

Building Up



Building your business on energy efficiency

A message from ...

the Power of One® Energy Conservation Team

Minnesota Power's Triple E New Construction program hit a milestone in 2015—marking 25 years as a valued resource for home construction professionals who want to build their businesses on energy efficiency. Triple E stands for Energy Efficiency, Education and Evaluation—three key elements that make this program timely and effective.

Triple E pushes the envelope for energy-efficient home construction with rigorous prescriptive and performance standards that exceed conventional building codes and practices. It promotes educational opportunities, including the annual Energy Design Conference & Expo, hosted by Minnesota Power, which will be held February 22–24, 2016. It also continuously evaluates the home construction industry to keep our region on the cutting edge of energy-efficient design and construction.

As energy-saving technologies continue to advance, Minnesota Power helps bring the best to market with incentives such as LED lighting rebates for residential and commercial customers. Share Minnesota Power's conservation rebates and incentives with your customers and encourage them to check out our online tools, including The Pyramid of Conservation: New Construction Version at www.mnpower.com/TripleE. The first step to success is understanding!

Contact Information

30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802-2093
218-355-2843

www.mnpower.com/powerofone



Triple E—Unquestionable Quality

There is one question general contractor Kevin Middleton always asks people who want him to bid on a home construction project: "How long do you plan to live in the house?" The answer lets him know if they might be a good fit for the high performance, energy-efficient homes that his company specializes in constructing.

"I steer people toward energy efficiency," said Middleton, manager of P&M Quality Builders (P&M) in Duluth, a company that has earned a place on Minnesota Power's list of Triple E Builders for constructing energy-efficient homes that meet the program's rigorous standards. "We might not always be the cheapest bid, but building homes that are energy efficient saves people money in the long run."

Homeowner Jill Helmer remembers having that initial conversation with Middleton before she and her husband, Tim, selected P&M to construct their new four-bedroom, 3,600-square-foot home in rural Duluth.

"We had three or four bids, and no other contractors asked how long we would be in the home," Jill Helmer recalled. "Kevin really stressed the long-term value of energy-efficient construction."

The value takes many forms, from greater comfort and energy performance to improved air quality, durability, marketability, operating efficiency and cost control. Minnesota Power's Triple E New Construction Program has been helping homebuilding professionals deliver that value for 25 years.

Triple E provides very specific standards and guidelines for thermal integrity, airtight construction, moisture control,

"This house was a good example of how bringing Minnesota Power in on the ground floor can help people achieve their energy-efficiency goals ..."

Chad Trebilcock
Energy Efficiency Analyst
Minnesota Power

ventilation, space and water heating, appliances and lighting. Qualifying homeowners who meet the standards and complete the inspection and evaluation process may qualify for up to \$2,000 in incentives. Over time, Triple E homes average 25% less in space heating costs than those built to conventional new construction standards.

Jill and Tim Helmer both work at Minnesota Power—she as a real estate specialist and he as a meter technician—so they knew something about Triple E going into their home construction project. Prior to the design phase, Jill met with Chad Trebilcock, an energy efficiency analyst—residential, and member of Minnesota Power’s Power of One® conservation improvement program (CIP) team, to learn more about the standards and incentives.



Helmer family together in their energy-efficient home.

“We talked about Triple E and how it works,” said Trebilcock, “She wanted to use Kevin (Middleton) as the builder, which was good, because he is familiar with the Triple E program from other projects. Kevin is also a regular participant at the Energy Design Conference to keep up on the latest industry standards in building science. I think customers appreciate his commitment to education, and it definitely showed on this project.”

“Kevin knew which subcontractors to use in order to meet specific requirements—ones who were knowledgeable about the Triple E program,” Jill Helmer said. “It saved us time because we didn’t have to be out asking hundreds of questions.”

Triple E program consultant Doug Manthey reviewed plans, inspected the work and conducted final blower door testing. The home earned Triple E Tier II designation and qualified for the maximum rebates from Minnesota Power.

“This house was a good example of how bringing Minnesota Power in on the ground floor can help people achieve their energy-efficiency goals and get the highest available rebates,” Trebilcock said. “Homeowners don’t always know where to turn. The Triple E program and participating contractors offer a valuable service.”

“I really enjoy working with customers like the Helmers,” Trebilcock continued. “They asked a lot of questions throughout the process, and it showed their commitment to building their house the right way and achieving optimal building performance. They understood the value of spending a little more money upfront on insulation and high performance windows to enjoy lower home operating costs for years to come.”

“It is really a question of building quality over quantity,” Middleton said. “As contractors, it also is about building our reputation.”

Featured Home Highlights:

- Triple E Tier II
- Blown Cellulose Insulation: Attic (R-60), Walls (R-27), Rim Joist (R-25)
- Foam Insulation: 4” Under Slab (R-20)
- Windows: Triple Pane (U-Value .19), South Facing (40%)
- Lighting: Mixed Energy Efficient, Including LED
- Appliances: ENERGY STAR®
- Water Heater: Marathon Electric (high efficiency)
- Blower Door Test: One Air Exchange Per Hour

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



ENERGY DESIGN

conference & expo

**February 22–24, 2016
Duluth Entertainment
Convention Center (DECC)**

Deadline for Early Bird registration is January 29, 2016. Learn more at www.duluthenergydesign.com.

Featured Incentives

Educate your customers about Minnesota Power’s conservation incentives and build your business on energy efficiency.

Triple E New Construction: Up to \$2,000 in rebates for electrically heated new homes

ENERGY STAR® Appliances: Rebates of \$25 on a refrigerator, \$40 on a clothes washer, \$10 on a dehumidifier, and \$50 on an electric water heater with .95 energy factor or greater

ENERGY STAR Qualified LED Fixtures: \$10 rebate per indoor fixture and \$20 per outdoor fixture

Air Source Heat Pumps: Rebates for ENERGY STAR®-qualified Standard Split and Furnace Integrated (\$300) systems and Mini-Split Ductless units (\$500)

New Forced Air Furnace with ECM Fan Motor: \$200 special offer

Visit www.mnpower.com/rebates for complete information on rebates and other energy-saving tools to help your customers make effective energy choices and build your business on energy efficiency.

LED Lighting Rebates Brighten Homes and Businesses

LED technology continues to improve in lighting efficiency as well as color quality. While early LED replacement bulbs were primarily 60-watt equivalents, the market has expanded to 75- and 100-watt equivalents—with three-way, dimmable and can light options available. Minnesota Power is encouraging customers to make the LED switch with mail-in rebates and special pricing at participating area merchants, including Batteries Plus Bulbs, Denny’s Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Menards, Sam’s Club, Super One, Walgreens, Walmart and UMD stores on campus. Go to www.mnpower.com/rebates and click on ENERGY STAR® Lighting Rebates.

