Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA)

Advancing Minnesota's energy future by implementing a diverse set of innovative pilot projects that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand decarbonization efforts for our Minnesota customers.

CenterPoint Energy's first innovation plan was approved in July 2024.

Updates as of Mar 1, 2025

Carbon capture

CenterPoint will work with non-profit Green Cities Accord, formerly Green Minneapolis, to purchase Carbon+ credits that finance tree planting and maintenance in CenterPoint's service territory.

District energy

CenterPoint is working with existing customers to evaluate opportunities for decarbonizing an existing, or installing a new, district energy system using a piping network powered by renewable energy to heat or cool buildings.

Networked geothermal

A request for interest was issued in December 2024 to communities potentially interested in hosting a networked geothermal system, which aims to connect a variety of building types via a shared water loop for heating and cooling. A diversity of urban and rural entities responded from within the area CenterPoint currently serves. CenterPoint will issue a request for proposals to qualified potential vendors for a site selection and feasibility study, to narrow the selection pool to less than five project sites for additional consideration.

Energy efficiency and strategic electrification

CenterPoint is issuing requests for proposals to qualified vendors for multiple programs related to energy efficiency and strategic electrification and has started to enroll customers participating in existing commercial and industrial audit programs into programs expanded via NGIA. These widen the decarbonization opportunities and strategies that were not previously available through the existing programs.

Renewable natural gas (RNG)

CenterPoint is seeking opportunities for regionally-sourced RNG including using Twin Cities metro counties' organic waste and other RNG projects. CenterPoint issued a request for proposals to RNG producers in 2024, and continues to evaluate and work with shortlisted vendors on contract terms.

Green hydrogen (Power-to-hydrogen)

A pilot project for a 1 MW green hydrogen plant to be located at an existing CenterPoint facility in Mankato will include dedicated solar panels, an electrolyzer and equipment for hydrogen storage and blending into the distribution system. A preliminary design process is underway.

Research and development studies

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute is performing a preliminary techno-economic analysis of potential for RNG projects in three selected geographic areas in or near CenterPoint Energy's service territory. CenterPoint has also contracted with a university to support testing of a novel green ammonia production system.