

City of Boulder Public Statements Regarding Openness to Partnership with Xcel Energy

While the City of Boulder has been researching and pursuing municipalization since 2010, a renewed partnership with Xcel Energy has always been an option worthy of serious consideration.

From 2005 to 2010, city staff worked closely with Xcel Energy staff to develop a franchise and side agreements that could potentially achieve the Boulder community's energy goals. While these documents were evaluated by City Council, Xcel was only willing to sign them if council would submit to a 20-year franchise – a term that many council members considered too long given the changing utility landscape.

Since council's decision to let the franchise expire, both council and staff members have repeatedly and actively solicited a proposal from Xcel Energy that would either provide an alternative to municipalization or state a continued interest in working towards a mutually-beneficial partnership. In addition, since 2010 council members have individually met with Xcel officials.

There have been three major attempts by the city to formalize this partnership:

1. April 2010: [Partnership for Rapid Decarbonization paper](#) sent by the City Manager
2. December 2012: Staff researched and published a [white paper](#) laying out multiple options for partnership, and;
3. March 2013: The creation of the [Boulder/Xcel partnership Task Force](#), which disbanded in March 2014.

During City Council meetings, public presentations and community discussions, council and city staff members have made it clear that the city welcomes interaction with Xcel Energy, whether through direct invitation or speaking broadly in support of collaboration. The following document records instances when city officials publicly stated their interest in working with Xcel Energy. Hyperlinks are included below for memos, news articles and past City Council meetings under "Title."

The city is releasing this document in response to inquiries by some community members who have suggested that the city has not made any effort to work with Xcel or failed to invite the company's leadership to the table. While the city understands there is room for disagreement about whether creating our own electric utility is the best path, we have been and continue to be open to working with Xcel Energy to achieve our community's clean energy goals.

Date	Context	Title	Description
4/20/2010	City of Boulder Memo	Partnering for rapid decarbonization	A Proposal to Xcel Energy: The City of Boulder seeks to partner with Xcel Energy to define a clear path to a clean

			energy future.
7/13/2010	Public meeting	Council Study Session on Xcel Energy participation	City residents and Xcel Energy staff debate on the best course of action.
9/14/2010	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
9/28/2010	Energy Roundtable - Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
10/12/2010	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
10/26/2010	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
2/22/2011	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
3/8/2011	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
4/2/2011	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
4/26/2011	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
5/24/2011	Energy Roundtable – Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
6/13/2011	PowerPoint	Boulder Economic Council Green	Members of the public ask Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative plan.

Summit			
6/18/2011	PowerPoint	Energy Forum with Xcel Energy	Members of the public ask Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative plan.
12/6/2011	Energy Roundtable - Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
1/11/2012	Energy Roundtable - Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
1/31/2012	Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
2/7/2012	PowerPoint	Wirth Chair Series	Members of the public ask Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative plan.
3/13/2012	Energy Roundtable - Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
5/8/2012	Energy Roundtable - Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
7/24/2012	Public Discussion at City Council Meeting	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
8/1/2012	Presentation	The Second International Conference on Building Energy and Environment	Mayor Matt Appelbaum gives a public presentation.
8/7/2012	PowerPoint Presentation	Boulder Economic Council Green Summit	Members of the public ask Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative plan.
8/28/2012	City Council Study Session	Study Session on Boulder's Energy Future	Councilmember Tim Plass: "I certainly think it would be important to try to keep Xcel in this conversation as we move forward."

10/9/2012	Public Discussion at City Council Meeting	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
12/6/2012	Public Document	Energy White Paper	Written by city staff from the Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development Department and the City Attorney's Office, this paper was sent directly to Xcel Energy and outlines possible ways the city might be able to partner with Xcel Energy to achieve the community's energy goals, short of acquiring Xcel Energy's distribution system and creating a municipal electric utility. One of the purposes of writing the paper was to honor a staff commitment to Boulder residents, businesses and voters that the city will explore a variety of possibilities for meeting the community's energy goals.
12/6/2012	Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
12/7/2012	News Article	Bizwest Article	This article describes Boulder's hope for a continued partnership.
12/9/2012	Newsletter	Energy Future email	The newsletter says City Council would like to sit down with Xcel Energy during open session on Dec. 11, 2012 to talk about possible partnerships in attaining the city's energy goals.
12/11/2012	Energy Roundtable - Public Discussion	Public discussion on municipalization and alternatives	City Council asks Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative proposal.
12/11/2012	News Article	Utility Analytics Institute	City staff members lay out five "core principles" of a potential partnership with Xcel Energy.
12/21/2012	News Article	Boulder Business Journal	This article describes Boulder's hope for a continued partnership.
2/21/2013	News Article	Bizwest Article	City officials invite Xcel Energy to participate in the upcoming study session on Feb. 26, 2013.
2/21/2013	PowerPoint	Boulder Economic	Members of the public ask Xcel Energy to bring forward an alternative plan.

		Council Presentation	
2/26/2013	City Council Study Session	Study Session on Boulder's Energy Future	Councilmember Suzy Ageton encourages City Council and city staff to continue exploring alternatives to municipalization.
2/26/2013	City Council Study Session	Study Session on Boulder's Energy Future	Councilmember George Karakehian: "I'm interested in Xcel's response, which I'm assuming there will be and I'm hoping it won't be too far down the line here."
4/2/2013	City Council Meeting	Items related to working group study potential alternatives to municipalization	City Manager Jane Brautigam explains the goals of the City/Xcel task force.
4/16/2013	City Council Meeting	Public hearings related to the formation of a municipal electric utility	City Manager Jane Brautigam explains the goals of the City/Xcel task force.
4/16/2013	City Council Meeting	Public hearings related to the formation of a municipal electric utility	City attorney Tom Carr describes the city's efforts to partner with Xcel Energy.
4/16/2013	City Council Meeting	Public hearings related to the formation of a municipal electric utility	Mayor Matt Applebaum says a possible partnership with Xcel Energy would be "transformational, and that is very much worth pursuing and I'm glad we are doing so."
7/24/2013	City Council Meeting	Boulder's Energy Future Update	Councilmember Liza Morzel describes the city's efforts to partner with Xcel Energy.
12/17/2013	City Council Meeting	Municipalization Exploration Project Update	Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development Heather Bailey states that staff is committed to working with Xcel Energy to help meet Boulder's environmental and energy goals.
12/17/2013	City Council Meeting	Municipalization Exploration Project Update	Councilmember Liza Morzel addresses Paula Connelly, an Xcel Energy representative, reiterating the city's commitment to discuss a possible partnership.

12/17/2013	City Council Meeting	Municipalization Exploration Project Update	Mayor Matt Applebaum expresses disappointment that City/Xcel task force could not come to an agreement over an MOU, which has impinged on partnership discussions.
1/7/2014	City Council Meeting	Update on Xcel Partnership Task Force	Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development Heather Bailey says Xcel Energy plans to present a package of products and services to City Council in June 2014.
1/26/2014	News Article	Daily Camera - "Boulder alerts Xcel it plans to acquire electric system in 'significant' step toward municipalization"	City of Boulder spokesperson Sarah Huntley says the city is prepared to negotiate with Xcel Energy for as long as those discussions seem productive, but it is ultimately up to Xcel Energy whether it wants to participate. Xcel Energy and the city also are in discussions – though the city has put its own participation on hold – about possible alternatives to municipalization. In June 2014, Xcel Energy is expected to present to City Council an analysis of greenhouse gas emission reductions and costs of new products and services it could implement system-wide.
2/4/2014	City Council Meeting	Update on Xcel Partnership Task Force	Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Utility Development Heather Bailey says Xcel Energy will present products and services that will be vetted by the City/Xcel Task Force at three meetings in February, March and April 2014. The Task Force plans to present recommendations about the products and services to City Council in June 2014.
2/4/2014	City Council Meeting	Update on Xcel Partnership Task Force	Councilmember Liza Morzel: "I find that unfortunate in that we did allow this task force to form to talk about partnerships, and we're still waiting for that, and that's not come forward at all. And you know, right now we have Xcel basically saying 'Well, we're not going to talk about partnership, we're only going to talk about products and services,' and that is concerning."

3/18/2014	City Council Meeting	Update on Xcel Partnership Task Force	Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development Heather Bailey says the City/Xcel task force has decided to disband. Xcel Energy has also declined to present a package of products and services to City Council in June 2014, but will work with their communities and file a plan with the PUC later in 2014.
4/29/2014	City Council Meeting	Energy Future Study Session	Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development, Heather Bailey: "We're also continuing to work with the Public Utilities Commission to see if we can't together work on a path that gets us and Xcel to the place we want to be."
Ongoing	Website	Energy Future Website	While a partnership hasn't been achieved, the city has repeatedly said that Xcel Energy is welcome to offer suggestions on ways we could all work together on forming the Electric Utility of the Future.