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FRWD Praises Study Showing Economic Importance of Local Workforce for Solar Construction Projects

MADISON WI – October 27, 2021 – Fair Rates for Wisconsin’s Dairyland (FRWD) applauds the findings of a recent study, titled *Capturing the Sun*, which demonstrates that using local workers for solar construction projects can increase the economic impact by as much as 158% compared to using a temporary, out-of-state workforce.

“Wisconsin will be experiencing a boom of solar construction projects in the upcoming years,” stated Kathi Kilgore, FRWD Executive Director. “This study quantifies what we have already known. For Wisconsin and its rural communities to benefit the most from utility scale solar construction, a local workforce needs to be employed for the projects.”

There are currently 19 solar projects already approved by, or awaiting approval from, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. One of the key findings of the study conducted by Forward Analytics is that using local workers to construct these projects will result in \$195 million in local economic activity. However, the local economic activity decreases by \$83 to \$120 million if the solar projects are built by out-of-state workers.

“Employing local workers for these projects will allow workers to live at home, with their families, for the duration of the project, and spend their hard earned money at their local Main Street businesses,” commented Kilgore. “It also gives local apprentices an opportunity to receive on-the-job, paid training to prepare them for the green jobs of the future.”

The full *Capturing the Sun* study can be reviewed at WisconsinInfrastructure.com.

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About Fair Rates for Wisconsin’s Dairyland (FRWD)

Electricity is an essential element and a key part of the foundation that has fueled the growth of Wisconsin’s economy and promoted a higher quality of life for residents. Fair Rates for Wisconsin’s Dairyland (FRWD) advocates to (1) ensure each Wisconsinite pays a fair rate for power, (2) upgrade and maintain Wisconsin’s aging infrastructure as needed so that the flow of power continues to be reliable, and (3) guarantee everyone in the state has full access to affordable energy and to balanced information about energy issues.

FRWD members include utilities, labor, corporations, non-profit organizations, and the trades. More information can be found at www.fairwisconsinrates.com, or find FRWD on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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