

Grants help enhance quality of life for many

Each year, the Minnesota Power Foundation supports a diverse group of organizations throughout Minnesota Power's service territory. From small grants to large grants of \$50,000 and more, these grants help organizations make life better for those in their communities.

Since its formation in 2006, the MP Foundation has distributed more than \$6.8 million. In 2014 more than \$1 million was distributed to over 400 organizations in 74 cities.

Here's a sampling of grant recipients in 2014.

Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D.: Purchase of nacelle tower on campus for wind energy education and training purposes.

CentraCare Health Foundation, Long Prairie, Minn.: Renovation and expansion of the health care facility, where the MP Foundation is a sponsor of the Family Waiting Area.

Ely Baseball Association, Ely, Minn.: Purchase of a state-of-



Employee Beth Buchanan helps a child at Myers-Wilkins Elementary School in Duluth try on a new jacket. MP employees and retirees, along with the MP Foundation, donated more than \$4,800 as part of the Duluth Firefighters Local 101 Warm the Plaza event in October. The event was part of the national Operation Warm campaign to buy new American-made winter coats for children in need. Minnesota Power employees were on hand to assist in the coat fittings and distribution at the school in November.

the-art scoreboard at Veterans Memorial Field.

Fond du Lac Community Club, Duluth, Minn.: Restoration of flood-damaged basketball and tennis courts in Duluth's Fond du Lac neighborhood.

Mind Trekkers, Virginia, Minn.: Support of a two-day event that drew 1,700 area fifth and sixth graders to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Showcase.

Reif Arts Council, Grand Rapids, Minn.: Renovation and expansion of the Myles Reif Performing Arts Center.

Spartan Sports Complex, Superior, Wis.: Complex built to accommodate football, soccer, baseball and track and field at Superior High School.

In addition, there were grants to support many other arts, environmental, educational and human service organizations.

From replacing appliances to changing habits, here's help for saving energy at home

Saving energy in your home has never been easier.

You can go for the big splash—like buying a new energy-efficient refrigerator or replacing your old furnace. Or you can make a smaller statement—like turning off the lights or TV when you're not using them or using cold water to wash your clothes. Big or small, whether it's a change in appliances or a change in habits, each contribution makes a difference to your energy bottom line.

Minnesota Power offers a variety of rebates to help make some of those big-ticket energy-saving efforts easier to manage. We have rebates on new energy-efficient forced-air furnaces with an ECM (electronically commutated motor) and a variety of ENERGY STAR® appliances, including refrigerators and washers. We also have rebates for making some smaller changes, such as using CFL and LED light bulbs.

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Photo by Dennis O'Hara

Minnesotans LOVE their furnaces.

Treat yours right with an energy-efficient ECM!

Reduce operating costs, increase comfort and improve indoor air quality with an ECM (electronically commutated motor) in your furnace.

Learn more about ECMs and rebates at
www.mnpower.com/ECM



SmartPak

FREE water- and energy-saving tools

SmartPak includes: hot water gauge, shower timer, showerhead and faucet aerators

Visit **www.mnpower.com/smartpak** or call 218-355-3070 to order your **FREE SmartPak**.

One per household served by Minnesota Power. Must have an **electric water heater**. For gas water heater, contact your gas utility.

Customer generosity, Foundation continue to warm homes

Our customers have long been able to contribute to the Salvation Army's HeatShare program through their Minnesota Power bill, and last year was no exception.

Customers helped their neighbors in need to keep warm in winter by donating



more than \$8,600 to the program in 2014. In addition, the Minnesota Power Foundation made a \$25,000 donation toward funding HeatShare in 2015.

To learn more about HeatShare or how you can contribute, call us at 800-228-4966 or visit **www.mnpower.com/customerservice/heatshare**.

Do you generate your own electricity?

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission requires Minnesota Power to buy all electric energy that qualified facilities offer for sale. The rules apply to small power producers who use renewable resources and cogenerators who produce electricity and steam.

Disputes that arise over interconnections, sales or purchases of power will be resolved by the MPUC.

For more information, call Minnesota Power at 800-228-4966.

Rebates available to help you save energy at home

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Find the complete list of rebates and discounts at **www.mnpower.com/rebates**.

Not ready to make a major purchase? Our leading-edge Power of One® conservation program has some simple tips at **www.mnpower.com/simplewaystosave** that you can use to begin saving energy today.

Here are three ideas to save energy and money:

1. Replace furnace filters monthly to improve the efficiency of your furnace, extend its life and reduce dust in your home. **Big splash alternative:** Replace your old, inefficient furnace fan motor with a energy-efficient ECM (electronically commutated motor). You may qualify for a \$100 rebate.



2. Turn off lights when not needed. Lighting represents up to 10 percent of a typical home's energy usage. **Big splash alternative:** Install energy-efficient ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs throughout your home. Minnesota Power offers a range of rebates and discounts on a variety of CFL and LED bulbs and LED fixtures.

3. Wash your clothes in cold water as much as possible—and only full loads. About 90 percent of the energy used to do your laundry is spent heating the water. **Big splash alternative:** Upgrade to an energy-efficient ENERGY STAR clothes washer and you may qualify for a \$40 rebate. Or make an even bigger splash and qualify for a \$100 rebate by purchasing an ENERGY STAR washer and refrigerator at the same time.

Get details on dual fuel

The Dual Fuel interruptible service rate is designed for customers who heat their homes electrically.

To qualify for this special low rate, your home must have a non-electric backup heating system.

See **www.mnpower.com/dualfuel** or call Annette at 1-877-535-0394 or 218-355-2644 for details.

Power line right-of-way mostly private

Minnesota Power maintains about 7,500 miles of power line right-of-ways in northern and central Minnesota, and most of it is owned by private parties.

Minnesota Power has been granted rights permitting the electric line to be constructed and maintained on the private land.

A right-of-way is not a public thoroughfare. If you use a right-of-way for snowmobiling, hunting or all-terrain vehicle riding, you must first obtain the landowner's permission.

Failure to get permission can be considered trespassing.