

PROGRAMS

Energy City is well connected to the community and uses innovative methods to provide support to residents and local businesses. Below is a list of the programs that Energy City provides.

Businesses

Education Series – The Energy City Education Series strives to limit businesses impact on the environment and save them money by teaching about energy efficient opportunities. The city of Elk River hosts these free events with guest presentations from professionals in the environmental field and business owners around the Elk River area. It's a great way for businesses to learn about local resources and how they can reduce their energy consumption. For more information on our next event visit the City of Elk River's website and click on Energy City or call 763.635.1000.

Energy City High Five Program – The Energy City High Fives serve as an award program for local businesses who want to boost efficiency, save money, and help the planet in the process.

Businesses choose from over 35 actions spread across seven different categories. The categories are Waste Management, Electricity Conservation & Lighting, HVAC Systems, Water Conservation, Employee Initiatives, Purchasing, and Miscellaneous. Businesses earn points by implementing actions in these categories. The points then convert to awards and notoriety! This program was launched in June of 2011 with the goal of rewarding businesses for enacting sustainable choices while, at the same time, making it as easy as possible for them to make those decisions by offering information and assistance.

Residents

Project Conserve – Project Conserve is an outreach and education program designed to teach participants simple ways to conserve our natural resources. Participants save money on their heating, electrical, and water bills, reduce waste, save on transportation, and live a more sustainable lifestyle. The program is free; the knowledge is priceless. Project Conserve is a one-of-a-kind program available to residents living in or near Elk River.

Project Conserve Resource Reduction Goals:

- reduce electricity consumption by 20%
- reduce water use by 25%
- reduce home heating fuel use by 10%
- reduce waste being landfilled by 25%
- reduce transportation fuel by 25%

To help participants achieve these goals, the program offers free or inexpensive home energy audits, information focused on the different areas of conservation, useful goodies to help implement conservation practices, a monthly newsletter, and expert advice in response to any questions on conservation. In order to monitor progress, the program also tracks utility usage for up to five years.



ENERGY CITY TOOLKIT

ENERGY CITY

In 1996 the Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) chose Elk River to be Energy City—a geographical focal point for the demonstration of efficient and renewable energy products, services and technologies.

Energy City is made up of concerned residents, businesses, energy related industries, and governmental entities united in the belief that the production and consumption of energy is a leading environmental issue facing the world today.

Energy City works with businesses and residents interested in demonstrating energy efficient and economically feasible projects in the Elk River area. Energy City is governed by the city of Elk River's Energy City Commission, which is made up of various local government representatives, energy consultants, and manufacturers. The Commission's mission is to be a resource to promote and educate the public about energy efficiency, and renewable technologies.

EDUCATION

Education is one of Energy City's most vital roles, and it's an ongoing activity that is never complete. Staff strives to be available to the community as much as possible. City environmental staff and Elk River Municipal Utilities staff accomplish this goal by offering tours, speaking to residents, students, and organizations, and conducting informational campaigns.

Energy City welcomes all groups and individuals that are interested in learning more about energy efficiency and sustainable lifestyles that make economic sense for homeowners and business owners!

DEMONSTRATION SITES

Energy City's demonstration sites bring innovation, excitement and cost saving to the community. Take a look at these demonstration sites to see how!

RDF-to-Electric Power Plant

Great River Energy's Elk River Station went online in 1951 and is still providing electricity power to Minnesota homes. It has a diverse history having been powered by coal, nuclear, oil, tires and now by refuse derived fuel (RDF). It burns 1200 tons of RDF daily to provide electricity for 25,000 homes. The RDF comes from 1500 tons of garbage collected daily and processed.

Twin Lakes Elementary School

Completed in 2007, Twin Lakes Elementary school was the first school in Minnesota to achieve Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. LEED is a national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Annual energy costs at the school are 50% less than the average for a school of comparable size.

Landfill Gas-to-Electric Power Plant

The Elk River Landfill, Elk River Municipal Utilities and Sherburne County collaborated to create a landfill gas-to-electric power plant. It currently supplies the energy needs for about 2,400 homes in the city of Elk River. This state-of-the-art power plant takes methane gas generated from the adjacent landfill and converts it to electricity. The plant contains four 800-kilowatt engine-generators which generate approximately 26.7 million kilowatt-hours per year.



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