

# MGE Clean Air Initiatives

As people who live and work in the Madison area, we take our environmental responsibility seriously. We live in a beautiful place and want to keep it that way. We invest our resources in ways that improve the quality of life for all of us.

## MGE Receives Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Award

MGE was awarded the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Recognition Award in May 2002 for some of MGE's voluntary initiatives to improve air quality:

- Installing 2-kilowatt photovoltaic systems on the rooftops of the 10 high schools in MGE's electric service area.



- Using ultralow-sulfur fuel in backup generators at commercial/industrial sites and the Blount Station (Blount). MGE leads in showing that engines that use low-sulfur fuel reduces fine particulates and have less impact on the environment.
- Using alternate energy sources such as the alternate fuel burned at Blount, the 17-turbine wind farm in Kewaunee County and methane gas-produced electricity from the Dane County Rodefild Landfill.

- Working in partnership with a Cooperative Environmental Advisory Group on environmental issues.

- Partnering with the City of Madison in their Climate Protection Plan. The plan calls for reducing carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases 7% below 1990 levels. MGE's key roles are promotion and education.

## MGE Commits to Superior Environmental Performance in DNR Agreement

MGE and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) signed an Environmental Cooperative Agreement. The extendable five-year agreement is the result of several months of discussions and encourages both parties to work more cooperatively on environmental issues.

MGE has committed to work toward superior environmental performance at Blount. In return, the DNR has relaxed some of the record-keeping and reporting requirements of some of the environmental regulations MGE is subject to. It does not relax any emission standards.

## Burning Alternative Fuels Leads to Lower Emissions

We have been testing and using various kinds of pre- and post-consumer wastes for electricity production for over 20 years. Blount has led the nation in testing switchgrass as a fuel.

We burned more than 10,000 tons of plastic and paper-derived fuel in 2002. Nonhazardous plastic and paper refuse materials include bulk jar labels and food packaging that are damaged or cannot be used.

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*your community energy company*



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### **Burning alternate fuel helps the environment in several ways:**

- The waste cannot be recycled so burning it saves landfill space.
- Reduces sulfur dioxide emissions which contribute to acid rain and may contribute to respiratory problems in people.
- Reduces the amount of ash produced at Blount.

### **Environmental Action Teams (EnAct) Help Everyone**

MGE proudly cosponsors EnAct, which organizes Environmental Action Teams in neighborhoods, community organizations and workplaces. Team members meet regularly in informal settings to learn from each other and work together to make changes in their daily lives. Participants learn new ways to minimize the environmental impact of their households. EnAct's goals are:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.
- Conserve energy and water.
- Protect water quality.
- Reduce waste.



### **Community Environmental Advisory Group**

As a community energy company, we value customer input. MGE has formed a Community Environmental Advisory Group (CEAG) to work in partnership with us on environmental issues at Blount. Group tasks include providing feedback on:

- The MGE/DNR Environmental Cooperative Agreement.
- MGE's Environmental Management System for Blount.
- MGE's proposed goals and objectives for environmental performance improvement.

### **MGE Encourages Sustainability**

MGE teams up with Sustain Dane, a Madison-area group, to develop resources and sponsor initiatives for earth-friendly living.

#### **Year 2003 Madison Area Sustainability Organizations:**

A directory of sustainability and environmental organizations in the Madison and Dane County area of Wisconsin.

#### **Sustaining Our World, Our Communities, Ourselves:**

Resources for Earth-Friendly Living. A special sustainable resource collection at Madison Public Library initiated by Sustain Dane and purchased with funds donated by MGE.

### **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicles Burn Cleaner**

MGE has the only compressed natural gas fueling station in south central Wisconsin. Six MGE vehicles currently operate on a CNG mix of fuels. The City of Madison and Dane County also refuel their CNG vehicles here as do CNG vehicles passing through Madison.