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**Cleaner Energy
More Solar Serving MGE Customers**

In late 2023, Wisconsin’s largest solar project became fully operational. The second 150-megawatt (MW) phase of the Badger Hollow Solar Farm in Iowa County came online. MGE owns a total 100 MW of the 300-MW project. The first phase came online in late 2021. MGE’s share of the entire facility is expected to generate enough electricity to power about 30,000 households.

The completion of Badger Hollow is another step in MGE’s ongoing transition toward greater use of cost-effective, carbon-free energy as we work with customers to achieve our industry-leading carbon reduction goals. By 2030, we expect every MGE electric customer will have 80% fewer carbon emissions from their electricity use simply by being an MGE customer as we work toward our goal of net-zero carbon electricity.

Tyto Solar in Fitchburg

Tyto Solar is MGE’s latest solar project, coming online in early 2024. The 6-MW array in Fitchburg is a distributed energy resource, like our other Madison-area solar projects. This means it is connected directly to MGE’s distribution system. Tyto Solar will serve all MGE electric customers.



Tyto Solar in Fitchburg is a 6-MW solar project to serve all MGE customers.

These projects are part of a number of renewable energy projects to help MGE achieve our industry-leading carbon reduction goals. Construction is underway at the Paris Solar-Battery Park in Kenosha County, the Darien Solar Energy Center in Rock and Walworth counties and the Koshkonong Solar Energy Center in Dane County. Visit mge2050.com to learn more.



**Our Community Grid
Think Ahead to Cooling Season**

With the warmth of spring and summer on the way, now is a good time to make sure your household is prepared for cooling season! Get started with these tips:

- **Make saving energy almost effortless—consider a smart thermostat.** Heating and cooling are typically a household’s biggest energy users. Smart thermostats can be controlled remotely with a smartphone, and many models can learn your household routine and automatically adjust the temperature. FOCUS ON ENERGY®, MGE’s partner in energy efficiency, has an online marketplace that offers instant discounts on smart thermostats and other energy-saving items. Visit focusonenergymarketplace.com to learn more.
- **Already using a smart thermostat or plan to install one? Enroll in MGE Connect®, our smart thermostat program.** Participants agree to brief, minor adjustments to their thermostats during periods of high electricity use.

The program helps MGE manage demand on the grid during these periods. Participants can opt out of these adjustments at any time. Visit mge.com/mgeconnect for participation details, including incentives!

- **Choose a qualified contractor to service your central air conditioner every two years.** Also, make sure during cooling season to check regularly—and replace or clean—your furnace filter. (Your air conditioner and furnace use the same filter to remove particles from the air.) Dirty filters can reduce airflow, reducing its efficiency.
- **HVAC in need of replacement? Explore the benefits of heat pumps.** Heat pumps offer a low-maintenance, energy-efficient option for heating and cooling. Watch our latest Green View video at mge.com/greenview to learn why one family opted for a dual-fuel heat pump system.



Consider starting with a home energy assessment—done either by a professional or online. A home energy assessment takes a whole-home approach to identifying areas for improvement and recommended fixes.

How to get started

FOCUS ON ENERGY®, our partner in energy efficiency, can help you find a qualified trade ally contractor/assessor to perform the assessment, which will help identify and prioritize projects. Discuss your needs with a few contractors to understand scope and cost. An assessment may be a necessary step to take advantage of some state or federal incentives. Visit focusonenergy.com/energy-assessments to get started.

DIY online assessment

Focus on Energy also offers an online assessment option. Better understand your home’s energy use in as little as 10 minutes! Find energy-saving opportunities and rebates through the free online tool. Visit focusonenergy.com/home-assessment for an instructional video.

Plant strategically

Planting smart also can help you save energy—up to 25% of the energy a typical household uses, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

It’s key to plant the proper tree or shrub in the proper place. Consider what’s above and below your desired

planting location, as well as the mature height and spread of a plant. Use these general planting tips:

- Plant large, leafy trees on the east and west sides of your home to provide maximum summertime shade and lower the surrounding air temperature. They should be planted at least 20 feet from the side of your home. A six-foot-tall tree planted near your house will shade windows in the first year. That same tree will shade the roof in 5 to 10 years.
- Trees with lower leaves and branches work well on the west side of your home to offer shade from lower sun angles in the afternoon.
- Position trees and shrubs to shade air-conditioning units. Equipment that operates in the shade will use less electricity, but be sure not to block the airflow.
- Plant bushes next to your house to create air space that will provide insulation year-round.

Keep safety in mind

Contact Diggers Hotline at least three days before digging in your yard. MGE and other participating utilities will mark the location of underground facilities on your property. This free service will help you stay safe and avoid fines.

It’s also important to plant trees away from overhead power lines. Trees that grow too close to power lines can cause outages. Find MGE’s list of the 10 best trees to plant near power lines at mge.com/landscaping.



Working Together Go Green with GPT

MGE’s Green Power Tomorrow (GPT) program is an easy, affordable option for electric customers to support renewable energy and offset their greenhouse gas emissions for a penny more per kilowatt-hour. GPT is served by regional MGE renewable energy resources, both wind farms and solar arrays.

The GPT 100 option tailors a customer’s participation to account for the percentage of MGE’s energy portfolio served by renewable resources. For example, a participant in GPT 100 currently has 25% of their usage served by renewable resources included in MGE’s standard resource portfolio, and 75% of their energy use is subject to the incremental energy charge under the GPT program.

As we continue to increase the percentage of renewable resources in our generation portfolio, customers who participate in GPT 100 will see their cost of participation decrease. Visit mge.com/GPT to learn more.



Innovation Sign Up for Green View

Are you interested in new energy technologies? Subscribe to MGE’s Green View, a community-focused video series covering renewable energy, new energy technologies and ways to save energy.

Our most recent video features heat pumps as an energy-efficient heating and cooling alternative. Hear why a local family opted for a dual-fuel heat pump system when they needed to replace their furnace. Visit mge.com/greenview to watch now!

Scan the code to subscribe and receive an email when new videos are released!



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