

SOLAR EXPANSION

A Wisconsin Boom

Wisconsin's first utility-scale solar farm – Two Creeks in Manitowoc County – came online in the fall of 2020. This installation generates enough electricity to power 33,000 homes. Wisconsin's solar capacity could increase another 400% over the next few years with the expected construction of another 19 solar farms.

Power generated from these solar installations will help shift the state away from fossil fuels. Additionally, construction of these solar farms will stimulate local economies and benefit Wisconsin's communities, particularly if they are built using local workers.



MAXIMIZE SOLAR'S
LOCAL IMPACT
**BUILD WITH
LOCAL WORKERS**



WISCONSIN SOLAR PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR IN QUEUE

PROJECT	COUNTY	SIZE (MW)
Albany	Green	50
Apple River	Polk	100
Badger Hollow	Iowa	300
Badger State	Jefferson	149
Bear Creek	Richland	50
Beaver Dam	Dodge	50
Cassville	Grant	50
Crawfish River	Jefferson	75
Darian	Rock/Walworth	250
Grant County	Grant	200
Koshkonong	Dane	300
North Rock	Rock	50
Onion River	Sheboygan	150
Paddock	Rock	65
Paris	Kenosha	200
Point Beach	Manitowoc	100
Springfield	Dodge	100
Wautoma	Waushara	99
Wood County	Wood	150
TOTAL		2,488



To access the [Capturing the Sun](#) report, visit www.wisconsininfrastructure.com

CAPTURING A WISCONSIN WORKFORCE

Keep the Jobs Local

Wisconsin is on the cusp of a major expansion of solar energy. Construction of solar farms will not only reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, it will generate economic activity in the places they are sited. A new study, *Capturing the Sun: The Economic Benefits of Using Local Workers on Wisconsin Solar Projects*, shows that using local workers for solar installations can increase the economic impact by as much as 158% compared to using a temporary, out-of-state workforce.

STRONGER ECONOMIES

Greater Local Impact

Building solar farms creates significant economic activity in the county and region where they are sited. The economic impact is much larger when local workers are hired, since they spend nearly 90% of their disposable income in or near their community, while out-of-state workers spend much less in that location. Using a local workforce to build a 150 MW solar installation generates nearly \$12 million of economic activity in the region. That amount is 73% to 158% more than the local economic activity created when a temporary, out-of-state workforce is used.

Using local workers to build the 19 projects recently approved, or in the approval process, by the Public Service Commission (PSC) would generate \$195 million in local economic activity. Filling those jobs with an out-of-state workforce would generate \$83 to \$120 million less economic activity in the places these solar farms are sited.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY & STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Wisconsin's construction industry is growing rapidly, increasing 34% from 2011 through 2019. Hiring local workers creates training pathways into that industry. Many construction companies use apprenticeship programs to train workers to be carpenters, electricians, and operating engineers. Hiring local workers for solar installations creates more opportunities to train those apprentices.

Local hiring on solar projects can help strengthen families. It allows construction workers to live at home during the life of the project, rather than working on a different project at a remote site away from their families.

MULTIPLYING LOCAL SPENDING

PAYROLL
\$360 M

Total payroll for construction of 19 Wisconsin solar projects.

WORKER SPENDING
\$169 M

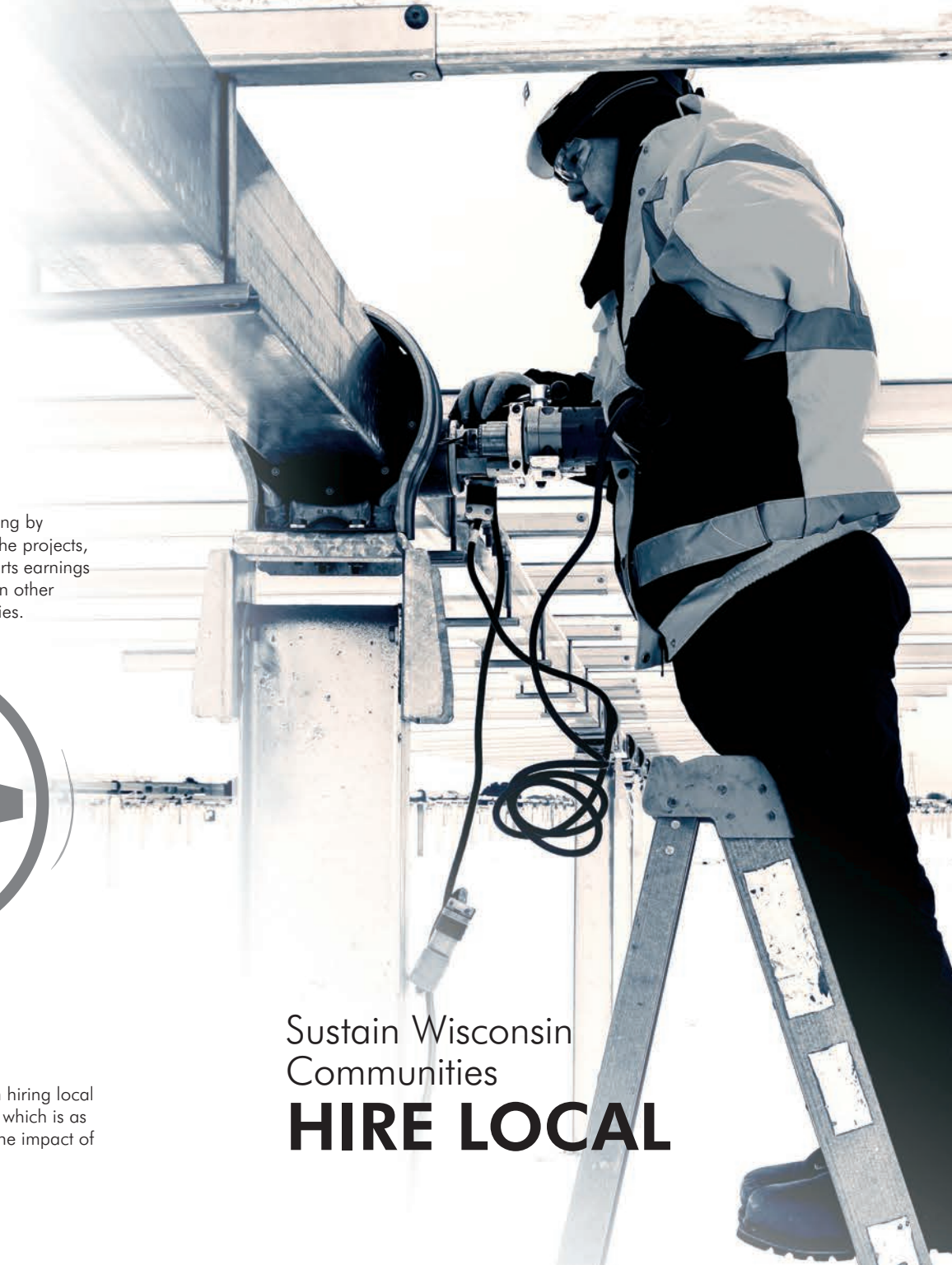
Local spending by workers on the projects, which supports earnings for workers in other local industries.

INDUCED SPENDING
\$26 M

Local worker spending creates additional local earnings, with each round of spending smaller than the last.

TOTAL IMPACT
\$195 M

Total economic impact from hiring local workers for the 19 projects, which is as much as 158% more than the impact of an out-of-state workforce.



Sustain Wisconsin
Communities

HIRE LOCAL