

State Fair Preview



Home Energy Exhibit to help State Fair visitors make wise energy decisions

Find out if your property is suitable for solar. Play Climate Bingo. Learn how to get your electricity from the sun. See demos of weather-stripping and low-flow faucets. Learn about Zero Net Energy Homes. Get a free Home Energy Guide. Discover sustainable homes. Prevent ice dams.

These are just a few features of the Home Energy Exhibit at this year's Minnesota State Fair, August 25-Sept. 5. The exhibit, located at the Eco Experience on the north end of the fairgrounds, will highlight many ways homeowners can improve the efficiency, comfort and safety of their homes.

From basic energy assessments and energy-saving measures to exploring renewable energy options, the Home Energy Exhibit is an educational exhibit to help citizens with energy-saving home improvements. It is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources in collaboration with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The exhibit is intended to help Minnesotans make informed choices about energy improvements. It will educate fairgoers and show them how conserving energy and investing in energy efficiency and clean energy will pay dividends to the consumer and the environment alike, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, cutting utility bills, and enhancing the quality of life.

Minnesota utilities, state agencies, energy businesses, and nonprofits will provide consumers with engaging displays and features, such as the following:

Solar for Me? Solar specialists will be on hand to help determine how you can get your power from solar—via your own rooftop solar system, community solar, or green power purchasing. The [Minnesota Solar App](#), a LIDAR geomapping tool created by students at the University of Minnesota, will be set up on two large screens to pinpoint your property and tell if your location is suitable for a solar energy system. Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) and Commerce will lead this display.

Home Energy Savings. CenterPoint Energy, Xcel Energy, Center for Energy & Environment, and the Neighborhood Energy Connection will have one of their Home Energy Squad vans onsite to demonstrate energy-savings options, such as weather-stripping doors and conserving water.

Home Performance. The Minnesota Building Performance Association and Commerce will demonstrate opportunities to improve a home's thermal performance by sealing air leaks and proper insulation. From eliminating ice dams to stopping drafts, this exhibit will help homeowners improve the performance of their homes.

Sustainable Homes. The Natural Built Home Store and Best Buy will showcase ENERGY STAR® kitchen and laundry appliances, all within a mockup of a kitchen designed around locally produced recycled/sustainable products.

Efficient Lighting. View an updated lighting display to get the latest on LED lighting. Commerce and CERTs head this display.

Live Wind Map. View current wind patterns and speeds from a live wind map provided by the National Weather Service. And learn what parts of the state are best suited for wind turbines.

Climate Connections Bingo. Answer climate questions throughout the Eco Experience building, learn to fight climate change, and have fun while doing it. When your answers result in a bingo, collect a prize.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, finalists for the first Minnesota [Clean Energy Community Awards](#) will be highlighted at the Home Energy Exhibit. The clean energy actions of communities will be showcased at the Fair, with the awards presented in October.

The Home Energy Exhibit is a partnership of state agencies, utilities, retailers, neighborhood energy groups, and trade organizations, with the shared goal of educating the public about effective approaches to energy improvements and saving energy. Free copies of the [Home Energy Guide](#) (pdf) will be available.

The State Fair's Eco Experience is one the largest environmental events of its kind in the country. Last year's Eco Experience drew about 250,000 visitors. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency manages the Eco Experience. More information is available on this year's [Eco Experience](#).