

You may qualify for earned income and homestead credits

It's not too late to find out or to file

Having trouble paying your bills? If your income falls below certain levels, you may be eligible for one or more of the following rebate and credit programs:

- **Earned Income Credit.** Federal and state credits are available. Call 1-800-829-1040 or visit www.irs.gov for details on federal credits; call (608) 266-2772 or visit revenue.wi.gov for state information.
- **Wisconsin Homestead Credit.** For details, contact any Department of Revenue office, call (608) 266-8641 or apply online at www.wisconsin.gov.

Go green today

Green power is electricity generated using clean, renewable energy sources. If you want to go green:

- **Start with energy efficiency.** Reducing your energy use eliminates the need to generate the power in the first place. It costs less and pays back faster than investing in your own renewable energy system. You can save as much electricity substituting one \$3 compact fluorescent lightbulb as spending \$500 on a solar panel. Visit mge.com for more ideas.
- **Buy green power.** You can offset the carbon dioxide emissions generated from your home electricity use for about \$13.75 per month. If you're thinking about signing up for our Green Power Tomorrow program, go to mge.com/greenpower for more information.

MGE requires your PIN to help secure customer information

When you contact MGE about your utility account, our representatives will ask for your MGE Personal Identification Number (PIN). We require this number to ensure that information we are sharing is with the account holder or other authorized person, not an impostor.

As a reinforcement for your records, we periodically include your PIN in some of your MGE bills. *This month's bill contains your PIN.*



Although required for calls about your account, your PIN is NOT REQUIRED for:

- Emergencies
- General or public information calls
- Service-related calls
- General energy advice or other information from our mailings or Web site

In this time when identity theft is on the rise, MGE is committed to ensuring your information is kept secure. For details, go to mge.com/pin.



Spring safely into all your upcoming plans, projects

Put safety first when working outdoors this spring

Spring brings people and projects out of hibernation. Make sure you use good safety practices to protect yourself, your family and neighbors.

Take special care in and around electric facilities. Contact with electrical current can cause injury or even prove fatal.

When planning outside projects this spring, don't forget these safety considerations:

- **Notify Diggers Hotline.** If you are planning a project that requires digging, be sure to call Diggers Hotline at least three working days before you begin. Call toll free 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-8511, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Participating municipalities and utilities can then mark the location of any underground lines on your



your community energy company

Madison Gas and Electric Co.

www.mge.com/mgesource

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Madison Gas and Electric Company

Spring safety tips (cont.)

property. Digging into a line is not only dangerous, it can also be expensive if you have not contacted Diggers Hotline ahead of time.

If your call indicates a possible problem with power lines, participating utilities will contact you within three working days to explain the safe clearances necessary for your project.

For more information, visit diggershotline.com.



➤ **Use electricity and powered equipment carefully.** Be sure that your equipment is in safe working condition, that wires are not exposed or frayed and that your tools are approved by Underwriters Laboratory. Look for the UL® symbol.

➤ **Observe these safety fundamentals:**

- » Stay clear of substations and power lines.
- » Be sure your outdoor wiring is on a separate circuit of sufficient amperage for your heavy-duty equipment and power tools.
- » Don't overload extension cords.
- » Avoid contact with the electrical service entrance to your home or outbuildings when painting or doing other repairs.
- » When using a garden hose or sprinkler, don't let water contact overhead wires.
- » Keep radios, TV or other electrical appliances away from pools.
- » Don't fly kites or climb trees near electric wires.

Para información, llame a MGE a (608) 252 7120.

Need to start or stop MGE gas or electric services? Do it easily online or by phone.

- Click on "Start/Stop Service" along the left column of our Web site. Follow the steps, then submit your changes. (Or, to start service, you can download a PDF form that you can mail to MGE. It is available at mge.com/StartService.)
- Or call us at (608) 252-7222 at least one week or more before you need any changes made to your MGE service.

Pay and manage your energy account online.

It's free, easy and convenient to pay your MGE bill online. MGE uses CheckFree®, the Web's largest and most secure processor, to provide this service.

Sign up to view and pay your MGE bill at mge.com. Once registered, you will receive a monthly e-mail notifying you when your bill is ready to view:

- See the amount you owe and when it's due.
- View the bill detail.
- Pay the bill online.



Appliance service to be discontinued

MGE will discontinue furnace checks, air conditioner tune-ups and general appliance repair services. As of April 4, 2011, MGE will make no new appointments. Existing appointments will be completed. We'll honor any existing warranties on our past work.

MGE is discontinuing this service because:

- Appliance warranty periods are longer for most brands and warranty-covered work can only be done by a franchised dealer. MGE is not a franchised dealer.
- MGE does not want to compete against its trade allies and smaller businesses.
- Demand for our appliance repair services is no longer sufficient to justify continuing it.

If you smell natural gas, please call MGE at (608) 252-1111. We will respond and make it safe at no charge. MGE will continue to offer carbon monoxide tests and natural gas piping extensions and piping repairs and replacement. Standard prices will apply.

Help for the builder or remodeler

- » Planning a new home? MGE's *New Home Planner* can help you build energy savings into your design for every room of the house.
- » Our *Remodeling Guide* brochure can add energy paybacks into your next remodeling project.

To obtain a free copy of either, fill in the form below and include with your bill payment. Or download them at mge.com/brochures.



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____

Check which you want to receive:

- New Home Planner*
- Remodeling Guide*

Remember your

P I N

(Personal Identification Number)

Keep your account information safe!

For greater account security, you need your Personal Identification Number (PIN) when you contact us about your account. We have included a PIN for you at the bottom of this month's bill. Please memorize or safely store this number.

If you wish to change this PIN, call 252-4700.
You will need your PIN and MGE account number.



taking too much energy to pay your bills?

save time, money and the environment with summary billing

Let Summary Billing lessen the load of paying your energy bills. Summary Billing consolidates all your energy bills into one statement with one due date. And Summary Billing is powered-up for you online 24/7.

Less paper. Less cost. Less environmental impact. To learn more on how Summary Billing can give your business a burst of energy, go to mge.com/summarybilling.



Save more energy
with the right home improvements

Start with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

This service includes:

- Comprehensive home energy evaluation that identifies leaks, drafts and dangerous carbon monoxide levels.
- Detailed report that recommends solutions.
- Follow-up testing to ensure that improvements are complete and effective.
- Focus on Energy Cash-Back Rewards to help offset the cost of eligible improvements.

Ready to start?

Call Focus on Energy at 800-762-7077 to find a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR consultant near you. Consultant fees may vary.



focus on energysm

Partnering with Wisconsin utilities



your community energy company