



The Power of Montana

NorthWestern Energy is committed to a safe, sustainable energy future, providing more clean energy and delivering it more reliably and more affordably than ever before. To accomplish that, we are utilizing a balanced energy mix, integrating renewable resources with traditional energy sources — and continually exploring methods for reducing the carbon footprint. ***It is important for our communities and customers to know:***

Clean energy and reducing the carbon footprint have been and continue to be priorities for us.

- We have invested more than \$1 billion in clean energy projects, including hydro, wind and solar energy.
- Renewable hydro and wind represent more than 60 percent of the electricity we deliver in Montana.
- NorthWestern Energy helped launch a solar pilot project in Bozeman on September 30, 2016 — a \$1 million investment. Two more solar pilot projects will be added over the next two years.
- Our run-of-river hydro system provides reliable, clean energy that will lower in cost over time. We are also evaluating adding incremental generation to our hydro capacity.
- Our current energy portfolio of owned and contracted resources already has a carbon footprint lower than the EPA 2030 goal.

We have a responsibility to deliver reliable, affordable energy while focusing on sustainability and clean energy.

- Traditional energy sources are more effective and dependable in meeting customer needs when energy use is at its highest, particularly in winter.
- To meet peak capacity demands and ensure cost-effective reliability, coal will continue to be an important energy source for us.
- Reliability and long-term value for our customers are behind our belief in supplying additional natural gas-fired generation over the course of time.
- The natural gas-fired generation provides the ability to quickly ramp up when we need it and ramp down when we don't need it.
- Natural gas-fired generation provides additional reserve capacity, meaning we can continue to serve customers in the event of an unexpected outage or supply disruption in the region. Currently, we procure this resource from the open market, which poses a potential risk to customers in terms of price and availability in the future.
- Past investments and future planning have enabled NorthWestern Energy to keep energy rates for customers below the national average.

We continue to be a leader in energy efficiency — and our customers are realizing the benefits of our programs.

- We have been offering energy efficiency programs for more than 30 years.
- We are fundamentally committed to helping our customers conserve energy and manage their energy spending as effectively as possible.
- We provide thousands of rebates through our E+ programs each year.
- NorthWestern Energy is responsible for about 80 percent of the energy efficiency achieved in Montana.

