

# Business Plus Spotlight

*Boulder County Business, Magnified.*

## The Easiest Way to Reduce Emissions

Energy efficiency solutions from Xcel Energy benefit the environment and save you money





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**E**nergy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions.

In Colorado, Xcel Energy customers have saved enough electricity to help avoid building three power plants and prevented the emission of over 2.1 million tons of carbon dioxide since

the company began tracking results of energy efficiency programs in 1992.

Energy efficiency is a key component of Xcel Energy's clean energy strategy, through which carbon dioxide emissions in Colorado have been reduced by 26 percent since 2005 levels.

Last year, Boulder residential and business customers who participated in energy efficiency programs from Xcel Energy saved over 14 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. They prevented the estimated emission of over 10,000 tons of carbon dioxide, or the amount of electricity that more

than 1,400 homes use in one year.

Energy efficiency not only makes an impact on the environment, but also saves money. Last year alone, Boulder customers received over \$1.5 million in rebates through energy efficiency programs from Xcel Energy.

Xcel Energy has rebates for approximately 1,000 different technologies through over 40 energy efficiency programs. To learn more about how Xcel Energy can help you manage your energy at your home or your business, visit [xcelenergy.com/Energy\\_Solutions](http://xcelenergy.com/Energy_Solutions).

"We have options to fit your specific needs," said David Eves, president of Public Service Company of Colorado, an Xcel Energy company. "Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for customers to access our programs and understand the benefits of energy efficiency."

## Ways to save

Customers are taking advantage of Xcel Energy's solutions in large numbers and have expressed satisfaction with their ability to make their own energy decisions. Each year, more than 500,000 customers in Colorado participate.



*Xcel Energy has partnered with a variety of retailers to help you light up your home for less with discounted LED bulbs.*



*Xcel Energy launched a special flood victims program in 2013 to help those affected by the disaster replace damaged equipment with better technology, including high efficiency water heaters.*

■ PAID MARKETING FEATURE

Popular residential programs include lighting, such as discounted LED bulbs available at a variety of stores, evaporative cooling, smart thermostats and the Home Energy Squad.

Smart thermostats are new this year. They offer one of the most convenient ways to manage energy use at home and connect through Wi-Fi to smart phones, tablets or computers to control home temperatures. Customers can shop online at XcelEnergyStore.com.

Also new is the Home Energy Squad. For \$75, the squad will stop by your home and make energy-saving changes that will help you cut back on your bills in under two hours. Depending on your needs, the squad may install a programmable thermostat, weather-stripping, efficient showerhead or faucet aerators, insulate your water heater, and swap out old light bulbs. To schedule a visit, go to [xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad](http://xcelenergy.com/HomeEnergySquad) or call 303.446.7910.

Popular business programs include lighting and commercial refrigeration. Xcel Energy can also help with new energy-efficiency requirements under the Boulder Building Performance Ordinance that the city of Boulder adopted last month. Last year, the average on-site energy audit at Colorado businesses identified \$5,497 in annual energy savings.

Xcel Energy assigns an account manager to large customers. Small- and medium-sized business customers can work with the Business Solutions Center at 1.800.481.4700 to answer any questions they may have on their accounts and discuss resources for potential energy efficiency projects.

Xcel Energy has worked on several energy efficiency projects for

businesses in Boulder and throughout Colorado with trade partner Ecosystems. The Boulder company specializes in energy savings projects for commercial buildings and spaces under 100,000 square feet.

“Xcel Energy has greatly contributed to the success of energy efficiency not only in Boulder, but also in Colorado,” said Ecosystems CEO R.J. Mastic. “We’ve completed over 300 projects in Colorado now. The incentives Xcel Energy offers are a large part of the reason why. The incentives really help to push companies to do energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is good for operations and reduces impacts on the environment.”

**Community support**

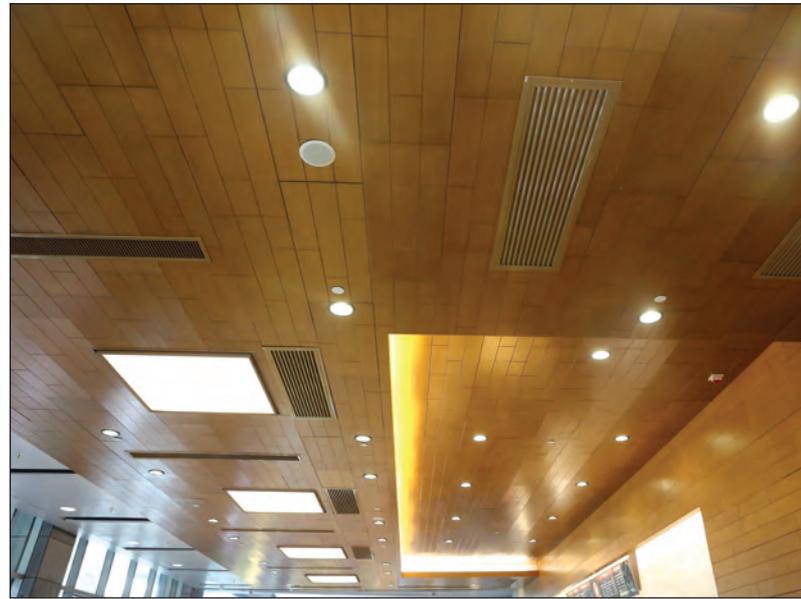
Energy efficiency is another way that Xcel Energy supports the communities it serves.

The company partners with approximately 2,700 local businesses, organizations and trade partners to implement programs.

Through programs targeting low-income customers, Xcel Energy analyzes the natural gas and electric use of low-income customers and provides products, services and information to help them lower energy bills.

Xcel Energy sponsors \$CORE, a free program for University of Colorado Boulder students living in off-campus rentals. Students receive a free assessment, which includes installation of energy saving devices and information on ways to save money on energy bills.

Xcel Energy provides school education kits to teachers throughout Colorado, including at Horizons K-8 School and Casey Middle School in Boulder last year. The kits combine



*Popular energy efficiency programs from Xcel Energy for businesses include lighting.*

a set of classroom activities with projects in the home to install energy efficiency and water conservation products.

Xcel Energy’s Partners in Energy helps communities in Colorado develop energy plans, or identify strategies and resources to successfully augment existing plans. The program leverages the company’s expertise in plan development and navigating the complexities of energy use, conservation, renewables and environmental issues.

Xcel Energy has completed initial steps for launching LED street lights for Colorado, offering a new way for communities to participate in energy efficiency. Based on demand, the company estimates it could convert nearly 95,000 cobra head lights to LED lights.

And Xcel Energy launched a special flood victims program in 2013 to help those affected by the disaster replace damaged equipment with better technology. Last year, 1.5 percent of total residential natural gas rebates paid were attributed to Colorado flood victim rebates – through higher rebates for homeowners who rebuilt with high efficiency furnaces and water heaters.

**Nationally recognized**

As a nationally recognized leader

in energy efficiency, Xcel Energy is among the top five U.S. utilities for energy efficiency saving and renewable energy sales, according to the 2014 Ceres report “Benchmarking Utility Clean Energy.”

The U.S. Green Building Council staff and board of directors selected Xcel Energy as the Best Energy Service Provider/Utility in the nation in 2014, as part of the organization’s Best of Building Awards that recognize the year’s best green products, projects, organizations and individuals making an impact in green building.

Boulder’s E Source ranked Xcel Energy’s Colorado Energy Design Assistance program in its Top Technologies and Trends of 2014. The program successfully improved the energy efficiency of commercial new construction projects by developing a unique tracking system to improve the program and allow more customers to participate.

In addition, the USGBC Colorado recognized 12 Xcel Energy customers for their exemplary building projects at the Colorado Green Commercial Real Estate awards. Of the 17 projects nominated, 12 participated in Xcel Energy’s energy efficiency programs, helping them maximize efficiency and earn a nomination.

*Photos courtesy of Xcel Energy.*



*Small- and medium-sized business customers can work with Xcel Energy’s Business Solutions Center at 1.800.481.4700 on energy efficiency projects.*



**24-Hour Residential Customer Service**  
1.800.895.4999  
[xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com)