

Cold weather rule can keep the heat on

The Cold Weather Rule regulates the conditions under which gas and electric utilities may disconnect residential service in the winter—between Oct. 15 and April 15.

The rule requires that customers who have difficulty paying utility bills contact their utility to work out a mutually acceptable payment plan to keep their heat on.

Should you receive a disconnection notice from Minnesota Power, you must contact us to set up a payment plan to avoid disconnection. Call 1-800-228-4966.

You also might want to contact the state's Energy Assistance Hotline at 1-800-657-3710 to find out if you qualify for additional help in paying your electric bill.



Scholarship applications open

Minnesota Power honors outstanding college and high school students through the New Generation Scholarship and the Community Involvement Scholarship.

The New Generation Scholarship program will distribute up to \$25,000 to students at two-year or four-year colleges. Applications are due Feb. 1, 2016. Ten high school seniors will receive \$2,500 Community Involvement Scholarships. Those applications are due Jan. 15, 2016.

Learn more and find applications at mnpower.com/scholarships.



Work at Boswell 4 progressed rapidly during the past few months.

Boswell 4 environmental project closes in on finish

A major environmental improvement project at Boswell 4 in Cohasset is nearing completion.

The project at the 585-megawatt Unit 4, the largest of the four coal-fired generators at Boswell Energy Center, includes construction of a 250,000-square-foot building to house a new scrubber system that will reduce mercury emissions by 90 percent, meeting state and federal regulations. It also will reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide and particulates.

As many as 600 contractors were at work at the site during the peak of construction. Total cost of the project is about \$300 million.

Become an e-Smart kid

Did you know Minnesota Power has a link on its website called "e-Smart kids"? It's a resource for kids, teachers and parents to find information related to energy savings, basic electricity facts and helpful electrical safety reminders. Take a look at mnpower.com/esmartkids.

FALL 2015



Energizer News

Hello, sunshine! MP to offer community solar garden option

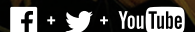
Customers will have a new option for tapping into the power of the sun with the launch of Minnesota Power's first community solar garden program.

The solar garden, planned for 2016, will be a simple way for customers to participate in solar without the need to install a system on their own home or business. It's a safe, flexible, and convenient choice for those who want to go solar but either rent or don't have a location that is well-suited to generating electricity from the sun.

The new garden will be built in two locations—a 40-kilowatt array on company-owned land on Arrowhead Road in Duluth and a 1-megawatt array on a still-to-be-determined site in northeastern Minnesota. Both arrays will combine to supply generation for solar garden subscribers.

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CARE discount available for eligible households

Minnesota Power is accepting applications for its CARE program which offers income-qualified households a discount on monthly electric bills.

The program goes into effect Oct. 1 each year and ends Sept. 30 the following year. Customers can apply at any time throughout the year. The program also helps households establish a budget payment plan.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission oversees CARE, which is administered by the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, or AEOA, on behalf of Minnesota Power.

How to apply

1. Complete a LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) application with your local energy assistance provider.
2. Complete the program application at mnpower.com/CARE.
3. First-time applicants also must complete the Your Home Energy Report survey found on the application.

Where to complete the forms

- Online at www.mnpower.com/CARE.
- Over the phone by calling AEOA at 218-749-2912, ext. 277, or 800-662-5711.
- In person at the AEOA office at 702 Third Ave. S., Virginia, Minn.

Solar garden builds on renewable energy strategy

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All residential and business customers who live in Minnesota Power's service territory are eligible to subscribe. Following approval of the program from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Minnesota Power will accept applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.

Customers will be able to choose from three options to participate: an upfront one-time payment, a fixed monthly subscription fee or a fixed charge per kilowatt-hour option. In each option, participating customers receive a monthly credit for the solar energy based on their subscription.

Subscribers won't need to deal with permitting, building, operating or maintaining a solar system. Specific program details, including costs, will be shared as they become available.

The community solar garden is the latest addition to Minnesota Power's growing offerings for customers who want solar power. The company has provided its expertise and rebates to customers for traditional rooftop solar installation through its SolarSense program since



The solar garden site on Arrowhead Road in Duluth.

Sign up for solar

Minnesota Power will accept applicants on a first-come, first-served basis after the program is approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. In the meantime, interested customers can call **218-355-3720**, email solarprogram@mnpower.com, or visit mnpower.com to join a solar information interest list and receive updates on solar offerings.

2004. In 2014, Minnesota Power announced it was partnering with the Minnesota National Guard to build a 10-megawatt utility-scale solar energy array at Camp Ripley in central Minnesota. This year, Minnesota Power began offering a Solar Energy Analysis program to help interested customers decide if a solar energy system is the right fit for their home or business.

The solar garden program supports the company's EnergyForward strategy to achieve an energy mix that is

one-third renewable energy, one-third natural gas and one-third coal. The program also will help Minnesota Power comply with the solar energy standard enacted in 2013 by the Minnesota Legislature.

Minnesota Power will own and operate the 40-kilowatt array, which will be built next to the company's Herbert Service Center in Duluth. The 1-megawatt array will be owned and operated by a developer with the generation sold back to Minnesota Power through a power purchase agreement.