



What is a Community Energy Partnership?

A Community Energy Partnership (CEP) is a decision-making structure that gives utility customers and community representatives a role in determining how our power is produced, distributed, and priced.

Principles of a Real Partnership

- Designed and operated to provide strong community representation with transparency and accountability.
- Achieve goals related to clean energy, pollution reduction and equitable rates.
- Policymaking board with no more than half the representatives chosen by the utility.
- Citizen advisory committee to guide the board of the Partnership.
- Promote programs to increase energy efficiency and renewables for all.
- Assure that customers have an active role in decision making affecting our community's energy future."

Why is a Partnership Needed?

- A strong Community Energy Partnership would ensure the Madison community has a voice in determining energy production, distribution, and pricing.
- Current Wisconsin energy policies favor utility profits and fossil fuel interests over clean energy and community interests.
- The recent fixed fee increases made it clear that MGE is more beholden to shareholders than to its own customers.
- MGE generates 70% of its electricity from coal and is locked into those two costly coal plants until 2038 and 2050.
- MGE lobbied for legislation that cut Focus on Energy, an effective and popular energy efficiency program, by \$7 million annually.

The Minneapolis Model

- In 2014, a Clean Energy Partnership formed between the City of Minneapolis and its utilities, Xcel and CenterPoint.
- The agreement was paired with a renegotiation of franchise agreements, which utilities need to serve a city.
- The [partnership](#) "will plan, implement, market and track new approaches to delivering energy efficiency, energy choices and renewable energy."
- A board with four city and four utility representatives creates work plans focused on achieving the City's goals.
- The Energy Vision Advisory Committee aids the board in decision making by providing community feedback.
- The partnership includes commitments from all parties, funding, staff, metrics, transparency, and accountability.

A legally binding Community Energy Partnership between MGE and our communities will ensure a transparent relationship, as well as an equitable, clean, and reliable energy future.