

# Community Energy Consulting

CEE helps communities of all sizes pursue clean energy strategies tailored to their own environmental and economic goals. In one comprehensive package, our Community Energy Consulting (CEC) service connects communities to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources, planning and facilitation support, and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

With decades of experience across a range of energy topics, we meet communities where they're at. We employ pragmatic tools and strategies, following best practices, to address complex issues. And we bring data—from community energy use analysis to target audience surveys—to ensure a community's approach is sized right. Marrying our expertise in energy and relationship-building with each community's identity, we facilitate culture, policy, and program changes that help you set and achieve your local energy vision.

## CEC Services

### Planning

- Energy action planning
- Technical studies
- Resilience planning

### Engagement

- Stakeholder education
- Policy advising
- Utility engagement

### Implementation

- Building energy benchmarking
- Energy code support
- Time-of-sale energy disclosure
- Behavior change campaigns

## About Center for Energy and Environment

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) is a clean energy nonprofit with special expertise in energy efficiency that stretches back nearly 40 years. Working in homes, businesses, and communities, CEE discovers and deploys the most effective energy solutions to strengthen the economy and improve the environment.



We have served  
over **40**  
communities

**We  
connect  
community  
stakeholders:  
cities,  
utilities, and  
the public.**



We are cold  
climate experts

# Case Studies

## Energy Outreach Campaign in Sartell and Sauk Rapids

In Sartell and Sauk Rapids, population growth during the 2010s resulted in the need for upgraded electricity infrastructure. In an effort to delay these costly upgrades, CEE worked with Xcel Energy in 2019 to run energy-saving campaigns designed to curb electric demand at peak times such as during a summer hot spell. CEE encouraged residents to sign up for home energy audits and smart thermostat installations through targeted digital and print marketing. Additionally, CEE staff helped businesses sign up for free lighting, refrigeration, and HVAC audits that identified energy savings opportunities. The result? Upgrades were delayed, and residents and businesses experienced improved efficiency.

**150** Home Energy Squad® visits

Over **600%** increase in residential program participation

**30+** business audits

## Large Building Energy Benchmarking in St. Louis Park

In an effort to improve building efficiency and make headway on its Climate Action Plan goals, St. Louis Park sought out technical and financial support to design and implement a benchmarking policy. The City partnered with CEE's policy and implementation experts through the Hennepin County Efficient Buildings Collaborative to host three workshops with the goal to: identify and engage relevant stakeholders in the community, develop an ordinance framework tailored to local needs, and plan for City operations around the benchmarking program. The workshops and subsequent engagement assistance gave the St. Louis Park City Council the confidence to adopt a policy in 2019.

**3** workshops

**260** buildings to track and report energy use

**7%** estimated savings over the next four years based on market research

## Energy Planning Consulting in Rochester

In 2018, city, business, and community leaders came together to form the Rochester Energy Integration Committee (EIC), which works to advance the energy and carbon goals of the Destination Medical Center and the City of Rochester. During four workshops, CEE provided technical guidance and analysis, facilitated the creation of an EIC Action Plan, and developed resources for tracking progress. This collaborative process helped the EIC evaluate its vision and intentions, build consensus on disparate goals and timelines, and prioritize strategies required to achieve stated targets.

**22** strategies developed

**3** action phases planned, covering 5 years

**EIC Action Plan Brief** created

## Contact

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