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PUBLIC POWER MAGAZINE

AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

A large yellow crane is lifting a massive log on a construction site. Three workers in high-visibility vests and hard hats are standing on the ground, observing the process. A yellow backhoe loader is positioned to the right of the log. The background features lush green trees and a blue sky with scattered clouds. The scene is set on a gravel road or construction area.

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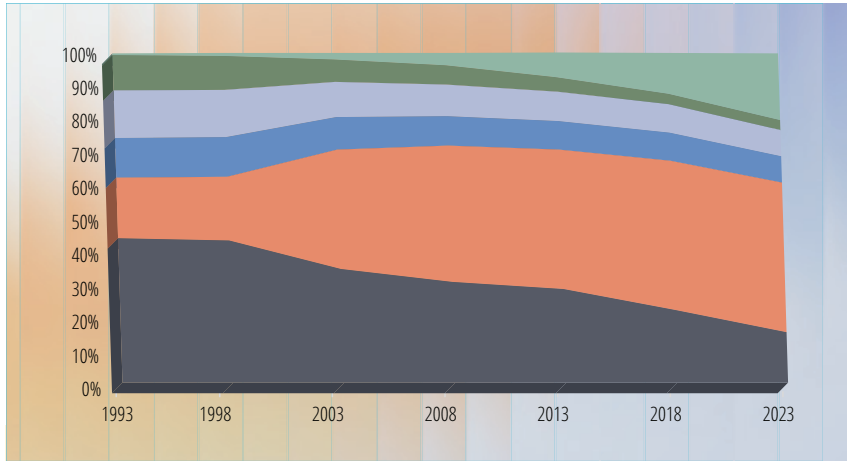
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Editor in Chief
Susan Partain

Managing Editor
Adam Patterson

Design
Julio Guerrero
Sharon Winfield

Contributing Writers
Scott Corwin
Sheri Miller
Jessica Porter

INQUIRIES

Editorial
News@PublicPower.org
202-467-2900

Subscriptions
Subscriptions@PublicPower.org
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Advertising
Justin Wolfe, Justin.Wolfe@theygsgroup.com
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Working Together Through Dynamic Times

BY SCOTT CORWIN, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Last year around this time, we were gearing up for a change in administration in Washington and what that might mean for the energy sector. Two years ago, we started to see readjusted projections for load growth based on rapidly growing interest in data centers after OpenAI released ChatGPT to the public the year before. Four years ago, Congress passed a major bipartisan bill, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to provide federal funding for a host of energy-related projects.

Through all of this, public power has adjusted to deploy new technologies, revise plans, and find ways to pay for these efforts while keeping costs low for customers. Over the past 30 years, public power has increased its owned generating capacity by 35 gigawatts — a 42% increase — and has many more projects underway from a diverse array of sources (see page 18). That increase doesn't include all the generation secured from power purchase agreements that have further diversified our supply in support of goals for continued reliable, affordable, and sustainable power.

In times of change, one of the most valuable traits is to be nimble. After all, you can't always control the circumstances, but you can control how you respond to them. Public power is particularly adept at problem solving.

We know from experience and from warnings of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation that the threats to reliability and affordability for electricity will continue to increase, just as the drive to meet these challenges will increase. This issue of *Public Power* highlights how public power providers have planned for — and acted on — industry change, whether in adjusting their portfolio planning (see page 6), moving ahead with major projects (see page 20), or preparing their workforce to lead in the future (see page 30).

Collectively, the thousands of public power communities are stronger by educating each other on how to evolve in this sea of change. APPA serves you by sharing the information you need to make critical decisions, speaking up when federal actions or regulations make your work difficult (or more expensive), and in being a hub for you to find and connect with your peers facing similar challenges.

We have fought to stave off attacks on the hard-won financing mechanisms and tax credits for public power, have kept up the drum beat on the need for FEMA reform and funding, and been vocal on preserving LIHEAP funding. We have heard the challenges you face in permitting for infrastructure, have made some strides administratively, and are pushing for legislative reform that is needed on laws such as the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

APPA is most effective when you give feedback through our surveys or by just reaching out to let us know how best we can help. With many important initiatives to work on through the end of this year and into the next, this is also a good time to recognize how well public power is navigating these times of change. Here is wishing you all a rewarding and restful holiday season. 🇺🇸

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MAINTAINING MOMENTUM FOR GROWING DEMAND

BY SUSAN PARTAIN, DIRECTOR, CONTENT STRATEGY,
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

In many areas of the U.S., demand for electricity is rising at a pace not seen in decades. In other areas, real growth has surpassed even robust expectations. This sudden increase has utilities and joint action agencies in a scramble for capacity — and in competition with more than just the usual industry players for megawatts.

As JAAs and public power utilities weigh opportunities to keep up with increased energy needs, they are finding new approaches to secure affordable power

for their communities for years to come. With this, there comes an increased need for public power leaders to keep up with regulatory changes and how those changes might affect short- and long-term plans.

Accelerated Growth

“We are very blessed with growth and have been busy with transactions and steps to position ourselves for growth to meet our reliability objectives — and do it all at a time when we are working to become the most affordable utility in Texas,” said Elaina Ball, chief strategy officer at CPS Energy. The public power utility serves the city of San Antonio and about 30 additional communities in Texas.



Photo courtesy Florida Municipal Power Agency

CPS Energy already has a big footprint as one of the top five generators in the ERCOT market. Still, the combination of retiring assets and robust growth in population and demand from large loads, like data centers and advanced manufacturing, means CPS Energy is in a flurry expanding its power supply portfolio.

Ball said CPS Energy's current generation plan calls for strong but modest growth, and that there is a lot of speculative growth associated with data centers and large loads.

"Anything, you name it, we have prospective growth. Even if 20% shows up, it will be massive amounts of growth," she said.

CPS Energy has a current peak demand just under 6 gigawatts, which includes about 200 megawatts of growth in recent years. Ball said the utility has over 2 GW under contract and is ready to contract for another 8 GW.

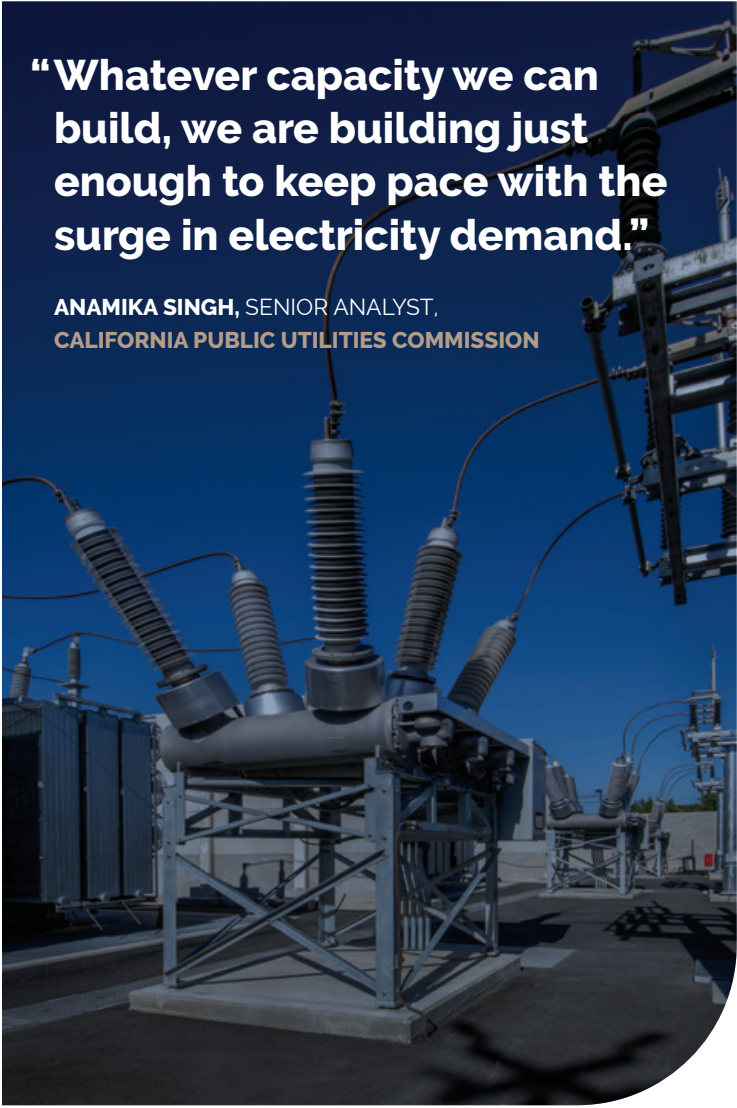
While new projects, including large solar and storage assets, have been underway to help meet the growth, Ball noted the "headline-grabbing" work has been around its acquisitions and

increased shares in major plants. CPS Energy recently bought about 1,700 MW from various Talen Energy assets, mostly combined cycle plants. The utility also purchased a two-thirds equity into another natural gas project, growing its portfolio by 1,600 MW.

Ball said the acquired facilities are quite new, having been constructed in the past four years. Ball said the per kilowatt cost of the acquisitions were about a third of the estimated cost to build similar new capacity. The purchases also moved up a strategy from CPS Energy's latest generation plan to put in peaking units in the 2030s, saving its customers an estimated \$3 billion.

In addition to the price protection from the moves, "it moved supply chain and construction risk off the table and brought in generation earlier than we need," said Ball.

CPS Energy is also a transmission owner and planner in ERCOT and sees the effort to build transmission infrastructure as equally challenging as the efforts on generation. Ball said CPS



“Whatever capacity we can build, we are building just enough to keep pace with the surge in electricity demand.”

**ANAMIKA SINGH, SENIOR ANALYST,
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Energy is one of a handful of ultra-high-voltage transmission owners in Texas and will be building out substantial sections of that system, with construction costs likely in the billions of dollars.

Buying Time

At the end of 2025, Florida Municipal Power Agency will close on its third power plant acquisition, wrapping up additions of about 340 MW to its generating fleet, about a 15% increase

for the JAA, which now owns and operates around 2,100 MW of generation assets. About half of that increase covers an immediate need to replace retiring assets, and the rest covers FMPA's expected growth needs through 2032.

“The acquisitions bought us several years that we're now covered for,” said Jacob Williams, general manager and CEO of FMPA.

Cities across Florida have seen roughly 1% to 2% increases in annual demand. Williams said FMPA's utility members across the state are seeing the most growth from rising populations, and not as much from new large loads such as data centers.

“Many municipals in the state [have been] relying on the spot market for capacity ... and that market has dried up,” he said. “Members are considering joining to get a much longer-term relationship because there are limited reliable spot power options in the market.”

The combined cycle plant acquisitions are with facilities that were coming off long-term contracts with investor-owned utilities. Williams said FMPA was the sole bidder on these plants, so it was able to negotiate deals that were favorable enough to allow for buying all three. The acquisition cost was significantly less per kilowatt compared with current estimates to build new facilities.

“The cost of new build right now is out of sight,” he said, “and that's seven years out to get it online.”

In addition to getting a deal on the price, securing ownership of the facilities means FMPA can make updates to further increase its capacity. Williams is optimistic that upgrades can lead to 50–100 additional megawatts on the facilities, which would cover another four to six years of load growth.

The gas-fired facilities aren't the only new assets for FMPA. Williams noted several recent solar projects that have come online and said the JAA is exploring where to strategically place batteries, such as in the Florida Keys, which are served by a single line of transmission.

“Adding batteries gives us more reliable capacity and solves transmission problems. Not doing it to solve all our problems, but it does add capacity that would be helpful for us in peaking conditions,” he said.

“If your only option is to build new, that's a real problem,” said Williams. “Public power needs to look at existing assets and if you can get the most out of them. A lot of people have the opportunities, they just need to find them.”

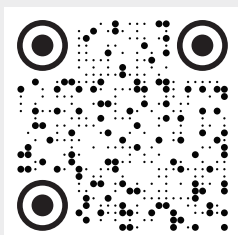


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A photograph of two men in white hard hats and blue shirts standing in front of industrial equipment. The man on the left is Jacob Williams, General Manager and CEO of the Florida Municipal Power Agency. The man on the right is Javier Cisneros from the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. They are both looking at each other and talking.

“Public power needs to look at existing assets and if you can get the most out of them. A lot of people have the opportunities, they just need to find them.”

JACOB WILLIAMS, GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO,
FLORIDA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Jacob Williams (left) with Javier Cisneros from the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority.

Every facility will have its own constraints and options, he said, but leaders should take a look at what the options are and decide if any paths are worthwhile for serving immediate needs. Options might include running facilities for emergency capacity or delaying planned retirement.

Williams advised public power leaders to start looking for those opportunities now; otherwise, he expects that in the future utilities will be “in a bidding war with people who have a much bigger bank account.”

Support and Priorities

Anamika Singh, a senior analyst with the California Public Utilities Commission, sees strong regulatory momentum behind the capacity build-out that is needed in the coming years. She said regulators have prioritized actions to enable critical electricity generation projects to interconnect to the

transmission grid. However, she acknowledged that formal regulatory processes take time and determining which projects to prioritize can be more complex than it appears.

“I see a big push toward building ... there is a due process that needs to be followed, and with the growing interest in energy infrastructure projects, the queue sometimes takes longer than we expect. However, targeted efforts by [the Targeted Energy Development] Task Force and other agencies have brought a significant amount of new capacity online much faster than anticipated,” she said.

Singh noted that, in California, more than 5,500 MW of new nameplate capacity came online in 2023 and 7,000 MW were added in 2024. There is roughly 21,000 MW of additional resources under contract and in development to connect to the grid by 2028, most of which is storage.

“After about two decades of stagnant electricity load growth, we are in such a critical juncture ... whatever capacity we can

build, we are building just enough to keep pace with the surge in electricity demand,” said Singh.

She said focus is not only behind prioritizing projects which entered first in the queue, but on which projects are critical to the grid’s immediate needs.

“When we look at the project, we try to assess what kind of challenges are getting addressed for the grid,” said Singh. As examples, she said projects that support reliability or that will add capacity to areas with transmission constraints.

Singh sees this as an interesting moment for the industry, one where the speed of bringing new supply online will give a competitive edge. “I’m hopeful about how quickly we are building, but the challenges are what make the work exciting. We have to remember that we’re updating a machine that is more than 100 years old, and that means reassessing our approaches as the industry evolves. We need to be very careful as we are navigating emerging and new technologies,” she said.

“We are moving at such a fast pace that barely have time to fully understand the impact of one technology before the next one arrives.”

Consider Every Electron

As FMPA looks further down the line, Williams said the agency knows it will eventually need to build new units, and it is interested in how it can get involved with next-generation nuclear. He said natural gas still dominates Florida’s market and doesn’t see that changing anytime soon.

“If we’re going to commit to expensive new units, [then we] need to make sure natural gas is affordable on a long-term basis,” he said. To him, this means greater assurance that environmental rules “aren’t going to wipe out the investment that we just made.”

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“I would not get too rationalized into one particular technology. There’s so much uncertainty — financially, from a supply chain perspective, from a technology perspective. Diversity still matters and will matter for the foreseeable future.”

ELAINA BALL, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER,
CPS ENERGY, TEXAS

“Affordable means something to public power. And we don’t ever want to forget that,” Williams said.

Ball said CPS Energy is also contemplating adding advanced nuclear to its portfolio in the next decade, adding that the utility will “let the math and community input guide our decisions.”

She sees a diverse portfolio as key to affordable, reliable power and to developing the capacity needed for growth.

“We need every electron we can get on the grid right now. Hitting one [type of fuel source] isn’t helpful; an all-of-the-above strategy is,” said Ball. “We have climate goals with our community, and we’re going to glide into a reduced emissions portfolio over the next couple of decades. That’s where we’re headed, and that’s where the technology’s headed.

“I would not get too rationalized into one particular technology. There’s so much uncertainty — financially, from a supply chain perspective, from a technology perspective. Diversity still matters and will matter for the foreseeable future.”

Williams sees recent federal actions as opportunities to rethink strategy, while staying cautious about what further policy change is needed to help the industry build affordably. He’s eager to see the next iteration of the Clean Power Plan to see how retirements might be adjusted, if transmission interconnection processes improve to better prioritize reliability, and for judicial reviews and permitting to be streamlined so project timelines become shorter again.

Ball credited the Texas Legislature with creating an environment that allows for growth.

“State legislators are attuned to the growth for our state and economy,” she said, offering as an example S.B. 6, which she said addresses reliability and cost and provides “policies that attract large users but also ensure that we’re protecting all of our customers and making sure they are paying their fair share.”

“The U.S. needs [artificial intelligence] technology, but we don’t have the power to do it. Public power can rise and be part of the solution,” Williams said. “Some use an analogy of the moonshot, but this isn’t a one-time event. We will need a lot of power moving forward. Don’t focus on what you can’t do, focus on what you can do.” 🇺🇸



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PUBLIC POWER COMMUNITIES CLYDE, OHIO

BY ADAM PATTERSON, CONTENT SPECIALIST,
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Nestled in northern Ohio to the south of Lake Erie, the city of Clyde has long stood at the crossroads of U.S. history. Clyde was founded in the 1820s when its first settler purportedly bought the territory for a barrel of whiskey. Maj. Gen. James McPherson, born and raised in the city, was the second-highest-ranking Union officer to die in combat during the Civil War. Clyde was also one of the first sites of automotive production in the U.S., with Elmore Manufacturing Co. founded in the city in 1893 and running as a standalone company until it was purchased by General Motors in 1912.

The formation of Clyde's public power utility happened concurrent to the city's transformation into an automotive manufacturing hub, with Clyde Light & Power established in 1893. The community-owned utility continued providing power to the city's growing population and industrial base — the Whirlpool Corp. established its Clyde headquarters in 1950 — until 1965.

Cory Lachner, Clyde Light & Power's superintendent, noted that the community-owned utility was then purchased by investor-owned utility Toledo Edison as the city's needs had, at the time, seemed to outgrow what it could generate on its own.

However, this period of private ownership was short lived, as residents and local businesses faced steep rates under the IOU. Toledo Edison was charging the small town the highest electricity rates in Ohio.

“Our customers have been very happy with the municipalization, and it has helped grow our industrial base as well.”

CORY LACHNER, SUPERINTENDENT,
CLYDE LIGHT & POWER, OHIO

An effort to remunicipalize Clyde Light & Power was driven by both the city government and local industry, including Whirlpool Corp., looking to reduce electrical costs.

“[Whirlpool] approached the city and discussed municipalizing again, and the city put it to a vote to our citizens,” Lachner said.

Remunicipalization received overwhelming voter support, and the utility was returned to the community's hands in 1988.

The years since have been positive for Clyde and its residents, with Lachner — who has been with the utility for 30 of those years — outlining that “our customers have been very happy with the municipalization, and it has helped grow our industrial base as well. We've been doing well since remunicipalization.”

While many Ohio towns have experienced economic decline since the closing of auto manufacturing facilities in the region, Clyde's partnership with its municipal utility has sustained business-friendly rates that keep drawing new commerce. In addition to the continuing presence of Whirlpool, which Lachner noted “has the largest washing machine manufacturing plant in the world right here in Clyde,” the town's affordable electric rates have drawn a new cannabis-growing facility that just came online.

Clyde Light & Power is continuing to modernize its grid with an eye toward wide-ranging service improvements. Lachner sees this as an iterative process where new implementations work toward this greater whole. “We're currently completing

POPULATION: **6,337**

ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS: **3,126**

UTILITY FORMED: **1893; 1988**

UTILITY EMPLOYEES: **7**



The Clyde, Ohio downtown. Photo courtesy Justin LaBenne, Clyde city manager.

our AMI implementation, which is one of the steps in our goal of distribution system automation.”

Lachner describes the utility’s closeness with its customers, and the positive feedback Clyde Light & Power receives from them, as some of the most fulfilling parts of working for a public power utility.

“We take pride in trying to make sure we supply the best service that we can,” he said. “The gratitude we get from our customers here in the community always feels good to go home and hang your hat on.”

This mindset has fostered a culture of training and workforce support for younger residents looking to work for the utility. Lachner described a program where a senior from one of the local vocational schools’ electrical program works with the utility through the school year. This kind of hands-on training ensures that the utility sustains a close bond with its community and the legacy of dedicated service is passed down across generations of Clyde residents.

“We’ve been doing this for the past 10 years now, and nine out of the 10 trainees are now working in the power line field,” Lachner said. 🇺🇸



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THE POWER OF TREES IN REDUCING ELECTRIC DEMAND

BY SHERI MILLER, ENERGY SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGER,
SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT, WASHINGTON



Rising summer temperatures have increased the demand for air conditioning in Snohomish County, Washington. Historically, Snohomish County PUD's demand peaked in winter, but with steadily climbing summer temperatures, higher air conditioning loads are transforming it into a dual-peaking utility.

Our team began outlining a tree-based heat mitigation program in April 2022, designed to cool Snohomish County and mitigate load surge during summer months. In 2023, SnoPUD was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the American Public Power Association's Demonstration of Energy and

Efficiency Developments, or DEED program, to show how a utility-led urban forestry program could reduce heat island effects and help offset climbing AC loads.

For the work to begin, the team needed to understand the locations of the most intense heat islands in our service territory. We partnered with Earth Economics, a research nonprofit, to create a heat island map and then added layers including average income, existing tree canopy, impervious surfaces, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index. The five layers of mapping allowed us to use data, such as heat island risk, to prioritize where the program would be most effective and impactful.

The utility augmented its extensive in-house expertise with local partners, including contracting with Forterra NW, a national forestry company with in-depth knowledge of arboriculture and program development, to launch the program. Once we had marshaled a team of forestry and tree subject



Centennial Bicycle Trail in Arlington, Washington before.

The cumulative energy savings from planting these trees is about **20,402 kWh** so far — a figure projected to rise as the trees grow and the program's scope expands.

matter experts, work began to build a program supported with the DEED grant.

This collected expertise allowed SnoPUD to calculate the average kilowatt-hours saved per tree planted by taking the various trees that would be used in the program and aggregating them within an average. This included incorporating data from i-Tree, an urban and rural forestry analysis platform from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to ensure measurement accuracy.

We ended up with a massive spreadsheet that included greenhouse gas emissions and kilowatt-hours saved per tree. We compiled a list of the trees we felt would be the most popular in this program, analyzed them as a group, then averaged the results together to determine our kilowatt-hours saved.

Using i-Tree's calculations, SnoPUD determined that each tree would provide an average of 101 kWh in energy savings in the first year, with savings increasing as the trees grow and provide more shade.

Now that we had identified our approach to creating savings, we knew we had to market the program to customers. We named the program Tree Relief for Energy Efficiency, or TREE Power, so that it would be easy for customers to remember.

The program has two components: first, government, quasi-government, and nonprofit organizations can apply to fund their urban forestry projects; second, customers can donate directly to support these projects. Any SnoPUD customer can donate towards these projects, and their donations are included in their monthly billing statements. All funded projects must provide public access to allow customers to visit the forestry projects they have supported.

The online application launched on April 10, 2024, Washington State Arbor Day, and customer donations began in November 2024.

Shortly after the program launched, four applications were submitted — all from municipal governments. The SnoPUD team evaluated each project along a scoring rubric. These projects were diverse and included proposals to add trees along a popular paved walking and bicycling trail, around a parking lot near a park in a neighborhood with a high proportion of residents with low incomes, and near community gardens adjacent to a popular hiking area.

SnoPUD proceeded with funding three of the proposed projects for a total of \$28,426.30. The fourth project, to develop rain gardens in city street intersections, required additional infrastructure work before trees could be planted. (The project was resubmitted for the 2025 application and was awarded.)

For each project, TREE Power's lead arborist preapproved the tree locations and species, one of which was giant sequoias. The three projects led to about 60 new trees funded in 2024 and 80 in 2025.

The results have shown how tree canopies provide a direct and immediate cooling effect on surrounding buildings and pavement. The cumulative energy savings from planting these trees is about 20,402 kWh so far — a figure projected to rise as the trees grow and the program's scope expands.

Our team has already heard from other PUDs across Washington state that are considering their own urban forestry programs and plan to adopt the TREE Power concept in their service territories.

We're optimistic that similar collaboration can seed initiatives tailored to utilities' summer cooling and load-mitigation needs.

We anticipate this program will continue to grow for years to come, and we will continue to partner with government, quasi-government, and nonprofit organizations to plant urban forestry projects. 🇺🇸

HOW PUBLIC POWER'S ENERGY PROFILE HAS CHANGED

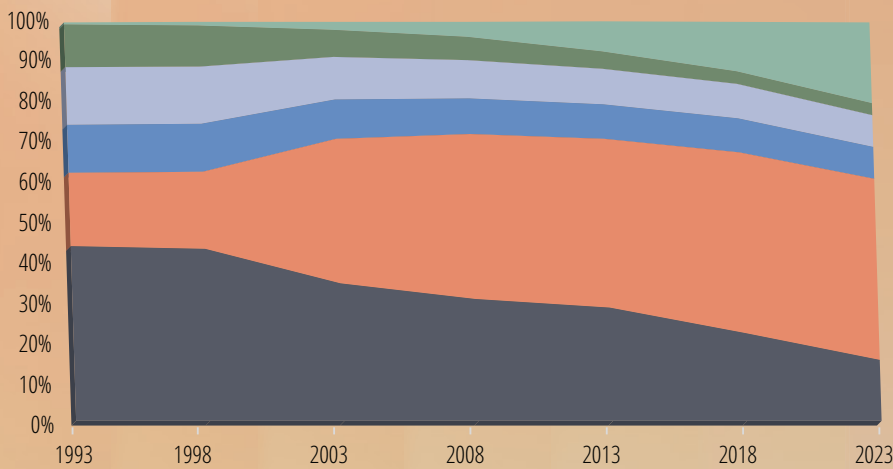
Across the U.S., a net 531 gigawatts of electric generating capacity were added from 1993-2023 — a 72% increase over 30 years. The increase in nameplate capacity brought other substantial changes, with coal and oil assets seeing declining share and gas and renewables increasing.

■ Coal ■ Gas ■ Hydro ■ Nuclear ■ Oil ■ Other

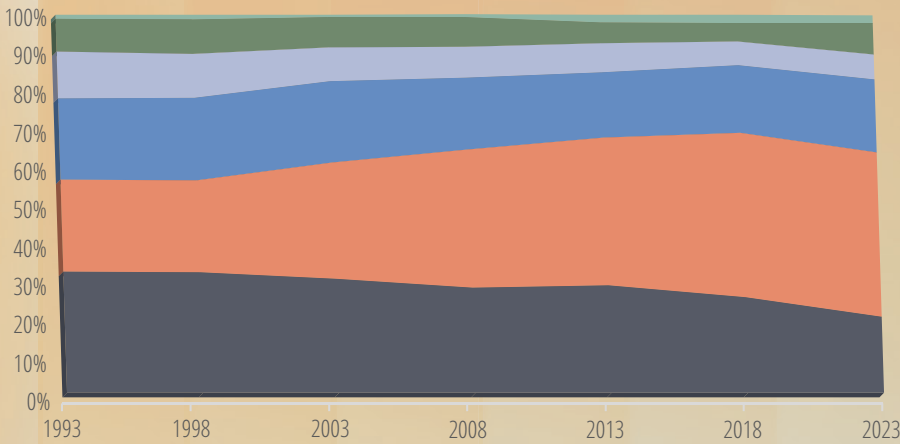
More than a third (36.2%) of generating capacity in 2023 was from clean energy sources, including hydro and nuclear, as well as wind and solar (included in “other”) — up from 27.2% from these sources in 1993.

The decrease in coal-fired capacity’s share (from 43.8% in 1993 to 15.2% in 2023) in the capacity mix has largely been mirrored by the increase in share from gas-fired capacity (18.3% in 1993 to 45.5% in 2023).

TOTAL U.S. NAMEPLATE CAPACITY



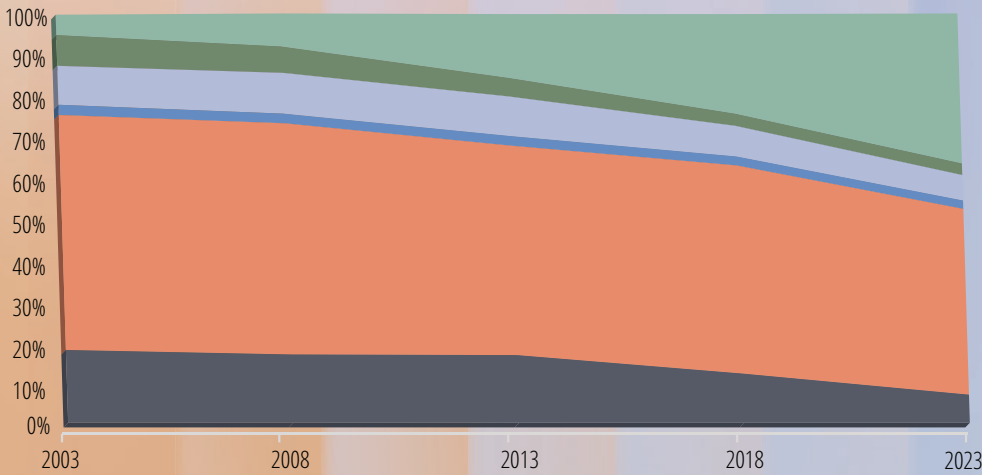
PUBLIC POWER



Public power utilities **added a net of 36 GW generating capacity** to their portfolio from 1993-2023 — a 42% increase in owned capacity in that period.

Public power utilities continue to own a diverse generating mix and while proportionally saw decreases in coal, hydro, nuclear, and oil capacity, have increased total owned capacity for all sources except coal and nuclear.

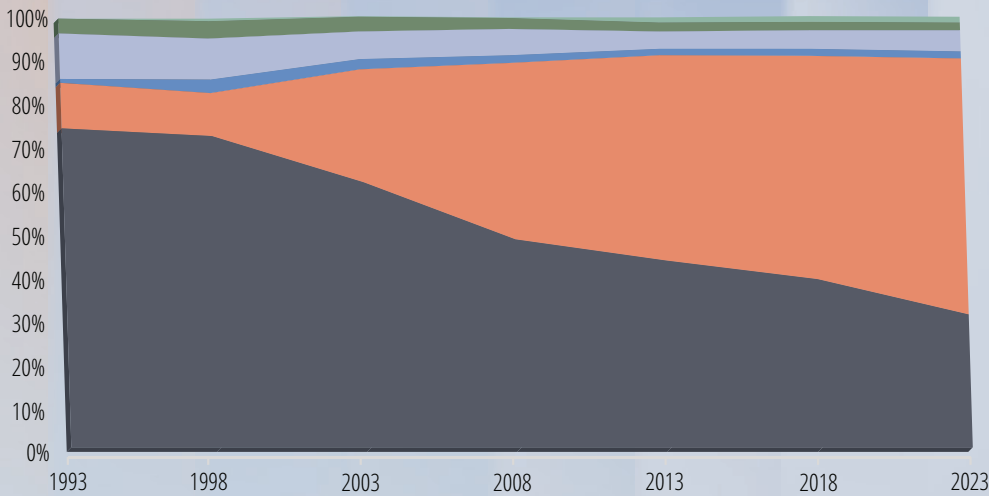
NON-UTILITY



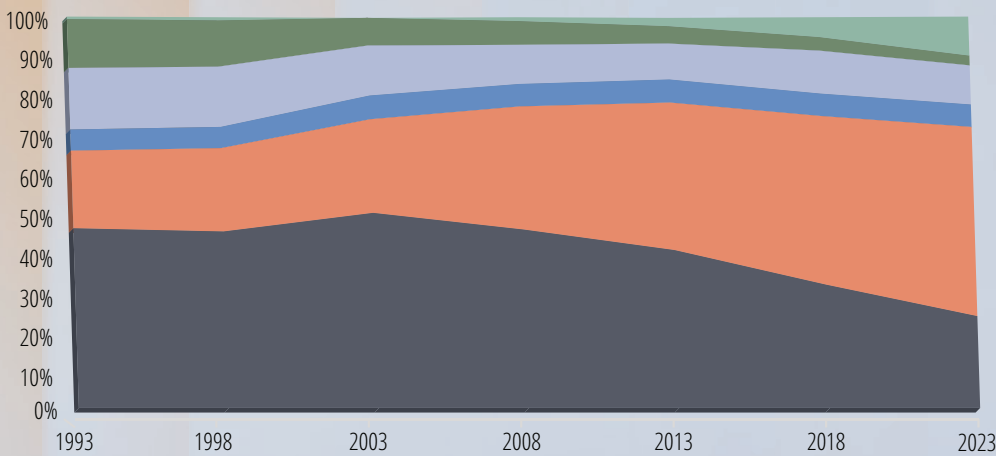
Non-utility generators, which emerged in the late 1990s and early 2000s and **now own approximately 46% of nameplate capacity**, account for the majority of the increase in wind and solar capacity. Many utilities, including public power, purchase the generation from these assets to round out their supply.

CO-OPS

Cooperatives had both the **largest reduced coal capacity**, with a 43% proportional drop, and increased proportion of gas facilities (49% proportional increase).



IOUS



Largely due to deregulation, overall owned capacity from investor-owned utilities has decreased more than 124 GW since 1993. IOUs had the **largest proportional drop in oil capacity** (from 12.4% to 2.5%). IOUs portfolios are now 74.5% from coal, oil, and natural gas combined (compared to 78.2% in 1993).

ACHIEVING CHANGE HOW PUBLIC POWER UTILITIES ARE BUILDING THE FUTURE

BY ADAM PATTERSON, CONTENT SPECIALIST,
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Photo courtesy Marquette Board of Light and Power

The U.S. utility sector stands at multiple transition points, whether in terms of integrating new energy sources and technologies or accommodating unprecedented load growth. As the utility industry faces significant change, public power is not just sitting back but is setting objectives and overcoming challenges to embrace that change. This includes everything from bolstering reliability to shifting the power supply mix and revising their strategies to align with community goals.

Planning for change is not done on a whim; it requires yearslong undertakings that gather input from various stakeholders and aim to look into the future. The public power examples that follow show how achieving change is an exercise in both planning and adaptive learning. Each of these programs holds lessons for how change-minded public utilities can map and accomplish modernization goals while retaining a community-focused mission.

INCREASED CONNECTIVITY

The Marquette Board of Light & Power serves around 17,000 customers along the southern reaches of Lake Superior on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The region is known for its scenic beauty, which Timothy Kopacz, MBLP's director of distribution, described as "an oasis in the middle of a sea of mountains and forests."

However, this natural oasis means the utility's system is farther from more central parts of the U.S. electric grid. The utility had long been looking to bolster its grid reliability, particularly in terms of its substation security. The possibility of building a second interconnection was first explored in the early 1980s, and that exploration laid the groundwork for developments that would commence 35 years later.

"There are studies dating back to 1982 that proposed expansion of the existing 69-[kilovolt] system into a second interconnection that evolved into different options over the years. We explored probably half a dozen alternatives before we ended up with what we're pursuing right now," Kopacz said.

The Second Interconnection Project began in earnest with a 2018 study that examined where the second line could be built in ways that work with existing infrastructure. Another challenge in getting the project off the ground related to finding the funding to construct. Because the public power utility is not a network participant in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO, the cost to build the interconnection to its transmission lines, including a new substation, would require significant investment from the utility.

The ultimate goal of Second Interconnection was to ensure continuity of power even if the utility's own generation were to become inoperative.

"Between our gas units, our diesel-combustion turbine, and some hydropower that we have, we can handle our own internal loads so we can island from the system. But were one of our major generators to trip and we were to be without interconnection power to the grid, we wanted this second interconnection so we could handle those contingencies," Kopacz said.



“We explored probably half a dozen alternatives before we ended up with what we’re pursuing right now.”

TIMOTHY KOPACZ, DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTION,
MARQUETTE BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER,
MICHIGAN

Once the work was done to map where the second interconnection could be built, the utility undertook the physical and financial planning necessary to bring the project to fruition. Among the achievements that distinguishes the Second Interconnection Project has been the careful financial preparation that went into its construction, with MBLP engaging in years of prior allocations that allowed the utility to launch the project without needing to borrow funds.

“We saved money starting in 2016, building reserve funds for this project so that we could pay for it all out of cash,” Kopacz said.

One of the core goals of the Second Interconnection Project was to avoid disrupting the area’s natural beauty, which MBLP customers rated highly in feedback to the utility.

“The entire route we chose was along highway corridors. We felt that was less invasive than going across natural wooded corridors, especially in an area that’s full of outdoor recreation and outdoor enthusiasm,” Kopacz said.

The utility executed a rigorous work schedule over spring and summer 2025 that aimed to finish construction during the months when snowfall wouldn’t be an impediment. Kopacz noted the utility expects to energize by early December — bringing a new level of reliability right before the city’s coldest months.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

A new push for long-term development of Independence Power and Light in Missouri stemmed from recent deliberations at the city council over whether to sell the community-owned utility to private interests.

“In 2022, we did two independent studies. One was a cost-benefit analysis into the value selling the utility would bring and what that would look like from a city and customer perspective. The other asked that if we’re going to keep and operate this utility, what would a long-term strategic plan look like, and what would we need to initiate in order to move ourselves into being a fully modern utility?” said Joseph Hegendeff, director of Independence Power and Light.

The studies found that retaining community ownership of the utility while investing in its modernization would provide the best returns in terms of both quality and affordability of service.



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“To balance the intermittency of renewables, we’re adding natural gas and batteries to maintain reliability, and working with Longmont and our other owner communities to develop a virtual power plant.”

TIM BLODGETT, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER,
PLATTE RIVER POWER AUTHORITY, COLORADO

“We quickly found out that it was not going to be advantageous to either the city or the residents to sell the utility. I think most utilities that have sold themselves to an investor-owned utility quickly realized rates go up,” Hegendeffe said.

Since deciding not to sell, IPL has developed a road map with development benchmarks the utility works to meet. These were devised in partnership with DKMT Consulting, the firm that helped oversee the studies, and were focused on key service areas.

“We broke it down into three areas: technology, customer strategy, and operation strategy. Those drove toward a lot of technology improvements that would allow us to serve our customers better,” Hegendeffe said.

Many of these improvements have focused on technology implementations that simultaneously improve customer service and quality of life for the utility’s employees, including advanced metering infrastructure.

“AMI is a huge project we’re working to kick off, which will [be a] benefit not just from a customer service perspective but from an employee safety one as well — getting our people out of yards and away from potentially frustrated customers,” Hegendeffe said.

IPL’s emphasis on grid monitoring is also designed to provide returns for reliability and responsiveness, as these grid-reading capacities will allow the utility to more directly catch service issues.

“On the data side, we can better see things our system isn’t currently telling us. If you have a customer who reports their lights flickering all the time, it may not be enough to kick a breaker or kick a whole circuit off. There may just be a tree touching a line somewhere, and AMI gives you the ability to see that and provide better reliability for customers,” Hegendeffe said.

IPL developed a long-term strategic plan that extends to 2045 and includes the AMI deployment alongside the replacement of transformers and other components that will make its grid overall more reliable, secure, and amenable to load growth.

IPL’s grid modernization and strategic plan was made with an eye toward supporting the city’s economic development, another key area where being municipally owned fosters a collaborative relationship between a city and its supporting utility. Hegendeffe anticipates that IPL’s technology investments will



The Longmont, CO Illuminar community solar program under construction. Photo courtesy City of Longmont.

leave the city better positioned to accommodate new businesses with load demands of their own.

“One of the first questions a company asks when they come to a city nowadays is, ‘Can you supply me the energy, especially larger loads?’ We’re not just talking data centers. It’s a concern among manufacturers as well. The cities who are set up to meet that [demand] become contract winners, and we’re trying to set ourselves up for that as well,” Hegendeffer said.

MAPPING TRANSITION

Other public power utilities have been working toward meeting clean energy goals. These goals are woven into detailed plans with annual benchmarks for generation and technology road maps for how to get there, such as implementing new solar and battery storage.

Longmont, Colorado, for example, has been partnering with three other public power utilities in the state and their joint action agency, the Platte River Power Authority, on a plan to reach a goal of 100% noncarbon electricity generation by 2030.

The strategic plan was first launched by a 2018 city council resolution that aimed to set the stage for a yearslong renewable energy road map.

“There was a lot of discussion in the 2017–2018 timeframe about decarbonization, and the city of Longmont was no

exception among cities on the Front Range. So, the city council passed a resolution directing the distribution utility to move toward a 100% renewable energy goal,” said Darrell Hahn, Longmont’s electric utility director.

Around the same time, Longmont’s representatives on Platte River’s Board of Directors joined their municipal partners in passing a Resource Diversification Policy, directing their joint action agency’s CEO to proactively work toward a 100% noncarbon energy mix. While the plan is focused on decarbonizing as fast as possible, it emphasizes that reliability and financial sustainability must be maintained as the utility makes the energy transition.

“We’re looking at the retirement of our coal units and bringing in more wind and solar,” said Tim Blodgett, Platte River’s chief strategy officer. “To balance the intermittency of renewables, we’re adding natural gas and batteries to maintain reliability, and working with Longmont and our other owner communities to develop a virtual power plant.”

Hahn noted that the broad support Platte River has provided its member utilities has been instrumental in bringing Longmont’s strategic plan to fruition. “We are proud to be part of Platte River’s accomplishments. We have two board members of the eight that are helping steer things forward,” Hahn said.

While Platte River has made considerable strides, the utility’s current resource plan puts them closer to 85% noncarbon generation by 2030. Still, its team and board members have



“The interim goal was to be 40% renewable by 2025, and we’re a little over on that goal, meaning that we are probably going to be past 40% by the end of this calendar year.”

BRANDIE EKREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TRAVERSE CITY LIGHT & POWER, MICHIGAN

gained a fuller understanding of how to adapt to unforeseen economic and supply chain shifts — including how to sustain progress in the face of these developments.

“We are living in a time when new generation demands are greatly exceeding the available supply. This is driving equipment and workforce shortages, which result in higher prices and longer lead times to install any type of new generation. As long as everybody is demanding the same solar panels, the same wind turbines, the same batteries and the same natural gas turbines, we will all encounter challenges on the pricing front,” Blodgett said.

One of the most valuable lessons Longmont learned while executing its energy transition road map was to continue to pursue its goals even if the timeline and economic landscape shift. Regular resource planning has helped both Platte River and Longmont remain agile, able to keep progressing toward increased renewable energy while also maintaining reliability and fiscal sustainability.

“We’re extremely proud of the progress we’ve made. It hasn’t come without its headwinds but we’re not quitting,” Blodgett said. “Just because we aren’t able to hit 100% noncarbon by 2030 doesn’t mean we’re giving up on the goal.”

FINDING A PATH FORWARD

In Michigan, Traverse City’s public power utility has been pursuing a decarbonization plan of its own. As Brandie Ekren, Traverse City Light & Power’s executive director explained, the utility has consistently been a frontrunner in renewables adoption.

“Our clean energy began back in 1996, when they pioneered the first utility-scale windmill in the state,” Ekren said.

Traverse City laid out a 100% renewable-generation goal in 2018 that the utility has since been pursuing. Ekren has made it a priority to drive the utility’s decarbonization goals forward, and those goals have advanced considerably over the past three years.

“In 2018, the utility board set 100% renewable goal by or before 2040. But it really wasn’t until 2022 and 2023 that we affirmed what that path forward would look like in terms of resources and investments,” Ekren said.

She noted the utility has set chronological benchmarks to measure progress.

“The interim goal was to be 40% renewable by 2025, and we’re a little over on that goal, meaning that we are probably going to be past 40% by the end of this calendar year,” Ekren said.

Traverse City fleshed out its integrated resource plan through extensive consultation with experts and local stakeholders who ensured its benchmarks were both concrete and achievable.

“When we worked on our integrated resource plan, we had a very robust stakeholder engagement process in 2022–2023 that was a combination of one-on-one meetings with commercial and industrial customers. We also took advantage of a third-party customer survey,” Ekren said.

Traverse City has focused on developing its solar resources, with the utility leveraging outside partnerships to install solar facilities as economically as possible.

“We have contractors that are overseeing larger procurement of solar panels so they can get a good economy of scale [on the] price and be able to use them on homes,” Ekren said.

These have been paired with expansion in the utility’s wind-power purchases, with the utility purchasing from the nearby Stoney Corners Wind Farm, which is managed by investor-owned utility DTE Energy.

Ekren tied the utility’s energy transition efforts back to its community-focused mission and respect for its customers, with its strategic road map designed to advance all of them.

“One of the things that’s ingrained in the culture up here in northwestern Michigan is the appreciation for the natural beauty and the environment that we live in. It really is cultural, being able to preserve the natural resources that we have around us and being able to ensure there’s clean air regardless of where you are on the economic scale. Those are inherently important to us,” she said. 🇺🇸

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Public Power Leaders: **Randy Howard**

Randy Howard has been general manager of the Northern California Power Agency since 2015. He has represented public power utilities on the Western Energy Imbalance Market Nominating Committee and served on the launch committee for the West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative. Prior to joining NCPA, Howard was the senior assistant general manager of the power system for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where he worked for nearly three decades. He holds leadership positions with the California Municipal Utilities Association, Hometown Connections Inc., the Central Valley Project Corporation, and the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council's Wildfire Working Group. He is a past board member of the Transmission Agency of Northern California. He is retiring in early 2026.



WHAT DREW YOU TO WORK IN PUBLIC POWER, AND WHAT MADE YOU STAY IN THE INDUSTRY FOR AS LONG AS YOU DID?

My entire working career has been public-focused. Prior to my nearly 40 years in public power, I spent six years in the Air Force. I had an opportunity to work for PG&E out of school, but I went with public power because the job offered to pay for grad school. I thought I'd only stay for the time it took to earn back that tuition support.

As an electrical engineer, LADWP was one of the most exciting and challenging places I could have gone. There were always big, new, complex projects and activities to challenge me.

Mid-career, I got on the executive management track, which meant I moved to a different business unit every few years. Because the utility is so large, that kept me engaged with new opportunities to gain knowledge and expertise without leaving the organization.

Public power is so different in our goals and how we approach projects. It's not solely about profitability, but what's right for our communities. In LA, for a period I managed rates and contracts. Doing community meetings and outreach, as you're looking at changing the rates, you understand how rate changes impact customers that can least afford it — those on fixed income, those who might have health concerns and need electricity just to live. That's different than at investor-owned utilities, where they go through a regulatory agency in San Francisco, and their customers aren't traveling there to communicate their affordability challenges. Public power has public input in the process and recognizes the value in being much closer to our customers.

IS THERE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF FROM YOUR TIME IN PUBLIC POWER? WHAT LEGACY DO YOU HOPE YOU HAVE LEFT ACROSS THE INDUSTRY?

California sometimes looks like the strangest place to the rest of the country, but we do a lot here that trends across the U.S. In LA, I was directly involved in the shutdowns of coal plants and helping the transition to renewables and establishing the framework for lowering the city's carbon footprint. I assisted in moving NCPA and our members even further along in that direction and showing how we could do it while keeping the cost affordable.

In my first year at NCPA, we had the Valley Fire. It almost burned down our geothermal plant, and we had employees living nearby. Many barely got out, lost their pets, their photos, everything. Since then, there hasn't been a year without a major fire in Northern California that's impacted one or more of our member utilities. I stepped up with the American Public Power Association and have been co-chair of ESCC's Wildfire Working Group. Early on, we were lobbying to get more resources to help fight fires and to move along the regulatory frameworks at federal agencies for vegetation management. Now, we're active in educating utilities on developing strong mitigation plans to reduce the risk of them igniting fires, protect their community, and recover after wildfires.

WHAT MAKES FOR A SUCCESSFUL LEADER IN PUBLIC POWER?

You have to be willing to try new things. Be the first to raise your hand and volunteer to take things on. I have been fortunate to have moved around a lot. I led the effort to build a float for the Rose Bowl parade one year, which was a big toy truck with "LADWP" written on the side. I rode in the float, and it was an incredible experience. I got to spend a week each month in Washington, D.C., working on advocacy and regulatory issues, and that's unusual for an engineer. You can be a great engineer, but if you can't get through the regulatory and environmental reviews, your projects are not going to happen. We used to spend 10% of project budget on those activities, now it is more like 30%–40%.



I would have never thought I'd do what I have, but it was because I was willing to raise my hand in addition to my normal duties. It gives you the opportunity to see the broader aspects of how the utility engages with the community.

DID YOU GET ANY ADVICE THAT HELPED SHAPE YOUR LEADERSHIP FOCUS? WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PUBLIC POWER LEADERS TODAY?

One of my bosses at LADWP told me to not be as aggressive in my desire to move up in the organization. For a while, I didn't grasp it. At publicly owned utilities that have active city councils and structures, it is hard to please [everyone] all the time. You will have to make decisions that might be right for the utility but not as liked by the politicians. I had to learn along the way that you need to build a foundation underneath you, and if you move too quickly it won't be a solid foundation to stand on.

It's not a race, but a journey. There are so many incredible opportunities if you are willing to take them. Engage with other organizations and take full advantage of those connections. It takes more than just attending a conference — be willing to share your experience as a speaker, join a committee and provide input. You're going to get so much more because they're all extensions of your workforce, and you'll be a lot more successful if you share the knowledge and help others succeed. 🍌



Empower the Next Generation of Public Power Leaders

BY JESSICA PORTER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Mariana Greene moved to Boone, North Carolina, in 2022, she had no idea what a public power utility was, or what went into making electricity work, beyond flipping a switch. While looking for a new career, she found a job opening for a public communications specialist with Appalachian State University that perfectly fit her strengths. She learned the job was with New River Light and Power, a public power utility owned by the university. She got the job and soon began a crash course in the industry.

“The job description sounded varied and challenging, which was a good fit for me even though I didn’t understand at the time it was part of public power,” Greene said.

As part of a military family, Greene has been actively involved in Army programs and community service for 20 years. Her background focused on training adults, advocacy, and public speaking. Through those experiences, Greene became highly skilled in communicating and event planning and committed to serving her community.

“The job description was a call to serve through community outreach and to be on standby in times of need. That really called to me,” she said. “Public power is so people- and community-focused, something my family has always been.”

Connecting with people like Greene is the aim for many public power utilities looking to recruit employees who will help lead the organizations through the years ahead. Similarly, individuals seeking a change in career might be looking to match with an employer with whom they can grow. As employee engagement declines, as shown in a 2024 Gallup poll, public power organizations hoping to boost retention and recruitment can showcase the values that can build engagement back up: connection, trust, and growth.



Photo courtesy New River Light and Power, North Carolina

Trust Rising Leaders to Grow

Though Greene was new to public power, the manager who hired her knew she would be a good fit and would learn quickly. He helped her understand how power is generated and transmitted, the infrastructure involved in power generation, and the challenges the industry faces. Most importantly, he let Greene explore the industry and learn on her own.

“He gave me a seat at the table in just about every meeting because he understood that you have to be challenged to learn. If he thought a meeting would benefit me, he would tell me to participate,” Greene said. “Creating a climate of opportunity and trust goes a long way.”

Fear of failure prohibits many employees who might become leaders from reaching their potential. Being a leader who allows space for failure can help gifted employees grow.

“There’s a real dread of failure,” Greene said. “A lot of people who want to do high-level work are scared of not succeeding, so it’s important to coach through failure.”

Encouraging employees to learn is a key part of Gary Stephenson’s management technique. Stephenson joined Long

Island Power Authority in New York as senior vice president for power supply in 2023. With a long history of leadership roles in utilities and other energy organizations, he has managed teams for decades, helping employees gain the skills needed to be leaders. Before joining LIPA, Stephenson held roles at the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, Peak Reliability, Dayton Power & Light, InterGen, PG&E National Energy Group, and Connecticut Light & Power.

“I had multiple bosses who allowed me to make mistakes without letting me drive off a cliff. That freedom gave me the resources I needed to achieve,” Stephenson said. “The best leaders are servant leaders — leaders who are committed to breaking down barriers and helping others get over hurdles.”

Community Connection

Although his career has spanned public and private utility organizations, Stephenson has an affinity toward public power’s community-oriented approach.

“I liked working with public power entities. It was about helping the entire grid and all stakeholders get to the most



“Creating a climate of opportunity and trust goes a long way. A lot of people who want to do high-level work are scared of not succeeding, so it’s important to coach through failure.”

MARIANA GREENE, PUBLIC COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST,
NEW RIVER LIGHT AND POWER, NORTH CAROLINA

reliable solutions,” he said. “You saw what you did in terms of individual people; you could meet the customers. The deals we made and contracts we entered for power supply had direct influence over those people.”

Greene had no idea how much her commitment to public service would be tested just a couple of years after joining NRLP. In September 2024, Hurricane Helene hit Boone, bringing historic property and infrastructure destruction and loss of life. Just two years into the position of public communications specialist, she was tasked with ensuring the community of 9,000 customers was up to date with service and repair announcements.

“As a community, we were not prepared for the intensity of the storm and the level of destruction. The country roads were washed out, private bridges were gone, and people’s houses were under water,” Greene said.

She quickly began disseminating as much information as possible, even while understanding that many community members had lost all access to communication. Greene posted information to NRLP’s website, sent emails, called customers directly, updated the local radio station, went out into the community, and posted to social media.

“I posted story after story with updates, saying ‘We’re currently working in this area, and we’re rolling out to that area.’

The goal was to let community members know we were working hard to get the lights back on.”

The small team of 30 staff members, joined by visiting mutual aid crews, including field and office personnel, restored power in Boone in just three days, allowing the city to be a hub for recovery in the broader community.

“It is an honor to be a communicator to your community in times of crisis,” Greene said. “It’s not just our responsibility or our duty, but an honor to be a trusted source of vital information.”

Three years after starting the job, Greene is still happy with her decision to join public power. She earned the American Public Power Association’s 2025 Robert E. Roundtree Rising Star Award, which is given annually to an individual who has worked in public power for five years or less and is recognized by their peers for exemplary leadership and promise. She has become an integral part of the Boone community, going to schools and community events to educate people on the benefits of being in a public power community.

As she moves forward in her career, Greene seeks to take on more leadership and responsibility. She also is learning more about legislative affairs related to public power.

“That’s where I like to geek out a little bit,” Greene said. “I enjoy understanding the broader strokes of electrical infrastructure across the country.”



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Kerrville Public Utility Board, TX

Kissimmee Utility Authority, FL

Merrimac Municipal Light Department, MA

Rolla Municipal Utilities, MO

BRONZE

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power, MI

Knoxville Utilities Board, TN

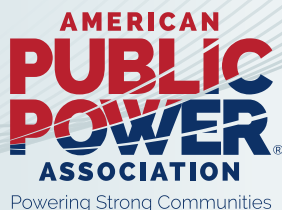
Mason County PUD 3, WA

Snohomish County Public Utility District, WA

Stoughton Utilities, WI

Sun Prairie Utilities, WI

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to learn how your utility can qualify for this award in 2026.**





“There’s a tremendous ability to influence the course of the ship. But you have to bring ideas to the table, and if you change the way you think, that’s the first step to doing great things.”

GARY STEPHENSON, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR POWER SUPPLY, **LONG ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY**, NEW YORK

It’s an exciting time to be in the rapidly changing industry. Load is growing, and utility leaders are tasked with balancing reliability, cost, and sustainability of their power supply.

“You have to optimize all three of those components, which makes the job interesting and incredibly hard,” Stephenson said. “I work to balance reliability, affordability, and clean energy every day and in every decision I make.”

Fostering new leaders to embody that enthusiasm is also about recruiting for a culture that is willing to take on that challenge and try new things.

“It’s an ability to look at new things and consider new ideas and not to be stuck in a ‘This is the way we’ve always done it’ mentality and take some risks, because sometimes risks can have tremendous payoffs,” Stephenson said. “There’s a tremendous ability to influence the course of the ship. But you have to bring ideas to the table, and if you change the way you think, that’s

the first step to doing great things. If you don’t change the way you think, you will [only] achieve what you used to achieve.”

“Being public power, you don’t have shareholders to please. Our mission is in some ways simpler and more direct. You save a dollar, and that goes back into the customer’s pocket. Everything you do helps the customer.”

Effectively Recruit and Manage Rising Leaders

As the public power industry evolves quickly to keep up with changing demands, utilities that create a culture of growth and trust will reap the benefits rising leaders can bring to the industry. Whether they’re new to the workforce or just new to public power, driven recruits can provide the perspectives needed for the innovative ideas that will power the future of the industry.

Identifying employees like Greene, who thrive with freedom and can become future leaders, is the challenge. For his part, Stephenson relies on networking and spreading the news about open opportunities, seeking referrals from trusted colleagues in the industry.

“When we interview and recruit, we look for people who have a curious mind and take initiative,” he said. “Once we find them, we give them opportunities to use their curiosity and learn as they go.”

Managing talent once they’re on board can shape their experience. Utilities should make sure they offer benefits and a culture that’s appealing to all generations.

“Explore market salaries and trends to find out what people from all generations are looking for. When you understand that the younger generations aren’t necessarily interested in what appealed to older generations, you can make changes,” Greene said. “For example, young millennials and Gen Zers aren’t necessarily willing to come in for a low salary with the promise of a high salary and retirement 30 years later. and retirement 30 years later. Being open to viewing the world through different lenses can play a large role in recruitment and retention of talent.”

Effective cross-generational management builds strong teams that consist of people with different backgrounds, work experiences, and perspectives.



Photo courtesy Long Island Power Authority

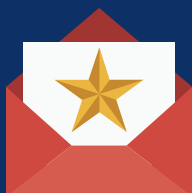
“Many times in my career, I’ve been certain about an outcome, and someone comes along and completely changes my mind. They had an experience or perspective on things I just

didn’t have. Make sure you have that on your team,” Stephenson said. “I’m 100% convinced you get better results as a team by bringing diverse people on board.”

Stephenson noted how working in public power is rewarding in that projects lead to tangible results, such as creating a new transmission line or generating facility. He views successful leadership as having tangible outcomes as well, in the form of creating a culture that supports its people.

“Leadership is about building followership. To be a great leader, you have to be mindful of being someone people want to follow. Empathy is a big component to achieving that,” Stephenson said. “Work to understand what’s driving a person, and be there when they need help. It’s not just checking off a to-do list, but making someone happy.”

Investing in team members in this way also means leaders bring their whole selves to work. “Also be open about your own vulnerabilities, communicating with your team about the things that worry and challenge you as a leader,” said Stephenson. 🇺🇸



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- James D. Donovan Individual Achievement
- Alan H. Richardson Statesmanship
- Larry Hobart Seven Hats
- Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service
- Spence Vanderlinden Public Official
- Robert E. Roundtree Rising Star
- Mark Crisson Leadership and Managerial Excellence

UTILITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- E.F. Scattergood System Achievement
- Sue Kelly Community Service

Nominations due by Friday, January 16, 2026.



Visit PublicPower.org/Awards for details and nomination forms.

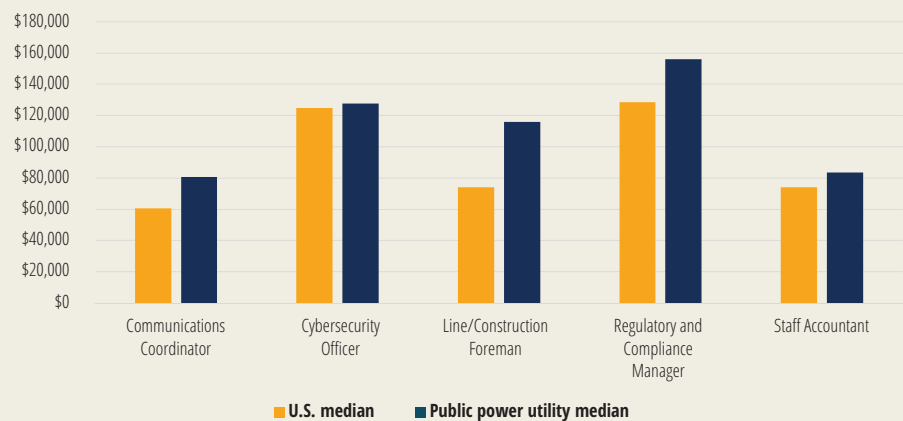


BENEFITS OF WORKING IN PUBLIC POWER

Public power utilities offer an array of quality, stable, local jobs. In addition to being supportive, collaborative work environments that have meaningful, direct impact in the community, working in public power comes with strong benefits, competitive salaries, and opportunities to grow.

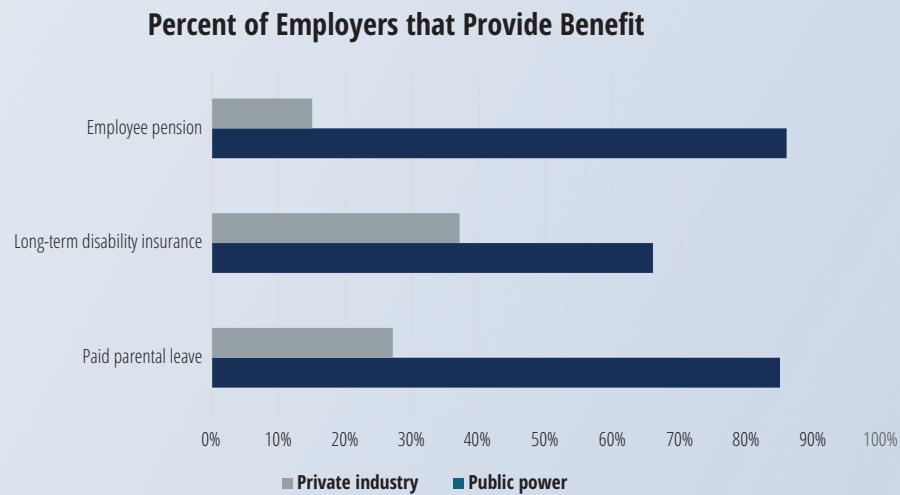
Competitive Compensation

Public power jobs provide compensation that outpaces the national average, encompassing roles from cybersecurity and accounting to communications and marketing. According to the 2025 Public Power Utility Salary Survey Report, all 35 common salaried positions in utilities, and 24 of 28 hourly positions (when annualized) had median salaries well above the U.S. median of \$62,088 per year.

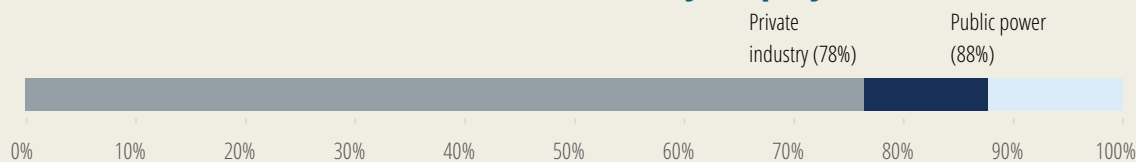


Greater Benefits

Public power utility benefits are often more generous than those offered by private industry.



Average Percent of Health Insurance Premium Paid by Employer



Sources (Accessed October 2025)

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CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2025 Smart Energy Provider designees

We salute your commitment to and accomplishment in smart energy planning, efficiency and distributed energy resources, environmental and sustainability programs, and customer experience and communication as you provide affordable and reliable electric service to your communities.

City of Milford Electric, DE

City of Newark, DE

City of Seaford, DE

Lewes BPW, DE

McMinnville Electric System, TN

New Castle Municipal Services
Commission, DE

Rocky Mount Energy Resources, NC

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant, MA

Springfield Utility Board, OR

Town of Clayton, DE

Town of Middletown, DE

Town of Smyrna, DE

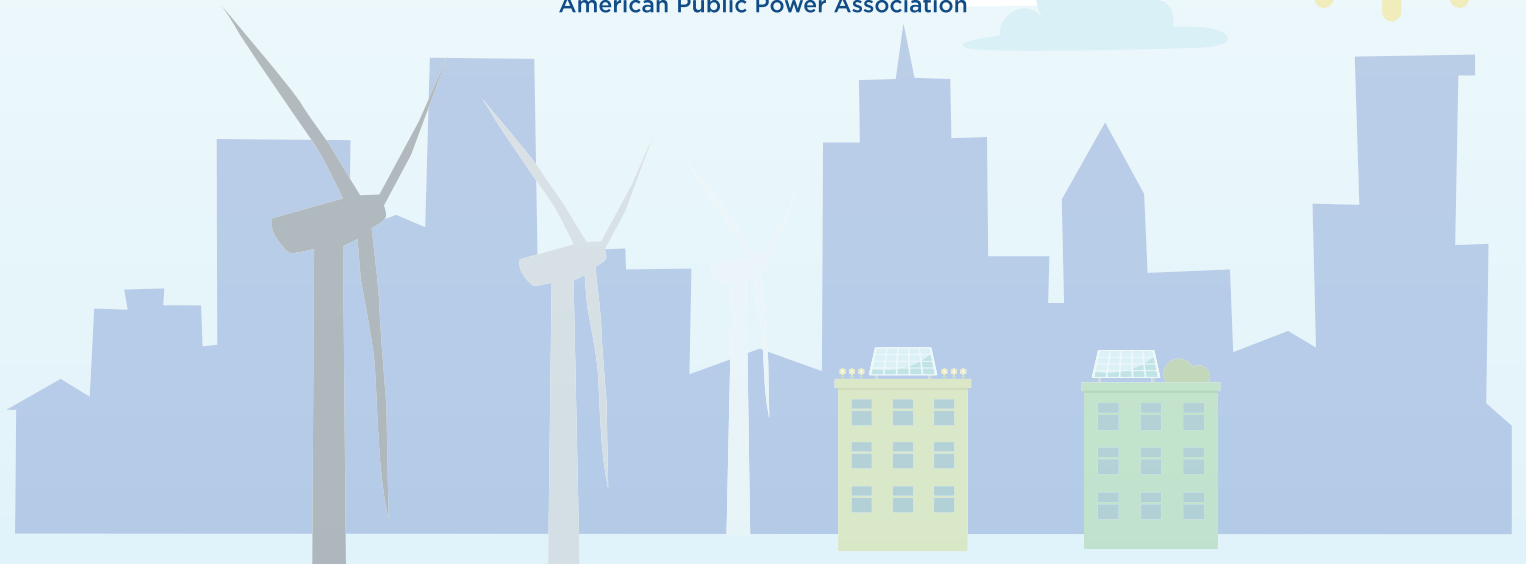
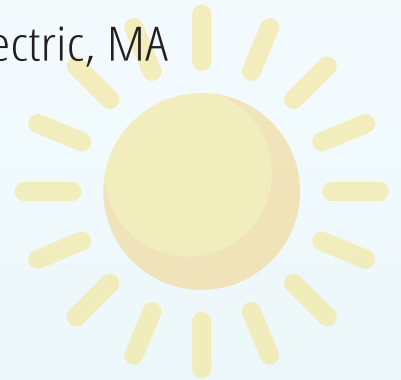
Tullahoma Utilities Authority, TN

Westfield Gas and Electric, MA



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