

# What is Beneficial Electrification?



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If you are like most Americans, you are interested in saving money on energy costs and doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It is through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas, and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Bon Homme Yankton Electric and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here is how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When Bon Homme Yankton Electric takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

## **Electricity is getting cleaner**

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you can benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As Bon Homme Yankton Electric taps into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

## **How we are doing our part to help the environment**

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Bon Homme Yankton Electric is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means Bon Homme Yankton Electric can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through our load management program. In addition, our members can manage and monitor their energy use through our SmartHub app. To save you money, we also offer water heater rebates and heating incentives.

As members are becoming more and more curious about renewable energy and would like to invest in renewables themselves, we have a low-cost solution with our REC program. For members interested in investing in their own renewable systems, we have information on the steps for a smooth interconnection process on page 3 of this issue.

We care about our community because we live here too. I hope you will reach out to Bon Homme Yankton Electric, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you are doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for all of us.