busque su reembolso en su cuenta de servicios públicos (deben cumplirse todos los requisitos).



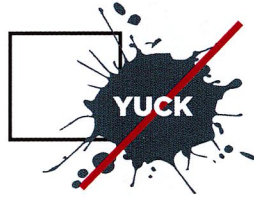
PLEASE LEAVE THESE ITEMS OUT!



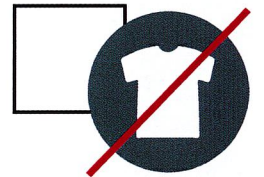
Do Not Bag Recyclables
and no garbage



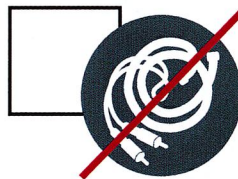
No Plastic Bags
(return to retail)



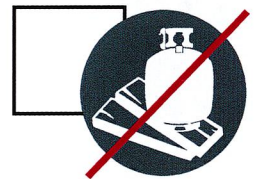
No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Clothing
or Linens
(drop-off only)



No Tangles,
(no hoses, wires, chains, or
electronics)



No Big Items
(wood, plastic,
furniture, or metal)

DicksSanitation.com

Call: 952-469-5161



RECYCLE MORE OF THESE:

CANS
Aluminum
and Steel Cans



empty and rinse

CARTONS
Food and
Beverage



empty and
replace cap

GLASS
Bottles
and Jars



empty and rinse

PAPER

Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines,
and Flattened Cardboard



PLASTICS

Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers



empty and replace cap

Brought to you by the City of Northfield and DSI



Graphics provided by The Recycling Partnership

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS A Climate Champion

Northfield's Climate Champion Program helps local businesses reduce energy use, lower costs, and lead climate action.

Qualifying upgrades may also be eligible for City rebates.



To learn more, visit
[northfieldmn.gov/
ClimateChampions](http://northfieldmn.gov/ClimateChampions)



SCAN ME!



NORTHFIELD AND XCEL ENERGY
ARE PLEASED TO WORK
TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR
COMMUNITY ENERGY GOALS.



HAGA QUE SU NEGOCIO SEA UN **Campeón del Clima**

El Programa de Campeones del Clima de Northfield (Northfield Climate Champions) ayuda a empresas locales a reducir el uso de energía, reducir costos y a ser líderes de acción climática.

Las mejoras energeticas que califiquen también pueden ser elegibles para reembolsos de la Ciudad.



¡ESCANÉAME!

Para obtener más información, visite
**[northfieldmn.gov/
ClimateChampions](http://northfieldmn.gov/ClimateChampions)**



NORTHFIELD Y XCEL ENERGY
SE COMPLACEN EN TRABAJAR
JUNTOS PARA LOGRAR
NUESTROS OBJETIVOS
ENERGÉTICOS COMUNITARIOS.

