

ENERGY TRANSMISSION

Affordable, reliable energy is imperative. **Intentional planning and design that's focused on efficiency and resilience** is the best way to deliver energy that Wisconsin residents can afford, when and where they need it.

TRANSMISSION & RESPONSIBLE DESIGN

While utility rates have increased by 30% since 2021, 15% of ratepayer utility bills go to corporate profits.²

Route plans for transmission are supported by national agencies in conjunction with multi-state utilities with a vested financial interest in overbuilding capacity.³

While Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) supports the need for affordable and reliable service, local input and state-level analysis of corridor routes, efficiency, and intentional design are needed.

WFU's policy on transmission lines states that, "When the construction of new transmission lines is being considered, Wisconsin Farmers Union demands that local governments are provided adequate information and input into the permitting process. Wisconsin Farmers Union also asks that, when new transmission lines are built, farmers and landowners are compensated, including adjacent property devaluation."

WFU 2026 Policy Book p. 45



THE CASE FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING

Already adopted in 33 other states, **Integrated Resource Planning** (IRP) is one tool that would allow the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) to consider more context in reviewing applications for transmission. WFU supports regulation that requires utilities to submit IRP plans to the PSC every three years.

Currently, Wisconsin PSC oversight is limited to reacting to each transmission application as it's submitted. This does not allow for a full comparison of all alternatives, including aggressive energy efficiency, demand side management, distributed generation incentive programs, and scheduled low voltage improvements to meet in-state reliability.

A more proactive approach requires the PSC to create or contract cost-benefit comparisons of transmission alternatives that account for short- and long-term monetary and environmental impacts of the project lifespans to be provided to the public and at Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meetings.



UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Learn more at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com

State Office: 128 W. River St. Ste 201, Chippewa Falls, WI 715.723.5561

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EFFICIENCY FIRST

Energy efficiency measures save Wisconsinites money on utility bills and reduce the externalities in generation and transmission. WFU is committed to supporting energy efficiency measures such as greater investment in and expansion of programs like Focus on Energy.⁴

RESILIENCE THROUGH DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Five percent of US power is lost to distance travelled from centralized power generation.⁵ Placing generation closer to points of use through distributed generation reduces wasted generation, increases resiliency to blackouts, and reduces need for large transmission buildout.⁶

1. Establish Fair Buyback Rates for Distributed Generation

By establishing known buyback rates for distributed generation (net metering), it encourages distributed generation of renewable energy close to point of use. Knowing that distributed generation benefits all of Wisconsin's citizens who use electricity, WFU supports net metering for wind and solar systems up to 100kW to be billed on an annual basis.

¹ Powerlines, April 2026 <https://powerlines.org/utilities-are-planning-to-spend-1-4-trillion-on-capital-expenditures-through-2030-as-utility-bills-rise-study-finds/>

² Energy Policy Institute, March 2026 https://energyandpolicy.org/utility-profit-report/?mc_cid=2766b9891c&mc_eid=5b84cd63eb

³ Natural Resource Defense Council (January 2021) <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/jc-kibbey/utility-accountability-101-how-do-utilities-make-money>

⁴ Focus on Energy Calendar Year 2024 Evaluation Report (May 2025) https://assets.focusonenergy.com/production/inline-files/Evaluation-CY-2024-Vol-I_FINAL.pdf

⁵ Energy Information Administration (November 2023) <https://www.eesi.org/topics/distributed-generation/description>

⁶ OpenEI (September 2026) "Distributed Generation" https://openei.org/wiki/Distributed_Generation

⁷ US Dept of Energy (June 2024) "Community Solar Market Trends" <https://www.energy.gov/cmei/systems/community-solar-market-trends>



2. Support Community Solar

Community solar programs saved U.S. citizens an average of \$.27/watt in 2024, but this savings opportunity remains unavailable to Wisconsinites due to current state policies. WFU supports updating state law to allow for residents to invest in their electrical use through community solar programs.

STRAY VOLTAGE

WFU urges the state legislature and involved state agencies to require power companies to correct stray voltage problems and electrical pollution, and to provide financial reimbursement to parties injured by stray voltage. Possible remedies include compensating farmers for damage from electrical pollution and requiring necessary upgrades in the existing electrical transmission system. WFU supports legislation that defines objectionable current flow on grounding rods and prohibits utilities from returning current through the earth.



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