

Annual Statement of the Low-Income Public Benefits Programs

Your electric bill includes a monthly fee for the Public Benefits Fund, which was established to help reduce energy use in Wisconsin. This fee appeared on your electric bill as a “low income assistance fee.” During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008, Madison Gas and Electric provided a total of \$4,168,628 from residential and nonresidential customers in support of Public Benefits programs.

Home Energy Plus programs helped families and individuals with limited incomes throughout the state of Wisconsin. Managed by the Department of Administration, the programs were delivered to eligible households through county health and social services agencies, community action agencies, tribal governments and other nonprofit organizations. The ultimate goal of all low-income energy programs was to make the households energy self-sufficient; that is, to provide services that help households meet their energy costs on an ongoing basis without sacrificing other necessities.

Assistance with electric bills

Electric assistance is a one-time annual payment intended to pay a portion of a household’s electric costs. The amount of the benefit is dependent on the household income, size of the household and electric costs incurred by the household.

(continued on reverse)

Crisis assistance

Crisis assistance was available to eligible state residents who were subject to a disconnection of their utility service or who were nearly out of heating fuel and did not have any way to pay for the fuel or fuel bill. Crisis assistance provided both emergency services and proactive services. Emergency services helped during the heating season (Oct. 1 through May 15) by purchasing heating fuel for a household, providing a warm place for a customer to stay for a few days, providing furnace repair/replacement or taking other actions that helped in a heating emergency.

Weatherization services

Weatherization services helped reduce home energy costs by reducing home energy consumption. This made homes more comfortable—warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. The reduction in consumption reduced the customer costs and also reduced overall consumption, which benefited all customers. Common weatherization services included attic and side-wall insulation, reducing air leakage into and out of the home, heating system repair or replacement, refrigerator and freezer replacement, energy-efficient light-bulbs and water-saving measures.

Wisconsin residents who wish to learn more about Home Energy Plus or who wish to find out if they qualify are encouraged to call toll-free 1-866-432-8947 or visit www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov.

