



# Energy Efficiency Solutions Program

Annual EES Filing- 2013



## Report Contents

The overall results of Black Hills Power's Energy Efficiency Solutions (EES) Program in year one of the Program (September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012) were summarized in a report to the Commission in December 2012. The purpose of this report is to provide an update for the Program results covering September 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013.

The following items are included in this report:

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## Program Highlights

Residential Program. Highlights of the Residential program include the following:

1. **Refrigerator Recycling.** This measure was popular with our customers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Year. BHP expects this program to continue to be of interest to BHP's customers. The participation rate has slowed down in the winter months, however, BHP anticipates that the goals will be met with the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of promotional advertising.
2. **School Based Education.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> year goal is to provide energy efficiency education materials to 125 students. 289 students in the Rapid City area participated in the first year of the EES Program. This year, BHP is reaching out to the outlying cities/towns in our service territory. The areas include: Spearfish, Sturgis, Custer, Hot Springs, Hill City and Belle Fourche. The enrollment has been strong and interest remains high. Belle Fourche Middle School has enrolled 90 participants, Sturgis Elementary School has a total of 155 participants and Spearfish Christian Academy has an additional 6 participants.
3. **Weatherization.** BHP set a goal of completing weatherization at 25 homes in South Dakota each program year. The selection of homes is coordinated with local agencies such as NeighborWorks. A day was set up in October, 2012 for the Rapid City and Hot Springs area. BHP coordinated teams of volunteers to install items in each home. The weatherization measures were completed on twenty-three (23) of the twenty-five (25) homes planned in our original goal, due to two (2) cancelations.

Commercial & Industrial Program. Highlights of the C&I program include the following:

1. **Lighting.** There continues to be a high interest in BHP's Prescriptive Lighting rebate program. Since our last report, BHP has had additional participation from

contractors and vendors contacting customers for lighting efficiency upgrades. There are over 32 projects in progress.

2. **Custom Lighting Rebates.** BHP has had some very large projects with excellent savings results. One LED project completed by Riddles Jewelry was featured in BHP's March 2012 PowerFactor publication (See Attachment C).
3. **Custom Heat Pump Rebates.** Four (4) of the projects currently in progress are large geothermal heat pump projects. One of these projects has been completed, awaiting approval from BHP and the others are expected to be completed in 2013.

### **Adaptive Management Strategies**

BHP's Energy Services staff is utilized to support the EES Program. In addition to the items described in the December 2012 Report - the Energy Services Staff provides support at the following functions:

- Manage Educational Workshops and Training such as the Electro Technology Expo and Energy Efficiency Workshop
- Staff Booths (Area Homeshows/Area Chamber Functions)
- Presentations (Civic groups/Area Homeshows/Area Chamber Functions/Individual Customers/Businesses)
- Participation in Events (Weatherization/Training/Presentations)

**VisionDSM** software was developed to manage the rebate application process and is an important tool for BHP. A recent improvement that was made is the ability to complete an online application from BHP's website that interfaces directly into the VisionDSM system. Customers now have the option of applying for EES rebates by either completing online applications or submitting paperwork.

Additional reports have been developed in the VisionDSM system including a Lead Status report that was set up to notate projects where the company has received an inquiry about EES rebates. A flag can also be set up to follow up on these project leads.

**Residential Program.** BHP did not make any additional changes to the defined efficiency criteria for the various measures. The previous changes that were made in the first year were well received by our customers, contractors and vendors.

**Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Program.** BHP also did not make any changes to the C&I Program. However, enhancements to support the Custom Rebate process were completed. These include reference lists such as common fixture wattages. These lists will help to standardize the energy calculations used in the Total Resource Cost tests.

**Future Strategies.** In order to increase residential customer participation in our Energy Efficiency programs, we recommend the following strategies.

**Residential strategies –**

- a. BHP will expand the Energy Based School Education (TRC 1.28) and offer to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade schools in our service territory. We would expect as many as 1,000 students to participate next year.
- b. BHP will add a high efficiency refrigerator rebate program (TRC 1.79). As part of the program, we will require the old refrigerator be traded in and removed from service.
- c. BHP will begin offering home energy inspections to customers not qualified for a certified audit. The energy inspection will include providing the customer with an energy saving kit, references to energy saving tools on our website and a walk through inspection of the customer's home to identify potential energy saving measures.

**Update on Website.** BHP's December 2012 Report mentioned a number of changes associated with their website. An update on the items follows.

1. Black Hills Corporation efforts to upgrade the websites for all of its affiliated utilities has been completed. The goal to make the information easier to access was met. BHP also developed a link to the EES Program through BHPSaveMoney.com. In addition, the website upgrade provided the ability to include the online rebate application, which will allow for better access for our customers.
2. BHP is collaborating on a project with Apogee Interactive to upgrade the Residential On-line Energy Audit Tool with actual billing information and adding a the Commercial On-line product. BHP is currently evaluating the expansion of these products to the other BHC Corp companies which has delayed the project slightly.

### **Education Outreach, Community Events and Trade Ally Promotion**

The marketing efforts associated with the promotion of BHP's EES Program were completed and summarized in Attachment B. The events were well attended by vendors, contractors and customers.

### **Summary**

Black Hills Power expects participation in our Energy Efficiency Solutions program to continue to grow. BHP will continue to identify other opportunities to promote energy efficiency to a larger percentage of our customers.