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# **News Release** Stoughton Utilities

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Stoughton Recognized as National Leader in Renewable Energy

Stoughton is again receiving national recognition from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for the community's renewable energy efforts.

NREL evaluated the renewable energy efforts of utilities in four categories and released lists of the top 10 utilities across the nation. Customers of Stoughton Utilities rank eighth in the nation for their Green Power Participation rate. In 2020, Stoughton Utilities' customers ranked tenth, so they moved up two spots. This is the eighth time Stoughton has made it into the top 10 rankings since 2009.

NREL's list for Green Power Participation Rates measures the percentage of customers who participate in a utility's renewable or 'green' energy programs. In 2021, nearly 5% of Stoughton Utilities' customers voluntarily participated in Choose Renewable.

"The people of Stoughton continue to receive national attention when it comes to renewable energy," said Jill Weiss, utilities director of Stoughton Utilities. "To have so many individuals invested in a zero-carbon future is very exciting, and I hope we're able to continue leading the way until every community in the nation runs on 100% renewable energy."

One of the utility's most popular offerings, Choose Renewable, helped the community obtain the recognition. The program 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 home can run on clean energy with the purchase of two to three blocks, with one 300 kilowatt-hour (kWh) block costing \$2 per month.

Stoughton Utilities continues to add renewable energy to its overall power supply as well. In September, the Point Beach Solar Energy Center celebrated its one-year anniversary. 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. With the addition of Point Beach Solar, the WPPI Energy membership is on track to reduce carbon dioxide emissions approximately 45% by 2025 when compared to 2005.

To learn more about Stoughton Utilities' renewable energy efforts, visit stoughtonutilities.com.

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### **Stoughton Utilities**

Stoughton Utilities is a municipally owned and operated utility serving residents and businesses in Stoughton, Wis. For more information visit stoughtonutilities.com.

#### NREL

NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. For more information visit <u>nrel.gov</u>.