

## **As Electric Rates Soar Nationwide, Dover Provides Expert Help for Customers to Spend Less!**

By Councilman Gerald Rocha, Utility Committee Chairman

As electric rates surge across the United States, residents of Dover, Delaware, are finding relief through innovative programs aimed at reducing energy consumption and costs. With homes in Dover averaging 30 to 40 years in age, many residents are grappling with energy inefficiencies that significantly increase their monthly bills. To address these challenges, the City of Dover Electric Department, in partnership with the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) is proud to announce its participation in the Efficiency Smart Program. The Efficiency Smart Program is an initiative designed to help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes, particularly those that are older and may not have modern energy-saving features. This program provides various services aimed at lowering energy consumption and costs for participants.

The problem of high energy usage is particularly acute among the lower economic classes, who often reside in older homes lacking modern energy-efficient systems. These households face unique challenges as the aging infrastructure struggles to maintain comfortable temperatures year-round, resulting in excessive energy consumption for heating and cooling. The issue is not isolated to Dover; it is a national concern affecting many communities across the United States.

The City of Dover's Electric Department recognizes the pressing need for supporting residents in navigating this energy landscape. The Efficiency Smart Program will provide customers with access to expert evaluations of their homes. Residents can request these evaluations at no cost, allowing trained professionals to assess energy usage patterns and identify potential areas for improvement. The program is designed to offer *no- or low-cost* solutions tailored to the specific needs of each household, empowering residents to take control of their energy bills.

Customers participating in the program can expect recommendations that may include upgrading insulation, sealing drafts, or investing in more efficient heating and cooling systems. These improvements not only promise to lower electric bills but also enhance the overall comfort and livability of homes, which have often been left behind in the wake of technological advancements.

“By tapping into the expertise offered through the Efficiency Smart Program, we aim to provide our residents with practical solutions that make a tangible difference in their everyday lives,” said Paul Waddell, City of Dover Electric Director. “This initiative represents a crucial step toward modernizing our approach to energy efficiency while easing the financial burden on families in our community.”

While the Efficiency Smart Program can offer significant improvements at the household level, the City of Dover Electric Department emphasizes that broader systemic changes are also necessary. The electric grid, much like many of the homes it services, requires design, maintenance, and modernization to meet the evolving demands of energy consumption.

As energy rates continue to climb, the need for programs like Efficiency Smart becomes increasingly critical. Residents can take advantage of these services now more than ever, utilizing expert insights to improve household efficiency and achieve notable reductions in their electric bills.

In a time when every dollar counts, the City of Dover stands firm in its commitment to providing actionable, effective solutions for its residents, ensuring they are not only able to cope with soaring energy prices but thrive amid them. By investing in energy efficiency, Dover is fostering a more sustainable future for all, paving the way for a community that prioritizes both economic and environmental well-being.

For residents interested in participating in the Efficiency Smart Program, more information can be obtained by contacting the Dover Electric Department directly at 302-736-7070, marking an opportunity to invest in the future right from their homes. Please feel free to visit [www.energysmart.org/dover-delaware](http://www.energysmart.org/dover-delaware) for more information.