



222 S. Hamilton, Madison, WI 53703

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More information

Tyler Huebner, Executive Director

608.255.4044 x 1

tyler.huebner@renewwisconsin.org

2016's Standout Renewable Energy Projects to Receive Recognition This Week

The biggest and best renewable electric installations in 2016 are set to be recognized at RENEW Wisconsin's annual [Renewable Energy Summit](#) this Thursday, January 19th in Madison. The recognition ceremony will take place at 12:45 PM, during lunch. The Summit will be held at the Monona Terrace in Madison; registration starts at 8:00 AM and the program runs from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

As strong a year as 2015 was for Wisconsin solar installers, 2016 shattered records for total capacity added, with several electric providers, led by La Crosse-based Dairyland Power Cooperative and many of its member cooperatives, generating most of the momentum. Between utility-scale projects on the one end to residential rooftop installations on the other, Wisconsin's solar output will more than double the previous year's totals.

Indeed, since last year's Summit, construction started on more than 30 megawatts of solar panel installations, which will generate enough electricity to supply about 5,000 Wisconsin homes' annual electricity usage.

The recognition will be bestowed across three categories:

Utility solar. In 2016 Dairyland Power Cooperative entered into contracts to purchase the output from 14 solar arrays under construction in Wisconsin, with a combined capacity of nearly 19 megawatts. On top of the capacity serving Dairyland, many member cooperatives agreed to additional panels to supply their shared solar programs. All told, Wisconsin's electric cooperatives committed to more than 21 megawatts of solar last year.

2016 Solar PV Projects Built for Dairyland Power Cooperative and/or Member Co-ops

<i>Dairyland Member Cooperative</i>	<i>System Owner</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Project Size - Note: Total may include shared solar component (in kWAC)</i>
Chippewa Valley	SoCore Energy	New Auburn	2,750 (2,500 + 250*)
Price	GroSolar	Phillips	2,500 (Dairyland only)
St. Croix	SoCore Energy	Roberts	2,340 (2,200 + 140*)
Taylor	SoCore Energy	Medford	2,000 (Dairyland only)
Oakdale	SoCore Energy	Necedah	1,700 (1500 + 200*)
Vernon	SoCore Energy	Liberty Pole	1,300 (1,100 + 200*)
Scenic Rivers	SoCore Energy	Eastman	1,250 (1,000 + 250*)
Polk-Burnett	SoCore Energy	Centuria	1,250 (1,000 + 250*)
Dunn	SoCore Energy	Downsville	1,100 (1,000 + 100*)
Riverland	SoCore Energy	Arcadia	1,100 (950 + 150*)
Vernon	SoCore Energy	Hillsboro	1,000 (Dairyland only)
Eau Claire	SoCore Energy	Hallie	1,000 (Dairyland only)
Jump River	SoCore Energy	Conrath	1,000 (Dairyland only)
Richland	SoCore Energy	Ash Ridge	600 (500 + 100*)
Bayfield	Bayfield Electric	Iron River	300* (shared solar only)
Total:			21,190 (19,250 + 1,940)

**Denotes shared solar projects*

Two Madison-based investor-owned utilities, Alliant Energy and Madison Gas & Electric, brought three arrays online in 2016. When it was energized, Alliant's solar array in the Town of Beloit became the largest solar-powered generator in Wisconsin. Madison Gas & Electric's shared solar project came about through an innovative partnership with the City of Middleton, whose rooftops now holds more than 600 kW of solar, as the City police station added an array in addition to the larger MG&E Shared Solar project.

Electric provider	Owner	Location	Project size (in kWAC)
Alliant Energy	HanWha Q CELLS	Beloit	2,280
Alliant Energy	Alliant	Madison	390
Madison Gas & Electric	MG&E	Middleton	500*
Total:			3,170

**Denotes shared solar project*

Landmark and innovative initiatives. National corporations, state-based businesses, Wisconsin communities, and local activists continued their progress in embracing solar energy to advance public policy goals and/or enhance their business profile. In 2016, several noteworthy initiatives and collaborations were launched that married clean electricity productions with other objectives such as economic competitiveness, job training, and community-building.

<i>Project Participant(s) (including installer)</i>	<i>Project Location(s)</i>	<i>Metric(s)</i>
Target Stores/H&H Solar	Southeast Wisconsin	16 stores in six counties; 5.86 MW (DC); completed over a six-month period - four crews working in the field
City of Madison Solar Installer Training Program	Madison	Five installations, 68 kW total, program trained three apprentices
Riverwest Co-op Grocery and Café/ RE-volv/Convergence Energy/Arch Electric	Milwaukee	A crowd-sourcing collaboration that raised \$16,597 from 70+ donors; Convergence Energy designed the 8-kW system
Lakeland Union High School/SunPeak	Minocqua	280 kW array; largest PV system producing power for a K-12 public school in WI
Sokaogan Chippewa Community/SunVest Solar & Current Electric	Mole Lake	Community Solar Project (878 kW DC, 54 residences, 19 commercial), systems will offset 25% of electrical use in Mole Lake
Glacier Transit & Storage/SunPeak	Plymouth	560 kW PV system, largest customer-sited array in 2016 and now the largest interconnected to a municipal utility

Residential solar group purchase programs. Cities and nonprofit organizations collaborated to launch four community-based solar group purchase programs, spanning from Eau Claire in the northwest to Racine in the southeast. Solar group purchase programs are designed to reduce the cost and complexity of installing solar panels on individual houses, while sharing the benefits of increased marketing and community involvement. By the end of 2016, these four

programs resulted in 139 households committing to install more than 600 kW of solar on their properties, far outpacing previous years' totals.

<i>Project Participant(s) (including installer)</i>	<i>Project Location(s)</i>	<i>Metric(s)</i>
City of Milwaukee/ Village of Shorewood/ Midwest Renewable Energy Ass'n/Arch Electric	Milwaukee/ Shorewood	Solar Milwaukee/ Solar Shorewood group buy (54 contracts; 174 kW)
City of Madison/RENEW Wisconsin/Full Spectrum Solar	Madison area	MadiSUN group buy (39 contracts; 175 kW)
Affordable Chippewa Valley Solar/MREA/Able Energy	Eau Claire area	Solar Chippewa Valley group buy (28 contracts; 170 kW)
Greening Greater Racine/ SunVest Solar & Current Electric	Racine area	SOLARacine group buy (18 contracts; 84 kW)

"Wisconsin solar energy saw its best year ever in 2016, with the projects installed and under construction more than doubling the state's total production," said Tyler Huebner, RENEW Wisconsin's Executive Director. "But we can't stop here, because our neighboring states are growing even faster than us. In 2017, we will also see the welcome development of wind energy and biogas investments come back to Wisconsin. Increasing our renewable energy investments and usage will help build a stronger, cleaner economy for Wisconsin."

For more information on the 2017 Summit program agenda, speakers, and registration, please visit http://www.renewwisconsin.org/2017_Summit/.

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RENEW Wisconsin leads and accelerates the transformation to Wisconsin's renewable energy future through advocacy, education, and collaboration. More information on RENEW's Web site at www.renewwisconsin.org.