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NEWS

Minnesota Power delivers on state energy-savings goal for 8th year in a row

Duluth, Minn. – Without missing a beat, Minnesota Power’s Power of One® conservation team wrapped up another successful year of helping customers get the most for their energy dollars and exceeded the state of Minnesota’s energy-savings goal in 2017.

Total energy saved in 2017 was 2.6 percent of eligible retail sales, well above the state goal of 1.5 percent. Minnesota Power has met or exceeded the state goal since the energy savings target went into effect in 2010.

Minnesota Power’s conservation team worked with business, commercial and residential customers to find specific ways to reduce energy use. Those efforts paid off by saving more than 72,400,000 kilowatt-hours, enough energy to power nearly 8,000 homes for a year. The savings also translates to reducing emissions of carbon dioxide by nearly 60,000 tons, which is comparable to taking more than 11,500 cars off the road for a year.

“Rapid changes in the energy efficiency landscape are making it more challenging to meet the state goal, but our Power of One team continues to find solutions that are the right fit for customers,” said Tina Koecher, manager of customer solutions for Minnesota Power. “We work hard to streamline programs, develop new strategies and reach out to customers in innovative ways.”

Minnesota Power reported the savings for 2017 in its annual Conservation Improvement Program consolidated filing submitted April 2 to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Commerce.

Power of One is Minnesota Power’s leading-edge conservation program and a key element of EnergyForward, the company’s resource strategy for providing safe, affordable, reliable and clean energy.

“Helping homeowners, businesses and communities save energy—and reduce carbon emissions—is critical to a more sustainable future,” said Frank Frederickson, vice president of marketing at Minnesota Power. “Our Power of One program offerings and resources ensure that customers can make informed choices about how they use energy. In fact, last year’s energy-savings success is due in part to a greater number of smaller commercial projects compared with several large-scale projects in other years.”

The experiences of individual customers help bring the statistics on energy savings to life. Some of their stories are part of Minnesota Power’s report and include:

Habitat for Humanity Triple E Home. Minnesota Power worked with Itasca County Habitat for Humanity to build a three-bedroom home in Deer River. The house was built to Minnesota Power's Triple E standards for thermal integrity and energy performance, qualified for utility conservation rebates and features a cold climate air source heat pump that was donated and installed free of charge through a partnership initiated by Minnesota Power.

Essentia Health. The Duluth-based integrated health system and Minnesota Power are longtime partners in saving energy. MP honored Essentia with a Certificate of Energy Efficiency for saving 1,267,254 kilowatt-hours of electricity through conservation improvement projects completed in 2016. Projects included heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades and installation of energy-efficient lighting and lighting controls in multiple facilities. Combined, they qualified for nearly \$74,000 in rebates and are saving Essentia about \$66,000 per year on its electric bills.

Upper Lakes Foods. The CIP team has helped Upper Lakes Foods make energy conservation improvements since 2009 that add up to significant savings. The improvements are helping the company save or avoid more than 1.8 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year and reduce monthly demand by more than 137 kilowatts. In addition to research grants, projects completed at Upper Lakes Foods have qualified for more than \$61,000 in Minnesota Power commercial conservation rebates.

Learn more about these customers and other energy efficiency success stories at <https://www.mnpower.com/EnergyConservation/CustomerProfiles>.

Find more information about saving energy and the Power of One at www.mnpower.com/EnergyConservation.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in Northeastern Minnesota, supporting security, comfort and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found by visiting www.mnpower.com.

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