

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT



PREPARED BY THE WISCONSIN OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CLEAN ENERGY
AUGUST 2026



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Dear Reader,

The Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) is proud to share the fourth annual Clean Energy Plan Progress Report. This year has brought landmark achievements alongside difficult challenges in addressing the effects of climate change. The state of Wisconsin remains resolute in its commitment to 100 percent carbon-free electricity generation by 2050. In this report, we highlight major accomplishments across the state that are paving the way toward this goal.



In his 2026 State of the State address, Governor Evers declared 2026 the Year of the Neighbor. He stated that in this time of uncertainty, we must celebrate our fellow Wisconsinites and support one another as neighbors. The OSCE supports this goal as we work to create equitable access to renewable energy, support workforce development, and lead by example as exceptional stewards of Wisconsin's resources. By working closely with community organizations, local governments, Tribal nations, industry partners, and universities throughout the state, we aim to build trust and drive action toward meeting our clean energy goals. Working together enables us to develop effective solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change across Wisconsin and build resilient communities for the future.

In February 2026, the Governor announced that the State of Wisconsin plans to purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) to help offset greenhouse gas emissions from state agencies' electricity use. Just recently in June 2026, Governor Evers also announced that the state will prioritize the purchase of clean-fuel vehicles, which over time will yield cost savings and emissions reductions. Nuclear energy already supplies a large share of the state's clean and renewable energy mix. This year, nuclear energy has received additional bipartisan support, which will drive further research and investment in Wisconsin's nuclear industry.

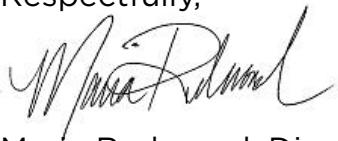
The Wisconsin Climate Action Navigators network has continued to grow in both membership and new projects supported through OSCE grants. A major goal of the most recent round of funding was to expand access to funds in rural areas across the state to promote climate change mitigation. These awards empower grassroots organizations and local leaders to launch projects that address their communities' specific priorities, thereby creating a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable Wisconsin and guiding the state's long-term climate action strategy.

The OSCE also published the state's first climate action plan, *Wisconsin Emissions Reduction Roadmap – Actions for Sustainability in Wisconsin*. The actions outlined in

this Roadmap support climate change mitigation and help maintain accountability on Wisconsin's path to lower emissions across all sectors. The Emissions Reduction Roadmap is designed to be applicable to as many residents as possible, including information for industry, policymakers, and personal plans for individuals to have an impact.

Our office strives to collaborate with state agencies to promote sustainability across the state. We also continue to push for climate action at the federal level while upholding the OSCE's core values of justice, equity, and collective action. As you read this report, we hope you see how those principles continue to guide our efforts—shaping our vision for a clean energy future that benefits all Wisconsinites.

Respectfully,



Maria Redmond, Director
Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy



Photo: Wisconsin Department of Administration

CONTENTS

WISCONSIN’S CLEAN ENERGY PLAN5

BACKGROUND.....5

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION VALUES7

WISCONSIN’S EMISSIONS PROFILE7

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS 11

ACCELERATE CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT13

MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY 22

MODERNIZE BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY..... 26

INNOVATE TRANSPORTATION 32

PRIORITIZE HEALTH EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE,
AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 37

FAST-TRACKING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND A JUST TRANSITION..... 41

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT-LED EFFORTS (LEAD-BY-EXAMPLE) 46

CONTINUING PROGRESS..... 60

APPENDIX I - DWD ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDERS LIST 61

APPENDIX II - REFERENCES 64

WISCONSIN'S CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

Published on April 19, 2022, Wisconsin's first-ever Clean Energy Plan (CEP), developed under Gov. Tony Evers and the Evers Administration, serves as a blueprint to protect our planet from the effects of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to maximize the benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy.ⁱ

The Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) created the CEP as a living document, designed to be comprehensive yet flexible and adaptable to technological, social, and market changes. The CEP intentionally emphasizes strategies for environmental justice, multi-sector deep decarbonization, and a thriving clean energy economy that supports a diverse workforce and fosters technological innovation. Successfully implementing the suite of recommendations in the CEP is expected to lower energy bills, reduce reliance on out-of-state energy sources, accelerate job and apprenticeship training opportunities, and create more than 40,000 jobs by 2030. This report provides a snapshot of efforts to engage Wisconsinites in our shared clean energy progress, assess the status of strategies and progress toward goals, highlight work by stakeholders and agency partners, and offer an overview of Wisconsin's evolving clean energy ecosystem.

BACKGROUND

In August 2019, Gov. Evers issued Executive Order #38, directing the OSCE to develop a comprehensive CEP.ⁱⁱ Recognizing the current conditions in Wisconsin and the role the state plays in regional and national emissions reduction efforts, the plan aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- Putting Wisconsin on course for all electricity used in the state to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2050.
- Ensuring that Wisconsin is meeting the carbon reduction targets of the Paris Climate Agreement.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Enhancing the reliability and affordability of the energy system.
- Reducing the unequal impacts of energy generation and use on low-income communities and communities of color.
- Maximizing equitable opportunities for clean energy jobs, economic development, stimulus, and energy investment dollars retention in Wisconsin.
- Strengthening the clean energy workforce through training and education while retraining workers impacted by the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy sources.
- Protecting human and environmental health by reducing pollution in ecosystems caused by fossil fuels.



Photo: Office of Governor Evers

The CEP represents a portion of the action needed to address climate change by targeting an expedited transition to a clean energy economy. The strategies in the CEP serve as a roadmap for Wisconsin to achieve its goal of a carbon-neutral power sector and to reduce other energy-related emissions. The plan also aims to provide environmental justice groups, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, policymakers, utilities, businesses, state and Tribal governments, local authorities, educators, and residents with a practical roadmap to transform Wisconsin into a resilient and affordable clean energy economy.

This report relates to the state's Clean Energy Plan, which differs from a Climate Action Plan because it does not include strategies for reducing non-energy-related GHG emissions, carbon sequestration, or adaptation. Gov. Evers formed a Task Force on Climate Change and is committed to implementing the recommendations from its final report, which are broader than those outlined in the Clean Energy Plan.^{iv} In June 2026, the OSCE published the first statewide framework to address all major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin. *Wisconsin's Emissions Reduction Roadmap - Actions for Sustainability in Wisconsin* demonstrates a feasible way for the state to develop policies, practices, and technologies that reduce pollutant emissions, create high-quality jobs, drive economic growth, protect and preserve natural resources, improve air quality, and promote the health and well-being of Wisconsin residents.^v



Photo: Office of Governor Evers

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION VALUES

As Wisconsin shifts to a clean energy economy, the state continues to promote and encourage others to adopt three core values: justice, equity, and collective action. These values will not only ensure that communities most affected by climate change benefit from the transition but also guarantee that all Wisconsin communities benefit. Wisconsin will be stronger and more prosperous when every community can access a clean environment and opportunities for economic growth. Additionally, implementing the work outlined in the CEP requires a collective effort. Government, industry, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and other large entities share responsibility for this work.

WISCONSIN'S EMISSIONS PROFILE

The “Wisconsin Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report (1990-2021)”, published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2024, updated Wisconsin’s emissions profile by economic sector. The report is based on 2021 economic and activity data, the latest available at the time. Table 1 shows Wisconsin’s GHG emissions by sector for 1990, 2005, and 2021, highlighting the progress over time. Overall, GHG emissions dropped by 11 percent from 2005 to 2021. The electricity sector saw the largest decrease in emissions, down 28 percent. During that period, industrial emissions fell by 25 percent, while the transportation, natural gas, oil, and waste sectors experienced modest declines. Between 2005 and 2021, agricultural emissions increased by 20 percent (mainly methane and nitrous oxide), marking the largest rise among all sectors.

Another factor in emissions reductions is land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF), which are also classified as GHG inventory sectors because these natural and working lands can either add or remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and are essential in addressing climate change. The Wisconsin Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report (1900-2021) provides estimates of carbon storage from natural and working lands. In 2021, the LULUCF sector sequestered or stored 19.0 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MMTCO₂e). Storing that amount of carbon is roughly equivalent to removing emissions from just over 4.4 million passenger vehicles operated for a year.

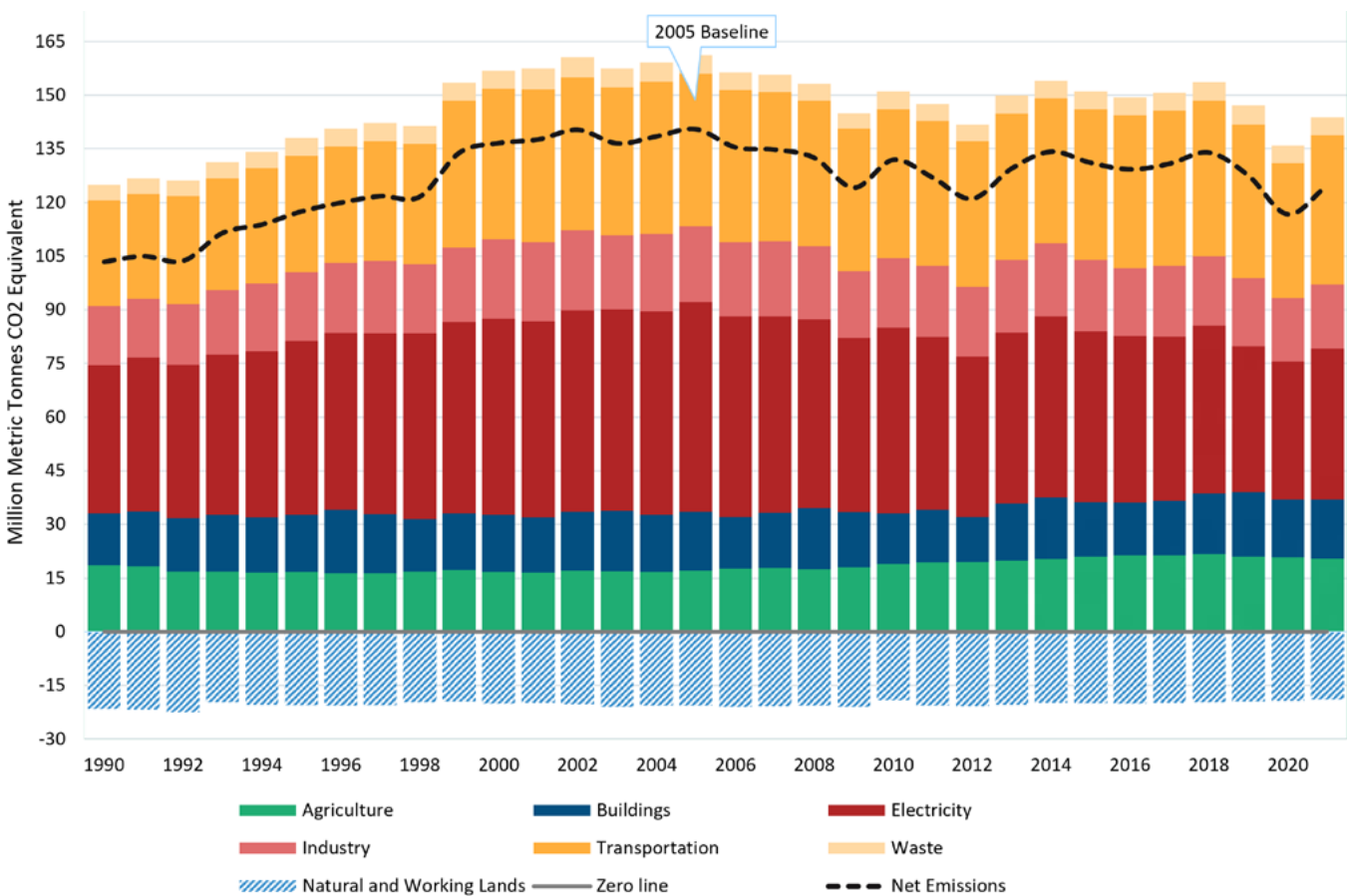
TABLE 1. TOTAL EMISSIONS BY SECTOR (MMTCO₂E)

Economic Sector	1990	2005	2021	Amount Change 2005-2021	% Change 2005-2021
Agriculture	18.6	17.1	20.5	3.5	20
Transportation	29.4	42.7	41.7	-1.0	-2
Electricity	<u>41.3</u>	<u>58.6</u>	<u>42.1</u>	<u>-16.5</u>	<u>-28</u>
• Production	33.4	49.4	35.2	-14.3	-29
• Imported Electricity	8.0	9.2	6.9	-2.2	-24
Buildings	<u>28.4</u>	<u>31.6</u>	<u>27.9</u>	<u>-3.7</u>	<u>-12</u>
• Residential	9.6	10.2	9.8	-0.4	-4
• Commercial	4.9	6.3	6.7	0.4	+6
• Industrial	13.9	15.1	11.4	-3.7	-25
Natural Gas and Oil	2.0	2.4	2.4	0.0*	-0.4
Waste	<u>4.5</u>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>-0.3</u>	<u>-5</u>
• Solid Waste	4.0	4.7	4.4	-0.3	-6
• Wastewater	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.0*	-2
Gross Emissions	125.0	161.3	143.8	-17.5	-11
LULUCF	-21.5	-20.7	-19.0	1.7	-8
Net Emissions	103.5	140.5	124.8	-15.8	-11

Note: Totals may not be summed up due to independent rounding. The numbers indicated by an asterisk (*) were non-zero values that were rounded to zero. See full report for additional details.

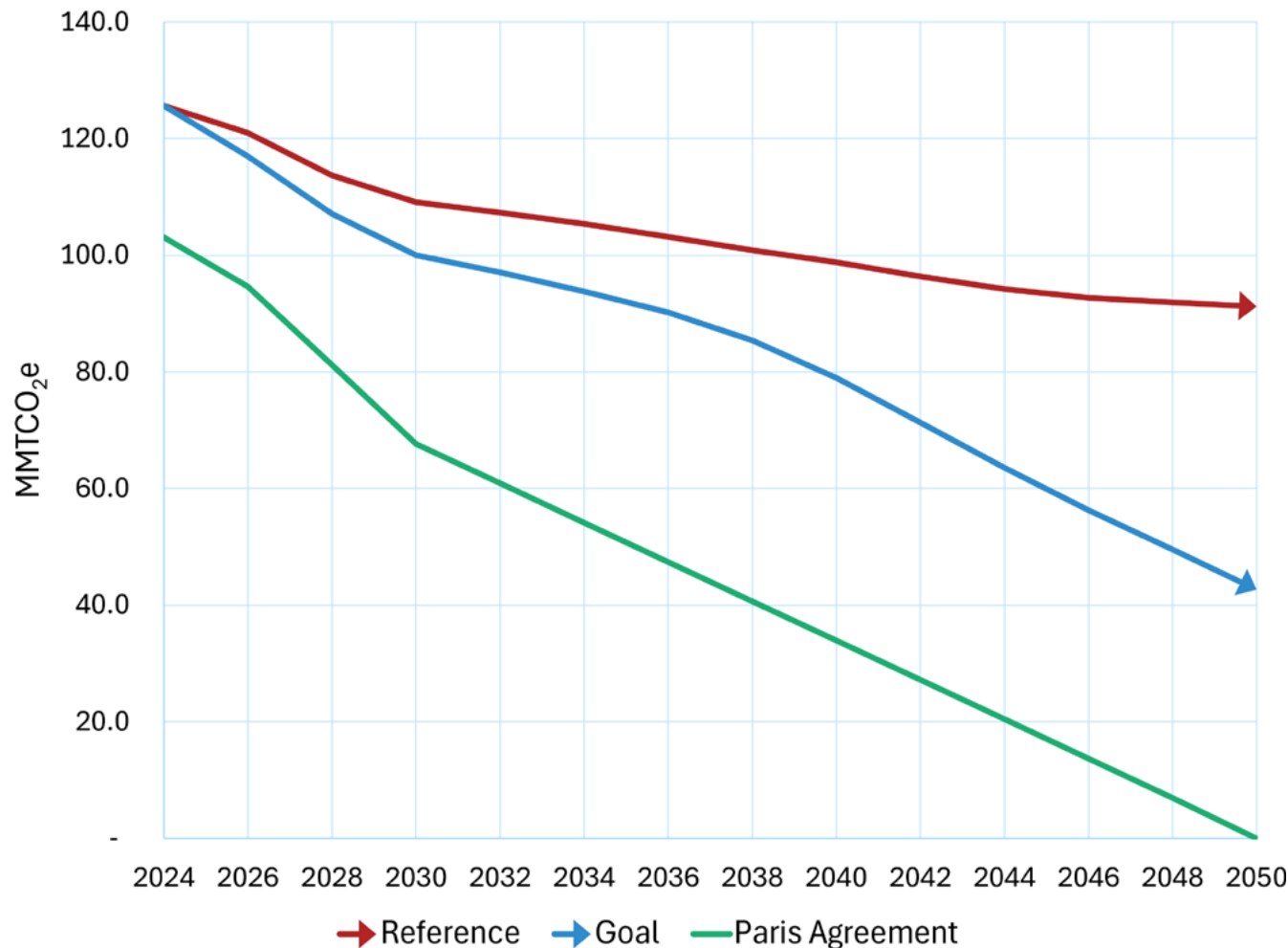
From 1990 to 2005, GHG emissions rose each year except in 1992, 1998, and 2003. GHG emissions in Wisconsin reached their highest level in 2005 at 140.5 MMTCO₂e. Emissions decreased from 2006 to 2009 and fluctuated between 2010 and 2019. There was a sharp decline in emissions in 2020, dropping to their lowest level since 1995. Emissions then increased again in 2021. Figure 1 shows the change in total emissions from 1990 through 2021. The LULUCF category is represented here as “Natural and Working Lands”. “Industry” includes Industrial Buildings, Industrial Process, and Natural Gas and Oil sectors combined.

FIGURE 1 - WISCONSIN GHG EMISSION TRENDS 1990-2021



Due to delays in available economic data, much of the impact of strategies that have been implemented from the CEP is not reflected in the “Wisconsin Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report (1990-2021)”. As a reminder, the CEP released in April 2022 considers Wisconsin’s carbon budget, which is the total allowable carbon emissions needed to prevent ongoing global temperature increases, along with strategies that will make significant progress toward decarbonization. Figure 2 shows the business-as-usual case versus the impact of deploying the CEP energy strategies and compares those trends to the Paris Agreement goals.

FIGURE 2 – WISCONSIN ENERGY EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS



The modeled emissions reductions linked to the strategies included in the CEP serve as a roadmap to help Wisconsin achieve its goal of a carbon-neutral power sector and reduce various other energy-related emissions. In the figure above, the emissions under the green line include those beyond the scope of the CEP as outlined in Executive Order #38. Also included are energy-related emissions that face significant technical and implementation challenges (e.g., electrification of air travel and specific industrial processes, and behavior change).

The State continues to make progress in reducing emissions and implementing actions. Tracking progress toward those goals will require additional updates to the statewide GHG emissions inventory, along with data and information on the implementation of specific strategies. The DNR has initiated an update to the GHG Emissions Inventory Report to include the most recently available data to be published by the end of 2026.

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As Wisconsin works toward a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future, the CEP emphasizes four key pathways to build momentum and drive action toward these goals.

- **Accelerate clean energy technology deployment** by increasing project funding options, investing in infrastructure, setting new emissions goals, expanding state energy resources for future generations, promoting technological innovation, equitably expanding clean energy access, and leveraging existing policies and programs.
- **Maximize energy efficiency** by strengthening standards and programs to cut energy waste, create jobs, and help consumers save money on energy costs.
- **Modernize buildings and industry** by updating building codes, promoting electrification, expanding funding opportunities for efficiency and renewable projects, and assisting industry and businesses in their transition.
- **Innovate transportation** by promoting the shift to low- and zero-emission vehicles, expanding refueling options, and improving planning and options for moving people around.



Photo: Office of Governor Evers

Additional ways the CEP ensures an inclusive transition include:

- Prioritizing health equity, environmental justice, and fair economic growth.
- Accelerating workforce development and ensuring a just transition.
- Accelerating government-led initiatives (Lead-by-Example).

Since 2021, support and investments from philanthropic partners and the federal government have played a large role in helping accelerate clean energy in Wisconsin. However, obstruction from the Trump Administration threatens this important work. The State of Wisconsin, with the support of philanthropy and local partners, remains committed to deploying clean energy and combating climate change. With these changing dynamics at the federal level, the CEP continues to offer a practical way forward, and this report highlights the progress Wisconsin continues to make to maximize its achievements.

POWER FOR WISCONSIN'S NONPROFITS AND SCHOOLS

Since 2017, the Solar for Good grant program has awarded nonprofits, public schools, and houses of worship funding to pursue energy independence through solar power. As of spring 2026, awarded grants have totaled more than \$3 million, supporting more than \$30 million in solar investments across 270 projects. To date, nearly 10,000 kilowatts of Solar for Good-supported projects are actively powering vital organizations across the state, with another 2,000 kilowatts on the way.

This year, RENEW Wisconsin directed \$30,000 to six organizations, each with its own unique mission. Together, their projects will add more than 300 kilowatts of solar capacity. Casa Esther, TransCenter for Youth, Inc., Hope Village – Tiny Homes, First Congregational UCC of Tomah, Lake Mills Area School District, and Strum Public Library are all doing their part to enrich and improve the lives of those who live in their communities. The solar projects will support missions that house, feed, clothe, and educate people in their communities. It is our hope that their solar projects will not only help these organizations continue their missions but also expand what they can accomplish.

Solar for Good and the projects the grant program supports are proof that we can both reduce our emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change and create measurable benefits for communities across Wisconsin.



Photo: Hunger Task Force

*Photo: First Presbyterian Church
in Marshfield, Wisconsin*





ACCELERATE CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin's goal of achieving 100 percent carbon-free electricity consumption by 2050 is outlined in Executive Order #38, issued by Gov. Evers in 2019. As buildings, transportation, and industry become more electrified, decarbonizing the power sector will be essential to support economy-wide reductions. Deploying clean energy requires collaboration among stakeholders such as Wisconsin utilities, renewable energy developers, governments, and other partners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While balancing an ever-increasing load growth with reliability, utilities still aim to maintain diversified portfolios, phase out coal, and deploy clean energy. Utilities are leaning on dispatchable resources, such as natural gas, to meet capacity needs. That said, Wisconsin utilities still aim to achieve significant reductions in emissions from electricity generation.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) Draft Strategic Assessment 2026-2032, released in June 2026, found that Wisconsin utilities identified a 45 percent reduction in CO₂ levels in 2024 compared to 2005 CO₂ emissions levels.^{vi} Below is a list of individual utility goals/progress based on their annual/corporate sustainability reports.

- **Xcel Energy** reports a 58 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels, along with a 53 percent carbon-free energy mix. Continue moving toward a goal of 100 percent carbon-free electricity for customers by 2050. Also work to bring more clean energy into the state via transmission.^{vii}
- By 2025, **WEC Energy Group** (WEC) reported a 53 percent reduction in carbon emissions in energy generation since 2005. WEC's energy portfolio has reduced coal from 7 percent of the energy generation mix in 2005 to 33 percent as of 2025. WEC maintains a long-term goal to achieve net-carbon-neutral electric generation by 2050.

- **WPPI** reduced coal from 62 percent in 2010 to 35 percent in 2025. Three baseload units are anticipated to transition away from coal by 2035. WPPI remains committed to a 2050 carbon-free target.^{viii}
- **Madison Gas and Electric** (MGE) has reduced carbon emissions by more than 40 percent from the 2005 baseline, halfway to reducing carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2030. They continue working toward net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. MGE has also set a goal to achieve net-zero methane emissions from its natural gas distribution system by 2035.^{ix}
- **Alliant Energy Corporation** (Alliant Energy) has achieved a 35 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as compared to 2005 levels. Alliant Energy continues to aim for its long-term voluntary goals to eliminate all coal-fired electric generating units (EGUs) from its generating fleet by 2040 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its utility operations by 2050.^x
- **Dairyland Power Cooperative** continues to pursue 100 percent carbon-pollution-free electricity by 2035, as well as supporting transmission to expand access and bring more clean energy into Wisconsin.

The PSCW Draft Strategic Assessment 2026-2032 reports that utilities plan to add more new nameplate capacity, including solar, natural gas, wind, and battery storage (see Utility Scale, Community & Residential Renewables section below for additional details). Further updates to these projections may be made in the Final Strategic Energy Assessment, which will be finalized later in 2026.

FUNDING AND INCENTIVES

The PSCW's Office of Energy Innovation (OEI), Wisconsin's federally designated State Energy Office, administered pass-through grants using Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant funds allocated through the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). In 2024, PSCW awarded more than \$1 million through the Rural Energy Startup Program to support rural local governments in implementing comprehensive energy and renewable resource planning and conducting energy efficiency audits and projects. In August 2025, PSCW awarded an additional \$1 million to support projects in 10 communities across the state.

In April 2026, the OEI released a new request for proposals (RFP) for the next Energy Innovation Grant Round (EIGP). With \$10 million available, the OEI received proposals totaling over \$36.5 million in funding requests. Decisions on those awards will be made in fall 2026. This is likely the last EIGP grant round unless additional funding is authorized, since Gov. Evers' previous proposals for state funding for EIGP have been rejected by the Legislature.

In accordance with Gov. Evers' Executive Order #195, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) continued to explore the establishment of the state's first green bank – The Green Innovation Fund (GIF) to finance clean energy and other projects.^{xi} Federal funding pulled back under the Trump Administration

slowed this process, but the State is committed to exploring and collaborating with stakeholders to make this a reality.

The WEDC Business Development Tax Credit (BTC) Program, established under 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, provides refundable tax credits to support business expansion, job creation, capital investment, workforce training, corporate headquarters attraction and retention, workforce housing, and childcare initiatives. Beginning in 2026, the program was expanded to also incentivize eligible energy efficiency investments, helping businesses improve competitiveness while supporting Wisconsin's energy and economic development goals.

Wonewoc Area Utility Assistance, LLC (WAUA) was established in 2025 to develop and implement projects that reduce utility costs for residents and businesses in the Village of Wonewoc. WAUA received a \$50,000 Capacity Building-Cooperative Grant from the WEDC to evaluate the feasibility of a community-owned electric utility and a self-sustaining energy system. The grant will fund a comprehensive feasibility study to assess the long-term viability of acquiring and operating the local electric distribution system, as well as opportunities to integrate community-owned solar generation and battery energy storage to reduce electricity costs, improve energy resilience, and strengthen the local economy.

The organization is exploring options to acquire and operate the community's electric distribution system through a cooperative utility model, with the goal of lowering electricity rates, which are currently among the highest in Wisconsin. High electricity costs have become a barrier to economic development, making it more difficult for local businesses, such as grocery stores with significant refrigeration loads, to remain viable and reducing the community's ability to attract new employers and residents. The project is also evaluating community-owned solar generation and microgrids to reduce reliance on imported electricity, improve energy resilience, and lower long-term energy costs.

In November 2024, the PSCW issued an order defining beneficial electrification to fulfill the PSCW's previous directive for the Focus on Energy® program to play a larger role in promoting beneficial electrification. As part of that updated definition, the PSCW clarified that energy reduction should be considered in terms

STEPPING UP FOR RENEWABLES

In mid-2025, the Focus on Energy® program significantly increased solar incentives to offset the negative impacts of the elimination of federal tax credits. Evidence to date suggests that these incentive increases have softened the negative impacts of the repeal of those credits on the solar market. In spring 2026, the PSCW, in its Quadrennial V Planning decisions (a process that informs this program to shape upcoming energy savings, grid performance, and carbon reduction goals), increased the program's Renewables budget to \$25 million to support increased renewable activity over the next four years of the program.



of source energy rather than site-based energy, stated that the Focus on Energy should explore options to incorporate source energy considerations into program operations, and specified that this exploration should include opportunities for supporting Combined Heat and Power (CHP).^{xii} In December 2025, Focus on Energy released a competitive RFP for CHP projects for businesses. The RFP is open through October 31, 2026, with project completion expected by November 30, 2027.

REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS

In July 2025, the PSCW included in its scope of continued investigation of its buyback rates for customer-owned renewables a review and analysis of distributed solar adoption rates and how they affect the viability and efficiency of traditional net metering; an evaluation of net metering rate designs, including a comparison to utility-owned solar; and an evaluation of the effects various net metering rate designs may have on solar adoption rates, other programs, non-participating customers, low-to-moderate-income (LMI) customers, and renewable energy goals.

In June 2025, the PSCW approved revised rules that clarified, streamlined, and updated Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 113.0803. Those rules took effect in December 2025. PSCW Commissioners adopted many of the recommendations presented by environmental, housing, and clean energy stakeholders during the rulemaking process. Specifically, the new rule expands categorical exceptions rather than relying on a more burdensome waiver process that delays needed housing projects. An important categorical exception added to the rule exempts affordable



Photo: Office of Governor Evers

housing projects. The updates will ease barriers to installing rooftop solar, energy-saving appliances, and highly efficient heating and cooling systems. Additionally, the updates lower barriers for renters to access rooftop solar and other clean technologies.

In 2026, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) updated its water quality trading policy to formally include utility-scale solar installations as eligible credit generators. Solar installations that exceed applicable stormwater permit requirements may generate phosphorus and total suspended solids credits for use by municipal and industrial dischargers. Two such projects were completed as of 2026, including the Grant County/Cassville and Portage Solar projects. These projects generate phosphorus credits for the nearby Potosi-Tennyson Sewerage Commission and the Village of Plover Wastewater Treatment Facility, helping each facility avoid costly treatment upgrades and user rate increases.

CLEAN, AFFORDABLE ENERGY IMPLEMENTATION AND INNOVATION

NUCLEAR

Signed into law by Gov. Evers with bipartisan legislative support, 2025 Wisconsin Act 12 authorized the PSCW and UW-Madison to begin work on a nuclear energy siting study.^{xiii, xiv} This study aims to enhance state knowledge of nuclear energy potential to meet the state's growing need for carbon-free energy, including but not limited to:

- Evaluating existing nuclear energy opportunities as part of the state's energy portfolio; and
- Identifying sites for the development and demonstration of nuclear power and fusion technologies.



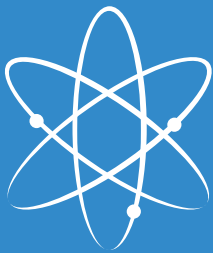
\$2 million in state funding was approved in the 2025-27 budget for the study. The study results are expected to be delivered in early 2027.

Signed into law the same year, 2025 Wisconsin Act 11, creates a state Nuclear Power Summit Board to work along with the WEDC to organize, promote, and host the first-ever Wisconsin Nuclear Power Summit.^{xv} This summit will provide participants with education and information-sharing opportunities designed to advance nuclear power and fusion energy technology and development and to showcase Wisconsin's leadership and innovation in the nuclear industry.

Finally, In April Gov. Evers signed 2025 Wisconsin Act 165 into law which created a sales and use tax exemption nuclear fusion technology projects in the state. This

HOT DOG! NUCLEAR FUSION IS COMING!

In July 2026, the state of Wisconsin, in collaboration with the City of Madison, committed up to \$55 million to develop Realta Fusion's corporate headquarters on the site of the former Oscar Mayer plant in Madison, WI. Realta Fusion will build a prototype magnetic mirror fusion machine called Hammir and establish a strong foundation for commercial fusion activities in the state.



new incentive played a major role in Realta Fusion choosing Madison for its new corporate headquarters and next phase of growth, expected to create hundreds of good-paying jobs.

In September 2025, WPPI received regulatory approval from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, allowing the continued operation of the Point Beach Nuclear facility into the 2050s. The Point Beach Nuclear plant provides 168 MW of baseload generation, which accounts for nearly 16 percent of Wisconsin's total annual electricity needs. This is enough zero-emission energy to power roughly 1 million homes.

In February 2026, WEDC's new Ignite Wisconsin Grant Program awarded \$778,000 to the Wisconsin Fusion Energy Coalition, led by the 5 Lakes Institute, Inc., that will work to establish Wisconsin as a national hub for fusion energy commercialization. The coalition, anchored

by UW-Madison's fusion research strength, brings together universities, economic development organizations, and industry partners to accelerate startup formation, strengthen the fusion supply chain, attract new businesses, and promote Wisconsin's fusion ecosystem in a rapidly growing global industry projected to exceed \$350 billion by 2050.

UTILITY SCALE, COMMUNITY & RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLES AND ENERGY STORAGE:

The Wisconsin Inclusive Solar Community Offering (WISCO) initiative provides free access to community solar for eligible households. The two community solar arrays operated by Vernon Electric Coop and Pierce Pepin Electric Coop have delivered significant bill savings to qualified low-income utility members. The PSCW approved the use of State Energy Program funds to support the development of those solar arrays in 2021, and that investment is now delivering real benefits to customer bills.

The PSCW has continued to approve numerous new solar projects, as well as its first approval of a wind project in more than a decade. Additional applications have been submitted and will receive action in the coming months. As of August 2026, the PSCW has approved over 7,300 MW of solar and 118 MW of wind, with an additional 100 MW of solar under review and 277 MW of wind under review.

In September 2025, the PSCW approved a new MGE community solar tariff that allows participants to be a small up-front amount to receive energy from the Strix

Solar Project in Fitchburg.^{xvi} In January 2026, PSCW approved an expansion of Alliant Energy's Community Solar Project, which includes reservation of subscription blocks for both first-time homebuyers and low-to-moderate income (LMI) customers.^{xvii}



Photo: Vernon Electric Cooperative

The draft Strategic Energy Assessment report shows that Wisconsin electric providers plan to add more new renewable generation between 2026 and 2032, including 5,175 MW of new solar, nearly 1,370 MW of wind capacity, and 2,250 MW of battery storage, with over half of that paired with solar installations. Additionally, in 2025, Wisconsin had more than 27,152 customer-owned renewable generation installations, totaling 464 MW of capacity. Customer-owned

solar alone totaled 318 MW in 2025, up from 201 MW in 2023 and 137 MW in 2021.^{xviii}

There has been significant growth in utility-scale energy storage deployments. The PSCW issued a new set of Application Filing Requirements for energy storage projects to provide clarity and transparency for applicants proposing to deploy new storage. Since 2019, when the first energy storage project was submitted, PSCW has approved 2,324 MW battery energy storage projects associated with solar projects, with more future applications anticipated. Edgewater Storage (99 MW) was the first stand-alone battery storage project approved. The PSCW has also approved the Columbia Energy Storage project (20 MW) that does not use batteries but uses stored gas to provide long-duration storage.

Alliant Energy's long-duration energy storage project in Columbia County, known as the Energy Dome, achieved Phase 2 of its grant with the U.S. Department of Energy (US DOE), bringing the total amount awarded to date to \$21M. This was the first project funded through the US DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstration to achieve this milestone. The project has nearly completed its engineering and design phase, and construction is expected to start in the Spring of 2027, with a target completion date in Q3 of 2028. The project has also placed orders for major components from domestic suppliers.

Other notable renewable and storage developments include:

- **Vista Sands**, a PSCW-approved, 1,300 MW solar and 300 MW battery storage development. Construction is slated to begin in 2026.
- **Elk Creek Solar Project**, PSCW-approved, a 300 MW solar array and 76.6 MW battery storage planned in Dunn County. Construction to begin in 2026.
- **Koshkonong Solar Energy Center**, PSCW-approved, a 300 MW solar and 165 MW battery storage power plant in Dane County. Commercial operation targeting late 2026.

- **Dawn Break Solar**, a PSCW-approved, 180 MW solar and 180 MW battery storage project in Waushara County. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2027.
- **Porchlight Solar**, a PSCW-approved project with a 163.8 MW solar project paired with a 50 MW battery in Portage County. Construction to begin in 2026.
- **Badger Hollow**, a 100 MW wind project in Iowa and Grant counties, is undergoing construction through this year and is expected to be in service by 2027.
- **Columbia Wind Project**, a proposed project under review by the PSCW, 277 MW project aligned with the current Columbia Energy Center in Columbia County. If approved, this wind project will be in service by the end of 2028.

The Universities of Wisconsin have excelled in renewable energy deployment; below are some examples:

- UW-Parkside installation of a 44 kW (estimated sizing) rooftop solar array on the Facilities Management Office will take place during summer 2026.
- At UW-Superior, operation of a 440kW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system began in spring 2026.
- UW-Madison enrolled as an anchor tenant in an Alliant Energy Community Solar project in Wisconsin. For each kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity generated at the site, the university receives bill credits, and renewable energy certificates are retired for UW-Madison. Additionally, the UW-Madison Kegonsa Research Campus Agrivoltaics Field was recognized as the 2025 North American Agrivoltaics Dual-Use Solar Plan of the Year for excellence in design and planning. The solar project is now operating and includes active research projects and educational tours.

“SUNDAY” – SOLAR FUN DAY

Third Act Wisconsin, a hardworking and fun group of elders dedicated to a vibrant democracy, a healthy climate, and connected communities, organized 47 events between September 11 and 28, 2025. Events included free public concerts, solar tours, storytelling, and a coordinated climate march. The goal was to provide opportunities for Wisconsin residents to learn about solar energy, especially small-scale solar across the state. Most of these events took place on September 21st, “SunDay,” the fall solstice.

[See where and what type of events were held in Wisconsin.](#)



DEMAND RESPONSE

The PSCW and utilities continue to explore and implement measures to improve system efficiency, optimize electricity use, improve grid reliability, and lower peak generation costs. The PSCW reviews programs and has approved a number of these demand response initiatives.

- The PSCW ordered the Focus on Energy program administrator to continue supporting demand response and establish new targets for load-flexible devices through the Quadrennial Planning Process V (2027-2030).
- In July 2025, in approving the South Oak Creek combustion turbine project, the PSCW recognized that WEC could also add significant demand response capacity as a low-cost addition to its resource mix. The PSCW required the utility to file, in its next rate case, an analysis of a robust, comprehensive demand response program as part of a portfolio to serve future needs. Wisconsin Public Service (WPS), a subsidiary of WEC Energy Group, offers Response Rewards to help customers avoid higher rates during on-peak and critical-peak hours.

**25
YEARS**

Congratulations to the Focus on Energy Program on 25 years of service, delivering incentives, rebates, and technical assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Thanks to this program, Wisconsin residents are significantly reducing energy waste and saving money!

- Alliant launched its new Peak Time Rewards program in 2026. This opt-out program auto-enrolled 280,000 customers. The summer of 2026 has seen only one demand response event, with an opt-out rate of <0.5 percent and an average 0.14kW load shed per meter.

- In Spring 2026, the PSCW approved a new Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Demand Response program for Waunakee Utilities, administered by WPPI. The BYOD program allows residential and general service customers to voluntarily enroll in their own smart thermostats and receive a one-time \$25 enrollment credit and an annual \$25 participation incentive. During summer peak events, WPPI's platform provider, EnergyHub, will remotely adjust thermostat settings to reduce air conditioning load.

ADVANCING STRATEGIC ACTION

The OSCE continues work on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. The OSCE leads this effort to effectively reduce climate impacts, improve workforce opportunities, and address environmental justice for disadvantaged communities. In June 2026, the OSCE published the first statewide framework to address all major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin. *Wisconsin's Emissions Reduction Roadmap – Actions for Sustainability in Wisconsin* demonstrates a feasible way for the state to develop policies, practices, and technologies that reduce pollutant emissions, create high-quality jobs, drive economic growth, protect and preserve natural resources, improve air quality, and promote the health and well-being of Wisconsin residents.^{xix}



MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

BACKGROUND

To simultaneously meet the state's clean energy, economic, and carbon reduction goals, Wisconsin needs to drastically increase energy efficiency, which will require a significant ramp-up in investment. Not only are considerably higher levels of energy efficiency critical to reaching these goals, but they are also necessary to keep costs as low as possible in a future where energy needs are met with high levels of clean, renewable energy generation. Energy efficiency is one of the few strategies that can significantly reduce energy burdens for homeowners, renters, and businesses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Focus on Energy program, funded by Wisconsin's investor-owned energy utilities and participating municipal and electric cooperative utilities, remains the flagship program for real, measurable energy and financial savings for Wisconsin's residents and businesses. Lauded as the nation's top ratepayer benefit program, Focus on Energy has delivered more than \$1 billion in net economic benefits to Wisconsin. The program is celebrating its 25th year of operations, providing incentives, rebates, and technical assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The following are examples of the great benefits and programs delivered by Focus on Energy.

The 2025 Focus on Energy Evaluation findings show that businesses and residents collaborate to install cost-effective energy-efficiency and renewable-energy projects, upgrade our infrastructure, and improve the environment.^{xx} Focus on Energy's successful partnership with Wisconsin's utilities continues to reduce energy waste, strengthen our economy, and advance a sustainable energy future for our state. The key findings from 2025 conclude the program as follows:

- Returns \$3.57 to Wisconsin's economy for every \$1 invested.
- Helped businesses and residents save 7 billion lifecycle kWh and more than 367.8 million lifecycle therms.

- Participant overall satisfaction (residential and nonresidential) was 9.4 out of 10, a metric that has consistently shown high satisfaction over the past several years.

The Focus on Energy’s Quadrennial Planning Process V remains in progress and has already offered multiple opportunities for public input, including a call for pre-scoping comments in summer 2025, the release of a scoping memo for comment in early 2026, and the release of a priorities memo for comment in spring 2026. Additional opportunities for public input will be provided later in 2026, allowing readers to review and offer feedback on the program plans proposed for the 2027-2030 quadrennial period, which will inform the PSCW’s decisions on appropriate goals, metrics, and targets for the program during that period.

Wisconsin was the first state in the country to make Home Energy Rebates Programs available and remains one of the few states fully operating programs under that umbrella: Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR).^{xxi} These programs are supported by \$149 million in federal funding from the US DOE through the IRA.

As of mid-2026,
Wisconsin households have received
more than
\$15 million
in rebates,
with projects being completed in
70 of the 72 counties in the state.

In Spring 2026, the PSCW directed Focus on Energy to propose programs that would close participation gaps in underserved communities and increase energy savings in the Communities of Focus established in 2024. The Communities of Focus framework aims to identify areas of the state where customers are underserved by the Focus on Energy Program. It identifies several factors correlated with underservice, including localities with high energy burden, a high share of low-to moderate-income customers, and a high share of renters. The Focus on

Energy Administrator is conducting pilot programming to better serve previously underserved communities, targeting those identified by the framework, and will use lessons from the pilot to more broadly refine its approach to serving Communities of Focus going forward. These programs will be developed and reviewed by the PSCW starting in late 2026.

The Focus on Energy program continues to issue annual Energy Efficiency Excellence awards to Wisconsin businesses, schools, farmers, government entities, and contractors.^{xxii} Award winners are working above and beyond essential energy efficiency solutions. 2026 Awardees and locations include:

- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (Stevens Point)
- Brown County (Green Bay)
- PPG Industries, Inc (Oak Creek)

- School District of River Falls (River Falls)
- Domtar A.W. LLC (Nekoosa)
- Badger Holsteins (Unity)
- August Winter & Sons (Appleton)
- Brubacker Ag Equipment, LLC (Curtiss)
- B&B Electric, Inc. (Eau Claire)
- Beyond Energy LLC (Waukesha)

In addition to the Focus on Energy Program, agencies are promoting energy efficiency. Below is a sampling of additional great work in Wisconsin to maximize energy efficiency.

- The Department of Administration, Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources provides home weatherization services through the Weatherization Assistance Program. For the 2024-2025 program year, 5,074 homes were weatherized resulting in an estimated first-year cost savings of over \$1.7 million and estimated lifetime cost savings of over \$32 million.
- WEDC updated its existing Business Tax Credit (BTC) program to recognize and incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency investments that reduce peak energy demand and energy use intensity. This change enables the agency to support energy efficiency, local energy generation, energy storage, and other energy efficiency investments that optimize grid utilization, enhance energy resilience, and help protect businesses and residents from rising energy costs through its existing tax credit framework.
- WEDC's Community Development Investment (CDI) program provides financial incentives for catalytic, shovel-ready redevelopment projects that strengthen commercial corridors and deliver measurable economic benefits, including job creation, increased property values, and leveraged local and private investment. Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, the CDI program incorporated a formal referral process to connect eligible applicants with the Focus on Energy Program - Design Assistance, helping ensure that new construction and major renovation projects are designed with energy efficiency in mind. Through this coordinated approach, CDI projects can leverage the Focus on Energy program's technical expertise and financial incentives to improve building performance, reduce long-term energy costs, and enhance project outcomes.
- In July 2026, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) updated the Efficiency and Sustainability standards as part of the

FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

In December 2025, UW-River Falls won the Focus on Energy program's Higher Education Kit Challenge.

This annual competition for Wisconsin colleges and universities provides free home energy-saving kits to off-campus students and employees. UW-River Falls students and staff ordered 116 energy-saving kits, reducing their energy use by 3,930 kWh. This is equivalent to powering one home's electricity use for an entire year.



2027-2028 Qualified Allocation Plan. Appendix W of the QAP outlines mandatory energy-efficiency thresholds, advanced building certification, and net-zero stretch goals for affordable housing developments. Threshold requirements include Energy Design Assistance; Green Building Certification; and HERS® (Home Energy Rating) Index Scores for Rehabilitation Projects. Projects within participating utility areas must coordinate with the Focus on Energy program's Energy Design Assistance (EDA) program. Developers may also pursue Advanced Certification (such as Phius or Enterprise Green Communities levels). Top-tier developers can aim for net-zero energy consumption.

- WHEDA continues to offer the More Like Home™ Repair and Renew Loan program to help owners of older homes make critical repairs and improvements that increase energy efficiency, safety, and security.^{xxiii}



Photo: Focus on Energy/PSCW



MODERNIZE BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY

BACKGROUND

Direct emissions from commercial and residential buildings primarily stem from space heating and cooling, water heating, electronics, lighting, and other uses. These direct emissions are distinct from indirect emissions associated with the electricity generation that powers buildings. After electricity generation, transportation, agriculture, and buildings are Wisconsin's fourth-largest source of emissions. As a CEP strategy, the state aims to reduce the embodied energy within its building materials by researching policies and deploying programs, projects, and training designed to lower carbon emissions from construction materials. The CEP also supports Wisconsin wood product utilization and protects Wisconsin forests. The state also aims to improve the energy performance and strengthen the cost-competitiveness of Wisconsin's industrial sector. Better energy management by industrial businesses will reduce overall energy usage, potentially at peak times, thus reducing costs of the system to all customers. Individuals with lower incomes are more likely to live in neighborhoods that are susceptible to climate-related disasters and are also often living near industrial areas and hazardous waste sites.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MATERIALS

The DNR Forest Products Services (FPS) program offers technical assistance and training to businesses interested in utilizing and marketing sustainable forestry products. In 2025, the Forest Products Services program hosted local use dimension lumber courses to certify 82 individuals to mill, grade, and sell dimension lumber. This unique program allows Wisconsin sawmills to mill structural framing lumber for residential construction using native species without the need for a grade stamp.



Photo: WDNR

This certification program supports markets with locally produced wood products that aim to sequester more carbon via wood product utilization, industry growth and sustainable forest management.

The DNR FPS program continued work on the biochar trial at Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel to support new market development in Wisconsin. The trial was featured in a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service publication on biochar production. A second round of biochar production at the nursery took place in January 2025. DNR FPS provided technical assistance to train nursery staff to produce biochar independently using their biochar kilns. Additional biochar plots at the nursery are expected in the near future, with support from UW-Madison. In April 2026, a technical presentation on biochar use in agricultural soils and a hands-on demonstration of biochar production using the FPS biochar kilns were held in Paoli, Wisconsin, for about 30 members of Wisconsin Farmers Union from two southern Wisconsin chapters.

Wood-based construction and urban wood utilization remain a focus. In the fall of 2025, the DNR FPS staff held an event titled “Wood-Based Construction: Mass Timber and Beyond” in Milwaukee. The event hosted a variety of different professionals, including architects, engineers, designers, and others. Speakers throughout the day showcased the potential of building and design aspects utilizing urban wood and mass timber. Attendees were given a tour of the Ascent building (currently the largest mass timber building in the world) and the Baird Center, which is home to a one-of-a-kind urban wood staircase.

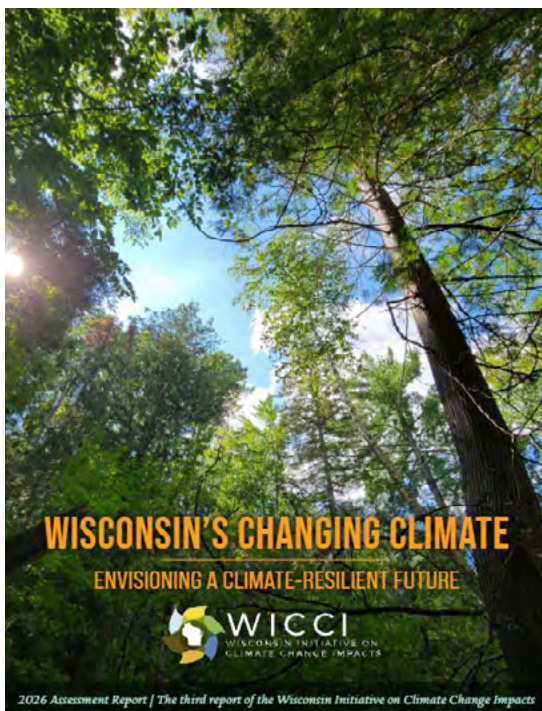


Photo: WDNR

In early 2026, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), a statewide collaboration of scientists and stakeholders, in partnership with UW-Madison’s Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the DNR, released its 2026 Assessment Report entitled Wisconsin’s Changing Climate: Envisioning a Climate-Resilient Future. Key themes include anticipating more extreme events, building community resilience, adapting to rapidly changing natural spaces, and strengthening the economy. As it relates to clean energy and low-carbon infrastructure, the report notes that communities can mitigate climate change by adopting renewable energy and reducing emissions from construction materials. Concrete and steel account for over 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Using low-carbon materials and reuse programs can significantly cut emissions — one cubic yard of low-carbon concrete is equivalent to planting 12 trees.

BUILDING CODES

The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) leads nearly 250 meetings annually of its attached professional regulatory boards, committees, and councils. Some of these bodies advise and make decisions that shape Wisconsin's leadership in building codes, innovation, and low-carbon or energy-efficient building materials. DSPS efforts to consider low-carbon materials and sustainability include:

- The Mass Timber Task Force, created under Wis. Stat. § 227.13, continues to advise the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) and the Commercial Building Code Council on matters relating to development of mass timber guidelines. In 2025, the Mass Timber Task Force completed its review and recommendations to DSPS for the development of a Mass Timber Guideline Book.
- 
- The Wisconsin Advisory Council on Building Sustainability, created under Wis. Stat. § 227.13 and § 440.042(1), reviews all building and construction codes and provides recommendations to DSPS on changes that would increase safety, resiliency, and sustainability. This council continued to meet in 2025 and 2026, and discussions included administrative rule matters relating to the Electrical Code and Plumbing Code; Wisconsin and the 2024 IECC, and future goals of the Council.

DSPS code updates include:

- Implementing an upgraded Commercial Building Code, which took effect September 1, 2025. This brings Wisconsin in line with the 2021 International Code Council (ICC) standards, incorporating updates to various standards focused on energy efficiency, resource conservation, and the environmental impact of energy use.
- In conjunction with the Plumbing Advisory Council, completed work on a project to fix inconsistencies between the current plumbing code, other department rules, and other national standards the department has adopted. In addition, this project addresses changes in federal standards for the use of lead in plumbing materials. This project will modify code language to help increase clarity for stakeholders. The updated rule was published on July 1, 2026, and it is expected to become effective on September 1, 2026.
- The Electrical Code Advisory Committee concluded and delivered its recommendations to DSPS to update Wisconsin's Electrical Code to the 2023 National Electrical Code for electric safety standards. This rule was published on July 1, 2026 and it is expected to become effective September 1, 2026.

Future code updates:

- Conveyance Safety Code Council has a scope open for a project to do a comprehensive review of chapter 318 and additional chapters where it pertains to conveyance safety.
- Fire Prevention Code Advisory Committee has a scope open for a project to evaluate, update, and clarify provisions of Wisconsin's Fire Prevention Code as contained in ch. SPS 314. This rulemaking update is intended to keep the code consistent with dynamic, contemporary regional and national construction and fire prevention practices, standards, and products to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants and owners of these buildings and places of employment.
- Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) Council has a scope statement that is open to correct code-clarity problems; incorporate code interpretations that have been developed since the last code-change cycle; update currently adopted standards; incorporate new construction practices, products, standards, or materials; and incorporate any needed new requirements.
- The DSPS continues to be an active partner on the Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) grant project funded by the US DOE to update the State's commercial and residential building codes.

DSPS is also committed to training and stakeholder engagement.

- In February 2026, UW-Madison and DSPS hosted the Annual Wisconsin Commercial Building Code Refresher. This forum for professionals across disciplines provides details on the newly adopted Wisconsin Commercial Building Code and features sessions on Wisconsin plumbing and electrical codes. Attendees will gain insights from DSPS staff and ICC experts, ensuring they're equipped to apply best practices in design, construction, and inspection.
- DSPS is also working with the Wisconsin building inspector associations across the state to provide Winter/Spring Commercial Building Code Updates, which include a full day of commercial building code discussion. Training was held in Eau Claire, Green Bay, Wauwatosa, and Lake Delton in February and March 2026. The training was made available to the 650 licensed Wisconsin commercial building inspectors, as well as design professionals and contractors.

INDUSTRY

The Focus on Energy program provides Advisors to help manufacturers understand energy usage and identify upgrades to realize cost savings and improve operating efficiency. These Advisors identify the rebates and incentives available for facilities that cover equipment replacements, operations and maintenance, and renewable



Photo: Office of Governor Evers

energy projects. The program also provides incentive offerings for new construction projects.

In March 2026, UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC) was awarded \$19 million in federal funds as it takes a leadership role as manager of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) program in Wisconsin. Together, MOC and WMEP are positioning Wisconsin's manufacturing sector for long-term strength and competitiveness by providing practical tools, strategic guidance and specialized expertise.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Industrial Assessment Center (WM-ITAC) continues to provide free energy, productivity, and waste assessments to small and medium-sized industrial facilities, funded by the US DOE. To date, they have conducted 252 assessments, made 1,938 recommendations, and achieved 1.38 trillion British thermal units (BTU) in energy savings and \$20.25 million in cost savings, while training 96 students. Energy savings of 1.38 BTU are equivalent to about 11.5 million gallons of gasoline, 404.4 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, or the annual average energy use of nearly 37,000 homes. Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, along with Madison College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University, are partnering on a \$3 million US DOE grant to provide industrial energy assessments, technical training and collaboration with WM-ITAC.



ROEHL ACRES FARM ENERGY UPGRADES



Focus on Energy®, in partnership with the Office of Energy Innovation (OEI), offers energy efficiency incentives for rural and agricultural customers who currently use propane to fuel specific equipment. The Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) has partnered with Focus on Energy since 2019 to deploy this program and has achieved significant results. The program plays an important energy security role by reducing market demand for liquid fuels used for residential home heating and agribusiness needs. It

also provides an opportunity to reach rural Wisconsin homes and businesses that may not otherwise be eligible for Focus on Energy program heating efficiency incentives, and to capture electric energy savings when upgrading systems.

For the program year running July 2024 through June 2025, the Rural and Agricultural program provided incentives for 164 agribusiness measures such as grain dryers, boilers, and refrigeration heat recovery units, contributing over 6 million gallons in propane savings over the life of the equipment. This is enough to heat about 6,260 homes annually (at 1,000 gallons per year per home). Roehl Acres is an example of successfully providing support and incentives for multiple energy-saving projects on a farm. This agribusiness was selected to host the 2022 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days with over 46,000 attendees; it is located in rural Loyal, WI without access to natural gas infrastructure. The owners invested in a new robotic milking parlor and received over \$4,000 from the Focus on Energy Core and Rural programs for lighting, variable speed drives, plate coolers, and over \$1,400 for their propane water heaters and a boiler.



Photos: wifarmtechdays.org/media



INNOVATE TRANSPORTATION

BACKGROUND

Emissions from the transportation sector result directly from burning fossil fuels to power vehicles. Cars, buses, trucks, off-road vehicles, commercial aircraft, boats, and trains all contribute to transportation-related emissions. There are also emissions impacts from materials used to construct roadways, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure. Strategies that reduce or eliminate the state's reliance on fossil fuels and address the carbon intensity of materials are essential to building a clean, resilient transportation system and directly addressing climate change in Wisconsin. Pursuing clean transportation solutions will yield economic, health, and social benefits, including improved air quality, safer streets, local economic development, and improved access for low- and moderate-income communities. CEP strategies include supporting the transition to low- to no-emission vehicles and associated refueling options, along with planning and expanding options to move people around. Wisconsin has a keen focus on deploying zero-emission vehicles because they offer the greatest emissions reductions. The State also recognizes that supporting public transit, ridesharing, and planning strategies that reduce the need for personally operated vehicles will significantly improve air quality and community health. Policy updates are still needed, such as Complete Streets and Eminent Domain Authority, that play a major role in transportation mode shifting.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On September 4, 2025, Gov. Evers announced Wisconsin's joining the US Climate Alliance's Affordable Clean Cars Coalition; this effort now includes 13 states focused on helping America transition to cleaner and more affordable cars, supporting U.S. automotive manufacturers and workers, and improving air quality for everyone. This coalition has engaged directly with automobile manufacturers, dealers, and other stakeholders to collaborate on successful policies to accelerate vehicle electrification as well as support workers and suppliers.

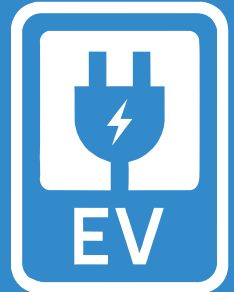
ELECTRIC VEHICLES

State agencies and partners are working to support the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and needed infrastructure statewide.

Beginning July 1, 2026, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 92 was updated, including regulatory standards for commercial EV charging stations as weights and measures devices. Until recently, Wisconsin statutes did not permit the department to adopt and enforce commercial weights and measures device regulations on the sale of electricity by kWh because the devices were considered a public utility under state law.

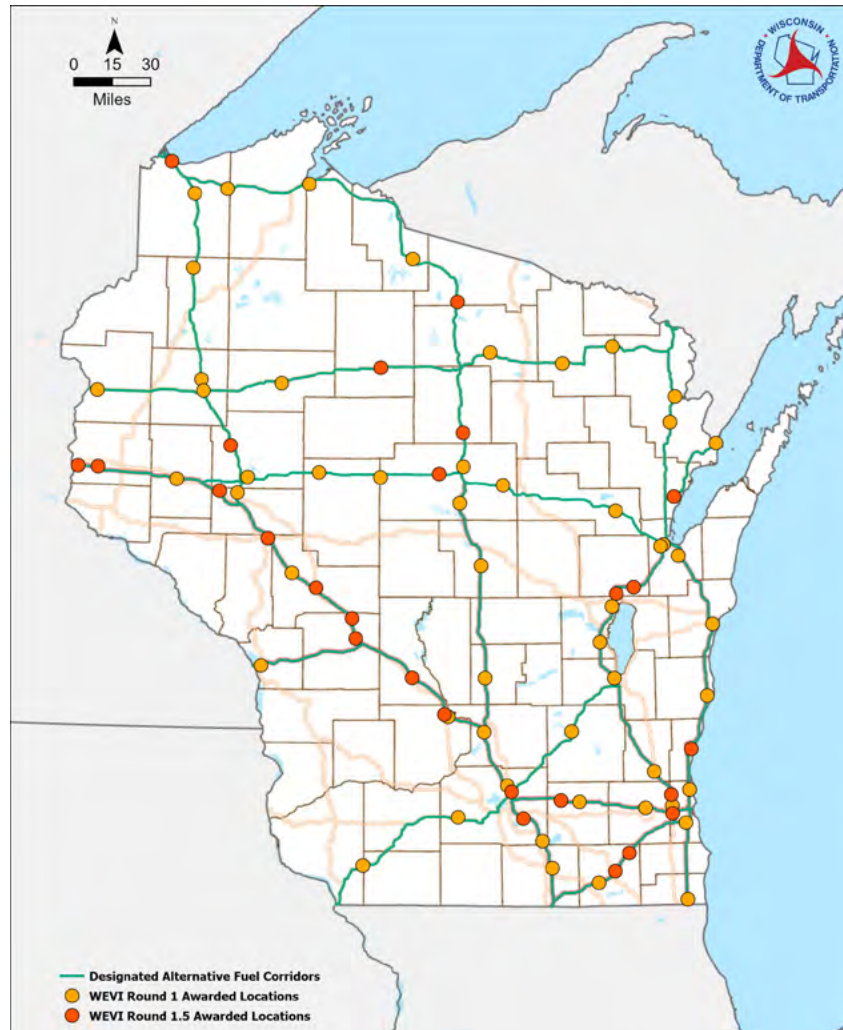
FIRST TRIBAL NATION IN THE UNITED STATES TO DEPLOY DC FAST CHARGING UNDER WEVI

Potawatomi Ventures and Forest County Potawatomi Community celebrated the opening of the Wisconsin Electric Vehicle Grant-funded direct current (DC) fast charging hub at Fireside Market in Stone Lake. This installation marks a historic milestone as the first Native American Tribe in the US to receive this grant and complete the construction on trust land.



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is leading the Wisconsin Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (WEVI) Program, which funds the design, construction, acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of reliable, accessible electric vehicle charging stations throughout Wisconsin. This program is financed by the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The solicitation for proposals for Round 1 of the program opened on January 2, 2024, and closed on April 1, 2024. The WEVI Program Round 1.5 RFP application process, which was put on hold in February 2025 due to the Trump Administration's failed illegal attempts to derail this program, closed on September 5, 2025. Between these two funding opportunities, WisDOT has awarded a total of 78 projects. As of June 2026, WisDOT has funded the installation of fast-charging electric vehicle charging stations at 21 sites, which are currently operational across the state. Figure 3 shows EV charging station locations throughout the state awarded in rounds 1 and 1.5 of the RFP Application process. Real time status of these projects can be found on the [*WEVI Charging Station Dashboard*](#) on WisDOT's website.

FIGURE 3: WEVI FAST CHARGING STATIONS THROUGHOUT WISCONSIN^{XXIV}



In addition to the WEVI funding, Dane County and the City of Milwaukee received notification of funding through the FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program, with \$13.1 million and \$14.9 million, respectively. Both Community Charging and Alternative Fueling Grants were granted to set up EV charging and alternative fuel stations on public roads, at schools, in parks, and in publicly accessible parking areas. Dane County is expected to have 92 Level 2 and DC Fast Charging EV stations, while the City of Milwaukee can anticipate 53 EV charging stations. Both awardees are still awaiting final approvals from the FHWA to proceed with the awards.

CLEAN FUELS

The DOA administers the Transit Capital Assistance Grant Program to fund the replacement of eligible public transit buses under the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust. In February 2025, DOA awarded \$11.8 million for 15 bus replacements to four municipalities across the state totaling. These bus replacement

projects are scheduled to be completed by early 2027. In past rounds, DOA awarded over \$49 million to replace 92 eligible transit buses. These transit buses serve Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Janesville, Wausau, Appleton, Green Bay, and Beloit. Supported vehicle technology includes new, clean diesel, hybrid, and battery-electric buses that provide reliable rides to employment and shopping for Wisconsin residents and visitors. This program also helps make communities healthier by removing older, dirtier diesel engines from operation.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

1/3
OF WISCONSIN
RESIDENTS ARE
NON-DRIVERS

Wisconsin Population
5,951,400
Percent Driver: 60%
Percent Non-Driver: 31%

Non-driving populations can include older adults, students, low-income individuals, those with physical, mental, or intellectual/developmental disabilities, and those who prefer not to drive.

Transportation is a central everyday need for most Wisconsin residents, especially for getting to work and accessing essential services. Non-drivers comprise a significant percentage of Wisconsin’s population, and many face challenges getting where they need to go.^{xxv} Due to high gas prices, parking costs, commute times, safety, and other factors, drivers also choose to minimize their drives and need access to alternative transportation. State agencies and local governments continue to deliver programs to address and support alternative transportation options.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a federally funded program administered by WisDOT. Applicants are encouraged to invest in projects that improve and modernize streets, highways, and bridges, making the transportation network safe and accessible for all users. Eligible projects include the construction, planning, and design of on- and off-road nondriver facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation; the construction, planning, and design of infrastructure projects and systems that provide safe routes for non-drivers, including on-street bike lanes, bike and pedestrian trails, and bridges; the conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for pedestrian trails; and the Safe

Routes to School Program. The FY2024-2028 TAP cycle awarded \$32.2 million in urban and rural areas across Wisconsin. Funded projects included planning studies, installation and improvement of pedestrian and nondriver infrastructure, the creation of youth nondriver educational safety programs, and other eligible activities. Awards for the FY2026-2030 solicitation cycle are anticipated in the Summer of 2026.

The Borealis daily Amtrak intercity rail service connecting St. Paul, Minnesota, and Chicago, Illinois, via Milwaukee, Wisconsin, launched on May 21, 2024. Now past the two-year anniversary, the Borealis passenger rail service ridership remains strong and has surpassed initial expectations, with more people using the service than

expected as an alternative mode of travel between Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities, with eight stops in Wisconsin. 434,738 passengers have boarded the Borealis from its launch in May 2024 through the end of May 2026.

The state Workforce Innovation Grant Program, jointly run by the WEDC and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), provides grants to regional stakeholders to design and implement innovative plans to address longstanding local workforce challenges. This program supports solutions that also help remove barriers workers face when trying to enter the workforce or change jobs, such as inadequate childcare, housing, and transportation. Below are two examples of innovative transportation programs for both rural and urban areas:

- To address transportation challenges in rural areas, Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation (WCEDC) received \$3.2 million. With this funding, WCEDC, in partnership with Feonix – Mobility Rising, launched a mobility management model offering 24/7 rideshare opportunities. The program, called Waupaca County Catch-a-Ride, gets local residents to and from work and allows participants to drop off and pick up their children from daycare.



Photo: Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation

To date, WCEDC has completed more than 24,000 rides, connecting workers to more than 100 employers.

- The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) and MobilISE, a non-profit civic organization in Wisconsin focused on regional transportation choices, workforce connectivity, and public policy advocacy, received \$4.2M to expand the FlexRide program in Milwaukee and surrounding communities. This project is a reverse commute program that connects urban residents to suburban and rural job locations. MobilISE successfully expanded program reach and completed nearly 160,000 rides to date.

MATERIALS

Through the Pavement Recycling Program, WisDOT recycles construction materials on projects to reduce waste and conserve resources. Materials Engineers and Specialists ensure that recycled materials are high-quality and comparable to, if not better than, products made with new materials. In 2024, WisDOT saved \$29.8 million by recycling 1.75 million tons of material. In 2025, WisDOT saved \$31.6 million by recycling 1.72 million tons of material. Over the ten years WisDOT has tracked performance with this measure, more than 19 million tons of materials were reused on projects, creating savings of over \$280 million. The most common recycled material is asphalt pavement. Approximately 20 percent of all new asphalt pavement consists of recycled asphalt pavement. WisDOT anticipates increased use of recycled concrete on large construction projects over the next several years.



PRIORITIZE HEALTH EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

Many communities have been excluded from discussions about transforming our country's energy system and transitioning to clean energy. To mitigate the impact of climate change, these communities must be involved in decisions about clean energy technologies, job creation, and the associated economic and health implications. For example, improving energy efficiency helps reduce energy costs for individuals, families, and low- to moderate-income communities, ensuring they benefit from Wisconsin's shift to clean energy. Moreover, technology deployment must be affordable and accessible to all residents and communities. The CEP aims to ensure the fair and meaningful involvement of all communities in the state.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AGENCY ACTIONS

In 2022, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) was created by Gov. Evers via Executive Order #161 and is tasked with developing a framework and strategy for environmental justice work across the administration.^{xxvi} OEJ is working with a consultant to craft a statewide resilience framework to assist state offices and Wisconsin communities in planning for potential environmental or economic disasters. The framework is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

Additionally, OEJ is working with IT, development, and non-profit partners to build and deploy an energy benefits navigator that will serve as a central location for programs that promote lower energy costs and energy efficiency for consumers. Residents of the State of Wisconsin have access to a variety of federal and state benefits, particularly when it comes to energy rebates, energy-efficient appliance upgrades, tax credits, and financing. However, people can only take

advantage of these opportunities if they are aware of the programs' existence and navigate multiple different websites and application processes. The Wisconsin Energy Benefits Navigator tool will create a usable, streamlined path to deliver comprehensive residential energy solutions that address safety, affordability, and comfort for families across Wisconsin, and further Gov. Evers' vision of ensuring every Wisconsinite has access to resources to live healthy lives.

All Cabinet agencies in the state continue to hold annual tribal consultations to address the full range of issues under their jurisdiction. In 2025, the OEJ and OSCE met one-on-one with five Tribal Nations outside of the consultation process and followed up with various agencies on topics and issues raised. OSCE and OEJ value opportunities to meet with Tribal Nation leadership and staff to discuss sustainability, clean energy, climate, and related initiatives and bring relevant resources to support these efforts.

The DNR's Information Technology Geographic Information System (GIS) Section developed the DNR Environmental Justice Mapping Tool, an internal web application with geospatial data on environmental impacts and socioeconomic factors impacting social determinants of health. The tool can be used by department programs to identify impacted communities in rural and urban areas. The DNR EJ Mapping Tool will be used internally to support implementation of the agency's Environmental Justice Framework and Toolkit for Program and Project Planning. DNR launched a quarterly internal learning series to share successful projects and challenges, support cross-program problem-solving, and develop resources to improve external engagement and address environmental disparities statewide. DNR also hired two limited-term positions in the summer of 2026, providing enhanced capacity to identify and support improved strategies for external engagement and develop methods for using data to improve programs.



The Department of Health Services has launched the 'Love My Air Wisconsin' project, which provides real-time air quality data to schools to reduce children's PM2.5 exposure in asthma-susceptible areas. In partnership with Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, Love My Air Wisconsin (LMA WI) is a free K-12 school-based program that provides air quality data, education, and no-idling campaigns. These tools help communities protect their health and

respond to poor air quality. Initially implemented in Milwaukee, in areas with the highest asthma burden across the state, it is now a statewide program expanding into Brown, Kenosha, Rock, Milwaukee, Menominee, and Racine counties, as well as other new locations. Key successes of this project include the following:

- LMA WI is currently implemented in 15 Milwaukee Public Schools and has reached more than 6,997 students.
- Two no-idling campaigns have been implemented. This has resulted in a 66 percent reduction of idling vehicles around schools in post-observation.
- LMA WI supports MPS's initiative to transition to electric school buses (50 new buses this fall with 100 more by the 2028 school year).
- An online Love My Air Wisconsin story map has been created to provide real-time, localized air quality.^{xxvii}

CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND ACTION

With support from the US EPA CPRG program, the OSCE launched the Wisconsin Climate Action Navigators (WI CAN) Network in 2023. Over the past year, the network has grown to more than 350 participants and has increased meaningful engagement by leveraging its stakeholder network to address and reduce climate impacts. This engagement goes beyond typical virtual listening sessions or online public comment efforts. The goal is to expand the network, reach deeper into communities, and build the trust needed for people to share their needs, build collaborative projects through collective action, and help address implementation challenges. In 2025 and 2026, the CPRG program awarded just over \$675,500 to increase local input on the state's comprehensive climate action plan and to partner with the network to boost community involvement.

The OSCE serves as a central source for information on funding and incentives for clean energy and sustainability efforts by stakeholders. The OSCE established an approach to provide one-on-one meetings with as many stakeholders as possible. The OSCE can gather specific information about projects and help identify needs and gaps, providing timely information on incentives, resources, or connections to other organizations to help them move their projects forward. The OSCE enhanced this work over 2025 and 2026 to help with grant technical support, including funding request reviews, proposal reviews and suggestions, and letters of support.

In 2025 and 2026, OSCE staff continued to promote clean energy and sustainability outreach efforts across the state. They presented on the CEP and related initiatives, meetings, and events, reaching audiences that included state agency personnel, environmental and justice groups, labor organizations, utility representatives, nonprofits, businesses, Tribal Nations, and local governments. The estimated total reach at these events was over 7,000 individual stakeholders.

The Focus on Energy Program continues to hold the annual Tribal Energy Symposium, a two-day event designed to facilitate an exchange between Tribal Nations and energy resource providers. It features insightful sessions, expert discussions, and valuable networking opportunities with statewide tribal leaders. The 2026 event, held in April on the Bad River Reservation, covered energy planning and maximizing available rebates and funding.

In 2025, Wisconsin Climate & Health Action Together (CHAT) was launched to expand the conversation on climate solutions. This group includes public health workers, healthcare groups, Tribal communities, and climate professionals, who teamed up to:

- Increase public education and awareness of how weather shifts, air quality issues, and the impact of environmental hazards (e.g., extreme heat) that harm human health.
- Create community action by encouraging simple steps like saving energy, walking or biking, and planting trees.
- Expanding their partner network to connect more than 250 local groups and build community readiness to respond to climate issues.

PLANTING TREES

Environmental Justice includes healthy ecosystems for all people. Strategically planted trees can reduce urban heat islands, lower utility bills, and filter toxic pollutants from emissions caused by current fossil fuel use and traditional energy generation. On Earth Day 2021, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #112 pledging to protect and restore Wisconsin's forestland by conserving 125,000 acres and planting 75 million trees by the end of 2030. Due to the significant progress made towards these goals, on Earth Day 2024 Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #221 updating the state's Trillion Tree Pledge to plant an additional 25 million trees. The DNR's Division of Forestry continues to coordinate this pledge, which in total aims to plant 100 million trees by the end of 2030. In April 2026, Gov. Evers announced the 2025 Trillion Trees Pledge accomplishments, which included planting more than 185,000 trees in urban areas and another 11.7 million trees in rural areas, bringing the total number of trees planted to 54.7 million. **Almost 55 percent of the state's tree planting goal has been achieved in the first five years.** In addition, more than 7,800 acres of forestland were conserved in 2025, bringing the total acres of forestland conserved to nearly 85,000 – almost 68 percent of the conservation portion of the pledge. This accomplishment was largely due to the finalization of the historic Pelican River Forest conservation easement.



FAST-TRACKING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND A JUST TRANSITION

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin must build an inclusive and fair clean energy workforce by systematically training and preparing workers to transition to clean energy. The CEP is intentionally designed to provide clean energy job opportunities for those excluded from the traditional energy economy. These opportunities include training, apprenticeships, and high-paying jobs for workers. This may also require businesses that benefit from state clean energy policies and incentives to ensure their workforce reflects the state's regional demographics. The CEP's strategies to strengthen the clean energy workforce include creating an inventory and conducting outreach for clean energy jobs throughout the state; supporting workforce development training opportunities; supporting communities and workers who will experience power generation plant closures; and ensuring the clean energy transition provides family-supporting wages.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUNDING AND INCENTIVES

Gov. Evers' Workforce Solutions Initiative has supported clean energy training through the Worker Advancement Initiative (WAI) and the Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG) program.

WAI serves people whose jobs have not returned since the pandemic, as well as those who were not attached to the labor market or were unsuccessful in it before the pandemic, by offering subsidized employment and skills training with local employers.

- The Workforce Development Board of South-Central Wisconsin has provided carpentry pre-apprenticeship and other skilled trades training to incarcerated individuals nearing re-entry.

- The Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board (NWWIB) serves Workforce Development Area 7, which includes Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn counties. NWWIB used funding to support the completion of seven individuals in a Building Science Principles cohort in Ashland in April 2026. The training was provided through Slipstream—a Wisconsin nonprofit leader in energy efficiency and clean energy. The course provided hands-on training in energy analysis and building science. The Building Performance Institute Building Science Principles Certificate is an introductory, non-technical credential that teaches how homes work as complete systems and serves as an entry-level credential that can lead to multiple pathways. This program included two youth apprentices.
- The North Central Workforce Development Board initially included renewable energy in its construction trades program for WAI. However, students did not choose that career path, and no students were hired in the clean energy field.
- Employ Milwaukee WAI program had one participant who was hired by Green Homeowners United through their Skillful Transitions program. Green Homeowners United helps residents upgrade their homes to become more energy efficient. The participant's background was in carpentry and home repair but needed additional training in energy-efficient projects. The participant gained that education through on-the-job training with Skillful Transitions and, after completing the program, increased their wage by \$2 per hour.



The state Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG) Program, jointly run by the WEDC and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), provides grants to regional stakeholders to design and implement innovative plans to address longstanding workforce challenges. Below are two efforts supported by the WIG Program:

- The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County used its \$3.5 million award to educate youth about skilled trades apprenticeship opportunities, including those in construction; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); and electrical that embrace "green" principles. The grant closed on December 31, 2025, with 6,460 youth learning about skilled trades occupations.
- Operation Fresh Start used its \$3.3 million award to launch the "Build Academy," which trained youth in skilled trades and construction careers. The grant closed March 31, 2026, with 179 youth completing training and 132 being placed in work-based learning opportunities upon completion.
- See highlight of Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation (WCEDC) and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's WIG project in the Innovate Transportation Section of this report.

The recent round of OEI EIGP funding included opportunities for applicants to propose projects with related workforce training elements, such as workforce

training, workforce development planning, and direct training and technical assistance, related to renewables, energy storage, efficiency, beneficial electrification, and microgrid work. Results of this award process will be announced in late 2026.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In the Spring of 2026, Advance Wisconsin Employment (AWE) - the Workforce Development Board serving North Central Wisconsin - successfully ran a Solar Training Academy cohort in partnership with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). By collaborating with MREA, AWE was able to leverage industry-leading expertise to deliver the Solar Training Academy, providing participants with hands-on, practical skills and direct pathways to industry credentials. 10 participants completed the Solar Training Academy. Three incumbent workers used this to upskill in their current positions, while the remaining students acquired the knowledge needed for careers in design, sales, or installation of solar systems. Many of the participants secured interviews in the solar field after finishing the training.

In June 2026, Milwaukee Community Service Corps, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County Parks, Gateway Technical College, Dorshak Tree Specialist, Hoppe Tree Service, Employ Milwaukee, and DWD, graduated seven participants from its State-Certified Arborist Pre-Apprenticeship Program. This marks the second cohort of completers from the 320-hour paid training program, which prepares graduates for entry-level employment in Milwaukee's urban forestry sector. The program aligns with Wisconsin's Arborist Apprenticeship standards and combines classroom instruction with hands-on field training. Graduates leave the program with multiple industry-recognized credentials, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 & 30, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/First Aid, Forklift Operator, Skid Steer Operator, and the State of Wisconsin Pre-Apprenticeship Certification.



DWD also supports clean energy via its Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) (see Appendix I). There are currently 10 unique programs listed on the ETPL that directly address clean energy:

- Building Science & Energy Management.
- Environmental Health & Water Quality Technology.
- Greenhouse Operations (FVTC).
- Greenhouse Operations (GTC).
- MSSC Green Production.
- Renewable Energy.

- Renewable Energy Technician.
- Solar Energy Technology associate degree.
- Solar Installation Technician.
- Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems.

Additionally, the ETPL includes training programs such as HVAC and Refrigeration (HVAC/R), which incorporate "green" principles in their more standard curriculum.

DSPS is partnering with DWD and Milwaukee Area Technical College to create an apprenticeship pathway to replenish the state's rapidly retiring pool of credentialed commercial and uniform dwelling code building inspectors. The goal is to have the program up and running in fall 2026 with up to 23 other slots available for interested municipalities to participate in the program.

In early 2025, DWD partnered with the OEI to submit a competitive grant application to the US DOE for the State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants (Training for Residential Energy Contractors or TREC). The TREC program was designed to enable states to develop and implement a state energy workforce training program that prepares workers to deliver residential energy efficiency, electrification, and clean energy improvements, including those covered under the HEAR and HOMES programs. The OEI submitted the State's TREC application on January 31, 2024, and received a conditional award of just over \$2.8 million for the program in January 2025. However, work cannot proceed under this award, and costs cannot be incurred until the program conditions are released by the US DOE, and as of summer 2026 the US DOE has not provided a specific timetable for the release of the conditions.

In partnership with Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program, Slipstream, Inc. created a series of Energy Career videos. Stakeholders contributing to the videos include utilities, legislators, technical colleges, nonprofits, facility managers, energy auditors, local governments, and clean energy workers in the field. Topics include clean energy careers, solar, energy distribution, Chippewa Valley Technical College Electric Distribution Program, managing facilities, auditing/home performance, hydropower, electric vehicles, and HVAC.

Energy Careers Video Series

**The energy sector is blossoming
with career opportunities.**

Interested in solar, wind, electric power distribution, or energy efficiency? Students don't need to go far: local Wisconsin vocational schools—along with traditional colleges and universities—all offer degrees and programs to help meet this workforce demand.



ADVANCING STRATEGIC ACTION

The OSCE, in partnership with DWD and the Universities of Wisconsin Office of Economic and Employer Engagement, is developing a Clean and Renewable Energy Workforce Inventory. Funded by a philanthropic grant, the inventory aims to serve a diverse audience and establish a baseline for clean and renewable energy employment in Wisconsin. As a strategy in the CEP, a robust inventory of clean energy and climate jobs promotes energy workforce training and equitable economic and workforce development, as outlined in Executive Orders #38 and #52. The work focuses on collecting and reporting data, including but not limited to apprenticeship standards, pay rates, demographics, and skill and training requirements in the climate and clean energy sectors, as well as mapping employers that make up the clean energy sector in Wisconsin. The OSCE anticipates publishing this report in fall 2026.





Photo: Wisconsin Department of Administration

ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT-LED EFFORTS (LEAD-BY-EXAMPLE)

BACKGROUND

Drawing on the lived experiences, expertise, and knowledge of Tribal Nations, local government representatives, and state agency employees, governments can lead efforts to reduce emissions, conserve energy, and adopt new technologies. These initiatives are often called “Lead-by-Example” (LBE), in which government entities analyze and transition their facilities and fleets to achieve significant cost savings, reduce GHG emissions, diversify energy sources, build resilience, and procure more sustainable products. Lead-by-Example also increases public awareness of the costs and benefits of clean energy technologies and provides transparency on the government’s internal goals and activities to address climate change and transition to clean energy. The CEP outlines strategies to elevate and support these efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In May 2026, Gov. Evers completed his tenure as Co-chair of the U.S. Climate Alliance (USCA). Gov. Evers was the first Midwest governor to serve in this role. This appointment also solidified the administration’s commitment to advancing equitable solutions to environmental challenges facing the state and nation, building a transformed, more resilient, clean-energy economy, and ensuring a more sustainable future for all. The USCA is a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors representing approximately 59 percent of the U.S. economy and 54 percent of the U.S. population. Wisconsin continues to prioritize high-impact climate policies, actions, and regulations across the Alliance’s key policy areas. These solutions, centered on equity, environmental justice, and a just economic transition, are being deployed at scale to safeguard public health, grow the U.S. economy, and secure a net-zero future.

TRIBAL NATIONS

Tribal Nations are leaders in adapting to and addressing climate change, offering deep ecological knowledge through generational wisdom and a holistic view of cultural preservation, community well-being, and proven models of climate action. Tribal Nations throughout the state focus on self-determined efforts to reduce emissions, conserve energy, and transition to innovative energy technologies. Many Tribal Nations focus on energy sovereignty to control their own power generation and create independence from fossil fuel markets; build economic activity by generating their own renewable energy; and focus on energy infrastructure planning to build resilient communities. Below is a sampling of clean energy and energy efficiency efforts led by Tribal Nations in Wisconsin.

The **Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association** (MTERA) works to empower Tribes across the Midwest to achieve energy sovereignty and sustainability. In 2026, MTERA announced a new initiative to establish a network to strengthen energy sovereignty, coordinate action, and share expertise. Strategic pillars of this effort include workforce development, policy and advocacy, Tribal energy sovereignty, and collective action. MTERA plans to support the Coalition's virtual convenings, workgroups, and annual events.



In 2025, the UW-Extension's Reliable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement Program (R-STEP) collaboration assisted **Oneida Nation** in facilitating multiple public energy information sessions and surveys on the potential use of large-scale solar projects on tribal land. In partnership with the National Lab of the Rockies and MTERA, multiple meetings in 2025 and 2026 provided valuable information for the strategic energy planning process. Oneida Nation also hosted multiple "Grow Solar Power Hour" sessions in 2025 and 2026, in conjunction with the MREA Grow Solar Program. Each year, the Oneida Nation partnered with the City of Green Bay and MREA to expand regional residential and commercial solar access through the Grow Solar Program in the Green Bay-Fox Valley area.

The **Sokaogon Chippewa Community** (Mole Lake Band) in Forest County, Wisconsin, is operating a 606-kW community-wide solar system across 17 tribal buildings and three residential homes, cutting GHG emissions by 542 metric tons annually. This is equivalent to the emissions from approximately 118 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles or the energy use of approximately 68 homes in one year.

In September 2025, the **Ho-Chunk Nation** issued an RFP to bring on a contractor to support the deployment of solar at their community center in Black River Falls. Their

goal is to ensure the solar PV electrical system increases energy independence, reduces utility costs, and advances sustainability goals. In 2026, the Ho-Chunk Nation announced a \$16 million building project on Milwaukee's south side to serve the many community members living in the area. The building will feature "green" technology, including a highly efficient HVAC system that recycles warm air.

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's Ojibwe University builds local energy workforce capacity by providing specialized energy audit training programs to help small- to medium industrial facilities in the region cut energy consumption and realize cost savings.

The **Forest County Potawatomi Community** (FCPC) advanced clean energy and climate resilience by launching the nation's first EV installation on Tribal trust land, through support of the WEVI program. Additionally, they expanded community solar and adapted local forests to climate change. FCPC operates over 3 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems at twenty-nine (29) tribal facilities in Milwaukee, WI, and on the Tribe's Forest County reservation lands. The individual installations will range in size from 8 kW to 811 kW and will displace between 4.2 and 99.9% of total current energy usage from those buildings and save over \$200,000 annually. In 2025 and 2026, FCPC worked collaboratively with the OEJ to help build out the state's resilience plan, ensuring significant Tribal representation in the process.

The **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin** (MITW) is a leader in pursuing energy sovereignty, with a goal of achieving full energy sovereignty by 2035. In recognition of their work and progress, MITW was selected to receive the inaugural Energy Sovereignty Champion Award at the 2026 People of the Sun Gathering at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. In 2025, MITW received funding support through its Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund program from its Community Development and Utilities Department to install a 70-kilowatt solar array powering an agricultural Community Kitchen expansion. MITW has also led key initiatives that support community members, including the Elder Solar Program. This program installs no-cost solar panels and battery storage in the homes of elders in the community (age 65 and over) to lower electric bills and provide backup power during a power outage. To date, MITW has installed solar and battery systems in the homes of about a dozen elders who need electricity to run medical equipment such as dialysis machines or oxygen concentrators.

The **Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians** (Bad River) received a commitment of just over \$8.3 million in a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grant from the US EPA for a project titled Niigaani-bagwajiiwii (Future Clean Energy), supporting building, electric power, and transportation initiatives. Under this program Bad River continues to pursue initiatives including extensive electrification upgrades in Tribal residences, developing new grid-tied residential solar installations and a commercial microgrid at the Tribal Recycling Center, electrifying the Tribal vehicle fleet, and adding vehicle charging infrastructure. Anticipated cumulative GHG reduction between 2025-2030 is 9,100

metric tons CO₂e and 113,000 metric tons CO₂e by 2050. Supported by a US DOE Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas grant commitment of just over \$14 million, Bad River continues to implement the Mashkiiziibii Minigrid, a hybrid minigrid larger than a microgrid, to boost energy resilience in communities along Lake Superior's shores that frequently face severe weather and power outages. The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, also known as Mashkiiziibii in Ojibwemowin, will lead this project to deploy 5 MW of solar power and 8 mWh of battery storage.

As part of a grant supported by the US DOE Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas, the **Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa** (Red Cliff) continued its leadership in deploying microgrids in northern rural Wisconsin. Key projects for Red Cliff under this program feature the installation of solar-plus-battery microgrid systems at the Red Cliff Community Health Center and the new Red Cliff Transportation Facility. The Resilience and Prosperity in Rural Northern Wisconsin project plans to use just over \$12 million in federal and local funding. The project is led by the OSCE, in partnership with the WEDC's Office of Rural Prosperity, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bayfield County, Cheq Bay Renewables, muGrid Analytics, and Slipstream, Inc. It will deploy microgrids featuring solar power, battery storage, and smart controls to enable islanding and electric vehicle charging stations. This initiative aims to expand clean energy access in 28 rural communities across Wisconsin, creating projects that serve as scalable models to enhance energy resilience, promote clean energy adoption, and generate green jobs in rural areas throughout the state. The project remains on schedule, with all Phase 2 planning and preparation milestones successfully completed and Phase 3 construction activities set to advance into the summer and fall of 2026. Major accomplishments include reaching the 60 percent and 90 percent engineering design milestones, procuring contractors, submitting critical interconnection applications, and receiving National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) authorizations for project sites. With these foundational elements in place, the project team is ready for construction upon receipt of the remaining regulatory approvals, positioning Project Prosperity to deliver long-term energy resilience and economic benefits to the region.

The **Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians** (Lac du Flambeau) Tribal Energy Program is a relatively new addition to the Tribal Natural Resources Department. Lac du Flambeau is working to establish a baseline of energy use for Tribal facilities, conduct energy audits of Tribal facilities, assess the potential for renewable energy on the reservation (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass), provide educational outreach, and build Tribal capacity. With this information, they aim to develop a Tribal Strategic Energy Plan for energy conservation and renewable energy development on the reservation.

The **Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans** (Stockbridge-Munsee) continues to operate their Health & Wellness Center's HVAC system with modern geothermal technology, pulling energy from the earth to push toward energy sovereignty and reduce its carbon footprint. Designed in partnership with HGA and Ahern, the

geothermal system is netting more than 86 percent energy savings from propane reduction alone in its first year of operation. Stockbridge-Munsee Health and Wellness Center opened its permanent home in 2000. Since then, the clinic has provided vital health resources for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians while fulfilling its commitment to “preserve the natural resources in a pristine condition for the next seven generations.”

The **St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin** (St. Croix) received a commitment of just over \$4.9 million in a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grant from the US EPA for a project titled St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin Community Energy Initiative, supporting building and electric power initiatives. Their goal through this program is to achieve energy sovereignty and energy efficiency while simultaneously producing more community-based renewable energy; conduct a series of energy audits, the Tribe will identify which residential, commercial, and government buildings; and install a 1-megawatt solar electricity system on Tribal land to offset approximately 65% of residential energy consumption. Anticipated cumulative GHG reduction between 2025-2030 is 4,000 metric tons CO₂e and 17,800 metric tons CO₂e by 2050.



With increased emissions reduction, climate, and energy-related projects on Tribal Lands, the OSCE, along with the OEJ, visited Tribal Nations throughout the state. Both the OEJ and OSCE aim to continue building relationships, aligning initiatives, optimizing resources for Tribal communities, and creating a trusted network to help local community members access funding, green job opportunities, and effective channels for participation in decision-making.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local governments accelerated efforts to deploy and implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate action initiatives. Many Wisconsin cities and communities are initiating climate action and clean energy plans and strategies. Below is a sample of work done by local governments across the state by subject area.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The **City of Appleton** continued to advance renewable energy through the library solar project and the successful completion of the library geothermal project. These projects represent major clean energy investments in one of the City's most visible public buildings and continue to support Appleton's long-term emissions reduction and sustainability goals. The City also continued to focus on energy efficiency through facility planning, building system optimization, and capital project review. Recent work included identifying energy-saving measures at the library, advancing the ORC waste heat-to-power project, and installing two large heat recovery makeup air units at the wastewater treatment plant to improve energy performance in major utility operations.

Dane County is finalizing construction on a new Public Safety Communications (911) Center that features geothermal heating and cooling as well as on-site solar. This will be the first all-electric facility in Dane County when it opens in the summer of 2026.



The **City of Eau Claire** has created a program, referred to as the Navigator Program, that will encourage energy efficiency improvements for low-income housing. This program is funded by both the City and the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Some of the projects that will be carried out include improving attic, wall, and crawlspace insulation and installing heat pumps and energy-efficient water heaters when applicable. Contractors were selected and have begun working on these projects as of early 2026.

The **City of Green Bay's** clean energy outreach campaign, Energize Green Bay (EGB), concluded in March 2026. Over two years, the EGB campaign reached thousands of people with information about the benefits of clean energy and how to make their homes or businesses more energy efficient and clean energy friendly. EGB also provided "Help Desk" services to connect residents to incentives that will help them. EGB engaged with several community partners to help spread the word.

The **City of La Crosse**, in partnership with Xcel Energy, completed a project at the La Crosse Wastewater Treatment Plant to offset grid energy use in the plant by utilizing methane generated on-site for energy and heat generation. A 750 kW combined heat and power methane generator was installed to turn methane produced during treatment into electricity to power the plant, significantly reducing energy costs.

In January 2026, **Milwaukee County** brought online a 50 kW rooftop bi-facial solar array at the Marcia P. Coggs Health and Human Services Center. This system consists of 86 solar panels and is anticipated to offset approximately 11.5 percent of the building's total energy consumption. This solar array also has a monitoring system and lobby television display that shares a generation kiosk view, as well as fun facts about the system- ultimately serving as an educational opportunity for residents who visit. Milwaukee County also worked with a local consultant to perform an energy assessment of the 3-building complex that includes the Historic Courthouse. The assessment resulted in a Deep Energy Retrofit Plan with many recommended energy conservation measures geared toward improving campus energy efficiency and lowering operational expenses. The County has already begun implementing recommendations, including replacing thousands of steam traps within the Historic Courthouse building.

Since February 2026, the **City of Oshkosh** has worked with Focus on Energy representatives to review all city facilities, discuss energy priorities, and identify opportunities for cost savings and rebates. As of April 2026, the City has conducted on-site visits to priority sites. The City is currently in the process of putting together a building review report, boiler incentives, lighting upgrades and incentives, and utility bill verified savings.

From May 2025 to April 2026, the **City of Sun Prairie** brought two new municipal solar PV arrays online at the new Sun Prairie Utilities building and the renovated Sun Prairie Public Library. In Summer 2026, the Family Aquatic Center solar trees will go live, bringing the city's total solar capacity to over 1.1 MW. In addition to solar, the fully electrified renovation of the library incorporated numerous sustainability features, including geothermal HVAC, EV charging stations, a microgrid, and battery storage. The new Sun Prairie Utilities facility is also fully electric and includes a geothermal HVAC system.

In 2025, the **City of Verona** partnered with Arch Solar to complete rooftop solar PV systems at City Hall and the Fire Department, each with 44 high-efficiency panels and full system components. Projects were valued at approximately \$59,000-\$60,000 and reflect a consistent, programmatic approach to solar deployment. Verona will expand in 2026 with a 31.04 kW rooftop system at the Senior Center, installed by Eagle Point Solar. This turnkey project includes 64 panels, inverters, and monitoring systems, with completion expected by late 2026.

The **City of Wauwatosa** secured contracts to install rooftop solar PV systems on all remaining municipal facilities, including all fire stations and the Hart Park administration building. These panels generate carbon-free electricity on-site in support of our climate goals and significantly reduce energy costs. The City also launched an annual solar permit fee waiver for residential and commercial solar PV systems to reduce costs for home and business owners. The City partnered with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) on the Grow Solar Milwaukee-Waukesha group buy solar program.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES/CHARGING



Photo: OSCE

The **City of Appleton** purchased its first electric vehicle as a demonstration project, with plans to continue evaluating additional EV opportunities as vehicles are replaced. The City also continued advancing fleet electrification through its Fleet EV Conversion initiative and reviewed public EV charging options in response to changes in state law.

In 2024, the FHWA awarded **Dane County** a \$13.2M grant to expand affordable EV charging infrastructure across Dane County. In the last year, the County worked with public and private stakeholders to identify 70 locations for

the EV charging. The County has secured NEPA approvals for 50 of those sites and is preparing to launch the construction phase in the near future. The Dane County charging sites include municipal and school parking lots as well as for-profit and non-profit businesses across the County.

The **City of Green Bay** has undertaken a pilot program to study the use of low-carbon vehicles like battery EVs, plug-in electric vehicles (PHEVs), and hybrid vehicles. For a city with a fleet of 500 vehicles, the recommendation is a methodical transition that accounts for different vehicle types and uses. As of March 2025, 2.35 percent of City vehicles (16 out of 679) are hybrid or EV, including:

- 25 percent of Inspections vehicles.
- 10 percent of Department of Public Works light-duty vehicles.
- 33 percent of Parking Utility vehicles.
- 4 Green Bay Police Department EVs (two motorcycles and two police cruisers).

Through the Charge Up Dane County grant, the **City of Sun Prairie** explored multiple sites for new EV charging stations. Two sites have been selected to move forward for installation. Four EV charging stations were installed at the renovated library.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The **City of Appleton** launched its Sustainability and Resiliency Master Plan process to create a long-term framework for climate action, municipal operations, resilience, and community sustainability. The city also completed a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory, which will help guide future priorities, measure progress, and support data-driven decision-making.

DOA's Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) has provided funding to multiple resilience-focused projects. A recent example includes a project with

the **Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission**. Funding is being used for a coastal resiliency plan that will cover seven counties in the Bay-Lake region of the state. BLRPC staff are working with counties to discuss resiliency concerns and are reviewing plans to make recommendations to communities to understand risk and resilience opportunities. WCMP's annual grant funding is available to communities and organizations for a variety of efforts, including hazards and resilience planning.

In fall 2025, **Dane County** Executive Melissa Agard announced that local philanthropists were donating a solar pavilion at the County's Henry Vilas Zoo and that, in conjunction with the donation, the County was committed to making the Zoo fossil-fuel free by 2040. To support that effort, County staff partnered with UW-Madison engineering students to initiate plans for electrifying buildings. The first pavilion is now in place, and plans to eliminate all fossil fuels on the Zoo campus are ongoing.

In 2021, the **Green Bay City Council** approved a resolution with the goals of 100 percent clean energy and carbon neutrality communitywide by 2050. In support of goals, Green Bay has implemented several initiatives to start making progress towards its goals. These include solar installations at city facilities, efficiency upgrades, building benchmarking, and a municipal greenhouse gas inventory. As the City worked towards its goals, City staff and the Sustainability Commission highlighted the importance of creating a comprehensive energy plan to serve as a roadmap for future energy strategies. The plan helps guide specific recommendations and prepare the city to access additional implementation funding. The city, with Green Bay Metro Transit and Green Bay Water Utility, were awarded a planning grant through the OEI in 2022 to complete this work. Over a year, the three partners worked with Slipstream, a non-profit organization, to develop an energy plan to guide the next several years. The effort included an inventory of community-wide carbon emissions, in-depth analysis of solar, fleet, and building upgrade opportunities for the three partners, and identification of policies, programs, and educational actions to drive reductions at the community level.

Since Board adoption of **Milwaukee County's** Climate Action 2050 Plan in April of 2025, the Milwaukee County Office of Sustainability has focused on targeted implementation of emissions reduction strategies. Efforts have also been happening to develop a progress dashboard to report on strategies, emissions and community impact. Alongside the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County continues to lead on the City-County Advisory Board on Climate and Economic Equity. This joint body serves to monitor the progress of the Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan and spur additional collaboration.

December 2025 to present: Funded primarily by ARPA funding, the **City of Oshkosh** is actively working on updating its Sustainability Plan with the help of consultant, paleBLUEdot. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026. The plan will include both city wide goals/actions as well as municipal operation goals/actions. These efforts will include a greenhouse gas inventory, ground cover study,

renewable energy potential study, and a comprehensive energy plan (already completed and adopted by the Common Council in October 2025).

In 2025-2026, the **City of Sun Prairie** worked with Blue Strike Environmental to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP). This comprehensive document provides a roadmap for reducing municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions over the next 25 years to ultimately achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. This plan was adopted by Council in March of 2026. The CAP includes 12 high-impact strategies across five focus areas: Urban Design & Transportation, Buildings & Energy, Parks & Green Spaces, and Resource Conservation. This initiative was funded by a US DOE Energy EECBG grant that the city was awarded in 2024.

The **City of Wausau** began creation of a Five-Year Climate Action Work Plan using the Great Plains Institute template. The Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee will be overseeing the planning process and will be incorporating a Community Sustainability Survey and Business Sustainability Survey and has set a goal of Common Council adoption in January of 2027.

STATE AGENCIES

State agencies collaborated to address climate change, transition to clean energy, and reduce GHG emissions. Below are examples of this work:

PLANNING & RESEARCH

With support from the U.S. Climate Alliance, the OSCE continues to run the Lead by Example Technical Advisory Teams, composed of dedicated subject matter experts from state agencies and UW campuses. By modeling leadership in sustainability and clean energy, the state enterprise can serve as a trailblazer for others to follow.

The **OSCE** published the *Wisconsin Emissions Reduction Roadmap* in June of 2026. This publication serves as the state's first comprehensive climate action plan, addressing GHG emissions in seven economic sectors: Agriculture, Buildings, Energy, Industry, Natural and Working Lands, Transportation, and Waste and Materials. The Roadmap, developed with broad stakeholder engagement, provides 27 actions that the state and partners can take to reduce emissions across the board.

In February 2026, the **OSCE** hosted the first-ever Enterprise Summit on Climate Action. The event brought together over 90 attendees, including researchers, policy experts, and decision-makers from more than 20 different campuses and agencies. The main purpose of the summit was to give individuals who work in climate and related areas the opportunity to connect with one another for future collaboration. The summit also had eight sector-specific breakout sessions, giving participants the opportunity to attend lightly facilitated tracks that offered information on a specific sector and the chance to meet with others working in that field. DNR Secretary

Hyun, WisDOT Secretary Boardman, and DOA Secretary Blumenfeld were also in attendance and presented on initiatives their agencies were working to accelerate climate action.

REDUCING WATER CONSUMPTION

At **UW-Madison**, Morgridge Hall opened in 2026 and received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum rating. The facility is estimated to achieve a 35 percent improvement in water use over the federal standard, including a system designed to capture stormwater for plant irrigation and a green roof.

At **UW-Stevens Point**, several bioretention ponds have been funded and developed to better manage stormwater runoff.

SOLAR, FACILITY UPDATES LEAD TO ENERGY REDUCTION THROUGHOUT THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Correctional facilities are unique buildings that are operational 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. Unlike most buildings, energy consumption doesn't decrease at the end of the day; lighting, electrical, and water are needed day and night, every single day.

In December 2025, a new solar array at the Wisconsin Secure Program Facility (WSPF) in Boscobel went online. The \$1.7 million project — which will offset 28% of the site's electricity purchased from local utilities — is estimated to produce more than \$74,000 in energy savings annually.



Photo: WDOC

A smaller solar project was installed on the rooftop of the Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth, a Type 1 juvenile facility expected to open later this year in Milwaukee. Both the WSPF and the Type 1 solar arrays are expected to pay for their respective costs in about 16 years. The Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth array provides an added educational benefit to those at the facility. Youth will be able to interact with solar panel data on the facility's computers and observe its impact on energy use in real time.

Further, over the past two years, nearly all the department's 36 facilities have switched from traditional incandescent lighting to more energy efficient LED lights. This update has dramatically decreased energy consumption at facilities with the new lighting, and reduced costs by more than \$300,000 in 2025.

CLEAN ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In Gov. Evers' 2026 State of the State address, he announced the state will pursue renewable energy certificates (RECs) to help renewable energy deployment and meet emission reduction goals. Purchasing RECs will help decrease the environmental impact of the state enterprise by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity consumption. Long-term REC purchasing contracts also provide demand certainty and will help spur investment in the renewable energy economy, helping achieve the statewide goal outlined in Executive Order #38 "of ensuring all electricity consumed within the State of Wisconsin is 100 percent carbon-free by 2050." In spring of 2026, the **DOA Bureau of Procurement** issued an RFP to solicit project partners. Contract negotiations are underway and should be announced in late 2026.

The **Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs** is implementing three capital projects to realize significant reductions in energy consumption at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King by partnering with Focus on Energy on funding incentives for upgrading the existing chillers, boilers, and controls with high-efficiency components and improving the efficiency of heating and cooling systems within the long-term care facilities.

UW-Eau Claire and **UW-Milwaukee** are wrapping up major chiller plant modernization projects that will reduce energy consumption.

At **UW-Green Bay**, the Kress Center lighting upgrade is moving forward. The parts are on order, and the installation will begin during summer 2026. There will be new LED lighting and a new computer control system. This will have a 13-year payback period.

At **UW-Madison**, Morgridge Hall opened in 2026 and received a LEED Platinum rating. Rooftop solar and a solar atrium are designed to generate approximately 10 percent of the building's energy consumption.

UW-Oshkosh has continued with the Focus on Energy Strategic Energy Management program and has avoided \$1 million in energy costs this last fiscal year.

UW-Parkside installed variable-frequency drives on the Tallent Hall HVAC system, reducing energy consumption by 61 percent (an annual energy savings of 114.6 MWh). They also installed a 44 kW rooftop solar array (estimated sizing) on the Facilities Management Office, which will be operational in summer 2026.

UW-River Falls is exploring opportunities for energy performance contracting in their facilities. UW-River Falls also has a Climate Action & Resiliency Plan — endorsed by Shared Governance Groups — that sets goals to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, including improving energy efficiency across campus and transitioning to 100 percent renewable electricity. This perspective will

be brought forward by stakeholders as the campus undergoes Integrated Planning efforts and a new strategic plan is developed.

The Gale and Paul Kirby Library and Student Resource Center (SRC), the newest building at **UW-Stevens Point**, has lower energy demand compared to the previous buildings that housed the same university resources.

At **UW-Superior**, operation of a 440-kilowatt ground-mounted solar PV system began in spring 2026.

CLEAN FLEET TRANSITIONING

In July 2026, Gov. Evers announced that the state would implement a new Clean Fleet Policy.^{xxviii} The policy requires that new class 1-5 vehicle acquisitions be alternative fuel vehicles. Alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) include fully electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, hybrids, and more. The policy includes eligible exemptions such as vehicles used in emergency response, vehicles for which the lifecycle cost of a gas or diesel vehicle is less than that of its AFV counterpart, and several other exemptions. The policy aims to reduce the environmental impact associated with the state's fleet and save taxpayers money.

UW-Madison fleet is investigating the use of biofuels in UW-Madison fleet vehicles.

UW-River Falls is currently pursuing an additional parking lot next to the Science and Technology Innovation Center, which opened in January 2026. The parking lot would likely be installed in summer 2027 and tentatively includes plans for the first EV charging stations on campus.

The **UW-Stevens Point fleet is moving toward purchasing** several PHEVs. Although not a full EV transition, it will allow the University to reduce emissions while bolstering EV charging capacity. The university has also secured funding for EV chargers; however, installation has been delayed due to additional construction conflicts.

UW-Stout Polytechnic unveiled new electric vehicle charging stations near Sorensen Hall, open to campus, community members, and visitors, adding to the university's ongoing energy solutions.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The DOA **State Bureau of Procurement** is demonstrating leadership in environmentally preferable purchasing by supporting sustainable products and cleaner fleet options. The statewide cleaning agents contract promotes eco-labeled products such as Green Seal, ECOLOGO, and the US EPA Design for the Environment-certified items, helping agencies choose safer and more sustainable cleaning solutions.^{xxix} At the same time, the Bureau is advancing clean transportation

by providing opportunities to purchase alternative-fuel vehicle options available on state contracts, including electric, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid models. These resources make it easier for agencies to reduce emissions and lower operating costs. Together, these efforts highlight a practical and scalable approach to integrating sustainability into everyday purchasing decisions across state government.

UW-Madison reviewed spend data and identified the top four categories of emissions contributors, which account for 50 percent of emissions from purchased goods and services. Working with the Academic Alliance (a consortium of Big 10 universities) on including sustainability criteria in the next lab supply contract.

Through leadership from Tribal, local government, and state agencies, Wisconsin is well-positioned to continue advancing toward a clean energy economy, workforce, and state built for the 21st century. This movement will improve public health, provide reliable energy resources, lower family costs, and create thousands of new, family-supporting jobs in the communities where these governmental bodies work.



Photo: Department of Administration

CONTINUING PROGRESS

Advancing the CEP and measuring its implementation depends on three main elements: (1) ongoing stakeholder engagement; (2) strategies for measuring and verifying; and (3) an annual progress report that includes continuous data collection, synthesis, and analysis, all of which are accurate and relevant for understanding Wisconsin's evolving clean energy ecosystem and the progress of CEP implementation.

Wisconsin's CEP continues to provide a framework to ensure that Wisconsin businesses, communities, and residents are well-positioned to share in the work and benefits of this plan. The OSCE will maintain its role in implementing the CEP by seeking input on strategies and securing additional resources to help the state transition to a clean energy economy. The OSCE will also continue to consider and advise on the status of Wisconsin's energy generation and use, emissions, affordability, and social factors that may influence the pathways.



Photo: Office of Governor Evers

In contrast to current and recent federal actions by the Trump Administration that undermine widely accepted, science-based reality, the state continues to recognize that human-caused climate impacts persist and will continue to harm people, communities, and ecosystems unless they are tackled head-on and solutions are implemented. The OSCE and its partners focus on adaptation, mitigation, system-wide changes, and a just transition, all of which are essential for building climate resilience. However, significantly more support is needed to effectively scale solutions across multiple sectors. Doing nothing in Wisconsin would impose enormous costs on our communities—especially low-income and disadvantaged groups facing the worst effects of climate change—our agricultural sectors, statewide infrastructure, and our economy. Therefore, inaction is not an option. Thankfully, as detailed in this report, Wisconsin continues to make meaningful progress in our shared shift toward a clean energy economy.

APPENDIX I – DWD ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDERS LIST

Program Name	Institution Name	Program Description
<u>Building Science & Energy Management</u>	Western Technical College	In the United States, buildings are among our largest energy consumers. As a result, buildings have been targeted for energy-reduction strategies to lower costs and reduce dependence on carbon-based fuels. Building Science and Energy Management will examine the built environment and its relationship to energy, using the latest available research, tools, and technology. You will gain hands-on experience working with community projects and in living laboratories in Western's state-of-the-art facilities. Study topics include energy auditing, energy management, renewable energy systems, and integrated design. The program focuses on preparing you for entry-level work in the growing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and building systems industry. Having these unique skills will give you a leg-up in an increasingly competitive job market.
<u>Environmental Engineering - Waste & Water Tech</u>	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	This associate degree program is designed to meet the need for environmental engineering technicians in Northeast Wisconsin. As a program grad, you're equipped with skills to analyze and test water, wastewater, air, and solid waste to ensure environmental protection and compliance while maintaining community health and safety. Typical careers include environmental engineering technician, water and wastewater treatment plant and system operator, water resource specialist, environmental lab technician, environmental compliance officer, water quality sampler, quality control inspector, and recycling coordinator. Program students have the option to be certified in 40-hour HAZWOPER, DNR Wastewater, Water, and/or Landfill Operator with completion of coursework and independent testing. With additional education, you may receive a BS in Environmental Engineering Technology.
<u>Environmental Health & Water Quality Technology</u>	Milwaukee Area Technical College	This program promotes environmental protection, improvement, and sustainability, with a focus on protecting our water, food, and air resources. Hands-on coursework includes techniques for determining water, food, and air quality, as well as implementing necessary corrective actions. Career Outlook: There is a steady need for technicians and specialists in water and air quality, food safety, and field monitoring of lakes, rivers, and streams, as well as other environmental careers. Program Learning Outcomes: Evaluate environmental health hazards (air, food, water, soil, etc.) Conduct both field and laboratory environmental sampling/monitoring in accordance with regulatory requirements and guidelines. Perform corrective actions to remediate environmental health hazards. Communicate measures to prevent environmental health hazards. Develop environmental technical records and reports. Perform safe work practices.

Program Name	Institution Name	Program Description
<u>Greenhouse Operations</u>	Gateway Technical College	The Greenhouse Operations program trains students in greenhouse growing and operations, hydroponics, and retail garden center and floral shop management. Hands-on experience in a commercial greenhouse, ornamental gardens, and an operating urban farm are part of the learning experience. Plant identification, care, and culture are key elements of the program, as are technical and graphic skills, sustainable plant-care methods, and creative approaches to problem-solving and landscape design. Students can gain a specialized skill set in landscape design, which emphasizes sustainable landscape management, landscape estimating, and business operations. Students engage in various industry visits to enhance their learning experience.
<u>Greenhouse Operations</u>	Fox Valley Technical College	In the fast-growing and ever-changing field of horticulture, the Greenhouse Operations associate degree is a great opportunity to become a valuable member of the horticulture industry. This degree will prepare you for a variety of careers in the greenhouse field. You'll apply the latest hands-on technologies in an environmentally friendly and sustainable practice. Your training will include propagating and growing plants, learning hydroponic food production, working in outdoor settings, diagnosing pest issues, and designing a greenhouse growing operation. Instruction covers a wide array of plant types.
<u>Individualized Technical Studied (ITS) - Energy & Natural Resources</u>	Northwood Technical College	The Individualized Technical Studies program is NOT intended to be a catch-all for students with little or no career focus, nor is it intended to prepare students for occupations with little or no job market demand. It is also NOT simply an accumulation of credit hours leading to a degree. Finally, this degree program option is NOT designed to allow students to make minor course changes to existing programs. Rather, it is a preplanned program of study.
<u>MSSC Green Production</u>	INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE INC	Green Production training outlines the steps required to implement a company Green Production Program. 1. Describe green manufacturing 2. Describe why environmental training should include information on the latest technology advancements in manufacturing 3. Train workers in Environmental Issues 4. Conduct Environmental Incident and Hazard Investigations 5. Conduct Preventive Environmental Inspections 6. Implement & Promote Environmental Programs, Projects, Policies or Procedures
<u>Renewable Energy</u>	Chippewa Valley Technical College	This Embedded Technical Diploma prepares students with the skills necessary for basic geothermal, solar PV, solar thermal, and wind services. After successful completion, students can apply these credits to the Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration, and Renewable Technology 1-year technical diploma and the 2-year associate degree.

Program Name	Institution Name	Program Description
<u>Solar Energy Technology Associate Degree</u>	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	The Solar Energy Technology program provides installers, designers, and technical sales personnel the skills to assess sites; design systems; and install, operate, and maintain solar electric and solar thermal systems for residential and commercial applications in the growing renewable energy industry. Potential employment possibilities will be with existing solar, electrical, and mechanical contractors to help expand their offerings of solar energy technologies. Other possible areas of employment are with energy consulting firms, design firms, and utilities. With additional education and experience, graduates can expand their careers into energy analyst, journeyperson electrician/plumber, project manager, energy engineer, and environmental consultant roles.
<u>Solar Installation Technician</u>	Western Technical College	Solar energy is a growing industry in western Wisconsin. The Solar Installation Technician certificate is designed to address the needs of regional utility power suppliers that offer renewable energy options, as well as private companies that provide solar solutions for residential, commercial, non-profit, and government sectors. Western has several solar panel systems that not only power buildings but also provide a perfect, real-world training opportunity.
<u>Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems</u>	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	As a graduate of the Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems associate degree program, you're ready for careers in sustainable gardening, field crop production, livestock operations, and emerging areas like aquaponics. You will have the necessary knowledge to run your own successful food-related business and add value to your farm products, or be qualified for employment in a variety of positions associated with sustainable agriculture, including commercial gardens, livestock operations, farmer support, and local food system efforts.

APPENDIX II – REFERENCES

- i State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, State of Wisconsin Clean Energy Plan (Apr 2022). Retrieved 2026 from <https://osce.wi.gov/Documents/SOW-CleanEnergyPlan2022.pdf>
- ii Office of Governor Evers, Wisconsin Executive Order No. 38 (Aug 2019). Retrieved 2026 from <https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/EO%20038%20Clean%20Energy.pdf>
- iii United States of America Nationally Determined Contribution. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (April 2021). Retrieved 2021 from <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>
- iv Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change, Final Report (Dec 2020), retrieved 2026 from <https://climatechange.wi.gov/Documents/Final%20Report/GovernorsTaskForceonClimateChangeReport-LowRes.pdf>
- v State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, Wisconsin Emissions Reduction Roadmap (Jun 2026), Retrieved 2026 from <https://osce.wi.gov/Documents/WisconsinsEmissionsReductionRoadmapFINAL.pdf>
- vi Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Draft Strategic Energy Assessment 2026-2032 (Jun 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=595734>
- vii Xcel Energy, 2025 Corporate Sustainability Report (May 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://xcelnew.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#1U000001ttV/a/R300000Po82P/imcURCAOOblLqcB5fExa.cGVDLBOvaWs0YWIcuLO5hl>
- viii WPPI Energy, 2025 WPPI Energy Annual Report (Mar 2026). Retrieved 2026 from https://wppienergy.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/2025-WPPI-Energy-Annual-Report_accessible.pdf
- ix Madison Gas & Electric, Sustainability Web Pages. Retrieved 2026 from <https://www.mge.com/sustainability/net-zero-carbon-electricity>
- x Alliant Energy, Corporate Responsibility Report (Jul 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://www.alliantenergy.com/who-we-are/responsibility-report>
- xi Office of Governor Evers, Wisconsin Executive Order No. 195 (Apr 2023). Retrieved 2026 from <https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/EO/EO195-GreenRibbonCommission.pdf>
- xii Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Order, Quadrennial Planning Process IV, Docket 5-FE-104 (Nov 2024), Retrieved 2026 from <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=524088>
- xiii University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nuclear Siting Study Web Page. Retrieved 2026 from <https://nuclearsitingstudy.wisc.edu/>
- xiv 2025 Wisconsin Act 12, A Nuclear Power Siting Study. Retrieved 2026 from <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/acts/12>
- xv 2025 Wisconsin Act 11, A Nuclear Power Summit Board. Retrieved 2026 from <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/lcactmemo/act011>
- xvi Madison Gas & Electric, Application of Madison Gas and Electric Company for Approval of a New Community Solar Program Tariff, Docket 3270-TE-119. Retrieved 2026 from <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/APPS/dockets/content/detail.aspx?id=3270&case=TE&num=119>
- xvii Wisconsin Power & Light (Alliant Energy), Application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company for Approval to Expand its Community Solar Program Tariff, Docket 6680-TE-113, Retrieved 2026 from <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/APPS/dockets/content/detail.aspx?id=6680&case=TE&num=113>
- xviii Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Draft Strategic Energy Assessment 2026-2032 (Jun 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=595734>
- xix State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, Wisconsin Emissions Reduction Roadmap (Jun 2026), Retrieved 2026 from <https://osce.wi.gov/Documents/WisconsinsEmissionsReductionRoadmapFINAL.pdf>

xx Focus on Energy®, 2025 Evaluation Report (May 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://focusonenergy.com/evaluation-reports>

xxi Focus on Energy®, Home Efficiency Rebate Program Web Page. Retrieved 2026 from <https://focusonenergy.com/ira-homes>

xxii Focus on Energy®, 2026 Energy Efficiency Excellence Award. Retrieved 2026 from <https://focusonenergy.com/news/cutting-costs-powering-communities-wisconsin-honors-2026-energy-efficiency-leaders>

xxiii Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, More Like Home Web Page. Retrieved 2026 from <https://morelikehomeloan.wheda.com/>

xxiv State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Electric Vehicle Initiative (WEVI) Dashboard. Retrieved 2026 from <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6d78148b4bb84ba2b50c67752e6a4c9b>

xxv State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation, Improving Transportation for Non-Drivers Web Page. Retrieved 2026 from <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/nd.aspx>

xxvi Office of Governor Evers, Wisconsin Executive Order No. 161 (Apr 2022). Retrieved 2026 from <https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/EO/EO161-OEJ.pdf>

xxvii State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, Love My Air Story Map Web Page. Retrieved 2026 from <https://uatdhsqis.wi.gov/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/dfa2732486b14bb398de87723ab06506>

xxviii State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, State of Wisconsin Clean Fleet Policy (Jul 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://doa.wi.gov/Documents/DEO/CleanFleetPolicy.pdf>

xxix Office of Governor Evers, Press Release, Gov. Evers Announces New Clean Fleet Policy to Cut Down Emissions and Fuel Costs for State Vehicles, Reduce State's Climate Impact (Jul 2026). Retrieved 2026 from <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/41cd803>