

Can Say of Mr. Hans Gorter – January 22, 2020

Mr. Hans Gorter is a dairy farmer who owns a farm in Otterburne, Manitoba. The farm, along with its residential home, was built in 1997. Mr. Gorter currently resides in a house not located on the dairy farm, which is two years old. Three people live in the residential home on the farm and Hans and his wife live in the separate home. Both the dairy farm and Mr. Gorter's residential home are all-electric.

The household income range for Mr. Gorter's personal residence is \$100,000. For the people living on the farm, the household income range is \$40,000 to \$50,000. The net income range for Mr. Gorter's dairy farm business is \$125,000 to \$130,000.

The electricity bills for the dairy farm (both the farm business and the residential home located on the farm) are on average \$2500/month and \$250/month for Mr. Gorter's residential home. The dairy farm electricity consumption is the same throughout the winter and summer. The residential home on the farm has a lower consumption rate in the summer (\$50/month) and a higher rate in the winter (\$350-\$600/month). The consumption is higher in the winter due to heating the barn for the animals. About 20% of the dairy farm bill is paid by the residents and the rest is paid by the company.

On a scale of one (1) being not very energy efficient to ten (10) being very energy efficient, Mr. Gorter would rate both the dairy farm and his residential home an eight (8).

Mr. Gorter has either accessed or attempted to access energy efficiency programs from Manitoba Hydro for the dairy farm, including a solar power program, light replacement program, and water heater program.

Mr. Gorter heard about the solar power program in February 2017, started installation in summer 2017 and had solar panels running by November 2017. He describes the solar power program as being very beneficial and easy to navigate. Most of the paperwork was completed by the installation company. It was a \$400,000 project that he wouldn't have been able to complete without support from Manitoba Hydro.

Mr. Gorter heard about the light replacement program in 2016 and attempted to apply for the savings program this past fall 2019. He replaced about 25 lights in his barn but did not go through the program because of the wait time for an inspection, quote, and approval, as well as the amount of paperwork involved. The timing of going through this process was not convenient for the business of the dairy farm given the changing weather to colder temperatures.

The water heaters on Mr. Gorter's farm were replaced 10 years ago in the spring/summer, for which he received about \$50-\$80 in savings per heater from Manitoba Hydro. When the first winter came after installation, the water tanks froze and required replacement at \$800 each.

Prior to participation in this proceeding, Mr. Gorter had heard of Efficiency Manitoba through a friend.

Mr. Gorter would like to see more long-term energy efficiency programs that are planned further ahead. He suggests that his community could benefit from accessing energy efficiency programs like a solar power project for buildings such as the curling hall and hockey rink. He would like to see more permanent infrastructure buildings that utilize energy efficiency programs so that individuals and community could make long term use of the benefits. Mr. Gorter indicates that only a few individuals with certain income levels can afford large scale installation of projects like solar panels.

Mr. Gorter would like to know more about the kind of programs Efficiency Manitoba will be offering. He would like to see more education about renewable resources and cutting edge technology with which to build the economy.

The best way for Mr. Gorter to hear about energy efficiency programs is through the internet and news releases. He would like to be able to access them through online avenues and recommends the online bill payment website as a good starting place to advertise program information that would include steps on how to apply. He indicates that 90% of the community in Otterburne, Manitoba rely on the internet to find out what's happening outside the community.