



About Our Report

Materiality

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This Corporate Citizenship Report is built around our company's material aspects or topics that have a direct or indirect impact on our ability to create, preserve or erode economic, environmental and social value for ourselves, our stakeholders and society at large. We review our material topics annually to identify and confirm issues that matter most to DTE Energy and prioritize the content of our report accordingly.

In 2013, we conducted an in-depth materiality assessment in preparation for our first Corporate Citizenship Report. Our cross-functional corporate sustainability team conducted a benchmark of 15 utilities, analyzed the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Energy Sustainability Interest Group materiality study and participated in a comprehensive Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) training workshop. This initial phase helped us generate a list of 40 sustainability topics we considered in later phases of our materiality assessment process.

To prioritize the 40 initial aspects, the team evaluated each topic for low, medium or high alignment with DTE Energy's six corporate priorities. We also assessed the level of interest in each topic expressed by internal, external and government stakeholders, based on existing engagement channels. We sent a survey with the highest scoring aspects to all members of the team as well as the Steering Committee – our broader management oversight group – to establish the final ranking.

This year, in preparation for the 2016 report, DTE conducted a robust materiality refresh to reevaluate and prioritize key sustainability issues for our business and stakeholders. This included a benchmarking of five peer companies, interviews with external stakeholders from a variety of organizations and a survey completed by stakeholders within DTE as well as outside the company. Based on feedback from this materiality refresh, the following changes were made:

- Cybersecurity, Diversity and Inclusion, Habitat and Biodiversity and Waste Management were added as new material topics.
- Corporate Viability and Government Policy were removed from the list of material topics.
- Asset Management and Emergency Preparedness were wrapped into Reliability and Infrastructure. Compliance and Ethics were combined into a single topic. Employee Engagement and Employee Retention were combined.

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MATERIAL ASPECT	DESCRIPTION	IS TOPIC PRIMARILY INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OUR OPERATIONS?	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	VALUE CREATION STRATEGY	POLITICAL & REGULATORY	CUSTOMER SATISFACTION	EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT	CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	FORCE FOR GROWTH
1. Air Emissions	Efforts to reduce non-greenhouse gas emissions	Inside		X	X			X	
2. Community Assistance	Corporate and foundation giving, community and customer outreach	Outside				X	X		X
3. Compliance and Ethics	Compliance with environmental and business regulations and fostering a culture of strong corporate ethics	Inside		X	X		X	X	
4. Customer Satisfaction	Delivering excellent customer satisfaction	Outside	X	X		X	X	X	X
5. Cybersecurity	Protecting the electrical grid from external, unauthorized manipulation or damage; maintaining customer data privacy and internal systems control	Inside			X	X		X	
6. Diversity and Inclusion	A workforce that reflects our diverse customer base and workplaces where every employee is valued	Inside			X		X		X
7. Economic Development	Developing businesses and jobs in our region (e.g., Pure Michigan, Energize Detroit)	Outside	X	X					X
8. Employee Engagement	Ensuring that DTE has an extremely engaged, high-quality workforce; employee retention and development	Inside	X			X	X		X
9. Energy Affordability	Effectively manage customer affordability and rate competitiveness for both gas and electric utilities	Inside & Outside	X	X	X	X		X	X
10. Energy Efficiency	Making efficient use of energy resources in our own operations and on the customers' side	Inside & Outside	X	X		X		X	X
11. Greenhouse Gases	Efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases	Inside		X	X			X	X
12. Habitat and Biodiversity	Conserving and enhancing wildlife habitat and areas of high biodiversity	Inside					X	X	X
13. Reliability and Infrastructure	Providing reliable gas and electric service to our customers and maintaining infrastructure to support energy delivery	Inside	X	X	X	X			X
14. Renewable Energy	Encouraging development of renewable energy sources	Inside		X	X				X
15. Safety	Employee safety and public safety	Inside & Outside			X	X	X	X	
16. Waste Management	Efforts to manage waste responsibly, maximize reuse and recycling and ensure nuclear waste safety	Inside			X			X	