



Glossary of Energy Terms

15 x 15: Xcel Energy's privacy rule, which require all data summary statistics to contain at least 15 entities, with no single entity responsible for more than 15 percent of the total. Following these rules, if an entity is responsible for more than 15 percent of the total for that data set, they are removed from the summary.

Conservation Improvement Programs (CIP): Portfolio of approved utility energy efficiency and demand management programs. Minnesota electric utilities have a goal of saving 1.5 percent of their total energy sales each year via customer conservation efforts. Minnesota natural gas utilities have a goal of saving .5 percent of their total energy sales each year via customer conservation efforts.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: Gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation and significantly contribute to climate change. The primary greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

Grid Decarbonization: The current planned reduction in the carbon intensity of electricity provided by electric utilities through the addition of low or no carbon energy sources to the electricity grid.

Kilowatt-hour (kWh): A unit of electricity consumption.

Million British Thermal Units (MMBtu): A unit of energy consumption that allows both electricity and natural gas consumption to be combined and compared.

Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (MTCO₂e): A unit of measure for greenhouse gas emissions. The unit "CO₂e" represents an amount of a greenhouse gas whose atmospheric impact has been standardized to that of one unit mass of carbon dioxide (CO₂), based on the global warming potential (GWP) of the gas.

Premise: A unique identifier for the location of electricity or natural gas service. In most cases it is a facility location. There can be multiple premises per building, and multiple premises per individual debtor.

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC): For every megawatt-hour of clean, renewable electricity generation, a renewable energy certificate (REC) is created. A REC embodies all of the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked and traded separately from the underlying electricity. Also known as a Renewable Energy Credit.

Therm (thm): A unit of natural gas consumption.

Trade Ally: Trade Allies, or Business Trade Partners, are vendors and contractors who work with business and residential customers servicing, installing, and providing consulting services regarding the equipment associated with utility rebate programs. Their support for utility programs can range from providing equipment, assisting with rebate paperwork, to receiving rebates for equipment sold.



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Other Terms

Energy Action Plan: A written plan that includes an integrated approach to all aspects of energy management and efficiency. This includes both short- and long-term goals, strategies, and metrics to track performance.

Goals: The results toward which efforts and actions are directed. There can be a number of objectives and goals outlined in order to successfully implement a plan.

GreenStep Cities: Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program managed by a public-private partnership to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. More information is available at: greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/.