

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – submitted by Linda Parrish, Promotions Coordinator, City of Fennimore. For additional information – promo@fennimore.com or 800-822-1131 – 850 Lincoln Avenue, Fennimore, WI 53809

2020 Public Power Week Recognized by City of Fennimore Municipal Utilities

Public Power Week is an annual national event coordinated by the American Public Power Association in Washington, D.C. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. It advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Its members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power. More at www.PublicPower.org.

Public Power Week runs from October 4 thru October 10. Since 2006 Fennimore Municipal Utilities have hosted some sort of celebration during this time. Due to COVID-19 this year Fennimore Utility Staff are giving their customers an opportunity to win a credit against their utility bill by liking the City of Fennimore's Facebook. A quick link may be found on www.fennimore.com home page. We will also share information about our local utility and the importance of being a Focus on Energy community since 1904. Watch for weekly energy saving tips on our City Facebook page and in Linda Parrish's Focus on Fennimore column in the Fennimore Times during October.

Fennimore Municipal Electric Staff

Director of Public Works (DPW) – John “Murray” Murray – 608-822-6501 Email dpw@fennimore.com

Electric Foreman – Gary Smith – 608-822-3185 office number – 608-988-6399 after hour emergency #. Email utility@fennimore.com

Electric Lineman: Jordan Dyer & Jordan Fritche

Utility Clerk – Ashley Walker – 608-822-6119 Email utilityclerk@fennimore.com

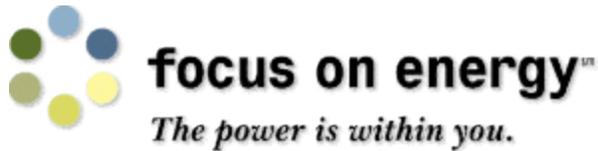
What are the benefits of living in a public power community? They include low rates, high reliability, customer responsiveness, community focus, economic development and local control. The City of Fennimore committed in 2012 to purchase over 20% of its wholesale power in the form of wind energy. In 2019 the new 18 acre solar array (farm) began operations on the southwest City limits. The project is part of what is known as the Butter Solar portfolio, a group of 10 different solar projects located in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. A Canadian based BluEarth Renewables officially acquired the project in March 2019.

The City of Fennimore's electric utility, worked through their electric buying group UMMEG, and has entered into a 25 year power purchase agreement with Butter Solar to buy all electricity produced at the local solar farm. Director of Public Works, John Murray, reports “the solar farm will supply approximately 18 percent of Fennimore's annual electric needs. “The City currently purchases 22 percent of their electric needs from wind energy, bringing Fennimore up to 40 percent of Fennimore Utilities annual electric needs being produced by renewable energy. This far surpasses the city's 2012 goal of 20 percent renewable by 2020” reports Promotions Coordinator, Linda Parrish.

Parrish further reports “Fennimore's city-owned electric, water and sewer utilities offer highly competitive rates and dependable service which can save businesses substantial operating dollars. The low cost of doing business is key to the profitability of Fennimore area business.”

More About FOE – see page two

Focus on Energy



Fennimore Municipal Electric is proud to be a partner with Focus on Energy since 2008. Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment, and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas.

Visit FocusOnEnergy.com/fennimore website for current incentives and programs. Call [800-762-7077](tel:800-762-7077) for more Focus on Energy information. Check out a wide variety of topics at our blog link www.focusonenergy.com/blog or we also have a series of Youtube videos to view: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPnPaoj_HMG22ZbuaMUBNOolz2qfLGSRT

The offerings include programs that:

- Help manufacturers, commercial businesses, farmers, schools, and local governments reduce operating costs, increase their bottom line and improve productivity, and employee and customer comfort. The programs offer technical expertise, training, and financial incentives to help implement innovative energy management projects.
- Increase the availability of ENERGY STAR® qualified products ranging from LED light bulbs to heating and cooling equipment. These efforts deliver lower energy bills for residents and businesses and increased sales for retailers and contractors.
- Assist residents and businesses in harnessing energy from sunlight, wind, and organic materials.
- Encompass new and existing homes, multi-family construction, and remodeling projects for all types of residential dwellings and income-qualified participants. These programs help homeowners and landlords integrate energy improvements into their remodeling projects, as well as deliver newly-built homes, apartments, and condominiums that are comfortable, safe, durable, and energy efficient.

In the fall of 2018 Fennimore Utilities worked with FOE on the Community Small Business offering at which time consultants met with Fennimore businesses evaluating energy saving projects.

Between September 30, 2017 to September 30, 2020 Fennimore utility customers have ordered 138 energy saving bulbs and products. With more than 1300 customers many more utility customers qualify. It's easy to participate simply have your utility bill account number available and go online focusenergy.com/simple or call 800-230-4701. The FOE [Online Marketplace](#) is a good compliment to the free packs, with discounted pricing on LED lighting, smart strips, smart thermostats and water saving devices. For those who do not have internet access paper copies of FOE materials is available outside the utility clerk's office in the Memorial building.

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