



Found Money Coupon Special

As much as 80% of the energy used in your home goes to provide you and your family heating, cooling, and hot water.

As shown in the pie chart to the right, heating and cooling, plus your water heater, can account for 80% of the energy use in your home. Although this is a substantial portion of your energy costs, it is also a significant opportunity to impact how you use energy in your home. You have the power to choose how you use energy. Minnesota Power has the rebates and energy-saving tools to help you make informed energy decisions.

Starting now and running through February 28, 2009, Minnesota Power is offering an additional \$50 rebate (coupon special) over and above the standard rebate on qualifying high efficiency furnaces with ECM motors, Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs), and Drain Water Heat Recovery (DWHR) units. The offer includes the following systems:

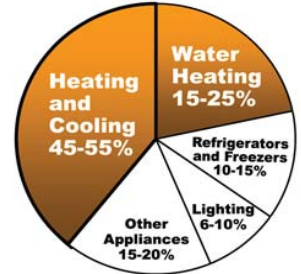
- High efficiency furnace—two-stage, annual furnace efficiency rating (AFUE) >90%—with a variable speed motor (ECM). The rebate is \$250 with coupon.
- Air Source Heat Pumps—both furnace integrated (ductwork) and mini split ductless systems. The rebate with coupon is \$300 for the furnace integrated model

and \$550 for the mini split ductless unit.

Note: The ASHP must meet energy efficiency requirements and the installation must have electricity as a primary heat source to qualify for the rebate.

- Drain Water Heat Recovery units. The rebate is \$400 with coupon. DWHR units can save up to 40% on your water heating costs. **Note:** You must have a new or existing electric water heater to qualify for this rebate.

To take advantage of this coupon special, visit www.mnpower.com/hwcoupon to print off the coupon, identify product- and program-trained installers, and learn more about each of these energy-efficient options. Or call 1-800-677-8423 and press option 2 to request the above information.



Breakdown of Home Energy Usage



MP offering two scholarship opportunities in 2008–2009

Each year, Minnesota Power honors 25 outstanding high school seniors with \$2,000 *Community Involvement Scholarships*. A prime criterion for eligibility is a student's involvement in the community through volunteerism.

We also distribute up to \$50,000 in scholarships through the *New Generation Scholarship* program. Criteria for consideration include attending a two- or four-year college within Minnesota Power's service territory with a focus on careers that match regional workforce needs. Details are online at www.mnpower.com/community.



1. Learn more about how you use energy in your home—use our online tools or request an in-home electric analysis.
2. Replace furnace filters monthly.
3. Clean refrigerator and freezer coils.
4. Turn down the temperature in the winter and turn it up in the summer.
5. Wash your clothes in cold water as much as possible—and only full loads.
6. Install energy- and water-saving showerheads and aerators.
7. Plug air leaks in your home.
8. Replace inefficient light bulbs and fixtures with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs and fixtures, especially in high-use areas.
9. When not in use, turn it off—or better yet, unplug it.
10. Have your furnace tuned up annually.
11. Turn off lights when not needed.

For more information, visit us at www.mnpower.com/powerofone.

Do homework when shopping for electric space heaters

With the cold winter months upon us, there have been a number of advertisements for electric space heaters that claim significant savings in heating costs. While there is savings potential with space heaters, it's important to understand the circumstances necessary to reap those savings and consider potential safety hazards that come with using a portable heater.

Space heaters can effectively take the chill out of the air in a single room and even maintain the desired temperature, depending on the model and assuming you keep doors to other rooms closed. The cost savings may occur if you turn off the heat or turn down the temperature in other rooms. The size of the room and the outdoor temperature will also affect the performance of a space heater.

There is some basic functionality common to all electric space heaters. For example:

- They all efficiently turn electricity into heat.
- They convert one watt of electricity into 3.4 British thermal units (Btu) of heat.
- Plug-in space heaters are limited to 1,500 watts or 5,120 Btu/hour.

A 1,500 watt heater, based on current electric prices, costs approximately \$0.11/hour to operate. Based on these figures, running it eight hours per day for 30 days would cost \$26.40/month.

Features such as resistance coils or quartz lights shining on a "cured copper element" or "ceramic quartz tubes" do not change the amount of heat a space heater can produce. The

wattage consumed determines heat production. A 1,500 watt heater will produce the same amount of heat, regardless of its cost or other unique features.

If you're in the market for a space heater there are a number of factors to consider when making your selection, including temperature control, safety features, convection versus radiant, portability, and cost. For more information about space heaters and their ratings, you are encouraged to log on to consumerreports.org, search for "space heaters," and click on the first article listed.

For more information about space heaters or heating and cooling options, visit www.mnpower.com/powerofone.

If you use an electric water heater, get your free SmartPak—a \$25 value!

The SmartPak Energy and Water Saving package includes a water-saving showerhead, two faucet aerators, pipe wrap, water temperature gauge, and helpful instructions.



The SmartPak can help lower your household electric bill by \$40–\$50 per year, and at the same time, significantly reduce your water usage. Simply complete an online form by **December 31, 2008**, at www.mnpower.com/smartpak, or call 218-355-3511. Please have your account number (located on your electric bill) ready when you call. Clearly indicate that you have an electric water heater. Your kit will arrive in 6–8 weeks.

Cold Weather Rule

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) regulates the conditions under which gas and electric utilities may disconnect residential service in the winter months (from October 15 to April 15). The CWR requires that customers who have difficulty paying heating 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 CWR payment plan to avoid disconnection. Call 1-800-228-4966.

HeatShare

Help keep your neighbors warm

Here's an opportunity to turn spare change into a warm home for your neighbors in need this winter. Minnesota Power gathers voluntary contributions from customers by "rounding up" their monthly bills to the next dollar. Money raised will be donated to the Salvation Army's HeatShare programs throughout northern and central Minnesota.

The Army will use the funds to help warm the lives of the elderly, disabled, and others by providing funds for heating bills and heating-related repairs. HeatShare is a last resort for many who have no other resources available.

To learn how you can help, or for additional program details, call 1-800-228-4966.

Complimentary 2009 Pocket Calendar

Call 218-355-3512 or visit www.mnpower.com/2009calendar to place your order for a pocket calendar, which includes energy conservation tips. Customers outside the Duluth area can call customer service at 1-800-228-4966.

Renewable Energy Brochure

Visit www.mnpower.com/earthfriendly to read online, or call toll-free 1-800-228-4966 to receive this free Minnesota Power brochure.