

GreenMax Home tour dates announced

The GreenMax Home, the region's first owner-designed and occupied net zero energy home (NZEH), was completed in spring 2009.



Homeowners Tom and Verona

Chambers are hosting public tours with WPPI Energy for interested participants to learn more about the special features of their NZEH.

The tours will showcase the energy-efficient construction and sustainable energy systems that make the Chambers' Black River Falls home unique.

The tours are open to the public; however, participants are encouraged to visit www.greenmaxhome.com/ projects to sign up for one of the following tour dates:

- Sunday, Sept. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. in conjunction with the Black River Falls Memorial Hospital Fundraiser
- Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in conjunction with the Solar Tour of Homes and Public Power Week

Power supplier welcomes new member

The City of Crystal Falls, Michigan recently joined WPPI Energy, bringing the number of customer-owned electric utilities served by WPPI Energy to 51.

Crystal Falls' municipally owned electric utility serves more than 1,600 residential and commercial customers, with an electric load of approximately three megawatts.

The city owns the Crystal Falls hydroelectric facility, which provides for approximately one-fourth of the city's power needs. The balance of Crystal Falls' electric needs is supplied through a power supply contract. As of May 1, WPPI Energy assumed Crystal Falls' existing power supply contract and became the community's power supplier.

With the addition of Crystal Falls, WPPI Energy members will supply electricity to more than 192,000 homes and businesses in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan and Iowa.

Public power: An American tradition

Public power today is an important, contemporary American institution. More than 2,000 cities and towns in the United States light up their homes, businesses and streets with electricity that comes from a community-owned and operated utility.

Each public power system is different, reflecting its hometown characteristics and values, but all have a common purpose: to provide reliable and safe electricity at a reasonable price while protecting the environment.

Local control continues to be one of public power's greatest assets as public power utilities are operated by local governments to provide communities with responsive, not-for-profit electric service. Essentially, public power utilities are accountable to the people they serve through local elected or appointed officials.

A public power utility has many distinct characteristics that benefit the consumers of the individual community it serves including:

- Competitive electric rates
- Equal or greater reliability
- Responsiveness to customer concerns
- Emphasis on long-term community goals
- Local employment
- Local control that allows matching local resources to local needs

From small towns to big cities, wherever public power exists, it is an expression of the American ideal of local people working together to meet local needs. Take time to celebrate the fact that you are served by a public power community today!

Reedsburg Utility Commission

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Just ask Focus on Energy

Do homes really emit twice the carbon dioxide of cars? In what ways can you save energy and money at home and work? Now you can learn the answers to these questions and more – just ask Focus on Energy!

“Ask Focus on Energy” is an exciting new online service that puts Wisconsin residents and business owners in touch with real-life energy experts. Visitors can search the online database for answers to their questions about energy efficiency and renewable energy – and submit questions of their own. The experts will answer one new question each week to help Wisconsin save energy and money while protecting our environment.

Check it out at www.askfocusonenergy.com.

Energy assistance available

For some customers, including seniors on fixed incomes, energy expenses can be a financial burden. In fact, there are those in our community who cannot afford the energy to meet their basic needs. For those who cannot afford such an expense, this can lead to difficult decisions about how to allocate their limited resources.

If you believe you or someone you know may qualify, we encourage you to establish your income eligibility through Energy Services Inc. at (608) 356-8887.

Reedsburg tracks the sun

A solar electric tracker at the Reedsburg Area High School has been collecting the sun's energy since this spring. Visit www.wppienergy.org/solar to see how much electricity it produces. While there, check out the other solar projects in WPPI Energy member communities.

Lighten your load

Are you stuck with older, inefficient appliances? Did you know they're costing you extra money on your energy bills? We think it's time to break free. For a limited time, we're offering a \$20 incentive per customer when you turn in old refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and room air conditioners that are still in working order.

We'll even arrange for pick-up of your older appliances and cover those costs as well. Useful parts will be recycled and dangerous PCBs and ozone-damaging CFCs will be recovered, so you can get rid of those unwanted appliances and be friendly to the environment at the same time. Best of all, the newer models you replace them with will cost you less to operate. That means the monetary savings will go on and on.

Scheduling an appliance pick-up is fast and easy. To start saving money on your energy bills just call (800) 922-3744 or visit www.arcaincutility.com.