



ROSEVILLE  
SUSTAINABILITY

# Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &  
Engineering Division

JUL/AUG 2025



Sustainability Tip —  
Conscious  
consumption



Understanding the  
reconciliation bill and  
energy tax credits



Xcel Energy Electric  
Space Heating Rate



Good Climate News

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## Sustainability Tip — Conscious Consumerism

*This newsletter's tip is written by our summer sustainability intern from the University of Minnesota, Ness Carda!*

It can sometimes be hard to know how best to go about reducing our individual impacts to protect our planet. Engaging in conscious consumerism is a great place to start! Perfect for those looking to adjust habits in their everyday lives, reduce their environmental footprint, learn how to be a smarter shopper in a world of mass consumption, and even save a couple bucks! An important part in beginning the conscious consumerism journey is changing the way we think about consumption in the first place.

**Every product that we purchase has to come from somewhere, unfortunately nothing spawns out of thin air without some kind of cost.** A

majority of the time, shoppers are most concerned with just that, the cost of whatever item they are buying, but what if we expanded our definition of cost? Raw materials are the basis for all manufactured products that take up most of the shelf space in commercial retailers. This supply is not ready to be picked up just anywhere, either. In order to piece together all of the materials that make up your favorite products, raw materials have to be extracted, processed, transported and manufactured. Each of these steps requires lots of energy to power the machines that make this mass manufacturing process possible, and unfortunately most of this energy currently comes from fossil fuel sources. **The next time you buy something, think about all of the inputs that went into making it, what is the real cost of the product?** Not just the monetary one.



Photo by [Jon Tyson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Now you might be wondering, how can you tell which products are better than others? One useful tool is product certifications, where companies, typically voluntarily, utilize programs or third party assessments to verify their commitments to sustainability. **Some key certificates to keep an eye out for on your products are:**

**B corporation (B CORP), ISO 14001** - Recognizes a company's commitment to sustainability and environmental health in their supply chain, manufacturing, final product impacts, and the labor force.

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## Effects of the Reconciliation Bill on Energy Tax Credits

With the passing of the reconciliation budget bill (also known as the “Big Beautiful Bill”), a lot of changes are taking place, and unfortunately some of those changes include the revocation of many of the clean energy credits from the Inflation Reduction Act. **If you were thinking about making any clean energy investments or installations in the next 12 months or so, here’s what you should know:**

- **Thinking about purchasing an electric vehicle?** You may want to accelerate that decision—the electric vehicle tax credits will be terminated on **September 30, 2025**. [Use this map](#) to find a dealership registered to apply an instant rebate to a lease or purchase.
- **Looking into adding a heat pump, insulation, or other energy efficiency measures in your home?** The Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit (25C), which provides up to \$3,200 each year for these types of improvements, will be terminated on **December 31, 2025** (was previously the end of 2032).
- **Want to install solar or renewable energy at home?** The Residential Clean Energy Credit (25D) - which provides a 30% rebate for the installation of solar panels, battery storage, or geothermal, will be terminated on **December 31, 2025** (was previously the end of 2034).

**Much, much more was included in the massive bill, but these are the current impacts to residents considering sustainable home or transportation projects in the near-term. Visit Rewiring America’s site for additional details and to find out which rebates you qualify for:**

[homes.rewiringamerica.org/electric-tax-credits](https://homes.rewiringamerica.org/electric-tax-credits)

## Join our Climate Justice Advisory Group

The City of Roseville is about to begin a **climate equity action planning process**, to set goals for greenhouse gas emissions reductions and determine ways we can both reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change.

While our hope is to make sure all people who live and work in Roseville will thrive in our community for decades to come, we also know that some communities will experience the effects of climate change more severely than others, as we learned in our [2018 Vulnerable Populations Report](#). Our upcoming climate equity action plan will build and expand on what we learned in this report.

**To ensure we are centering equity and justice throughout the planning process, we invite people living and/or working in Roseville to join a climate justice advisory group.** This group of 12-15 people will meet with Roseville staff 3-4 times throughout the next 12 months to check on the project progress, talk through community engagement efforts and how we can make improvements, and share our stories about our personal connections to sustainability and climate change.

**If you are interested in learning more about taking part in the group, please complete the form at this link: <https://forms.gle/VsCim8fKBfru7Z5w7>.** We’re looking forward to imagining an equitable, sustainable, and resilient future in Roseville with you!



## City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

# New Electric Space Heating Rate Coming from Xcel Energy

Did you install a heat pump, or are you planning to do so in the near future? Be sure to call Xcel Energy to request the electric space heating rate! **Starting in October 2025, a revised rate will be available to Xcel Energy electricity customers if you use electric baseboards or an air source heat pump for your primary heating source.** The new rate will be 6.537 cents per kWh, compared to the standard winter electric rate of 11.364 cents per kWh.

To get the rate, call Xcel Energy at 800-895-4999 and request the **residential electric space heating rate** (use this specific language). The rate cannot be applied retroactively. If you are already on their previous electric space heating rate (8.215 cents per kWh in winter), your bill will automatically be updated in October.

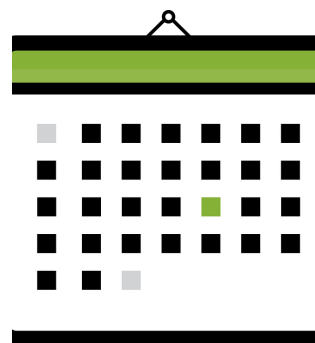
**Curious about heat pumps?** Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken installed one in December 2024 at her and her husband's Roseville rambler, and plans to do an analysis on its impact on their utility bills in 2025. Stay tuned for that update and feel free to reach out to her with questions in the meantime!

## Events, Resources, and Opportunities

**State e-Bike rebates open 7/30:** The Minnesota Dept of Revenue will open the e-Bike rebate application on July 30th. This year your income must be under a certain level, or you must have a disability to qualify. The rebate is up to 75% of eligible expenses, a maximum of \$750, and will be awarded with a random lottery. **Learn more and apply here.** New to e-bikes? **Check out this Star Tribune article for information and tips!**

**MnDOT Statewide Bicycle+ System Plan:** Share your experiences of bicycling in Minnesota, including the opportunities you see and the challenges you face.

**Become a CERTified Community Energy Ambassador and you could win a portable solar charger!** Help advance clean energy projects within your community by becoming a CERTs ambassador, and if you complete your training before September 10th, you'll be entered to win a foldable solar panel charger.



### Upcoming events:

- **Becoming EcoWell Workshop**—Sunday, 7/27, 1:30p-3p, Roseville Library: This signature workshop explores the powerful connections between personal wellbeing and environmental health, culminating in your personal EcoWell Blueprint.
- **Bell Museum Super Solar Saturdays**—Saturdays from June-August 2025. Learn how to use solar telescopes to safely observe the sun!
- **Ramsey County School Supply Swap: Saturday, August 2nd, 10a-1p**—Pick up gently used school supplies for free! You can also donate supplies: drop off donations at any Ramsey County Library or the Environmental Center until Friday, August 1st.
- **Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair– August 21-Sept 1st**—Get inspired to lead a more sustainable life with easy, everyday reduce-reuse-recycle how-tos and engaging, interactive exhibits on renewable energy, green technology, organic agriculture, transportation alternatives, healthy cooking, and clean air and water. Presented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota State Fair.
- **RevArt Exhibition: She and Earth**—Celebrate the intersection of art and nature at the group exhibition of She and Earth, an inspiring exhibition featuring three exceptional local female artists—**Jodi Reeb**, **Suzanne Tacheny Kubach**, and **Umbreen Hasan**. Through diverse techniques and perspectives, their works honor the deep connection between women and the natural world, inviting reflection on sustainability, transformation, and the beauty of organic forms. **On view April 25th to August 8th at the Minneapolis Club, 729 2nd Ave South, Minneapolis 55402.**

## City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

### Sustainability tip—Conscious Consumerism (continued)

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**FairTrade** - Awarded to corporations that require the use of outsourced labor, and ensures fair treatment and wages in historically underrepresented regions.

**Rainforest Alliance Certified Seal, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** - Promotes sustainable forest management via the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic.

**Green Seal, EPA Safer Choice, UL EcoLogo** - Certifies ecological and human health and safety from the use and production of non-toxic products, additionally communicates company efforts to reduce waste, improve performance efficiency of products and facilities, and develop packaging that promotes a circular economy.

**ENERGY STAR** - Associated with appliances and various electronics that meet and exceed energy efficiency standards.

The important takeaway here is that the companies and products that have achieved these statuses are conscious of the environmental effect that is tied to their operations. However, they are clearly motivated to sustainable production and reinvestment for the sake of longevity and profitability. Hopefully these tips and tricks will prove useful as you try out conscious consumerism for yourself! In addition to shopping sustainably produced products, put effort into shopping local, practicing creative sourcing and extending the use of what you already have!

### Positive Climate News



**Plastic bag bans have already prevented billions of bags from being used**— A report studying plastic bag ban policies in multiple locations determined that policies New Jersey; Vermont; Philadelphia; Portland, Oregon; and Santa Barbara, California eliminated the usage of 5.5 billion bags.

**Governors are leading the fight against climate change and deforestation around the world, filling a void left by presidents** - Deforestation has dropped significantly in at-risk areas such as Indonesia and The Amazon thanks to collaboration between local governments and leaders across the globe. This work comes at a critical time when environmental efforts are being pushed to the side in policy making and enforcement. Creative problem solving and commitments to climate agreements have allowed countries like Ecuador, Mexico and Brazil to show that sustainability is beneficial to economic development. This is also related to the revival of monarch butterfly populations - **Eastern Monarch Butterfly Population Nearly Doubles**

**How solar energy is starting to pay off for Minnesota schools** - Good news regarding solar power investments for schools! Grant programs in the state have provided a jump start into the clean energy transition and the necessary assistance to achieve energy independence. This has allowed many schools to pay off projects quickly and even start earning from them.

**Xcel Energy hires thousands of sheep at Sherco solar agrivoltaics in Clear Lake, MN**—The grazing project keeps vegetation around the solar panels under control while also keeping a herd of sheep fed and busy! **Learn more about the Sherco Solar farm in this article from Fresh Energy.**

**City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering**

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**Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!**

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