



About 50 people attended the public meeting on electric utility infrastructure on Oct. 20 at the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis.

Public meeting explores opportunities and barriers to electric utility infrastructure efficiency

The Minnesota Department of Commerce and its project partners—GDS Associates and Center for Energy and Environment—on Oct. 20 hosted the second of four public stakeholder meetings exploring opportunities and barriers to electric utility infrastructure (EUI) efficiency.

Around 50 attendees representing a diverse range of organizations attended the meeting at the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis. They heard from national and local experts about how to more effectively connect existing utility infrastructure planning processes with supply-side energy efficiency activities in Minnesota.

Rich Sedano, president of the Regulatory Assistance Project, spoke about system efficiency policy examples and how they can align utility motivations with public policy goals. Travis Hinck, energy engineer at GDS Associates, provided an overview of stakeholder perspectives on EUI policy barriers and potential solutions related to the Conservation Improvement Program. Mary Santori, manager of Distribution System Planning & Strategy at Xcel Energy, highlighted Xcel's utility infrastructure planning process and how to more effectively connect efficiency-oriented ideas with on-the-ground design and implementation of the EUI system.

The meeting concluded with an expert panel discussion on ideas for how to more effectively connect existing utility infrastructure planning with energy efficiency activities in Minnesota.

Resources from the meeting are now available on [the project website](#) or by using the following links:

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Meeting Summary Report](#)
- [Policy Barriers and Potential Solutions Handout](#)
- [Attendee Questionnaire Handout](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)

Stakeholder meeting No. 3 will be held in early 2018

Stakeholder meeting three of this project will be held in early 2018. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from more national and local expert speakers and help continue building a roadmap for EUI efficiency implementation in Minnesota. A formal announcement and registration info for the third meeting will be sent to stakeholders who have [signed up to receive email updates](#) about this project.