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NEWS

Minnesota Power tops state energy-saving goal for 10th year in a row

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power is marking a decade of exceeding state energy conservation goals as it continues to help customers improve the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses and meet sustainability goals. It is the only Minnesota utility to have exceeded the goal each year since the state implemented the savings target in 2010.

Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program works with business and residential customers to find specific ways to reduce energy use. Those efforts paid off by saving more than 67,669,200 kilowatt-hours in 2019, enough energy to power about 7,470 homes for a year. The savings also translates to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by about 52,580 tons, which is comparable to taking more than 10,360 cars off the road for a year.

Total energy saved in 2019 was 2.5 percent of retail energy sales, well above the state goal of 1.5 percent. Minnesota Power reported the savings in its annual Conservation Improvement Program report submitted May 1 to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

"Minnesota Power has been a conservation leader in the state, delivering energy savings well beyond the aggressive 1.5 percent goal from the time it went into effect in 2010—the only utility in Minnesota able to make that claim," said Frank Frederickson, vice president of Customer Experience. "Helping our customers manage their energy use has long been a priority at Minnesota Power and now, as people spend more time at home and some businesses remain closed or curtail operations because of COVID-19, we continue to help customers use energy more wisely, saving them money as well as supporting a more sustainable future."

A decade of savings

Over the past 10 years, the Conservation Improvement Program's partnerships with customers resulted in saving enough energy to power about 78,240 homes for a year. That also translates into reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 550,800 tons, which is comparable to taking more than 108,625 cars off the road for a year.

"Year after year, our conservation programs and resources help customers make informed choices about how they use energy. We work hard to develop new strategies and reach out to customers in innovative ways," Frederickson said. "As we lead in energy conservation, we also lead in meeting customer expectations for renewable energy. Under our EnergyForward strategy we expect 50 percent of the energy we deliver to be from renewable sources by 2021."

Success stories

Minnesota Power's success in saving energy and reducing carbon emissions is directly connected to the success of its customers. Some of those customer experiences are part of the Conservation Improvement Program report submitted to the state and include:

Hermantown Community Schools. An energy management system installed in 2019 allows school district officials to program, monitor and manage lighting, airflow and room temperatures in the middle school and high school. Minnesota Power was at the table throughout the school district's construction and renovation program in recent years and continues to work closely with school officials.

University of Minnesota Duluth. MP's Conservation Improvement Program is a powerful partner in helping UMD reach its carbon reduction goals. Together, they are pursuing a "3-E" strategy of energy efficiency, electrification and engagement. The newest building on campus, the Heikkila Chemistry and Advanced Materials Science building was built to the Minnesota B3 standards (Building, Benchmarks and Beyond) and designed to be energy efficient.

Find more about the partnerships with Hermantown Community Schools and UMD [here](#).

Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity. MP's Conservation Improvement Program worked hand-in-hand with local Habitat for Humanity officials, builders and suppliers on a home in Duluth's Lincoln Park neighborhood to ensure standards in thermal integrity and energy performance were met and the project qualified for maximum conservation rebates. Learn more about the project [here](#).

Find more information about Minnesota Power's conservation programs at <https://www.mnpower.com/ProgramsRebates/PO1>.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 15 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

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