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Morey Field Solar powers up

 Cleaner Energy

Fall 2020

mge

MGE's new solar array at Middleton Municipal Airport is serving Shared Solar customers! Our optional community solar program has expanded with the addition of the 5-megawatt Morey Field Solar project. The 21-acre project features approximately 17,000 solar panels. The panels are capable of tracking the sun throughout the day, which we expect will result in about 25% more energy harvested compared to fixed panels. The array, which came online in early August, will generate enough clean energy to power more than 1,000 households.



MGE's first Shared Solar project is a 500-kilowatt array on the roof of Middleton's Municipal Operations Center. It began serving customers in January 2017.

How Shared Solar works

Our Shared Solar program is an option for MGE electric customers who run a business or who live in an

apartment, condo or single-family home. Participants pay a one-time, up-front fee to reserve a portion of the electricity produced in Middleton and then pay a stable per kilowatt-hour price for 25 years. Customers can join to receive up to half of their annual electricity use through Shared Solar. Visit mge.com/sharedsolar to learn more.



About 30% of the array serves the City of Middleton and the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District under two separate Renewable Energy Rider (RER) agreements with MGE. Under an RER, MGE partners with a large energy user to tailor a renewable energy solution to meet that customer's energy needs. The model advances shared sustainability goals and grows clean energy in our community.

Net-Zero Carbon by 2050

Adding more clean energy to serve our customers is one of the ways we're working to achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. Customer participation in Shared Solar helps us create a more sustainable energy future.

Save energy with smart home technology

 Our Community Grid

If you're looking for ways to make it easier to save energy, smart home devices can help!

- Smart thermostats can learn your household routine and use that information to control your home's temperature. Eligible MGE customers can take advantage of an incentive from FOCUS ON ENERGY®. Learn more at focusonenergy.com.
- Smart power strips can prevent phantom energy

by detecting when a device is not being used and then cutting off power to that device.

- Smart plugs, or smart outlets, can be used for almost anything from electronics to lamps. They are available in a variety of styles and can be programmed or controlled remotely with an app.

Learn more about these smart home devices by visiting mge2050.com/smarthome.

Adding trees, shrubs and other plantings to your landscape can do more than beautify your home—it also can help you save energy and keep your home more comfortable. Read on for some simple steps for energy-smart planting this fall!

Good directions

Looking to add some trees or shrubs to your landscape? Follow these tips for selecting a location for optimal energy savings.



- Planting evergreens such as Chinese juniper, eastern red cedar or Swiss stone pine on the north and west sides of your home can provide protection from winter winds and help to reduce home heating needs.
- Planting deciduous, or leafy, trees on the west and south sides of your home will help provide cooling shade from hot afternoon sun in summer. In winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Planting near utility equipment

Since overhead height and tree growth can vary, try to

avoid planting trees and tall shrubs directly under lines. MGE has a guide that includes a list of trees and shrubs that may be appropriate for your planting projects. If you are planning landscaping near your house, please remember to leave room around your electric and gas meters for MGE crews to perform maintenance work.

Stay safe while digging

All projects, no matter the size, could pose a threat to your safety or result in costly mistakes. Diggers Hotline, a free service, works with MGE and other participating utilities to identify buried lines on your property so that you can dig freely and safely. State law requires anyone planning excavation or construction activities to contact Diggers Hotline at least three days before digging begins.



Diggers Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact them by submitting an online request or by calling 811 or (800) 242-8511.

Visit mge.com for more information on planting trees, including the 10 best trees to plant near power lines.

Electric heat pumps

Innovation

Many homeowners may not realize that water heating is often the second-highest energy expense in their home. Since the average household spends \$400 to \$600 per year heating water, a more efficient water heater can help you save money and may reduce your home's carbon footprint. Electric heat pump water heaters cost more up-front but are about three times more efficient than electric resistance and natural gas water heaters.

Heat pump water heaters work like a refrigerator in reverse. Refrigerators take heat from the inside of the refrigerator and move it to the surrounding room. Heat pump water heaters use electricity to move heat from the room into the water tank. They also can help dehumidify basements and garages, where they are typically installed.

Learn more at mge2050.com/heatpump.

Behind on your bill? We can help.

Working Together

MGE is committed to working with customers who are experiencing economic hardship. If you're behind on your bill, give us a call. We can work with you to set up a personalized payment agreement and discuss financial assistance that may be available for your household. A payment, even if minimal, will help you avoid potential collection activity, late fees or disconnection in the future. Our customer service representatives are available to help Monday-Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Please call us at (608) 252-7144 or (800) 245-1125.



Need financial assistance?

Financial assistance may be available to help your household. Energy Services, Inc. (ESI), is currently taking applications through an online portal (energybenefit.wi.gov) or by phone at (800) 506-5596. Find other community resources at mge.com/resources.

Be sure to connect with MGE on social media     

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