

ENERGY RESOURCE GUIDE



For Businesses in the Counties of:
Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker,
and Renville

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The following resources were compiled by Mid-Minnesota Development Commission, the University of Minnesota Extension, and the Clean Energy Resource Teams.

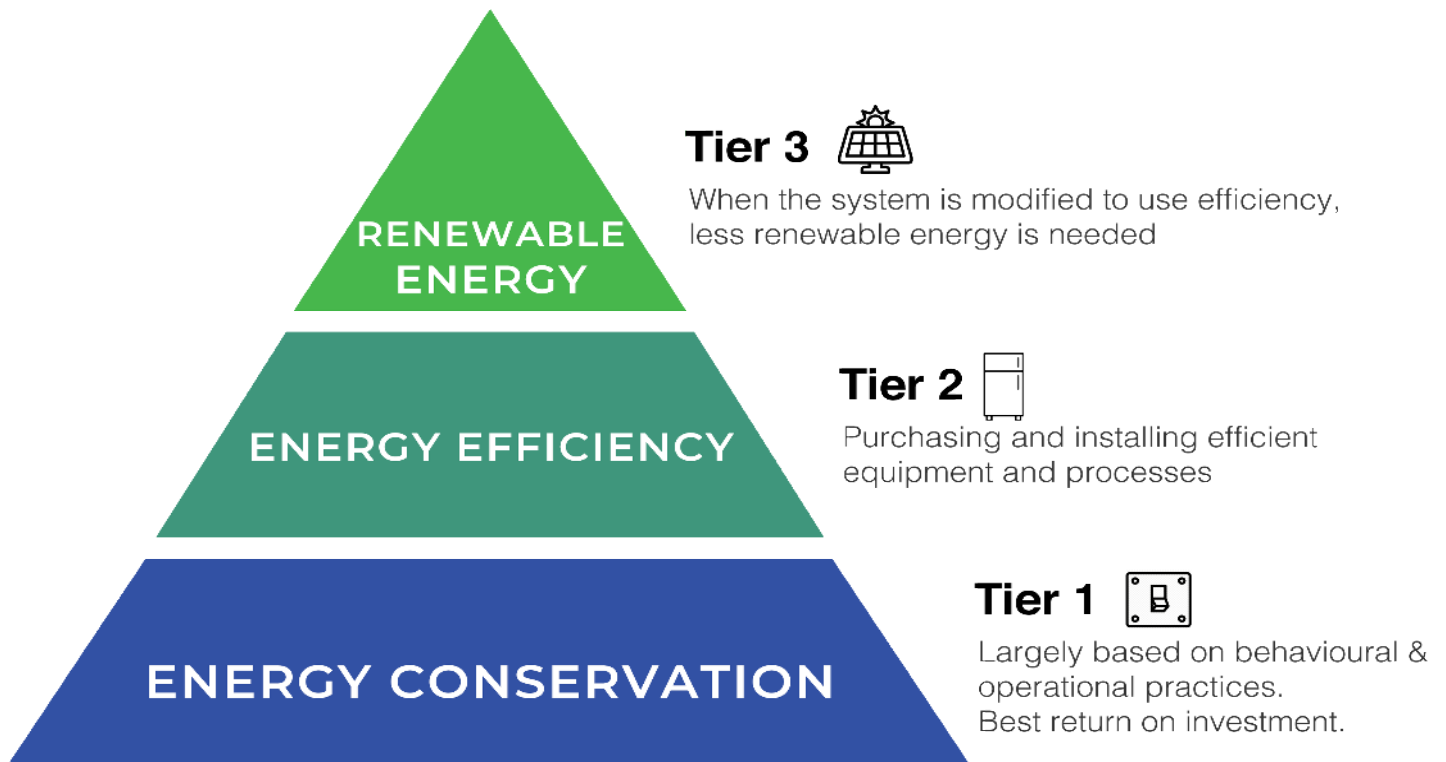
Resources in this guide are accurate as of December 31, 2023. Please consult with the specific program contacts for updated information. This guide may not represent all opportunities available within the MMDC region.

ENERGY PROVIDERS

Each community within the four-county Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) region has a unique energy picture. They have specific needs and receive different energy services from separate energy providers. This guide is intended to be used as a quick reference by those interested in learning about energy savings opportunities and related resources in their community or area.

Many of the providers listed in this guide offer energy rebates and other savings opportunities to their customers. These offerings change from time to time and there may be specific requirements. All energy users, including business users, are encouraged to contact their energy providers directly for the best, most current information.

THE ENERGY PYRAMID



Tips To Save:

Watch the temp! Save on your energy bill by adjusting your HVAC, refrigerators and freezers, and water heater temperatures. Save 1% per 1 degree setback for an 8-hour day. A 10 degree reduction saves 10% on your HVAC system.

ELECTRICITY OVERVIEW

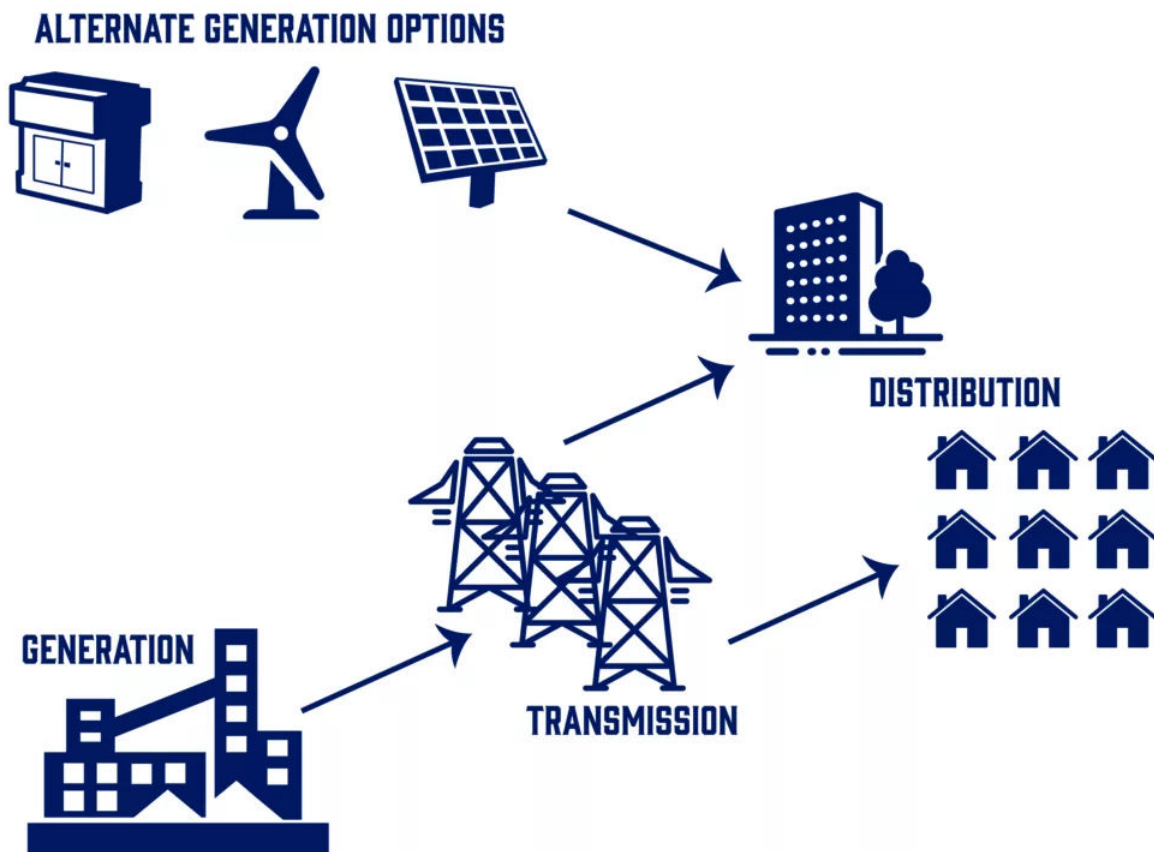
The electricity that comes to our homes and businesses most often follows a four-step path:

Generation: Electricity is created by traditional power plants, solar, biomass, wind, hydro, natural gas, etc.

Transmission: The generated electricity is moved through high voltage power lines that connect generation resources to a 69-550 kilovolt distribution system.

Distribution: Primary line voltages range between 2,300 and 34,500 volts, depending on the distribution voltages a utility uses.

End User: Home and business voltages are typically between 208 and 480 volts.



KANDIYOHI COUNTY ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative: Serving the communities of Kandiyohi, New London, Spicer, and rural Kandiyohi County.

www.kpcoop.com

Otter Tail Power Company: Serving the communities of Pennock and Sunburg

www.otpco.com

Willmar Municipal Utilities: Serving the community of Willmar.

www.wmu.willmar.mn.us

Xcel Energy: Serving the communities of Atwater, Blomkest, Lake Lillian, New London, Prinsburg, Raymond, Regal, and Spicer.

www.mn.my.xcelenergy.com

MCLEOD COUNTY ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS

Glencoe Light and Power: Serving the communities of Biscay and Glencoe.

www.kpcoop.com

Hutchinson Utilities: [Serving the community of Hutchinson.](#)

www.otpco.com

McLeod Cooperative Power: Serving the communities of Pennock and Sunburg

www.otpco.com

City of Brownton Municipal: Serving the community of Brownton.

<https://www.mmpa.org/communities/brownton/>

Xcel Energy: Serving the communities of Lester Prairie, Plato, Silver Lake, Stewart, and Winsted.

www.mn.my.xcelenergy.com

MEEKER COUNTY ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS

City of Grove City Municipal: Serving the community of Grove City.
<https://heartlandenergy.com/for-your-business/>

City of Litchfield Municipal: Serving the community of Litchfield.
<https://smmpa.com/members/litchfield>

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power: Serving the communities of Cedar Mills, Darwin, Dassel, Eden Valley, Forest City, Kingston, Watkins, and rural Meeker County.
<https://www.meeker.coop/>

Xcel Energy: Serving the communities of Cosmos, Dassel, Eden Valley, Kingston, and Watkins.
www.mn.my.xcelenergy.com

RENVILLE COUNTY ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS

City of Fairfax Municipal: Serving the community of Fairfax.
<https://fairfax-mn.gov/>

City of Olivia Municipal: Serving the community of Olivia.
<https://olivia.mn.us/public-utilities/energy-star-rebates/>

Renville-Sibley Power Cooperative: Serving rural Renville County.
<https://rscpa.coop/>

Xcel Energy: Serving the communities of Bird Island, Buffalo Lake, Danube, Franklin, Hector, Morton, Renville, and Sacred Heart.
www.mn.my.xcelenergy.com

Tips To Save:

Minimize compressed air use! Eliminate Leaks! It is only 10% efficient and the leaks waste (cost) you throughout the year (8,760 hours).

REGIONAL NATURAL GAS PROVIDERS

In addition to being used by utilities for electricity generation, natural gas is often used at the consumer level, primarily for heating air and water. However, natural gas can also be used for cooking as well as for various manufacturing processes.

CenterPoint Energy serves the four-county Mid-Minnesota Development Commission region.

<https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/business?sa=mn>

Great Plains Natural Gas serves the Renville County communities of Danube, Renville, and Sacred Heart.

<https://www.gpng.com/in-the-community/about-us/>

Xcel Energy provides natural gas service to the communities of Blomkest, Kandiyohi, New London, Cosmos, Darwin, and Dassel.

<https://mn.my.xcelenergy.com/s/energy-portfolio/natural-gas>

The following cities are served by municipal natural gas service:

- Brownton: <http://www.cityofbrownton.com>
- Fairfax: <https://fairfax-mn.gov/>
- Hutchinson: <https://www.hutchinsonutilities.com/>

For more information about the use of natural gas, visit <https://www.environmentalscience.org/natural-gas>.

Tips To Save:

Perform regular maintenance! Dirty filters and coils reduce air flow, reducing efficiency up to 20% or more. Clean your refrigerator coils, change furnace filters regularly, and have your AC inspected every few years. Weatherize windows and doors.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

CERTs provides updates on their seed grants (next round 2025) and other federal & state funding resources.

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pay-for-projects>

MinnPACE/St. Paul Port Authority

The MinnPACE Program provides financing to businesses who own their property and want to invest in energy efficiency upgrades. The program uses a Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing strategy to make improvements easier to access.

<https://minnpace.com>

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)

CEE provides a variety of services and information to help businesses reduce their operating costs and improve building performance. Their energy-savings opportunities include rebates for lighting and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) efficiency improvements.

<https://www.mncee.org/reduce-your-energy-costs>

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)

Similar to MinnPACE, the RMEB provides financing to businesses for energy-related projects. Eligibility is limited by county.

http://www.rmeb.org/about_rmeb.htm

Christianson, PLLP*

Provides expert knowledge about renewable energy programs, strategies, and tax credits regarding ethanol, biomass, wind energy, and more.

**For-profit organization, a fee may apply*

<https://www.christiansoncpa.com/industries/renewable-energy/>

FINANCIAL RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Rural Electric Economic Development (REED)

REED offers partner financing to business and community projects that promote growth and economic development. Eligibility is limited by county.

<http://www.reedfund.coop>

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

REAP provides grants to agriculture producers and small, rural business owners for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act/rural-energy-america-program-reap>

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

USDA funding is provided for rural projects using a revolving loan fund through local utility organizations. Contact your utility to see if they participate.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

University of Minnesota Extension

Through the Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP), the University of Minnesota Extension supports Greater Minnesota projects related to agriculture, food system, clean energy, natural resources, and building resilient communities.

<https://extension.umn.edu/regional-partnerships>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

CERTs connects individuals and communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects. <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/inflationreduction-act-what-you-need-know>

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC)

The MPUC regulates utilities, including electric, gas, and telephone services. <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/utility/>

Minnesota Department of Commerce

The Minnesota Department of Commerce protects and assists the interests of consumers and businesses. <https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/biomas>

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Clean Energy Resources Teams (CERTs)

CERTs provides a wealth of information about renewable energy resources, planning tools, installers and more at their website. <https://cleanenergyresourcesteams.org/tools-guides>

Drive Electric Minnesota

Drive Electric Minnesota provides useful information for those who want to explore incorporation of electric vehicles to their business or personal fleet. <https://driveelectricmn.org>

These organizations provide a wealth of information for those who wish to explore the incorporation of electric vehicles to their business or personal fleet.

ENERGY ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)

CEE provides affordable whole-building energy assessment services to Xcel Energy's commercial customers.

<https://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/solar-energy-0>

Minnesota Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP)

Minnesota RETAP offers free on-site energy assessments.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/minnesotaretap>

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP)

Learn more about biomass energy's potential to supply energy needs in Minnesota. <http://www.mntap.umn.edu/>

Energy Smart - MN Chamber of Commerce

A program of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Energy Smart provides free consultations to Minnesota businesses served by Xcel Energy or CenterPoint Energy.

<https://www.mnchamber.com/your-opportunity/energy-smart>

Your Local Utility and Natural Gas Providers

Connect with your local utilities to learn more about their energy audit resources.

Tips To Save:

***Turn it off!** Lights, appliances, equipment, etc. With 8,760 hours in a year, time is your biggest multiplier. Reduce your time, reduce your energy.*

CONTACTS



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