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20 years of wind energy



Spring 2019



MGE's first wind farm, Rosiere, hits a major milestone this year by turning 20 years old.

When the 11-megawatt (MW), 17-turbine wind farm in Kewaunee County, Wis. was built, it was the largest wind farm east of the Mississippi River. We relied on local landowners who were willing to lease their property to the company to move forward the project.

"It was quite an undertaking," recalls Steve Pitts, MGE manager of construction engineering. "Everything was so new—both for us and the property owners who agreed to let us put wind turbines on their land—that it was like we were all pioneers in a new renewable energy world. By working together, we were able to establish something historic that laid the foundation for our clean energy projects that followed."

Today, Rosiere continues to serve customers with clean energy. Wind turbines typically have a 20-to-30-year lifespan. MGE has extended its lease agreements with the property owners for 10 years, enabling Rosiere to continue to generate power for another decade.



MGE's community education manager has hosted tours of the Rosiere wind farm for nearly 5,000 local schoolchildren.

Growing our use of clean energy

MGE continues to grow our use of clean energy. In early 2019, MGE's newest—and largest—wind farm came online. Our 66-MW Saratoga wind farm (pictured above), recently built in northeast Iowa, serves about 47,000 households.

In 2018, MGE also purchased a share of the Forward Energy Center wind farm near Fond du Lac, Wis. Combined, the Saratoga wind farm and Forward Energy Center grow MGE-owned wind resources by more than 200%.

MGE also is partnering to build two solar farms with another Wisconsin utility. If the projects are approved, construction will begin this year, adding 100 MW of solar energy by the end of 2020.



MGE is committed to building upon our history of advancing clean energy. We're working toward our goal of reducing carbon emissions at least 40% from 2005 levels by 2030 and at least 80% by 2050. If we can go further faster by working together with our customers, we will.

To learn more about MGE's commitment to clean energy, visit energy2030together.com/cleaner-energy.

Shared Solar for your home or business



Nearly 300 local households are part of MGE's Shared Solar community. Now, the program's prepared to welcome small- and medium-sized businesses.

MGE is seeking to expand our community solar program, Shared Solar, with a second solar installation. Customers who subscribe to Shared Solar receive up to half of their annual electric use through the program, which offers customers locally generated solar energy.

Join our 'Worth Waiting For' list

MGE is building a waiting list of interested customers, both residential and business. Those on the waiting list will be among the first to learn details about the program's expansion. If you would like to join our "Worth Waiting For" list or learn more about our latest project, visit mge.com/sharesolar.

As we begin to transition from winter to spring, now is a good time to think about your energy use and how to save.

Turn down your thermostat, open the shades.

Take advantage of more sunshine and natural warmth coming through your windows and turn down your heat a few degrees to save energy.



Fire up the grill.

With warmer temperatures and extended daylight hours on the way, consider keeping your oven off and taking your meal prep outdoors.

Run appliances after sunset. Waiting until sundown to run the dishwasher or clothes dryer will help to keep your home cooler on warm days.

Clean or replace your air filter. Keeping your ventilation system clean will improve its performance and save energy. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a clean air filter can reduce an air-conditioning unit's energy consumption by 5% to 15%.

Dust off vents, clear AC unit of leaves. Clearing dust from vents will improve the air flow in your home. Removing leaves and debris from around your outside air-conditioning unit will allow for improved performance and efficiency.

Vacuum refrigerator coils. The coils on your fridge process the refrigerant that cools the food inside. If the coils are covered in dust, dirt or pet hair, they work harder, which means they use more energy. Use a vacuum attachment to clean them carefully so they operate at peak efficiency.

Recycle your old refrigerator or freezer. Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency program, offers a free Appliance Recycling Program. Focus offers a \$20 incentive for recycling your old refrigerator or freezer. For more information, visit mge.com/focus-recycle.

Get free energy-saving products. Focus on Energy also has free products for eligible MGE customers to help you save energy.

For more energy-saving tips, stay tuned to energy2030together.com/ourenergyuse.

Electric vehicle myths

Innovation

There are more than one million electric vehicles (EVs) on U.S. roads today. Drivers can choose from more than 40 EV models in almost every vehicle class. Yet, myths about EVs persist.

Myth: EVs are too expensive. While EVs are generally more expensive to buy or lease than similar gasoline vehicles, EVs cost less than half as much to operate, according to a 2018 University of Michigan study.

Myth: You can't drive very far before you run out of battery power. Most EVs provide plenty of range for the average American who drives about 30 miles per day, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Myth: Charging an EV isn't very convenient. Actually, it is—because more than 80% of EV fueling (a.k.a. charging) happens at home, which is much more convenient than visiting the gas station each week!

See more myths debunked at energy2030together.com/EVmyths.

Rate decrease for GPT program

Working Together

Interested in powering your home or business with clean energy? Consider subscribing to MGE's Green Power Tomorrow (GPT) program. It's an easy—and now an even more affordable—way to go green.



Customers who subscribe to GPT pay a penny more per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to receive all or a percentage of their electricity from wind and solar resources in our region. With the addition of new, cost-effective renewable energy generation, including our 66-megawatt wind farm recently built in Saratoga, Iowa, the cost to subscribe has decreased to 1 cent per kWh from 2.44 cents.

All MGE customers receive some of their electricity from clean energy sources. GPT gives customers the option to do more to show their support for clean energy.

To sign up, visit mge.com/GPT.

Be sure to connect with MGE on social media



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