

Energy Efficiency and Electric Infrastructure in the State of Michigan

The simple choice for energy efficiency.



In any given state, there are a range of stakeholders well-positioned to contribute to the design and delivery of effective energy efficiency programming. This factsheet provides an overview of relevant entities in the state of Michigan, along with highlights of state policies and practices related to energy efficiency. The entity types described and highlighted below are typically involved in electricity and/or energy efficiency related matters in states. Other important stakeholders such as trade associations, industry, and local businesses are not included as they vary significantly from state to state.

Electric Market Overview

Electric Utilities

Privately- and publicly-owned electric utilities generate, transmit, distribute, and/or sell electricity primarily for use by the public. These include investor-owned electric utilities, municipal and state utilities, Federal electric utilities, and rural electric cooperatives.¹ The following summarizes electric utilities in Michigan by type:

- *Investor-Owned Electric Utilities:*
 - Alpena Power Company: <http://www.alpenapower.com/>
 - Consumers Energy: <https://www.consumersenergy.com>
 - Detroit Edison Company (DTE): <https://www.dteenergy.com>
 - Indiana Michigan Power: <https://www.indianamichiganpower.com>
 - Northern States Power Company–Wisconsin (Xcel Energy): <http://www.xcelenergy.com/>
 - Upper Peninsula Power Company: www.uppc.com
 - Wisconsin Electric Power Company: <http://www.we-energies.com/>
 - Wisconsin Public Service Corporation: <http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/>
- *Member-Owned (Electric Cooperative):* Michigan has 10 electric cooperatives
- *Municipally-Owned/Publicly-Owned Utilities:* Michigan has 24 municipally- or publicly-owned electric systems in the state
- *Federal:* US Army Corps of Engineers
- *Other:* 3 Retail Power Marketers; 3 Transmission Organizations; 1 Wholesale Power Marketer; 1 State (Michigan Public Power Agency)²

Electric utility service areas (as available): <http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/electric/map.htm>

Status of Electric Industry Restructuring

Vertically integrated utilities are responsible for generation, transmission and distribution of power to customers. In the 1990's, many states began to unbundle the electricity supply and distribution functions of investor-owned utilities on the theory that only the wires (the fixed network system) constituted a natural monopoly, while the generation of power did not. In states that have undergone restructuring, individual retail customers can choose their supplier but still receive delivery over the power lines of the local utility.³

- Michigan has a restructured electric industry. <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/policies/restructuring/michigan.html>

¹ Source: EIA

² Source: EIA 2013 Form EIA-861 Utility Data (<http://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861/>) and Michigan Public Service Commission (<http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-16377-40486--,00.html>)

³ Source: The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)/Independent System Operator(ISO)

About 60% of U.S. electric power supply is managed by RTOs or ISOs: independent, membership-based organizations that ensure reliability and usually manage the regional electric supply market for wholesale electric power. In the rest of the country, electricity systems are operated by individual utilities or utility holding companies. RTOs/ISOs engage in long-term planning that involves identifying effective, cost-efficient ways to ensure grid reliability and system-wide benefits. Coordination and cooperation between utilities, state PUCs and RTOs/ISOs is often required to advance energy efficiency goals.⁴

- The vast majority Michigan is within the Midcontinent ISO (MISO): <https://www.misoenergy.org>. However, a small southwestern portion of the state, serviced by Indiana Michigan Power is within the PJM Interconnection: <http://www.pjm.com/>.

Utility Oversight and Planning

Utility Oversight

Public utility commissions (PUCs) oversee goals, investments, and ratemaking for investor-owned electric utilities. Most of this oversight is conducted via specific regulatory proceedings. Municipally-owned utilities are governed by a local city council or an elected commission, and member-owned/cooperative utilities are governed by a board elected by members. In a few states, PUCs have oversight over some aspects of municipally and member-owned utility performance such as energy efficiency resource standards.⁵

- Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) regulates 8 investor-owned electric utilities, 9 rural electric distribution cooperatives, and 1 privately owned steam utility in the state. Municipally-owned electric utilities are not subject to the MPSC regulation with the exception of the filing of a renewable energy plan as required by Public Act 295 of 2008. <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-16377-40486--,00.html>

Integrated Resource/Procurement Planning

Integrated resource plans (IRPs) are utility plans for meeting forecasted annual peak and energy demand through a portfolio of supply-side and demand-side resources over a specified future period. As of early 2015, integrated resource planning is required or present in more than 30 states, including most vertically integrated/non restructured states. In states that are restructured, regulated distribution-only utilities may be required to develop procurement plans to service customers that do not choose a competitive retail supplier. Energy efficiency is considered as a demand-side resource but the degree to which it is included in resource/procurement planning is influenced by other factors including policies such as energy efficiency resource standards or requirements that all cost effective energy efficiency be considered.⁶

Public Act 286 only requires an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) be prepared and filed by utilities when filing an application for a Certificates of Necessity with the Commission (i.e., new generation). Applicable IRP guidelines for the CON process can be found in Docket U-15896: http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-16377_56260---,00.html

- Indiana Michigan Power's most recent IRP 2015: <https://www.indianamichiganpower.com/info/projects/IntegratedResourcePlan/>
- Consumers Energy's most recent IRP 2013: <https://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/17429/0003.pdf>

Statewide Planning Process

States sometimes undertake executive or legislatively driven statewide energy planning processes. These plans may be completely independent of utilities or may explicitly engage utilities.

- Michigan 21st Century Energy Plan: <http://www.naseo.org/Data/Sites/1/documents/stateenergyplans/MI.pdf>

⁴ Source: [EPA Energy and Environment Guide to Action](#)

⁵ Sources: [EPA Energy and Environment Guide to Action](#) and RAP

⁶ Source: [EPA Energy and Environment Guide to Action](#)

Energy Efficiency Potential Studies

Energy efficiency potential studies determine the amount of technical, economic, and achievable potential for energy efficiency in a region, state, or utility service territory. Energy efficiency potential studies may be undertaken by state agencies or energy efficiency advocacy organizations, or by utilities as part of or to inform compliance with a regulatory requirement. The following are recent energy efficiency potential studies:

- Michigan Electric and Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Potential Study 2013: http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/electric/workgroups/mi_ee_potential_studyw_appendices.pdf
- Estimating the Energy-Efficiency Potential in the Eastern Interconnection (2013): <http://info.ornl.gov/sites/publications/files/Pub40408.pdf>

Energy Efficiency Policies/Activities

Statewide Clean Energy Policy/Energy Efficiency Energy Resource Standard(s)

Energy efficiency resource standards (EERSs) require obligated parties—usually regulated retail distributors of electricity—to meet a specific portion of their electricity demand through energy efficiency. As of March 2015, 27 states have some type of energy efficiency requirement or goal.⁷

- Michigan has a mandatory energy efficiency resource standard, with a 1% electric savings target and 0.75% natural gas savings target.

Current Utility-Administered Energy Efficiency Programs

Energy efficiency is regarded as an important utility resource with co-benefits that include reducing air pollution, saving customers on utility bills, and creating local jobs. While the majority of large-scale energy efficiency programs are funded by utility ratepayers, program administration may be by the utility, the state, an independently awarded program administrator or a combination of entities. Below are available links related to ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs offered in the state⁸:

- *Program Administrator:* Consumers Energy: <https://www.consumersenergy.com/content.aspx?id=1499>
Most recent program filing: <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/17771/0004.pdf>
ENERGY STAR Partner since 2009
- *Program Administrator:* Detroit Edison Company (DTE): <https://www2.dteenergy.com/>
Most recent program filing: <http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/docs/17762/0003.pdf>
ENERGY STAR Partner since 2008
- *Program Administrator:* Efficiency United (representing 20 utilities opting in to meet their energy efficiency requirements through a third-party administered program): <http://www.efficiencyunited.com/>
Most recent program filing: Each member utility submits a separate filing, but programs are defined collectively. For more information on specific filings, see http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-52495_53472---,00.html
ENERGY STAR Partner since 2011
- *Program Administrator:* Michigan Public Power Agency (20 municipalities): <http://www.mienergysmart.com/>
Most recent program filing: N/A
- *Program Administrator:* Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) (representing 12 cooperative and municipal utilities): <http://www.michigan-energy.org/>
Most recent program filing: N/A

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ For other energy efficiency program offerings in the state, visit: <http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?state=MI>

Other Key Stakeholders

State Air Office:

- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MIDEQ): <http://www.michigan.gov/deg>

State Energy Office:

- Michigan Agency for Energy: <http://www.michigan.gov/energy>
Created in May 2015 to enable better coordination among the Michigan Energy Office, Michigan Public Service Commission, and other energy-related staff/programs.

Consumer Advocate(s)

Most states also have one or more consumer advocacy organizations. Consumer Advocates are often concerned with maintaining low rates and ensuring equitable treatment of all customer classes⁹.

- State of Michigan Attorney General for consumer protection: <http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-17337---,00.html>

Others Public Interest Groups

Groups representing environmental and other public interests are often involved in providing public input or technical expertise during regulatory proceedings or stakeholder processes. The following energy efficiency organizations/nonprofits are active in the state or region:

- Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA): <http://www.mwalliance.org/>
- Michigan Electric Cooperative Association: www.meca.coop/
- Great Plains Institute Midwestern Power Sector Collaborative: <http://www.betterenergy.org/projects/midwestern-power-sector-collaborative>
- Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council: <http://www.mieibc.org/>
- Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association: <http://www.meeca.info/our-association/executive-director/>

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* Revised December 21, 2015. To alert the U.S. EPA of substantial policy changes or program updates, please contact eeaccountmanager@icfi.com

⁹ [EPA Energy and Environment Guide to Action](#)