

# County Energy Efficiency and Generation



[HF 4778](#) Hansen; [SF 4740](#) Klein

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Dakota County is committed to reducing energy use in county-owned facilities and could become a state leader in energy conservation.

The county's energy efficiency proposal includes installing a total of 875 kilowatts of solar panels at three county locations, converting indoor lighting to LED bulbs at 14 buildings and making energy-efficient HVAC system updates at the Northern Service Center, which is the single-largest county facility.

The county is requesting \$7 million from the Minnesota Renewable Development Account to help complete energy-saving upgrades. Xcel Energy funds the account as owner of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The southeast area of Dakota County is within a 10-mile emergency zone of the nuclear plant and a 25-mile evacuation zone extends farther into higher-populated areas of the county — making the county a priority for renewable development account funding. Strengthening the county's request is the fact that all of the proposed projects are within Xcel Energy service territory.

When these improvements are completed, Dakota County government will generate more electricity than it uses. Additionally, these energy-saving measures will reduce energy costs by 25 percent and cut greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 4.6 million pounds.

State funding would support the following energy-saving improvements:

## SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

- Solar array at Administration Center, Hastings
  - A 595-kilowatt solar ground mount system would offset 100 percent of electricity used at the Administration Center. Cost: \$2.1 million.
- Solar carport at Northern Service Center, West St. Paul
  - A 111-kilowatt solar carport canopy would offset 8 percent of electricity used at the Northern Service Center. Cost: \$547,000.
- Solar carport at Robert Trail Library, Rosemount
  - A 169 -kilowatt solar carport canopy would offset 94 percent of electricity used at the Robert Trail Library in Rosemount. Cost: \$825,000.

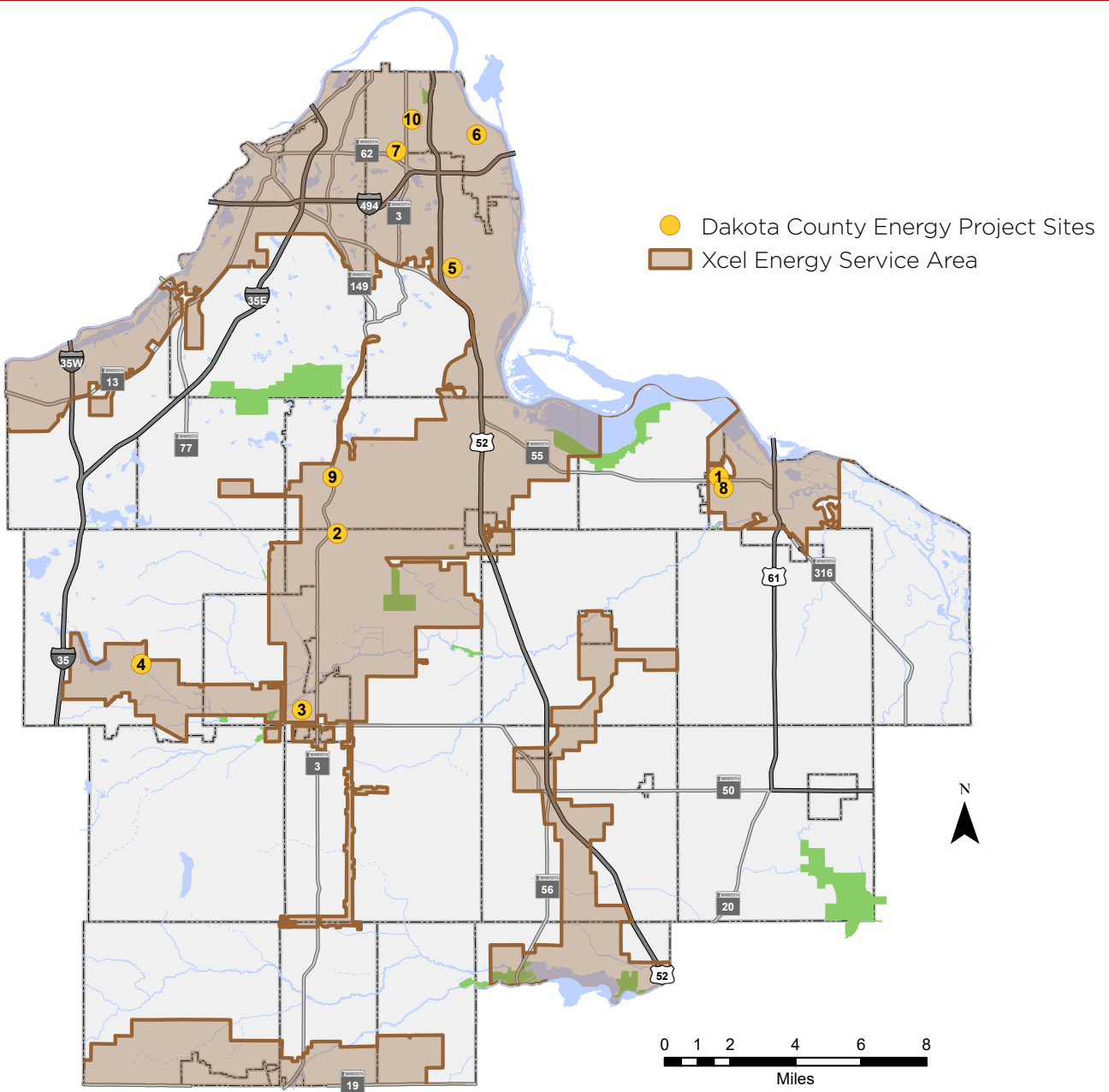
## LED UPGRADES

- Lighting upgrades and retrofits from fluorescent to LED bulbs at 14 Dakota County buildings.
  - All locations are within Xcel Energy service territory. Cost: \$3.4 million.

## HVAC UPDATES

- Energy-efficient updates to the HVAC system at the Northern Service Center. Cost: \$100,000.

**Total cost: \$7 million**



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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Administration Center<br>- Judicial Center<br>- Juvenile Services<br>- Law Enforcement Center | 5. Inver Glen Library      |
| 2. Empire Maintenance Facility<br>Dakota 911   | 6. Lawshe Memorial Museum  |
| 3. Farmington Library  | 7. Northern Service Center |
| 4. Heritage Library  | 8. Pleasant Hill Library   |
|  | 9. Robert Trail Library    |
|  | 10. Wentworth Library      |

## Contact

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