



Minnesota Conservation Improvement Program

Fact Sheet

Utility Minnesota Conservation Improvement Programs (CIPs) are mandated by state law. All electric and natural gas utilities in Minnesota develop their own conservation improvement plan. Utility CIPs have been in existence for several decades and offer a variety of energy-saving opportunities for business and residential customers. Some CIPs offer financial services such as grants and low-interest loans.

The goals of utility Conservation Improvement Programs include:

- Promoting consumer and industry awareness of energy conservation and its positive effect on the environment.
- Reducing utility bills for homes and businesses.
- Generating innovations in developing energy-efficient products and technologies.
- Promoting new energy resource development.

Typical CIP projects for commercial/industrial customers include:

- **Cooling:** Rebates for chiller replacement, cool storage systems, refrigeration efficiency improvements and rooftop air conditioners.
- **Lighting:** Rebates for lamp ballast replacement, street lighting or new lighting systems.
- **Industrial process/motors:** Rebates for farm equipment, high-efficiency motors or customer-designed projects.
- **Financial services:** Grants or low-interest loans may be available for energy efficiency improvements.

Why CIPs are so important

Minnesota's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 revised the CIP statute to set an annual energy savings goal for all electric and gas utilities beginning in 2010. The energy savings goal is equal to 1.5% of the utility's annual retail energy sales in Minnesota, averaged over the most recent three-year period and weather-normalized. If Minnesota utilities are to meet this goal, we all must be a part of the solution. To view the Act, go to http://www.state.mn.us/mn/externalDocs/Commerce/SummaryNext_Generation_Energy_Initiative_100807041804_MEP2.pdf