

DOE finalizes efficiency standards for pool pumps and commercial water heaters, proposes boiler rules

The three efficiency rules could save consumers more than \$1 billion in utility bills every year, the agency said.

Dive Brief:

- The U.S Department of Energy on Friday finalized new [energy efficiency standards for commercial water heaters](#) and [dedicated pool-pump motors](#), and [proposed new standards for residential boilers](#).
- The combined trio of efficiency rules could save consumers more than \$1 billion in utility bills every year, DOE said.

Dive Insight:

The Biden administration has rolled out several efficiency actions in the last six months, including [proposed rules for washing machines, refrigerators](#) and [residential water heaters](#), and [a final rule covering electric motors](#).

In total, DOE said it has issued proposed or final efficiency standards for 21 product categories so far this year. “This Administration remains laser-focused on promoting innovation that saves Americans money,” Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said in a statement. “We’ll continue to work with our industry partners to improve consumers’ options and increase the reliability and performance of household appliances and critical commercial and industrial products.”

The final rule for commercial water heaters will save domestic businesses approximately \$149 million annually on energy costs, DOE estimates, while the final pool-pump and proposed standards for residential boilers will save consumers about \$926 million per year on their utility bills.



The efficiency standards for commercial water heaters were last updated in 2003, DOE noted. The new rules adopt a performance standard “that will require condensing technology for new models starting in 2026,” the agency said. Over 30 years, the rule is expected to result in energy savings of 5.6% relative to products currently on the market.

For pool-pump motors, DOE said once compliance is required “in the next 2 to 4 years” consumers will save nearly \$14 billion on their utility bills over the following three decades.

The proposed rules for consumer boilers would reduce energy costs by \$188 million annually, DOE said. The most common gas-fired hot water boilers would essentially be required to meet the new standards with modern condensing technology. The agency wants the new rules to come into effect in 2029 and estimates consumers will save \$3.1 billion in utility bills over 30 years.

DOE Announces Natural Gas is 3.3 Times More Affordable Than Electricity

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that natural gas is 3.3 times more affordable than electricity and significantly more affordable than several other residential energy sources for the same amount of energy delivered. The [2023 Representative Average Unit Costs of Five Residential Energy Sources](#) says:

“America’s natural gas is critical to American and global energy security,” said American Gas Association (AGA) President and CEO Karen Harbert. “DOE’s analysis confirms the very clear and substantial cost-advantage of natural gas. Our nation’s domestic abundance of natural gas means American customers pay a fraction of what customers pay for other energy sources here at home and see significant savings compared to energy costs globally. Our industry invests \$91 million every day to ensure our vast modern delivery infrastructure provides the reliability Americans expect.”

AGA [analysis](#) shows that households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying save

an average of \$1,068 per year compared to homes using electricity for those applications. Natural gas is projected to be half to one-third the price of other fuels through 2050. This affordability is enhanced by successes in energy efficiency. The typical residential natural gas consumer has cut their average fuel use by half since 1970, even as homes have become larger. This is the result of steady improvements in building and appliance energy efficiency, and the positive impacts of gas utility energy efficiency programs, and other measures that have contributed to steady improvements in energy efficiency.

Natural Gas	\$13.97
No. 2 Heating Oil	\$28.36
Propane	\$32.62
Kerosene	\$33.52
Electricity	\$46.19

“Natural gas is responsible for 61 percent of cumulative CO2 emissions reductions from the U.S. power sector since 2005, according to other analysis from the Energy Information Administration.” Harbert said. “This data from DOE underscores how crucial natural gas is for reducing emissions while keeping prices affordable for customers and preserving lifesaving reliability.”

Blue Flame Lodge – Exciting new Features and Exhibitors

Record numbers of people have been going through the Blue Flame Lodge this year.

Thank you to MN Energy Resources, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy for contributing give-aways for people walking through the door. To complement the new Water Bottle Filler, Blue Flame Lodge purchased water bottles to give away to thirsty fair-goers.

New features at the Lodge include a gas table; a gas water/fire bowl; a hot tub and gas pool water heater from Superior Landscape & Irrigation. JJ Morgan contributed to the new front with two Bromic Heaters to add a warm touch around the hot tub.

One of the most significant changes to the Lodge this year was the “west wing”. Service Today! put a lot of time, money and resources into improving that space in addition to installing three new air conditioners in the Lodge. Thank you!



Gopher State One Call continues to give away the treasured and much sought-after “yard stick”. They haven’t run out of yard sticks.....yet.

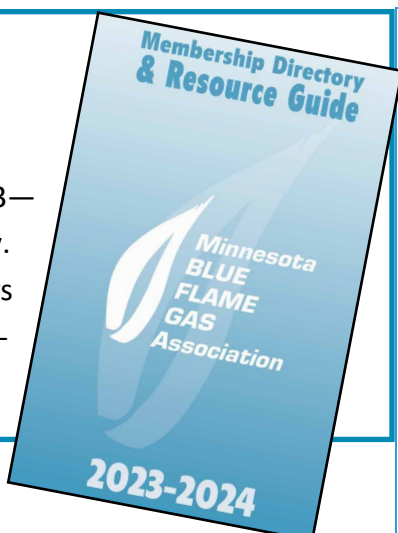
The Bryant exhibit had Nordie come visit in person as well as in cardboard with Wild player Marcus Foligno. Cardboard Marcus took a walk around the Fair, but hopefully will make his way back to the Lodge.

The Water Bottle Filler continues to be a draw to the Lodge with over 7000 “bottles saved” – that’s a lot of people walking through the doors.

Stay tuned for a State Fair Blue Flame wrap up in the following weeks.

Membership Directory

Watch you mail for the 2023—2024 Membership Directory. It's being sent to the printers and should hit your mailboxes shortly.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 19, 2023

Blue Flame Fishing Event — Mille Lacs Lake

Thursday, June 13, 2023

Blue Flame Golf Event — Cannon Golf Club

Thursday, Aug. 22-Labor Day, Monday Sept. 2, 2024

Blue Flame Lodge at the MN State Fair

2023 Blue Flame Board of Directors

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Blue Flame Fishing Event September 19, 2023

Register Now and Learn about Sponsorship Opportunities — BLUEFLAME.ORG

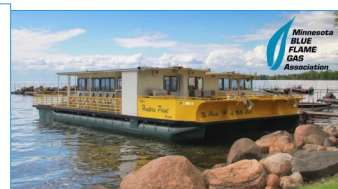
The 2023 Blue Flame Fishing Event is a great opportunity to get additional exposure to colleagues.

Blue Flame Sponsorship Opportunities
Support Blue Flame while promoting your company through our sponsorship options.

Walleye Sponsor \$2,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 - Three Person Guided Boat • Box Lunches and Dinner for Six • Signage at the Event • Inclusion in Social Media Posts • Logo on Electronic Promotional Pieces • Listing on Printed Materials 	Northern Sponsor \$1,200 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - Three Person Guided Boat • Box Lunches and Dinner for Three • Signage at the Event • Inclusion in Social Media Posts • Logo on Electronic Promotional Pieces • Listing on Printed Materials
Muskie Sponsor \$1,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Spots on the Launch • Box Lunches and Dinner for Three • Signage at the Event • Inclusion in Social Media Posts • Logo on Electronic Promotional Pieces • Listing on Printed Materials 	Bait Sponsor \$600 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage on Box Lunches and at Dinner • Logo on T-shirt Bags • Inclusion in Social Media Posts • Logo on Electronic Promotional Pieces • Listing on Printed Material

Raffle Prize Opportunity
Consider bringing an item or cash to donate as a prize to the event
• Recognition at the Event

For more sponsorship information contact
Annette Henkel at (612) 720-7681 or ahenkel@blueflame.org



Blue Flame Fishing Event Sponsorships

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

NITTI'S HUNTER POINT RESORT —
MILLE LACS LAKE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Registration is Open!

To register or learn more about sponsorships visit us at:
www.blueflame.org

Quote of the Quarter

"September tries its best to have us forget summer."

— BERNARD WILLIAMS

Let us know...

If you have something to submit or an address change.

If you would like to submit information to be considered for the next member newsletter or have an address change, contact Annette at ahenkel@blueflame.org



Matt Haley
Vice President
FrontierEnergy, Inc.
MHaley@FrontierEnergy.com
612.598.8743

7935 Stone Creek Dr. Suite 140 | Chanhassen MN 55317 | FrontierEnergy.com



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c: 651.602.6663 o: 612.363.3200

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PO Box 306
Bird Island, MN 55310-0306
P: (320) 365-4400
E: mjs@sheehansgas.com
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3460 Washington Drive #210
Eagan, MN 55122

c. 612.720.7681
ahenkel@blueflame.org
www.blueflame.org

www.blueflame.org

ahenkel@blueflame.org