The average Indiana home uses 50% more electricity per month than a home in Michigan, and 30% more than a home in Illinois. Although Indiana’s electricity prices are lower than most neighboring states, Hoosier electricity bills are higher because Indiana homes waste so much energy. Rather than taking responsibility to lower our energy bills, utilities like Vectren want to minimize their energy savings efforts so they can pad their profits at the expense of working families in our community.

WHY ENERGY EFFICIENCY?
Energy efficiency helps reduce energy waste and lower electricity bills, but monopoly utilities led the charge in 2014 to gut Energizing Indiana and eliminate Indiana’s energy savings goals. The statewide energy savings program was saving nearly $3 for every dollar spent and had saved enough electricity in three years to power more than 110,000 homes.

VECTREN’S ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN FALLS SHORT

The State Utility Forecasting Group at Purdue University projected that the energy efficiency goals set by the Daniels Administration in 2009 would have helped flatten Indiana’s growing energy demand — saving on the need to build expensive new power plants to replace the many older coal-fired power plants that are retiring.

VECTREN’S ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN
Vectren customers have the highest utility bills in the State of Indiana – paying more than $150 a month for the average home using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. Meanwhile, in Evansville 42% of working families are struggling to cover their monthly expenses, according to the United Way’s ALICE study. High electricity costs add to the crushing burden on low-income residents and make it difficult for working families to put food on the table.

ENERGIZING INDIANA BENEFITS

- Created 18,697 jobs
- Saved enough energy to power 110,000 homes for a year
- Created $2.94 in savings for every $1 invested
Energy efficiency programs can help protect families by lowering electricity costs through different measures to make homes and businesses more efficient, so they use less electricity. Today, Vectren has a proposal before state officials that will determine how far they will go in reducing energy waste for families in our community. Unfortunately, despite Vectren’s own consultant’s recommendations, in nearly every category Vectren’s energy savings plan falls short. Vectren’s proposed energy savings goals are only about 50 percent of what their consultant recommended, and represent a missed opportunity for our utility company to protect families in our community by reducing energy waste. Vectren customers deserve more help to keep their energy bills under control.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

Vectren’s proposed plan is pending before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, which will hear evidence on Vectren’s proposal on Nov. 13, 2015. The Office of Utility Consumer Counselor will be submitting its testimony on Vectren’s proposal on Oct. 7, and customer comments will be submitted as part of the OUCC evidence.

Your comments are needed to tell the Commission and Vectren that we expect more from their energy efficiency program so Vectren customers can afford to stay in the communities they love. Vectren will have the opportunity to respond to the OUCC testimony on October 28th.