

2024 SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE

NOURISHING & ENRICHING OUR ENVIRONMENT



OUR CLIMATE COMMITMENT

On March 17, 2021, the Willy Street Co-op Board of Directors voted to make a commitment to the [Climate Collaborative](#). By making this commitment, we are recognized among a number of forward-thinking organizations along with other cooperatives including NCG, Durham Co-op Market, and Organic Valley. The climate commitment areas chosen were:

- Energy Efficiency: Increase energy efficiency
- Food Waste: Reduce food waste in the supply chain
- Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Reduce short-lived climate pollutant emission

This dashboard demonstrates several of the ongoing projects and pursuits through which the Willy Street Co-op is achieving these commitments.

Increased Energy Efficiency

In order to decrease emissions and our carbon footprint, we are continuing to pursue projects and activities that will increase our efficiency and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

While we are continuing to identify strategies that will increase energy efficiency and our reliance on carbon-based energy, recent years have seen progress in our emissions goals through the use of renewable energy and offsets. The charts below outline recent progress in reducing the co-op's carbon footprint:

Electricity				GHG Equivalent		% Gross
2023	January 2023-December 2023	2815649	kilowatt hours	1174	Metric tons	80.69%
2022	April 2022-March 2023	2802393	kilowatt hours	1168	Metric tons	79.24%
2021	April 2021- March 2022	2815128	kilowatt hours	1174	Metric tons	80.30%
Natural Gas				GHG Equivalent		% Gross
2023	January 2023-December 2023	53183	Therms	281	Metric tons	19.31%
2022	March 2022-February 2023	57794	Therms	306	Metric tons	20.76%
2021	March 2022-February 2023	54362	Therms	288	Metric tons	19.70%

Offsets				GHG Equivalent	Unit	% Gross
2023	Jan 2023- Dec 2023	1264568.26	kilowatt hours	883	Metric tons	60.69%
2022	April 2022-March 2023	1208455.10	kilowatt hours	856	Metric tons	58.07%
2021	April 2021- March 2022	1122966.60	kilowatt hours	796	Metric tons	54.45%

To bring about continued reductions in energy use and to optimize the efficiencies we have worked with our community partners including MG&E, Sustain Dane, and the Ethical and Responsible Business Network at UW Madison. Upcoming improvements will include more sustainable equipment and refrigeration systems. You will notice more of our cooler cases will be equipped with closed doors to save energy and improve product quality as we continue this work.

Waste Reduction



Caption: Co-op staff engaged in a waste audit.

In 2020 and 2021, our cooperative worked to overhaul our recycling infrastructure and practices. A major objective of this work was to reduce our recycling missorts. When waste is not properly sorted, it can contaminate recycling loads. Even a small degree of recycling contamination can result in the entire load being redistributed to the landfill. By keeping staff well-trained and empowered to sort waste properly, we avoid unnecessary contributions of greenhouse gasses from landfill emissions.

Our co-op has upcoming partnerships with local compost processors to collect and biodegrade the organic waste we produce on-site. Since partnering with local compost service provider Greenbox, we have diverted approximately 9000 pounds of organic material to compost locally.

Renewable Energy



Your co-op has worked to incorporate several projects and partnerships in order to maximize the use of renewables within our energy portfolio. You can see the impact of our renewable energy use on the co-op's carbon footprint in the charts above.

O'Brien Solar Fields

Through our partnership with MG&E, Willy Street Co-op participated in the opening of the O'Brien Solar Fields in Fitchburg. Through this partnership, your co-op is contracted to receive the local, clean energy produced by a 250 kW section of this 200,000-kilowatt solar field. The combination of the Renewable Energy Rider project and other renewable energy programs offsets over 50% of the energy our cooperative consumes through local, clean, and renewable sources.

Solar Arrays

We continue to maintain and utilize our rooftop Solar Array at our 1221 Williamson location.

In 2023 we generated 26,749. KMWh of solar energy using our East Retail's Rooftop Solar Array. Over their lifetime, these panels have generated 198.62 MWh.



In order to reduce our carbon footprint and increase our clean, local, and renewable energy mix we are continually pursuing projects to increase solar production and offset reliance on fossil fuels. In 2024 we anticipate the installation of a new rooftop solar array at our Middleton site.

Green Power Tomorrow

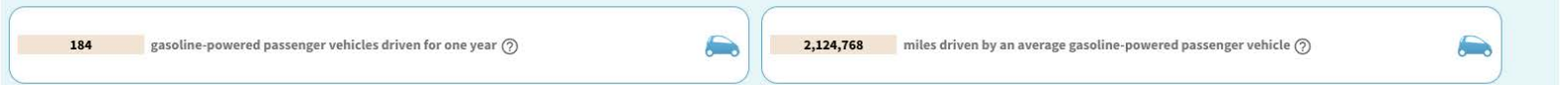
In addition to producing solar energy, we also buy wind and solar offsets through Madison Gas and Electric. Each month, we purchase 30030 kWh of this clean renewable energy.

Carbon Offset by Clean Energy

Check out this offset equivalent breakdown from our EPA Calculator (which includes the impact of using clean renewable energy from the O'Brian Solar Fields, our Willy Street Solar Array, and Green Power Tomorrow). By using these clean energy sources, we had an equivalent impact of removing 883 metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere during 2023.

856 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) equivalent

This is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from:



This is equivalent to CO₂ emissions from:



This is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions avoided by:



This is equivalent to carbon sequestered by:



