

PUBLIC POWER in Wisconsin

Municipal electric utilities are important to Wisconsin's energy landscape



Locally Controlled



Not-for-Profit



Exceptionally Reliable

81 Community-owned electric companies, geographically dispersed across the state

Median population of the cities and village operating a municipal electric utility **3,349**

315,515 homes and businesses served



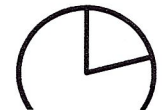
83%

of Wisconsin municipal utilities have been serving their community for **100 years or more**



11%

of the **electricity distributed in Wisconsin** is provided by a municipal utility



↓21%

On average, municipal utility **monthly residential bills are lower** than investor-owned utility bills



There are fewer **power outages** in areas served by municipal utilities; on the rare occasion when service is interrupted, power is **typically restored within 30 minutes**, compared to 3 hours and 57 minutes for investor-owned utilities

\$21.2
million

Payments transferred to local government to help communities pay for fire and police protection and other critical local services

100%

Utility infrastructure and investment **decisions are made locally** with input from residents

More than 500,000 Wisconsinites — **1 of 12 residents** — live in villages and cities that own their **not-for-profit electric utility**



Zero taxpayer dollars are used to operate municipal utilities



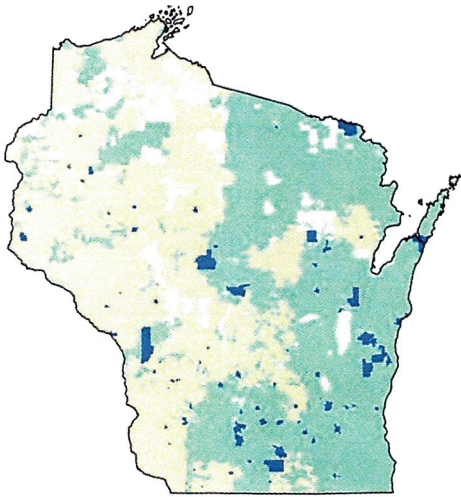
Together, municipal electric companies have roughly **1,125 employees** — including more than 300 highly-skilled electric lineworkers who keep the lights on in the communities they call home.

Municipal utilities are **regulated by the Public Service Commission** and share in the mission to provide **safe, reliable, and affordable power** to keep Wisconsin strong.

Municipal utilities **partner with Focus on Energy** to promote energy efficiency and conservation to help customers **keep energy bills low**.



About Wisconsin's Electric Utility Providers



Service territory boundaries shown are approximate, based on geographic data supplied to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Investor-owned utilities — 12 privately-owned power companies, including the big five operating in the state: Alliant Energy/Wisconsin Power & Light, Madison Gas & Electric, We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service Corp., and Xcel Energy/NSP Wisconsin

Electric cooperatives — 24 electric distribution co-ops plus Dairyland Power Cooperative, a generation-and-transmission cooperative that provides power to electric distribution cooperatives and municipal utility companies in Wisconsin and some neighboring states

Municipal utilities — 81 electric distribution companies plus three joint-action agencies, Great Lakes Utilities, Upper Midwest Municipal Energy Group, and WPPI Energy, that negotiate agreements and supply power to municipal utility companies

American Transmission Co. LLC (ATC) is a privately-held, jointly owned, **transmission-only utility** operating in Wisconsin; approximately 88% of the ownership is held by Wisconsin-based investor-owned utilities, and 12% is held by municipal and cooperative utilities

| | Investor-owned utilities | Electric cooperatives | Municipal utilities |
|---|--|---|--|
| Business Model | Privately-owned, for-profit | Privately-owned, not-for-profit | Publicly-owned, not-for-profit |
| Ownership | Shareholders | Cooperative members | Community |
| Total number of companies operating in Wisconsin <i>pie charts show share of total</i> | 12 | 24 | 81 |
| Number of electric meters served in Wisconsin <i>pie charts show share of total</i> | 2.1 million 78% | ~ 280,000 10% | 315,515 12% |
| Description of service territory | Large and expansive, including a mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas | Large and widespread, including primarily rural areas | Compact areas comprising entire cities or villages, and some surrounding rural areas |
| Share of state's retail electric sales <i>U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Form EIA-861; 2024 data</i> | 83% | 6% | 11% |
| Governed by | Corporate board of directors elected by shareholders | Elected board of co-op members | Local elected municipal board or utility commission |
| Regulated by | Public Service Commission of Wisconsin | Co-op Boards of Directors | Public Service Commission of Wisconsin |



Who We Are

**PROUDLY
PUBLIC POWER**



Locally Controlled



Not-for-Profit



Exceptionally Reliable

We are public power in Wisconsin. Together, we are 81 communities that have owned and operated their hometown electric utility for more than a century, providing more than 300,000 Wisconsin households with local control and access to affordable, safe, reliable, and sustainable energy without the use of tax dollars. **We are proud to be community-owned.**

MEUW Messaging Points

What We Believe

- Municipal utilities strongly support Wisconsin's current approach to regulating utilities, which has been highly effective for more than a century. This means regulation by local governing bodies and Public Service Commission oversight for municipal utilities.
- Municipal electric utilities support efforts to expand critical infrastructure and to continue modernizing the electric grid to meet changing customer expectations, including higher demand as electric vehicles and AI usage expands.
- Municipal utilities embrace an "all-of-the-above" approach to power supply and strive to provide environmentally responsible electricity while maintaining affordable rates for our customers.
- Municipal utilities strongly support community — our operations are ratepayer-funded (not taxpayer-funded), and every year we return more than \$20 million to our communities in payments in lieu of taxes.

What municipal utilities have to say about ...

Affordability and Reliability

- Public power utilities are not for profit electric service providers.
- Homes powered by municipal electric utilities pay – on average – nearly 15% less than homes powered by Investor-Owned Utilities.
- Customers of public power utilities lose power less often and brought back online faster than other utilities.

Transparency and Efficiency – Simplified Rate Case

- Energy generation filings are occurring more frequently, are more complex, and require more PSC staff time.
- PSC already uses a simplified process when considering municipal water rate changes, and it has been working well for many years.
- Municipal electric rate cases are decided by city councils, village boards, or utility commissions before being sent to Madison for review by PSC auditors.
- Using a simplified rate case process for municipal electric rate changes — similar to one used for municipal water cases — helps to lessen the burden on PSC staff and eliminates "double regulation."

Support for Home Rule

- Utilities have a defined service territory telling them who they can and cannot serve.
- There currently is a process to acquire new service territory but that process has become burdensome and costly, costs which are borne by ratepayers.
- As a municipality grows, we believe that a municipal utility should be able to serve citizens located within their municipal boundaries and the process of acquiring that territory should be easy.

PUBLIC POWER in Wisconsin

Other Energy/Utility Issues going on in Madison with Background and MEUW position

***NOTE this document is intended to be a reference for MEUW members and is not intended as a leave-behind for legislators or staff.**

Data Centers

- Data Centers continue to be of interest in Wisconsin. Two data centers under construction are in IOU service territory (Port Washington – WE Energies and Beaver Dam – Alliant Energy)
- As utilities we are required to serve all customers within our service territory
- If a data center were to locate within a municipal utility's service territory, because our members' utilities are municipal entities, there would be more transparency compared to other projects we've seen across the state.
- We support data center customers paying their share of infrastructure costs to serve these facilities.
- Legislation introduced this session:
 - AB 840 (Zimmerman)/SB 843 (Quinn) Passed Assembly 53-44. Did not get vote in Senate.
 - Required PSC to ensure no costs associated with construction/or extension of electric infrastructure are allotted to or recovered from any other customer
 - Renewables used to serve the facility must be located on site
 - Requires a closed loop water cooling system and reports of annual water usage to DNR
 - Requires reclamation if construction is not completed to restore the site to the condition that existed prior to the start of any construction
 - AB 722 (Stroud)/SB 729 (Habush/Sinykin)
 - Requires facility to certify with DPCS as a sustainable design or green building standards
 - Requires a water utility must notify PSC if new customer plans to use an amount of water that would account for 25% of total water usage of all water customers and annual water usage reporting requirements

Continued (page 2) of presentation to House and Senate

Continued (page 2) of presentation to House and Senate



PUBLIC POWER in Wisconsin

Community Solar – AB 493 (Krug/SB 559 (Testin) – Did not pass

- Community Solar/Rooftop Solar would undermine Wisconsin's strong and well-established utility regulatory structure
- Would require utilities to purchase energy from these customers at statutory-defined rates, often more than the utility could purchase energy from other sources
- Does not protect non-participating subscribers
- **Municipal utilities were exempt from current legislation, but we are concerned about the negative impact on the current regulatory structure and it's easy to add in municipal utilities after-the-fact.**

Nuclear Energy

- MEUW supported numerous legislative proposals to enhance Wisconsin's nuclear energy footprint.
 - Creation of a Nuclear Energy Summit to be held in Madison
 - Requiring PSC to create a nuclear power siting study with aggressive time limits for approval of CPCN applications
 - Supported a nuclear energy generation tax credit (Sortwell)

EV Charging

- Supported legislation to close loophole that would have required taxation of residential electric vehicle charging in 2023/2024 Session bill
- Loophole closed via 2025 Wisconsin Act 211

Public Bidding Threshold Increase – Thank Legislators

- Wisconsin Act 188 increased local government public notice thresholds from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and competitive bid thresholds from \$25,000 to \$50,000
- Thank legislators for their support, these numbers were inadequate (and probably still are) but appreciate the relief

Diggers Hotline/Locate Reform

- Because of Federal broadband expansion efforts members have seen a sharp increase in the number of locates being called in.
- Sometimes contractors call in multiple tickets because projects aren't ready to go and locators must come back and remark locations, sometimes multiple times, the cost of which is borne by our members
- The Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council is working on locate reform with a broad coalition of stakeholders and we hope to have a bill for the 2027/2028 Session.

