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## Centerpoint Energy Innovation Plan Approved for Implementation to Help Advance Decarbonization Efforts in Minnesota

*Wide-ranging plan approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission expected to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote job creation and leverage federal funding.*

CenterPoint Energy, Minnesota's largest natural gas utility, received approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to implement a diverse set of innovative pilot projects that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance decarbonization efforts in Minnesota. The approved plan includes investments in made-in-Minnesota low- and zero-carbon gases like renewable natural gas and green hydrogen, as well as emerging technologies such as networked geothermal systems and onsite carbon capture.

The projects are part of a five-year innovation plan submitted under a landmark state energy law: the Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA). Passed with bipartisan support in 2021, the NGIA created a new regulatory framework for natural gas utilities to invest in renewable energy resources and innovative technologies to help reduce Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions. CenterPoint is the first utility in Minnesota to file and have an innovation plan approved.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, more than two-thirds of Minnesota households, or 1.5 million households, depend on natural gas for heating, in addition to natural gas supporting the operations of many businesses and industries in the state. CenterPoint provides natural gas service to more than 920,000 home and business customers in Minnesota.

"CenterPoint looks forward to implementing our innovation plan as part of our efforts to advance Minnesota's energy future," said Brad Steber, CenterPoint Energy's Vice President, Minnesota Gas. "Being in a cold climate state, we understand the need for readily available, cost-effective, safe and reliable energy solutions that keep us warm on winter's coldest days. We know that there is not one solution alone to meet our state's decarbonization goals, but we are excited to work to accelerate technologies that show promise for a cleaner tomorrow."

CenterPoint's innovation plan is expected to deliver significant benefits to Minnesota, including:

an estimated 1.2 million tons of carbon emissions over the lifetime of the projects - equivalent to the annual energy use of approximately 150,000 homes or 14% of total emissions from natural gas supplied to CenterPoint customers in Minnesota each year.

- Creating an estimated 3,000 full-time equivalent jobs over the pilot projects' lifetimes.

- Leveraging an estimated approximately \$17 million or more in federal clean energy incentives (as applicable).

The total estimated budget to implement this plan is approximately \$106 million over five years. The plan adds an estimated \$1.50 per month to a standard residential monthly utility bill.

The plan includes 17 pilot projects and seven research-and-development projects. These projects will evaluate and deploy a wide variety of innovative resources and technologies. Key pilot projects include:

### Made-in-Minnesota gas alternatives

Under NGIA, at least 50% of an innovation plan's total investments are required to be dedicated toward generating, purchasing or distributing natural gas alternatives. CenterPoint's innovation plan will invest in low-carbon, zero-carbon and even carbon-negative energy resources that can supplement or replace conventional natural gas, including:

- Renewable natural gas (RNG) is developed by recycling organic waste materials from farms, food waste, wastewater treatment facilities and other sources to produce pipeline-quality gas. CenterPoint plans to purchase RNG to help offset greenhouse gas emissions attributed to energy used by customers.

- Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into oxygen and hydrogen using renewable electricity. It can be blended into the utility's natural gas supply or used directly in a dedicated system with industrial or large commercial customers. CenterPoint has a green hydrogen production facility pilot project that's been in operation in Minneapolis since 2022. The plan includes developing a second green-hydrogen production facility, which will use onsite solar panels and include a hydrogen storage system at a CenterPoint-owned property near Mankato, Minnesota.

### Networked geothermal systems

CenterPoint plans to develop a networked geother-

mal system, also known as a thermal energy network, to provide building heating and cooling to a neighborhood currently served by the utility. A geothermal system uses a network of wells, water, pipes and pumps to pull heat out of the ground, delivering warmth to buildings in winter and pumping heat from those buildings back into the ground to provide cooling in summer. Additionally, CenterPoint will offer incentives available for large customers to partially offset costs to install and operate their own networked geothermal system.

### Hybrid heating

The plan includes incentives for home and business customers to install hybrid heating systems that use electric heat pumps with supplemental natural gas heating for the coldest days with the goal of reducing customer energy costs and maintaining energy efficiency.

### Industrial decarbonization

Through this plan, CenterPoint is seeking opportunities to help customers reduce their emissions in more difficult-to-decarbonize sectors. The plan includes incentives and other support for industrial customers intended to help improve efficiency and reduce emissions for high-heat processes such as glass-making, concrete production and metal foundries. Technologies that could be leveraged depend on the type of business and may include electric heat pumps, onsite carbon capture, installing onsite green hydrogen production facilities and updating boilers to use up to 100% green hydrogen.

CenterPoint is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as demonstrated by its company-wide Net Zero goals by 2035 for its Scope 1 and certain Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions. Also, CenterPoint is committed to helping residential and business customers reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributable to their end use of natural gas by 20-30% by 2035 (from a 2021 baseline). The total greenhouse gas emission reductions under this Scope 3 goal are comparable to those for the company's combined Scope 1 and 2 Net Zero goals.

To learn more about CenterPoint's efforts to advance Minnesota's energy future, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/FutureMN.

## Families Can Make The Most Of Summer's End

It seems like just yesterday people were heralding the arrival of summer. After many months of fickle weather, summer's warm temperatures and ample sunshine can be that hug from Mother Nature people need. But soon summer will be coming to an end, making room for apples, corn and pumpkin spice.

Even though summer will soon be singing its swan song, there is still plenty of time for families to enjoy the waning days of surf and sunshine. Here are some family-friendly options to consider.

### Catch a concert

Summer is a time of year when many artists go on tour and sell out everything from arenas to amphitheaters to more intimate venues. Find a singer the entire family enjoys and grab some tickets.

### Pick fruit

Peach season varies depending on where you live, but May through September is a prime time for pick-your-own farms to open their orchards to the peach-picking public. Turn those peaches into pies for Labor Day festivities.

### Watch some fireworks

Those who didn't have an opportunity to catch a fireworks display already this summer, or who enjoyed it so much that they want more, can find out when the next big display will take place. Some beachside towns and even amusement parks regularly host fireworks shows on the weekends.

### Climb a lighthouse

National Lighthouse Day occurs on August 7th. Locate a lighthouse within driving distance and visit one of the beautiful and historic structures that commemorate maritime history. For example, Sandy Hook Lighthouse in

New Jersey, which was lit for the first time in 1764, is the oldest operating lighthouse in the United States.

### Pick a day to re-do

Ask all members of the family what sticks out in their minds as the best summer day so far. It may have been paddleboarding in a lake or taking a scenic drive. Compile the answers and then pick one activity to enjoy all over again.

### Head to a state fair

State fairs fill calendars this time of year. They're perfect ways to enjoy carnival rides, fair foods, live entertainment, and even livestock.

### Watch balloons rise

Check to see if there is a hot-air balloon festival taking place nearby. Watch these huge items become lighter than air and get lifted off the ground.

### Enjoy an outdoor movie

Purchase or borrow a movie projector and set up a screen outdoors. That screen can be an actual outdoor screen or a white sheet stretched between two poles. Invite the neighborhood to come over, set up picnic blankets and enjoy a family flick.

### Camp out

Pitch a tent at a campground or even in your own backyard and spend an evening sleeping under the stars.

### Visit a garden or arboretum

Plan a day trip to a botanical garden or arboretum to view the various trees, flowers and shrubs in bloom. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a day in nature.

Families can wind down from summer by engaging in various enjoyable activities before a new school year begins.

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6	9	8	5	2	1	3	4	7
4	8	7	2	1	9	5	6	3
9	3	6	7	4	5	1	8	2
1	5	2	3	6	8	4	7	9



## Horoscopes

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Your feelings this week may not be entirely trustworthy, Aries. You could end up worrying for nothing, and being pulled into difficult situations for the wrong reasons.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you are feeling a little lost these days, it could be that you need a change in perspective and location to help you get inspired. Plan a short trip to recharge.

### GEMINI - May 22/June 21

You cannot serve as mediator or help friends establish harmony if you are all over the emotional map, Gemini. Work your way through your emotions before offering to help.

### CANCER - June 22/July 22

Cancer, you may be so caught up in a specific vision for the future that you are not open to new ideas that are equally beneficial and possible. Be more receptive to what others offer.

### LEO - July 23/Aug 23

Leo, once you give a certain plan a little more thought you may determine it isn't worth your time right now. Perhaps you've been building this idea up in your head.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you are eager to share your ideas and vision with others, but right now the audience isn't as receptive as you would have hoped. Do not give up; people will come around.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you have a way of doing things, and right now you're not ready to deviate from that routine. With time you may be able to branch out and try a new approach.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

People are receptive to your words and you often speak with assertiveness Scorpio. Do not let this go to your head, though. Aspire to be humble while exhibiting confidence.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, this is one of those weeks when you can get into trouble if you let your emotions be the driving force behind your actions. Make an effort to balance emotion and reason.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

This is your week to really shine, Capricorn. Let others know what you're made of, but be sure you do not do something at another person's expense just to get ahead.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, if you do not like the course you are on, you have the ability to change things whenever you want. Nothing is set in stone at this point, so start dreaming up new ideas.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, there are so many ways you can be creative and express yourself. This is a week of true inspiration and exploration. Nothing is off-limits if you desire it.

## How to Prepare Kids to go Back to School

The end of summer can be a bittersweet time for students. While many students look forward to seeing their friends, few want to say goodbye to the relaxing days of summer.

Parents know that getting their children back in the school day swing of things can be a challenge. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.

- Introduce more structure as summer vacation winds down. The chance to unwind in a structure-free setting can benefit students at the onset of summer vacation. Many parents grapple with the notion that their children's lives are overscheduled, and the Cleveland Clinic notes that limiting organized activities clears up down time for kids to play and relax and spend time with their families. So it's important that parents afford their children this down time during summer vacation, only gradually introducing more structure as the school year draws closer. In the weeks before the school year is slated to begin, start waking kids up a little earlier and reintroducing bedtimes for younger children who may have been staying up later over the last couple of months. This can be an effective way to begin slowly preparing youngsters for the structure of the school year.

- Encourage children to read throughout the summer. A report from the education publishing company Scholastic found that

47 percent of parents are unaware of the "summer slide," which refers to the loss of academic skills that occurs when school is not in session. Scholastic notes that the slide is largely attributed to a lack of reading when school is not in session. By encouraging kids to read during their summer vacations, parents can make sure youngsters' brains stay sharp and are ready to learn once the school year begins.

- Focus on the positive. Even kids who love school may be apprehensive about returning to the classroom. After all, summer vacation is fun. Parents can confront that apprehension by focusing on the positives of returning to school. Emphasize the chance to see friends every day or participate in a beloved extracurricular activity, like sports, band or a favorite academic club.

- Let kids do some of their own back-to-school shopping. The items that constitute back to school supplies may have changed since parents were in school. But many parents still take their children on back-to-school clothes shopping excursions. Let kids choose their own clothes, as an opportunity to wear clothes they picked themselves might make them excited for the new school year.

Parents can take various steps to make the transition back to school a successful one for their young students.

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