



# 2021

## Year in Review

Stoughton Utilities is proud to be Stoughton's locally owned, not-for-profit electric, water, and wastewater utility. As a municipal utility, our customers and community are our top priority. Each year, Stoughton Utilities strengthens the community through funding towards economic development and contributions to local charities and educational programs.

In 2021, Stoughton Utilities celebrated 135 years of service to our community. The water utility was founded in 1886 by the citizens of Stoughton, with the electric utility following in 1891. We have remained a public power utility since that time, and utility employees continue to be guided by the principles of local ownership and control, keeping revenue in the community, providing first-rate customer service, and making a positive impact in the community through our outreach and donation efforts.

Much of 2021 was spent planning and coordinating the Citywide Lead Service Line Replacement Project. Stoughton Utilities applied for and was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to cover homeowner costs for the replacement of lead service lines. Five Star Energy Services was selected as the project contractor, replacing over 700 lead water service lines and making Stoughton's water distribution system lead free!



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, utility operations remained largely unchanged in 2021, with the utility office reopening for in-person customer service in June. Stoughton Utilities Committee meetings continue to be held virtually for the health and safety of committee members and the public.

## \$883,261

Paid to the City of Stoughton in lieu of taxes in 2021

## \$18,000

Donated by Stoughton Utilities in 2021 to local educational, charitable, and economic development causes.

## \$172.68

Average saved per household in 2021 by Stoughton Utilities electric customers, compared to customers of privately owned Wisconsin utilities.

**Average monthly electric bill:**

Stoughton Utilities - \$72.46

Wisconsin Privately Owned Utilities - \$86.85

Looking forward to 2022, major infrastructure projects include equipment upgrades to the East and North electrical substations, and an overhead line rebuild on County Road N. Water and wastewater underground infrastructure will be updated on Academy Street between East Street and East South Street. Stoughton Utilities will also begin the process of planning for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Highway 51 reconstruction project.

If you have any questions or would like more information about anything in this report, please visit [stoughtonutilities.com](http://stoughtonutilities.com), email [customerservice@stoughtonutilities.com](mailto:customerservice@stoughtonutilities.com), or contact us by phone at (608) 873-3379.

## Awards

**Exceptional Reliability in 2020**

*American Public Power Association*

**Smart Energy Provider**

*American Public Power Association*

**Top 10 National Green Power Participation**

*Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

**Citation of Commendation for Lead Removal**

*State Senator Melissa Agard and State Representative Gary Hebl*

# Events

## Public Power Week

Public Power Week is an annual event that serves to bring awareness to the advantages of having a locally owned public power utility.

To celebrate, Stoughton Utilities hosted a week long scavenger hunt and trivia contest. Participating customers were provided with a daily clue that either directed them to a Stoughton park with a photo board for pictures, or a trivia question related to Stoughton Utilities. All customers who found the secret location and sent us a picture or submitted the correct trivia answer were entered into a drawing to win prizes including utility bill credits, a smart thermostat home bundle, an electric lawn mower, and more!

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

Our electric line crew works hard year-round through storms, snow, and sunshine to keep the lights on in Stoughton. We celebrated National Lineworker Appreciation Day in April with a coloring contest for children. Selected winners received gift cards, and all participants received a token for a free scoop of Culver's frozen custard!

## Holiday Coloring Contest

In December, a coloring contest was held to celebrate the holidays. This contest was open to all ages, and all participants received a coupon for a free Fosdal's Home Bakery donut. Entries were voted on by Stoughton Utilities staff, and winners were awarded gift cards.



## Holiday Donation Drive

One of our most popular programs, the Holiday Light Exchange and Donation Drive returned in 2021. Customers bringing in non-perishable food donations for local food pantries were given a string of LED holiday lights and an energy efficient gift! This year, we held a one day weekend kickoff event in addition to regular office hours donations. All customers that made a donation during this special event were entered into a drawing to win prizes including an electric snowblower and utility bill credits!

This year, we distributed 176 strings of energy efficient holiday lights, and were able to donate 1,300 pounds of food!

# Donations

One of the greatest benefits of having a locally owned municipal utility is our commitment to giving back to the community through donations, scholarships, and programs to promote energy efficiency. Many of these donations are made possible through our partnership with our wholesale power provider, WPPI Energy.

## Education

Stoughton Utilities recognizes that investing in our youth is an investment in our future. Each year, SU provides a graduating Stoughton student with a **\$1,000 scholarship**. The 2021 recipient was Steven Benoy, who is attending Bethel University in Minnesota.

We also sponsor an annual production by the **National Theater for Children**. This program for elementary school students provides valuable knowledge regarding energy efficiency and safety in a fun and engaging format.

## Community

Over the summer, the City of Stoughton installed an **electric vehicle charger** in the city hall parking lot. The charger is located near the downtown area within walking distance to local businesses and restaurants, and is free for public use. The cost of the charger was reimbursed by Stoughton Utilities and WPPI Energy.

Stoughton Utilities and other City of Stoughton departments also teamed up to sponsor a special supplemental article in Madison Livability Magazine to promote Stoughton as an ideal place to live and work to encourage economic development in the city.



## Non-Profits

Stoughton has numerous non-profit organizations that serve people in our community. In 2021, Stoughton Utilities helped to **support area organizations** and their missions with the following community contribution donations:

- \$500 - Stoughton Area Food Pantry*
- \$500 - United Methodist Food Pantry*
- \$500 - Personal Essentials Pantry*

## Additional Donations

In addition to the donations listed above, Stoughton Utilities helped to sponsor the annual **Syttende Mai** and **Coffee Break** festival, donated to the **Stoughton Lion's Club** "Stuff the Bus" event, co-sponsored a **Chamber of Commerce** Chamber Bucks matching promotion, and donated gifts for **new teacher welcome bags** through the Chamber of Commerce.



## Project RoundUP

Stoughton Utilities began its RoundUP program in 2006 as a way to further assist local non-profit organizations in our community. RoundUP is a voluntary program that "rounds up" customers' utility bills to the next whole dollar. All proceeds are distributed to local non-profit community organizations. Recipients are chosen by the Stoughton Utilities Committee twice a year. 2021 recipients included:

- \$500 - Folks Wagons, Inc.*
- \$500 - St. Vincent de Paul - St. Ann Conference*
- \$1,000 - Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed*

Please contact our office or log in to *My Account* at [stoughtonutilities.com](http://stoughtonutilities.com) to enroll!

# Energy Efficiency

Stoughton Utilities earned a Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation from the American Public Power Association in 2021, as well as national recognition from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for our commitment to renewable energy and efficiency initiatives.

## Point Beach Solar

In September 2021, the Point Beach Solar Energy Center came online. Located near Two Rivers, Wis., the facility features more than **315,000 solar panels** with the capacity to generate 100 megawatts of electricity. WPPI Energy, a wholesale power provider owned by the member utilities it serves, is purchasing the energy. As a member-owner of WPPI Energy, Stoughton is now powered by a portion of that energy.



## Incentives

Stoughton Utilities offers customers a \$25 bill credit incentive when they purchase ENERGY STAR certified appliances and smart thermostats. Since 2017, the Stoughton community has received **310 ENERGY STAR appliances** incentives, and **103 smart thermostat** incentives. New in 2021, Stoughton Utilities began offering incentives to customers that install a new Electric Vehicle charger.

## Focus On Energy Lighting Sale

In October, Stoughton Utilities partnered with Focus on Energy to offer our customers deals on energy efficient, LED light bulbs. This program sold **1,973 LED light bulbs**, which will save customers a combined \$202,026 in electricity costs. When all of these bulbs are installed, it will remove the greenhouse gas emissions of **20 cars for one year**.

## Choose Renewable

One of Stoughton Utilities' most popular programs, Choose Renewable allows customers to sign up to increase their monthly bill by a few dollars, ensuring their space is powered by renewable energy such as solar, wind and biogas. A typical household can run on clean energy with the purchase of just two or three blocks. In 2021, the price of each Choose Renewable block decreased to **just \$2 per 300 kWh block**, making this valuable program more affordable for customers.

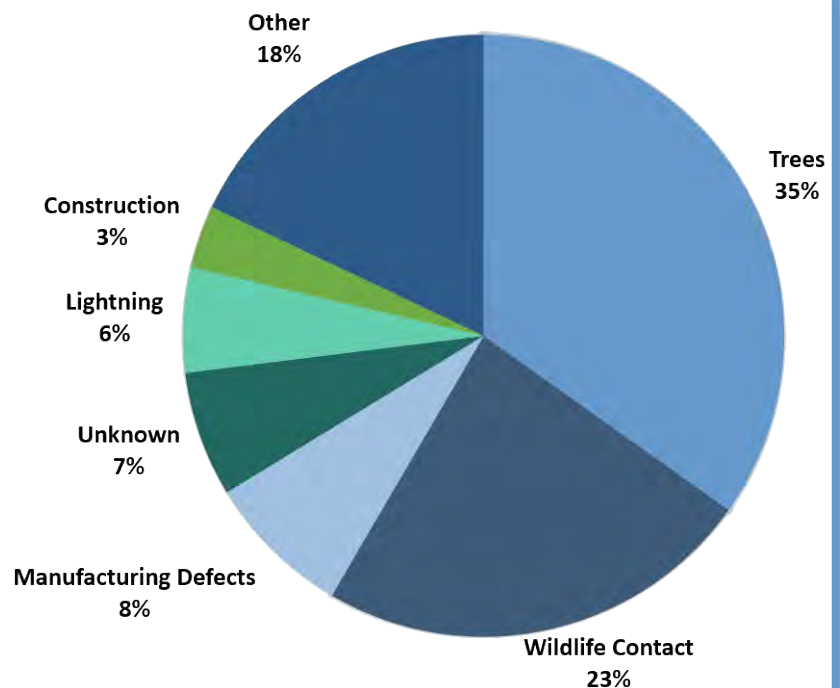
In 2021, Stoughton customers purchased 13,791 blocks of renewable energy, equal to **4.14 megawatt hours** of electricity, from renewable sources instead of non-renewables. That is equivalent to removing the greenhouse gas emissions from **638 cars** driven for one year!

## Power Outages

Despite our best efforts at prevention, power outages occasionally occur in Stoughton. When they do, our lineworkers respond quickly, 24-hours a day, to get the power back on to homes as soon as safely possible.

The most common cause of electric outages in Stoughton in 2021 was trees, with wildlife contact following closely behind. "Other" causes for outages include traffic accidents, equipment failures, and other miscellaneous causes.

Even with these often unpreventable outages, Stoughton Utilities customers enjoyed average availability of electric service over 99.99% of the time!



## Electric

In order to maintain the reliability of our electric distribution system, the electric department performs routine tree trimming to prevent tree interference with the power supply. Lineworkers also work hard to maintain and repair the distribution system, respond to customer requests for new service and service upgrades, and respond to power outages.

Throughout the early part of 2021, Hooper Corporation assisted with making necessary improvements to our electric distribution system in order to accommodate the attachment of new fiber optic equipment to utility poles. Many of the utility poles throughout the city had to be replaced, and we appreciate the patience of customers affected by short power outages while work was completed.



Stoughton Utilities was recognized in 2021 with a "Certificate of Excellence" for reliability in 2020 by the American Public Power Association. This certificate is awarded to utilities that have provided **exceptionally reliable electric service** to their communities. Our record of reliability can be credited to regular system maintenance and our lineworkers' dedication to getting the lights back on as quickly as possible when an outage occurs.

## Wastewater

The wastewater treatment plant continued to process an average of **1.0 million gallons of wastewater daily**. Wastewater operators spend a great deal of time each year working on maintaining the wastewater treatment plant as well as the sanitary sewer collection system throughout the city.

One of two digesters was emptied and cleaned in 2021, which is a two month long process that is completed every 7-8 years. The second digester is scheduled to be cleaned in 2022. Wastewater operators also completed spot repairs and manhole replacements as needed, and rebuilt the gravity belt thickener at the treatment plant.



New televising equipment was purchased to replace aging technology. This equipment is used to view the inside of sewer mains to locate leaks and obstructions that can cause sewer backups into customer homes.

Wastewater operators also spent a considerable amount of time in 2021 assisting the water department with locating lead service lines in preparation for the citywide lead service line replacement project.

## Water

Every year, water technicians open up the hydrants in the city to flush out the sediment and mineral deposits that settle at the bottom of our 74 miles of water mains. 2021 hydrant flushing started in June and was completed in August.

2021 was a busy year for Stoughton Utilities and the water department as we worked to remove all lead water service lines in the city. This project consisted of water and wastewater operators locating all of the lead water service lines in the city, responding to contractor inquiries, and addressing customer issues through the ongoing construction. Throughout 2021, a total of **703 water service lines were replaced** to make Stoughton's water distribution system lead free!

Water operators also responded to and repaired numerous water main breaks, which are primarily caused by damage during construction, older materials that weaken and deteriorate over time, and stress on the pipes from fluctuations in temperature.



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