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## Cleaner Energy New Solar Array in Fitchburg to Serve Customers

Tyto Solar, a new 6-megawatt (MW) solar project along Irish Lane in Fitchburg, is expected to start serving MGE electric customers by the end of this year. Like MGE's other Madison-area renewable energy projects, Tyto Solar is a distributed energy resource, or DER, which is a generating facility connected to MGE's distribution system serving all MGE electric customers. It is expected to generate enough electricity to power about 1,200 households each year.

Tyto Solar is one of a number of projects to help MGE achieve our industry-leading carbon reduction goals. Construction continues on the second phase of the Badger Hollow Solar Farm in Iowa County. MGE will own 50 MW of the second 150-MW phase when it's complete. MGE owns one-third of the first 150-MW phase, which came online in November 2021.



*Tyto Solar under construction in Fitchburg this fall*

By 2030, we expect every MGE electric customer will have 80% fewer carbon emissions from their electricity use simply by being an MGE customer. MGE is working toward our goal of net-zero carbon electricity by investing in cost-effective, clean energy to serve all customers.

### First-of-its-kind energy storage project

MGE and the co-owners of the Columbia Energy Center have been selected for a grant of up to \$30 million from the Department of Energy to support the construction of a compressed carbon dioxide long-duration energy storage system. The innovative 20-MW project would be capable of providing more than 10 hours of energy storage.

The added reliability and dispatchability provided by the energy storage would help to further enable MGE's ongoing transition to greater use of renewable energy. It also would help to manage long-term customer costs because projects like this one enable the partner utilities to store energy to help meet peak demand.

Pending State regulatory approval, construction near the existing Columbia Energy Center could begin in 2025 with project completion in 2026. To learn more, visit [mge.com/ColumbiaEnergyStorage](https://mge.com/ColumbiaEnergyStorage).



## Our Community Grid Make an Impact with MGE Connect®

Managing our collective energy use is one of our strategies for achieving our carbon reduction goals. Smart technologies can help manage your household energy use—and help manage our electric grid.

If you're looking to upgrade to a smart thermostat this season or already own one, consider enrolling in MGE Connect®. MGE Connect is our demand response program for devices like smart thermostats. With customers' permission, minor temperature adjustments are made to customers' smart thermostats to reduce energy use during summertime periods of high demand.

In 2023, customer participation in MGE Connect helped to reduce usage by more than 4 megawatts through some of these events. That's equal to the energy use of more than 1,300 homes during those events or to the amount of power produced by 13,000 solar panels.

If you'd like to participate in MGE Connect in 2024, visit [mge.com/mgeconnect](https://mge.com/mgeconnect) to learn more about eligibility and request to enroll.



## Use these simple tips:

**1. Open drapes on sunny days** to allow sunlight to warm the room. Close drapes at night to help keep warmth inside the home.



**2. Set your thermostat to 68°F or lower** if health permits. Turn the thermostat down 5°F to 10°F at night and when you leave your home.



**3. Use your primary heating source**, like your furnace, boiler or heat pump, to heat your home. Using a space heater can be very expensive.



**4. Keep furniture and drapes away from heat registers** so warm air flows into rooms.



**5. Furnace fan should be set to "AUTO"** not "ON."



**6. Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks** around leaky doors and windows.



## Innovation Pole-Mounted EV Charging

MGE has added the first pole-mounted electric vehicle (EV) charging station to our network of more than 50 public charging stations, all of which are powered by renewable energy.

The charger—which is attached to an existing MGE utility pole—offers convenient curbside charging along Rosemary Avenue in Madison’s Darbo-Worthington neighborhood on the city’s east side.

Studies show about 80% of EV charging happens at home. This can be challenging for drivers who don’t have a garage or dedicated parking.

As we test the technology in areas currently without easy access to EV charging, other locations in the city are being evaluated for additional pole-mounted charging stations.



## Working Together Save Energy with Marketplace

Interested in products to help you save energy? FOCUS ON ENERGY®, MGE’s partner in energy efficiency, has an online marketplace, offering a variety of energy-saving items.

From air purifiers and smart thermostats to LED lighting and more, many products offer instant discounts that can be applied at checkout.

Add energy efficiency to your holiday shopping list by visiting [focusonenergymarketplace.com](https://focusonenergymarketplace.com). The site is continually updated as more energy-saving products are introduced.



Be sure to connect with MGE on social media

Puede leer estos artículos en español en [mge2050.com](https://mge2050.com).