

## Reliable in good times and bad

For more than 125 years, public power has been a tradition that works on behalf of its communities and customers. Today, 2,000 public power utilities around the United States proudly provide low-cost, reliable service with a friendly, personal touch.



Public power utilities allow citizens to have a direct and powerful voice in utility decisions and policies. Essentially, public power utilities are accountable to the people they serve through local elected or appointed officials.

In our community, being locally owned and operated allows us to maintain a strong local presence and

a direct connection to our customers. We are able to offer competitive rates, reliability, responses to customer concerns, local employment and control.

Wherever public power exists, its mission remains the same – to reliably provide electricity at a reasonable cost, in good times and bad.

## GreenMax Home delivers

The GreenMax Home initiative was developed to help homeowners build or remodel their home so that its energy profile becomes “net zero,” meaning the home produces as much energy as the occupants use. This is done through energy-efficient construction techniques and the use of renewable energy systems.

The first GreenMax Home participants in Black River Falls, Wis., proved the net zero energy home concept works when, during the first year in

their home, their solar electric system produced over 13 percent more energy than they consumed.

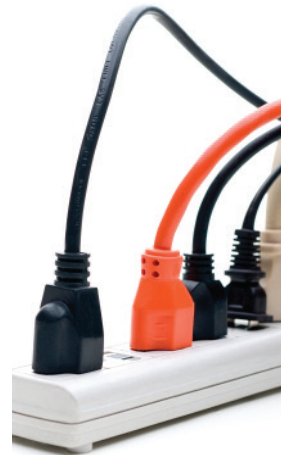
Energy monitoring is currently underway at the second GreenMax Home in Stoughton, Wis. A third project is currently underway near Deerton, located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

To learn more about the GreenMax Home and upcoming tours, visit [www.greenmaxhome.com](http://www.greenmaxhome.com).

## Reduce energy theft from devices

Plug-in devices such as home electronics and small appliances are responsible for an estimated 15 – 30 percent of a home's total electricity usage, according to a new study recently completed by the Energy Center of Wisconsin (ECW).

The study concluded that the average home could save 3 – 6 percent on their utility bill by managing the energy use of plug-in devices. The ECW report recommends numerous ways to reduce energy used by common household energy thieves including:



- **Enable the power management feature on your computer.** This feature will shut down the hard disk and monitor after a set time of non-use and will reduce its standby energy draw to almost zero.
- **Manually unplug devices or use a switched power strip.** Devices such as compact stereos, television sets, VCRs and VCR/DVD combination players can use energy even when they are turned off.
- **Turn off unused devices.** Appliances such as dehumidifiers and space heaters are only necessary in the appropriate season. Take a look around your home and shut off and unplug any unused appliances.

Visit [www.ecw.org](http://www.ecw.org) to view the full report.

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## Look for leaks

You tell your kids they're heating the Great Outdoors when they don't close the door behind them. You could be doing the same thing without even knowing it.

Your heated indoor air could be leaking out of your house through the tiny cracks and holes around phone lines, electrical outlets and plumbing pipes, as well as around windows and doors.

Take a walk around the outside of your house and you'll see little gaps around window frames, wall-mounted air conditioners, exhaust vents and more. Those leaks can increase your heating bill 5 – 30 percent. Seal the leaks with caulk and keep the heat indoors where it belongs.

## Live efficiently with Focus

Are you interested in becoming more energy efficient at home? Whether you own or rent, there's always room for improvement. If you want to learn about increasing your efficiency, the home assessment tool at [www.liveefficientlywithfocus.com](http://www.liveefficientlywithfocus.com) is a great place to start.

You'll learn how efficient you already are, and what the next steps are toward greater energy efficiency. Visit [www.liveefficientlywithfocus.com](http://www.liveefficientlywithfocus.com) today for more information.

## Energy assistance available

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) is a federally funded heating assistance program that can ease the energy burden facing customers with limited financial resources. To qualify for WHEAP, you must verify that your gross household income from the previous three months falls within the following guidelines:

Family Size	3-Month Family Income
1	\$6,142
2	\$8,032
3	\$9,921
4	\$11,811
5	\$13,701

As a customer of New Glarus Utilities, you may also be eligible for our Customer Credit Program, which can help reduce your annual electric costs. If you are approved for WHEAP, you will be eligible for our program without having to complete any additional paperwork. For more information, call Green County Human Services at (608) 328-9393, or contact us at 527-2913.