

## UTILITY PARTNERS FORUM December 10, 2025



### HOUSEKEEPING





### THIS WEBINAR IS BEING RECORDED



Videos are automatically turned off, but feel free to come on camera at any time



Microphones are automatically muted, but feel free to unmute at any time



Use Q&A for questions you have throughout the presentation or raise hand

### AGENDA



#### Welcome

Matt Bromley, Utility Relations Director

#### **2026 Program Preview**

Hayley Gigous, Residential Portfolio Manager Leah Maggio, Business Portfolio Manager

#### **2026 Trainings**

Leah Maggio, Business Portfolio Manager

#### Future Focus – Pilots, Research & Development

Kane Poad, Pilots Manager

### AGENDA CONT.



#### **Marketing and Public Relations**

Chris Schultz-Buechner, Senior Communications Director

#### **Resources for Utilities**

Matt Bromley and Jennie Brooks, Utility Relations

#### Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates Update

Dylan Crye, IRA Home Energy Rebates Program Manager

#### **Questions / Discussion**

## 2026 PROGRAM PREVIEW



## RESIDENTIAL 2026 UPDATES







## Online Marketplace and Free Packs

- Continuing free shipping on all orders
- Testing a "build-your-own" Pack option
- New Pack configurations:
  - Kitchen
  - Bathroom
  - Family Room
- New Online Marketplace products:
  - Spray foam insulation
  - Cellular shades



### RESIDENTIAL 2026 UPDATES







## **HVAC** and Water Heating Equipment

No changes to discounts



#### **Insulation and Air Sealing**

- Rebates increasing by roughly 25%
- Adding a moderate-income tier (80-150% AMI)
- Rebates will be offered for sealing and insulating ducts in both conditioned and semi-conditioned spaces



|                                    | Low-Income<br><80% of AMI | Moderate-Income<br>80-150% AMI | Standard<br>>150% of AMI |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Air Sealing                        | \$1,475                   | \$1,160                        | \$850                    |
| Attic Insulation                   | \$850                     | \$750                          | \$650                    |
| Wall Insulation                    | \$575                     | \$575                          | \$575                    |
| Sill Box Insulation                | \$150                     | \$120                          | \$90                     |
| Foundation Wall Insulation         | \$150                     | \$120                          | \$90                     |
| Duct Sealing – Conditioned Space   | \$90                      | \$90                           | \$90                     |
| Duct Sealing – Unconditioned Space | \$1,000                   | \$1,000                        | \$1,000                  |

## RESIDENTIAL 2026 UPDATES







#### **Multifamily**

- Increasing lighting and HVAC rebates for existing building upgrades to align with business program rates
- Launching a new "Affordable Housing" tier which offers increased incentives for new construction lowincome/affordable buildings



## RENEWABLES 2026 UPDATES





#### Residential

- Solar PV incentive = \$600 per kW, up to \$2,400 per system
- Rural Bonus will be discontinued

#### Non-residential

- Solar PV incentive = \$600 per kW, up to \$2,400, then \$50 per kW thereafter, up to a max of \$25,000
- Ag Producer Bonus will be discontinued
- No changes to custom incentive rates for non-solar renewable measures

All solar PV applications will require customer attestation of installation date and Federal Residential Clean Energy Credit status.



### **BUSINESS 2026 UPDATES**





#### **Prescriptive Rebates**

- Sweeping rebate increases to most technology types, averaging 20-30%
- Continued measure simplification
  - Adding rebates for common custom measures for horticulture, boilers, ground source heat pumps, and more
  - Shifting measures like lighting controls and steam trap repairs to per unit

#### **Custom Incentives**

- Increasing custom efficiency incentives (~30%)
  - \$100/kW (no change)
  - \$0.08/kWh (was \$0.05/kWh)
  - \$1.25/therm (was \$0.95/therm)
- Low-payback incentive cap increase
  - \$0.02/kWh, \$0.20/therm
  - The lesser of \$50,000 or 100% of project cost
- No change to non-Solar PV renewable energy incentives



## BUSINESS 2026 UPDATES







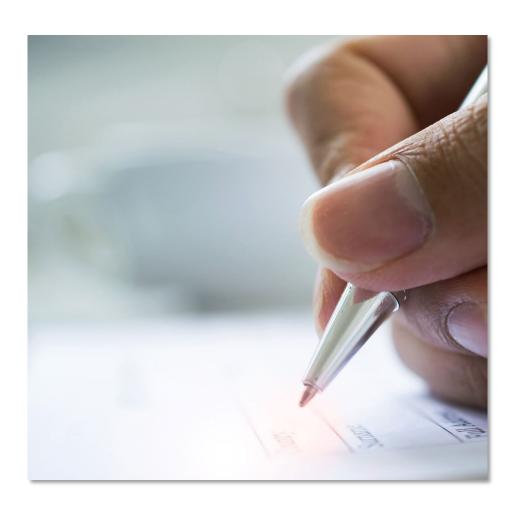
#### **Building Optimization**

- Increasing minimum savings threshold for Retrocommissioning (was 1%, now 3%)
- Whole Building Tune Up now Building Performance Optimization (BPO)
  - Reducing data collection
  - Adding boiler and chiller tune up measures
  - No minimum measure requirement

## **BUSINESS 2026 UPDATES**







#### **Trade Ally Bonus**

- 15% bonus on prescriptive rebates
- 10% custom design bonus, up to \$10,000

#### **Energy Management**

- Practical Energy Management
- Utility Bill Verified Savings for Schools & Government
- Strategic Energy Management for Large Industrial and higher education

#### **Application Support**

 Pre-filled application request form: focusonenergy.com/PFapp

## BUSINESS 2026 OFFERINGS







#### **Agribusiness**

- Farm referral bonus
- Tune-up bonuses for customers and Trade Allies



#### **Business & Industry**

 Continuing the Compressed Air Energy Challenge



#### **Large Industrial**

 Increased Capital Planning Incentive to \$10,000 (was \$2,500)



#### **Business New Construction**

- Increasing incentives for Energy Design Assistance/Review
- Adding kW incentive



#### **Schools & Government**

- Restructuring Tribal Investment Fund
- Discontinuing Rural Electric Reduction Accelerator, apply by February 28, 2026

### 2026 TRAININGS







- Fundamentals and Advanced Compressed Air Challenge courses (in person, June)
- BOC Scholarships available (\$1695 value)
  - Training | Building Operator Certification
- Residential/Commercial Trade Ally sales training

Full calendar at focusonenergy.com/training (available 12/11)

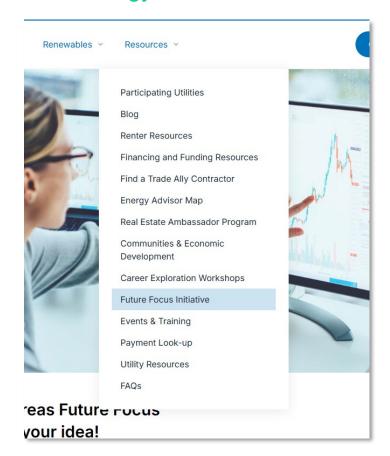
## FUTURE FOCUS



## **FUTURE FOCUS**



#### focusonenergy.com/about/future-focus



#### **Active Pilot Programs**



#### Accessible Efficiency Pilot

The Accessible Efficiency Pilot enhances the lives of eligible Wisconsin residents by offering free installation of energy-saving and smart home devices that...



#### Focus Force Milwaukee

The pilot will educate and train individuals from disadvantaged communities for careers in the energy efficiency industry.



#### Empowering Faith Communities

The Empowering Faith Communities for Energy Efficiency Pilot Program is designed to foster participation in energy efficiency initiatives among Houses of Worship...



#### Life Sciences Midstream

This pilot incentivizes the purchase of energy efficient, ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers by life sciences companies in Wisconsin.







#### **Future Focus Newsletters**

| 2024                                   | 2025                                 |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q1 2024 | Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q120  |
| Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q2 2024 | Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q2 20 |
| Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q3 2024 | Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q3 20 |
| Focus on Energy - Future Focus Q4 2024 |                                      |

## FUTURE FOCUS: ACTIVE PROJECTS



#### **Pilots & Research**

- Integrated Controls
- Life Science Midstream
- Air-to-Water Heat Pump Field Study
- Empowering Faith Communities
- Focus Force Milwaukee
- Home Energy Upgrade Pilot
- Accessible Efficiency Pilot
- Community Impact

## **Emerging Technology Accelerator**

- Alternative form factor heat pumps
- Smart HVAC systems
- Efficient dual- fuel rooftop units
- Energy efficient windows
- HVAC smart tools

## Environmental & Economic Research & Development Project

 Transitional/emerging priority roadmap research

## EMPOWERING FAITH COMMUNITIES PILOT



Provide energy assessments and enhanced incentives to faith-based organizations and supporting community-based organizations.



November 2024 – December 2026

44

Applications Received

29

Assessments Completed

3

Completed Projects

**12** 

Workshops Hosted

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY & ACCESSIBILITY PILOT



Direct installation of smart home and energy-efficiency products for customers with accessibility challenges and/or are senior citizens.

January 2025 - January 2026

2

CBO Partners 150

Completed Projects



All projects complete, pilot concluding in January 2026

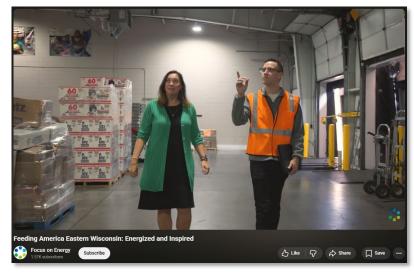
## COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM



Energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses in selected communities across the state.



January 2023 – December 2026



Customer success stories uploaded to Focus on Energy Youtube channel

13

Participating Communities

100

Businesses Helped \$1.9MM

Awarded Incentives

5

Communities to be Selected for 2026

## SECONDARY WINDOWS RESEARCH



Researching savings potential for Secondary Window Systems (SWS), also known as low emissivity (low-e) thermal insulating panels, or secondary glazing systems. Investigating through research on local market conditions, market barriers, and opportunities for both residential and commercial sectors.

April 2025 - January 2026

Status: Market scan completed

Next Steps: Preliminary savings potential report in progress



## AIR-TO-WATER HEAT PUMP (AWHP) FIELD STUDY



Assessing the performance of AWHPs in hydronic systems including energy and load shifting potential, system efficiencies, and market interest, including application(s) for space heating and domestic hot water.



October 2023 – September 2026

#### Status:

- Installation complete and monitoring in-progress at 1 multifamily site and 3 single-family sites
- Interim Project Update Report completed

#### Next Steps:

- Data collection continues through August 2026
- Final Report available September 2026





## PITCH DAY 2026



Pitch Day 2026 is an opportunity for industry partners and stakeholders to showcase energy efficiency pilot program ideas to a panel of judges in an interactive way.



Q3 2026

Status: Aiming for 2-3 categories

Next Steps: Future Focus team to brainstorm categories in Q1 2026



## MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS



## 2025 MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS











Cono parte de suadro compromiso de majorar la eficianda empejatica y apopar la inuestros clientes conecciaes, ECOLS DE ESPÁRITIVO de la conscionada de inveno año con un aumento de incendiros. Estas aumentos en las majoras de eficiencia emprejatica sobrecimentes primedar un 20%, más que en 2014 y son regiones de nuestros majores aumentos de incentiros año es año en la 214 en de traterio de Focus en Cherge Los incentiros aumentos de recipion majoras en los trofferos LEO), los accesorios de gree afuna y de baja años y los eleberas de MAIC.





## 2026 MARKETING PLAN



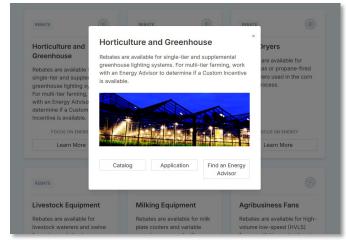
| Priority  | Target Market           | Tactics   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Promote Benefits of Focus on Energy to Wisconsin Businesses             | Businesses              | <ul> <li>Use 25th anniversary as a central theme         <ul> <li>reinforcing credibility, showcasing long-term success, inspire future engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li>Focus on Energy Champion Award</li> </ul> |
| Promote Benefits of Focus on Energy to Wisconsin Residents              | Residents               | Highlight 25 years of homeowners and<br>renters saving energy and money   |
| Launch a Family-Focused Energy Efficiency Awareness Campaign            | Residents               | Create a family-friendly campaign,<br>staring a cartoon character to educate<br>kids about energy efficiency  |
| Continue to Build Trust with Wisconsin's Spanish-<br>Speaking Community | Residents<br>Businesses | Continue general awareness to targeted<br>Spanish-speaking communities  |

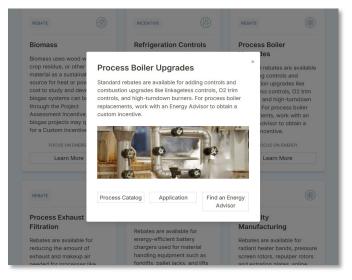
## 2026 MARKETING PLAN



- Leverage 25th Anniversary Messaging
  - Energy Efficiency Champion Awards
  - Community Outreach
  - Business and Homeowner Success Stories
- Wattson campaign
- Business Resource Finder Tool







## 2026 PROMOTIONAL CALENDAR



| Product Category  | Date          | Focus                     |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Smart Thermostats | 2/13 — 2/24   | President's Day Sale      |
| Cellular Shades   | 3/1 — 3/9     | Expanded Product Offering |
| Weatherization    | 3/11— 3/20    | Spring Cleaning           |
| Smart Thermostats | 4/9 — 4/29    | Earth Month               |
| Water Savers      | 5/18 — 5/27   | Memorial Day              |
| Smart Thermostats | 5/25 — 6/2    | Memorial Day Sensi        |
| Smart Thermostats | 6/30 — 7/18   | 4th of July               |
| Air Purifier      | 7/25 — 8/4    | Allergy Season            |
| Water Savers      | 8/24 — 9/8    | Back to School            |
| Weatherization    | 9/11 — 9/22   | Fall Weather Prep         |
| Smart Thermostats | 9/24 — 10/19  | EE Month                  |
| Power Strips      | 10/20 —10/23  | Energy Star Day           |
| Smart Thermostats | 11/12 — 12/2  | Black Friday/Cyber Monday |
| Smart Thermostats | 12/10 — 12/29 | Holidays                  |

## RESOURCES FOR UTILITIES



### UTILITY MARKETING TOOLKIT

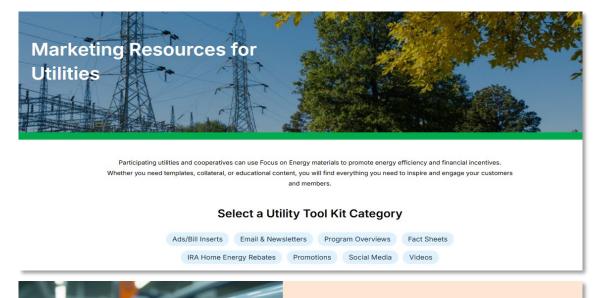
focus on energy

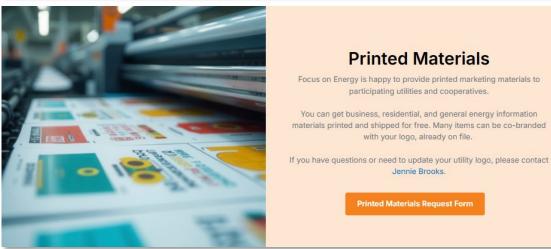
Partnering with Wisconsin utilities

focusonenergy.com/utility-marketing

- Downloadable content:
  - Ads/Bill inserts
  - Email & newsletter templates
  - Program overviews
  - Fact sheets
  - Social media posts
- Printed collateral process update
- 2026 "Care Package" survey

Reminder: Inform us if your utility's logo and/or name has changed recently or will be changing in 2026.

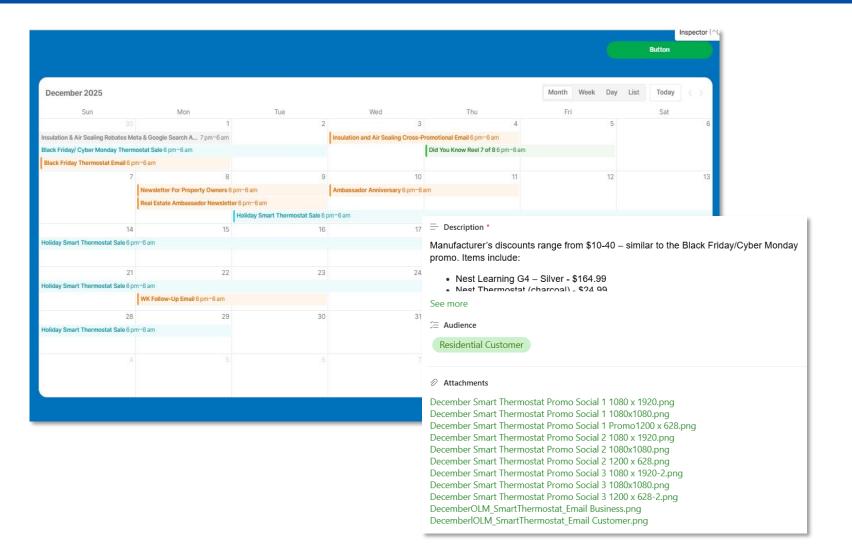




### PROMOTION CALENDAR

focusonenergy.com/utility-marketing





- Review upcoming promotions
- Email will be sent when a new one is added
- Download shareable collateral for promotions

Reminder: Utilities are always welcome to share social media posts made by Focus to their own pages.

## CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION REPORTS VIA QUICKSIGHT



- Secure access to data related to customers' participation in Focus
- Customer name, address, equipment/measures, Focus program, energy savings (annual and lifecycle), incentive amount, Trade Ally
- Three dashboards (All Focus Performance, Utility Report Front Page, Utility Report Full Downloader)
- Need access?
   Email jennie.brooks@focusonenergy.com
- Resources available at focusonenergy.com/about/utility-resources

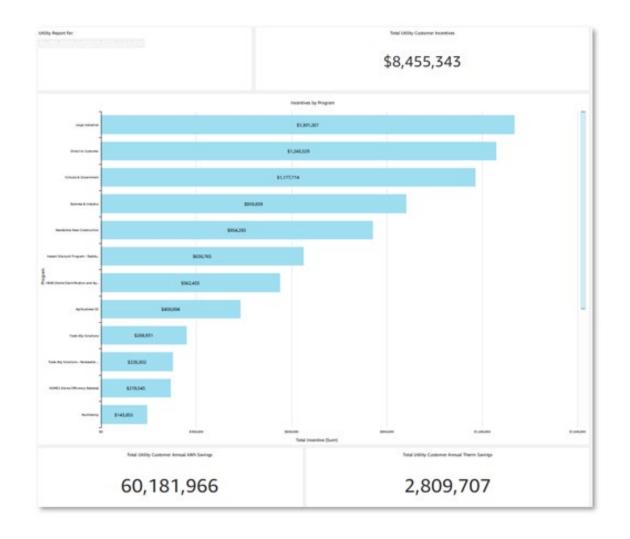


## CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION REPORTS - USE CASES



### **Participation Overview Reports**

- Exportable to PDF
- Customizable ex. Date Range, or Program
- Great for internal reporting

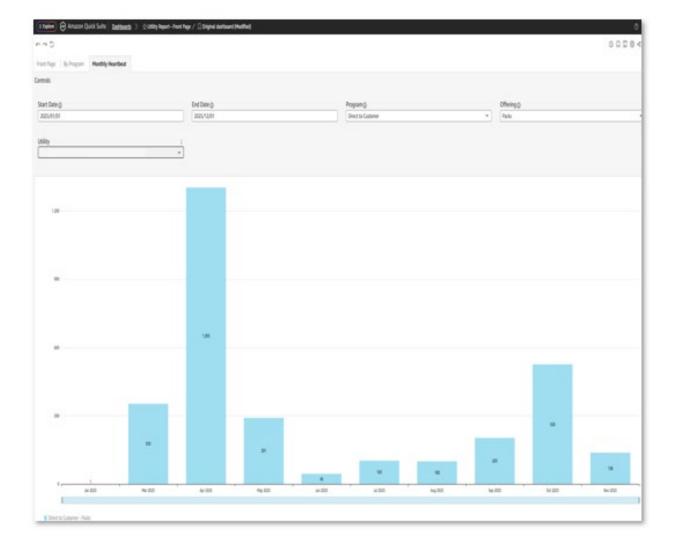


## CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION REPORTS - USE CASES



### **Marketing Performance**

- Participation by month
- Great for analyzing utility marketing efforts

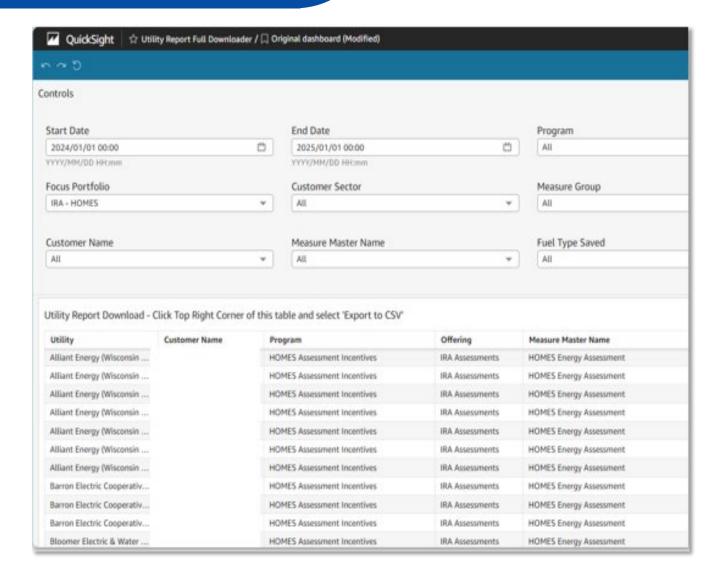


## CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION REPORTS – USE CASES



## **Customer Segmentation**

- Find customers by income qualified, install equipment type, geography/city
- Exportable to CSV or Excel
- Great for targeting utility services and programs



# INFLATION REDUCTION ACT (IRA) HOME ENERGY REBATES





#### BACKGROUND





Wisconsin was awarded nearly \$150 million for two programs:

Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES)

Launched: August 2024

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR)

Launched: December 2024

Both programs are ACTIVE, rebates are being PAID

### PROGRAM COMPARISON: HOMES VS HEAR



|                       | HOMES  | HEAR   |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| SAVINGS               | Performance-based whole-home rebates.  | Instant discount on invoice or post-purchase rebate with qualified appliances at retail stores.  |  |
| UPGRADE TYPE          | <ul> <li>Not specific to any one technology.</li> <li>But not all technologies allowed.</li> </ul>                                   | Qualifying electric appliances and home upgrades.  |  |
| WHO IS ELIGIBLE?      | <ul> <li>All Wisconsin residents.</li> <li>Rebates based on based on predicted savings and household income.</li> </ul>              | <ul> <li>Low- and moderate-income households<br/>(&lt;150% Area Median Income).</li> <li>New construction is eligible for some upgrades.</li> </ul>  |  |
| BASIC<br>REQUIREMENTS | <ul> <li>Existing homes only.</li> <li>Requires an energy assessment.</li> <li>Must use an IRA Registered<br/>Contractor.</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Most equipment must be purchased and installed by an IRA Registered Contractor.</li> <li>Retail purchases can be self installed, but recommend using a professional, especially when capping a gas line.</li> </ul> |  |
| RETROACTIVE           | Yes (ending December 31, 2025)   | No   |  |

### DECEMBER 2025 IRA HOME ENERGY REBATE PROGRAM UPDATES



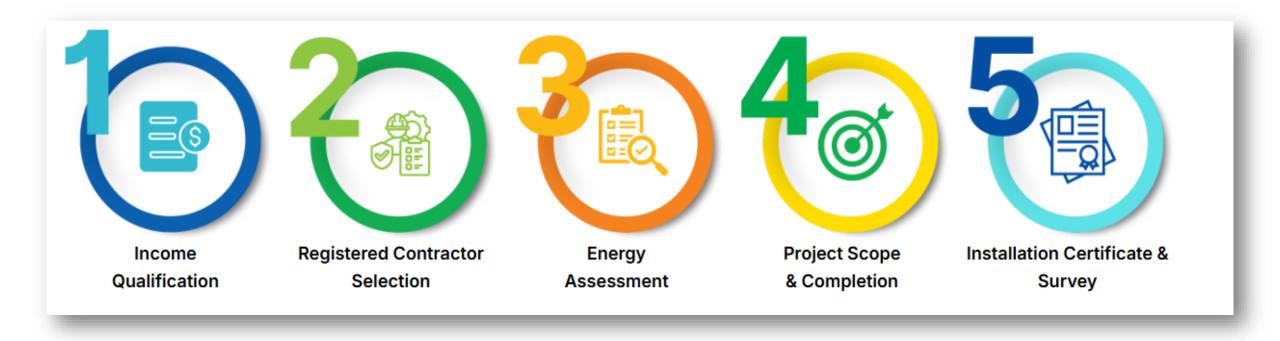
 Both HOMES & HEAR Programs are fully live and active in Wisconsin!

 Multifamily buildings left 'pilot' status and now fully accessible across the state.

- Retail appliances are available for direct customer purchase as:
  - An instant discount at Lowe's.
  - A rebate paid to customer after product purchased at any retailer.

### HOMES: CUSTOMER JOURNEY





### HOMES: REBATES



| HOMES Rebate              |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Modeled Energy<br>Savings | Income Level   | Single Family                           | Multifamily*  |  |  |  |  |
| 20% - 34%                 | Household with incomes less than 80% AMI               | 100% of project cost,<br>up to \$5,000  | 100% of project costs, up to \$5,000 per<br>unit, \$250,000 per building  |  |  |  |  |
|                           | Household with incomes between<br>80% AMI and 150% AMI | 50% of project cost,<br>up to \$2,000   | 50% of project costs, up to \$2,000 per<br>unit, \$200,000 building max   |  |  |  |  |
|                           | Household with incomes greater than 150% AMI           | 50% of project cost,<br>up to \$1,500   | 50% of project costs, up to \$1,500 per unit,<br>\$200,000 building max   |  |  |  |  |
| 35% or greater            | Household with incomes less than 80% AMI               | 100% of project cost,<br>up to \$10,000 | 100% of project costs, up to \$10,000 per<br>unit, \$500,000 per building |  |  |  |  |
|                           | Household with incomes between<br>80% AMI and 150% AMI | 50% of project cost,<br>up to \$4,000   | 50% of project costs, up to \$4,000 per<br>unit, \$400,000 building max   |  |  |  |  |
|                           | Household with incomes greater than 150% AMI           | 50% of project cost,<br>up to \$3,000   | 50% of project costs, up to \$3,000 per<br>unit, \$400,000 building max   |  |  |  |  |



FREE Home Energy Assessments offered to households under 80% AMI (\$500 value)

Low Income Energy
Assessment
Incentive Application

## HEAR CUSTOMER JOURNEY: CONTRACTOR-PURCHASED



- Heat pumps for space heating/cooling
- Heat pump water heaters
- Electrical wiring & panels
- Insulation, air sealing, & ventilation



### HEAR: RETAIL PRODUCTS



 Heat pump water heaters

Electric cooktops

Heat pump dryers



Important! Customers MUST submit photos of equipment being replaced, please make your customers understand this before they remove old appliances.

## HEAR CUSTOMER JOURNEY: POST-PURCHASE REBATE



- Step 1 Income Qualify (online or mail).
- Step 2 Select/Purchase Product ("Find a Retailer" tool), customer pays full price at the time of purchase.
- Step 3 Submit purchase materials and photos online, customer receives rebate check in the mail.







## HEAR CUSTOMER JOURNEY: INSTANT DISCOUNT (LOWE'S)



Step 1 – Income Qualify (online or mail).

Step 2 – Customer uses online portal to select item they would like to purchase, receives coupon code.

Step 3 – Customer provides coupon code at Lowe's checkout and receives the rebate at time of purchase, must be prepared to provide photos if requested.







### **HEAR: REBATES**



| Income Eligibility                  | Maximum Project Rebate               |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Households below 80% AMI            | 100% of project costs up to \$14,000 |  |
| Households between 80% and 150% AMI | 50% of project costs up to \$14,000  |  |

Higher income households (>150% AMI) are NOT eligible for this program.

| HEAR Upgrade   | Rebate Max Per Product<br>Category | Registered Contractor or Store             | Eligible for New<br>Construction |
|--|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| ENERGY STAR® electric heat pump water heater                           | Up to \$1,750                      | Registered Contractor or Store<br>Purchase | Yes                              |
| ENERGY STAR electric heat pump for space heating and cooling           | Up to \$8,000                      | Registered Contractor                      | Yes                              |
| Electrical load service center (electrical panel)                      | Up to \$4,000                      | Registered Contractor                      | No                               |
| Electrical Wiring  | Up to \$2,500                      | Registered Contractor                      | No                               |
| ENERGY STAR Insulation, ENERGY STAR ventilation, air sealing           | Up to \$1,600                      | Registered Contractor                      | No                               |
| ENERGY STAR electric heat pump clothes dryer                           | Up to \$840                        | Store Purchase                             | Yes                              |
| ENERGY STAR electric stove, ENERGY STAR cooktop,<br>ENERGY STAR range* | Up to \$840                        | Store Purchase                             | Yes                              |





### STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION

AS OF 12/5/2025



~1,000

Unique Rebate Recipients

107

Participating Primary IRA Registered Contractors

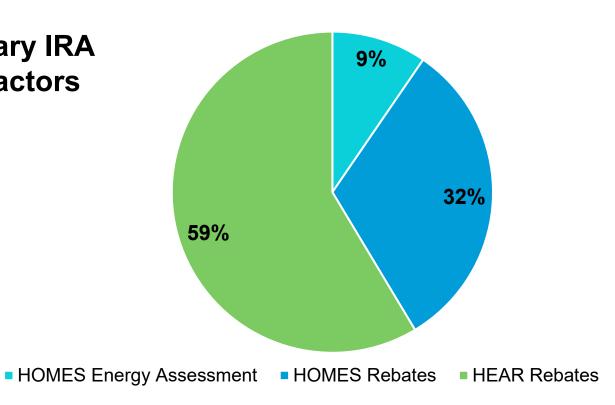
\$5,800,000+

Rebate \$ Paid

+

\$3MM+ Reserved \$1.2MM+ Awaiting Payment

#### Rebate \$ Spend Breakdown



## IRA RESOURCES & SUPPORT



### STACKING SAVINGS



- Focus on Energy rebates and discounts
- Other utility incentives if available
- <u>Tax credits</u> (expire 12/31/25)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (HEAR only)
- Manufacturer rebates

Total rebates received cannot exceed total project cost.



### CUSTOMER RESOURCES



- Focus Website
- Find an IRA Registered
   Contractor
- Income verification
- Online application
- Paper application in <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>
- Support email or call 800.762.7077

### Welcome to your one stop for Wisconsin IRA Home Energy Rebates.

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Wisconsin has been allocated \$149 million for Home Energy Rebates. Focus on Energy was chosen by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to deliver IRA Home Energy Rebate Programs. Both Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) are NOW AVAILABLE.

#### Steps to Participate

Participation in IRA Home Energy Rebates is as easy as 1-2-3!







### RESOURCES FOR UTILITIES

- IRA Promotional Toolkit
- Overview video
- Podcast with Clean Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation



### HOW CAN UTILITIES HELP?

#### Recruiting <u>contractors</u> who offer:

- Home energy assessments
- Insulation and air sealing
- ENERGY STAR® certified heating, cooling, or water heating equipment

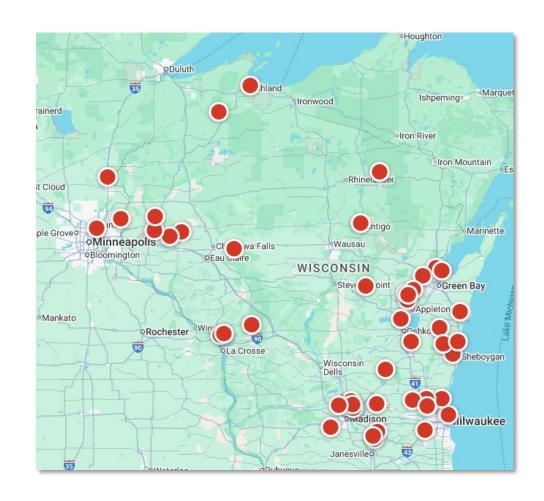
Interested contractors can learn more at:

focusonenergy.com/ira-registered-contractors

#### Recruiting <u>retailers</u> who sell:

- ENERGY STAR electric heat pump water heaters
- ENERGY STAR electric heat pump clothes dryers
- ENERGY STAR electric stoves, cooktops, ranges

Interested retailers can learn more by reaching out to <a href="mailto:jennie.brooks@focusonenergy.com">jennie.brooks@focusonenergy.com</a>



# DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Jennie Brooks** 

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