



Wisconsin's Office of Energy Innovation

Rural Energy Innovations and Enhanced Federal Investments

NASEO Annual Meeting - October 2023



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

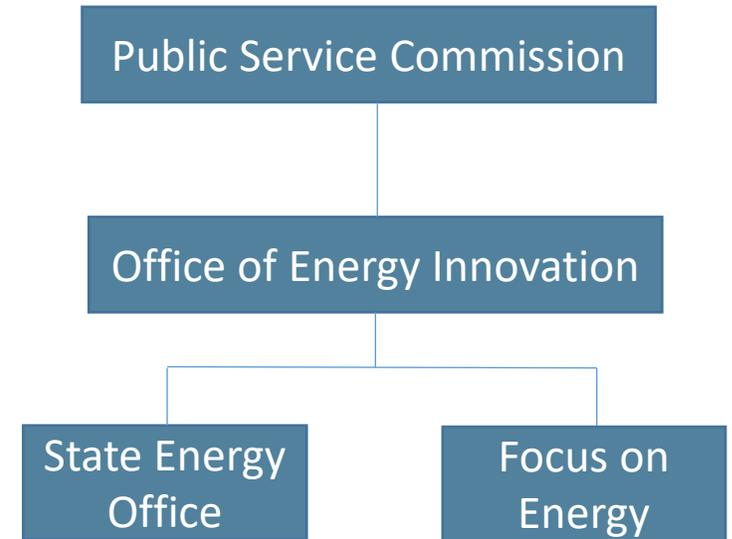
OEI Mission:

Developing Wisconsin's energy landscape to be secure, environmentally responsible, and growing the state's economy for all.

OEI Programs:

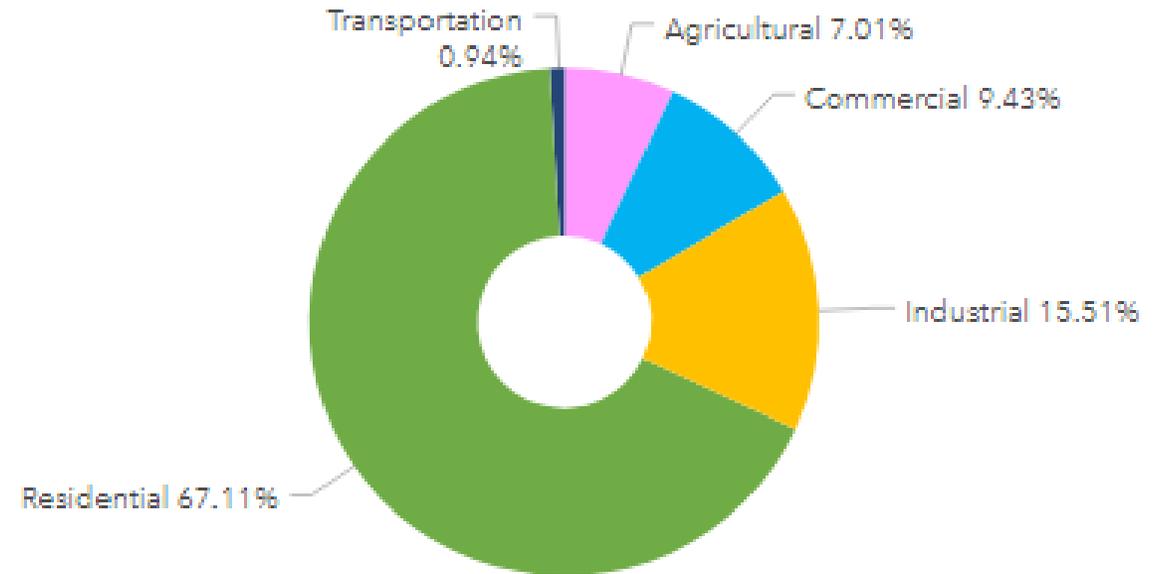
- [State Energy Office](#)
 - **Federally-funded:** Grants, Technical Assistance, Energy Statistics & Data, Energy Security
- [Focus on Energy](#)
 - **Utility ratepayer-funded:** Incentives, Technical Assistance, Training, Trade Ally Support

Contact OEI: OEI@Wisconsin.gov



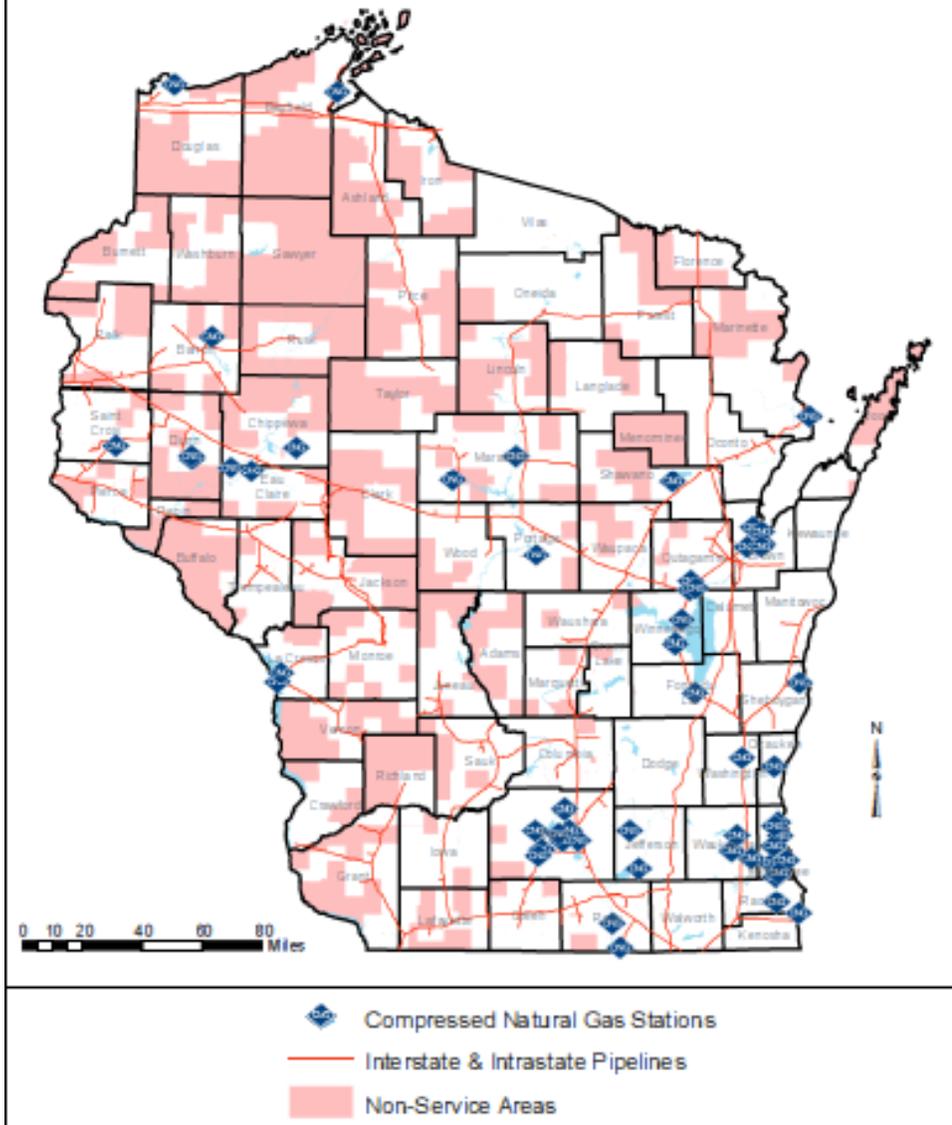
- Crop drying contributes to variable propane usage, which poses an energy assurance concern.
- Focus on Energy has limited ability to implement programing for LP.
- State Energy Program annual funding has been used to deliver programing to this market since 2019 resulting in savings of 12,814,267 gallons of LP, (life-cycle savings).

Wisconsin Liquefied Petroleum Gas Use by Economic Sector



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Wisconsin Energy Statistics](#)

Wisconsin Natural Gas Pipelines, Non-Service Territories & Compressed Natural Gas Stations



Rural and Agricultural Program Objectives

- Support rural customers’ access to Focus on Energy benefits
- Increase energy assurance by targeting equipment with variable propane usage affecting heating season supply
- Encourage projects with strong per-measure propane savings potential

Outreach & Marketing

- Program webpage: focusonenergy.com/propane
- Program fact sheet: [Propane- Fueled Equipment Insert](#)
- Energy Advisor outreach to trade allies and customers
- Radio spots, Sponsorships/memberships with Farm Technology days, WPS Farm Show, Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of WI



Energy Innovation Grant Program



The Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) is the largest grant program delivered by the OEI to date. The EIGP supports a wide variety of energy projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, energy planning, and more for a variety of public and private entities.

The EIGP 2023 round has been proposed to use IIJA – SEP Stimulus Funds - \$7.8M

2023 EIGP Proposed Activities

Activity 1: Renewable Energy + Energy Storage Projects (including Microgrids!)

Activity 2: Energy Efficiency + Beneficial Electrification Projects

Activity 3: Energy Planning & Microgrid Feasibility Studies

The program scope is open for public comment in Docket 9709-FG-2023 - comments due October 25th.

The program scope is subject to the Commission's approval in early November.

Final Award decisions are made by the Commission.



Wisconsin's EECBG plan includes federally-required proposed program design details that established the EECBG Rural Energy Planning Grant (EECBG REPG) to focus on rural units of local government serving disadvantaged communities.

Using data from past EIGP applicant rounds and online research, Commission staff determined which of Wisconsin's 72 counties and a subset of 431 municipalities have developed a Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP). Of those, 15 counties and 69 municipalities were found to have a CEP leaving a significant number of communities without a plan.

EECBG Proposed Activities

- Comprehensive Energy Planning
- Renewable Resource Planning
- Energy Audits
- Project Request Maximum = \$75,000

- Total budget = \$2.3M

The program scope is open for public comment in Docket 9714-FG-2023 - comments due October 25th.

The program scope is subject to the Commission's approval in early November.

- The Commission considered how to approach funding for Grid Resilience.
- Wisconsin’s utility landscape required that at least **24 percent** be set aside for small utilities.
- At its open meeting on August 31, 2023, the Commission decided it is reasonable to set aside a minimum of **75 percent** of the subrecipient funding allocated by the inaugural grant round budget for projects from eligible entities defined by the IJA as a small utility.

5. A minimum of 75 percent of the subrecipient funding shall be set aside for projects from eligible entities defined by the IJA as small utilities, as follows:

Table 2. Distribution of Subrecipient Funding

Total Subrecipient Funding	Small Utility Set-Aside (75% of total)
\$9,732,295	\$7,299,221

- The grant program will open in November.

- Driven by a technical assistance grant provided by NASEO and DOE in early 2021, the Commission approved State Energy Program funds to be used for two Community Solar Pilot Projects.
- Rural counties were considered for this funding and with a specific requirement to impact Low-Income customers by using the SEP funds for LMI subscription costs.
- The project partners include; PSC-OEI, Department of Administration Division of Energy and Housing and Community Resources (WAP & LIHEAP), 2 Electric Coops (Vernon Electric & Pierce Pepin), 2 Community Action Agencies (Couleecap & West Cap)
- The first project is launching this fall with the second to follow closely after.
- Wisconsin’s Inclusive Solar Community Offering - “WISCO”

Community Solar – “WISCO”



Date | Wednesday, October 25, 2023
Time | 9:00 a.m.
Location | Red Mound United Methodist Church
E2290 WI-82 • DeSoto, WI 54624
RSVP | tclark@vernonelectric.org

PLEASE JOIN US

We cordially invite you to a ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of our Bluff Prairie Community Solar Array. Located in the town of Wheatland near Red Mound, the 1.5 MW array houses 3,276 bifacial panels on single access trackers to allow for maximum power generation. 1,966 panels will be available to members for community solar subscriptions, including income eligible members who qualify for energy assistance.

Immediately following the ceremony, please join us at our headquarters facility for our Member Appreciation Picnic, 11am-1pm. 110 Saugstad Road, Westby, WI 54667.

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