

In Q1, Minnesota's Efficient Technology Accelerator (ETA) advanced coordinated market support strategies across portfolios, continuing to build momentum toward statewide market transformation. Through targeted research, partner engagement, and early deployment efforts, ETA is addressing key market barriers and strengthening the conditions needed for widespread adoption of emerging energy efficient technologies.

This portfolio-wide approach is already driving progress, moving technologies closer to standard practice and positioning Minnesota for long-term energy savings, cost reductions, and emissions reduction.

ASHP Training Kickoff

Launched a series of 10 in-person trainings throughout spring, hosted across Minnesota with Collaborative partners, to equip contractors with updated sales and technical expertise. New for 2026 is the supportive response to the evolving market conditions and incentives, while still meeting homeowner priorities. Our Comfort Adviser and Quality Installation and Commissioning trainings strengthen contractor value by offering continuing education credits, Energy Skilled Recognition, and eligibility to join the Preferred Contractor Network, which boosts credibility and lead generation. These trainings offers insights and guidance on some of the challenges contractors may face when adopting this technology, specifically around design. They are designed to elevate installation quality, improve customer experience, and build a more consistent and competitive heat pump contractor market.



Awarded Upstream Incentives to Manufacturing Partners

The Wise Window Hub successfully launched its upstream market incentive aimed at accelerating the availability of cost-optimized, high-performance windows in Minnesota. This initiative was designed to address a critical market gap by incentivizing manufacturers to develop and scale builder-grade, triple-pane window products ($U\text{-Factor} \leq 0.22$) that meet performance standards, while remaining cost competitive for widespread homeowner adoption. This program unlocks supply so builders can more easily integrate high-performance windows into new product options. This milestone represents a key step toward transforming the window market by aligning product availability with builder needs, permanently upskilling the Minnesota window workforce, and driving broader adoption of high-performance solutions.

LLLC Rebate Alignment

Looking ahead to the 2027–2029 ECO Triennial Plans, the LLLC team worked closely with the funding utilities to finalize a proposed alignment for consistent rebate specifications and structures. As each utility prepares for the next ECO triennial, this was an opportune time to collaborate and address program misalignment. This coordinated approach will remove a key market barrier and strengthen broader adoption of LLLCs throughout Minnesota. The collective group agreed on consistency in terms of product definitions, system requirements, control strategies, and overall rebate structure. Next, the utilities will propose this consistent alignment to their internal teams preparing their triennial plans, which will translate into greater participation and more energy savings for all ECO programs.



New video case study on Saint Paul's Fire Station renovation

The City of Saint Paul has completed a full remodel of a downtown building to restore its use as a working fire station and is now equipped with efficient dual fuel heat pump RTUs. Next Gen RTUs team helped support City staff through the planning and installation process for the building's new equipment. Clean Energy Economy Minnesota joined the project to help elevate the project's visibility. The City of Saint Paul also worked with Xcel Energy to receive a custom rebate on the remodel, which also included electric firetrucks, triple-pane windows, and updated kitchen equipment. This project shows how public buildings can boost efficiency, meet emission goals, and how partnerships help amplify progress and more technology awareness.

MN Energy Code Update

The State of Minnesota continues to advance the evaluating, drafting and adoption of new residential and commercial energy codes through rulemaking. The Minnesota Advanced Energy Code Partnership (the Partnership) actively supports the effort by drafting model code amendments that it developed collaboratively to ensure market readiness, cost-sensitivity, and fidelity to data. The Partnership successfully brought these proposals to each of the Technical Advisory Groups with large support due to the extensive stakeholder engagement. As the process moves forward, the Partnership continues to provide technical support to the state to support rulemaking efforts, from discussions on code language specifics to additional modeling and analyses to support approved proposals.

