

Energizing Equity Grand Rapids

Host Partners: n/a; informal collaboration with Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4), Messiah Missionary Baptist



You're Invited!

Energizing Equity: Grand Rapids

A Free Community Event

Join Consumers Energy and local partners to talk about making energy safer, cleaner, more reliable and affordable for everyone.



Share Your Voice



Giveaways



Free Food



Info & Resources

November 6, 2025

The 1530 – 1530 Madison Ave SE, Grand Rapids

5–6 PM: Community Open House

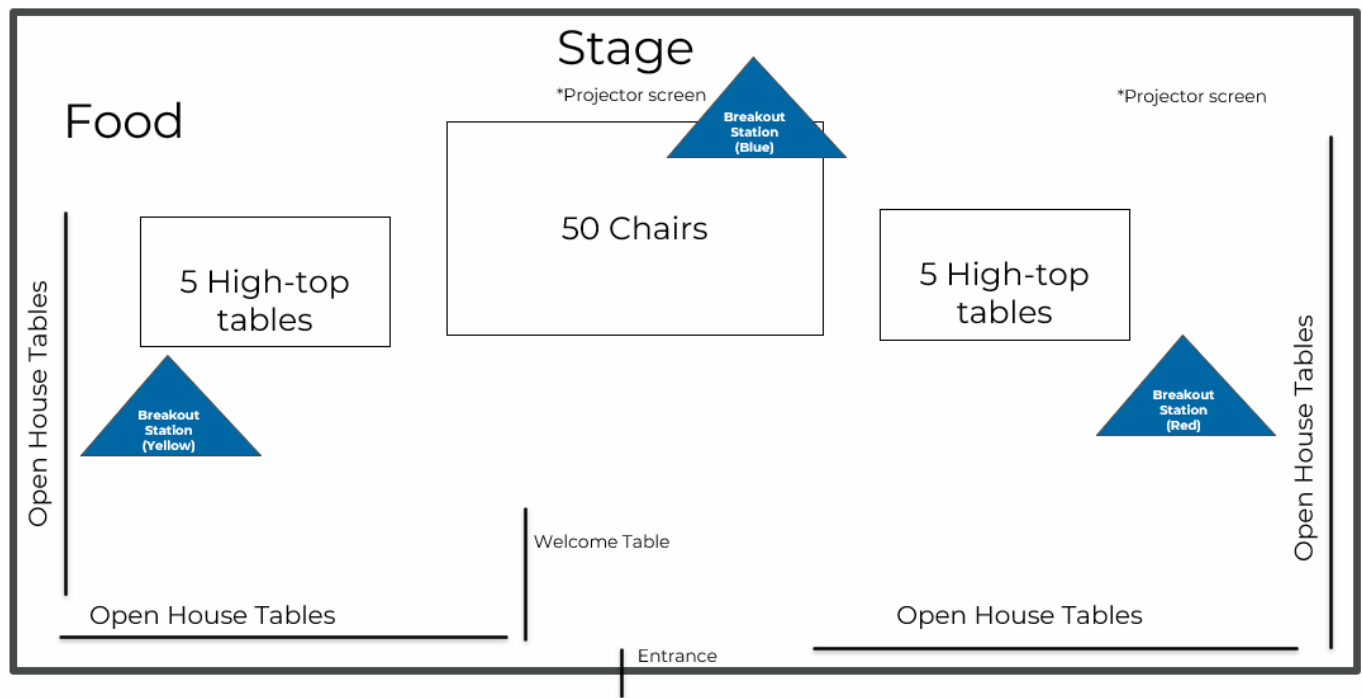
6–7:30 PM: Interactive Workshop



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learn more

Consumers Energy

Count on Us®



11/6 Grand Rapids Venue Arrangement (The 1530)

CMS Energizing Equity Grand Rapids

Run of Show

Date	Time	Activity	Contact	Notes
Thursday, November 6, 2025	3:00 PM	Set-up begins: - CMS information spanning safe, reliable, affordable, clean, equitable - Community organizations		CMS information/groups: sustainability, EWR, customer programs, renewables/IRP content, reliability roadmap, Corporate Giving/Philanthropy, safety Community groups: CLEAResult, City of Grand Rapids, C4, Community Action, United Way, Home Repair Services, NAACP, Urban League, Project Green
	5:00 PM	Open House begins - Explore tables, network, engage		Logistics: - Snacks/food available

	6:00 PM	Open house concludes - Shift to context setting panel		CE introduces opening remarks
	6:05 PM	Panel: What does Energy and Environmental Justice mean for Grand Rapids?		Consumers Energy facilitates; panel sets context for breakout dialogue
		Facilitator:	Angela Thompkins	
		C4, NAACP:	Kareem Scales	
		C4:	Synia Jordan	
		C4:	Ned Andree	
		Kent County Essential Needs Task Force:	Wende Randall	
	6:30 PM	Panel concludes *Shift to table breakouts		CE set context for table discussions
	6:35 PM	Table Led Discussions (15 minutes at each table, rotations) <u>Tables:</u> 1) IRP feedback 2) Affordability/Reliability 3) Community Presence	<u>Table Reps:</u> 1) Steve McLean (CE) and Kristen Trovillion 2) Doug Chapel (CE) 3) Katrina Springer-Terry and Nate Henschel (CE)	<u>Supplies Needed:</u> Sticky notes, flip charts, markers 15 minutes per table
	7:30 PM	Event Concludes Next Steps		Consumers Energy closing remarks
	8:00 PM	Finish clean-up/take down Table breakdown starts at 6PM		

External Event Promotions

Channel	Content	Date
Local partner networks - Messiah Missionary Baptist - Community Collaborative on Climate Change (C4) - Urban League - NAACP - Grand Rapids government officials	Flyer	10/14/25
Personalized invitations	Flyer	10/14/25
Consumers Energy website (Energy Supply and Community)	Digital	10/17/25
Consumers Energy Facebook event, with paid push	Digital	10/13/25
MPSC outreach team	Digital	10/24/25
Media plan: Fox 17 MLive WCSG WKTV WGVU Wood Radio Wood TV Crains Grand Rapids WZZM	Digital	10/23/25
Grassroots promotions: Messiah Trunk or Treat, Messiah Sunday service, community leaders distributed to GR public schools and their contact lists, etc.	Flyer	10/31/25

Breakout Station Posters

Station #1



Grand Rapids

Investing in Reliability: Our Distribution System Plan (DSP)



You count on **reliable** electricity in your day-to-day life, not just during severe weather. Consumers Energy is committed to delivering on this promise in **all weather conditions**.

Our 2026 DSP will expand our commitment to improved reliability in all weather conditions – **contact us** with your questions and thoughts at DSP2026@cmsenergy.com



Components of our reliability investments:

- **Tree clearing** frequency (adjust from a 7-year to a 5-year cycle)
- Expanding use of **Underground** lines
- System **repairs and upgrades**, stronger equipment for high outage areas



NEW Vulnerable Communities Resiliency Plan:

- Focused system hardening for under resourced communities
- Ensure improved reliability in all weather conditions

Count on Us to deliver Safe, Affordable, **Reliable**, Clean, and Equitable energy service

Commitment to Affordability



WINTER PREP

- Home **heating** costs account for about **30%** of customers' **energy bills**
- **Water heaters** account for almost **15%**
- It's important to know your **monthly bill** is directly tied to **energy use**. The more natural gas and/or electricity you use, the higher your bill could be, and **home weatherization** is a key component. Tips to save:
 - Get your heating system **tuned up and inspected** by a professional.
 - Eliminate sneaky drafts with **insulation, weather strips and sealants** for doors and windows.
 - Lighten the load when everyone's home with **smart power strips** that reduce energy use.
- Seniors and income-qualified customers can enroll in the **Winter Protection Plan** between November 1 and March 31 to prevent shut off.

Manage and Budget

- Home Energy Analysis:** See how your home uses energy with our free assessment. Then, enjoy free product upgrades and personal recommendations and start saving energy and money.
- Smart Thermostat Program:** Enroll your smart thermostat and earn \$50 just for signing up, plus another \$25 at the end of each season.
- Select Your Due Date:** Your bill, your due date, your choice.
- Budget Plan:** Turn your past energy use and estimated weather factors into consistent monthly bills.
- Payment arrangements:** Pay an initial down payment towards your balance, then pay the remaining on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis.
- Shut-Off Protection Plan:** Year-round protection from service shut off for eligible customers with on-time monthly payments.

Money Back

- Appliance Recycling:** Recycle your old working fridge and receive a \$50 rebate. We'll come pick it up!
- Rebates:** Receive rebates for ENERGY STAR® appliance, AC and furnace tune-up and replacement, insulation, window products and more.
- Electric Vehicles:** Earn up to \$620 in home charging rebates and cash back with PowerMDrive when you install a qualified charger and agree to charge at home overnight.

Get Payment Assistance

- CARE Program:** Enjoy consistent monthly payments and program-funded support for 24 months to help you get caught up.
- State Emergency Relief:** One-time assistance up to \$600 for electric and/or natural gas for income-qualified customers.



See your unique recommendations with **My Personalized Offerings**.



View and track your energy use with the **Energy Dashboard**.



Stack instant rebates on top of already low prices when you shop products at our **Online Store**.

Count on Us to deliver Safe, **Affordable**, Reliable, Clean, and Equitable energy service



Grand Rapids

Integrated Resource Plan **What does this mean for Consumers Energy?**

SINCE 2015

We have been adding renewable energy - through wind and solar - to our electric supply portfolio

SINCE 2018

Our Electric Supply Roadmap has been focused on cleaner and more renewable supply portfolio

2026

Consumers Energy will file a new long-term integrated resource plan

MICHIGAN'S CLEAN ENERGY LAW

60% Renewable by 2035 | 100% Clean by 2040



Renewable Portfolio Standard

Requires 15% of energy to be from renewable sources until 2029, ≥50% by 2030, and ≥ 60% by 2035

RPS



Clean Energy Standard

Requires ≥ 80% of energy to be from clean sources by 2035 and 100% by 2040

CES



Energy Storage Mandate

Requires ≥ 2,500 MWs of new energy storage in Michigan. CE's share is expected to be 820 MWs

COMPLIMENTED BY NEW LAWS & WHAT CUSTOMERS AND INVESTORS ARE ASKING FOR

Electric Supply Roadmap

Leading Michigan's Energy Future

The Strength of Our Supply Strategy

A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO

Having a range of assets in our electric supply portfolio will allow us to be affordable and reliable for our customers, while being clean and renewable.

THE DIVERSITY OF OUR PORTFOLIO IS OUR STRENGTH.



Natural Gas



Solar



Clean Baseload



Wind



Hydros



Battery Storage



Grand Rapids

How we have engaged looking back...



Looking forward...

- What are the needs of your community?
- What barriers do you see in experiencing community impact benefits?
- How would you like to see us show up differently in the community?
- Is there anything we should keep doing?

Event Logistics Summary

- Over 100 community members
- Surveys indicated 91% favorability; 94% attended because of grassroots event promotion through Messiah Missionary Baptist, along with CE representatives Katrina Springer-Terry and Nate Henschel
- 5 Home Energy Analysis or HN sign-ups, with 5 to be scheduled post event and CLEAResult also received invitations from attendees for future local events (leads).
- 17 coworkers supported the event
- Loud during breakout discussions all being in the same room; classroom with seats may have fit better
- Great food

Panel Takeaways

- Air quality, health impacts from historic industrial practices have disproportionately impacted communities of color
- Strong emphasis on discontinuing use of fossil fuels, transitioning to renewable, investing in Virtual Power Plants for greater health and affordability outcomes
- Recommendation for CE to host a youth group or youth council; bring community to the table at each stage of the process
- Fixed income reconciliation with rate increases; inequitably impacting. Panelists emphasized individual accountability for home updates, weatherization, audits, and thermometer practices to own their usage/bill
- Policy and pricing evolution, avoid exceptions policy should be right from the start; focus area (Wende Randall)
- Perception that higher rates are charged to communities of color; addressed demographics are not a factor in the rates setting process, other panelists addressed housing stock quality as a primary driver of cost differences, result of historic redlining
- The tree canopy in various economic neighborhoods, age of housing and building envelope opportunities were interesting to me as well.

Breakout Discussion Themes

IRP

- Renewable generation, distributed generation/virtual power plant high interest
- Interest in all electric to decrease fossil fuel use
- Grassroots micro investment in generation (ownership, community solar)
- Include community in the process, act on feedback
- Lower bills for fixed income, disabled community; people work from home and can't reduce during peak rates; electric shutoff protection in the winter for seniors, medically vulnerable (awareness gap)
- Barriers:
 - Access to CE representatives; accessible communication from trusted partners
 - Information on company contractors; transparency on who they are and what they do; process to become contractor
 - Landlord won't invest in energy efficiency

- Perceived costs to energy efficiency programs (misinformation? Access gaps?)
- Budget bill plan still not affordable; equity for fixed income customers
 - Perceived bill reduction from batteries, renewables

Distributed System Plan (DSP)

- Grassroots community micro investing platform; low entry, for example \$10/month
- Access to underground lines
- Access to tree trim services, balancing trim needs with environmental benefits
- Outage plan for 5-years
- Barriers:
 - Misinformation, lack of awareness/education (access)
 - Outage priorities, churches critical for outages; medically vulnerable need greater prioritization
 - Debris in customer yards from trimming
- Ideas to move beyond barriers:
 - Term limits, politicians ill informed
 - Lobbies too powerful, citizen driven boards and local community councils
 - Special programs and information centers offered by churches and food pantries for high bills, shutoffs, etc.; special rates for non-profits, churches
 - Outage centers for oxygen dependent, medically vulnerable
 - Transparency on tree trim schedule
 - More micro grids, solar and battery

Community:

- Supplier diversity – 11k tree trimmers but not one black company
- Pollution reduction
- Access to energy audits; bill equity for disabilities, fixed income customers. Increase income limits to open access to helping neighbors, wrap-around services
- Protecting electricity dependent for medical needs; support programs accessing generators for back-up power
 - Establish community spaces to go when power is out, especially for life sustaining equipment situations
 - Support for those on shutoff notice that are on life sustaining equipment or disabled
- Basic needs
 - Support for single mothers; food, daycare, dental
 - Continue to support food insecurity through the Foundation
- Education: climate change, why tree access matters
- Community space to have more consistent interaction and discussions, more frequent
 - Grow community council in every city and rural district; bring community into the process to inform plans and proceed together