











Cleaner Energy

New Solar and Battery Storage Projects to Serve Customers

MGE received approval in May to build the Sunnyside Solar Energy Center, a 20-megawatt (MW) solar array and 40-MW battery storage system to be built in Fitchburg. The project will provide locally generated solar energy to MGE's distribution system serving customers.

The 20 MW of solar capacity are expected to generate enough energy to power about 6,000 households. The 40 MW of four-hour battery storage would provide electricity during times when energy demand is greatest and when renewable capacity is insufficient to meet all customer needs.

The solar array is expected to begin serving customers by the end of 2026, and the battery storage system is expected in 2027.

Large-scale battery storage now online

In June, Wisconsin's first large-scale battery storage installation came online. MGE owns 11 MW of the 110-MW battery storage at the Paris Solar-Battery Park. MGE also owns 20 MW of solar capacity at the facility. The 200-MW solar array in Kenosha County came online in December 2024. MGE's share of the solar output is expected to generate enough electricity to power



Paris Solar-Battery Park. Photo courtesy of WEC Energy Group.

about 6,000 homes. These renewable energy projects are part of several in various stages of development.

Visit *mge.com/netzero* to learn more about MGE's ongoing clean energy transition as we work toward net-zero carbon electricity.

L Community Grid

Explore EVs with MGE

If you're shopping for an electric vehicle (EV), MGE has resources to help.

Explore My EV

MGE's Explore My EV is a free online tool that considers several factors, such as your daily commute, electricity costs, vehicle costs, maintenance costs and driving range, to help you choose an EV that's right for your lifestyle.

Learn more and start exploring the benefits of EVs at *mge.com/ExploreMyEV*.

Community events

Get your EV questions answered! MGE participates in several community events where you can explore EVs in person, look "under the hood" and chat with our EV ambassadors. Find us at these upcoming events in Madison:

- Sept. 13: Northside Festival, Warner Park
- Sept. 20: Madison EV Expo, Capitol Square
- Oct. 28: Transportation & Innovation Expo,
 Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center



Madison EV Expo on the Capitol Square.

There's a lot to love about EVs

Learn about available vehicle models, costs, charging, benefits and more at *mge.com/LovEV*.





Energy Use

Back-to-School Energy-Saving Tips for a Smart, Cozy Home

As backpacks get packed and school bells start ringing, it's also time to get your home ready for the cooler months ahead. Here are some smart energy-saving tips to help your home make the grade this fall.

Homework for your heating system

- Schedule a furnace checkup—A quick tune-up ensures your HVAC system is running efficiently all season long.
- Replace or clean filters—Just like fresh school supplies, clean filters help everything run smoother. Extra credit: Replace furnace and heat pump filters once a month or
- Seal up drafts—Use weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air in and cold air out.

Smart thermostat = smarter home

- **✓** Lower the thermostat—Give your heating system a study break by reducing the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day. You could reduce your energy use by up to 10% a year!
- ✓ Use a programmable or smart thermostat— Set it and forget it for low-effort energy savings. Extra credit: Explore thermostat deals at focusonenergymarketplace.com.

Let in the sunshine

- ✓ Open window coverings during the day—Natural sunlight will help warm your space, allowing your heating system to take a short recess.
- ✓ Close them at night—Keep the warmth in after the sun sets.

Bright ideas for lighting

- Switch to LED bulbs—They last longer and use less energy, earning an A+ on energy efficiency.
- ✓ Use timers or motion sensors—Great for outdoor lights and late-night study sessions.

Cut the waste

Unplug unused electronics—Chargers, game consoles and other devices still use power when they're off. Extra credit: Smart power strips make it even easier to reduce

Laundry and hot water tips

- Wash clothes in cold water—It's just as effective and saves energy. Extra credit: Air dry when you can to save
- ✓ Set your water heater to 120°F—Safe, efficient and just right for busy school mornings.

Visit mge.com/save for more seasonal energy-savings tips.





Innovation

State Regulators Approve New **Energy Storage Project**

The innovative Columbia Energy Storage Project, a partnership between the co-owners of the Columbia Energy Center, received approval from State regulators in June.

The Columbia Energy Storage Project is the first long-duration energy storage system of its kind to be developed in the United States. The 18-megawatt project is designed to improve grid stability and deliver enough electricity to power approximately 18,000



Image courtesy: Energy Dome, Alliant Energy

homes for 10 hours on a single charge. The added reliability and dispatchability on the grid will help the partner utilities meet peak demand and further enable MGE's ongoing clean energy

The project will be built south of Portage in the town of Pacific, near the current Columbia Energy Center, which is co-owned by Alliant Energy, Wisconsin Public Service and MGE. MGE is a minority owner of the power plant. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and be completed by the end of 2027.

👭 Working Together

FOCUS ON ENERGY Delivers Energy Savings

Focus on Energy is Wisconsin utilities' statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program funded by the state's investor-owned energy utilities and participating municipal and electric cooperative utilities.

In 2024, Focus on Energy offered financial incentives and technical assistance to help eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses reduce their energy waste. According to an independent evaluation of 2024 programs, Focus on Energy delivered \$4.17 in benefits to Wisconsin residents and businesses for every \$1 spent, resulting in economic benefits, reduced energy costs and reduced emissions. In addition, the overall customer satisfaction rating for 2024 was 9.4 on a 10-point scale.



Learn more about Focus on Energy and explore resources at focusonenergy.com.









