Center for Energy and Environment

Minnesota Efficient Technology Accelerator

The Goal of the Minnesota Efficient Technology Accelerator (META): Under META, the Center for Energy and Environment will use our 40 years of technical experience and expertise to "seed the future" for energy efficient and innovative technologies, working with the MN Department of Commerce, participating META utilities, and other experts. META will ensure that Minnesotans have access to the most advanced and efficient technologies, as well as a skilled and equitable workforce to install and maintain them.

- **META will accelerate the deployment of increasingly efficient technologies through strategic initiatives with technology manufacturers, equipment installers and other key actors in the supply chain.**
- **Benefits include cost effective energy savings, consumer bill savings, and new opportunities for a skilled and equitable workforce – while avoiding unneeded utility infrastructure and significant greenhouse gas emissions.**

Why Minnesota Needs META: Accelerating the availability and reducing the cost of increasingly efficient technology in Minnesota will mean that energy customers can continue to save money and energy for many years into the future, avoiding substantial greenhouse gas emissions. While our utilities continue to benefit Minnesotans by capturing cost-effective energy savings through the Conservation Improvement Program, META will ensure the availability of cost-effective efficient technologies into the future. Early and consistent market interventions are needed to accelerate the availability of emerging efficient technologies and reduce their cost.

The META Market Transformation Framework: Pioneered by our partner, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), has proven over its 20 years of experience that a framework of market interventions like META is an effective strategy to advance energy efficient technologies into the marketplace.

The Minnesota Efficient Technology Accelerator will:

- Advance innovation and accelerate deployment of emerging efficient technology to the Minnesota market
- Ensure highly efficient technologies are well designed for Minnesota's unique climate
- Create new opportunities for skilled and equitable workforce to install and maintain increasingly efficient equipment
- Benefit Minnesotans by deploying innovative and efficient technologies quicker and at lower cost, while avoiding substantial greenhouse gas emissions

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The META Process

Step 1: Identify Tomorrow's Innovations

The first phase of the META process is to use our 40 years of technical experience and expertise to identify specific high-potential emerging and innovative technologies that could benefit Minnesotans, then catalogue market barriers to deploying these technologies. As with each step in the META process, we will work with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, our META utility partners and other experts.

Step 2: Leverage Market Forces

The next step is to plan for specific market interventions to reduce identified market barriers and maximize opportunities for bringing these innovative and emerging technologies to the Minnesota consumer. This phase includes identifying key partners that can help us influence the manufacture, supply and installation of emerging energy-efficient technologies.

Step 3: Prepare the Supply Chain

Once market interventions are planned, we will equip key partners with the necessary tools needed for successfully implementing these strategies. Examples include working directly with manufacturers, establishing a supplier pipeline, workforce training and skills development, and other opportunities to introduce these products to the Minnesota consumer.

Step 4: Faster Deployment at Lower Cost

Finally, the goal of these META activities is to bring tomorrow's innovative energy efficient technologies to Minnesota consumers sooner and at a lower cost, with enhanced customer comfort, energy and bill savings, and utility customer satisfaction.