



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

1-800-895-4999  
xcelenergy.com

To Whom It May Concern:

Located within one of the most unique urban communities in the country, the Energy Innovation Corridor (EIC) was formed to create a sustainable energy and transportation showcase. The first-of-its-kind, this clean energy and transportation model extends along the 11-mile Central Corridor light rail transit project route, from the Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul to Target Field in downtown Minneapolis, along Washington and University avenues, via the Minnesota State Capitol and entire University of Minnesota-Minneapolis campus.

The EIC is an example of innovative partnerships that advance sustainability by bringing together multiple and diverse stakeholders including city and regional governments, business, non-governmental organizations, associations, utilities and higher education. The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities has been a key partner in the EIC. The University's Center for Sustainable Building Research is active in developing useful community and partner tools around the EIC. Through its work with the EIC, the Center is leading and supporting—through research, outreach and education—the transformation of the regional built environment to provide for the ecological, economic and social needs of the present without compromising those of the future.

The University's Sustainability Office and operations staff are also actively engaged in the EIC, reporting on progress to expand sustainable energy and transportation, and implementing projects that further the goals of the partnership. Some examples of projects on the University of Minnesota campus that support the EIC goals include extensive lighting retrofits, two LEED® certified buildings, Zip Car, Nice Ride Bike Share kiosks, the *It All Adds Up* conservation campaign and a solar photovoltaic installation.

The University sustainability staff also connect EIC partners with faculty and other resources. One example is connecting EIC partners conducting energy audits with University Relations – working with neighborhoods near the university and along the corridor.

The Energy Innovation Corridor is truly a one-of-a-kind sustainable energy and transportation showcase. More information about the EIC can be found online at [EnergyInnovationCorridor.com](http://EnergyInnovationCorridor.com). As the lead partner for the Energy Innovation Corridor, Xcel Energy is grateful to the University of Minnesota, along with all the partners of EIC, which have worked to make the collaboration a success.

Sincerely,



John I. Marshall  
Community Relations Manager