

Minnesota's Path to an Energy-Efficient Future

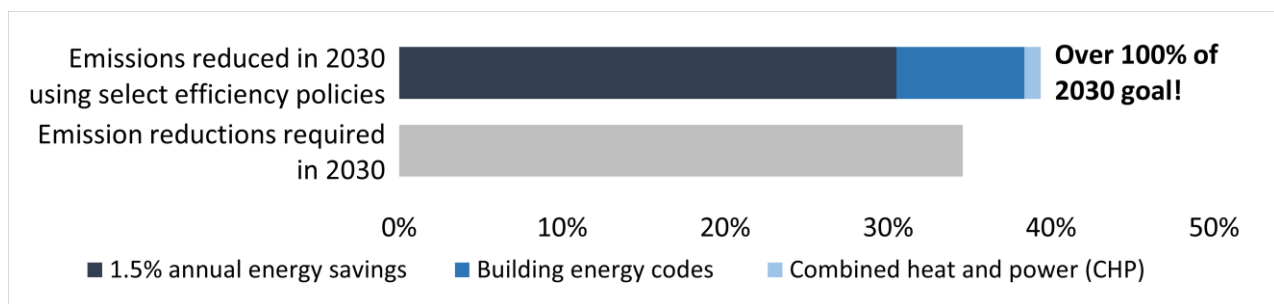
Energy efficiency can help Minnesota generate local jobs, avoid thousands of tons of air pollution, and make the state a healthier place to live. Here's why energy efficiency should be central to state plans for a reliable and affordable energy future with clean air and a strong economy.



Energy Efficiency Cuts Waste, Avoids Pollution, and Saves Money

A lot of useful energy is wasted in Minnesota. Energy efficiency can reduce this waste, cutting energy costs for Minnesotans through programs that upgrade their homes, replace old furnaces, and insulate their walls to keep cold air out. This means more money in people's pockets and fewer taxpayer dollars spent on heating and cooling leaky government buildings.

By using energy efficiency to reduce air pollution, Minnesota can comply with federal air regulations and strengthen the state economy at the same time. In fact, implementation of a few popular energy efficiency policies can help Minnesota meet **100% of its goal** to cut carbon pollution under the EPA's Clean Power Plan.



How Energy Efficiency Strengthens Minnesota's Economy and Cuts Pollution

By adopting a few common efficiency policies, Minnesota can cut air pollution and save electricity customers money while the state economy grows. Here are some of the benefits of investing in energy efficiency¹:



Achieving annual energy savings of 1.5%, coupled with national model building codes and 100 MWs of new combined heat and power, will help Minnesota avoid more than 13 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2030. About 17 million MWh of electricity will be saved, eliminating pollution from power plants.



In addition to helping with Clean Power Plan compliance, these efficiency policies will save 151,000 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and 293,000 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by 2030. Air pollution can damage the lungs, heart, and brain, so lower emissions mean healthier communities and a higher quality of life.



Minnesotans can realize large financial benefits from increasing energy productivity. By 2030, efficiency policies will save the people of Minnesota about \$550 million. These savings can ensure that the state achieves clean air goals while strengthening the economy and reducing electricity costs for vulnerable populations.

¹ The information below comes from SUPR2 available for download here: <http://aceee.org/research-report/e1601>.