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Transforming our grid

Our Community Grid

Summer 2021

mge

Whether we are at home, work or school, safe and reliable electricity is an essential part of our daily lives. Behind the light switch, MGE is working to transform our community grid for the benefit of all customers by investing in clean energy projects, offering innovative customer programs and harnessing the power of new technologies to build a smarter grid for the future.

MGE, as your community energy company, serves as the “conductor” of this increasingly clean, dynamic and more integrated grid, managing the flow of energy and working to ensure the system operates efficiently in its service to all customers. Here are a few ways MGE is transforming our grid to bring greater value to all customers today and into the future.

Renewable energy

Today’s grid features many power sources as MGE’s use of renewable energy continues to grow. MGE is aggressively greening our community grid to ensure all customers benefit from renewable energy. MGE balances this evolving grid to ensure its safety, reliability and efficiency.

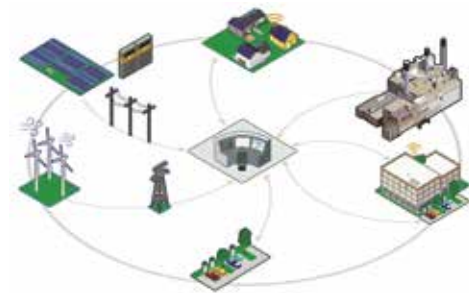
We expect to achieve carbon reductions of at least 65% by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We’ve said since introducing our carbon reduction goals, if we can go further faster by working with our customers, we will. Learn more about our recently announced clean energy projects on the opposite side of this newsletter.

Sustainable transportation

MGE’s grid of the future also is fueling more sustainable transportation. Transportation accounts for almost 30% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. More electric vehicles (EVs) on the road means fewer tailpipe emissions. MGE’s public charging network and Charge@Home program help advance cleaner transportation in our community.

Electricity demand

MGE works with customers in a variety of ways to manage their demand for electricity, including through the use of smart technologies. Through MGE Connect®, we’re able to manage residential customers’ smart thermostats on the hottest days of the year to reduce peak demand. This helps MGE to manage grid resources, which helps to manage long-term costs for all customers. Visit mge2050.com to learn more about our strategies to achieve deep carbon reductions.



As your community energy company, MGE serves as the “conductor” of an increasingly clean, dynamic and more integrated electric grid to benefit all customers.

Reduce humidity in your home

Our Energy Use

As temperatures continue to rise, so does humidity in our homes. It’s important to control high humidity in basements to prevent mold growth and improve indoor air quality. You can help control moisture by checking gutter and downspout drainage, sloping soil away from your home’s foundation and looking for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying a new dehumidifier. Additionally, you can follow these simple tips for

operating a dehumidifier efficiently:

- Set the humidity control so the appliance does not run continuously.
- Position dehumidifier away from walls and furniture.
- Close all windows and doors to the area.
- Keep the dehumidifier clean.

Visit mge.com/dehumidifier for more tips.

We are continuing to grow our use of cost-effective, clean energy. This year, we've announced the following projects:

Red Barn Wind Farm

MGE's 10% share of the 92-megawatt (MW) Red Barn Wind Farm in Grant County will power about 4,000 households. If approved, it is expected to begin serving customers by the end of 2022.

Paris Solar-Battery Park

MGE will own 20 MW of solar energy and 11 MW of battery storage from the 200-MW solar farm to be built in Kenosha County. MGE's share will help power about 6,000 households. If approved, the 1,500-acre project is expected to begin serving customers in 2023.

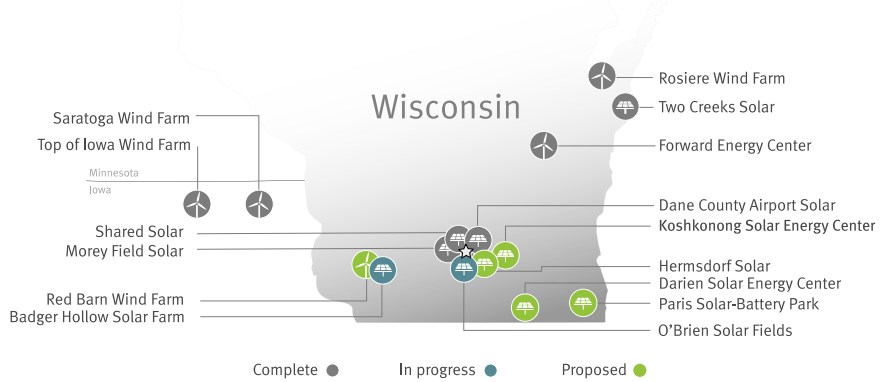
Darien Solar Energy Center

MGE's share of the Darien Solar Energy Center will serve about 7,500 households. MGE will own 25 MW of solar energy and 7.5 MW of battery storage from the 250-MW facility in southeastern Wisconsin. If approved, the project is expected to begin serving MGE customers by the end of 2023.

Koshkonong Solar Energy Center

MGE is seeking approval to own 30 MW of solar energy and 16.5 MW of battery storage from this 300-MW solar park to be built in the Town of Deerfield and the Town of Christiana in Dane County. If approved, it's expected online in 2024.

These clean energy projects are another step toward carbon reductions of at least 65% by 2030 and our goal of net-zero carbon by 2050. They also will help meet future energy and capacity needs cost-effectively as MGE continues its ongoing transition away from coal-fired electricity with the planned retirement of the Columbia Energy Center by the end of 2024.



Sustainable home technologies

Innovation

Home energy technologies are changing rapidly—smart thermostats, energy efficient lighting and fast home charging for EVs are all helping us create a more sustainable future. Technology also is offering new opportunities to change the way we heat our homes, our water and even our food.

Household appliances, such as furnaces, water heaters and stoves, have been traditionally powered by natural gas. Now there are newer, more efficient electric options available, such as heat pumps and induction cooktops, that run on electricity powered by a greener grid. As MGE continues to add more wind and solar energy to our community grid, households can reduce their carbon footprint by going electric at home.

Visit mge.com/hometech to learn more about the latest electric home technologies and to find out if going electric is a good option for your household.

Summer learning resources

Working Together

Interested in engaging your kids in energy education this summer? Each year, in celebration of Earth Day, MGE publishes an Earth Day Every Day digital Fun Book featuring activities and information on a variety of energy and environmental topics for upper elementary and middle school students.



New this year is a kindergarten through third grade section, available in English and Spanish. It features videos with Nelson the peregrine falcon, who helps younger students learn about solar power and EVs. Nelson is named after one of the peregrine falcons that hatched last year in our nesting box at Blount Generating Station.

Visit mge.com/earthday to view the Fun Book and videos.

Be sure to connect with MGE on social media     

Puede leer estos artículos en español en mge2050.com.