

## Bismarck Public School System Earns Revenue

for Helping the Grid Through MDU's Demand Response Resources Program

Earnings are helping fund operational enhancement projects.

Public school systems face a number of economic challenges that can impact their ability to provide a stellar education experience to the students. High energy spends that are necessary to maintain student and faculty comfort on cold and hot days are one of them.

But the Bismarck Public School system (BPS) has found a way to earn extra revenue AND help stabilize energy prices for their fellow ratepayers in the community by participating in Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) Company's Demand Response Resources program. The school system earns revenue from MDU for using less energy when electric consumption on MDU's grid is approaching its peak.

### How does the Bismarck Public School System Participate in MDU's Demand Response Resource Program?

The school system has twelve facilities enrolled in MDU's program—two high schools, six elementary schools, three middle schools, and one educational center.

On days when the grid is approaching peak usage, MDU calls on the school system to reduce its electric consumption at the enrolled facilities according to a predetermined curtailment plan the school has established with CPower, the company MDU has chosen to facilitate its demand response program.

For helping lower peak usage on the grid, BPS receives capacity and energy payments from MDU which vary depending on how much the system reduced its energy consumption and for how long. (see reverse for a description of the program's payments.)



*“How can you afford not to do this program? It does take some work, but how would you justify to your school board and taxpayers that you are not participating?”*

*—Darin Scherr, Business and Operations Manager for Bismarck Public Schools*

### What is the operational impact of participating in MDU's program?

Curtailing for a demand response event does NOT mean shutting off power completely at a facility. CPower specializes in assessing facilities and working with organizations to develop easy-to-follow curtailment plans that reduce load in ways that do not drastically impact the facility's day-to-day operation.

For BPS, the operational impact of participating in the program has been minimal since events typically take place in the summer and winter at times that nicely align with the school year.

BPS reports that participation in the program has had “no impact on students or faculty.”

Since it began participating in 2014, BPS has been reducing load manually by turning off breakers at the electrical panel.

They are using the earnings from the program to fund operational projects such as upgrading air handlers or installing building management systems that will allow them to enhance their program participation through automation.

# Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Demand Response Resources Program

Montana-Dakota has partnered with CPower to offer an demand response program to Montana-Dakota’s electric commercial and industrial customers in the states of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The program provides businesses the opportunity to earn revenue by agreeing to reduce electricity use in response to market conditions when called on by Montana-Dakota.

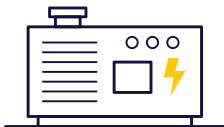
Scenario	Capacity Payments	Energy Payments
Summer and winter participation	\$35/kW-Year	\$0.21/kWh for the first four hours of an event up to 50 hours in the current program year (only applicable to actual events)

**Example:** A customer enrolled in the program at 500 kW who participates in both summer and winter one-hour tests at 100% performance will earn **\$17,500** in capacity payments.

If there were an actual event that lasted 4 hours, you would earn **\$420** in energy payments.\*

\*Assumes 500 kWh load drop per hour

## Qualified and permitted backup generation can be used in the MDU Program



GENERATOR

- Participants must have at least 25 kW of curtailable load
- Able to successfully participate in a one-hour summer and winter test
- Customers participate year-round, both a summer and winter season
- If using back-up generation, generators must meet federal qualifications (CPower can help).

*“The professionals at CPower are here to work with you to develop a customized curtailment plan to ensure your success in the program and make it easy for your schools to participate.”*

**Larry Oswald**

Director Of Business Development & Energy Services at Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

**Contact CPower’s MDU team to learn more at 844-CPOWER1 (844-276-9371).**

To begin the process of evaluating how the program can benefit your business fill out the Letter of Authorization (LOA) and email it to [energyrebates@mdu.com](mailto:energyrebates@mdu.com).