State of Wisconsin Energy Independent Communities: Initial Findings

Survey and Analysis by

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Purpose of Survey

In 2019, with 6 years left for EI Communities to reach their 25% renewable energy locally by 2025 milestone, this survey was designed and administered so that UW-Madison Extension and the Office of Energy Innovation can:

- **Gauge the status and level of activity statewide toward energy independence**
- **Assess use and helpfulness of funding and programs from 2012-2018 from OEI, Focus On Energy, and other resources**
- **Determine how Extension and OEI can help EI Communities be successful based on evaluative data to target programming, resources, and funding**
- **Share the results with communities statewide to spur further action**

Acknowledgement: This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy under Award Number DE-EE0007494

Energy Independence

"Generate 25% of Wisconsin power and transportation fuels from renewable resources locally by 2025"

- **150 Energy Independent Communities**
- **50 Communities received grant funding for creating sustainable energy plans for government operations in 2009 and 2010. More have since.**
- **Encompasses 3.41 million people**
- **58.7% of Wisconsin's population**

Energy Independent Communities

Our Sample

49 EI Communities responded to the survey from across the state

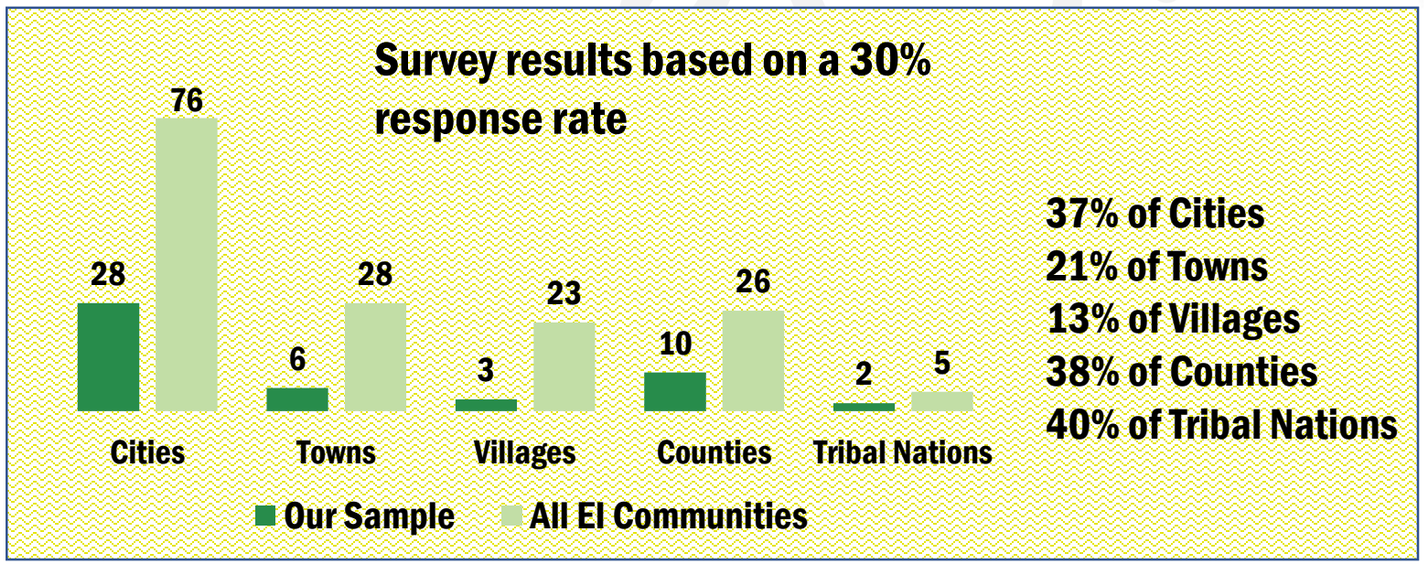
28 Cities **10 Counties**
9 Towns/Villages **2 Tribal Nation**

List of Communities in Appendix

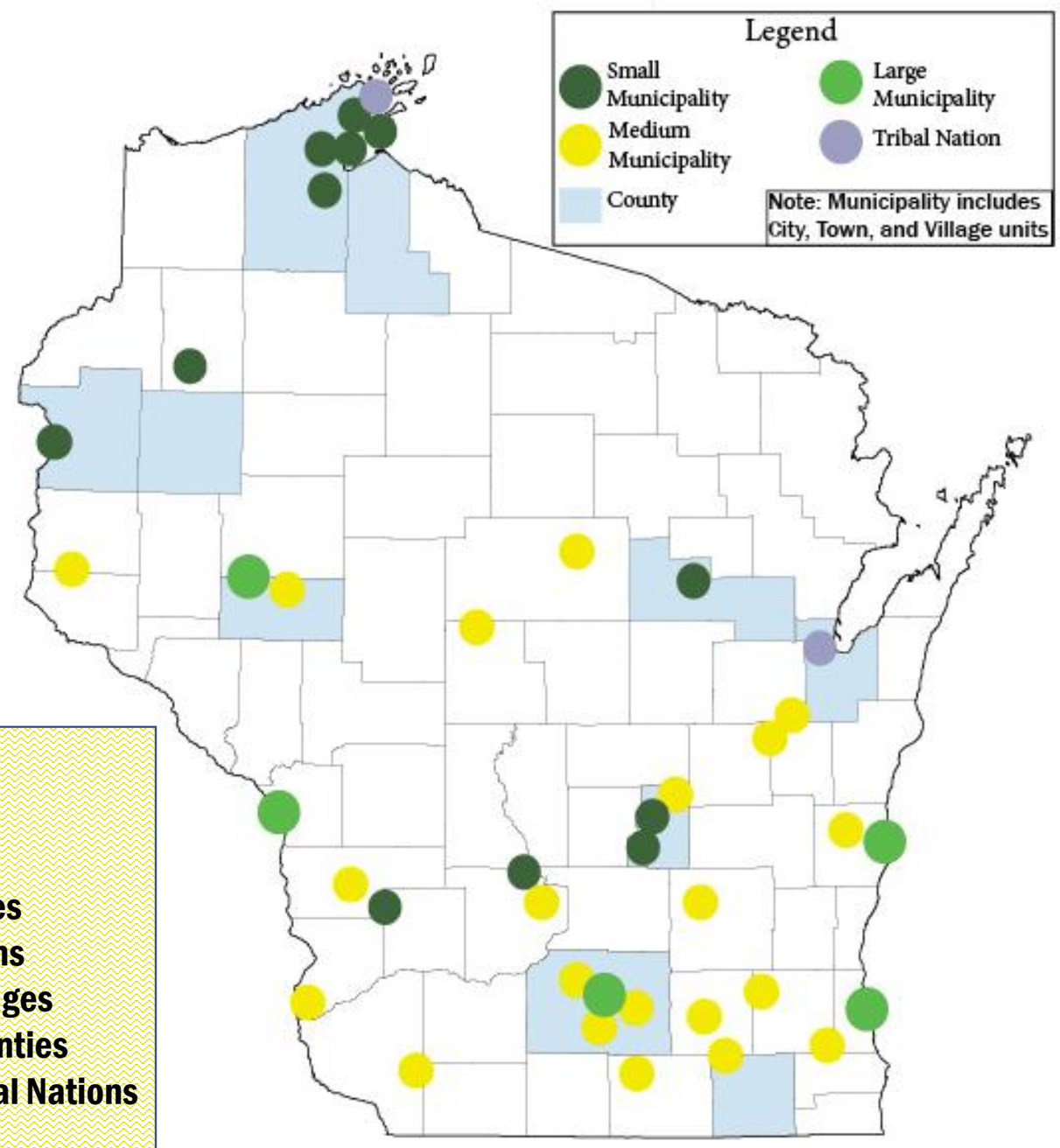
Among municipalities, towns, and villages

5 Large Municipalities (pop > 40,000)
21 Medium Municipalities (2,501 - 40,000)
11 Small Municipalities (pop < 2,500)

Population Cut-Offs identified by Wisconsin Department of Health Services



Map of Respondent EI Communities



Energy Independent Communities

Key Initial Findings

EI Community Survey Respondents

49 EI Communities statewide completed the survey including counties, tribal nations, and municipalities.

60% of EI Communities who responded remained actively working toward their goal, while 33% were no longer actively working.

Half of the EI Communities in our sample made an Energy Independence Plan to guide implementation of their resolution. Half of those that that had not created a plan expressed interest in doing so.

Just over half of the EI Communities in our sample had a staff person assigned to work on EI, most were sustainability positions, but also many in facilities or public works related positions.

EI Communities survey respondents ranged widely in their levels of progress; as of 2019, 2 communities were within 5% of the goal and 3 communities had met the goal already.

Communities who made plans were more likely to be active today, have staff working on the goal, and be further along in generating electricity from renewable sources.

These are initial findings. Advanced analysis of survey data coupled with follow up research with the EI Communities will be done to inform the final report in September 2020

Tracking and Monitoring

- Just **over half** of the sample **were tracking their energy usage**, but most were not using the EPA portfolio manager tool, instead favoring other tools like internal spreadsheets.

- A lack of staff and other resources were the primary reasons communities were not tracking their energy usage.

- Communities that made plans are more likely to be tracking their energy usage, and communities that track their energy usage are more likely to know how much they spend on energy usage annually.

Energy Independent Communities

Key Findings

Grants and Funding

About **half** of EI communities had **received energy efficiency grants** and about **30%** had **received renewable energy grants**. 20% were unsure whether they had received grants.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects

- **Three out of four** EI Communities implemented policies or practices to reduce energy consumption with nearly 90% of those that did implementing Energy Efficiency projects, most commonly to buildings, street and parking lot lights.

- Nearly half of the EI communities completed solar projects, while fewer than 10% had completed landfill gas, bioenergy, geothermal, or wind projects.

Community Engagement

Just over **one third** of EI communities **engaged residents and businesses** in energy efficiency programs and C-PACE. Schools and non-profits were engaged at lower rates. These groups were engaged by between 10 and 20% of communities on solar group buy, community solar gardens, and climate resiliency.

Factors Impacting Progress

- Over **two thirds** of communities **identified a lack of staff and a lack of resources as key barriers** to meeting their goal. Around **40%** of communities **identified turnover of staff, not having a plan, or change in elected officials** as barriers.

- The **top factors contributing to progress** toward their goal were **grants and funding, government leadership, and dedicated staff**, which were selected by nearly half of communities.

- The most desired forms of assistance were plan templates, educating local officials, data management, measuring or remeasuring their energy baseline, and grant writing assistance, but no form of assistance generated more than 50% support.

Energy Independent Communities

Section 1
About EI Community Respondents

Key Questions:
Are EIC's still active? Where are they on Independence? How are EI efforts staffed and informed?

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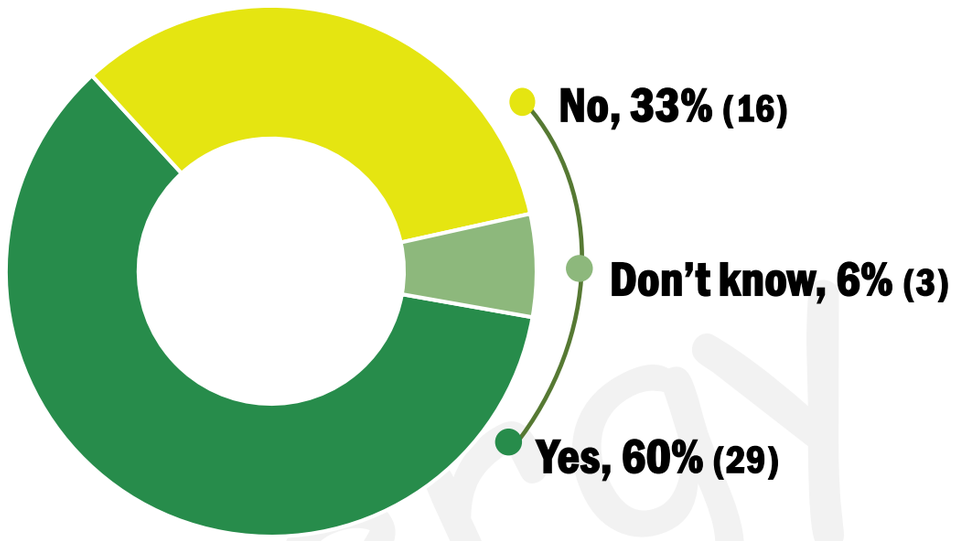
Energy Independent Communities

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Activity

Is your EI Community actively working toward its energy independence goal?



60% of EI Communities reported **still being active**

6% of EI communities were **unsure** if they were still active

Active EI Communities:

MUNICIPALITIES
Altoona
Bayfield
Beaver Dam
Eau Claire
Evansville
Fitchburg
Jefferson
Kaukauna
Madison
Middleton
Milwaukee
Monona
Oconomowoc
River Falls
Sheboygan
Viroqua
Washburn
Whitewater
Oconomowoc
Town of Bayfield
Town of Berlin
Town of La Pointe
Village of Fox Crossing
Village of Gresham

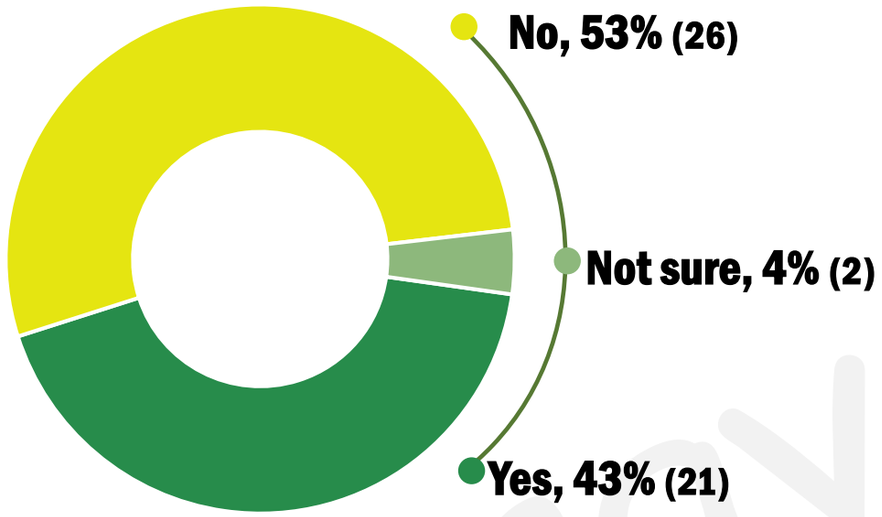
TRIBES
Oneida Nation

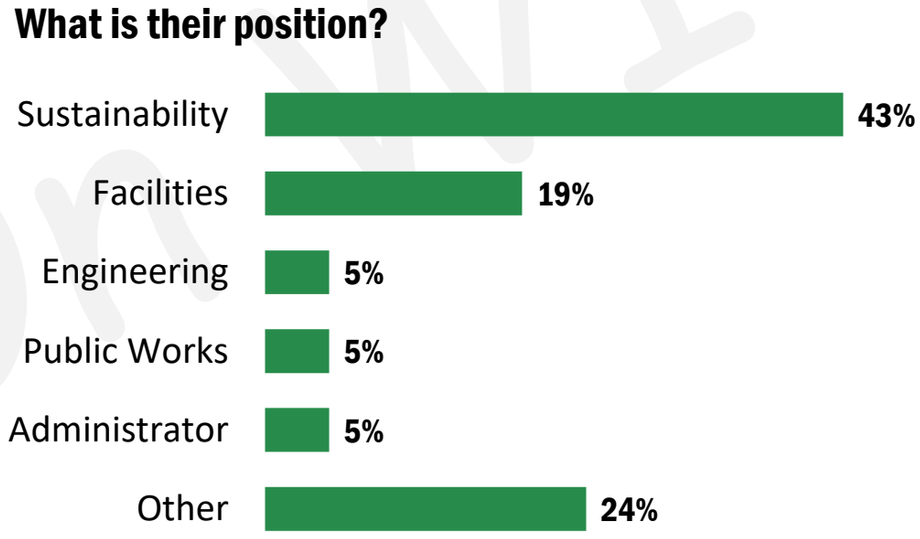
COUNTIES
Ashland County
Bayfield County
Brown County
Dane County
Eau Claire County

Energy Independent Communities

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Program Staffing

Does your EI Community program have a staff person assigned to it as either a stand-alone position or part of a staff person's responsibilities?





Slightly over half of respondents indicated their EI Communities does not have a staff person.

Of the 21 EI Communities with dedicated staff, 43% have a sustainability position.

Facilities, engineering and public works are responsible for energy Independence in 30% of remaining communities

Other staff positions include:
Utility Representative
Planning Director
Enviornmental Justice Specialist
Office Assistant
Utility Clerk
Director of the Office of Energy and Climate Change

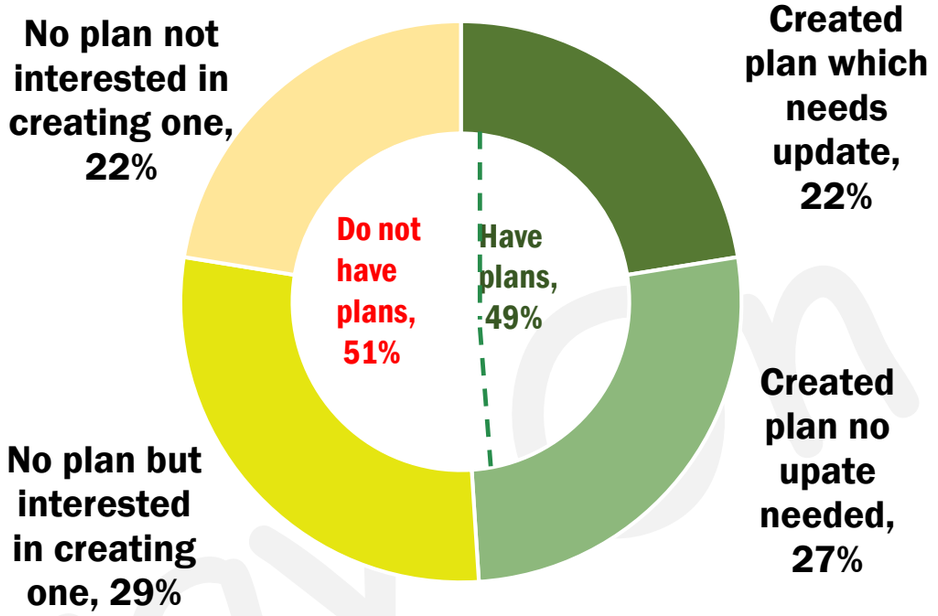
Energy Independent Communities

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Plans

Did your EI Community create a plan after signing the resolution?

51% of EI Communities indicated they **did not create a plan.**

56% of these communities are interested in **exploring options to create a plan**.



49% of EI communities indicated they **did create an EI plan.**

45% of these communities believe their plan **will need to be updated.**

Overall, 51% of EI communities want to create or update a plan

Communities interested in creating a plan:

City of Baraboo
City of Jefferson
City of Plymouth
City of St. Croix Falls
City of Sheboygan
City of Wausau
Town of Gresham
Town of Bayfield
Town of Fairfield
Town of La Pointe
Village of Marquette

Shawano County
Eau Claire County
Walworth County

Communities wanting to update a plan:

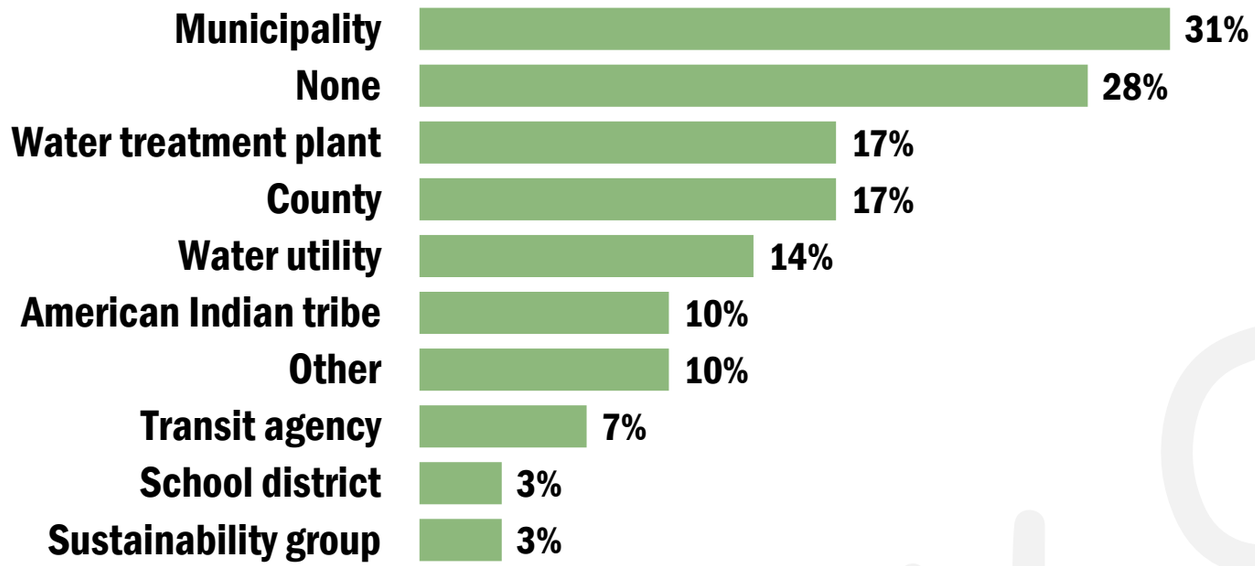
City of Altoona
City of Bayfield
City of Eau Claire
Prairie du Chien
River Falls
City of Viroqua
Village of Fox Crossing

Brown County
Green Lake County
Polk County

Oneida Nation

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Partners

Are you part of a group EI Community with other partners?



- **31%** of EI communities partner with a municipality, while another **28%** have no partners.
- **17%** of EI communities partnered with a County government, and **10%** with an American Indian Tribal Nation

Group EI Communities:

Chequamegon Bay EI Community:
City of Ashland
City of Bayfield
City of Washburn *
Town of Bayfield *
Town of La Pointe *
Ashland County *
Bayfield County*
Red Cliff Tribe*
Bay Area Regional Transit Authority

E3 Coalition includes:
City of Fennimore
Village of Gays Mills
City of Prairie du Chien*
City of Viroqua
Village of Ferryville *
Village of La Farge
Village of Soldiers Grove
Village of Viola *
Crawford County
Vernon County

Osceola and Osceola School District

Green Lake County and Green Lake School District*

*** Indicates those that responded to the survey**

Does your EIC have an energy or sustainability committee?

41% of EI communities have an energy or sustainability committee.

Committee Names:

Sustainable La Crosse Commission

Sustainability Committee - *Fox Crossing, Monona, Middleton*

Sustainable Madison Committee

Sustainability Advisory Committee – *Eau Claire*

Energy Independent Communities Committee - *Evansville*

Energy Committee - *La Pointe*

Oneida Nation Energy Team

Resource Conservation Commission - *Fitchburg*

City of Wausau Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee

City-County Climate and Economic Equity Task Force - *Milwaukee*

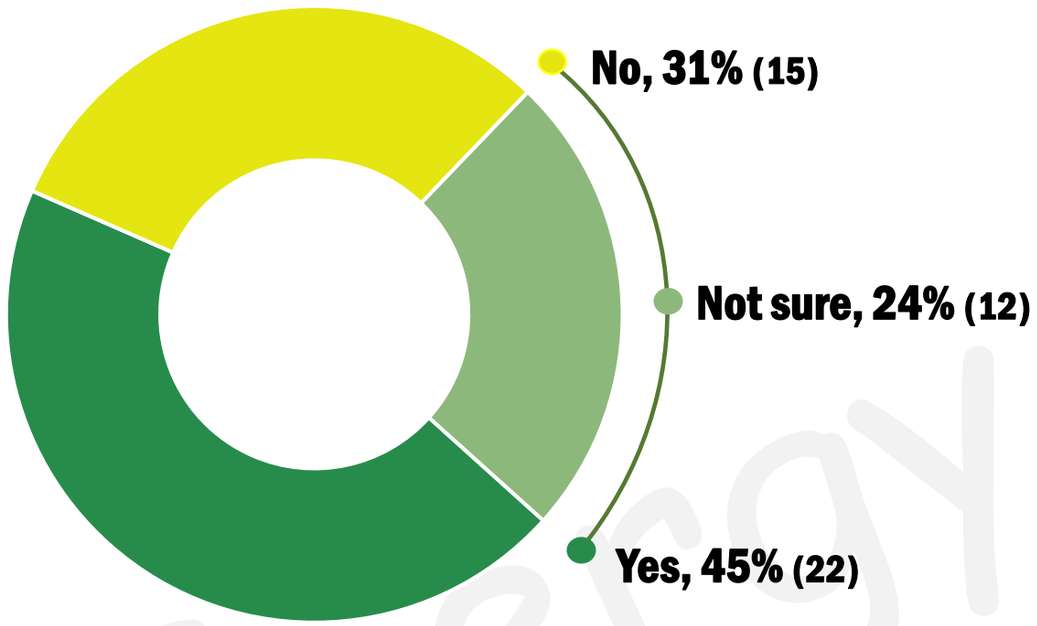
City of Sheboygan Green Team

County Executive Committee – *Bayfield County*

Office of Energy and Climate Change – *Dane County*

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Renewable Energy Estimates

Do you know what portion your EI community's energy comes from renewable sources?



Just under half of EI communities had confident estimates for their renewable energy share.

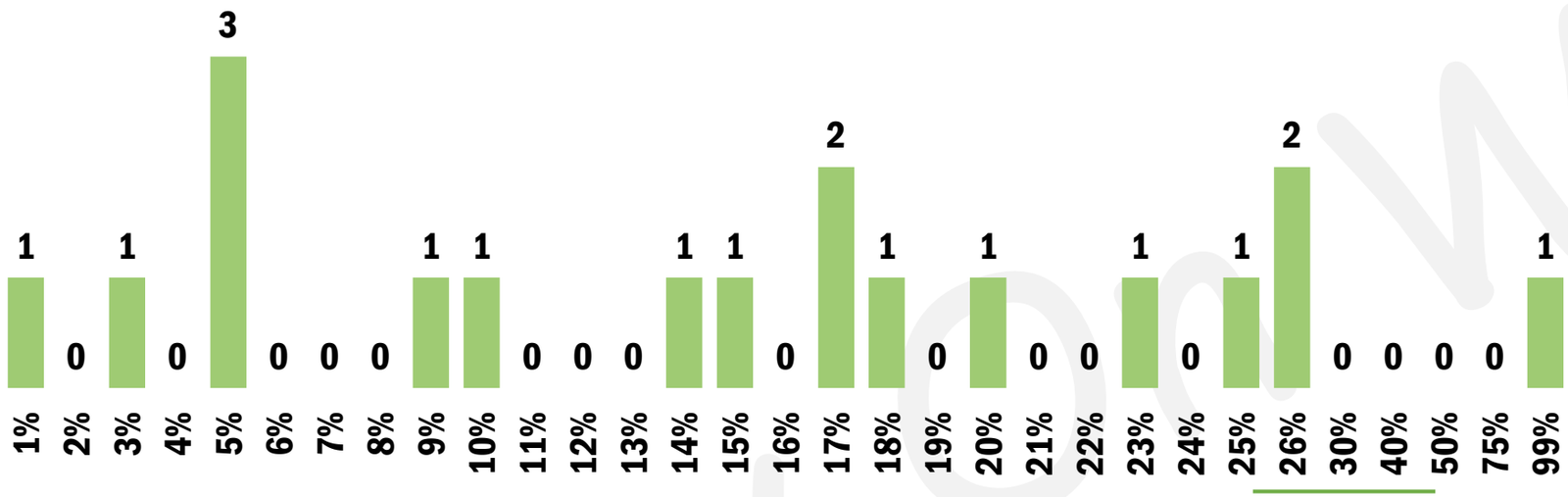
Measuring renewable energy generation is an important factor in making progress toward energy independence. We asked respondents if they had reliable estimates on the portion of all their energy consumption (including fuel and other non-electric energy sources)that came from renewable sources. They could respond in three ways:

1. If respondents had a reliable estimate of this portion, we asked them to report it as a point estimate.
2. If they did not, we asked them to provide an informed estimate of their renewable energy consumption in the form of a range.
3. Respondents could indicate they did not have an informed estimate.

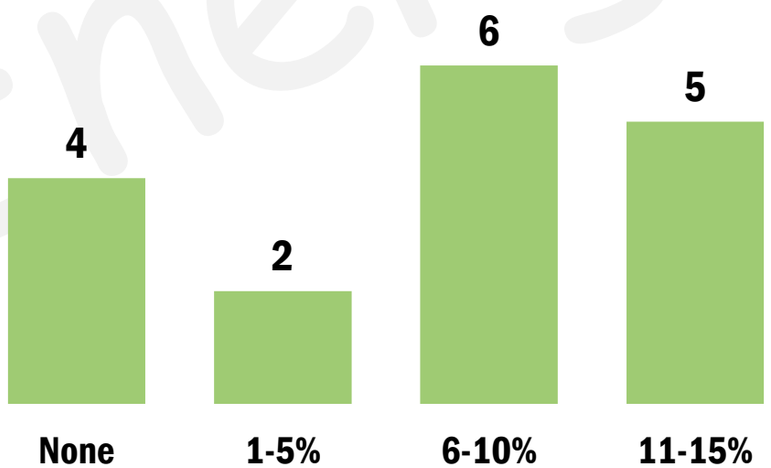
Researchers made and continue to make follow up calls to verify the point estimates reported.

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Renewable Energy Estimates

Of the 18 EI Communities that reported having precise estimates, shares of renewable energy reported were:



Of the 17 EI Communities that did not have precise estimates, shares of renewable energy reported were:



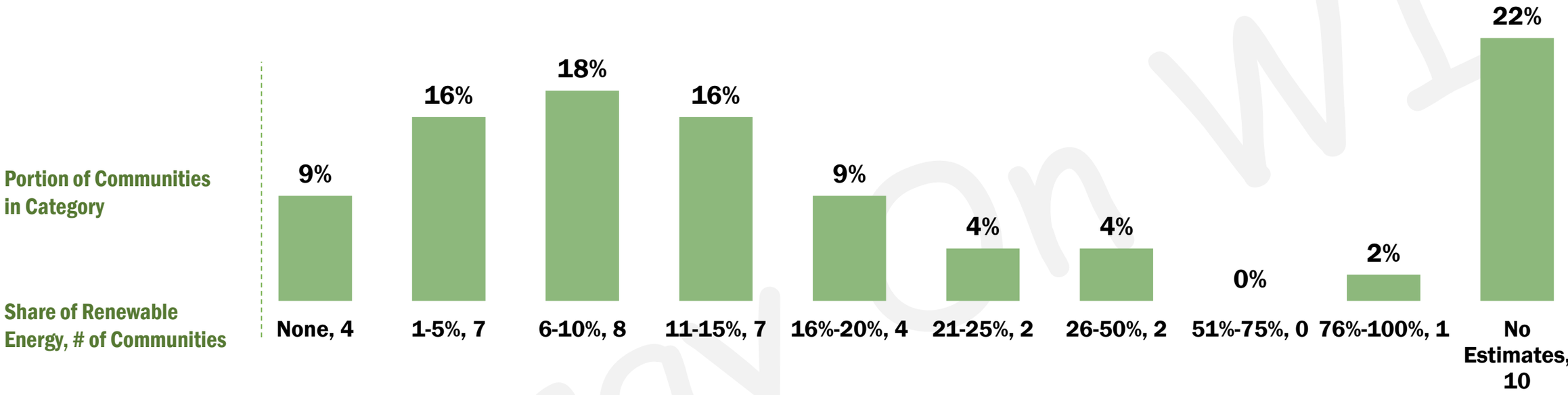
10 EI Communities indicated they did not have a reliable estimate

NOTE: ESTIMATES SHOWN ARE AS REPORTED; THEY ARE NOT VERIFIED

Energy Independent Communities

Section 1: About EI Community Respondents: Renewable Energy Estimates

What portion of your energy consumption comes from renewable sources as of 2019?
Combined Range and Point Estimates



6% (3) have met their goal

10% (5) have more than 20% renewable energy

43% (19) have less than 10%

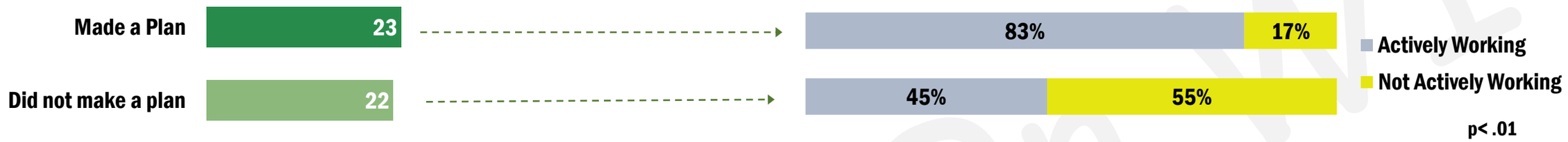
22% (10) are unsure of their renewable share

Telling the Story: Plans associate with more measurement, activity, and staffing

Advanced Analysis

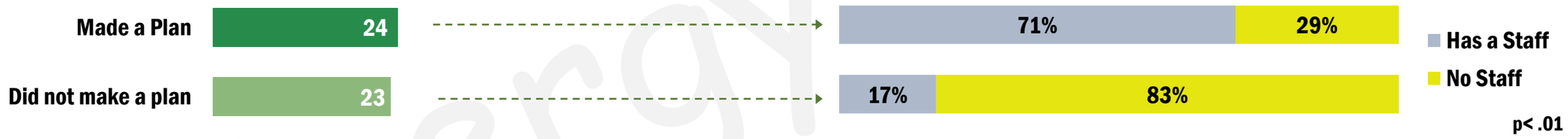
Communities with plans are more likely to be actively working towards their goals

*Unsure responses excluded from analysis

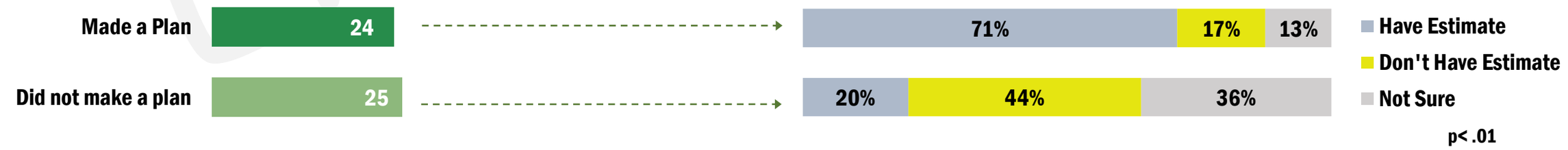


Communities with plans are more likely to have staff designated to work on energy independence efforts

*Unsure responses excluded from analysis



Communities with plans are more likely to have estimates for renewable energy use

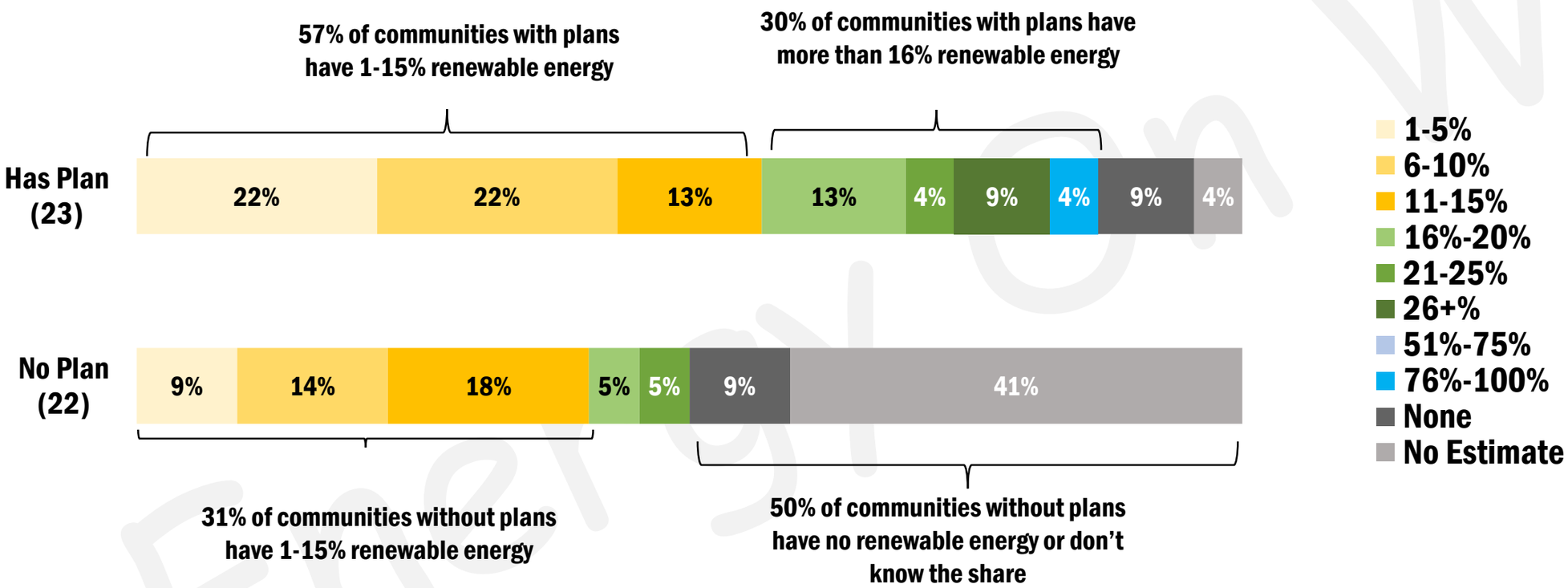


A driving indicator for continued action toward Energy Independence is having a plan.
Plans keep communities on track, organize activities, and require good data be collected.

Telling the Story: Plans help produce progress

Advanced Analysis

Communities with plans have made more progress toward the goal

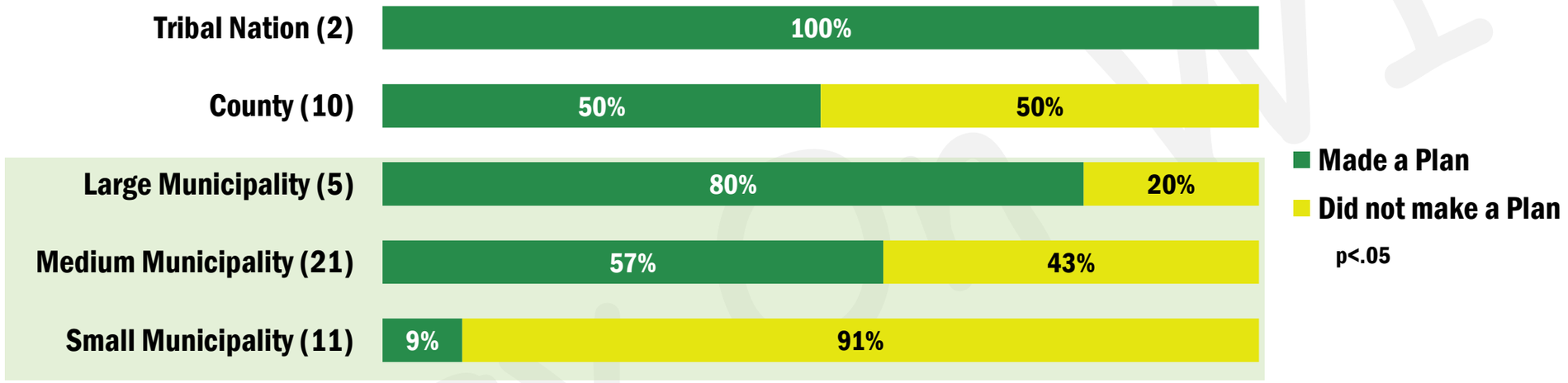


EI Community size and type influence planning rates

Advanced Analyses

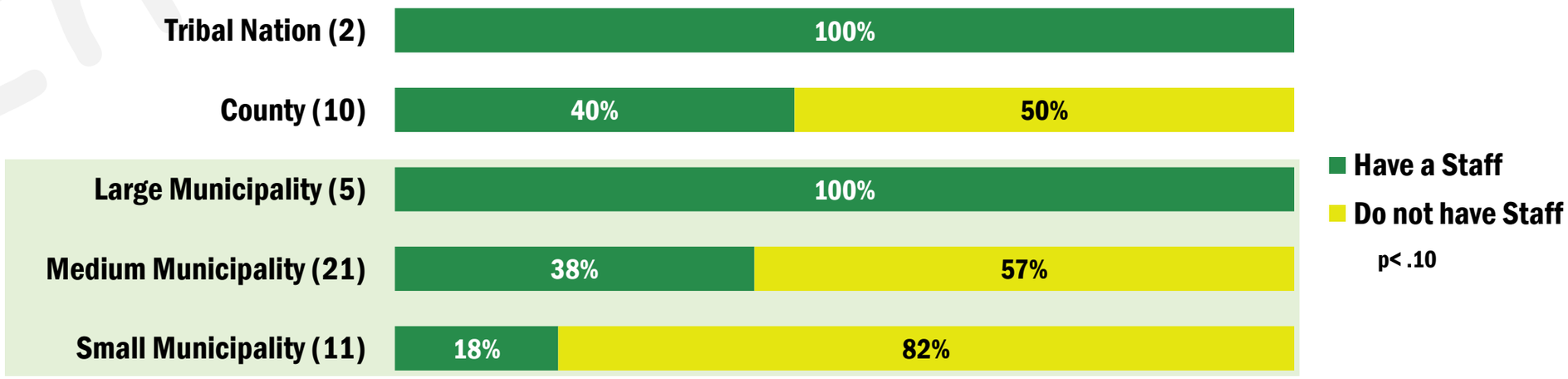
Larger municipalities were more likely to make plans than smaller ones. 50% of counties made plans.

Municipal Size
Large (pop > 40,000)
Medium (2,501 - 40,000)
Small (pop < 2,500)



Larger municipalities were more likely to have staff than smaller ones. 40% of counties had staff.

*unsure responses excluded



Energy Independent Communities

Section 2
Monitoring and Tracking

Key Question:
Are EIC's tracking their energy usage?

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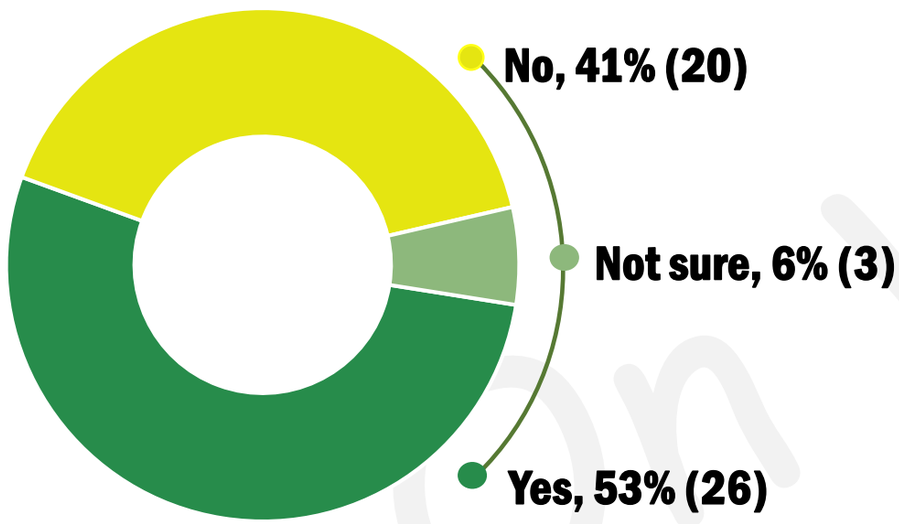
Energy Independent Communities

Section 2: Tracking and Monitoring: Tracking Activity

Does your EI Community track energy used in your operations?

53% of respondents reported **tracking their energy usage**

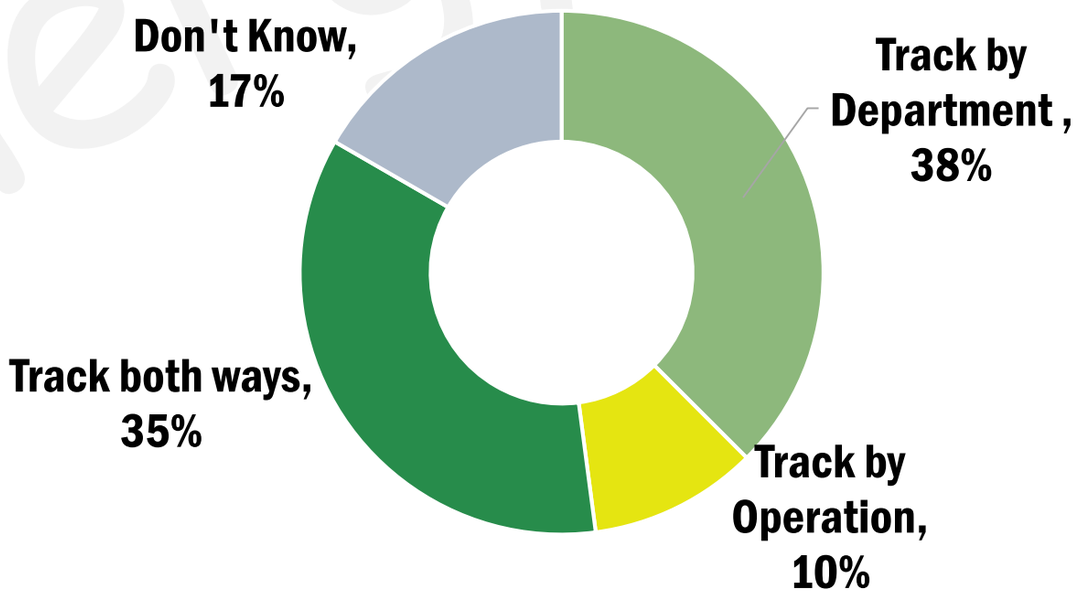


"We use solar installations mostly to chart our progress towards our goal and energy star portfolio manager to track savings (which is helpful), **but we could do a much better job of telling the story** to the public and also internally- **to gain momentum for greater progress.**"

Are transportation fuels tracked by department, by operations as a whole, or both?

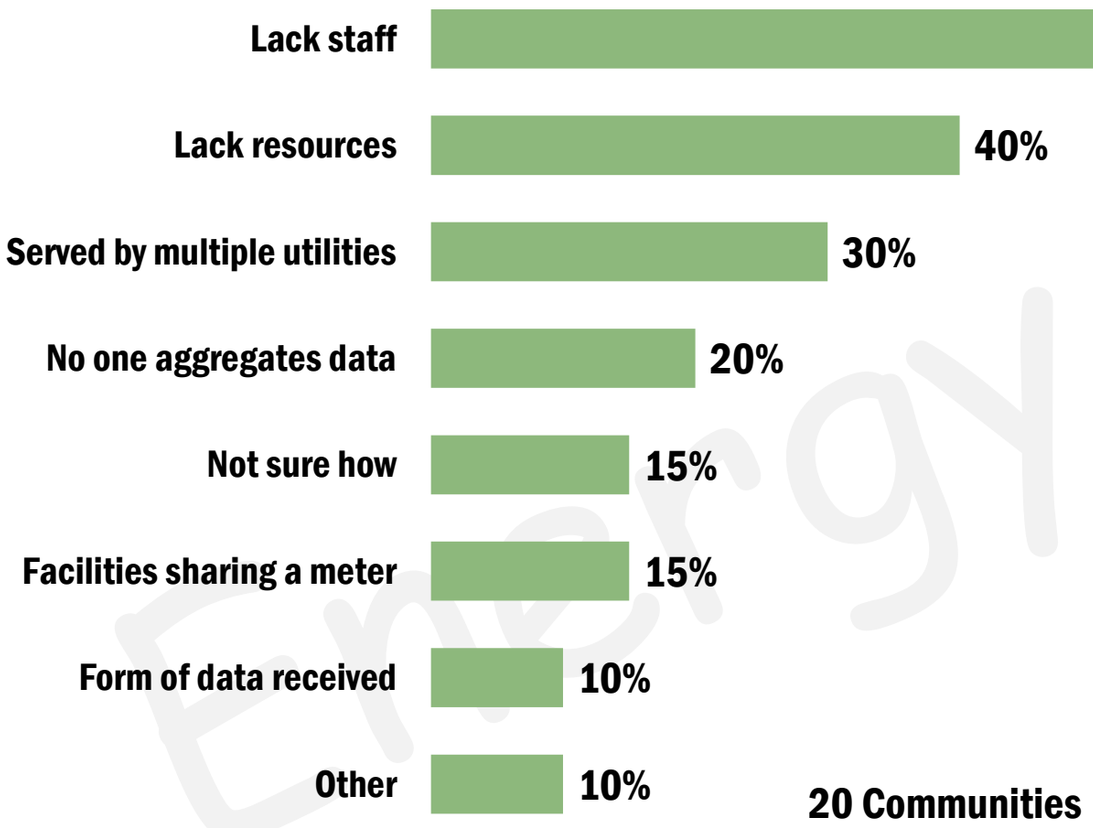
45%, or 22, communities **tracked by operations** while **73%**, or 35, **tracked by department**.

35% (17) EI communities track fleet fuel both ways



Section 2: Tracking and Monitoring: Reasons for Not Tracking

Of communities who are not tracking: why does your EI Community not track energy used?



66% (13) of EI communities, indicate a lack of staff as the reason they do not track energy use. A lack of resources and serviced by multiple utilities were other predominant factors.

The 15% of EI communities who are unsure how to measure their energy use present an opportunity for training.

Section 2: Tracking and Monitoring: Tracking Tools

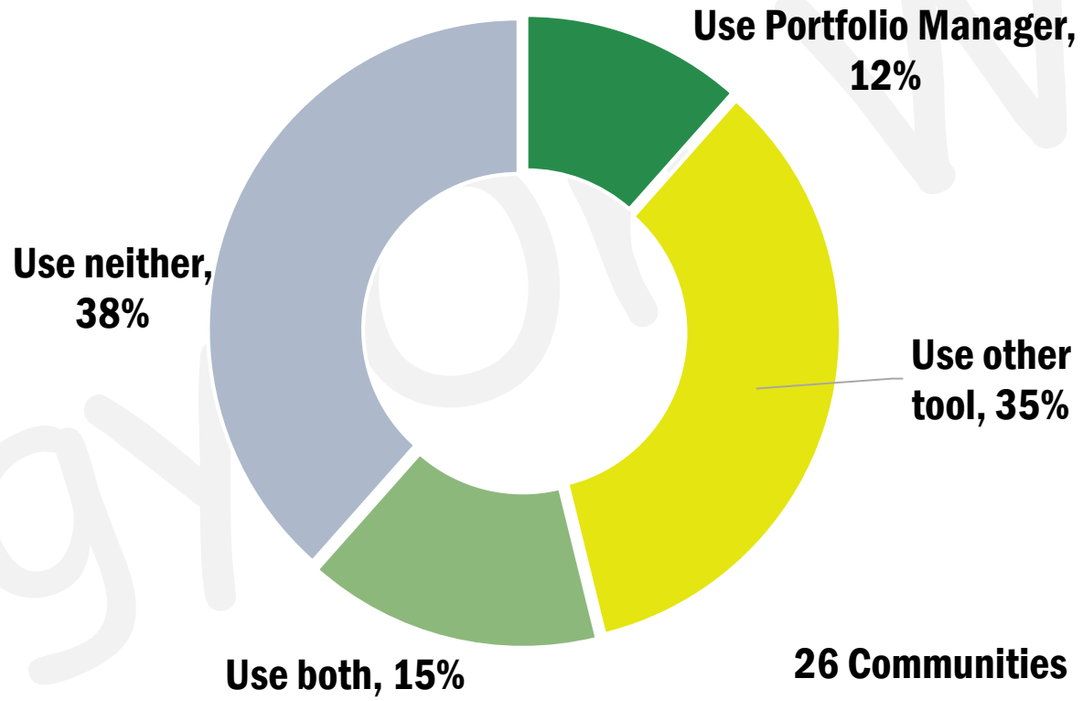
Of communities who are tracking: Does your EIC or utility enter building energy use data into the EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager, another tool, both, or neither?

53% (26) of respondents are tracking their building energy data. **27%** (7) use **EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager** either solely or with another tool.

Other tools were much more utilized than Portfolio Manager, most commonly **Excel Spreadsheets.**

Nearly **40%** of the tracking communities reported using **neither tool** to track energy, or 10 communities.

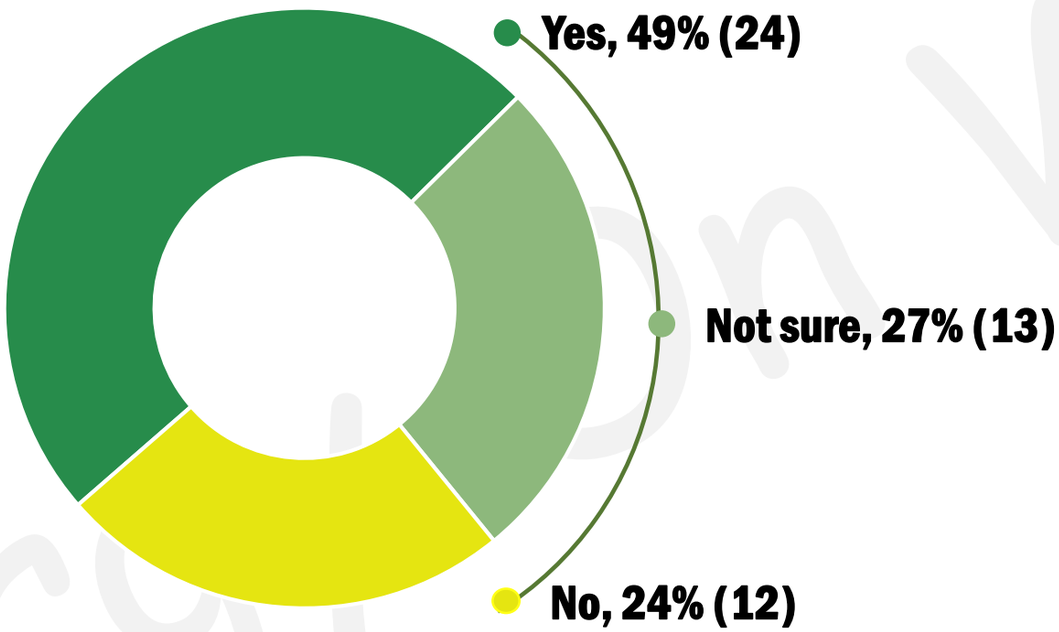
Among the **communities who said they do not track**, **2** communities reported using **another tool** while the remaining **18** reported using **neither tool**.



Other Tools:

- Spreadsheet (8)
- CDP
- ClearPath ICLEI tool
- Wisconsin Public Service reporting
- EnergyCAP (x2)
- Energy Stewards
- help from Chequamegon Bay Renewables in assessing our current electricity use for the purpose of determining what size solar panel unit to install next year.

Do you know how much your EIC spends annually on energy?



Half of the EI communities **know what they spend on energy**

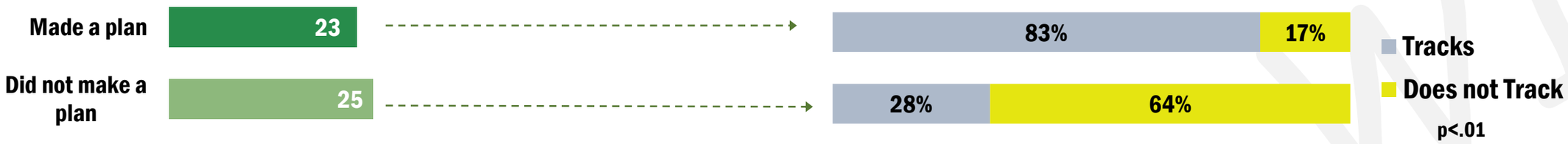
About a quarter each **don't know** their spending OR are **unsure whether they know** the spending.

Telling the Story: Investments in Plans and Staff Yield Measurement

Advanced Analysis

83% of EI Communities with plans are tracking energy use compared to 28% of those without a plan.

*Unsure responses excluded

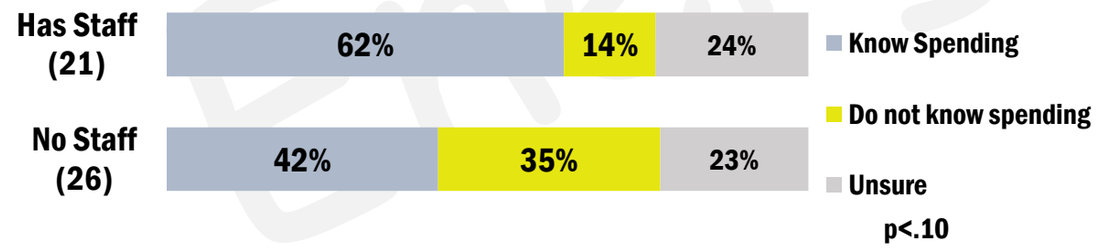


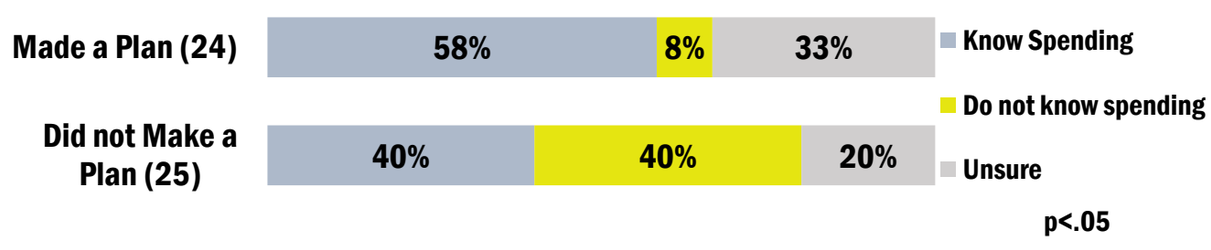
90% of EI Communities with partial or full dedicated staff track their energy use compared to 32% of those without dedicated staff.

*unsure responses excluded

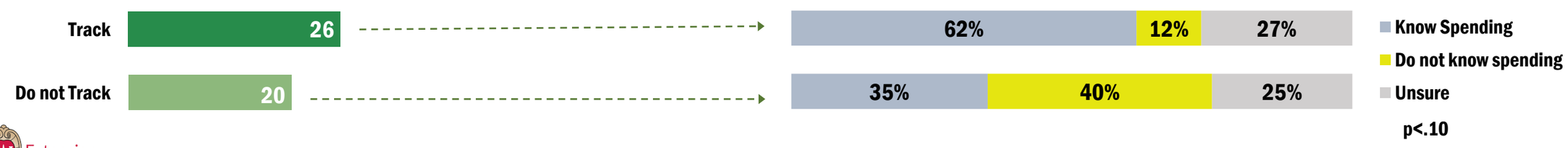
"There is not a dedicated staff for sustainability and energy related matters, which has resulted in little tracking of energy savings."

Those with staff or a plan are more likely to know their energy expenditures than those without

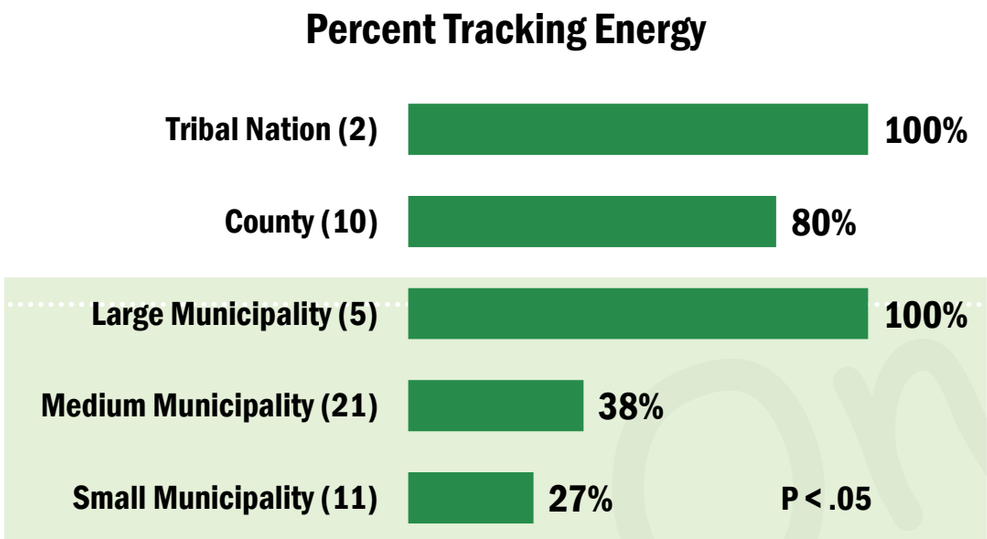




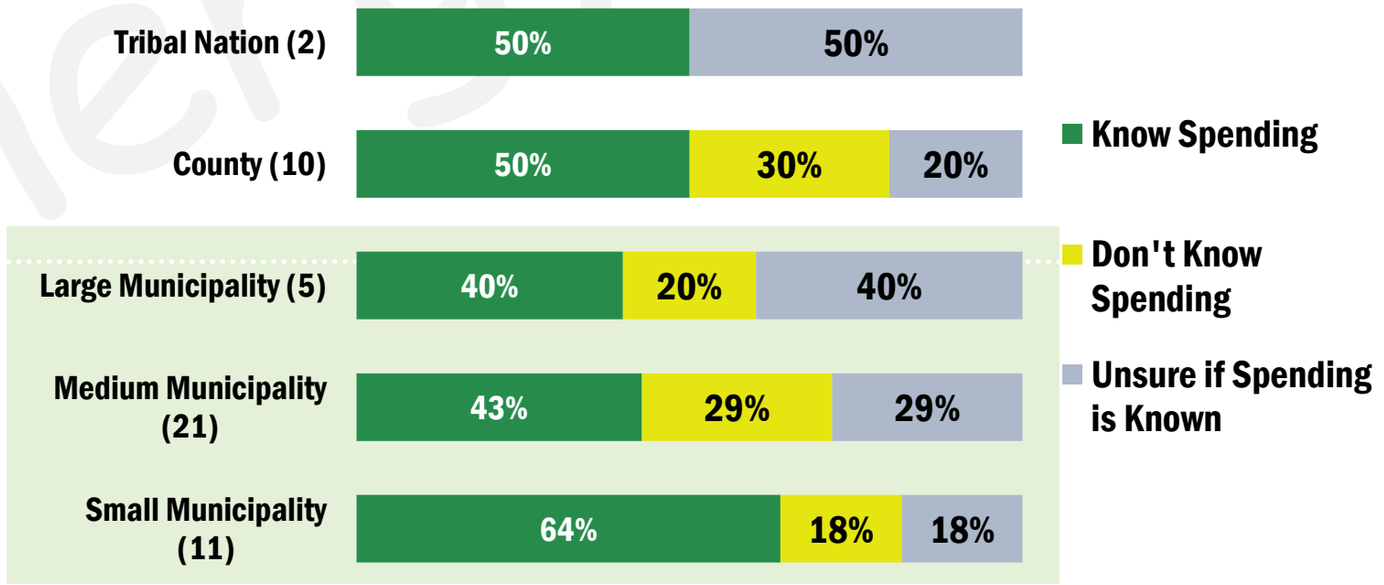
Communities who track their energy usage are more likely to know how much they spend annually on energy



Telling the Story: Larger Communities are more likely to be tracking



Smaller communities are more likely to know their annual energy spending



Energy Independent Communities

Section 3
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects

Key Question:
What projects have EI communities worked on to improve their energy independence?

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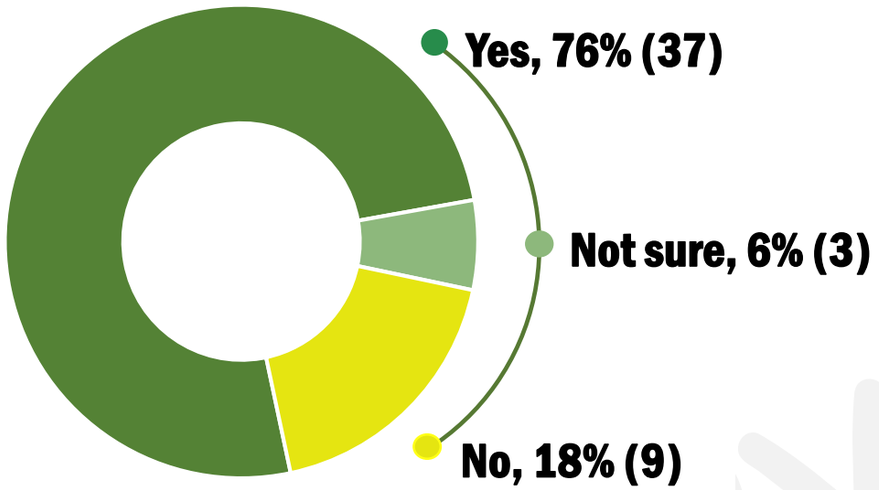
Section 3.1: Energy Efficiency: Policies and Practices

Have you implemented policies and practices in your daily operations to save energy?



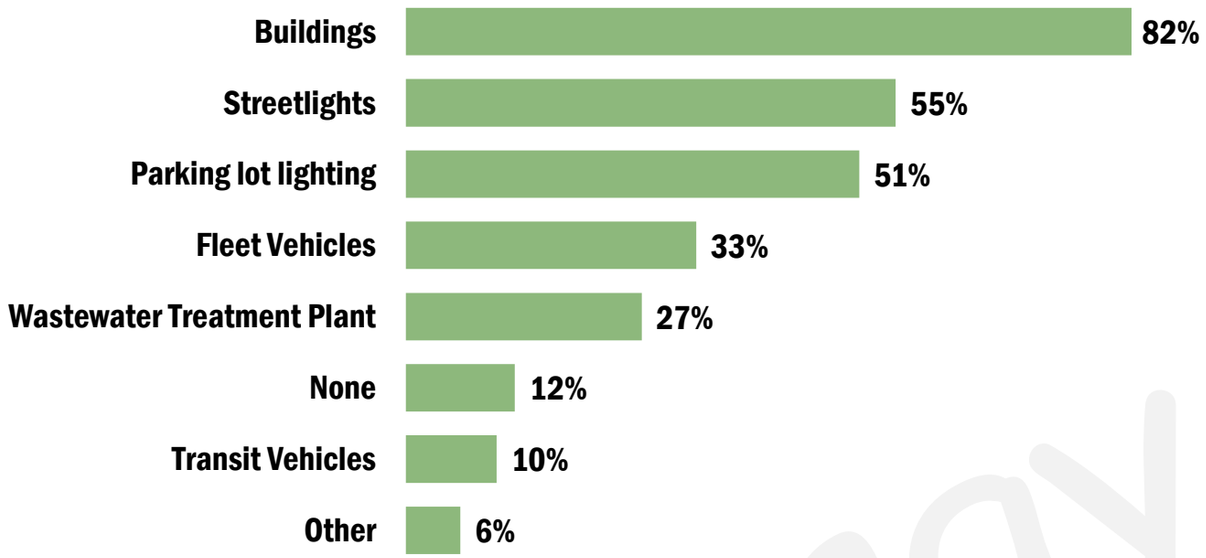
Three quarters of respondent communities have implemented energy saving policies or practices.

> "There is value from energy savings, and cost savings, but there is also value that isn't captured when we make a good decision - for reduced carbon emissions, health outcomes, etc."

Energy Independent Communities

Section 3.1: Energy Efficiency: Projects

Have you completed any energy efficiency projects? Select all that apply.



88% of EI communities have completed **at least one energy efficiency project.**

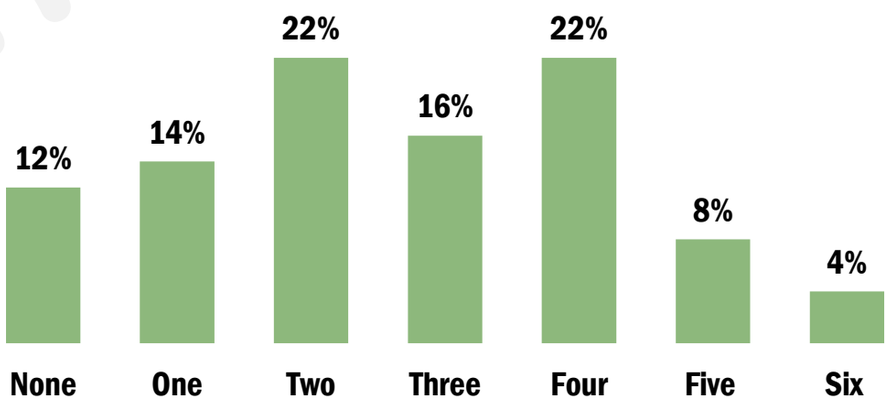
4/5 EI communities have completed **building upgrades**.

Over half completed Lighting projects, both to streetlights and parking lot lighting.

1/3 EI communities upgraded fleet vehicles, but were **less likely to pursue transit vehicle upgrades**, Some communities may not have transit vehicles.

More than **one quarter** of EI Communities have undertaken energy efficiency projects at their **water treatment plants.**

How many project types has your EI community made energy efficiency upgrades to?

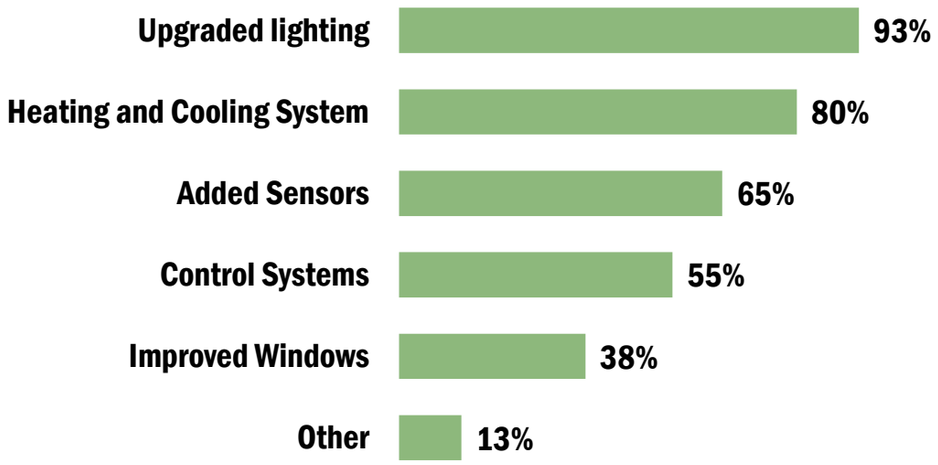


EI Communities made upgrades to several areas of operations. **Half** of the respondents made changes to **three or more areas**.

Energy Independent Communities

Section 3.1: Energy Efficiency: Building and Vehicle Projects

What building-related projects were done?

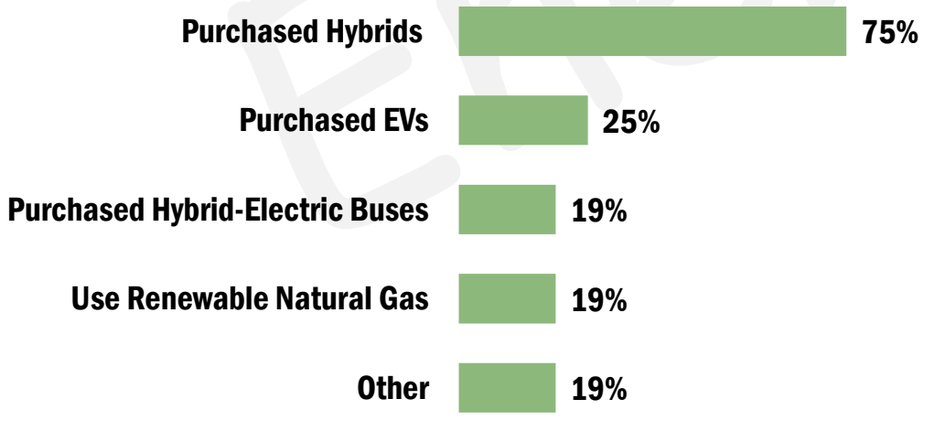


Of the 40 EI communities that made building upgrades, **93% (37) upgraded the lighting**.

Heating and cooling system upgrades were completed by **80%** of these EI communities.

Sensors and controls were added by **more than half to 2/3** of these EI communities

What vehicle-related projects were done?



Of 16 EI communities that purchased fuel efficient vehicles, **12 added hybrid vehicles** and **4 added electric vehicles**.

Three communities purchased **hybrid-electric buses** and three added **RNG powered vehicles.**

Communities upgrading vehicles:

Fleet Vehicles

Barron County
Bayfield County
Dane County
Green Lake County
Polk County
Walworth County
City of Eau Claire
City of Jefferson
City of La Crosse
City of Madison
City of Milwaukee
City of Monona
City of Sheboygan
City of Shell Lake
City of Wausau
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe

Transit Vehicles

City of Eau Claire
City of La Crosse
City of Madison
City of Sheboygan
City of Monona

Section 3.1: Energy Efficiency: Building and Vehicle Projects

We asked communities to report the energy and money saved from their energy efficiency upgrades if they had the data available

Total Savings from Energy Efficiency Projects
31 Responses

Energy Saved

7,000 KW

~90,000 kWh annually

565,762 kWh/year - Wausau

At least 1,811,807 kWh - Oconomowoc

10,820,567 kwh annually – City of Madison

2% 5-10% 15%-20% 20%

Some buildings were 50% saved.

Lighting upgrades - about 10 to 20%.

"[Our EI Community] went from a total of 27,471,611 kWh consumed in 2013 down to 23,676,272 kWh as of Dec 31, 2018"

Money Saved

About $11,000

~$15,000

$30,000

$40,000 $40,000-$50,000

$50,000 - $75,000

$80-100k

$100,000

At least $126,370 is saved annually

Approximately $226,000 per year.

$1,327,417 –Total Annual Savings since 2013

16 respondents could not provide information.

Several others provided partial estimates.

The average WI household consumed 7,000 kwh of electricity per year in 2018.

EI communities reported annual savings of as many as 900 households.

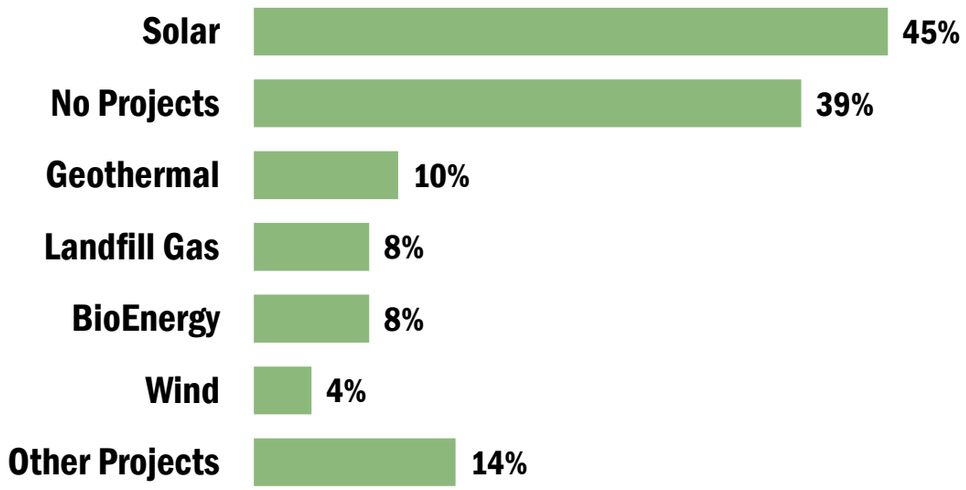
Half of the EI communities with estimates were saving over $50,000 annually.

Three communities were saving over $100,000.

One at a quarter million dollars saved annually.

Section 3.2 Renewable Energy: Projects

What renewable energy projects have you installed?

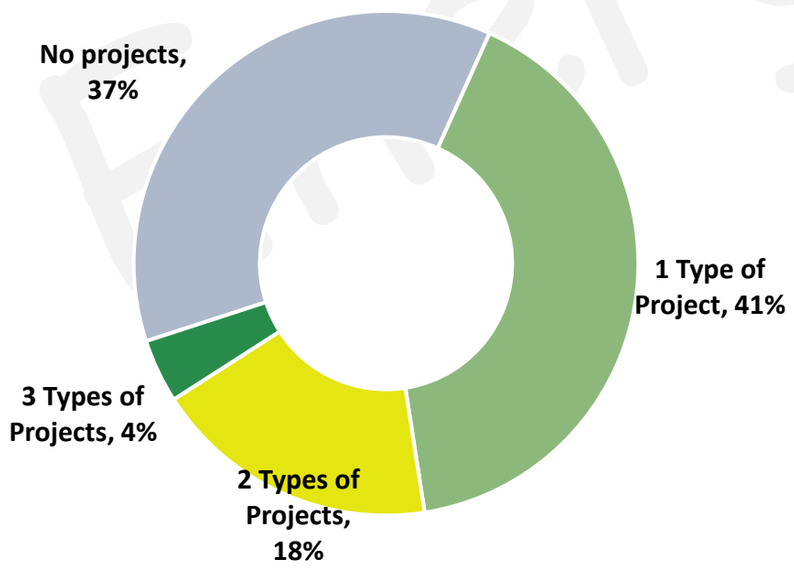


Solar Projects are the **most common**. Almost **half of the respondents**, 22 communities, have installed **at least one solar project**.

40% of communities, 19 communities, had **not installed any renewable energy** as of December 2019

Only a few communities have installed **other types of renewable energy**, with wind being the least undertaken project

How many types of projects have communities installed?



40%, or 20 communities, completed a project in **one source of renewable energy**.

18%, or 9 communities, completed **two sources of renewable energy**.

Only **2 communities** installed **three types of renewable energy**.

Communities with multiple renewable energy projects

Bayfield County installed Solar PV and Compressed Natural Gas projects

Brown County installed Solar PV, solar thermal, and Landfill Gas projects

Fitchburg, Kaukauna, and Madison installed solar and geothermal projects

Milwaukee installed solar and wind

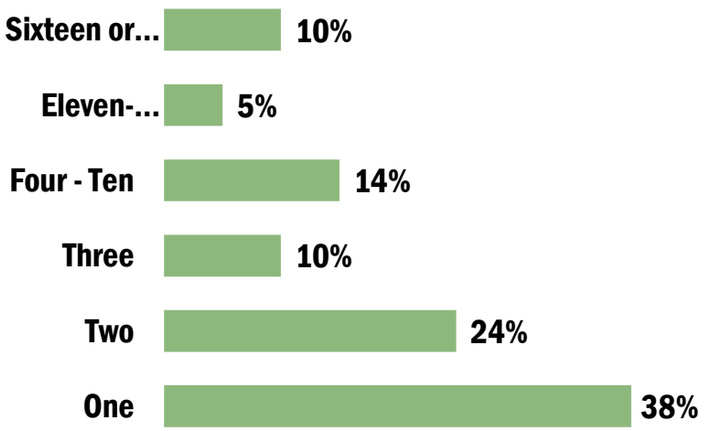
Plymouth, La Crosse, and Beaver Dam installed solar and bioenergy projects

Dane County installed solar, geothermal, and landfill gas projects

Energy Independent Communities

Section 3.2: Renewable Energy: Solar Projects

Number of Solar Projects

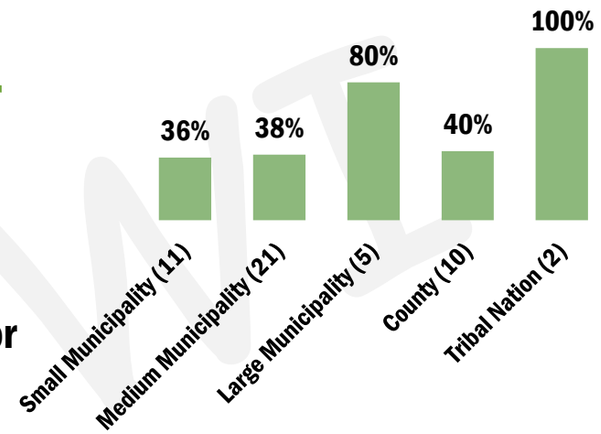


Madison and Dane County installed the most solar projects (16+); and **Bayfield County** installed 11-15 projects

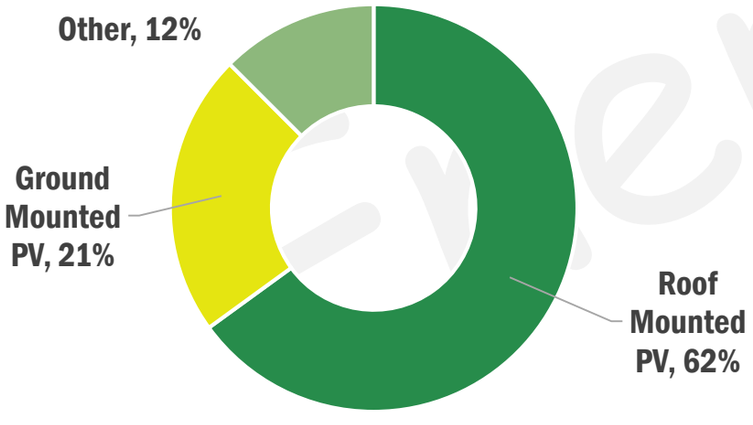
40% of EICs that installed solar projects **installed three or more**

Around **40%** of **counties and small and medium municipalities** completed solar projects, while **80%** of **large municipalities** and **both tribal nations** completed 1 or more solar projects.

Portion of Community Types completing solar projects



What type of project is it?



Out of 40 projects, 62% were roof-mounted PV

How large are the projects?

Of 24 projects reported on where data was provided, projects ranged from 6 kW to 356 kW, with an average of 130 kW

25% of the projects were under 55 kW and 25% were over 185 kW

Where are they/What are they powering?

Projects were located at and powered a range of buildings :

"Energy sold back to (utility) under rate schedule PG-4"

"It powers our jobs center"

"On a county courthouse"

"Hot water for county jail"

"Municipal Swimming Pool"

"it powers our southeast campus which primarily a main highway garage and the medical examiners office and the RNG fueling station"

"Hot water for (a) Neighborhood Center"

"Municipal building operations"

"Fire stations"

"On a health center"

"On a nursing home"

"On public libraries"

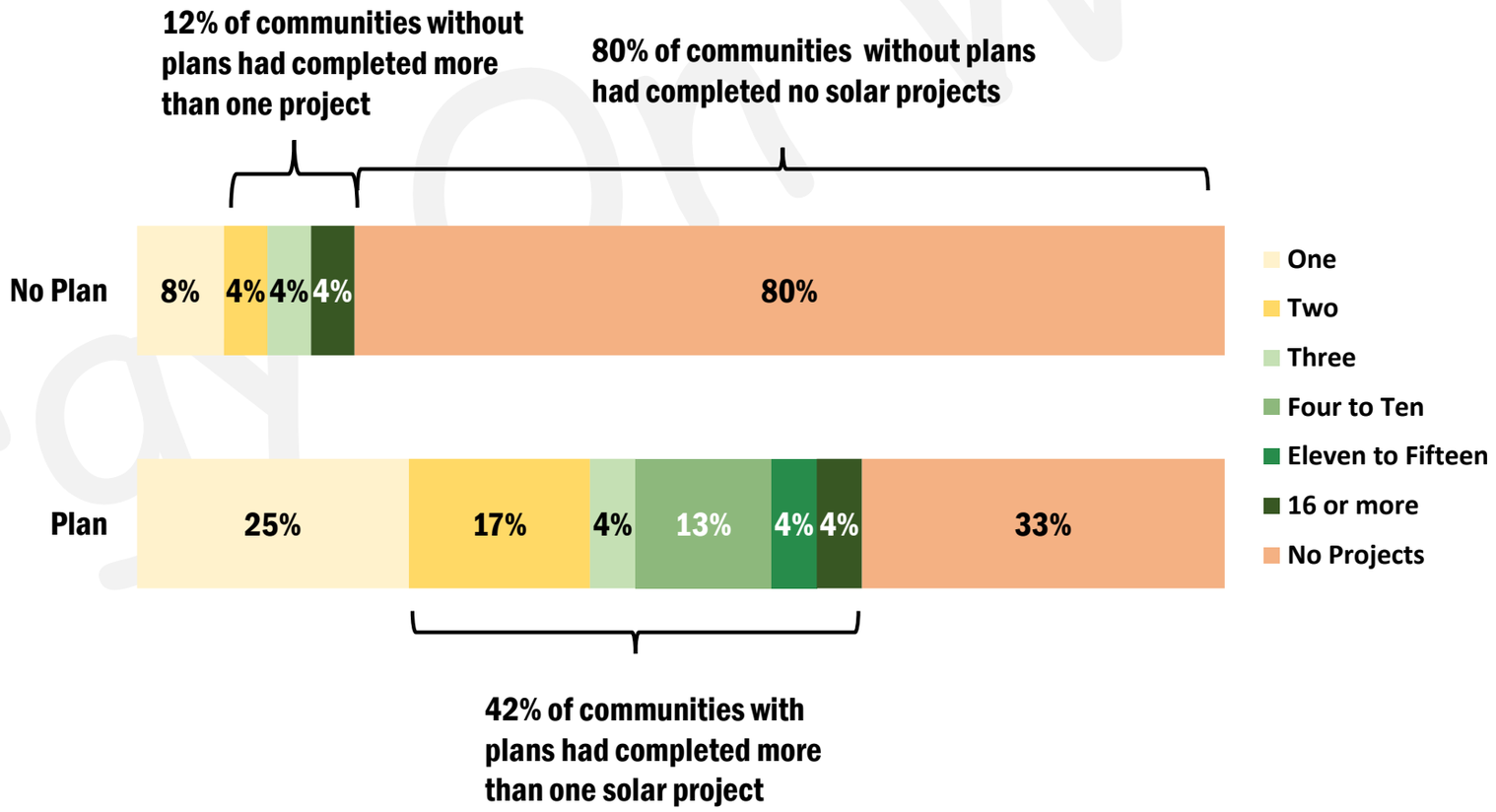
"Bus garage"

"On a community/bingo center"

Solar Projects: Advanced Analysis

Of communities without a plan: 80% have not completed any solar projects compared to 33% of communities with plans.

25% of communities with a plan have installed 3 or more solar projects, versus just 8% of communities without a plan.



Section 3.2: Renewable Energy: Wind and Geothermal Projects

About the Wind Projects

In the two wind projects reported on, both communities had plans

City of Evansville in 2010 built one turbine on a Wastewater Treatment Plant generating 100 kW of electricity.

City of Milwaukee built one turbine in 2012 on city land generating 100 kW of electricity.

NOTE: Answers did not include utility-scale wind in region

About the Geothermal Projects

Three communities provided brief descriptions of their geothermal projects. Of the 4 communities with these projects, 3 had plans.

"Kaukauna **municipal building & Fire Department** both have their own Geothermal GSHP"

"Geothermal HVAC system for Fitchburg **Public Library**, completed in 2011, comprising **52 vertical wells** and Geothermal HVAC system for **Fire Station** completed in 2017"

"Pinney **Library, Fire Stations & Library Support** [geothermal systems in Madison]. Typically **80%-100% reduction in gas use** and -10% to +10% in electric use"

Energy Independent Communities

Section 3.2: Renewable Energy: Bio-Energy and Landfill Gas Projects

About the Bio-Energy Projects

Four communities provided descriptions of their bio-energy projects. Only one of the four communities had a plan.

"WWTP biogas system - 120 KW"

"Methane capture from sludge digesters at the wastewater treatment plant. Methane is burned to generate electricity or spin the turbines at the plant."

"While we don't own either of them, we funded, and continue to play a role in the operations of two manure bio-digesters in the County that each have a electric generating capacity of 2 MW of power. One of them is in the process of transitioning from providing electric generation to providing clean compressed renewable gas vehicle fuel."

"Wastewater Anaerobic Pretreatment-$200K/year at $.09/kw"

About the Landfill Gas Projects

Four communities provided information on their landfill gas projects. Two of these communities had plans

"The gas is piped to a nearby hospital for heating"

"The local landfill sends it gas to [A school district]"

1.85 MW landfill gas to electric project at the East Landfill site beginning in 2009; $4.0 Million project cost; Had a ten-year power purchase agreement with WPS ending June 30, 2019; Produced 868,932 kW January thru June 2019... Now decommissioned.

"We have historically operated 6 generators at the Dane County landfill which had a combined capacity of 7 MW of electric generating capacity. When these generators were most recently in use (2018 and the first quarter of 2019), we produced as much renewable electricity as we consumed in all Dane County facilities. The methane gas from the landfill that fueled those generators is now injected in interstate gas pipeline and sold as clean RNG vehicle fuel. We also generate a much smaller amount of electricity at landfill in Verona that has been closed for approximately 20 years. That system powers a senior living center, a community center and a food pantry and food recovery operation."

Energy Independent Communities

Section 4
Grants and Funding

Key Questions:

How many communities have received outside funding?

What was the source of that funding?

What projects have they helped support?

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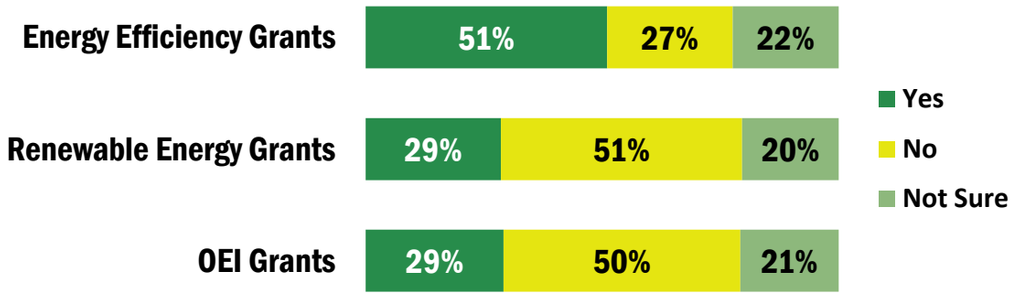
Section 4: Grants and Funding: Grants Summary

Has your EI Community received the following grants?



Half of the respondents had received **energy efficiency grants**.

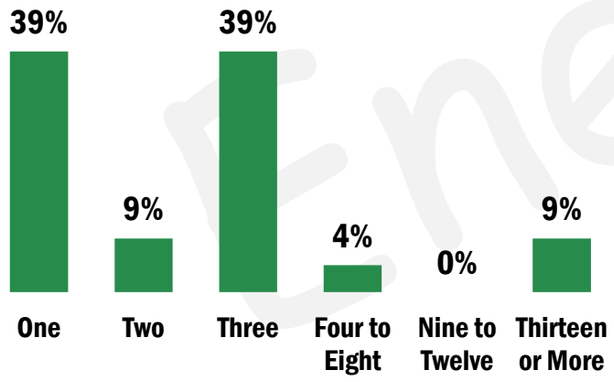
30% had received **renewable energy grants**.

Consistently, **20%** of the sample were **unsure about whether they had received a grant or not**

How many grants did you receive?

Energy Efficiency Grants

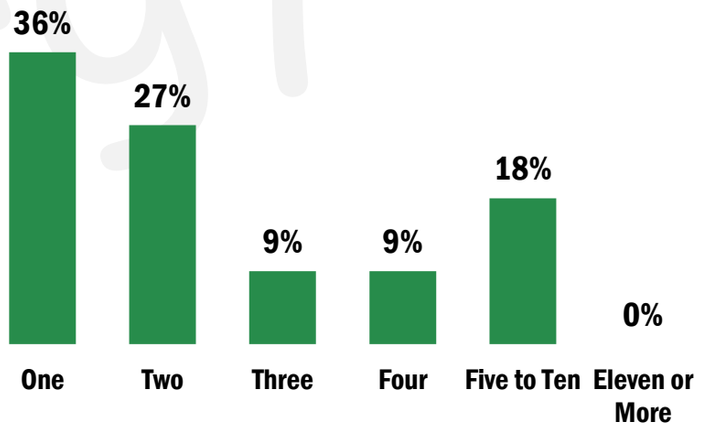
25 Recipients



60% received more than one energy efficiency grant, **39%** received three grants. **13% (3 EICs)** received four to more than thirteen grants, amounting to about **3** communities.

Renewable Energy Grants

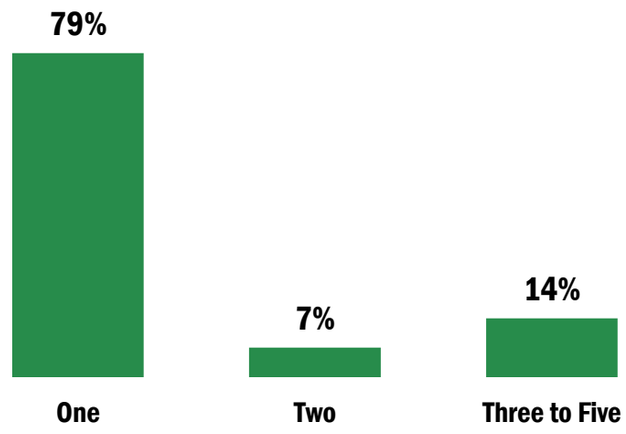
14 Recipients



36% of renewable energy grants recipients received one grant, and more than a quarter received two. 3 communities received 5-10 renewable energy grants.

Office of Energy Innovation Grants

24 Recipients



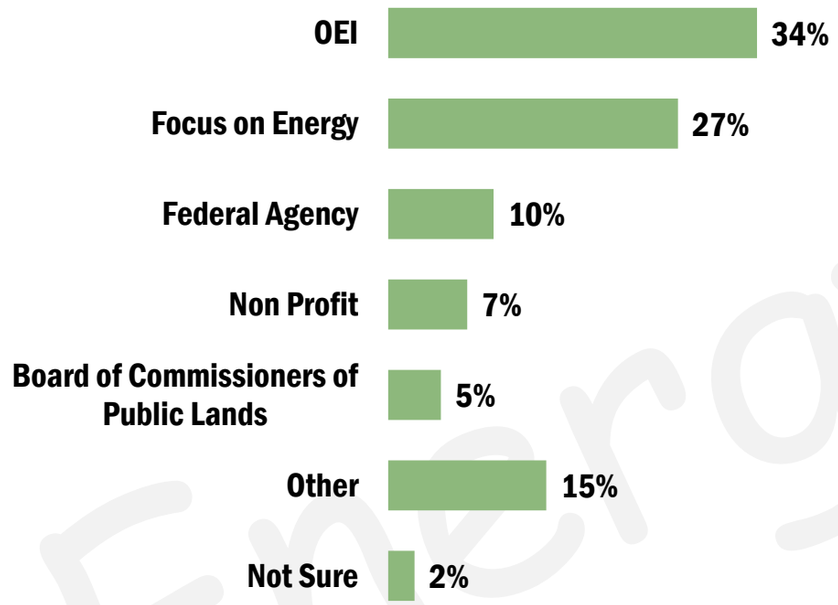
Communities that received grants from the OEI tended to only receive one. Often when communities received multiple, at least one of the grants was for planning.

Section 4: Grants and Funding: Energy Efficiency Grants

Has your EI Community Received Energy Efficiency Grants? Provide Details

Source

We gathered information on 41 energy efficiency grants. 34%, or 14 of the grants came from OEI. Focus on Energy provided the next highest portion.

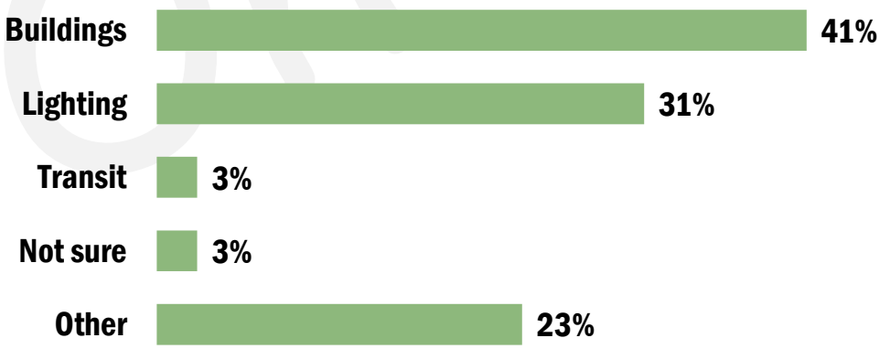


Other responses included:

- WPPI Energy
- EECBG
- WPS Grant

Use

16 of the grants, or 41%, supported building related projects. 12, or 30%, supported lighting projects. Only one grant supported transit projects. EI communities indicated that some of these grants supported renewable energy projects.



Other responses included:

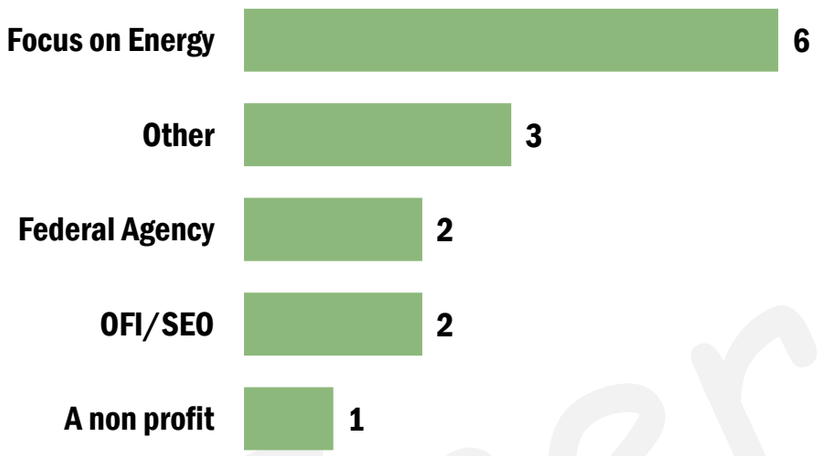
- Solar
- Treatment Plant Blowers
- HVAC, lighting
- New photovoltaic system
- Four photovoltaic systems and one thermal solar system
- Track energy usage
- Planning
- Lighting and Sub metering installation

Section 4: Grants and Funding: Renewable Energy Grants

Has your EI Community Received Renewable Energy Grants? Provide Details

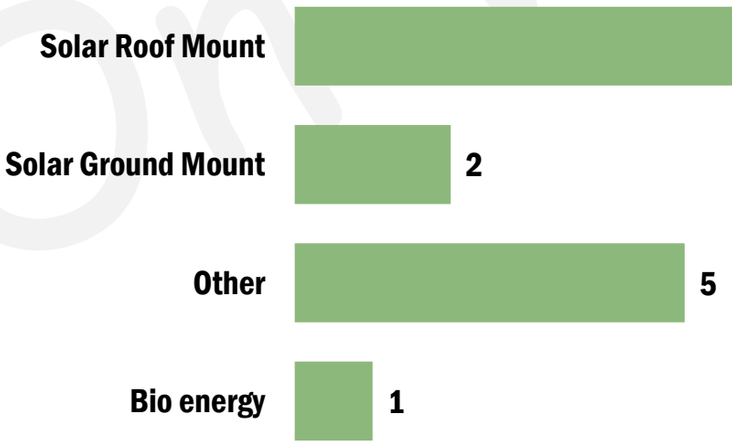
Source

Out of the 14 Renewable Energy Grants reported on,
Six were from Focus on Energy,
Two came from OEI.



Use

These grants generally supported solar projects, but a few supported either bio-energy, wind, and energy conservation.



Other responses included:

Wind | Energy conservation projects | Community solar

Four roof & ground mounted PV systems; one thermal solar system; and numerous energy conservation projects

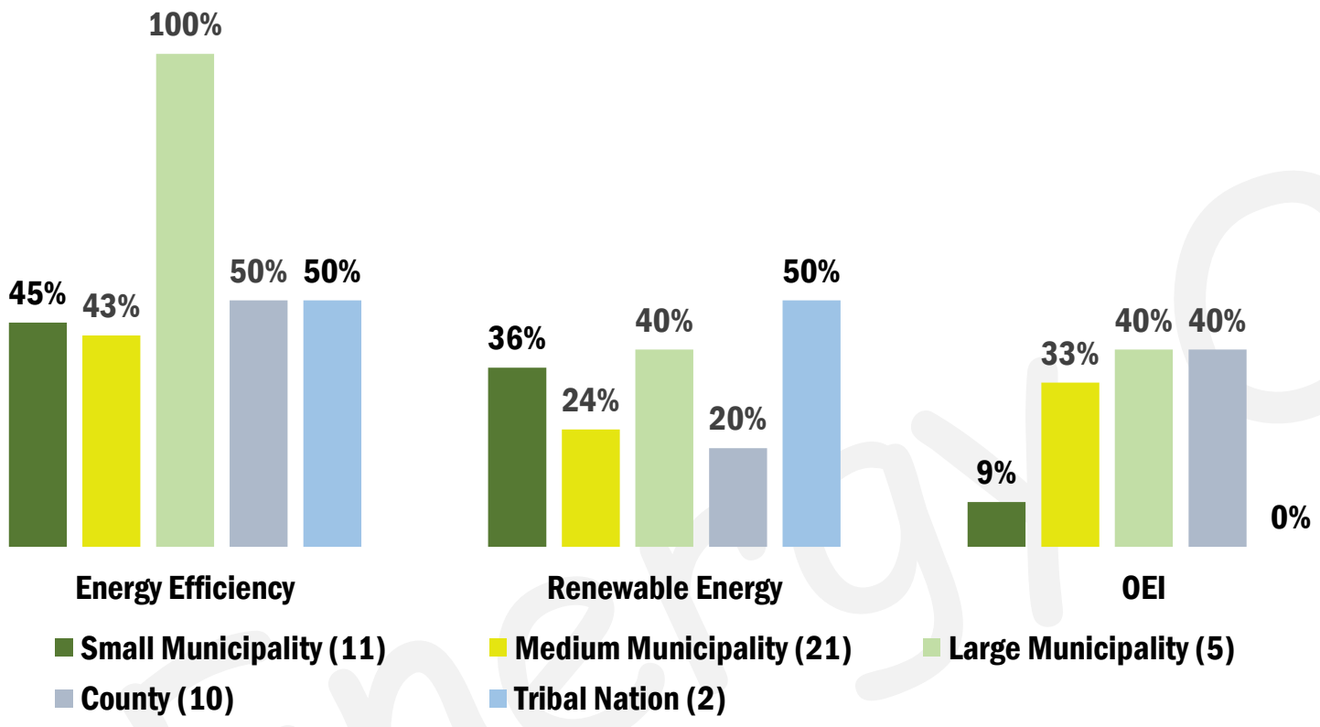
Office of Energy Innovation Grants – More Detail

Of the 17 OEI grants we collected more detailed information on, ten were at least partially dedicated to planning.

Other grants were used for educational series, energy efficiency upgrades like lighting, establishing baselines, and a solar PV system.

Telling the Story: Grant receipt by size of community

Advanced Analysis



Municipal Size
Large (pop > 40,000)
Medium (2,501 - 40,000)
Small (pop < 2,500)

For the most part, there **are not wide differences** between the EI community types/sizes and the rate at which they received grants.

About **half of the communities in each type** received **energy efficiency** grants, except for **large municipalities that all received this type** of grant.

About **one quarter** of **medium municipalities** and **counties** received renewable energy grants, while **one third** of **small municipalities** and **40%** of **large municipalities** received these grants.

Small municipalities were **less likely** than other community types to receive **OEI grants**. About **10%** of small municipalities received this grant compared to **30% - 40%** of other community types. **Neither tribal nation reported receiving OEI grants.**

Energy Independent Communities

Section 5
Factors Impacting Progress

Key Questions:

What has prevented or aided EI communities on making progress toward their energy independence goal?

What assistance would be beneficial to them?

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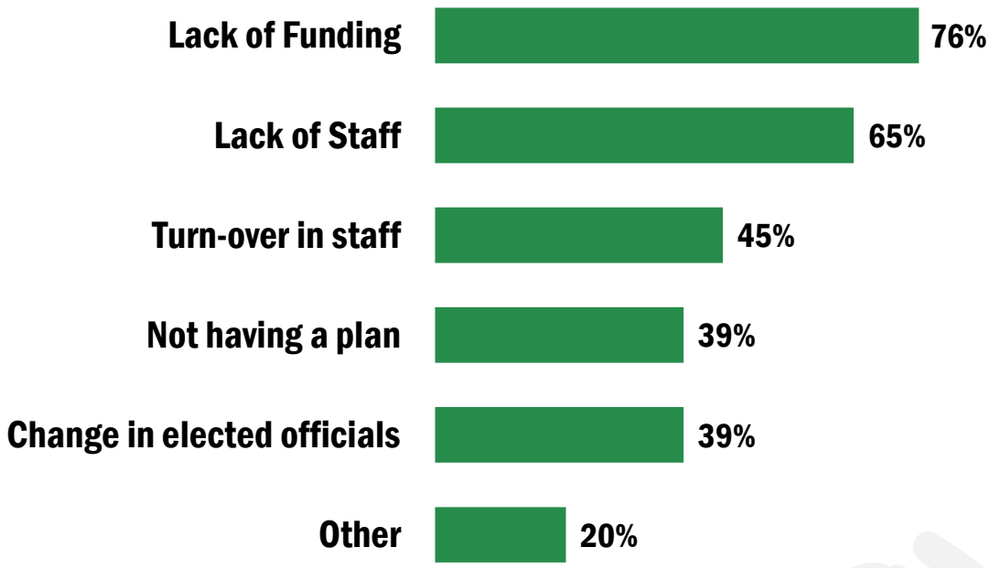
Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Limiting Factors

What factors have limited progress toward your goal?

Select all that apply



Lack of funding and staff were the most significant barriers for the EI Communities **affecting three-fourths (37) and two-thirds (32) of the communities**, respectively.

Change **in elected officials** and turn-over in staff accounted for 84% of the barriers

Not having a plan was a barrier for 40%, even though a larger proportion of the sample did not have a plan. In another question, 51% of EI communities indicated they want to create or update a plan.

Other limiting factors identified included:

"Not having an active committee that knows about this goal and works directly to act on it. We hope to address the lack of committee soon."

"Resolution was in support for the county to be funded by this program. We do not receive direct access to funds."

"Lack of buy in by elected officials"

"Restrictive state laws on renewable energy procurement"

"Budget cycles – timing"

"Interest/buy in"

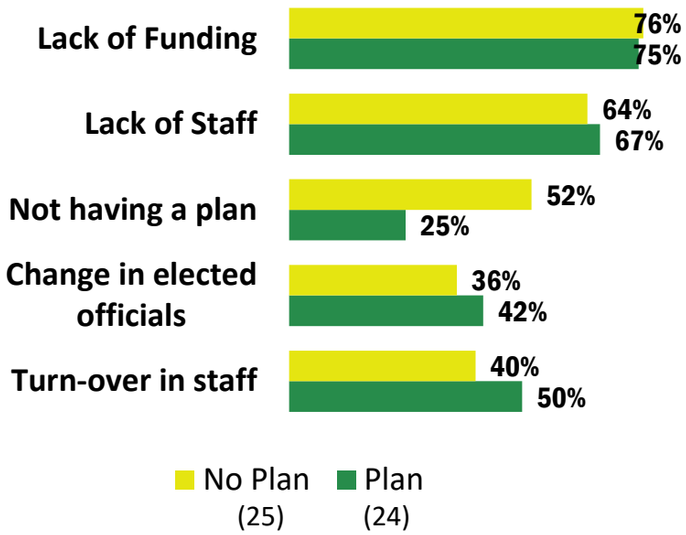
"Other priorities"

"Lack of State and Federal support"

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Limiting Factors and Communities

Telling the Story: How limiting factors differ by planning, staffing, or activity

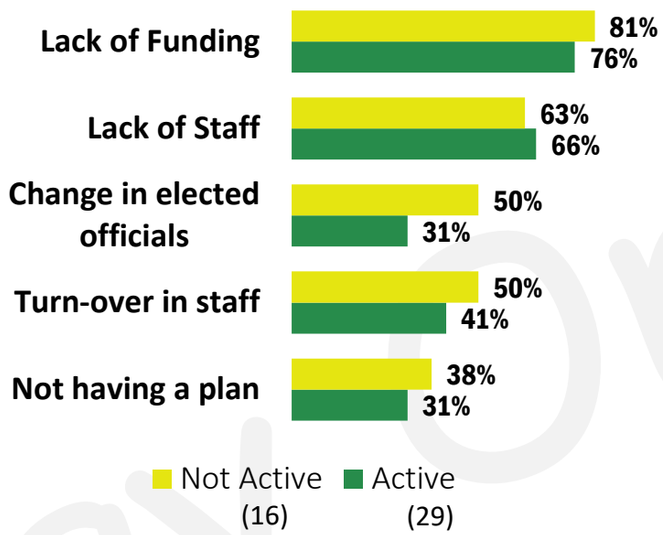
Advanced Analysis



Communities tended to **find the factors to be limiting at similar rates** whether or not they had a plan

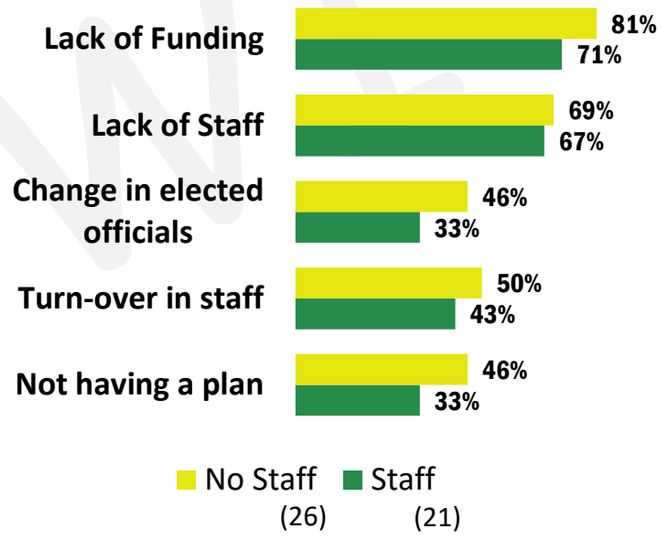
Communities **without plans** were **twice as likely to indicate not having a plan** was a limiting factor.

Communities **with plans** were slightly **more likely** to indicate that staff **turnover** was a limiting factor



There were **larger differences** between **active and inactive communities** in the limits they faced

More **Inactive** communities tended to see, **turnover in staff**, **change in elected officials**, **and not having a plan** limiting factors than active communities



Communities **with and without staff were even more differentiated** in how they perceived limits.

Communities **without staff** found nearly **all of the factors to be more limiting by at least 10%**, except for a lack of staff where both groups were about equal.

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Reasons for Inactive Communities

EI communities that were no longer active, were asked why they were not active.

Lack of Institutional Structure (5 responses)

- *Significant transition within my position since resolution was signed and the program was not being managed nor influencing county decision-making.*
- *The governing body present at the time of the resolution never put in place a long-term committee to oversee its progress.*
- *Turnover of staff. We no longer have a Sustainable committee*
- *We have no committee and the interest has dropped off mostly talk except for facilities and grounds/parks and recreation department*

Prioritized Energy Efficiency, not Renewable Energy (3 responses)

- *We installed three renewable energy projects after initial resolution. In recent years, our funding has been focused on energy efficiency projects.*
- *Most of the focus has been on reducing energy use through efficiency. There has not been a coordinated municipal effort on renewable energy until recently.*
- *Currently pursuing energy conservation first before investing in renewable energy sources.*

Cost Concerns (4 Responses)

- *It is not cost effective*
- *Lack of funding*
- *Given the low cost of current usage, the alternatives were cost prohibitive.*
- *funding restrictions by State Legislature on local governments.*

Other Responses

- *Not sure what we can do to achieve this goal.*
- *[The EI Community] is working towards transitioning towards renewable energy, but do not have concrete commitments of 25% by 2025.*

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Comments on Limiting Factors

Space was provided for comments on limiting factors

Lack of a Plan or Guiding Strategy

- *The town is not opposed to working on this and the 25 by 25 goal, we just need help organizing.*
- *The original EIC group was coordinated by a part-time person under a grant to a nonprofit group, which has since ended. There is no one person coordinating progress.*

Tracking-Related Issues

- *The annual tracking and data entry is a fairly heavy lift for a person not dedicated to energy efficiency*
- *It is hard to track savings (energy and dollar amounts) across departments on all energy efficiency upgrades or policies that have saved us energy and money. There is so far no central spot where all that information is kept or calculated to tell the whole story.*

Lack of Commitment or Prioritization

- *Having a lot of other projects/needs going on at any time also takes away from the ability of our Town Board and Plan Commission to work on this type of initiative in an aggressive way.*
- *[Our EI Community] has so many other problems that this has become a low priority.*
- *Lack of County government imperative, funding and political priority.*
- *It is not seen as practical by the majority of the elected officials in office.*

State Laws or Other Policies

- *Restrictive energy procurement laws and interconnection mean we are limited by what our utilities will allow*
- *Up front costs cannot be absorbed with tax restrictions set by the State.*

Other comments about limiting factors

A Lack of Capacity or Other Staffing Barriers

- Huge turnover is staff after the initial resolution was adopted and the information not being forwarded to the new staff.
- Our time is spent with FEMA and WEM and anything else that is not a priority to get done we do not have the staff or time to do.
- Lack of a certified energy manager and full-time sustainability coordinator to take things farther
- With a small staff team that has recently turned over - and a large number of projects and tasks to complete, the City simply has not given it the attention it deserves.

Funding Issues

- We [tried] to work with several renewable energy developers… to find a project that would work for us, but the developer[s] was unable to find a project large enough to work for their PPA model.
- Financing for large capitol improvements.
- Funding for major equipment replacement.

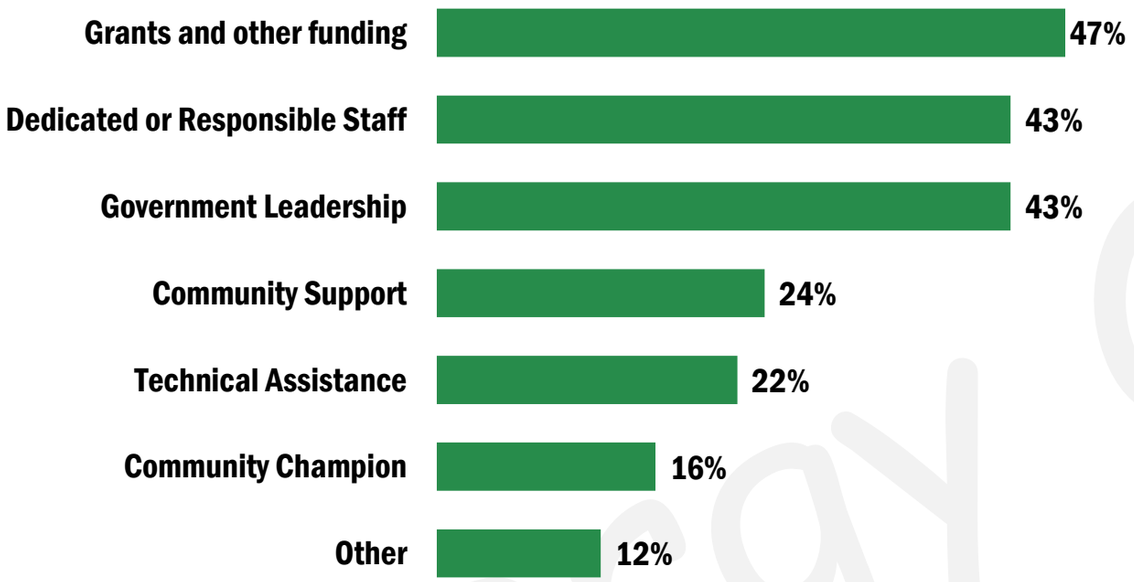
Prioritization of Energy Efficiency over Renewable Energy

- There has not been the political will as of yet to do a municipally financed renewable energy project that has a payback period of around 20 years or more, particularly while there are still energy efficiency improvements for municipal operations that have a faster ROI.
- We have always recognized that energy conservation is the best first-step towards energy independence and we've put a lot of effort into projects that will reduce demand and save energy.
- The City would like to move toward reducing its energy consumption - both for sustainability and cost-efficiency reasons

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Helpful Factors

What factors have been the most helpful to your EI community in making progress towards its goal?

Select up to three



No single factor stood out as most helpful by a majority of the EI communities

Grants and funding, staff, and government leadership were equally the most helpful factors, each helping around 45% of the communities

Community Support and Technical Assistance were helpful to just under one quarter of EI communities.

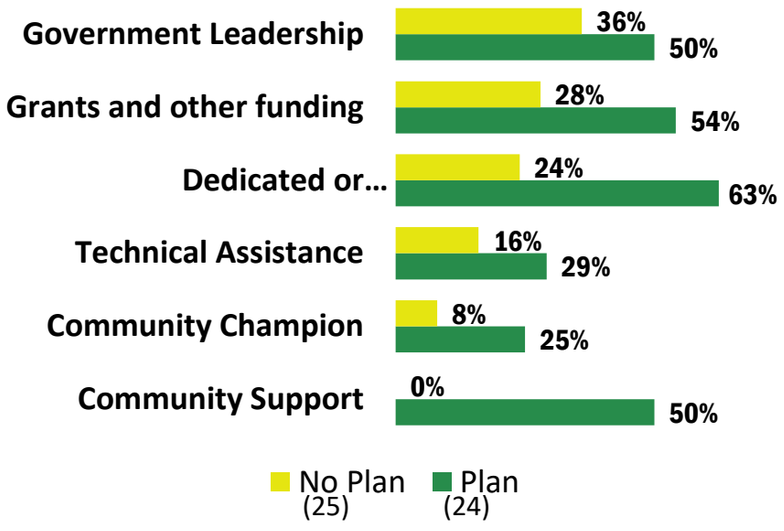
Other helpful factors identified included:

Electric Utility	Help from Chequamegon Bay Renewables and Next Energy Solutions in examining our power bills and helping us come up with a solar installation budget
Technology upgrades	

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Helpful Factors and Communities

Telling the Story: How helpful factors differ by EI communities that have plans, staff, and are active

Advanced Analysis (% of communities identifying factor as helpful)

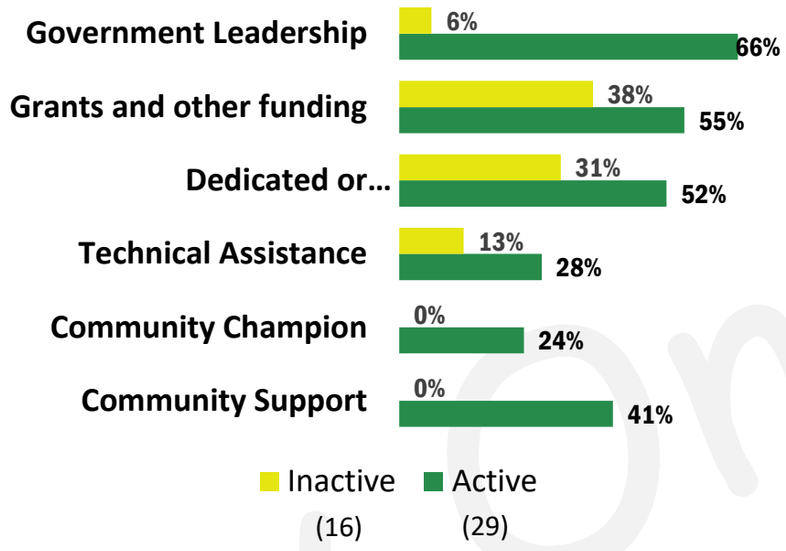


Communities **without a plan** found all the factors to be **less helpful** than those with a plan.

No communities without a plan identified **community support** as helpful.

Communities **with a plan** found **dedicated or responsible staff** to be the **most helpful** factor, **followed by** grants, leadership, and community support.

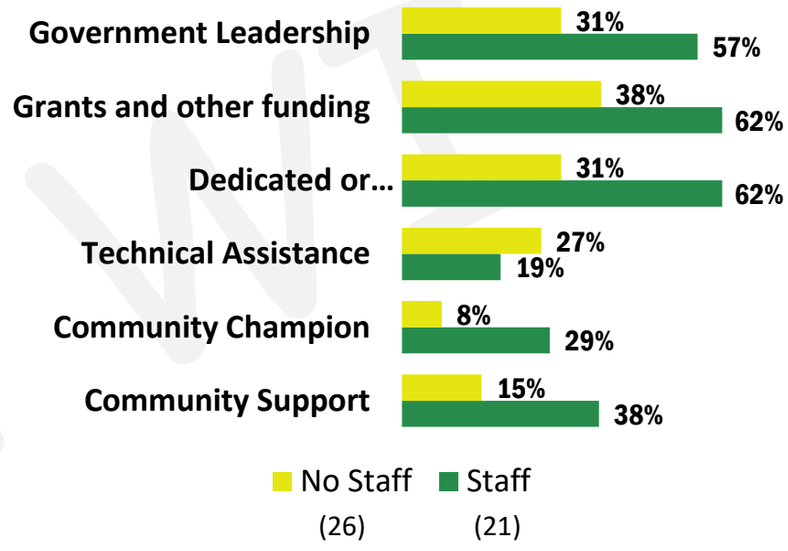
Communities **without a plan** had a different most helpful factor, of **government leadership** followed by grants, staff, and technical assistance.



Inactive communities were much **less likely** to find all of these **factors helpful**. **No inactive** communities found **community support** or **community champions** to be helpful factors.

The **most helpful** factors for **inactive communities** were **grants** and **dedicated staff**, which helped 38% and 31% of inactive communities, respectively.

Government leadership was identified as the **most helpful** factor by **active communities**, with **two-thirds** identifying it as helpful. **Grants and staff** were the next two helpful factors, followed by **community support**, which aided **40%** of communities.



EI communities **without staff** found **all the factors** to be **less helpful** than communities with staff, **except for technical assistance** which was far less helpful for communities with staff.

The **most helpful** factors for communities **without staff** are **grants and funding**, identified by nearly **40%** of communities, followed by **government leadership** and **dedicated or responsible staff**, identified by **31%** each.

Communities **with staff** were most aided by **staff** and **grants**, identified by **62%** of these communities. The next most helpful was **government leadership**. The other factors were somewhat less helpful.

Energy Independent Communities

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Comments on Helpful Factors

In space for other comments, EI Communities elaborated on several supporting factors

Assistance from Partners

- *[Our] utilitiy is committed to the goal*
- *Xcel Energy's shift in renewable energy required no local assistance to reach the goal*
- *The help received from Focus on Energy has been instrumental in helping our staff determine the most efficient energy improvements for their respective departments.*
- *Focus on energy site visits are critical.*

Government Stewardship...

Our Mayor and Common Council are supportive...

There is a level of community support and government leadership here....

Strong leadership by the past two county executives has been key.

We simply need to re-establish a leadership structure who will forward this initiative.

... often is not enough

....However, we have fiscal limitations and state regulatory policy barriers.

....but it has not been enough to overcome some of the fiscal barriers to take up projects that don't also improve municipal costs in the short to medium term.

Town Board agreed that solar is a good idea as long as financially beneficial to the Town.

Funding Support

- *Understanding funding mechanisms is critical*
- *State grants have helped find the money*
- *Brown County would do more renewable energy projects with more grant funding.*
- *Grants for projects make it much easier to sell projects.*
- *No funding or effort to support allowance for increased taxes to make upgrades at state level.*

A Model for Building Support:

"It helped to build a foundation in sustainability first through: creating a Sustainability Committee, creating a Sustainability Plan with a lot of public engagement, a climate referendum showing community support, a climate resolution for 100% renewable energy, hiring a half time and then full time sustainability coordinator, and then receiving a large OEI grant that includes collaboration and a creation of a roadmap to meet goals. Each step built upon the last one, and we used each step as leverage for the next ask or action."

Energy Independent Communities

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Desired Assistance

What kind of assistance would be helpful in moving toward your goal?

Select all that apply

None of the factors stood out across all of the communities.

Planning templates and educating local officials were reported to be most helpful overall, by over 40% of EI Communities

Data management/reestablishing energy baseline and grant writing assistance were selected by just under 40% of the EI Communities.

Other types of assistance identified include:

Time ***Funding*** ***Staff***

Change in Federal and State support

A powerful state energy office, fully funded and who works with Extension to carry out a lot of technical assistance statewide

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Comments on Desired Assistance

In space for other comments, EI communities reported several different types of assistance

Educating Officials

"If someone would come talk to our Town Board and or Plan Commission to give us information about how other communities are working towards this goal, it would be helpful. There are lots of areas where we could reduce energy use if we had help knowing how to do it."

"Educating local officials about the importance of this program would likely help stress the importance of reducing energy use, even if there is not a short-term payback for doing so."

"How to create a climate action plan and model emission goals- maybe via a state plan and down to locals?"

Demonstrate Fiscal Benefits

"All energy solutions need to bring in a cost benefit to the community. We are a small community and very tight budgets."

"Making the business case for a muni CEM staffer and/or sustainability manager"

Helping Overcome Staff and Funding Limitations

"The other types of assistance would help to overcome the issues of limited staff resources and the funding component of these projects."

"Grant writing is rough!"

"Any and all help would be beneficial especially grant funding opportunities"

"Ask the State Legislature to allow local governments to exceed levy limits to support EIC program without the need for a referendum."

"Lack of staffing to complete upgrades and projects is the biggest obstacle due to lack of time."

Cooperation

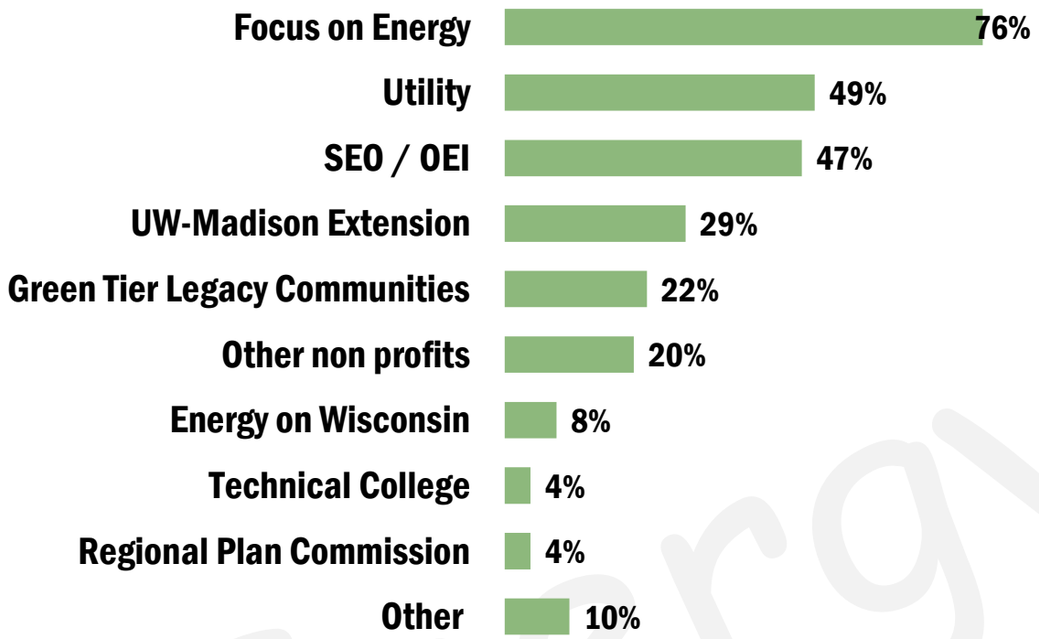
"I would like to see local governments band together to more effectively push renewable energy policies with our utility, Public Service Commission and other state policy makers"

"Administrative strategies for executing group purchases of renewable resources or energy efficiency or fleet resources."

Energy Independent Communities

Section 5: Factors Impacting Progress: Partners

Who have you partnered with on energy initiatives?



Focus on Energy was the most frequent partner, aiding **¾** of EI communities.

Half the communities worked with a **utility** and **OEI**

1/3 of EI communities partnered with **UW-Madison Extension**

Energy Independent Communities

Section 6
Community Engagement

Key Question:
How do EI communities engage non-government members of the community in achieving energy independence for the community?

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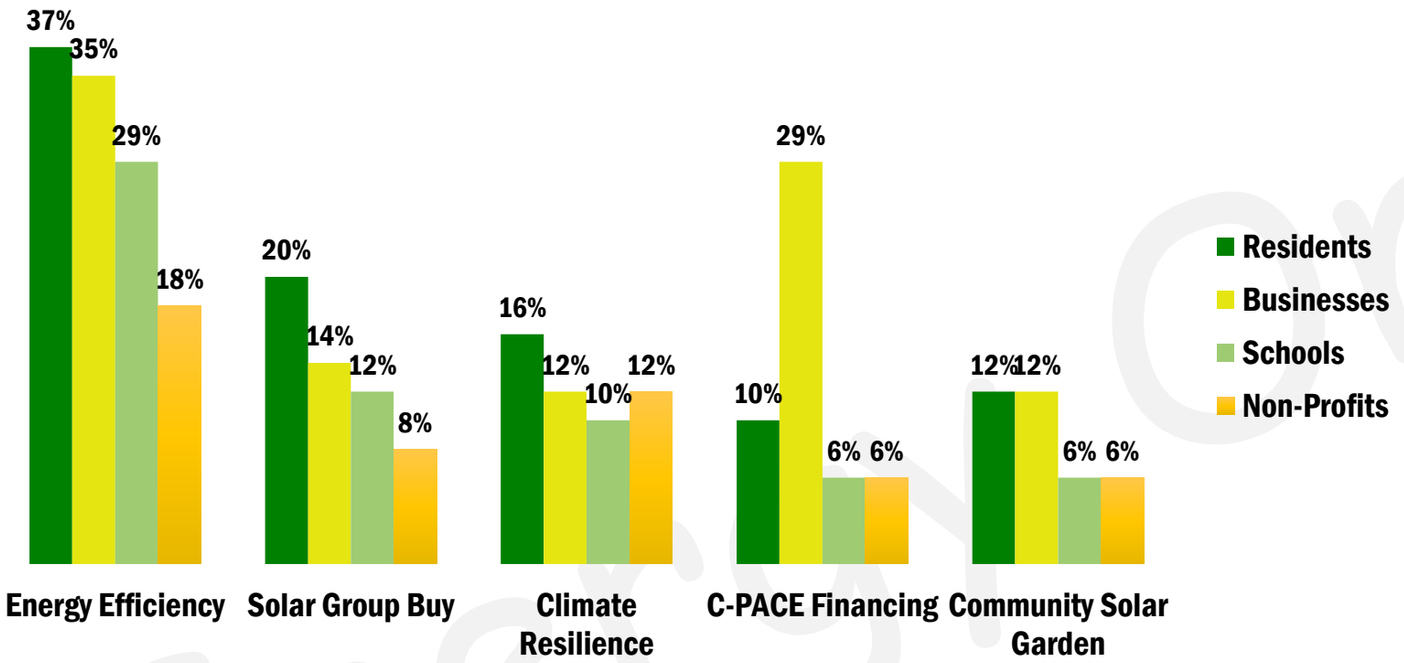
Energy Independent Communities

Section 6: Community Engagement: Facilitating Engagement Summary

Has your EI Community facilitated community member involvement in any of the following?

(percent reporting yes)



While EI Communities focus on energy used in government operations, **37%** of EI Communities **did outreach to residents** and **35%** to businesses on **energy efficiency**

A **fifth** of EI communities **engaged residents in a Solar Group Buy program**

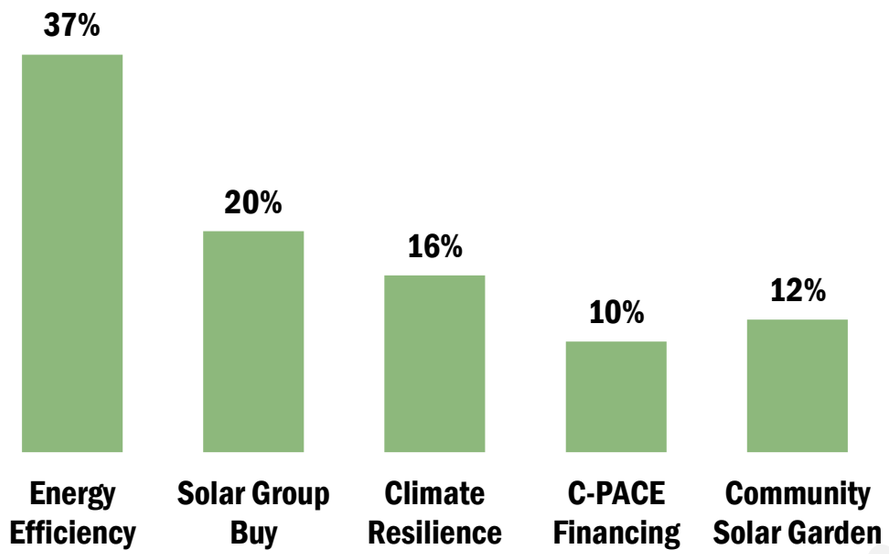
Nearly **1/3rd** of EI Communities **engaged businesses** on **Commercial PACE financing**.

EI Communities **generally did not facilitate non-profit** involvement, but they **were more inclined** to do so on **energy efficiency** and **climate resiliency**

Energy Independent Communities

Section 6: Community Engagement: Facilitating Residents and Businesses

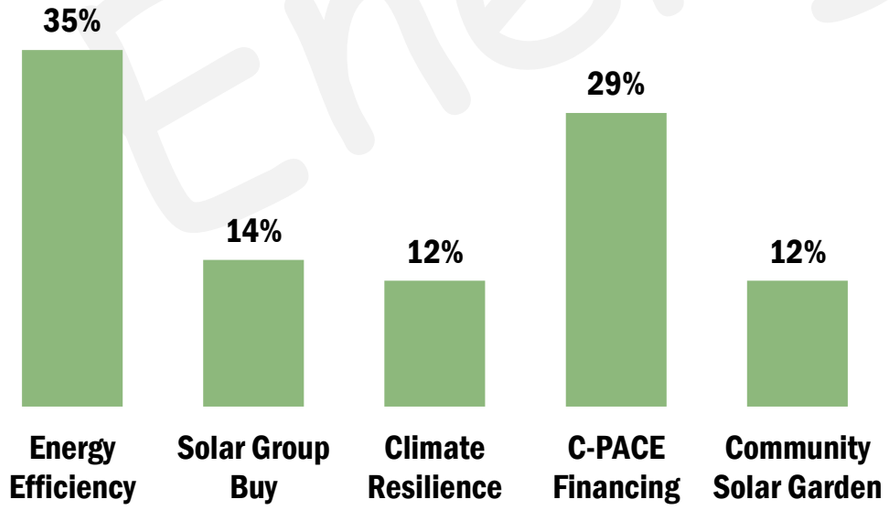
Does your EI Community facilitate resident involvement in the following?



EI Communities facilitated resident involvement most with energy efficiency activities.

Fewer than 1 in 5 communities facilitated involvement in solar group buy opportunities or climate resilience, and 1 in 10 in Community Solar Gardens.

Does your EI Community facilitate business involvement in the following?



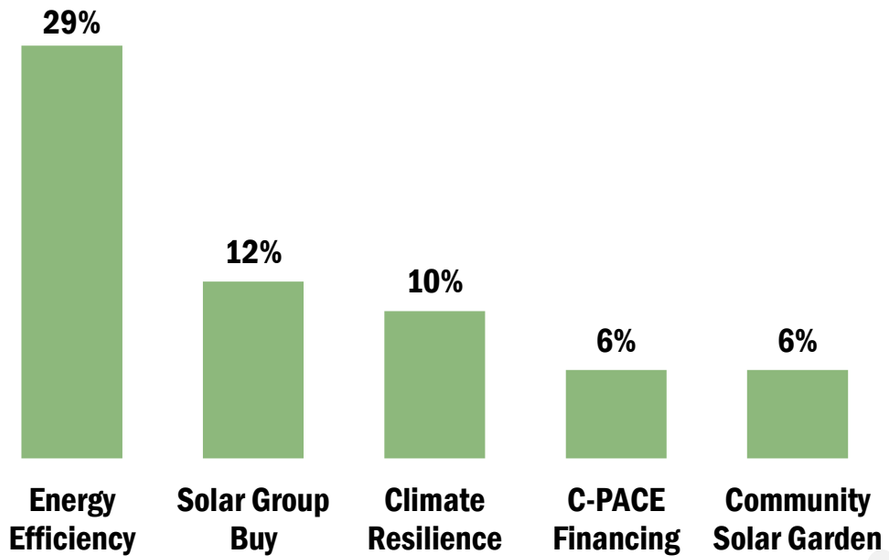
Around 30% of EI communities facilitated involvement for businesses with energy efficiency and C-PACE financing.

Fewer than 15% facilitated business involvement in climate resilience or solar-power opportunities.

Energy Independent Communities

Section 6: Community Engagement: Facilitating Schools and Non-Profits

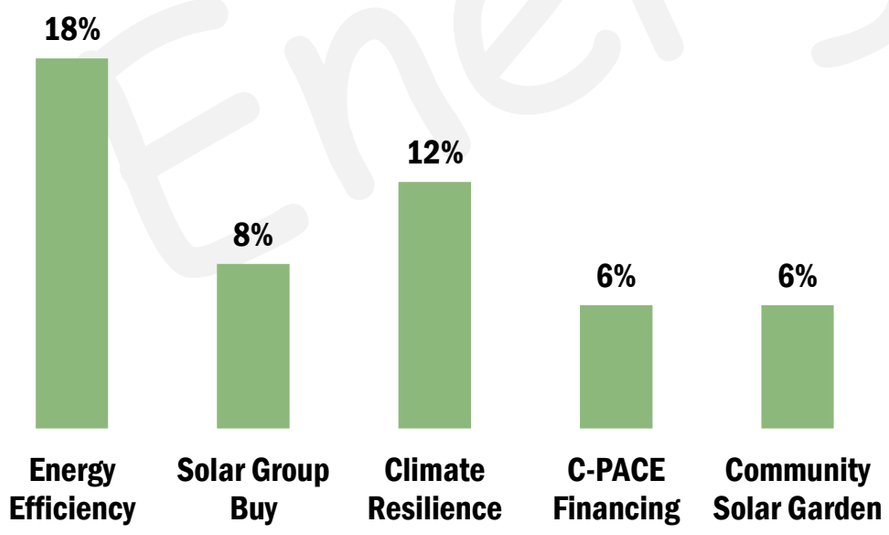
Does your EI Community facilitate school involvement in the following?



30% of EI Communities facilitate schools involvement with **energy efficiency.**

Around **1 in 10** communities facilitate involvement in **solar group buys** or **climate resilience**.

Does your EI Community facilitate non-profit involvement in the following?



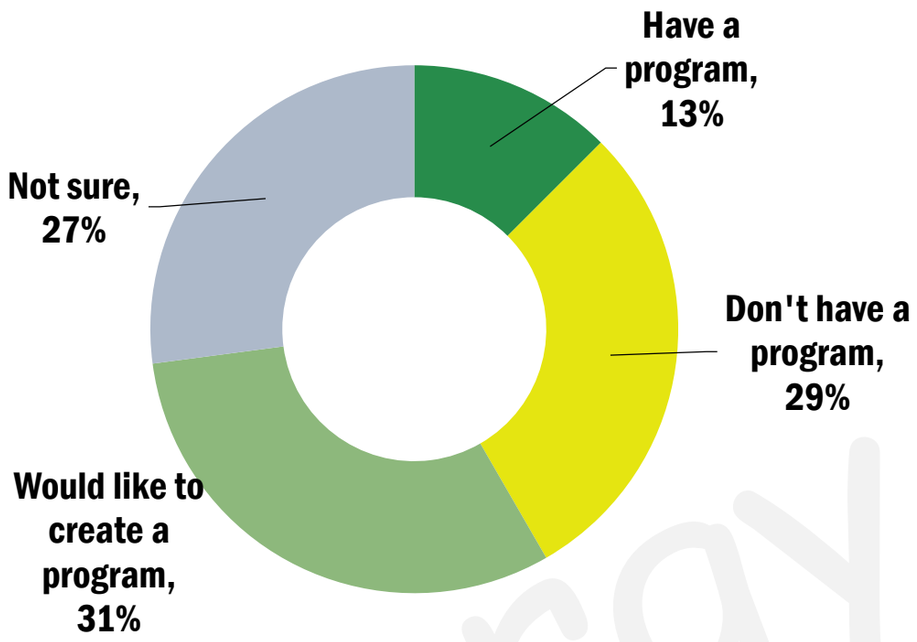
18% of EI communities facilitate involvement of non-profits in **energy efficiency.**

12% of EI communities involve non-profits in **climate resilience**, but **only 8%** involve them with **solar opportunities**.

Energy Independent Communities

Section 6: Community Engagement: Low-Income Assistance Programs

For Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Adoption, does your EI community have any programs that help low-income individuals move towards Energy Independence?



About **1 in 10** communities **have a program** to help Low-Income individuals, or 6 communities. **6 in 10 do not**.

About **half** of the EI communities that do not have one **are interested in creating** one.

One quarter are **unsure if they have a program** for low-income individuals.

Communities with Programs:

City of Monona
Dane County
Prairie Du Chien
River Falls
City of Sheboygan
City of Milwaukee

About the Programs

Putting solar power on affordable housing.

We supported solar projects with our Housing Authority. We tried to get the utility to offer community solar to low income residents, but they declined.

PACE for buying community solar

Renew Monona Loan Program *CDBG*

Housing Rehabilitation Loan Programs

Section 6: Other Comments on EI Program

What other comments do you have on your EI community?

"No one was tracking this resolution and commitment until your program representatives reached out to me. Ignorant of the commitment, I was already implementing an Energy Efficiency policy to reduce costs and various facilities-related burdens put upon the staff to regulate the building temps. I would be interested in some support but there is plenty of work internal to the county just educating the 900+ staff to be more energy efficient."

"With the SEEC now established we are working on ways to improve energy independence more than in the past. We are planning to join the DNR Green Tier Legacy Community Charter to set a framework to work toward sustainability."

"The City of Milwaukee has robust clean energy and energy efficiency programs through our Environmental Collaboration Office. We have Wisconsin's first Commercial PACE program, a Milwaukee Shines solar program with group buys and other projects, the Better Buildings Challenge energy efficiency program for commercial buildings, and the Me2 home energy efficiency loan program. We've done a $2m energy saving performance contract with our Central Library, will have a municipal energy efficiency plan done by January 2020, we've pursued innovative financing for solar, and we are trying to work collaboratively with We Energies to construct solar through their programs. It's all in our most recent ReFresh Milwaukee 2018 Progress Report." Milwaukee.gov/eco milwaukee.gov/climate-action.htm

"There are members of our town that have achieved 25/25, Leopold Legacy Center, Intl Crane Foundation. Public School sold to private school. County does our roads. We have and will change our lighting fixtures when available. Utility charges are so low that cost effective projects are not currently feasible."

"I believe that there is and will be future support behind these initiatives. As of the survey, this is the first time the current Mayor, most Council members, or I had ever heard of the resolution we passed and thus the commitment we made. However, I anticipate that the Council, staff, and community members would show a renewed commitment. Staff time and capacity will likely remain a barrier that we will have to overcome."

"We have many solar projects coming online this year that aren't reflected in our 2019 statistics. Three solar installations will go on municipal buildings this year and our first RER utility agreement with MGE (from a local solar array at our airport) will be energized in 2020. By the end of 2020 we've calculate that we will supply 50% or our city's electricity use with renewable energy. We also provide TIF incentives for solar and geothermal for private and commercial developments in our two TIF districts. So far we've incentivized 814kW of solar in private development through our city's TIF policy."

"The EIC concept was/is a brilliant platform to normalize actions state-wide and glad is it gaining greater traction again."

"Brown County received an EPA Energy Star rating for the following county-owned office buildings: Sophie Beaumont Building Northern Building UW-Extension Building (sold in 2018) Brown county has completed the following LEED rated new buildings: Community Treatment Center – LEED Gold (2009) Airport Snow Removal Equipment Storage Bldg – LEED Gold (2010) 911 Communication Center – LEED Silver (2009) Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Facility – LEED Silver, (2012) Sheriff's Office – LEED certified (2012) STEM Innovation Center LEED Silver equivalent, (2019) Brown County has seriously investigated bio-diesel fuel and natural gas for its Highway and Sheriff vehicle fleets without success."

"Thank you so much for this survey! Some of the information provided is estimated or limited at this time. Please reach out for more details on any of the particulars. I'd love to help move WI communities forward on energy independence efforts."

"Grant funding is essential for capitol improvements to meet our energy goals. Long range planning for the region via Office of Energy Innovation and UW-Extension."

"We would like to be involved going forward."

Energy Independent Communities

Initial Conclusions

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Energy Independent Communities

Draft Conclusions

10 years later, the status of EI communities' progress toward energy independence is mixed:

- **The vast majority of communities are making progress toward their goal of developing local renewable energy and improving energy efficiency**
  - 76% of EI communities had implemented policies and practices to save energy
  - 88% of EI communities had made energy efficiency upgrades to at least one usage area, while 50% had made upgrades to at least 3 areas
  - 45% of communities had installed solar projects

- **But progress toward the goal of 25 by '25 is highly varied and not uniform in how measured and reported. Further data gathering and standardization needs to occur to report accurately.**
  - 25% were below 5% renewable energy
  - 10% were above 20% renewable energy
  - 22% didn't know their renewable energy

- **At least one third of communities have not sustained their efforts and invested in local renewable energy and have many energy efficiency improvements left to make**
  - 40% of communities have not invested in any renewable energy
  - 22% of EI Communities installed more than one source of renewable energy
  - 67% of communities have not upgraded fleet vehicles, but only 18% have not made upgrades to buildings

Energy Independent Communities

Draft Conclusions

The successful EI communities had one or more of the following ingredients:

❖ An Energy Independence Plan

- Communities with plans were twice as likely to be actively working towards the goal, 83% versus 45%
- Communities with plans were nearly 3x as likely to track their energy, 83% versus 28%, and were more likely to know their energy spending.
- Communities with plans were 3x more likely to have completed at least one solar project and 3.5x more likely to have completed more than one;
- 80% of communities without plans had no solar project versus 33% of communities with plans
- Findings support the adage: *You can't manage what you don't measure*

❖ Having a plan associated with having a staff person, which improves capacity and focus of the EI program

- 70% of communities with a plan had a staff person, versus just 17% of those without a plan

❖ These factors may be influenced by community level factors

- Communities without a plan did not identify community support as helpful, while 50% of communities with plans did
- 36% of communities without a plan identified government leadership as helpful, while 50% of communities with plans indicated government leadership as helpful

Inactive Communities commonly faced these barriers:

❖ Inactive Communities reported several themes of barriers:

- The many benefits of energy independence became out-weighted by the near-term problems facing the communities
- EI efforts were not institutionalized through committees, staffing, or passed down during transitions and were forgotten over time
- Government leaders are hesitant about the cost and cost effectiveness of these efforts and do not make them a priority
- 52% of communities without plans reported that not having a plan was a barrier, versus 25% of communities with plans

❖ A few communities noted state energy procurement laws restricted their options with utilities

❖ EI Communities put more work into energy efficiency upgrades and were not as far along with developing local renewable energy

- Energy Efficiency first reduces the amount of renewable energy needed to power operations
- Energy Efficiency projects are often more feasible and require less land or other conditions that make renewable energy projects more difficult
- Some EI communities felt that their utilities efforts to increase renewable energy would be enough for them to achieve their goal

Other Key Conclusions

- Few EI Communities were facilitating community engagement in their efforts
- Communities invested primarily in solar PV renewable energy projects rather than a breadth of project types
- Communities of different sizes presented different pictures
- Communities cite funding and staffing shortages as most common and significant barriers, but want assistance with sample plans, education for local officials, and help in creating energy baselines

Areas for Improvement Going Forward

- Communities need help with measurement, tracking, and standardized reporting of their renewable energy status
- Communities need assistance sustaining these efforts so that changes in staff, elected officials, or other priorities do not stifle progress

Energy Independent Communities

Recommendations

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Measurement and Data Tracking

- **Standardize Measurement & Reporting**
  - **Create formula with specified inputs to assess % renewable energy used by each EI or other Community to ensure consistent and comparable data**
    - **Track and Include % renewables in utility mix annually**
  - **Collect data annually to track progress toward initial 25% x '25 Renewable Energy goal locally, then 100% electricity goals, heating and transportation fuels & carbon, for government operation and community-wide**

- **Provide Data Management Assistance**

  Options:
  - **State hires a staff person to work with communities**
  - **Focus on Energy trade allies provide assistance in regions**
  - **OEI issues RFP for competitive bid on providing data collection & tracking assistance**
  - **Utilities assist with barriers to data compilation- a significant opportunity**

- **Report Data Annually**
  - **Report Results annually statewide in media to sustain momentum**
  - **Recognize Communities that reach benchmarks – Governor's Awards**

- **Provide Funding and Assistance**
  - **Creating or updating Energy Independence Plans**
  - **Grant writing**
  - **Educating local officials**
  - **Creating programs to help low-income communities access energy efficiency and renewable energy**

Energy Independent Communities

Appendices

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Energy Independent Communities

Appendix 1: Full List of EI Communities Survey Respondents

Counties

Ashland County
Barron County
Bayfield County
Brown County
Dane County
Eau Claire County
Green Lake County
Polk County
Shawano County
Walworth County

Cities

LARGE CITIES
City of Eau Claire
City of La Crosse
City of Madison
City of Milwaukee
City of Sheboygan

SMALL CITIES
City of Bayfield
City of St. Croix Falls
City of Shell Lake
City of Washburn

MEDIUM CITIES
City of Altoona
City of Baraboo
City of Beaver Dam
City of Evansville
City of Fitchburg
City of Jefferson
City of Kaukauna
City of Marshfield
City of Middleton
City of Monona
City of Muskego
City of Oconomowoc
City of Platteville
City of Prairie Du Chien
City of Plymouth
River Falls Municipal Utilities
City of Viroqua
City of Wausau
City of Whitewater

Town and Villages

Town of Bayfield
Town of Berlin
Town of Fairfield
Town of Gresham
Town of La Pointe
Town of Princeton

Village of Fox Crossing
Village of Marquette
Village of Viola

Tribes

Oneida Nation
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe

Energy Independent Communities

Appendix 2: Attribution

Communities permitting public attribution of their progress:

Bayfield County
Green Lake County and School District

City of Altoona
City of Bayfield
City of Evansville
City of Milwaukee
City of Prairie Du Chien
City of St. Croix Falls
City of Sheboygan

Village of Fox Crossing

Communities wishing to be contacted prior to public attribution of their progress:

Ashland County
Barron County
Brown County
Dane County
Eau Claire County
Polk County

City of Beaver Dam
City of Eau Claire
City of Fitchburg
City of Kaukauna
City of La Crosse
City of Madison
City of Middleton
City of Monona
City of Muskego
City of Oconomowoc
City of Plymouth
River Falls Municipal Utilities
City of Viroqua
City of Washburn
City of Wausau

Town of Bayfield
Town of La Pointe

Oneida Nation
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe

Communities not permitting public attribution of their progress:

Shawano County
Walworth County

City of Baraboo
City of Jefferson
City of Marshfield
City of Platteville
City of Shell Lake
City of Whitewater

Town of Berlin
Town of Fairfield
Town of Gresham
Town of Princeton

Village of Marquette
Village of Viola

Appendix 3: Survey Questions* (The survey was administered digitally through Qualtrics, looping respondents to various sections based on their responses

Energy Independent Communities Survey

Start of Block: Introduction and Screening Section

Hello,

Your municipality/tribal government/school district is among approximately 150 that passed an Energy Independent Community (EIC) Resolution. The resolution committed your community **to generate at least 25% of energy used for local government operations from renewable energy locally by 2025**. It was referred to as the 25 by '25 goal and includes electricity, heat, and transportation fuel.

There are six years until 2025 to reach your 25% milestone. You are receiving this survey so that we can: 1) gauge the level of activity statewide toward energy independence; and 2) learn how UW-Madison Extension and the Office of Energy Innovation can help your community to be successful.

If you are unsure of why you are receiving this survey, or are not familiar with the Energy Independent Communities (EIC) program, you may be able to learn more by contacting Megan Levy at Megan.Levy@Wisconsin.gov or by visiting here: https://energyonwi.uwex.edu/energy-independent-communities or here: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/OEI/EnergyIndependentCommunities.aspx

About the Survey
The survey asks for information regarding your community's efforts to measure energy consumption, make improvements on energy efficiency, install renewable energy systems, obtain funding, and other items related to your energy independence goals. The survey will ask about the character of your EIC including its structure and activities. We will inquire about actions that may have been taken as many as 10 years ago.

Survey Time
Due to the level of detail we are seeking in this survey, it will take around 30-60 minutes to complete. Several questions may require some searching for documents or asking other staff about the impact of specific projects. ***Due to its length, you will be able to save and exit the survey to resume at another time.*** We hope you will dedicate the necessary time to identifying and reporting this information. The results will help us target funding and develop outreach that ***will help your community to achieve your energy independent community goals.***

Confidentiality and Anonymity
The responses from this survey will be shared with team members from UW-Madison Extension to representatives from the State Office of Energy Innovation, and/or other partners, in order to develop programming and materials. The identity of your Energy Independent Community and its progress may be attached to those materials which may be posted for public consumption on program websites, or in other capacities. Your contact information may be saved in order to follow up regarding how we may learn from your experience, or assist you in your goals. Your contact information, however, will NOT be posted publicly. The survey asks about your comfort with this information being shared, and if you have other concerns you may reach out to our team through the channels posted below.

If you have any questions about the survey, please reach out to Sherrie Gruder; (608) 262-0398; sherrie.gruder@wisc.edu or Megan Levy; Megan.Levy@Wisconsin.gov

We thank you very much for your participation.

Page Break

Screening Section

The first section will help ensure that you are the most appropriate person to fill out this survey. We are seeking a respondent who is knowledgeable about your **Energy Independent Community's (EIC)** efforts, including grants and funding sources, since 2009.

If you believe you are not the most appropriate person, please complete this screening section and we will be in touch with the appropriate person. PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD IT TO THE PERSON YOURSELF, as we will be tracking the status of the surveys.

By "**Energy Independence**", we mean efforts to increase renewable energy and improve energy efficiency to reduce dependence on fossil fuel sources.

By "**Community**" we are referring to local government operations i.e. buildings, streetlights, and fleet fuel. This is NOT about commercial and residential energy use.

What municipality, tribe, or school district are you with?

_____

Are you familiar with your EIC's efforts to generate 25% of your energy from renewable energy sources locally by 2025 as an EIC?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

If you are not familiar, please provide us with the name, email, and position for the person who is and we will send the survey to them.

_____

Given that the purpose of the survey is to learn about the status of your EIC program and how we can help you to meet your clean energy goals, are you the best person to fill it out?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

If you are not the best person, please provide us with the name, email, and position of the person who is and we will send the survey to them.

_____

Are you part of a group EIC with other partners? If yes, which type of partners? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ School District (1)
- ☐ Water Treatment Plant (2)
- ☐ Water Utility (3)
- ☐ Transit Agency (4)
- ☐ Community College or Tech School (5)
- ☐ American Indian Tribe (6)
- ☐ County (7)
- ☐ Municipality (8)
- ☐ Sustainability Group (9)
- ☐ Other (10) _____
- ☐ None (11)

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

Is your EIC actively working toward the goal of generating at least 25% of its energy from renewable energy sources locally by 2025?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (5)
- ○ Don't know (6)

If you don't know, could you please provide us with the name, email, and position of the person who may know?

_____

Please briefly example why your EIC not working on the goal of generating at least 25% of its energy from renewable energy sources locally by 2025?

_____

Do you know what percent of your EIC's energy is generated from renewable energy sources currently?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not Sure (3)

What percent of your EIC's energy will come from renewable sources by the end of 2019? (This includes electricity, gas, and fleet fuel)

	0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Percent Renewable ()	

To the best of your knowledge, what is the percent of your EIC's energy that will come from renewable sources by the end of 2019? If you do not have an informed best guess, that is okay.

- ○ None (1)
- ○ Between 1% and 5% (2)
- ○ Between 6% and 10% (3)
- ○ Between 11% and 15% (4)
- ○ Between 16% and 20% (5)
- ○ Between 21% and 25% (6)
- ○ Between 26% and 50% (7)
- ○ More than 51% (8)
- ○ I do not have an informed guess or estimate (9)

Does your EIC program have a staff person assigned to it either as part of their duties or as a stand alone position?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (8)

What is her/his position?

- Clerk (1)
- Public Works (2)
- Engineering (3)
- Facilities (4)
- Streets (5)
- Sustainability (6)
- Administrator (7)
- Elected Official (council-person, alder, etc) (8)
- Other (9) _____

Did your EIC create a plan in connection to your Energy Independent Community Resolution? (This plan would include *measuring* government baseline energy use for: buildings, fleet and infrastructure (ex: traffic signals, street lights) plus ***actions*** to take, including energy efficiency upgrades, to get to 25% renewable energy locally by 2025). (Example plans may be found here.)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Would you be interested in exploring options to create an energy independent community plan?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Does your plan need to be updated in order to get to 25 by '25 in the next 5 years?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Does your municipality/community have an energy or sustainability committee? If yes, please provide the committee or organization name.

- Yes (1) _____
- No (2)

End of Block: Introduction and Screening Section

Start of Block: Monitoring and Tracking Section

Monitoring and Tracking Activities Section

This section asks questions about how your **Energy Independent Community (EIC)** accounts for energy use on an ongoing basis and what kinds of information are tracked.

Does your EIC track energy used in your operations?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not Sure (3)

Why does your EIC not track energy use? Choose all that apply.

- [ ] We do not have the staff to track regularly (1)
- [ ] We are not sure how to track energy use (2)
- [ ] We don't get energy data in a useful form from our utility (3)
- [ ] We are served by multiple utilities (8)
- [ ] We have multiple facilities on one meter (6)
- [ ] Each department gets their own energy information that no one aggregates (7)
- [ ] We don't have the resources to put the data into EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager (4)
- [ ] Other (5) _____

Does your EIC or utility enter your building energy use data into EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not Sure (3)

Does your EIC enter energy use data into any other tracking tools?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not Sure (4)

What other tracking tools is energy data entered into?

_____

Is your transportation fuel tracked by department or by operations as a whole?

- ○ By department only (1)
- ○ By operations as a whole only (2)
- ○ Both ways (3)
- ○ Not sure (4)

Do you know how much your EIC spends annually on energy?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

End of Block: Monitoring and Tracking Section

Start of Block: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Section

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

Improvements to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Section

This section asks about projects and investments your **Energy Independent Community (EIC)** has made to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy for your government, tribal, or school operations.

Note: We will be asking for specific information about projects you have done, including their size, number of installations, and year of completion, so please utilize any documents or reports which may specify the relevant information. Remember, you may save and exit the survey to resume at a later time if these materials are not immediately available to you.

Has your EIC installed, or broken ground on any renewable energy generation projects? Choose all that apply.

- [ ] Solar (1)
- [ ] Wind (2)
- [ ] Geothermal (3)
- [ ] Landfill gas (4)
- [ ] Bio-Energy (5)
- [ ] Other (6) _____
- [ ] No, we have not (7)

Page Break

Solar Energy Projects

How many solar energy projects has your EIC installed?

- 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4 (4)
- 5 to 10 (5)
- 11 to 15 (6)
- 16 or more (7)

We will now ask for more detail about the project(s). For those with multiple projects, we will ask about up to three of them.

Consider the project, was this project... (Note: If there are multiple projects, please consider the one with the largest energy impact)

- Roof-Mounted Solar PV System (1)
- Ground-Mounted Solar PV System (2)
- Solar Thermal system (3)
- Renewable Energy Certificate (RECs) from Wisconsin Solar Project or through Renewable Energy Rider (5)
- Other (4) _____

In what year was this project completed, or in what year is it expected to be completed? (If completion year is not included, respond with the nearest year.)

2009201120122014201520172019202020222023 2025

Completion Year ()

What is the size of this project or purchase in kilowatts (kW) and what building or infrastructure does this solar help power?

_____

Page Break

Consider the second project. Was this project... *(Note:* if there are multiple then consider the remaining project with the largest energy impact.)

- ○ Roof-Mounted Solar PV Solar System (1)
- ○ Ground-Mounted PV Solar System (2)
- ○ Solar Thermal System (4)
- ○ Renewable Energy Certificates (6)
- ○ Other (5) _____

In what year was this project completed, or in what year is it expected to be completed?
2009201120122014201520172019202020222023 2025

Completion Year ()

What is the size of this project or purchase in kilowatts (kW) and what building or infrastructure does this solar help power?

_____

Page Break

Consider the third project. Is this project... (Again, if there are multiple, consider the remaining project with the largest energy impact.)

- ○ Roof-Mounted PV Solar System (1)
- ○ Ground-Mounted PV Solar System (2)
- ○ Solar Thermal System (4)
- ○ Renewable Energy Certificate (6)
- ○ Other (5) _____

In what year was this project completed, or in what year is it expected to be completed?
2009201120122014201520172019202020222023 2025

Completion Year ()

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What is the size of this project or purchase in kilowatts (kW) and what building or infrastructure does this solar help power?

_____

Page Break

If there are remaining solar projects, please briefly describe them here including type, year completed, size, etc.

_____

Page Break

Wind Energy Projects

How many wind projects has your EIC installed?

- 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 or more (3)

Consider the first project, In what year was the project completed? (If there are multiple then consider the project with the largest energy impact. If the year of completion is not included on the timeline, please select the closest year).

2009201120122014201520172019202020222023 2025

Year of Completion ()

Where was this project constructed? (i.e.: unused public land, farms in the county, utility project in our county we buy power from, etc)

_____

What is the size of this project in kW?

_____

How many turbines are in this installation?

_____

Page Break

Consider the second project, in what year was this project completed? (If there are multiple then consider the remaining project with the largest energy impact. If the project completion is not included in the timeline, please select the closest year)

2009201120122014201520172019202020222023 2025

Year of Completion ()

Where was this project constructed? (i.e.: unused public land, farms in the county, utility project in our county we buy power from, etc)

_____

How many kilowatts (kW) is this project?

_____

How many turbines are in this installation?

_____

Page Break

Geothermal Energy Projects

How many geothermal energy projects has your EIC completed or broke ground on?

- 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4 or more (4)

Describe the project(s) briefly, including what building the is co-located with and any estimates of energy savings (please specify the units).

_____

Page Break

Bio-energy Projects

How many bio-energy projects have your community completed?

- 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4 or more (4)

Describe the project(s) briefly, including the source of the bio-energy (i.e. wastewater treatment facility, manure digester, wood, and lake weeds, etc.) and any estimates of the amount of energy created (please specify the units).

_____

Page Break

Landfill Gas Projects

Describe the project(s) briefly, including any estimates of the energy generated (please specify the units) and what the energy is being used for.

_____

Page Break

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

Have you implemented policies and practices in your daily operations to save energy (for example: installed computer power saving software, use purchasing practices that require Energy STAR or energy saving products, purchased task lighting, set thermostat temperatures lower or higher depending on the season)?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

Have you completed any energy efficiency projects (i.e. projects that reduce energy consumed by your EIC?)? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Buildings (1)
- ☐ Streetlights (2)
- ☐ Parking Lot Lighting (8)
- ☐ Wastewater Treatment Plant (3)
- ☐ Fleet Vehicles (4)
- ☐ Transit Vehicles (5)
- ☐ Other (6) _____
- ☐ The community has not made energy efficiency improvements (7)

What efficiency upgrades have you made to buildings? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Improved heating and/or cooling systems (1)
- ☐ Improved windows (2)
- ☐ Upgraded to LED lighting (3)
- ☐ Added sensors (i.e. motion, occupancy, CO2) (4)
- ☐ Added control systems (5)
- ☐ Other (6) _____

Do you have an estimate for the aggregated (total) annual energy saved by these upgrades?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

How much energy has been saved by these upgrades (in kWh and/or therms)?

_____

What do you estimate are the average annual financial savings per year from implementing these energy upgrades?

_____

How have you reduced fossil fuel use in your fleet and/or transit?

- [ ] Added hybrid vehicles (1)
- [ ] Added electric vehicles (2)
- [ ] Added hybrid-electric buses (3)
- [ ] Use renewable natural gas (4)
- [ ] Other (5) _____

Do you have an estimate to the reduction in fuel use by fleet and/or transit vehicles from these upgrades?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not Sure (3)

How much energy has been saved as a result of these upgrades? Please specify the units.

_____

Please provide any additional comments or plans to reduce fossil fuel use in fleet and/or transit (carbon and emissions reductions, number of electric buses on order for what years, etc).

_____

Page Break

Consider the whole of energy efficiency upgrades your EIC has completed. How much energy has been saved from these upgrades?

_____

How much money is being saved each year from these upgrades?

_____

End of Block: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Section

Start of Block: Funding Section

Funding Section

This section will ask about grants you have received from the state or other parties to support your **Energy Independent Community (EIC)** efforts.

Has your EIC received grants for energy efficiency projects since passing its resolution?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

Has your EIC received grants for renewable energy system(s) since passing its resolution?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

Has your EIC received a grant(s) for energy independence planning from the State Energy Office / Office of Energy Innovation since passing its resolution?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

Page Break

Consider the **Energy Efficiency grant(s)** you received. How many grants has your EIC received?

- 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4-8 (4)
- 9-12 (5)
- 13 or more (6)

What was the source of the most impactful grant (kWh or therms, and dollars saved per year)?

- Office of Energy Innovation/State Energy Office (PSC/DOA) (1)
- Focus on Energy (2)
- WI Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) (3)
- A Federal Agency (i.e. USDOE, EERE, AARA, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.) (4)
- A Non-Profit Organization (5)
- Other (6) _____
- Not sure (7)

Did this grant support one of the projects you listed in the previous section?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

What type of project did it support?

- Buildings (1)
- Lighting (2)
- Fleet Vehicles (3)
- Transit (4)
- Other (5) _____
- Not sure (6)

How much did you receive from the grant?

_____

What was the impact of the project in terms of estimated dollars saved per year and annual energy savings (kWh's)?

_____

Page Break

What was the source of the second grant? Again, consider State grants first if there were multiple.

- ○ Office of Energy Innovation/State Energy Office (PSC/DOA) (1)
- ○ Focus on Energy (2)
- ○ Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) (6)
- ○ A Federal Agency (i.e. USDOE, EERE, AARA, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc) (3)
- ○ A Non-Profit Organization (4)
- ○ Other (5) _____
- ○ Not sure (7)

Did this grant support one of the projects you listed in the previous section?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

What type of project did it support?

- ○ Buildings (1)
- ○ Lighting (2)
- ○ Fleet Vehicles (3)
- ○ Transit (4)
- ○ Other (5) _____
- ○ Not sure (6)

How much did you receive from the grant?

_____

What was the impact of the project in terms of estimated dollars saved per year and annual energy savings (kWh's)?

_____

Page Break

What was the source of the third grant?

- ○ Office of Energy Innovation/State Energy Office (PSC/DOA) (1)
- ○ Focus on Energy (6)
- ○ WI Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) (7)
- ○ A Federal Agency (i.e. USDOE, EERE, AARA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.) (2)
- ○ A Non-Profit Organization (4)
- ○ Other (5) _____

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

Did this grant support one of the projects you listed in the previous section?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

What type of project did it support?

- Buildings (1)
- Lighting (2)
- Fleet Vehicles (3)
- Transit (4)
- Other (5) _____
- Not sure (6)

How much did you receive from the grant?

_____

What was the impact of the project in terms of estimated dollars saved per year and annual energy savings (kWh's)?

_____

Page Break

Consider the **Renewable Energy grant(s) or incentives** you received. How many of these grants has your EIC received?

- 1 (1)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (3)
- 4 (4)
- 5 to 10 (5)
- 11 or more (6)

What was the source of the most impactful grant (kWh and dollars saved per year or the life of the project)?

- Office of Energy Innovation/State Energy Office (PSC/DOA) (1)
- Focus on Energy (6)
- WI Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) (7)
- A Federal agency (USDOE, EERE, AARA, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc) (2)
- A private organization (3)
- A non profit organization (i.e. RENEW, Couillard Foundation, MREA, etc.) (4)
- Other (5) _____

Did this grant support a project you listed in the previous section?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

What type of project did the grant support?

- ○ Solar Roof Mounted PV System (1)
- ○ Solar Ground Mounted PV System (4)
- ○ Geothermal (2)
- ○ Bio-energy (6)
- ○ Other (3) _____

What did the renewable energy power?

- ○ Building (include name) (1) _____
- ○ Facility (include name) (9) _____
- ○ Vehicle (specify type) (4) _____
- ○ Other (3) _____
- ○ Not sure (7)

How much did you receive from the grant?

_____

What was the size of project (if solar, how many kW)?

_____

What was the impact of the project in terms of dollars saved (per year or over the life of the project or both)

_____

_____

Page Break

What was the source of the second grant? Again, consider State grants first.

- ○ Office of Energy Innovation/State Energy Office (PSC/DOA) (1)
- ○ Focus on Energy (6)
- ○ WI Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) (7)
- ○ A Federal agency (i.e. USDOE, EERE, AARA, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc) (2)
- ○ A not for profit organization (i.e. RENEW, Couillard Foundation, MREA, etc.) (4)
- ○ Other (5) _____

Did this grant support a project you listed in the previous section?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

What type of project did the grant support?

- ○ Solar Roof Mounted PV System (1)
- ○ Solar Ground Mounted PV System (4)
- ○ Geothermal (5)
- ○ Bio-energy (6)
- ○ Other (3) _____

What did the renewable energy power?

- ○ Building (provide name) (6)
  _____
- ○ Facility (include name) (10)
  _____
- ○ Vehicles (provide vehicle use) (7)
  _____
- ○ Other (8) _____
- ○ Not sure (9)

How much did you receive from the grant?

_____

What was the size of project (if solar, how many kW)?

_____

What was the impact of the project in terms of dollars saved (per year or over the life of the project or both)

_____

Page Break

What was the source of the third grant? Again, consider State grants first.

- ○ Office of Energy Innovation/State Energy Office (PSC/DOA) (1)
- ○ Focus on Energy (6)
- ○ WI Board of Commissioner's of Public Lands (BCPL) (7)
- ○ A Federal agency (i.e. USDOE, EERE, AARA, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc) (2)
- ○ A not for profit organization (RENEW, Couillard Foundation, MERA, etc.) (4)
- ○ Other (5) _____

Did this grant support a project you listed in a previous section?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

What type of project did the grant support?

- ○ Solar Roof Mounted PV System (1)
- ○ Solar Ground Mounted PV System (4)
- ○ Geothermal (5)
- ○ Bio-energy (6)
- ○ Other (3) _____

What did the renewable energy power?

- ○ Building (provide name) (1)
  _____
- ○ Facility (include name) (9) _____
- ○ Vehicles (provide vehicle use) (7)
  _____
- ○ Other (4) _____
- ○ Not sure (8)

How much did you receive from the grant?

_____

What was the size of project (if solar, how many kW)?

_____

Page Break

What was the impact of the project in terms of estimated dollars saved (per year or over the life of the project, or both)

_____

Page Break

Consider the **State Energy Office / OEI grant(s)** you received. How many of these grants did your EIC receive?

- ○ 1 (1)
- ○ 2 (2)
- ○ 3-5 (6)

In what year did you receive this grant? If multiple, consider the earliest grant you received.

2009201020112012201320142015201620172018 2019

Year of Grant ()

How much was this grant?

_____

What was the grant for? (i.e. planning and energy baseline, specific efficiency project, renewable installation, upgrades to a building or facility, etc)

_____

Page Break

In what year did you receive the second grant?
2009201020112012201320142015201620172018 2019

Year of Grant ()

How much was this grant?

_____

What was the grant for? (i.e. planning and energy baseline, specific efficiency project, renewable installation, upgrades to a building or facility, etc)

_____

End of Block: Funding Section

Start of Block: Factors Affecting Progress and Assistance Section

Factors Affecting Progress and Assistance Section

This section will ask you about the factors that affect the progress of your **Energy Independent Community (EIC)** efforts and any assistance you may need to reach your 25 by '25 or higher goals.

What factors have limited your progress toward your 25 by '25 goal? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ A lack of staff (1)
- ☐ A lack of funding (2)
- ☐ Not having an energy independent community action plan (3)
- ☐ Change in elected officials (4)
- ☐ Turn-over in staff (6)
- ☐ Other (5) _____

Please share any comments you have regarding factors limiting progress towards your clean energy goals?

_____

_____

Page Break

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

What has been the most helpful to you in making progress toward 25 by '25? *Choose up to 3.*

- [ ] Community support (1)
- [ ] Government leadership (2)
- [ ] Dedicated or responsible staff (3)
- [ ] Community champion (4)
- [ ] Grants and other funding (5)
- [ ] Technical assistance (6)
- [ ] Other (7) _____

Please share any comments you have regarding factors helping you toward your clean energy goals?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Page Break

What kind of technical assistance would be helpful in moving to your goal? Choose all that apply.

- [ ] Educating local officials on the EIC program and its benefits (1)
- [ ] Input on forming a local or regional energy team (2)
- [ ] Data management and establishing or re-establishing your energy baseline (3)
- [ ] Energy plan template and examples of successful plans (4)
- [ ] Grant writing assistance (5)
- [ ] Solar Energy Financing Guide: Empowering Wisconsin Local Governments (6)
- [ ] Other, please describe (7)

_____

Please share any comments you have regarding assistance that would be helpful?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Page Break

Has your municipality signed onto support the Paris Climate Commitment or any other climate reduction pledge like the Mayors' Climate Pledge?

- ○ Yes (please specify) (4) _____
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

Page Break

Who have you partnered with in energy initiatives? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ UW-Madison Extension (1)
- ☐ State Energy Office / Office of Energy Innovation (2)
- ☐ Energy on Wisconsin (3)
- ☐ Technical College (4)
- ☐ Focus on Energy (5)
- ☐ Non-Profit Organization(s) (please specify) (6) _____
- ☐ Utility (7)
- ☐ Green Tier Legacy Communities (8)
- ☐ Regional Plan Commission (9)
- ☐ Other (please specify) (10) _____

Would you be interested in working collaboratively with others in your region to move to your goals?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

Page Break

Have there been any efforts to set goals beyond 25 by '25?

- ○ We are considering a resolution to go beyond 25% renewables (1)
- ○ We have already passed a resolution going beyond 2025 (2)
- ○ We have not yet considered any possible goals beyond 2025 (4)

What are the new goals you adopted?

_____

End of Block: Factors Affecting Progress and Assistance Section

Start of Block: Community Engagement Section

Community Engagement Section

This section asks questions about how Community members, including residents and businesses, who are associated with you **Energy Independent Community (EIC)** efforts are involved in activities.

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

In addition to clean energy upgrades to local government operations, has your EIC facilitated community member involvement in any of the following? (Indicate which ones)

	Residents (1)	Businesses (2)	Schools (3)	Non-Profits (4)
Energy Efficiency (1)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Solar Group Buy for individual solar PV installations (6)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Solar Garden (2)	☐	☐	☐	☐
PACE - Commercial Energy Efficiency & Renewables Financing (3)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Climate Resilience (5)	☐	☐	☐	☐

In what other ways are community members involved in energy independence work?

_____

Page Break

For either energy efficiency or renewable energy adoption, does your community have any programs that help low income individuals move towards energy independence?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ No, but we are interested in creating these sorts of programs (3)
- ○ Not sure (4)

What programs does your community have to help low income individuals access clean energy?

_____

End of Block: Community Engagement Section

Start of Block: Concluding Section

Conclusion Section

The concluding section asks if your community would like to be involved with us going forward and for any final comments you have on your **Energy Independent Community (EIC)** efforts.

If there is any other information you want to share about your EIC, please write it here.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Appendix 3: Copy of Survey

Do we have permission to attribute/share your EIC's progress and information you have provided in publicly posted documents and materials?

- ○ Yes, you may attribute to our community on materials (1)
- ○ Please contact us before attributing our community on materials (2)
- ○ No, You may not attribute our community on materials (3)

Would you be willing to engage in follow up discussions with UW-Madison Extension and help us develop a case study of your EIC?

- ○ Yes (1)
- ○ No (2)
- ○ Not sure (3)

Please provide the following contact information if you would like to discuss the potential to develop a case study of your EIC or if you would like us to contact you before attributing your community on materials.

- ○ Name (4) _____
- ○ Email (5) _____
- ○ Telephone (6) _____

Thank you very much for your participation!

End of Block: Concluding Section