DTE CleanVision Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Program for Business

2024 Program FAQs

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Reservation applications are now being accepted for the 2024 program year. All measures must be installed within 90 days of the reservation date or by November 30, 2024, whichever comes first.

Final applications must be submitted within 60 days of project completion and received by November 30, 2024. Incomplete applications submitted after that date are subject to cancellation. Applications submitted after that date will be cancelled.

Contact us

Email dtesavenergy@dnv.com

Phone 866.796.0512 (option 3)

Web dteenergy.com/equipment-rebates/

Apply mienergyrebates.com

Who can participate?

Who can participate in the Energy Efficiency Program for Business?

A DTE Energy commercial or industrial customer can participate if the business is on a non-residential rate, contributes to the energy waste reduction surcharge and has not elected to self-direct (see below). There is a residential exception for agricultural customers (see below). Specific details on eligibility can be found in the terms and conditions listed on the application. We have separate programs for residential and multi-family customers. For more information on these rebates, visit dteenergy.com/equipment-rebates/.

Who can submit applications?

A customer or a contractor, working on a customer's behalf, can submit both the reservation and final application. However, the final application must be signed by the DTE Energy account holder (a representative of the business served by DTE Energy) – who purchased the qualifying energy efficiency measures.

Can I participate if I am a self-direct customer of DTE Energy?

No, self-direct customers are not eligible to participate in the DTE Energy Efficiency Program for Business, because they are not paying the full energy optimization surcharge.

Can I participate if I am an agriculture customer on a residential meter?

Yes: Certain agriculture rebates are available to residential rate customers whose primary source of income is from agricultural operations and activities. Other conditions apply. See the stand-alone agriculture application for more details.

Is my community included in the DTE Energy service territory?

DTE Energy serves customers throughout Michigan. If you have questions about DTE Energy's service area, please reference the service territory maps at dteenergy.com. Your utility bill is the best way to determine if your facility is served by DTE Energy.

How does the energy surcharge work and how does it affect my eligibility?

Michigan Public Act 295 (2008), updated by PA 341 and 342 (2017), requires investor-owned utilities, municipalities and rural electric cooperatives to institute energy optimization programs, which are funded through an "Energy Waste Reduction Surcharge" (on distribution) assessed on all ratepayers' energy bills. This surcharge is represented under the "Other Delivery Surcharges" line item. Customers that have opted to receive their energy (electric and/or natural gas) supply from a source other than DTE Energy, but receive a bill from DTE Energy that reflects the surcharge are eligible for the Program. The exception to this eligibility is when customers receive their electric or natural gas supply from certain other suppliers; they are ineligible to participate in this program. Contact our program to see if you are eligible.

Application Process & Status

When can I submit program applications?

Reservation applications may be submitted after the launch of the 2024 Program, on January 1, 2024. Final applications cannot be submitted before Jan. 1, 2024, and must be submitted within 60 days of project completion or by Nov. 30, 2024, whichever comes first. Please note that some projects require a reservation application to reserve funding. A final application must be submitted with all required documents, including specifications and invoices, plus the final agreement must be signed by the account holder. Incomplete final applications submitted on Nov. 30, 2024, may be cancelled. Final Applications submitted after Nov. 30, 2024, will be cancelled. Other requirements may apply for certain offers.

What is the application processing timeframe?

The review of a reservation application generally takes two to four weeks in order to assess the pre-existing equipment and reserve the appropriate funding. The review of the final application takes approximately four to six weeks. These general review times assume that a fully completed, accurate application is submitted with the required documentation. Inaccurate applications or insufficient documentation can increase the review time. Incentive checks are generally paid within four weeks after approval of the final application.

How will I know the status of my application?

An email notification will be sent after we receive and process your reservation (if submitted) or final application. A reservation letter will be sent once your reservation application is successfully reviewed and funds are reserved. Check your application status online at mienergyrebates.com or contact the program office at 866.796.0512 (press Option 3) for information on your application status. Please call the program office if your project plans change after submitting your reservation application.

Why do I need to provide my taxpayer ID number and tax status?

The rebates paid through this program will not appear as a credit on your monthly billing statement. Incentives paid to third parties may be considered income and are reported to the IRS on form 1099. DTE Energy is not responsible for any taxes that may be imposed on a business as a result of receipt of an rebate.

Reservation Application

Do I have to submit a reservation application?

A reservation application is required for all custom projects and certain prescriptive measures. Refer to the Program Catalog for requirements. A reservation application is strongly encouraged for prescriptive projects and new construction/major renovation projects. A reservation application reserves funds for a specific project provided that:

- Work commences on the proposed measures within 30 days of project approval.
- Measures are installed within 90 days of project approval or Nov. 30, 2024, whichever comes first.

We cannot guarantee funding for projects that skip the reservation process. Reserved funds are not transferable to other projects and/or customers. Prior to starting your work, please review the catalog measure specifications and application to make sure the measures you are planning to install are covered under the program. Reservation applications are not a guarantee that rebates will be provided. Actual rebates are based on final applications and supporting documentation.

What is the advantage of submitting a reservation application?

The reservation application step allows us to reserve program funds for your project for up to 90 days. Reservation extensions can be requested and granted as necessary. Reservation applications are strongly encouraged for all projects.

What if I submit a reservation application and my final project is changed?

Once your reservation application has been reviewed and a reservation letter is issued to you, funds will be reserved for 90 days. Submit your final application within 60 days of project completion or by Nov. 30, 2024, whichever comes first, after making changes to reflect the actual work completed. The program team will review it to determine the appropriate rebate amount. A revised application is highly encouraged once you are aware of any changes to make sure we have an opportunity to review and secure funding. If your final rebate amount is greater than the reserved amount, the Team will determine if there are funds available to pay the additional rebate. There is no guarantee that funds will be available for rebates above the reserved amount. A reservation does not guarantee payment.

Do I need to select a vendor or contractor before submitting a reservation application?

No, but because of the 90-day reservation window, we strongly recommend that you have a contractor/vendor selected before you submit your reservation application. We will not accept multiple reservation applications from more than one contractor for the same project.

What if my reservation application involves lighting that may or may not be DLC-listed or ENERGY STAR®?

Only lighting listed by the DesignLights Consortium® (DLC) or ENERGY STAR® is eligible for prescriptive and custom measure rebates. However, if equipment being used in a project does not fall into a lighting category appearing on the DLC website, but may meet DLC performance criteria, such equipment may be eligible for rebates.

To receive a rebate on this type of project, you must submit a reservation application and complete and attach the Non-DLC category product approval form and equipment specification sheets to your application. Your request will be evaluated by program engineers for approval. Should a DLC-listed fixture become delisted at the time of final application submission – and the installation followed the reservation application requirements – the rebate for that measure will be paid.

Is a reservation application a guarantee of payment of rebates at the reserved amount?

No, a reservation is not a guarantee that you are entitled to a specific amount. The actual payment will be based upon our review of your final application and supporting documentation, and may be subject to a site inspection. Many terms and conditions can only be validated based upon the final application, such as the model number of equipment installed and the project cost.

Can I receive an extension on my fund reservation beyond the 90-day reservation period?

Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis. No extension will be granted beyond Nov. 30, 2024. If your delivery of ordered equipment exceeds the reservation period, we may provide an extension. Submit extension requests in writing. Please contact the program office at 866.796.0512 (press Option 3) for specific questions regarding funding reservations.

Incentives

How do I apply for the cash rebates offered in the program?

A program application must be completed and submitted to be considered for an rebate in this program. The online application can be found at mienergyrebates.com.

Will rebates be paid up front?

No, rebates will be paid only after the project has been completed and the final application has been approved.

Is there a maximum amount of rebate money I can receive?

Yes, the rebate amount paid for custom projects cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost for purchasing and installing the energy-efficiency measures. The rebate amount for LEED whole building new construction/major renovations projects can be up to 100% of total project costs. Program caps apply for prescriptive, custom and new construction/major renovation projects:

- Electricity customers of DTE Energy may receive up to $1,000,000 per program year across all facilities.
- Natural gas customers of DTE Energy may receive up to $300,000 per program year across all facilities.

How is a customer defined for the purpose of determining the rebate caps?

A customer is typically defined by a unique taxpayer ID. Please contact your DTE Energy representative or the program office at 866.796.0512 (press option 3) for additional clarification.

Do I qualify for rebates if I get my electricity from DTE Energy, but my gas from another utility?

Yes, the Energy Efficiency Program for Business will pay rebates for measures relevant to the commodity provided by DTE Energy (electric or natural gas). Other utilities in Michigan offer similar programs, so check with them for more information. If a prescriptive measure saves both gas and electricity, you cannot apply for an rebate for the same prescriptive measure from both utilities. You may however, apply to two different utilities based on the savings for the commodity they serve.

For customers of both DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, a combined online application is now available online at mienergyrebates.com.

What types of rebates are available?

The program provides prescriptive, custom and new construction/major renovation rebates.

Prescriptive measure rebates are available for a set of defined energy-saving equipment and generally are based on a per-unit basis (see the catalog and application for specifications). The prescriptive program is designed to simplify the application process for the most common energy-saving measures.

Custom measure rebates are based on the amount of estimated first-year annual energy savings and apply to all energy-efficiency improvement measures that are not eligible for a prescriptive measure rebate. If you have questions about how to calculate the energy savings associated with a custom measure rebate, please contact your DTE Energy account manager or call the program office at 866.796.0512 (press option 3).

If my project involves a prescriptive measure, can I choose to apply for a custom measure rebate?

No, the applicant does not have a choice regarding the type of rebate. Measures that qualify for prescriptive measure rebates are not eligible for a custom measure rebate. However, the program team may decide to apply the custom measure rebate to an entire project when the interaction of the installed prescriptive and custom measures makes it difficult to determine the savings for just the custom measures.

Can I get a rebate to change from an electric technology to a natural gas technology or vice versa?

No. Fuel-switching measures are not eligible for a rebate.

Can I receive a rebate for installing on-site generation or a renewable energy system?

On-site generation and renewable energy projects, such as solar water heaters or photovoltaic installations, do not qualify for a rebate under this program. DTE Energy's MIGreenPower program can provide you more information on rebates available for renewables. More information can be found at dteeenergy.com.

I have installed energy efficiency measures that are not listed. Are they still eligible for a rebate?

Energy-efficiency measures that are not on the prescriptive list may be eligible for a custom measure rebate, if a reservation application was submitted prior to installation. If the measures were installed without a reservation application, the program cannot pay a rebate. Various requirements and restrictions apply. Please refer to your DTE Energy representative or call the program office at 866.796.0512 (press Option 3) for assistance.

Can I have the rebate check sent directly to my contractor?

Yes, a DTE customer can have the rebate sent directly to the contractor listed on the project application, but if they are a Participating Contractor in good standing. Participating Contractors have attended our annual program training, are experienced in using the program to assist DTE customers, and are listed on the DTE Energy Efficiency Directory.

Payment can be authorized by a customer who completes and digitally signs the third-party payment authorization form. This form is a portion of the online agreement. If you want to split your rebates among two or more Participating Contractors, you will have to complete and sign a form for each, entering the amount of rebate to be paid to each.

If the signed form authorizes payment to an ineligible contractor, we will issue a check for those rebates to the customer. If you distribute your rebate to two or more Participating Contractors, and any one is found to be ineligible, that rebate will be paid to you. If you have questions about this policy, contact our office.

Contractors who have not taken program training are encouraged to do so – not only to qualify for third-party payment, but also to gain access to other benefits. (For more about the requirements of becoming a Participating Contractor, read our policies and procedures manual and call us directly.)

A similar process is used in a landlord/tenant situation: a DTE customer (landlord) can authorize to have the rebate sent directly to the Tenant by completing and signing a landlord/tenant payment authorization form. This form can be requested from our office.

Once I receive my rebate do I have any further program obligations?

DTE Energy reserves the right to perform measurement and verification activities for a period of five years after any measures were installed.

Participating Contractors & Contractors

Is there a list of available contractors?

The program does not recommend, qualify or otherwise approve contractors for participation. However, we do offer training to contractors and publish a searchable Energy Efficiency Directory on the DTE website. Participating Contractors are specially trained in how to effectively use our program on behalf of their customers, and how to accurately complete and submit our application. If you are a contractor interested in learning more, call the program office at 866.796.0512 (press option 3).

Am I required to use a Participating Contractor for improvements at my facility?

No. Many customers choose to install the measures with contractors or in-house staff. If you install the equipment yourself (or with in-house staff), you should check the "self-installed box" on the application. Please note that for self-installed equipment, internal labor costs are not considered when determining the project costs for custom projects.

Programs

Is there a program for new construction as well as existing building renovations?

Yes, the new construction and major renovation program provides rebates for installing energy-efficient equipment and controls that make new buildings more efficient. These improvements and enhancements are above standard construction practices or code requirements. Incentives also are available for major renovation projects for existing buildings.

New construction/major renovation program rebates can be found on our application at mienergyrebates.com or in the Program Incentive Guide. New construction/major renovation projects must involve facility improvements that result in measurable or verifiable electrical savings (kWh) and/or natural gas energy savings (Mcf) exceeding the requirements set forth in ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2013, LEED or local building codes, whichever is more stringent. The following rebates are offered under the new construction/major renovation program:

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Whole Building Approach: Incentives are available for new construction projects that receive LEED certification, and will be paid upon receiving LEED certification at the saving values validated by USGBC. The rebates directly correspond to the LEED NC v2009 and LEED BD+C v4 ratings systems. Incentives are paid based on the energy savings reported in the energy model and verified by USGBC (first year only). For more on this approach, see the LEED and design review assistance information in the catalog (cannot be combined with systems approach).

LEED Design Review Assistance: To encourage LEED design/certification of energy-efficient buildings, a $1,500 rebate for LEED design review assistance is available for any customer that receives DTE-Energy provided fuel source(s) in the project. A reservation application is required prior to receiving LEED final design review decisions in order to apply for this design review assistance Incentive. The reservation application should be submitted after your project is registered with the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED design review assistance rebates will be reserved for 90 days or until Nov. 30, 2024, whichever comes first.

Systems Approach: An alternative to the LEED whole building approach is the systems approach, which does not require LEED certification and encourages designers to optimize the energy efficiency of the individual systems within a building. This approach is most appropriate for less complex projects; those whose systems are designed at different times, and for projects in which consideration for energy efficiency occurs later in the design phase. Simple calculation tools are provided to estimate typical energy savings associated with recommended measures in a typical building and to calculate corresponding rebates. Eligible measures can be found in the program application found at mienergyrebates.com under the New Construction/Major Renevation program type or in the Program Catalog (cannot be combined with LEED whole building), identified by a hammer and wrench icon.

Completed Projects

What documentation is required once my project has been completed?

Once your project is completed, you must submit the following documentation:

- Properly completed and signed (by the account holder) final application
- A copy of the rebate payee's W-9 (account holder or contractor)
- Copies of dated and itemized invoices for the purchase and installation of the measures
- Product/manufacturer specification sheets

Use the reference codes provided for each measure in the application to clearly identify specification sheets and invoices. Project invoices should provide sufficient detail to separate the project cost from the cost of other services, such as repairs and building code compliance, as well as show the location where the measures were installed. DTE Energy reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation as deemed necessary to ensure measure eligibility and verify the expected energy savings will occur. Requested information could include: equipment purchase dates, description of the pre-existing equipment, installation dates, proof that the equipment is operational, manufacturer specifications, warranty information and proof of customer co-payment. Applicants are encouraged to call the program office if they have any questions about documentation requirements. All customer information will be held in confidence.

Miscellaneous Questions

How do I determine what energy saving measures are right for my facility?

You can start by contacting the list of DNV Trade Allies: trained contractors who are familiar with the program, as well as, contacting your outreach representative. The directory of Trade Allies is available on the DTE website and searchable by location and type of work performed. These DNV Trade Allies sell and install energy efficiency equipment, which can make them a useful source for program information. We always recommend getting multiple quotes to ensure fair market value and project satisfaction. You should verify that your contractor is licensed and insured.

Will my data be kept confidential?

All customer information provided to the Program will be held in confidence.

Glossary

Applicant: The entity, either the customer or the customer's representative, submitting the application.

Customer: The utility customer-of-record responsible for paying the utility bill(s) for the principal account (the account with the largest kWh or Mcf consumption) that is affected by the project. The primary criterion for determining the customer is the account name and tax ID number.

Custom Project: A project comprised of efficiency improvement measures that are not included in the prescriptive measures found in the catalog or application.

DTE Account Holder: See customer.

Facility: A single meter or multiple meters on a single property for which a single customer is responsible for paying the DTE Energy electric and/or natural gas bill.

Final Application: This term refers to a program application that is submitted, after a project has been completed, for the payment of funds. The applicant is to submit a copy of the application with any information not submitted with the reservation application. The final application must include a DTE account holder's signature and all appropriate supporting documentation, including dated, itemized invoices and manufacturer's specifications.

GBCI: Green Building Council Institute

Incentive: The amount to be paid to the customer or contractor once the final application has been approved.

LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

Prescriptive Project: A project comprised solely of prescriptive measures.

Program Year: The duration of the program - January 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024

Reservation: The process of submitting a reservation application form for approval of project plans. A reservation is required for all custom projects and strongly encouraged for prescriptive projects.

Reservation Application: This term refers to a program application that is submitted prior to project completion for the purpose of assessing the proposed uncompleted project for conformance and reserving rebate funds. The reservation application does not include a DTE account holder's signature and may be lacking some supporting documentation, including dated, itemized invoices. A reservation application is required for all custom projects and strongly encouraged for prescriptive projects.

Reservation End Date: Date on which a customer's reservation is cancelled unless an extension has been granted. If a reservation spans more than one program year, eligible rebates are paid according to the rebate schedule in place at the time the completed final application is submitted, along with all required supporting documentation.