

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

The Energy and Resiliency Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 9, 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 9	Oct 15
Julie Bruhn	P	P	P		P	P			P	
Alex Ohman	A	P	A		A	A			P	
Bruce Albright	A	P	P		P	P			P	
Cal Miller	P	P	A							
Jim Courneya					P	P			A	

- **P: Present. A: Absent**

1. Agenda approved as distributed.
2. Minutes from the June meeting approved.
3. Continue to look for a replacement member.
4. Event Center solar panels and battery system functional first of July. Await metrics of solar usage and energy savings. Installation of solar on the Fire Hall anticipated this fall.
5. The Vergas GreenSteps 2027 Assessment has been published. Remain at level 2 with next assessment period closing April 2027. Will have additional actions related to Fire Hall Solar, Community Prairie Garden, and community education related to Solar Open House event October 10th. Focusing on best practice areas as outlined in the Vergas Energy and Resiliency Plan.
6. The Vergas Energy and Resiliency Plan has been published and is on the city website. Will include at the October 10th event. Have a couple of new actions in process aligned with our plan to include a grant with United Prairie Foundation to place a community prairie garden in Vergas with placement along the walking trail to the lake. Also aligned with the plan is a Charging Smart Regional Engagement Cohort that Vergas joined, which will conduct community assessment of EV readiness and provide technical assistance in supporting actions.
7. Spent most of the meeting discussing the October 10th event to highlight VEC solar, energy efficiency/clean energy, environment conservation, and lake protection. The event will be held at the VEC from 9am-noon. Discussed what to call the event and topics. From the ESMC grant there is \$8,000.00 available for education and follow up activities.
 - Entitle the event Vergas Community Expo. Get event poster together to post and get on social media. Include on the poster all the different topics that will have available experts, resources and information. Perhaps a word cloud. Julie to follow up.
 - Showcase the VEC solar and battery system. Have city solar report to show use and energy savings.
 - Energy efficiency, solar information and incentives- Invited Lake Region, OTPC, CERTS, WCI, Holsen Solar, Solar United Neighbors Co-op (Prairies and Lakes). Have confirmation from CERTS, WCI and Holsen. Have received MN Commerce Department Childs Activity book and on order is the Home Energy Guide.
 - Lakes and environment resiliency and sustainability practices-OTC Soil & Water confirmed. Alex will follow up with a prairie plant distributor and Julie will check with United Prairie Foundation. Bruce will follow up with DNR and obtaining copies of the SWCD lake stewardship guidebook.
 - Share Vergas Energy and Resilience Plan and Action Plan and GreenStep program
 - Have door prizes. Discussed solar powered phone charger and Looney Bucks. Julie to follow up on.
 - Have refreshments as coffee, water, cookies. Julie to follow up on.
 - Have an evaluation to measure impact of the event and provided information with attendees. Julie to follow up on.
8. Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 30th to solidify final preparations for the Vergas Community Expo event.

Advisory Board Recommendations:

- Continue search for a new member to serve on the Advisory Board
- Complete the Vergas Community Expo follow ups

City Council Recommendations: None

Recorder
e/s Julie Bruhn