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A message from your community energy company

 Working Together

Winter 2020

 MGE

To those we serve:

As 2020 comes to a close, I'd like to extend a thank you to all our customers for working together with us and coming together as a community to face the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MGE has a special responsibility to provide safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our obligation to serve demands we prepare for the unexpected and that we continue to serve those who rely on us to meet our community's everyday needs.

As we look to the future, MGE continues to work together with you, our customers, toward reaching shared energy goals. This fall, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison released its analysis of our goal of net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

Using climate modeling available through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the analysis compared MGE's goal to the modeled pathways for the electricity sector in industrialized nations to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The analysis found MGE's net-zero goal is in line with or more aggressive than these model benchmarks for climate solutions. MGE is aligned with the latest climate science in our pursuit of deep decarbonization.

In addition to engaging our customers around energy efficiency and electric transportation, growing our use of clean energy is one of our strategies for reducing carbon emissions. A number of renewable energy projects came online this year to serve our customers:

- Our Shared Solar program has expanded with a solar array in Middleton. The optional program serves residential and small business customers. To learn more or to join, visit mge.com/sharedsolar.
- We expect our 9-megawatt array (pictured above) at the Dane County Regional Airport to begin serving Dane County operations by the end of this year.
- The 500,000-panel Two Creeks Solar project in northeastern Wisconsin began serving all MGE electric customers in November.

And, we look forward to the first phase of the Badger Hollow Solar Farm coming online in spring. Continue to stay engaged by visiting mge2050.com for updates, and thank you for joining us on our path toward greater sustainability.

Sincerely,



Jeff Keebler

Chairman, President and CEO

Big solar at Dane County Regional Airport

 Cleaner Energy

Drivers along Highway 51 near the Dane County Regional Airport may have noticed some construction activity this fall. MGE partnered with Dane County to build a 9-megawatt solar array (pictured above) that will generate enough carbon-free electricity to power about 40% of County operations.

With about 31,000 solar panels on 58 acres, the solar array is the largest in the state built for a single customer. MGE owns the array and will sell the energy

to Dane County under a Renewable Energy Rider (RER) agreement. MGE's innovative RER program grows clean energy in our community.

The array features tracking technology that adjusts the panels throughout the day to capture 35% more energy than a fixed array.

Visit mge2050.com/airport to watch a video of construction and to learn more about the array.

To learn more, visit mge2050.com.

LED lighting, smart plugs and outdoor solar lights can help you save time and energy this holiday season. The timeless beauty of holiday lights is something that many look forward to seeing each year. And thanks to new technologies, you can create beautiful—and energy efficient—displays at home.

Explore LED lighting options

Festive holiday decor often includes lighting. Look for ENERGY STAR®-certified LED string lights or light bulbs. LEDs use about 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last at least 15 times longer. And, if hanging outdoor lights, make use of a timer to power displays on and off at specific times to save energy.

Consider color-changing bulbs

Gone are the days of just cool white or warm white for light bulbs. Color-changing LEDs provide a literal rainbow of color options that can be controlled via a smartphone app. In addition to custom color options, the cost to operate an LED bulb ranges from about \$1.00 to \$1.50 for an entire year, making them a great choice for saving energy while casting your home in a seasonal light.

Set up your lights with smart plugs

Smart plugs allow you to turn lights or other electronic decorations on or off with a smart speaker or via a smartphone app when you're away from home. As an added bonus, many smart plugs also have options that allow you to set a timer via an app.



Solar-powered lights offer simple solutions for outdoor displays

Looking for a simple solution for outdoor lights? Solar-powered lights are a great option for adding curb appeal to your home without the need for extension cords or batteries. They are available in a variety of sizes, lengths and colors.

Learn more at mge2050.com/holidays.

Think twice about space heaters

Our Community Grid

Some people believe that turning down your thermostat and using an electric space heater will save money. A space heater can be one of the most expensive ways to heat your home. At today's prices, electric heat costs at least eight times as much per BTU as natural gas. Running a typical 1,500-watt electric space heater four hours each day for a month would cost \$25.



Instead, consider some low- or no-cost ways to stay warm:

- Use a heated blanket or heating pad.
- Put on a sweater.
- Get up and move around.
- Let the sun in during the day to warm a room and close your window treatments at night to keep out the colder night air.

Learn more at mge2050.com/heater.

Prepare your home for winter

Our Energy Use

Winter in Wisconsin—that means snow, ice and colder temperatures. Air sealing around windows and doors is an effective way to keep heated air inside your home this winter. These strategies can help:

- Window film is an inexpensive way to help reduce drafts and condensation in winter.
- Caulk to seal air leaks around windows. Caulking compounds come in a variety of strengths and prices. Caulk should be applied during dry weather when the temperature is at least 45 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Weatherstripping works well to seal air leaks around movable components like doors.

Another good place to consider air sealing is the attic. Air sealing and insulation go hand in hand. Air sealing should be done first to stop warm air from rising into the attic.

Learn more at mge2050.com/winter.

Be sure to connect with MGE on social media



Puede leer estos artículos en español en mge2050.com.