

Environmental Quality Commission

2025 Work Plan Submissions for Consideration

Susannah Shmurak

- Continuation of native planting ordinance
- Prioritize efforts around about water conservation

Michelle Mattson

- Work toward recommendations to codify building requirements for any building receiving funds from the City of Northfield to be more sustainable than the minimum building code

Janet Petri

- For the work plan: We should continue to work on getting the word out about the IRA clean energy incentives, along with info about the other clean energy rebates available through Xcel and the city. The wording of this goal for 2024 referred to workshops, but I think that is too narrow. What is the best way to reach people? I am glad that Ms. Lang-Ree reached out to you regarding helping with communication and social media. And we should consider what else might be good ways to reach out. LTEs? KYMN? What am I missing?
- At this point CCL Northfield is planning to participate in the Saturday Riverwalk Market again, and I am sure that EQC could table there, as we did last summer. Rotary Climate Action Team is continuing their work to inform the community about IRA opportunities. That includes training Rotary members to meet with people to help guide them through the process of applying for rebates, etc., to electrify their homes and improve home efficiency. Should we reach out to Rotary to see how we could support and complement each other in this work?
- Regarding workshops, what are other places to reach people? Library events? Church groups? More stuff at 50 North? Earth Day is good, but there you are reaching people who are already more likely to be informed.
- The current situation is a bit more complicated than I would have expected a year ago. We are still waiting for the IRA rebates to become available. And I read various predictions/guesses as to whether there will be legislation that undoes major parts of the IRA. I am going to proceed on the assumption that the IRA rebates will be available in early 2025, and that they will continue to be available

Mike Provancha

- Completion of plastic waste business and residential community surveying and proposal to City Council on recommendations for next steps
- Establish Carbon Reduction fund line item to pay citizens to electrify home lawn equipment and implement promotion of said offering

- Collaborate with the NF Art Guild and attitudes to paint murals around town supporting climate mitigation strategies should a significant power outage occur during extreme hot or cold events (painting of a family storing two weeks of food/water, huddling family in basement with blankets in power loss winter event, etc.)
- Collaborate with Citizens Climate Lobby and RCATs to design a heat pump floats for 2-4 parades or public gatherings in Northfield to promote heat pump installation at commercial (most pressing with 68% of NF GHG emissions) and residential buildings.
- Actively promote heat pumps a
- Collaborate with other board(s) to ensure clean local transportation infrastructure.

Bruce Anderson

- IRA/HOMES and HEAR workshops and publicity. Continuation of the 2024 work plan item on Inflation Reduction Act workshop series and related publicity. The Minnesota Department of Commerce anticipates finally rolling out the Home Efficiency Rebate program (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate program (HEAR) sometime in early 2025, so a series of workshops and publicity related to these programs should be timed accordingly.
- Certified HOMES and HEAR contractors. Work with CERTs, Xcel and the Minnesota Department of Commerce to create a referral list of local home energy improvement and HVAC contractors who are trained, certified and ready to offer services that qualify for HOMES and HEAR. These contractors could also be invited to participate in the educational workshops in the above work plan item.
- Citywide curbside composting. Research and recommend options to overcoming barriers to implementing a citywide curbside composting program.
- Native plantings and in-city food production. Research and recommend options to incentivize and increase homeowner native plantings and food production within city limits (home gardens and community gardens).