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### Cleaner Energy

## MGE to Add More Solar, Battery Storage with Columbia County Project

In April, MGE received State regulatory approval to purchase solar and battery storage capacity from the High Noon Solar Energy Center. MGE will own 30 megawatts (MW) of solar and 16.5 MW of battery storage from the facility to be built in Columbia County.

The project features a 300-MW solar array and 165-MW battery energy storage system. MGE's 10% share of the output will power about 9,000 households. The High Noon Solar Energy Center is expected to start serving customers in 2027.

### Darien Solar Energy Center

Earlier this year, another large-scale solar project came online to serve MGE customers. The Darien Solar Energy Center in Rock and Walworth counties serves MGE customers with cost-effective clean energy.

MGE owns 25 MW of solar capacity from the 250-MW solar project. MGE also will own 7.5 MW of battery storage from the facility. The 75-MW battery storage installation is expected online in 2026.

### Forward Wind Energy Center Repower Project

MGE and the co-owners of the Forward Wind Energy Center in Dodge and Fond du Lac counties are seeking

approval to repower major components at the wind farm. The facility was built in 2008. The project involves replacing, refurbishing and upgrading equipment. It offers a cost-effective way for MGE to continue to deliver carbon-free wind energy to MGE customers.

The Forward Wind Energy Center consists of 86 turbines. MGE owns 18 MW of the 137-MW facility. If approved, the project is expected to be completed in 2027.

### Working Toward Our Goals

These projects will help MGE achieve our science-based carbon reduction goals. By 2030, on behalf of all customers, MGE expects to deliver electricity with 80% fewer carbon emissions, and by 2050, we expect to deliver net-zero carbon electricity. MGE is already halfway to our 2030 goal to reduce carbon emissions by 80% compared to 2005 levels.

Growing our use of cost-effective, cleaner energy and working with customers to advance energy efficiency and the electrification of transportation are all key strategies for deep decarbonization.

Visit [mge.com/netzero](https://mge.com/netzero) to learn more.



### Our Community Grid

## Join the Waiting List for Community Solar

MGE electric customers who are interested in local, affordable solar energy to power their home or small business may join the waiting list for community solar from MGE. We're seeking regulatory approval for a new program largely based on Shared Solar, MGE's original and fully subscribed community solar program.

Shared Solar-Strix would offer participants the option to pay a minimal up-front fee to subscribe to receive energy from MGE's new 6-MW solar array in Fitchburg. One third of the array will serve MGE's new community solar option, if approved. The remainder of the facility serves all MGE electric customers.

MGE customers who choose to participate would receive carbon-free energy for up to 50% of their annual

consumption and would lock in their energy rate for the term of the agreement. A low-income option also is proposed for the program.

Visit [mge.com/sharedsolar](https://mge.com/sharedsolar) for updates and to join the waiting list.



MGE's 6-MW Strix Solar project in Fitchburg



# Our Energy Use 10 Easy Ways to Save Energy This Summer

Summer 2025



The summer heat can lead to increased demand on our energy supply. When we use less energy, there’s less need to generate electricity. By managing our energy use, we can help control energy costs and reduce carbon emissions as we work together to achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

1

Use a qualified contractor to professionally **maintain your heating and cooling system** at least every two years. Clean leaves and grass clippings off your outdoor cooling unit.

2

**Run major appliances before 10 a.m. and after 9 p.m. or on weekends.** This helps lower the demand for power during peak times.

3

Don’t overcool with your air conditioner. **Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable, preferably 78°F or higher** when you are home and up to 85°F when you are away. Make sure to set the fan to “auto.”

4

**Swap your lightbulbs with LEDs,** which use up to 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last 15 to 25 times longer.

5

**Unplug your phone chargers, computers and other electronics when not in use** or opt for a smart power strip that reduces standby power.

6

**Run a whole-house fan, room fans or ceiling fans.** Be sure to turn off ceiling and room fans when no one is in the room—fans cool people, not rooms. Run your bathroom fan during and after showers or baths to remove humidity.

7

**Seal around your window air conditioner so cool air cannot escape.** If you need to purchase a new unit, consider a Wi-Fi-connected option, which can be controlled remotely using a smartphone. Always look for ENERGY STAR® certified products for energy efficiency.

8

**Keep your window coverings closed in summer** to block out direct sunlight during the day.

9

**Run full loads in your washer and dryer** to cut down on excess energy usage.

10

**Keep your water heater temperature set at 120°F,** and if you go on vacation, remember to switch it to vacation mode.



## Working Together Join MGE’s EV Owners Group

If you drive an electric vehicle (EV), consider joining MGE’s EV Owners Group. Members receive a discount of 5 cents per kilowatt-hour when charging at select public chargers owned and operated by MGE.

In addition, EV Owners Group members:

- Receive updates about MGE EV programs, services and station installations.
- Provide feedback on EV charging opportunities.
- Allow MGE to access their public charging data for research purposes only.

Participation in the EV Owners Group helps MGE better understand how EV charging patterns and behavior may impact the grid and helps us support the energy needs of EV use in our area. Visit [go.mge.com/evownersgroup](https://go.mge.com/evownersgroup) to enroll today!



## Innovation Go Electric with Your Lawn Care

Reduce the carbon footprint of your yard maintenance by going electric. From lawn mowers to leaf blowers to string trimmers, the hum of electric lawn care is edging out louder gas models for some homeowners.

Advances in battery technology have made replacing gas-powered lawn mowers with electric models easier and competitive—both in terms of cost and performance. Mowing electric means skipping trips to the gas station and eliminating the need to buy motor oil. Plus, electric mowers are quieter with no direct emissions.

Electric mowers are available in plug-in, cordless and hybrid models and are typically available where traditional mowers are sold.

Be sure to connect with MGE on social media



Puede leer estos artículos en español en [mge2050.com](https://mge2050.com).