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Growing Our Use of Renewable Energy

Cleaner Energy

Spring 2022



You may have heard about MGE’s goal of net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. One of our key strategies for getting there is working with our customers to add more renewable energy to meet your energy needs. We’ve already reduced carbon emissions 30%, and we’re targeting carbon reductions of at least 80% by 2030. We’ve said since introducing our carbon reduction goals, if we can go further faster, we will!

So, where is the cost-effective renewable energy that serves MGE customers generated? It’s produced at wind and solar sites in Dane County, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Local solar arrays

MGE recently built the 8-megawatt (MW) Hermsdorf Solar Fields, which is one of four new MGE solar arrays in Dane County. These arrays serve large customers as well as those who subscribe to our community solar program, Shared Solar.

In addition to arrays in Dane County, MGE also is served by larger projects in Wisconsin. The first phase of the Badger Hollow Solar Farm, in Iowa County, came online in 2021 to serve all MGE customers with 50 MW. MGE’s 50-MW share is expected to generate enough electricity to power approximately 16,500 households. MGE is purchasing another 50 MW from Badger Hollow to serve our customers. MGE also is served by the first large-scale solar facility in state history, Two Creeks Solar, in

Manitowoc County. The 150-MW array came online in November 2020. MGE owns 50 MW.

Wisconsin and Iowa wind farms

Several wind farms serve our community, including our newest and largest 66-MW wind farm near Saratoga, Iowa. Earlier this year, we received regulatory approval to purchase a share of the 92-MW Red Barn Wind Farm, which is expected to be built this year in Grant County.

Visit mge2050.com to learn more about MGE’s plans for renewable energy and battery storage.



This timeline shows recent and proposed renewable energy projects.

Save Energy with Smart Thermostats

Our Community Grid

Using a smart thermostat is one of the easiest ways to save energy! Air conditioners and furnaces are some of the biggest energy users in your home. Smart thermostats offer an almost effortless way to control your home’s temperature—helping you save energy. They can be controlled remotely with a smartphone, and many models can learn your household routine and automatically adjust the temperature!

MGE’s Smart Thermostat Program

MGE is working with customers to advance new technologies to help reduce our collective energy use and impact. Our smart thermostat demand response program, MGE Connect®, helps us better understand how smart technologies can reduce strain on our community grid during times of peak energy use in the summer. Learn more at mge.com/mgeconnect.

Warmer temperatures are on the horizon. MGE has some simple ways to help you save energy as spring returns!

Prevent excess moisture

Spring is a great time to get your dehumidifier ready for the increased humidity summer brings. While it's important to control high humidity in basements to prevent mold growth and improve indoor air quality, dehumidifiers can cost as much as \$50 per month to operate. Control moisture and reduce run time by:

- Checking gutter and downspout drainage.
- Sloping soil away from your home's foundation.
- Looking for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying a new dehumidifier.
- Using a 50% relative humidity setting and checking for leaking hose connections.

Give appliances and vents a spring cleaning

Keeping appliances clean and maintained can help them operate more efficiently. Here are a few quick spring-cleaning tips to keep your central air system in good shape.

- Hose off the outdoor central air-condensing unit to remove dirt and leaves.

- Choose a qualified contractor to service your central air every two years.
- Vacuum dust and dirt from the coils and fan of your dehumidifier and clean the filter once a month.
- Wipe any dust that may have gathered on your vents, and if your home has both high (higher up on the wall) and low (closer to the floor) air returns—give them a quick switch. When we go from heating to cooling, it's helpful to close the lower return and ensure the higher one is open.
- Check your furnace filter and replace it, if needed.

Using energy efficiently and conserving it are some of the ways we all can reduce our environmental footprint and save money. Visit mge2050.com for more ways to save.



“Fueling Up” is Easy with an EV

Innovation

Driving electric means fuel savings and no tailpipe emissions. Another big benefit of driving an electric vehicle (EV) is charging at home. Charging at home is easy—plug in overnight and your vehicle is ready to go in the morning. If you already own an EV or are considering driving electric, MGE has a variety of charging options to keep you “fueled” up.

Charge@Home

With our Charge@Home program, MGE coordinates the installation of a Level 2 (240-volt) charging station. Level 2 stations charge about nine times faster than a standard outlet. There are no upfront costs. For about \$20 a month (64 cents a day), plus the cost of electricity, MGE takes care of maintenance and repairs. As a program participant, you also help MGE learn more about how EV charging will impact our community grid. Learn more at mge.com/chargeathome.

Earth Day Resources for Kids

Working Together

MGE publishes a digital Earth Day Everyday Fun Book each year. We call it Earth Day Every Day because every day is an opportunity to help create a cleaner future. MGE's free Fun Book includes activities and information on how to use energy wisely and to live more sustainably. Visit mge.com/earthday.



Connect with nature

Ready to plan an outdoor learning experience this spring? Founded in 1995 by the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Nature Net is a network of area nature centers, museums, gardens and parks that offer environmental education in south-central Wisconsin. A calendar of upcoming events is available at naturenet.org.

Be sure to connect with MGE on social media



Puede leer estos artículos en español en mge2050.com.