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## **Wisconsin Utilities Pledge to Partner with Building Trade Unions to Build State's Clean Energy Infrastructure**

*Local union workers poised to build solar, wind, and battery boom as utilities commit to high-road labor standards on wages, benefits, and training opportunities*

WISCONSIN - Today, Wisconsin's four major utilities and state building trade unions announced a historic commitment to employ local union workers in the construction of dozens of utility scale solar, wind, and battery developments across the Badger State.

Currently, Wisconsin's energy generation fleet is undergoing a historic change as Wisconsin utilities have announced efforts to transition towards a clean energy future which includes plans to build significant amounts of utility scale solar, battery storage and onshore wind.

Collectively, these plans anticipate the addition of 10+ gigawatts (GW) of solar, 4+ GW of battery storage, and 1.2+ GW of wind to the state grid by 2030. An in-depth analysis of filings with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission projects nearly 19,000 construction jobs will be required to build these new clean energy developments in the years ahead.

Alliant Energy, Madison Gas & Electric, WEC Energy Group, and Xcel Energy have pledged to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, Wisconsin Laborers' District Council, and Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139 to "ensure that our renewable energy projects in Wisconsin employ local union workers and are built according to recognized, competitive labor standards."

Today's pledge comes in the wake of the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, which provides significant tax credits specifically designed to incentivize high-road job creation with family sustaining wages and benefits and apprenticeship opportunities in the clean energy sector and make construction of solar, wind, battery storage and other clean energy technologies more cost effective for ratepayers and utilities.

According to a recent [study](#) conducted by The Midwest Economic Policy Institute and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Fiscal and Economic Research Center, these investments, and associated IRA tax credits, will have a profound impact on Wisconsin's economy. Every \$1 billion invested in clean energy in Wisconsin creates an estimated 2,700 jobs, \$1.63 billion in economic activity, and \$153 million in state and local tax revenues when local workers are on the job.

Please see below for comments from Wisconsin building trade union leaders;

"This isn't just about flipping the switch to renewables; it's about flipping the script on how we power Wisconsin. This innovative, first-in-the-nation partnership between our skilled union workforce and Wisconsin's utilities ensures our future energy infrastructure is built safely, on time, and on budget, says **Emily Pritzkow, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Building Trades Council**. "Most importantly, utilizing competitive labor standards -- including area standard wages, benefits, and training opportunities -- ensures the economic impact of these projects stays in our local economy. This is a win-win for Wisconsin ratepayers, businesses, and communities."

"The Carpenters Union is thrilled that our state's utilities have made a commitment to using skilled Wisconsin workers to build our energy infrastructure," says **Andrew Disch, NCSRCC**. "This means energy projects will also be building the middle class and supporting local economies."

"We are incredibly excited to be part of this historic agreement," said **Dean Miller, President of IBEW State Conference and Business Manager of LU 388**. "It cements what we in the IBEW have always understood. The fastest, most efficient way to build the energy future is with good, union jobs. It's the only way to do it right, without leaving our communities or workers behind."

"This is a great day for Wisconsin's workers, utilities, and ratepayers," said **Kent Miller, President/Business Manager for the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council**. "Our union applauds Wisconsin's utilities for their commitment to creating great paying union jobs building utility-scale solar projects. LIUNA Wisconsin members have already seen the impact of these solar investments, creating pathways to apprenticeships and kickstarting careers in the Wisconsin construction industry. The construction of utility-scale solar projects will benefit ratepayers by providing clean and reliable energy sources while bolstering our state's workforce and economy."

"Wisconsin's Operating Engineers are honored to be working in partnership with utilities and developers to build Wisconsin's clean energy future," said **Terry McGowan, President/Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139**. "Utility-scale solar is a huge piece of the state's energy infrastructure, and this partnership will ensure that Wisconsin workers, businesses, and communities can thrive and grow for years to come."

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