



PIIC EnergyWise Program Tribal Member Participation Guidelines

Purpose

The PIIC EnergyWise Program helps Tribal Members with homes on the PIIC reservation lower their energy bills while improving home comfort and efficiency. Homeowners who sign up to participate can receive a no-cost home energy audit and energy upgrades for your home. An energy expert will evaluate the home's energy use and identify opportunities to enhance your home's energy efficiency. Then, they will install the PIIC-approved upgrades desired by the homeowner at no cost to you. The goal is to provide long-term savings and support healthier, more sustainable living environments for our community.

1. Eligibility

PIIC Tribal Members with homes on the reservation are eligible to participate. This includes existing homeowners at Lower Island, Mato Circle, and Dakota Circle. Members planning homes on new land assignments at Oyate Place may also participate in several ways:

- Used homes placed on Oyate Place land assignments will be eligible for free energy audits and upgrades, same as existing homes on the reservation.
- New site-built construction or newly manufactured homes placed on Oyate Place land assignments are not eligible for the audit and upgrades, but they will be able to receive rebates for energy efficient equipment, systems, and designs.

Homes that are not on the reservation are not eligible to participate.

2. How to Sign Up

Signing up for the PIIC EnergyWise Program is easy. You can sign up in one of two ways: call Ainai at 612-455-7887 or visit the [website](#).

To participate in Round 2 of the Program, PIIC members must sign up by May 15th, 2024. Members who register in subsequent Rounds will receive Program benefits after Round 1 and 2 projects are awarded and the available budget may be reduced.

After the EnergyWise Program team reviews your completed sign-up form and confirms your eligibility, they will be in contact to schedule your home energy audit visit. The visit takes 2-3 hours, and an adult must be present the whole time.

3. Who Covers Program Costs

There are no costs to participating PIIC members for the energy audits or upgrades. PIIC is able to pay for these projects with funding from EPA (via Assistance Agreement), HUD, Dakota Electric Association, and Xcel Energy.

4. What Can I Expect as a Program Participant

Key steps a PIIC Tribal Member will take, by participating in the PIIC EnergyWise Program, are shown below. *Note: if you do NOT have an existing home and instead plan to purchase/build a home on a new land assignment, you will be eligible for energy rebates rather than an energy audit and upgrades; refer to Q.1 for more information.*



5. What is the Energy Audit Like

A typical home energy audit takes about 2–3 hours. It is non-invasive and shouldn't significantly disrupt your daily activities. It is limited to finding ways to improve your home's energy use. The EnergyWise Program team will examine your home's insulation levels, heating and cooling systems, appliances, and lighting to identify areas where energy efficiency can be improved. Any observations made or work performed at your home by the EnergyWise Program team will be strictly limited to energy-related items necessary for the program and the data collected will be securely maintained.

6. What Happens After the Audit

- a. CEE will prepare a report for you based on the audit, recommending energy upgrades for your home.
- b. Members will decide if they want to complete any/all of the proposed work.
- c. The EnergyWise Program team will complete the work and conduct a final inspection.

7. What Participants May Receive

Existing Homes

Specific energy upgrades recommended for you will be tailored to your home's needs, based on the energy audit findings and will include your input and permission. Upgrades PIIC will approve for your home may include some/all of the following:

- **Core Efficiency measures:** We focus first on the most important and impactful areas of your home that can improve your energy efficiency, reduce your energy costs, and reduce carbon emissions. Examples include adding insulation, upgrading to an efficient heating and cooling system, and upgrading to an efficient water heater. This may include replacing current systems with air source heat pumps.
- **Advanced measures:** If your home already has strong core efficiency measures, we will consider other advanced measures that may benefit your home. Examples may include upgrading to a heat pump dryer, upgrading to an induction-stove, and replacing nonfunctional windows.
- **Health and safety improvement.** We may provide other improvements to your home if we find hazards in the home that could: a) prevent a contractor from safely completing a recommended energy upgrade, b) prevent an energy upgrade's installation/success, or c) create issues in your home because of the new energy upgrade. Examples include

addressing essential energy-related plumbing, electrical, or ventilation issues and mitigating radon and asbestos, if tested for and found to be present in the home.

NOTE: PIIC and the EnergyWise Program team make recommendations and approve upgrades for your home based on the following priorities/criteria: the unique needs of your home, energy upgrades that address essential efficiency, health, and safety first (prior to addressing more advanced work), reducing extraneous waste (such as avoiding the replacement of very new equipment already in the home), and balancing the Program budget to provide the most support to the homes with the greatest energy inefficiencies.

New Site-Built Construction or New Manufactured Homes (Oyate Place)

Through the EnergyWise Program, Members who are building new site-built homes or who are purchasing new manufactured homes are eligible for rebates when energy efficient choices and investments are made during the construction or assembly process. Members who purchase a previously owned manufactured home can participate in the existing homes pathway. Members with new homes can earn a maximum of \$6,000 in rebates. Members with new homes can earn rebates in one of two ways:

Whole Home Certification Rebates:

Whole Home Certifications for New Homes	Rebate
Energy Star Certified Manufactured Homes or Site Built Homes	\$6,000
DOE Zero Energy Ready Site Built Homes	\$6,000

- If the Whole Home Certificate is earned, the home is not eligible to receive the project-based rebates.
- Members can reach out the New Homes Team at the Center for Energy and Environment for assistance earning these certificates.

Project Based Rebates:

Heating and Cooling	Required Specifications	Rebate
High Efficiency Furnace (Gas)	At least 96% AFUE	\$500
Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump (Electric)	at least 8.1 HSPF2	\$5,000
Air Source Heat Pump (Electric)	at least 7.5 HSPF2	\$3,000
Water Heating	Required Specifications	Rebate
Heat Pump Water Heater (Electric)	Energy Star rated or AHRI listed	\$500
Appliances – Electric Only		
Energy Star Clothes Washer	Energy Star rated	\$50
Energy Star Clothes Dryer	Energy Star rated	\$50
Energy Star Refrigerator	Energy Star rated	\$50
Energy Star Induction Stove	Energy Star rated	\$200

Project Based Rebates are available to:

The owners of new site-built homes when the project is completed by a contractor during construction or when the owner can demonstrate that they've purchased qualifying Energy Star Appliances for their new home.

The owners of newly assembled manufactured homes when they complete an eligible project or install an eligible Energy Star appliance during the assembly process.

Applications for the Project Based rebates can be found [online](#).

8. Participating Member Responsibilities

When participating in the EnergyWise Program, PIIC Tribal Members will agree to:

- Allow EnergyWise Program team access the home for up to 3 hours on the day of the energy audit; sign required forms prior to start of visit.
- Spend approximately 15-30 minutes discussing audit results with EnergyWise Program team within approximately two weeks after the audit.

If Tribal Members want to proceed with any of the energy upgrades recommended during the audit, you will also agree to:

- Accommodate a few visits to the home to enable environmental testing (radon, etc.) if required, and up to five brief contractor visits to secure firm quotes for the work.
- Sign a Task Order to agree to the energy upgrade projects.
- Allow contractors to access the home to complete the energy upgrades.

- Allow the EnergyWise Program team to access the home for a final quality assurance inspection within two weeks after final project completion.
- Sign a completion form and provide feedback on your program experience.
- Operate and maintain the installed equipment/systems on an ongoing basis (up to the homeowner).

9. Maintaining New Energy Equipment/Systems

PIIC members participating in the PIIC EnergyWise Program will be responsible for operating and maintaining installed energy equipment and systems once the project work is complete and ownership/warranties are transferred to the homeowner. Much of the equipment/systems will come with standard warranties. Any future maintenance/fixes not covered under the warranties and that may arise after the projects are installed and verified through a quality assurance inspection shall be the responsibility of the homeowner. For example, if a new hot water heater is installed, annual equipment tune-ups are the responsibility of the homeowner.

10. The PIIC EnergyWise Program Team

PIIC has hired the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to deliver the PIIC EnergyWise Program, including performing home energy audits and overseeing the implementation of energy upgrades in PIIC member homes. CEE has nearly fifty years of experience performing this work for many other homes and communities across Minnesota, including delivering a similar energy audit program for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. They are energy experts and held to high industry standards for their work performance.