

Happy Friday, Dawn and Brian.

I just wanted to make sure you saw the news that our grant application was successful and we were awarded \$3M from the Department of Energy for a microgrid/battery storage project here in Kaukauna.

Your letter of support from the HOTV MSD went a long way toward our grant application being successful.

Please share this great news with the Commission.

Below is a link to our website article for more information.

<https://www.kaukaunautilities.com/blog/2023/10/19/3-million-in-federal-funding-awarded-to-kaukauna-utilities-to-enhance-power-grid-resilience-and-reliability-for-its-customers/>

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Michael

Michael Avanzi
General Manager

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October 19, 2023

\$3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING AWARDED TO KAUKAUNA UTILITIES TO ENHANCE POWER GRID RESILIENCE AND RELIABILITY FOR ITS CUSTOMERS

Kaukauna, WI – On October 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected Kaukauna Utilities (KU) to receive \$3 million that will further KU's tradition of delivering affordable, clean energy to the communities that it serves. The funds will help KU to enhance electric system reliability and resiliency and upgrade infrastructure while maintaining cost effective rates for its customers. This funding is through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program.

Anticipated outcomes and benefits of this project include, but are not limited to:

- Generate a projected 20% increase in reliability for customers with renewed investment in critical infrastructure serving the community.
- Help maintain low-cost rates and reliable service for customers and accelerate necessary infrastructure improvements by reducing the financial burden on ratepayers to achieve grid modernization objectives.
- Equip Kaukauna Utilities with the expertise to deploy advanced technologies, including Distributed Fault Location Isolation Service Restoration (D-FLISR), battery energy storage systems, and microgrids.
- Provide internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students.

"Extreme weather events fueled by climate change will continue to strain the nation's aging transmission systems, but President Biden's Investing in America agenda will ensure America's power grid can provide reliable, affordable power," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. "Today's announcement represents the largest-ever direct investment in critical grid infrastructure, supporting projects that will harden systems, improve energy reliability and affordability—all while generating union jobs for highly skilled workers."

"Just like our predecessors before us, we are committed to investing in critical infrastructure that serves the community for generations to come," said Kaukauna Utilities General Manager, Michael Avanzi. "Our mission at KU is to enhance the quality

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of life and strengthen the communities we serve. This is just another example of how KU is always striving to achieve this mission.”

GRIP Program stats:

- 300 total applications received
- 58 projects ultimately receiving funding
- 12 of 58 projects are in public power communities nationwide
- ONE (1) of those 12 public power communities is in Wisconsin – Kaukauna Utilities!

The funds are part of the [Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships](#) (GRIP) Program, which seeks to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change. Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and administered by DOE’s [Grid Deployment Office](#), the GRIP program leverages federal and private investments to ensure that communities across the nation have a reliable grid that’s prepared for extreme weather while also delivering affordable, clean energy and creating robust local opportunities for economic investment and jobs.

“Congratulations to Kaukauna on winning this highly competitive and beneficial grant,” said Mike Peters, president and CEO of WPPI Energy, wholesale electric power supplier to KU and 50 other locally owned utilities in three states. “Not only will the utility’s forward-thinking project advance the grid flexibility and resilience that is so vital to community well-being, but these efforts will also serve as a model throughout our region for ensuring continued access to reliable, affordable, responsible energy.”

Stay tuned to the Kaukauna Utilities [website](#) and social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) for further updates on this project. To learn more, visit the Grid Deployment Office’s [website](#).



Customer Driven,
Community Minded,
Environmentally Responsible.



GET IN TOUCH

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🕒 Lobby Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00AM – 4:00PM; Friday, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

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