

**Energy and Resiliency Advisory Board
City of Vergas**

The Energy and Resiliency Advisory Board met on Thursday, March 19, 2026, 5:30pm, at the Vergas Event Center Meeting Room.

Attendance:

2026	Jan 15	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 16	May 21	Jun 18	Jul18	Aug 20	Sept 17	Oct 15
Julie Bruhn	P	P	P							
Alex Ohman	A	P	A							
Bruce Albright	A	P	P							
Cal Miller	P	P	A							
Jim Courneya										

• **P: Present. A: Absent**

1. Agenda approved as distributed with one addition of WCI Central MN Food Council; Growing Local Together
2. Minutes from the February meeting were tentatively approved with no changes. Final approval when quorum.
3. Welcomed new member Jim Courneya, who will be joining the Energy & Resilience Advisory Board at the April meeting.
4. Final overview conducted on the Energy & Resilience Plan and Action Plan. Due to members not present will send out for final review with comments to Julie Bruhn by COB March 26,2026
5. Have received information regarding potential grant opportunities that are consistent with our Energy & Resilience Plan.
 - Restoring Prairies is a program to support prairies plantings. WCI has inquired about Vergas interest in this program. The grant would include cost sharing per acre to significantly offset cost of plantings, as well as workshop for community, training of city staff and management of prairie plantings. Letter of support provided to WCI who plans to apply for the grant through the 2027 Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund.
 - Greater Minnesota Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Community Program is soliciting interest in greater Minnesota in constructing additional electric vehicle charging sites. The program covers 80% of the cost with 20% community match. Estimated cost is \$6,000-12,000. Vergas submitted an EV interest form with no commitment.
6. Solar United Neighbors (SUN), a national nonprofit, helps people go solar with their homes via a group buy to reduce cost. SUN has created a new group called Lakes and Prairie Co-op that is open to residents in Otter Tail County (as well as Becker, Grant, Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin). Solar 101 session planned for March 24th in Moriis and May 12th in Moorhead. Networking and informational opportunity. No obligation to join or install solar.
7. West Central Minnesota Food Council is offering a session to strengthen the regions local food systems. It's an opportunity to meet and network with regional food leaders, learn of funding opportunities and connect and share ideas and partnerships. Can attend in person (Fergus Falls closest site) or online on Tuesday, April 7th 4-6pm. Deadline to register is March 31, 2026.
8. Received message from Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC), who we received grant funding from, noted Vergas is eligible to receive \$8,000 to help support follow up activities related to our grant and work with ESMC. Could use to host Energy Fair and meeting any matching grant requirements.

Recommendations to City Council: Approval of the Vergas Energy & Resilience Plan

Recorder
e/s Julie Bruhn