

DTE IRP SAMPLE TALKING POINTS

Benefits of Energy Efficiency

- Energy efficiency is one of the cleanest and cheapest resources and considered as a “first fuel.” It is recognized as the most cost effective means to address several energy related issues including energy security, social and economic development, and climate change.
- Helps Michigan reach its energy savings and carbon-reduction goals
- Saves energy by reducing overall energy use in all households
- Helps utilities meet the annual electric and gas savings targets established by Michigan’s Clean, Renewable, and Efficient Energy Act
- By reducing the need for additional power plants, energy efficiency helps in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dealing with climate change.
- Energy efficiency avoids the reserve capacity needed for peak consumption.
- Energy efficiency should be a priority. It should be the first option that is exhausted before moving on to others, period.

Benefits of Renewable Energy

- Can significantly reduce health issues caused by pollution from coal-fired power plants
- Can decrease carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which can slow the impacts of climate change
- Can create new renewable energy jobs in Michigan
- Clean, renewable energy, like wind and solar, is now cheaper than coal and cost-competitive with natural gas, according to a report by Lazard Investment Bank.
- More effort should be put towards renewable energy resources to ensure a stable energy supply, as opposed to volatility in fossil fuel markets.
- Clean, renewable energy is getting cheaper and more reliable by the day, thanks to the falling prices of battery storage, which eliminates the “intermittency” argument against wind and solar.
- Expanding clean, renewable energy will reduce dangerous pollution and protect the health of Michigan Families and protect land, air, and Great Lakes.

DTE’s Failures and What They Should Do

- DTE should expand energy efficiency in its integrated resource plan (IRP) to rein in rising electricity costs and save customers money, especially low-income customers who face a higher energy burden.

- DTE will negatively impact all their customers through higher prices from power plant investment. But customers living in low-income communities will be hit the hardest, both via high energy bills and exposure to pollution.
- DTE should maximize the amount of clean energy in its plan because pollution from power plants is linked to many health problems such as asthma, lung and heart disease, birth defects, low birth weight, and many more.
- Michigan has the highest electricity cost in the Midwest, so DTE should reduce electricity costs by expanding investments in energy efficiency.
- DTE's IRP should include greater investments in clean, renewable energy, like wind and solar, to protect ratepayers against the price volatility of natural gas.
- With Michigan retiring a record number of coal-fired power plants, DTE has a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for MI's clean energy future.
- DTE's IRP tends to treat carbon emissions as an afterthought and an expense issue, instead of a priority issue that needs to be addressed. More attention should be directed towards carbon emissions and climate change.
- DTE should invest in clean energy which creates new jobs, makes communities healthier, and slows the impacts of climate change.