



WISCONSIN COUNTIES
UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

**WISCONSIN COUNTIES UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AGENDA

Friday, July 25, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Columbia County Administrative Building
112 East Edgewater Street, Room 115
(Room 115 is just inside the east door and there is parking south of the building).
Portage, WI

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81724223537?pwd=UU9lbUpwTWc2SWJGeUlaeDZ5Y3BkUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 2422 3537
Passcode: 954403

Join Via Teleconference
1-305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 81724223537
Passcode: 954403

- Call to Order
William Goehring, WCUTA President
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes of April 11, 2025 Meeting
- Election of WCUTA Officers: - Current officers – *President Bill Goehring (Sheboygan Co.), Vice-President Lee Engebrecht (Manitowoc Co.), Second Vice-President Tom Rosenberg (Marathon Co.), Secretary Chris Cullen (Rock Co.), and additional Member of Executive Committee Darrin Schroeder (Columbia Co.)*
- Comments by the President

- Financial Report
- Wisconsin Counties Association's 2025-27 Budget Recap – WI ACT 15
Collin Driscoll, Government Affairs Associate
- State Capitol Update
WCUTA Lobbyist Shawn Pfaff, Pfaff Public Affairs
 - Governor's Budget – WI Act 15
 - WCUTA presentation to WCA Leadership Conf. Call – June 2, 2025
 - Nuclear Update
 - WI Acts WI 11 and 12
 - Feasibility Study - \$2 million approved in state budget
 - Data Storage Legislation for Port Washington, Beaver Dam – WI Act 16
- BESS/LNG Energy Storage Legislation Update
Guest Speaker – Joel Haubrich, WEC Energy Group – Manager WI Government Affairs
- BESS/LNG Energy Storage Discussion/Next Steps
 - Fall Legislative Session
 - WCUTA legislative strategy
- Next Meeting – Possibly Friday, Oct. 3 – 10 a.m.
 - Need to Set Dues Structure
 - WCA office NOT available
- Adjourn



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MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: President William Goehring called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Lee Engelbrecht, Chris Cullen, William Goehring, John Aasen, Gary Stene, Dennis Bork, Lee Enger, Darren Schroeder, Bob Keeney, Tom Rosenberg **VIRTUAL:** Patricia Merrill, Karen Lotts, Jason Dzwinel, Megan Kapp. **OTHERS:** Shawn Pfaff, Collin Driscoll, Michael Luckey, Zach McClellan (DOR), Jeremy Wedige (DOR), Valeah Foy (DOR), Robyn Voss

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 24, 2025, Meeting: Motion by Engelbrecht, second by Schroeder to approve the January 25, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Goehring thank everyone for attending and thanked Darren Schroeder and Columbia County for hosting. Updated the group about state legislature is session and busy and updated members about the status of counties' dues.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Engelbrecht, second by Cullen, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE PRESENTATION

Zach McClelland, Director – Bureau of Manufacturing & Utility | Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Jeremy Wedige, Local Government Supervisor, Valeah Foy, Director – Bureau of Manufacturing & Utility

Jeremy Wedige provided a PowerPoint presentation about the state's utility aid funding formula and how Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) are NOT

currently part of the state's utility funding formula. Statutory changes will be needed to get them included in the formula. Discussion followed.

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) UTILITY AID UPDATE/EXAMPLE:

Michael Luckey, Administrator, Jefferson County

Administrator Luckey provided an update about how Jefferson County is losing out on an estimated \$1.1 million annually due to a LNG facility in the Town of Ixonia NOT be eligible to receive utility aid. Mr. Luckey also discussed the Governor's budget proposal that included utility aid funding for BESS/LNG. Discussion followed.

WCA UPDATE: - *Collin Driscoll, WCA's Government Affairs Associate*

Collin Driscoll provided an update about the Joint Finance Committee's work on the 2025-27 Biennial Budget. Discussion followed.

WCUTA CAPITOL UPDATE:

Shawn Pfaff, Pfaff Public Affairs

- Governor's Budget – Pfaff discussed two items that were included in his version of the 2025-27 Biennial Budget, specifically the BESS/LNG proposal. Discussion followed. Board members directed Pfaff to work with interested parties in pursuing BESS/LNG language in the GOP's version of the Biennial Budget.
- Energy Storage Update – Pfaff provided analysis of draft legislation that ties BESS/LNG inclusion in the state's utility aid formula. Discussion followed. Board members directed Pfaff to work with the interested parties in drafting and moving the legislation forward.
- Nuclear Update – Pfaff went through several legislative proposals related to nuclear energy expansion in WI. Discussion followed. Board members asked Pfaff to monitor legislation and report back with an update.
- WERA/ROFR Update – Pfaff went through expansive energy transmission legislation and discussed the political dynamics of the energy transmission debate currently occurring in the state Capitol. Discussion followed. Board members asked Pfaff to monitor legislation and report back with an update.

NEXT MEETING: Pfaff will provide an update of status of Biennial Budget debate and WCUTA's efforts to include BESS/LNG in the budget and drafting of separate BESS/LNG legislation. Cullen urged Board members to talk to their local lawmakers about WCUTA's budget efforts/advocacy. Keeney and Goehring and Pfaff will attempt to get WCUTA as a breakout session at the upcoming WCA Convention in September.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next meeting date will be Friday, July 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. – Columbia County Administrative Building.

ADJOURN: Motion by Keeney, second by Rosenberg to adjourn at 12:17 p.m. Motion carried.

WCUTA			
2025 Revenues/Expenses			
7/17/25			
<u>2025 REVENUES</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Add'l 2025 Membership Dues Paid	\$ 42,997.33	1/6/25 - 4/8/25	
2025 TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 42,997.33		
<u>EXPENSES PAID IN 2025</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payable to</u>
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 1/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	1/2/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 2025-2026 WCUTA Lobbying registration invoice	\$ 520.00	1/2/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 2/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	2/3/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 3/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	3/3/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 4/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	4/1/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 5/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	5/1/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 6/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	6/2/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC - 7/2025 invoice	\$ 3,000.00	7/1/25	Pfaff Public Affairs, LLC
Total Expenses paid in 2025	\$ 21,520.00		
TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	\$ 21,477.33		
2024 Balance Forwarded	\$ 79,316.35		
2025 WCUTA Account Balance	\$ 100,793.68		

2025 WCUTA DUES						
4/23/25						
<u>County</u>	<u>DOR 2024 Estimated Utility Tax Payments</u>	<u>DOR 2025 Estimated Utility Tax Payments</u>	<u>2025 Dues (.00225 of Estimated Utility Tax Payments)</u>	<u>Amount Pd.</u>	<u>Date Pd.</u>	<u>CK#</u>
ASHLAND	\$231,427.19	\$233,534.84	\$ 525.45	\$525.45	11/4/24	117358
BUFFALO	\$459,678.95	\$446,947.69	\$ 1,005.63	\$1,005.63	11/12/24	205642
CHIPPEWA	\$1,380,729.62	\$1,329,494.02	\$ 2,991.36	\$2,991.36	12/16/24	323386
COLUMBIA	\$2,226,110.05	\$2,226,078.81	\$ 5,008.68	\$5,008.68	3/3/25	2135530
DOUGLAS	\$108,712.32	\$110,194.20	\$ 247.94	\$247.94	4/1/25	341988
DUNN	\$210,769.06	\$238,768.15	\$ 537.23	\$537.23	1/16/25	251283
FOREST	\$19,599.64	\$19,101.85	\$ 42.98	\$42.98	3/10/25	120135
GRANT	\$377,450.25	\$950,587.12	\$ 2,138.82	\$2,138.82	1/15/25	214791
GREEN	\$142,468.66	\$273,230.87	\$ 614.77	\$614.77	11/18/24	138164
JACKSON	\$80,779.86	\$83,395.10	\$ 187.64	\$187.64	1/6/25	199503
JEFFERSON	\$931,696.22	\$1,136,671.58	\$ 2,557.51	\$2,557.51	2/26/25	4796057
JUNEAU	\$149,215.11	\$156,958.54	\$ 353.16	\$353.16	12/16/24	267245
KENOSHA	\$1,772,296.56	\$1,775,300.11	\$ 3,994.43	\$3,994.43	1/15/25	860452
KEWAUNEE	\$211,378.03	\$216,461.41	\$ 487.04	\$487.04	11/4/24	178556
LA CROSSE	\$699,933.10	\$726,574.46	\$ 1,634.79	\$1,634.79	12/2/24	501971
MANITOWOC	\$2,895,449.00	\$2,887,307.17	\$ 6,496.44	\$6,496.44	1/30/25	702203
MARATHON	\$2,083,235.97	\$2,172,691.79	\$ 4,888.56	\$4,888.56	12/9/24	1027886
MARINETTE	\$783,410.59	\$804,616.70	\$ 1,810.39	\$1,810.39	3/3/25	57354
MARQUETTE	\$41,352.59	\$40,336.22	\$ 90.76	\$90.76	1/6/25	231385
OCONTO	\$248,681.84	\$252,660.59	\$ 568.49	\$568.49	4/8/25	202926
OZAUKEE	\$1,907,570.62	\$1,898,652.76	\$ 4,271.97	\$4,271.97	2/3/25	559023
ROCK	\$3,665,561.60	\$4,472,248.62	\$ 10,062.56	\$10,062.56	2/3/25	702606
SHEBOYGAN	\$1,128,015.07	\$1,579,262.03	\$ 3,553.34	\$3,553.34	1/21/25	454843
TREMPEALEAU	\$162,155.51	\$205,559.87	\$ 462.51	\$462.51	1/27/25	344646
VERNON	\$623,238.65	\$609,658.41	\$ 1,371.73	\$1,371.73	4/23/25	221797
WASHBURN	\$34,374.25	\$27,059.23	\$ 60.88	\$60.88	11/14/24	251458
WASHINGTON	\$499,720.47	\$491,118.53	\$ 1,105.02	\$1,105.02	12/4/24	546560
WAUSHARA	\$120,571.70	\$429,172.74	\$ 965.64	\$965.64	1/15/25	316508
WOOD	\$707,086.19	\$723,788.80	\$ 1,628.52	\$1,628.52	11/4/24	608522
TOTALS	\$23,902,668.67	\$26,517,432.21	\$ 59,664.24	\$59,664.24		



WCA's 2025-27 Biennial

Budget Update

Collin Driscoll

Government Affairs Associate

Driscoll@wicounties.org | 608.960.2534



Budget Passed and Signed



LATE
JULY 2ND

State Senate

Bipartisan: 19-14

GOP No Votes: **Felzkowski**, Hutton,
Kapenga, Nass

DEM Yes Votes: **Habush Sinykin**,
Hesselbein, **Pfaff**, **Smith**, **Wall**



EARLY
JULY 3RD

State Assembly

Bipartisan: 59-39

GOP No Vote: **Allen**

DEM Yes Votes: Billings, **Doyle**,
Emerson, **Johnson**, **McCarville**,
Ortiz-Velez, Palmieri



1:30 AM
JULY 3RD

Governor

2025 Wisconsin Act 15

23 Partial Vetoes

12.4% increase from last budget

Original Proposal: \$118.9 billion

^ 20.3% increase from last budget



How did we get here?



Senate Issues

Unwritten Rule of 17

- Need 17 GOP votes to pass a bill on the Senate floor
- Five Senate GOP holdouts
- LeMahieu begins negotiations with Senate Dems
- Strike Deal - 5 Dems will vote YES
- Jacque flips his vote to YES
- Senate Dems want to drop a vote
- GOP says fine as long as they get to pick
- Senate Dems back off and have 5 YES votes



What did the Governor Get?



More \$ for K-12 Education

\$1.4 billion total in spendable revenue
\$500 million boost to special education
37.5% (JFC) → 45% in 2nd year of budget
90% for high cost (\$30,000 or more)

Investment in UW System

\$87 million cut (JFC) → \$256 million
\$94 million in raises
\$840 million in capital projects



Hats off to
Governor Evers

Relief for Child Care

\$331.6 million in new funding
\$110 million to child care providers
\$123 million subsidy for working poor
\$66 million for 4-year old programs
\$28.6 million for toddlers and infants



Other Provisions in the Deal



Child Care

- Family care centers can now serve up to 12 kids
- Lowered the minimum age for child care assistants to 16 (currently 17 or 18 depending on qualifications)



UW System

- Instructional staff must take on higher teaching loads, or buy off their time
- \$1 million for UW-Green Bay's Rising Phoenix Early College High School Program

Other

- Exempt residential energy and utility bills from sales tax
- \$5 million film tax credit
- \$1.3 billion income tax cut
- \$200 million in transportation revenue increases
- \$1 billion for hospitals via hospital bed assessment
- General wage adjustment 2%-3%

WCA Budget Priorities



Circuit Court Funding

- \$70 million/year to bring state-county partnership to a true 50-50 split

County Conservation Staffing Grants

- \$20.2 million/year to fulfill stat goal of 100%, 70%, and 50%

Mental Health

- \$20 million annually to fund non-federal share of MA for Community Support Program Services
- \$21 million annually to fully fund crisis services and eliminate the MOE for MA reimbursable services

Transportation

- \$50 million in Routine Maintenance Agreements
- 3%/3% increase in General Transportation Aids
- \$100 million for Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP-S)

General Government



County Veteran Service Officer Grants

5% increase for grants to county and tribal veteran service offices



Veteran Transportation Grants

\$100,000 annually to increase funding for grants to counties to provide transportation to medical facilities for veterans

Items Removed from the Budget

- Collective bargaining
- Reinstatement of prevailing wage
- Broadband expansion grant dollars
- Reimbursement to counties for special election costs
- Allowing clerks to canvas absentee ballots on the the day prior to the election (preventing late night ballot dumps)
- Register of deeds recording fee



Judicial and Public Safety



Circuit Court Funding Increase

\$10 million/year into the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation. With continued discussions on fees, fines, and forfeitures.



Statewide Interoperable Radio System

\$79.7 million to construct the radio system that will take the place of WISCOM and \$10 million to help local governments upgrade radios

Items Removed from the Budget

- Increased funding for crime victim services
- Two additional circuit court branches for Brown County
- Extension of judicial privacy for federal judges
- \$6 million in one-time funding for victim witness programs (WCA budget motion)

Note: Judicial privacy is still getting off the ground in Wisconsin



New Assistant District Attorney Positions

County	Additional Positions
--------	----------------------

Brown	7.0
Burnett	0.5
Columbia	1.0
Crawford	0.5
Dane	1.0
Eau Claire	2.0
Fond du Lac	4.0
Grant	1.5
Kenosha	2.5
Manitowoc	2.0
Marinette	0.5
Milwaukee	12.5*

County	Additional Positions
--------	----------------------

Monroe	1.5
Oconto	0.5
Oneida	0.5
Outagamie	2.0
St. Croix	1.5
Shawano/Men.	2.0
Trempealeau	1.0
Vilas	0.5
Walworth	1.0
Waukesha	6.0
Waupaca	1.0
Wood	2.0

Total New GPR Funded ADA Positions: 42

***Milwaukee Positions Funded by Local Fines**

Transportation and Public Works



RMA Increase
\$30 million



GTA Increase
3%/3% uppers



Reauthorize LRIP-S
\$100 million



Reauthorize ARIP
\$150 million

Other Provisions Included

- 10% increase in Paratransit Aids
- Fully fund County Forest Roads at \$351 per mile
- \$20 million for Brown County to develop the Port of Green Bay
- Increase Expressway Policing Aids - \$18 million/\$20 million

Items Removed from the Budget

- Increase to Mass Transit Operating Aids
- Increase for LRIP in both years of the biennium



Ag, Environment, and Land Use

Items Removed from the Budget

- \$100 million for PFAS
- Increased fee for CAFO operators
- Continuation of the Wisconsin Fund



Conservation Staff

Fund first, second, and third position at 100%, 70%, and 50%



Cost Sharing Grants

\$7 million in one-time funding similar to previous budgets



County Forest Initiatives

Sustainable Forest, Forest Administrator, and Wildlife Habitat Grant increases



Flood Grants

Another \$2 million over the biennium for pre-disaster flood grants



Health and Human Services

Items Removed from the Budget

Youth Justice

- Youth Aids allocation
- Serving 17-year olds in the youth justice system

Child Welfare

- Children and Family Aids Allocation
- Assignment of child support for out-of-home placements
- Eligibility expansion for “like-kin” kinship care

Long Term Care

- Adult protective services
- Alzheimer Family and Caregiver Support Program
- More



Juvenile Corrections

Decreased juvenile corrections daily rate



Child Support

Funding to support replacement of the KIDS system with the new THRIVE system



PRTFs

Funding for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities



Federal Reconciliation Package

U.S. House passed the budget reconciliation bill on July 3

- Signed into law on July 4 by President Trump

Items Impacting county human services:

SNAP

- Benefit cost share
- Administrative cost shift
- Work requirements

Medicaid

- Eligibility & redetermination
- Work requirements





WCA's 2025-27 Biennial

Any Questions?

Collin Driscoll

Government Affairs Associate

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**WI Counties
Utility Tax
Association –
2025-26 Legislative
Update**

*WCUTA Lobbyist -
Shawn Pfaff, Pfaff
Public Affairs*



WISCONSIN COUNTIES
UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

Who is WCUTA

- **WI Counties Utility Tax Association (WCUTA) –**
 - Comprised of counties that have power plants built before 1996 located within them
 - Advocates for equitable distribution of utility tax revenues collected by the state.
 - Primary mission is to ensure that local governments receive a fair share of utility tax revenues to support essential services.
 - 29 Counties are members
 - Member dues are calculated by using a small percentage (.00225) of a County's expected State utility aid payment
 - Washington County is expected to receive \$491,118.53, their WCUTA dues are \$1,105.02.
 - Registered lobbying organization that employs a lobbyist
 - Pfaff Public Affairs, Shawn Pfaff
 - More than 15 years of bipartisan lobbying in state Capitol

What WCUTA Does

- **WCUTA collaborates closely with the DOR to monitor and influence the administration of utility aid payments.** This partnership ensures that the utility aid formula remains responsive to changes in the utility industry and continues to meet the fiscal needs of counties for hosting utility facilities.
- The DOR provides annual estimates of shared revenue, including utility aid, to counties and municipalities. These estimates are essential for local governments to plan their budgets effectively. **By working with the DOR, WCUTA helps ensure that these estimates accurately reflect the current utility landscape and the financial needs of counties.**

MI State Utility Aid Formula *According to MI DOR*

Utility aid started with distributions in 1972

Only remaining component of state's pre-2004 shared revenue that existed from 1976-2003

Some elements remain the same; new distribution formula was created in 2003 that allocates most of the aid today

Funding levels for the utility aid program change every year – still based on a formula (unlike county and municipal aid)

Utility aid is funded from a sum sufficient appropriation from GPR

Nearly \$100 million in payments in 2024 - split nearly equally between counties and municipalities

WI State Utility Aid Formula *Continued...*

- Utility aid is paid on production plant, substation, and general structures, including PSC accounts determined by DOR – Sec. 79.04, Wis. Stats.
- Seven components of utility aid formula
 - Ad valorem/net book value payment
 - Spent nuclear fuel storage payment
 - Minimum payment
 - Megawatt (MW) based payment
 - Incentive payments
 - Per capita limit
 - Special minimum payment

WCUTA Recent Success – Increased Funding Levels

- **2023 Wisconsin Act 19:** This act made modifications to the aid formula by increasing incentives aid payments, beginning in 2024. To qualify, production plants must be plants on site or adjacent to a brownfield/decommissioned plant (increased by \$300 per MW), baseload generating, alternative energy (increased by \$500 per MW), or cogeneration. Increase of \$5.6 million in aid payments, in 2024, divided evenly between municipalities and counties.
- **2023 Wisconsin Act 139:** This act adjusted utility aid payments for decommissioned production plants, preventing abrupt reductions in aid when only part of a plant ceases operation. This change provides financial stability for counties during transitions in the utility sector.
- **Acts 19 and 139,** have further strengthened the financial position of counties, enabling them to continue providing essential services to their communities.

Energy Storage Issues Prevalent

- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**
 - An electrochemical device that charges (collects energy) from the grid or power plant to discharge energy to provide electricity when needed.
 - BESS does not generate energy but simply stores energy and can be located at the powerplant, transmission or distribution level of the power grid
 - Usually rated by their MW (megawatt) or MWh (megawatt hour) capacity
- **Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Storage**
 - Natural gas is taken from underground pipelines during summer months when demand is low and cooled until turning liquid and then stored in tank until needed. In winter months, during high demand, LNG is warmed and returned to natural gas for customers' usage.

WCUTA Legislative Focus on BESS/LNG

- BESS and LNG facilities are **NOT** included for utility aid under 79.04, Wis. Stats.
 - To pay utility aid on BESS/LNG facilities requires:
 - Sec. 79.04, Wis. Stats. need to be updated to include “electric energy storage facility” and “liquid natural gas storage facility”
 - PSC would have to collect information on additional accounts – some codes have not been adopted yet
- Governor proposed incorporating energy storage into utility aid in his budget (**WCUTA Request**); however, this policy was removed by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC).

Energy Storage Legislation

- **WCUTA** is working with a coalition – impacted local governments and Utilities - on proposed legislation this session that would:
- **CREATE A UTILITY AID PAYMENT FOR ENERGY STORAGE FACILITIES AND LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITIES**
- Fund in 2026-27 to municipalities and counties in which eligible energy storage facilities and liquefied natural gas facilities (LNG) are located, associated with creating a capacity aid payment from the sum sufficient utility aid appropriation to municipalities and counties in which eligible energy storage facilities and liquefied natural gas facilities are located.
- Wisconsin statutes impose a cap of \$125 million on the assessed value of utility facilities for utility aid payments, including LNG. Established in 1985, this cap no longer reflects the value and scope of modern energy projects, resulting in insufficient compensation for communities that host high-value energy facilities.
- *Legislation proposes increasing this cap to \$360 million, which adjusts the original figure for inflation.*

Why Legislation is Needed

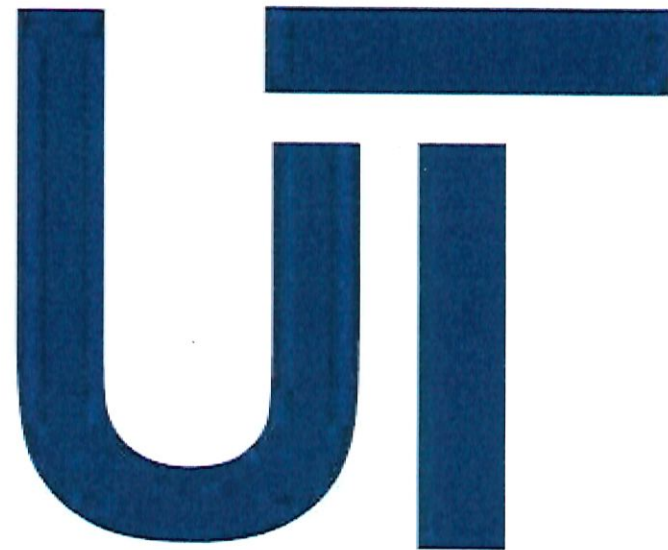
- Wisconsin's electric utilities are experiencing a significant surge in anticipated load growth – especially in SE WI, driven by the rapid expansion of data centers, industrial development, and increased electrification across sectors.
- This trend is prompting substantial investments in renewable energy and natural gas infrastructure to ensure grid reliability and meet future demand.
- **WCUTA members/counties need to be reimbursed for hosting utility facilities.**

Questions?

Shawn Pfaff, Pfaff Public Affairs

shawn@pfaffpublicaffairs.com

(608)628-3275



WISCONSIN COUNTIES
UTILITY TAX ASSOCIATION

Shawn Pfaff

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 10:03 AM
To: Shawn Pfaff
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Signs Two Bills Advancing Nuclear Energy Innovation in Wisconsin



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2025

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

Gov. Evers Signs Two Bills Advancing Nuclear Energy Innovation in Wisconsin

Governor signs four additional bills filling gaps to ensure kids in crisis can get the close-to-home care they need, strengthening support for statewide child advocacy centers, and supporting workplace safety for local police and fire

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today took action on six bills, including two bills to advance the state's nuclear energy innovation by requiring a study of nuclear energy opportunities and potential nuclear power and fusion sites in Wisconsin and creating a Nuclear Power Summit Board designed to help advance nuclear power and fusion technology and development and showcase Wisconsin's leadership in the nuclear industry.

Additionally, the governor today also signed an additional four bills, including establishing systems to allow youth experiencing mental health crises to receive treatment closer to home and to their community support networks, supporting the development of a statewide portal to facilitate the sharing of safety plans for minors, providing resources to support the work of child advocacy centers statewide, and improving workplace safety for state and local police and fire departments.

Two of the bills signed by Gov. Evers today advancing nuclear energy innovation in Wisconsin will also help meet our state's growing need for carbon-free energy.

"We can't afford to choose between mitigating climate change and protecting our environment or creating good-paying jobs and building a strong economy, and by working toward clean energy options Wisconsinites can depend on in the future, we're doing both. We must continue our efforts to help lower energy costs and improve energy independence by reducing our reliance out-of-state energy sources, and these bills are an important step in the right direction," said Gov. Evers. "With new advanced nuclear technology and the increasing need for energy in Wisconsin, I'm excited to sign these bipartisan bills today

to propel us into an innovative, clean energy future and bring more clean jobs to our state.”

Today, the governor signed six bills, including:

[Senate Bill 124](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 11:

- Uplifts the state’s nuclear energy innovation by creating a Nuclear Power Summit Board to organize, promote, and host a Wisconsin nuclear power summit in the city of Madison to advance nuclear power and fusion energy technology and development and to showcase Wisconsin’s leadership and innovation in the nuclear industry; and

[Senate Bill 125](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 12:

- Enhances state knowledge of nuclear energy potential by requiring the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to conduct a nuclear power siting study to meet the state’s growing need for carbon-free energy, including but not limited to:
 - Evaluating existing nuclear energy opportunities as part of the state’s energy portfolio; and
 - Identifying sites for the development and demonstration of nuclear power and fusion.
- \$2,000,000 GPR has been included in the 2025-27 budget to fund the study.

Additionally, Gov. Evers also signed four other bills today, including:

[Senate Bill 106](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 9:

- Defines psychiatric residential treatment facilities, establishes a certification process and operation requirements, and creates an unfunded biennial appropriation for grants to psychiatric residential treatment facilities, allowing youths to receive treatment closer to their home, their family, and their community support network; and
- \$1,790,000 GPR has been included in the 2025-27 budget to fund the grants.

[Senate Bill 108](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 10:

- Directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop and maintain a statewide portal to facilitate the sharing of safety plans for minors among safety plan partners;
- Requires DHS to develop a standard safety plan template to be used by individuals developing such a plan;
- Provides one full-time equivalent unfunded position for the purpose of developing and maintaining the portal; and
- \$819,200 GPR has been included in the 2025-27 to fund the program.

[Senate Bill 232](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 13:

- Modifies the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s child advocacy grant program by:
 - Removing the program’s statutory award amount;
 - Modifying the use of grant funds; and
 - Modifying the program’s statutory list of awardees and adding two awardees, the Lakeshore Regional Child Advocacy Center in Sheboygan County and Child Advocacy Centers of Wisconsin.
- Increases the number of child advocacy centers that are eligible for a grant; and

- \$2,000,000 GPR has been included in the 2025-27 budget to fund the grants.

[Senate Bill 283](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 14:

- Requires the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to enter into a contract with a manufacturer to distribute hearing protection devices to state law enforcement agencies, local law enforcement agencies, and fire protection agencies;
- Assists local units of government with hearing protection costs for police officers and firefighters; and
- \$2,600,000 GPR has been included in the 2025-27 budget to fund the program.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).

###

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PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS

Provide the following funding amounts to the Committee's supplemental appropriations under s. 20.865(4) of the statutes:

1. *War Memorial Grant.* \$5,000,000 GPR in 2025-26 for supporting a grant, distributed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, for war memorials in populous counties.
2. *Professional Development for Science Teachers.* \$250,000 GPR annually for professional development for science teachers by the Department of Public Instruction.
3. *Nuclear Feasibility Study.* Provide \$2,000,000 GPR in 2025-26 to fund a nuclear power plant feasibility study by the Public Service Commission and create a continuing GPR appropriation under the PSC for this purpose.
4. *Live 911 Pilot.* Provide \$100,000 SEG in 2025-26 from the 911 fund for a live 911 pilot by the Department of Military Affairs.
5. *Local Grant Writing and Compliance Assistance Program.* Provide \$3,000,000 SEG from the local government fund in 2025-26 and create a continuing appropriation under s. 20.835 of the statutes to authorize expenditure of these moneys once transferred to fund local grant writing and compliance assistance.
6. *Department of Public Instruction.* Provide \$1,000,000 GPR annually for release if needed for general program operations.

[Change to Base: \$8,250,000 GPR and \$3,100,000 SEG in 2025-26 and \$1,250,000 GPR in 2026-27]

Shawn Pfaff

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Shawn Pfaff
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Takes Action on Bipartisan Bill to Support Data Center Projects in Port Washington and Beaver Dam



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2025

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

Gov. Evers Takes Action on Bipartisan Bill to Support Data Center Projects in Port Washington and Beaver Dam

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today took action on Assembly Bill 140, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 16, a bipartisan bill that creates exceptions for Tax Increment District (TID) Number 5 in the city of Port Washington and TID Number 10 in the city of Beaver Dam to support attracting new data centers to these communities and to continue growing this multi-billion-dollar industry in the state.

“With several global companies expanding and growing their businesses here in Wisconsin and our federal designation as a U.S. Regional Tech Hub, Wisconsin's tech industry is growing and bringing with it countless family-supporting jobs, economic development opportunities, and substantial capital investments in our local communities,” said Gov. Evers. “This bill will help these two communities compete for new data centers, bolster our local communities, and build upon our work to build a 21st-century workforce and economy. I look forward to seeing how these developments will continue to take shape in the months and years ahead.”

[Assembly Bill 140](#), now 2025 Wisconsin Act 16:

- Provides the cities of Port Washington and Beaver Dam additional resources to support large-scale data center projects, while preserving flexibility for future growth and development in other parts of the city;
- Specifies that, for TID Number 5 in Port Washington and TID Number 10 in Beaver Dam, the 12 percent equalized value limit does not apply if all project costs are related to a certified data center within the district; and

- Requires TID Number 5 in Port Washington and TID Number 10 in Beaver Dam include only project costs directly related to the data center and prohibits them from being amended in the future to include unrelated costs within the district or from allocating positive tax increments to other districts.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).

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Evers signs law to help data center development in Port Washington and Beaver Dam



Gov. Tony Evers signed a state law that will support two data center projects in Port Washington and Beaver Dam. (Photo courtesy of Depositphotos)

Evers signs law to help data center development in Port Washington and Beaver Dam

By: Ethan Duran (https://dailyreporter.com/author/eduran/) (mailto:eduran@dailyreporter.com) July 9, 2025 // 3 Minute Read

Port Washington and Beaver Dam

body=Solidifying its interest in data center construction, the state enacted a new law to support the development of two computing facilities in Port Washington and Beaver Dam. Gov. Tony Evers... You can read the content in details following link https%3A%2F%2Fdailyreporter.com%2F2025%2F07%2F09%2Fwisconsin-data-center-law-port-beaver-dam%2F)

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THE BLUEPRINT:

- Wisconsin Act 16 removes **tax increment district** (https://dailyreporter.com/tag/tax-increment-district/) limits for two **data center** (https://dailyreporter.com/tag/data-center/) projects in the **Port Washington** (https://dailyreporter.com/tag/port-washington/) site spans 1,900 acres and is led by **Data Centers** (https://dailyreporter.com/tag/vantage-data-centers/),

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- The [Beaver Dam](https://dailyreporter.com/tag/beaver-dam/) project could top \$1 billion and is possibly led by Meta,

Solidifying its interest in data center construction, the state enacted a new law to support the development of two computing facilities in Port Washington and Beaver Dam.

Gov. [Tony Evers](https://dailyreporter.com/tag/tony-evers/) on Tuesday signed Assembly Bill 140, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 16, which will create exceptions for Tax Increment District No. 5 in the city of Port Washington and TID No. 10 in the city of Beaver Dam. The legislation aims to support attracting new [data centers](https://dailyreporter.com/tag/data-centers/) and continue growing the multi-billion-dollar data center industry in the state.

"With several global companies expanding and growing their businesses here in Wisconsin and our federal designation as a U.S. Regional Tech Hub, Wisconsin's tech industry is growing and bringing with it countless family-supporting jobs, economic development opportunities, and substantial capital investments in our local communities," Evers said in a statement. "This bill will help these two communities compete for new data centers, bolster our local communities and build upon our work to build a 21st-century workforce and economy," he added.

In Port Washington, Cloverleaf Infrastructure is helping develop a 1,900-acre data center campus that will use upward of a gigawatt of electricity. Denver-based Vantage Data Centers are the end users for that project but haven't shared specific plans yet. Wisconsin Public Radio reported that Meta Platforms Inc., the parent company of Facebook, is planning a more than \$1 billion data center in Beaver Dam.

Following the groundbreaking of Microsoft's \$3.3 billion data center in Mount Pleasant, the Wisconsin Legislature pushed a bill to attract and incentivize developers and communities who want to build computing facilities in their own backyard.

In Wisconsin, no more than 12% of a municipality's equalized value can be inside of a TID, according to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The new law specifies that the limit doesn't apply to TIDs in Port Washington and Beaver Dam if all project costs are related to a certified data center within TID boundaries, the governor's office said.

The law also requires TIDs to include project costs related to the data center and stops them from being amended in the future to include unrelated costs, officials said. Unrelated costs could come from within the district or from allocating positive tax increments to other districts, officials added.

In Port Washington, [Vantage Data Centers bought hundreds of acres of land](https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/02/denver-based-data-center-company-buys-swaths-of-land-in-port-washington/) from local owners last week to pave the way for their facility just west of Interstate 94. Plans called for 11 data center buildings, offices and warehouses, five potential substations and a potential central utility plant. The developer will likely build out the first 1,600 acres and develop 300 more in future phases, according to the city.

An affiliate called Degas LLC wanted to invest around \$567 million in developing a data center campus on a 520-acre site at the Beaver Dam Commerce Park, Data Center Dynamics reported. The site is located along U.S. Highway 151, Hemlock Road and County Highways A and W.



(https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/09/wisconsin-data-center-law-port-beaver-dam/mp_-10/)

Work continues at the \$3.3 billion Microsoft data center in Mount Pleasant. (Photo credit Microsoft)

Large scale manufacturing centers such as the Microsoft data center in Mount Pleasant have raised questions from locals about [how development will affect the power grid](#) (<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/03/03/wisconsin-data-centers-construction-growth/>), as federal agencies report data centers use [up to 50 times the energy per floor space](#) (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/data-centers-and-servers>) of a typical commercial building. That Mount Pleasant facility was in mind for We Energies to launch two natural gas projects in southeast Wisconsin.

Related Articles

- [Denver-based data center company buys swaths of land in Port Washington](#) (<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/02/denver-based-data-center-company-buys-swaths-of-land-in-port-washington/>)
- [Port Washington acquires more land for nearly 2,000-acre data center development](#) (<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/05/23/port-washington-cloverleaf-data-center/>)
- [Data centers in Wisconsin are rising, and could affect utility rates](#) (<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/05/02/data-centers-utility-costs-wisconsin/>)
- [Port Washington paves way for data center by acquiring 1,900 acres](#) (<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/01/24/port-washington-data-center-annexation/>)
- [Port Washington announces plans for data center](#) (<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/01/08/port-washington-data-center/>)

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MSOE and VJS Construction Services hope to complete the new engineering center before the fall 2027 semester.

July 15, 2025

(<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/15/msoe-engineering-innovation-center-construction/>)



Developer looks to build data center campus in Dane County

Project could have as many as 15 buildings constructed over the next decade

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(<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/10/developer-looks-to-build-data-center-campus-in-dane-county/>)



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(<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/10/kenosha-continental-336-apartment-development/>)



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Canadian National will spend around \$110 million in Wisconsin, part of its capital investment program for 2025[...]

July 8, 2025

(<https://dailyreporter.com/2025/07/08/canadian-national-investment-wisconsin-rail-2025/>)

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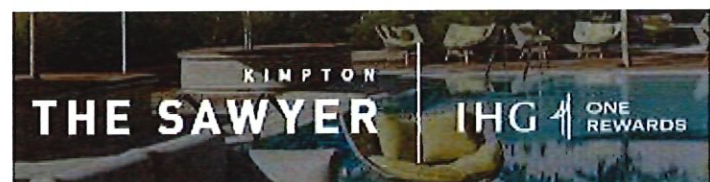
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SPECIAL REPORT | TOP STORY

Gov. Tony Evers signs bill supporting proposed Beaver Dam data center

TERRI PEDERSON

Jul 15, 2025



Gov. Tony Evers signed a bipartisan bill on July 8 intended to encourage construction of two new data centers in Wisconsin, including one in Beaver Dam.

Wisconsin Act 16 creates exceptions in state law for Tax Increment Districts in Port Washington and Beaver Dam to support major data center projects planned for those communities.

Other data centers are in development in Mount Pleasant and Kenosha. And a Virginia-based data center company has announced plans for a sprawling 615-acre campus west of DeForest that could consist of as many as 15 buildings and cost up to \$3 billion.

“With several global companies expanding and growing their businesses here in Wisconsin and our federal designation as a U.S. Regional Tech Hub, Wisconsin’s tech industry is growing and bringing with it countless family-supporting jobs, economic development opportunities, and substantial capital investments in our local communities,” Evers said in a statement. “This bill will help these two communities compete for new data centers, bolster our local communities, and build upon our work to build a 21st-century workforce and economy. I look forward to seeing how these developments will continue to take shape in the months and years ahead.”

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- 4 2 redevelopment plans emerge for Downtown Madison's last vacant block**

Data center firm proposes 615-acre, \$3 billion campus in northern Dane County

In Beaver Dam, a data center valued at more than \$850 million is proposed to be built in Beaver Dam Commerce Park. According to a report from Bloomberg News, the company behind the proposal is Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram.

The project has not been finalized as of yet, said Trent Campbell, executive vice president of Beaver Dam Area Developmental Corporation. There is a lot of activity on the site, and prep work has been done with the city, including annexing the property and forming the TIF district. But the city itself is still under a nondisclosure on who is building the data center on the site.

Beaver Dam established the TID after annexing the 834 acres of property on the north side. The property was annexed from the town of Trenton by unanimous petition of the property owners Sept. 16.

“The passing of Wisconsin State Act 16 was critical to Beaver Dam’s future growth,” Campbell said. “The legislation will allow the city, through the use of TIF, to capitalize on the momentum created by its recent development successes. Beaver Dam greatly appreciates the bipartisan support this measure received at the state level.”

State Rep Mark Born, R-Beaver Dam, was instrumental in helping the bill throughout the legislative process, Campbell said.

The data center will have a lower water system that does not require any additional city infrastructure, Campbell said. Eventually it may become the city’s second largest water customer.



Work has begun on the site of a new data center off of Highway A. Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill on July 8 to attract new data centers to Wisconsin communities, including the one in Beaver Dam.

TERRI PEDERSON,

There also may be many well-paying jobs when the site is completed, Campbell said, adding that the city already is benefiting from additional construction workers at the site that shop and stay in the city.

While the TIF can stay open for 20 years, Beaver Dam officials hope it will be closed much sooner, he said.

Follow Terri Pederson on Twitter @tlp53916 or call 920-356-6760

https://madison.com/news/local/business/development/article_b0bd4ca1-cc51-442b-a4e5-6cb60e4969c6.html

ALERT **TOP STORY** **TOPICAL**

DANE COUNTY | HIGH-TECH DEVELOPMENT

Data center firm proposes 615-acre, \$3 billion campus in northern Dane County

Shun Graves | Wisconsin State Journal

Jul 14, 2025



TOWN OF VIENNA — The pink elephant here may be getting even more company, besides the proposed Buc-ee's across the street.

A Virginia-based data center company has announced plans for a sprawling 615-acre campus along Highway V west of DeForest that could consist of as many as 15 buildings and cost up to \$3 billion.

As proposed, QTS Data Centers' project could create 450 permanent positions and thousands of temporary construction jobs, and bring in millions of dollars in property tax revenue.



Kathryn Crawford, of Portage, and her granddaughter, Darla Crawford, 8, of DeForest, stop to take a selfie Friday with the pink elephant along Highway V near DeForest. Just to the west of the attraction, a Virginia company is proposing a \$3 billion data center campus on 615 acres of farmland.

AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL

But the proposal, presented at a public meeting last week at the Vienna Town Hall — just down the road from the colorful elephant statue that is a popular selfie spot — drew plenty of questions from those who gathered to hear about the plan that would transform the largely agricultural area into a high-tech, new use designed to slake the computational thirst of potential internet-based clients.

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Some asked why QTS wants to build in a town that values agriculture.

Lonely but inspired, Waunakee High senior painted classmates in 'extreme act of kindness'

Shun Graves | Wisconsin State Journal

“It’s not lost on us that this is inconsistent with that approach,” Chris Kapper, a QTS vice president for development, told the crowd. “But we do feel as though that it satisfies other objectives within the town: to deliver tax base, to provide jobs and create commercial development in the corridors.”

Data centers provide businesses with computing capacity without those businesses investing in the physical facilities needed to store and maintain computer servers, which require vast amounts of power and cooling systems.

The explosion in artificial intelligence has increased the demand for server capacity, leading to a corresponding boom in data center construction.

Residents gather last week at the Vienna Town Hall to see a presentation from QTS Data Centers about the company's proposed 615-acre data center campus. Many had questions about the size of the project, energy use and the loss of farmland.

Shun Graves | Wisconsin State Journal

Microsoft plans to spend \$3.3 billion on a data center in Racine County, while the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reported last month that Denver-based Vantage wants to build a data center on 1,900 acres along Interstate 43 north of Port Washington.

In Dodge County, a more than \$850 million data center has been proposed for 500 acres in the Beaver Dam Commerce Park. According to a report from Bloomberg News, the company behind the proposal is Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram.

To aid the Port Washington and Beaver Dam projects, Gov. Tony Evers last week signed a bipartisan bill that creates exceptions for tax increment districts in the two communities. It's unclear what if any type of tax incentives could be part of the proposed data center in the town of Vienna.

"With several global companies expanding and growing their businesses here in Wisconsin and our federal designation as a U.S. Regional Tech Hub, Wisconsin's tech industry is growing and bringing with it countless family-supporting jobs, economic development opportunities, and substantial capital investments in our local communities," Evers said. "This bill will help these two communities compete for new data centers, bolster our local communities, and work to build a 21st-century workforce and economy."

QTS operates, is developing or has plans for data centers in 17 states and in Europe. Earlier this year, the company announced plans for a \$750 million project in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and it's considering a \$2 billion project for Porter County, Indiana.

QTS's plans in Dane County are in their infancy. The company did not show any specific renderings at Thursday's meeting. Kapper told the crowd that the firm filed a request letter on July 1 with local officials to begin the planning process.

Potential customers, a project timeline and the amount of energy required for the campus, which would be the first for QTS in Wisconsin, have not been released by the company or public officials.

Many residents greeted the firm's push forward with skepticism. They included local farmer Diane Rake, who had concerns about farmland being dotted with data centers.

“The way they presented it is like they’re already here,” she said as people milled about after the presentation. “I don’t like that.”

This farmland would be part of a proposed 615-acre data center campus for QTS Data Centers, along Highway V west of DeForest in the town of Vienna.

AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL

Fast-growing area

The DeForest area has been the target of several high-profile developments in recent years.

Kwik Trip is building a \$151 million, 280,000-square-foot distribution center near the intersection of highways 51 and 19. The DeForest Yards development is bringing new housing, an indoor ice arena and a \$3 million brewery and taproom with outdoor

dining space by Young Blood Beer Co. on the east side of Highway 19. A Hampton Inn hotel is proposed for Gene Street while Pinseekers, a massive golf driving range along the interstate, opened in 2023.

Buc-ee's, a Texas-based retailer known for its beef brisket, clean bathrooms and scores of gas pumps, also has announced plans at Highway V and Interstate 39-90-94 for a 73,000-square-foot store with parking for 600 vehicles, 120 fuel pumps and 20 EV charging stations. The project, however, first proposed in 2023, has been stalled due to negotiations over funding for road improvements.

Buc-ee's remains in play in DeForest, but it may need state money

The QTS campus would be just to the west of the proposed Buc-ee's and would occupy an area roughly bounded by Patton Road, Highway V, WIBU Road and Highway DM. The land is across Highway V from the town hall that hosted

Thursday's meeting, which treated attendees to pulled pork with a view of the surrounding cornfields.

Some express skepticism

While data centers have drawn criticism for the amount of water they need for their cooling systems, Kapper presented plans to use a "closed-loop" cooling system that would not continuously consume water.

QTS also touted backup generators that would keep the facility going during outages. Company officials did not have an estimate of how much electricity the center could consume, though Alliant Energy spokeswoman Aimee Davis told the Wisconsin State Journal that a nearby substation has "available capacity to plug into."

Data center growth across the United States has strained power grids, and that strain could increase costs for ratepayers. In 2023 data centers accounted for 4.4% of national energy consumption, a figure that could reach up to 12% by 2028, according to a report by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

When asked during Thursday's meeting if those in attendance knew what a data center is, only about a third of the crowd of more than 50 people raised their hands. Erik Brown, who owns an acre of land in the town of Vienna, was among those who raised his hand. He works in information technology, a field that sometimes brings him to data centers.

"I question, 'Why Vienna?'" Brown said afterward. "I know we have power distribution coming through right there. We obviously have land that's not developed as commercial."

QTS officials describe the typical appearance of a data center. The project proposed for the town of Vienna west of DeForest would include up to 15 buildings and cost up to \$3 billion.

Shun Graves | Wisconsin State Journal

QTS officials said the firm has started to study threatened species and the animal and plant life in the area. But Marcia Sutter, who would live right next to the data center, said she's upset about the potential disruption to the people, land and environment.

"The environment's going to be impacted," Sutter said. "We're going to have to worry about air pollution. We're going to have to worry about sound pollution. And we're going to have to worry about traffic."

State Journal reporter Barry Adams contributed to this story.

Photos: PinSeekers in DeForest

PinSeekers' driving range, as seen from the third floor, features 10 targets that light up when hit by a golf ball. The owners of the facility also envision concerts at the venue with the band on the range with the lights synced to music.

AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3070/P1

KP:wlj

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 79.04 (1) (a) and 79.04 (2) (a); *to create* 79.005 (1j), 79.005
2 (1L) and 79.04 (7m) of the statutes; **relating to:** increasing utility aid
3 payments for public utilities and certain energy storage facilities.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, each county and municipality where a power production plant is located receives an aid payment equal to the first \$125,000,000 of the value of the public utility located in the county or municipality, multiplied by a specified mill rate that depends on whether the plant is located in a town or in a city or village. The payments apply to plants that began operation before January 1, 2004. The bill increases the amount of those payments by increasing the amount to be multiplied by a mill rate to the first \$300,000,000 of the plant's value.

The bill also provides utility aid payments to counties and municipalities where energy storage facilities are located. Under the bill, the Department of Administration distributes to each city and village in which an energy storage facility is located two-thirds of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000, and DOA distributes to the county in which such a facility is located one-third of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000. DOA distributes to each town in which an energy storage facility is located one-third of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000, and DOA distributes to the county in which

BILL**SECTION 1**

such a facility is located two-thirds of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000.

The bill defines an "energy storage facility" as property owned by a light, heat, and power company, electric cooperative, or municipal electric company that receives electrical energy, stores the energy in a different form, and converts that other form of energy back to electrical energy for sale or to use to provide reliability or economic benefits to the electric grid. Under the bill, "energy storage facility" includes hydroelectric pumped storage, compressed air energy storage, regenerative fuel cells, batteries, and similar technologies.

The bill also provides utility aid payments to counties and municipalities where liquefied natural gas storage facilities (LNG storage facilities) are located. The payment received by a city or village where an LNG storage facility is located is determined by multiplying the net book value of the LNG storage facility by six mills and by three mills in the case of a town. The payment received by a county where an LNG storage facility is located is determined by multiplying the net book value of the LNG storage facility by three mills if the facility is located in a city or village and by six mills if the facility is located in a town.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 79.005 (1j) of the statutes is created to read:

2 79.005 (1j) (a) "Energy storage facility" means property to which all of the
3 following apply:

4 1. The property is interconnected to the electrical grid.

5 2. The property is designed to receive electrical energy, to store the electrical
6 energy as another form of energy, and to convert that other form back into electrical
7 energy.

8 3. The property delivers the electrical energy converted from some other form,
9 as described in subd. 2., for sale or to use for providing reliability or economic
10 benefits to the electrical grid.

11 4. The property is owned by a light, heat, and power company assessed under

BILL**SECTION 1**

1 s. 76.28 (2) or 76.29 (2), not including property described in s. 66.0813 unless the
2 property is owned or operated by a local governmental unit located outside the
3 municipality, or by an electric cooperative assessed under ss. 76.07 and 76.48,
4 respectively, or by a municipal electric company under s. 66.0825.

5 (b) "Energy storage facility" includes hydroelectric pumped storage,
6 compressed air energy storage, regenerative fuel cells, batteries, superconducting
7 magnetic energy storage, flywheels, thermal energy storage systems, and hydrogen
8 storage, or a combination thereof, or any other similar technologies as determined
9 by the federal energy regulatory commission.

10 **SECTION 2.** 79.005 (1L) of the statutes is created to read:

11 79.005 (1L) "Liquefied natural gas storage facility" means a liquefied natural
12 gas storage facility owned by a light, heat, and power company assessed under s.
13 76.28 (2) or 76.29 (2), not including property described in s. 66.0813, unless the
14 property is owned or operated by a local governmental unit located outside the
15 municipality, by an electric cooperative assessed under ss. 76.07 and 76.48,
16 respectively, or by a municipal electric company under s. 66.0825.

17 **SECTION 3.** 79.04 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 79.04 (1) (a) An amount from the public utility account determined by
19 multiplying by 3 mills in the case of a town, and 6 mills in the case of a city or
20 village, the first ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000 of the amount shown in the account,
21 plus leased property, of each public utility except qualified wholesale electric
22 companies, as defined in s. 76.28 (1) (gm), on December 31 of the preceding year for
23 "production plant, exclusive of land," "general structures," and "substations," in the
24 case of light, heat and power companies, electric cooperatives or municipal electric

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1 companies, for all property within a municipality in accordance with the system of
2 accounts established by the public service commission or rural electrification
3 administration, less depreciation thereon as determined by the department of
4 revenue and less the value of treatment plant and pollution abatement equipment,
5 as defined under s. 70.11 (21), as determined by the department of revenue plus an
6 amount from the public utility account determined by multiplying by 3 mills in the
7 case of a town, and 6 mills in the case of a city or village, of the first ~~\$125,000,000~~
8 \$300,000,000 of the total original cost of production plant, general structures, and
9 substations less depreciation, land and approved waste treatment facilities of each
10 qualified wholesale electric company, as defined in s. 76.28 (1) (gm), as reported to
11 the department of revenue of all property within the municipality. The total of
12 amounts, as depreciated, from the accounts of all public utilities for the same
13 production plant is also limited to not more than ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000. The
14 amount distributable to a municipality under this subsection and sub. (6) in any
15 year shall not exceed \$300 times the population of the municipality, except that,
16 beginning with payments in 2009, the amount distributable to a municipality
17 under this subsection and sub. (6) in any year shall not exceed \$425 times the
18 population of the municipality, except as provided under par. (am).

19 **SECTION 4.** 79.04 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 79.04 (2) (a) Annually, except for production plants that begin operation after
21 December 31, 2003, or begin operation as a repowered production plant after
22 December 31, 2003, and except as provided in sub. (4m), the department of
23 administration, upon certification by the department of revenue, shall distribute
24 from the public utility account to any county having within its boundaries a

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1 production plant, general structure, or substation, used by a light, heat or power
2 company assessed under s. 76.28 (2) or 76.29 (2), except property described in s.
3 66.0813 unless the production plant or substation is owned or operated by a local
4 governmental unit that is located outside of the municipality in which the
5 production plant or substation is located, or by an electric cooperative assessed
6 under ss. 76.07 and 76.48, respectively, or by a municipal electric company under s.
7 66.0825 an amount determined by multiplying by 6 mills in the case of property in
8 a town and by 3 mills in the case of property in a city or village the first
9 ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000 of the amount shown in the account, plus leased
10 property, of each public utility except qualified wholesale electric companies, as
11 defined in s. 76.28 (1) (gm), on December 31 of the preceding year for "production
12 plant, exclusive of land," "general structures," and "substations," in the case of light,
13 heat and power companies, electric cooperatives or municipal electric companies, for
14 all property within the municipality in accordance with the system of accounts
15 established by the public service commission or rural electrification administration,
16 less depreciation thereon as determined by the department of revenue and less the
17 value of treatment plant and pollution abatement equipment, as defined under s.
18 70.11 (21), as determined by the department of revenue plus an amount from the
19 public utility account determined by multiplying by 6 mills in the case of property
20 in a town, and 3 mills in the case of property in a city or village, of the total original
21 cost of production plant, general structures, and substations less depreciation, land
22 and approved waste treatment facilities of each qualified wholesale electric
23 company, as defined in s. 76.28 (1) (gm), as reported to the department of revenue of
24 all property within the municipality. The total of amounts, as depreciated, from the

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1 accounts of all public utilities for the same production plant is also limited to not
2 more than ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000. The amount distributable to a county under
3 this subsection and sub. (6) in any year shall not exceed \$100 times the population
4 of the county, except that, beginning with payments in 2009, the amount
5 distributable to a county under this subsection and sub. (6) in any year shall not
6 exceed \$125 times the population of the county.

7 **SECTION 5.** 79.04 (7m) of the statutes is created to read:

8 79.04 (7m) (a) Annually, the department of administration, upon certification
9 by the department of revenue, shall distribute a payment from the public utility
10 account to each municipality and county in which an energy storage facility with a
11 name-plate capacity of at least one megawatt is located. If the energy storage
12 facility is located in a city or village, the city or village receives a payment equal to
13 two-thirds of the product of the facility's name-plate capacity multiplied by \$2,000,
14 and the county in which the energy storage facility is located receives a payment
15 equal to one-third of the product of the facility's name-plate capacity multiplied by
16 \$2,000. If the energy storage facility is located in a town, the town receives a
17 payment equal to one-third of the product of the facility's name-plate capacity
18 multiplied by \$2,000, and the county in which the energy storage facility is located
19 receives a payment equal to two-thirds of the product of the facility's name-plate
20 capacity multiplied by \$2,000.

21 (b) Annually, the department of administration, upon certification by the
22 department of revenue, shall distribute a payment from the public utility account to
23 each municipality and county in which a liquefied natural gas storage facility is
24 located. If the liquefied natural gas storage facility is located in a city or village, the

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1 city or village receives a payment equal to 6 mills multiplied by the net book value
2 of the liquefied natural gas storage facility, and the county in which the liquefied
3 natural gas storage facility is located receives a payment equal to 3 mills multiplied
4 by the net book value of the liquefied natural gas storage facility. If the liquefied
5 natural gas storage facility is located in a town, the town receives a payment equal
6 to 3 mills multiplied by the net book value of the liquefied natural gas storage
7 facility, and the county in which the liquefied natural gas storage facility is located
8 receives a payment equal to 6 mills multiplied by the net book value of the liquefied
9 natural gas storage facility.

10 **SECTION 6. Initial applicability.**

11 (1) This act first applies to distributions made after January 1, 2026.

12 (END)

Increasing the cap a community can receive based on the first \$300,000,000

Currently, community utility aid is calculated by multiplying by 3 mills in the case of a town, and 6 mills in the case of a city or village, on the first \$125,000,000 of value of allowable utility facilities. The bill will increase the value used to calculate this amount to the first \$300,000,000. The \$125,000,000 was put in statute in 1985 and has not been increased since.

Energy and liquefied natural gas storage facilities

The bill provides utility aid payments to counties and municipalities where energy storage facilities are located. Under the bill, DOA distributes to each city and village in which an energy storage facility is located two-thirds of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000, and the county in which such a facility is located is distributed one-third of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000. DOA distributes to each town in which an energy storage facility is located one-third of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000, and the county in which such a facility is located is distributed two-thirds of the amount calculated by multiplying the facility's megawatt capacity by \$2,000.

The bill defines an "energy storage facility" as a property that receives electrical energy, stores the energy in a different form, and converts that other form of energy back to electrical energy for sale or to use to provide reliability or economic benefits to the electrical grid. The bill also defines an "energy storage facility" as property that is owned by a light, heat, and power company, electric cooperative, or municipal electric company and includes hydroelectric pumped storage, compressed air energy storage, regenerative fuel cells, batteries, and similar technologies.

The bill also provides utility aid payments to counties and municipalities where liquefied natural gas storage facilities (LNG storage facilities) are located. The payment received by a city or village where an LNG storage facility is located is determined by multiplying the net book value of the LNG storage facility by six mills and by three mills in the case of a town. The payment received by a county where an LNG storage facility is located is determined by multiplying the net book value of the LNG storage facility by three mills if the facility is located in a city or village and by six mills if the facility is located in a town.

79.04(1)(a) is amended to read:

79.04(1)(a) An amount from the public utility account determined by multiplying by 3 mills in the case of a town, and 6 mills in the case of a city or village, the first ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000 of the amount shown in the account, plus leased property, of each public utility except qualified wholesale electric companies, as defined in s. 76.28 (1) (gm), on December 31 of the preceding year for "production plant, exclusive of land,"

“general structures,” and “substations,” in the case of light, heat and power companies, electric cooperatives or municipal electric companies, for all property within a municipality in accordance with the system of accounts established by the public service commission or rural electrification administration, less depreciation thereon as determined by the department of revenue and less the value of treatment plant and pollution abatement equipment, as defined under s. 70.11 (21), as determined by the department of revenue plus an amount from the public utility account determined by multiplying by 3 mills in the case of a town, and 6 mills in the case of a city or village, of the first ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000 of the total original cost of production plant, general structures, and substations less depreciation, land and approved waste treatment facilities of each qualified wholesale electric company, as defined in s. 76.28 (1) (gm), as reported to the department of revenue of all property within the municipality. The total of amounts, as depreciated, from the accounts of all public utilities for the same production plant is also limited to not more than ~~\$125,000,000~~ \$300,000,000 . The amount distributable to a municipality under this subsection and sub. (6) in any year shall not exceed \$300 times the population of the municipality, except that, beginning with payments in 2009, the amount distributable to a municipality under this subsection and sub. (6) in any year shall not exceed \$425 times the population of the municipality, except as provided under par. (am)

79.04 (7m) of the statutes is created to read:

79.04 (7m) (a) Annually, the department of administration, upon certification by the department of revenue, shall distribute a payment from the public utility account to each municipality and county in which an energy storage facility with a name-plate capacity of at least one megawatt is located. If the

energy storage facility is located in a city or village, the city or village receives a payment equal to two-thirds of the product of the facility[s name-plate capacity multiplied by \$2,000 and the county in which the energy storage facility is located receives a payment equal to one-third of the product of the facility[s name-plate capacity multiplied by \$2,000. If the energy storage facility is located in a town, the town receives a payment equal to one-third of the product of the facility[s name-plate capacity multiplied by \$2,000 and the county in which the energy storage facility is located receives a payment equal to two-thirds of the product of the facility[s name-plate capacity multiplied by \$2,000.

(b) Annually, the department of administration, upon certification by the department of revenue, shall distribute a payment from the public utility account to each municipality and county in which a liquefied natural gas storage facility is located. If the liquefied natural gas storage facility is located in a city or village, the city or village receives a payment equal to 6 mills multiplied by the net book value of the liquefied natural gas storage facility and the county in which the liquefied natural gas storage facility is located receives a payment equal to 3 mills multiplied by the net book value of the liquefied natural gas storage facility. If the liquefied natural gas storage facility is located in a town, the town receives a payment equal to 3 mills multiplied by the net book value of the liquefied natural gas storage facility and the county in which the liquefied natural gas storage facility is located receives a payment equal to 6 mills multiplied by the net book value of the liquefied natural gas storage facility.