

2023 Annual Impact Report

Michigan's cleaner energy future

It's been more than three years since DTE Energy launched the CleanVision Natural Gas Balance program – and there is a lot to celebrate! More than 13,000 DTE Gas residential and small business customers are enrolled in the program, joining us in our commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.


Thank you for remaining a valued member of this community. Together, we are pioneering the use and development of renewable natural gas in Michigan, protecting our state's mature trees that act as natural carbon scrubbers and addressing emissions from natural gas usage in heating, cooking, water heating and other home uses – without adjusting your energy usage.


How it works

Natural Gas Balance offers DTE Gas customers an affordable, effective way to help the environment by addressing their carbon footprint. For a small monthly fee, participants can balance between 25% to 100% of greenhouse gas emissions from an average home's natural gas use.

Natural Gas Balance 2023 Impact

13,212 
Customers enrolled

 18,472
metric tons
Natural gas-related
CO₂-e emissions
negated

4,396 
Equivalent number
of cars off the road



Carbon offsets

Trees are one of the world's most important tools against climate change. They naturally absorb greenhouse gases, helping to offset emissions produced by natural gas usage.

Through a partnership that began in 2021 with [Anew](#), formerly Bluesource, North America's leading carbon offset developer, Natural Gas Balance is purchasing carbon offset credits to limit aggressive tree harvesting in parts of the Upper Peninsula. Greenleaf Improved Forest Management is protecting 24,000 acres of forest across 13 Michigan counties and one in Wisconsin through our partnership. These trees will scrub greenhouse gases from the atmosphere for generations to come.

Renewable natural gas

Renewable natural gas, or RNG, is derived by capturing methane gas emitted by organic waste materials in landfills, wastewater treatment plants and dairy farms. The gas is trapped, and impurities are removed, creating a renewable source of pipeline-quality gas. Natural Gas Balance sources RNG from multiple Michigan producers, including the Sauk Trail Hills landfill in Canton and a wastewater treatment facility in Grand Rapids.

BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

2023 carbon offset impact

17,548 metric tons

Natural gas-related CO₂-e emissions negated



BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

2023 RNG impact

16,946 mcf

Renewable natural gas acquired on behalf of participating customers, negating **923.6 metric tons** of natural gas-related CO₂-e emissions



“Our City Commission approved a target date of 2040 this past February for carbon neutrality.

By enrolling in CleanVision Natural Gas Balance we will be balancing 100% of the associated natural gas emissions for all our municipal buildings – and it’s a natural partnership to work with DTE Energy as we took this next step in delivering on our goals.”

– Doug La Fave
Deputy City Manager
for East Grand Rapids

2023 Rewind – East Grand Rapids enrolls in Natural Gas Balance

East Grand Rapids joined Natural Gas Balance Custom, the companion program to Natural Gas Balance designed for DTE's large commercial and industrial customers, in July 2023. The town is the first in the state to balance their usage through the program.

Many East Grand Rapids residents were excited to follow their municipality’s lead – more than 200 households enrolled after the municipality committed to the program.

2023 Rewind – West Michigan residents embrace cleaner energy

Kent and Muskegon County residents have spoken – they’re ready to embrace cleaner energy!

More than 100 Kent and Muskegon County residents enrolled in Natural Gas Balance when DTE rolled out a challenge to encourage customers to sign up in August. If more than 100 residents between the two counties enrolled in Natural Gas Balance by the end of August, DTE promised to plant 10 trees in each county. Residents easily exceeded the goal – bravo!

Natural Gas Balance team members and crews from DTE's Wealthy and Muskegon service centers were on hand to plant the trees on Oct. 13. Ten trees were planted in Kent County’s Wahlfield Park and the other 10 were planted in Muskegon County’s Moore Park.



We're proud of what we've accomplished together so far and are excited about what's ahead.

What's next

In 2024, projects will include:

- Receive approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to extend the pilot period as we continue to learn and grow in our knowledge of how this program fits into our customers' sustainability goals.
- Purchase additional Michigan-made carbon offsets and renewable natural gas to support the growth of this program.
- Continue educating customers on the role balancing emissions can have to grow enrollment levels in Natural Gas Balance's Level 2-4 program offerings.

DTE's commitment to sustainability

In 2020, DTE Gas was one of the first natural gas companies to announce carbon reduction goals across the natural gas industry, with net zero by 2050 goals for our own operations and gas supply, and a 35% reduction in our downstream or customer emissions by 2040. Achieving this goal could reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by more than six million metric tons by 2050 – and we're on track to meet this goal.





- **We will reduce our own internal greenhouse gas emissions** – not just methane emissions – from utility operations and achieve carbon neutrality by continuing to replace aging pipelines, new operational improvements and the use of carbon offsets.
- **We are committed to purchasing the cleanest natural gas available from producers**, which means we expect our suppliers to be eliminating their own emissions as they produce natural gas.

Natural Gas Balance is a key component of DTE Energy's [CleanVision](#) initiative, a portfolio of bold environmental programs designed to achieve our ambitious climate action goals. It encompasses programs that support wind and solar energy, energy waste reduction, electric vehicles, appliance recycling and more.

Take your impact to the next level

Already enrolled? You can increase your impact on climate change by increasing your commitment. Consider moving up to the next level to make an even bigger difference in mitigating carbon emissions. Go to dteenergy.com/NaturalGasBalance.



CARBON EMISSIONS MITIGATED

25%	Level 1
50%	Level 2
75%	Level 3
100%	Level 4

Let's connect!

We'd like to hear from you. Send your comments, questions and suggestions to us at NaturalGasBalance@dteenergy.com.

DTE
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