



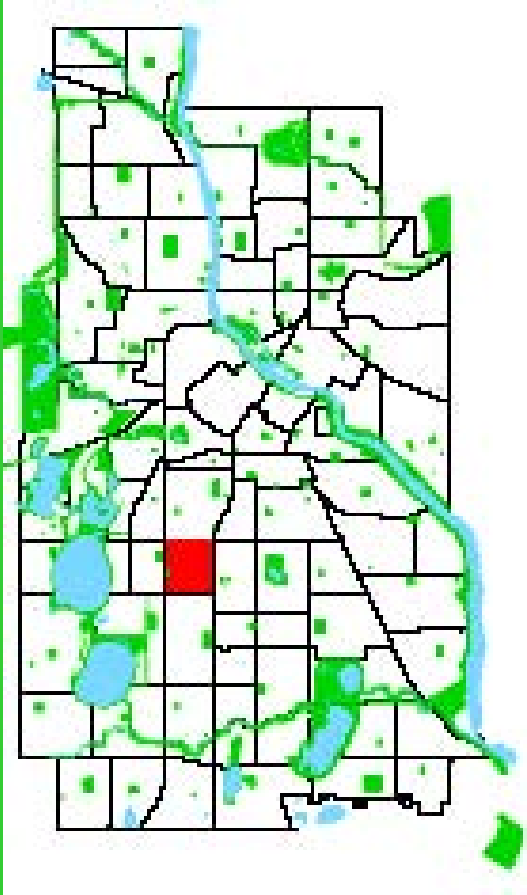
Lyndale Neighborhood Association

**Energy Efficiency and the Sustainable
Neighborhood**
February 28, 2008

Purpose

The purpose of LNA's Climate Change Program is to reduce energy consumption in the Lyndale neighborhood by working with home owners, rental property owners and managers, and business owners to improve their energy management practices and the energy efficiency of their buildings.

Who We Are



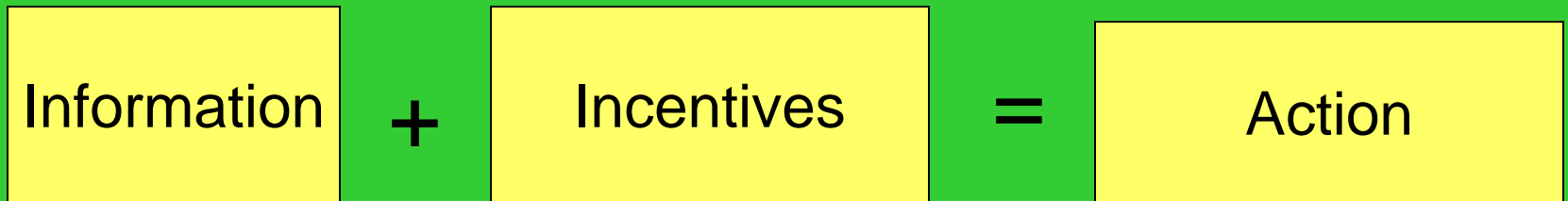
- Lyndale is located in the heart of South Minneapolis.
- We have almost 8,000 residents.
- Lyndale has a very diverse population both ethnically and economically.

Lyndale's Approach

Start with a committed group of people who are willing to work over a period of time to create meaningful change on a local level. For Lyndale this is the Environment Committee.

- Focus on the areas where your people are interested.
- Make the actions relevant on a local level – it's about people in the community making the changes they can make.
- Develop long-term strategies that are connected over time.

Lyndale Action Model



Lyndale's sustainability programs are built around an action model that provides people with information on what they can do to make their community more sustainable plus incentives for them to take immediate action.

Sustainability in Lyndale

Storm water management – Worked with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to help people build rain gardens and rain barrels to manage storm water at their homes.

Preserve Green Space – LNA currently maintains three garden spaces in the neighborhood. Each appeals to a different segment of the neighborhood:

- Blaisdell Rain Garden – is a demonstration garden that helps people understand how to create rain gardens on their property.
- Pillsbury Community Garden – is used by the Youth Farm and Market Project to teach neighborhood youth how to raise and sell their own produce.
- Pleasant Avenue Garden – provides garden plots for neighbors to grow their own produce and flowers.

Reduce Solid Waste – Worked as a Community Power Grantee to reduce solid waste in the neighborhood and to help people learn to make and use healthy household cleaners.

Goals

The primary goals of Lyndale's climate change program are to:

- Achieve meaningful long-term energy reduction of residential, rental, and commercial buildings in the Lyndale Neighborhood.
- Reduce the cost of energy to Lyndale residents and businesses through greater energy efficiency.
- Use this grant to encourage investment in the neighborhood. LNA's goal is to receive \$3 of investment for each \$1 of grant money expended in the neighborhood.
- Increase community members' understanding of the value of making their properties more energy efficient.

Lyndale Climate Change Program

Information

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Communication

- Newspaper Articles – Published three major articles on energy efficiency and the program in the Lyndale Neighborhood News, which is delivered to every residence in the neighborhood.
- Outreach – Used a variety of techniques, such as mail, email, and individual outreach to recruit property and business owners into the program.

Workshops

- 75 people attended two workshops that explained the value of energy efficiency, the program, and the Minnesota Energy Challenge.

Lyndale Climate Change Program

Incentives

Energy Audits

- Free for residences with 4 or fewer units.
- 50% of the cost up to \$100 for larger residential and commercial buildings.

Micro Grants

1 to 1 match for items recommended through the energy audit – up to \$250 for residences with 4 or fewer units and up to \$500 for larger residential and commercial buildings.

Lyndale Climate Change Program

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Action

Results:

- 49 properties signed up for energy audits.
- 28 energy audits were completed (*confirmed number*).
- 19 properties participated in the micro grant program.

Investment

\$3,809 of micro grants produced \$11,430 of investment in energy efficiency; which equals \$3 of private money invested for every \$1 of public money.

Challenges

1. The major challenge to the program was getting the energy audits scheduled. More than half of the program participants reported that when they called Xcel that Xcel did not offer the program. Our best estimate is that we lost another 15 to 20 program participants because of this issue.
2. Lack of time – by the time the grants were awarded in August from the City of Minneapolis we only had a few months to get people to sign up for the audits and participate in the micro-grant program before the grant ended in December. This also limited participants' ability to complete larger projects (e.g. furnaces, water heaters, etc.)

Energy Audit Results

Some of the most common items identified through the energy audits were:

- Sealing out drafts – Lyndale’s housing stock is generally around a 100 years old, with little or no wall insulation, and only a minimum amount of attic insulation.
- Lighting – Increase the use of compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Appliances – Recommended increasing the maintenance of current appliances or replacement with new, more energy efficient appliances.

Micro-Grant Results

Some of the more common items participants invested in:

- Programmable thermostats.
- Weather stripping and caulking to reduce drafts. This included both permanent and seasonal fixes.
- Insulation – Common uses were for walls, attics, and to pipe wrap.
- Compact florescent bulbs.
- Window and door replacement.

Lessons Learned

- There is a significant value in have energy audits. Many of our most ardent environmentalists in the neighborhood learned a ton of new ways to make their homes more energy efficient.
- Being able to define the economic benefit to property owners significantly increases their willingness to invest in efficiency.
- People want to make these changes, but need help in figuring out what will work for their home.
- There should be a real connection between energy efficiency and affordable housing.

Legacy

This project will have a significant impact on our ability to create a sustainable neighborhood.

Most of the participants are currently using their energy audits as guides to help them plan future projects.

The audits as a whole will act as a guide to help Lyndale understand what can be done to make the neighborhood's housing stock more energy efficient.

Contact Information

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