# Brent Ridge, President and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative



# Dairyland Power Cooperative Update: Where Renewables and Reliability Meet

Brent Ridge, President & CEO



Presented To:
Barron Electric Cooperative Members & Staff
2022 Barron Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting
March 26, 2022

# THANKS & GRATITUDE

**MEMBERS** 

TEAMMATES

DAIRYLAND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

DAIRYLAND BOARD





## CEO Goal: Sustainability



Safe, reliable & predictable delivery of electricity

The importance of asset reliability



Cost competitive: lower costs, increase load & grow outside revenue



Methodically lower our carbon output without sacrificing safety & reliability



We are in the people business



# Industry Trends & Headwinds



Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that delivers safe, cost-effective electricity across 15 states and Manitoba, Canada

- > 900,000 sq. miles
- 6,500+ generating units
- 66,000 miles of transmission lines



## MISO Perspective on Reliability Challenges

Power plant retirements, lower overall reserve margins and increasing outage levels of "baseload" generation impact capacity availability.

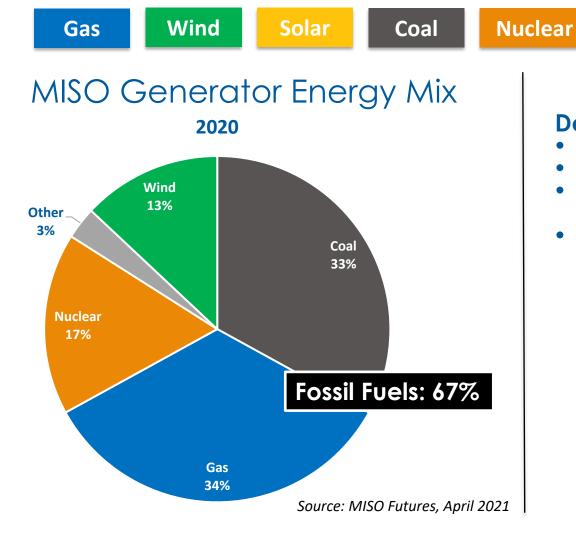
Wind and solar resources are not always available or need to be curtailed due to transmission constraints.

Natural gas resources may not be able to procure the fuel they need at key times

The aggregate impact of these and other challenges has altered the region's historical summer centric risk profile, making it more prone to grid emergencies in winter and shoulder-seasons that rarely posed risks in the past. - MISO



# MISO - Planning for the Future



### What is the Future (by 2040)?

**Battery** 

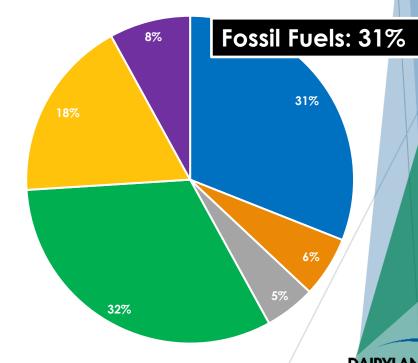
#### Depends on:

- Economics
- Political Environment

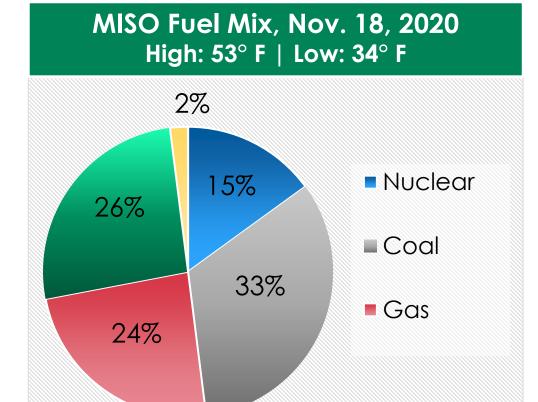
Other

- Technological Advancements
- Reliability

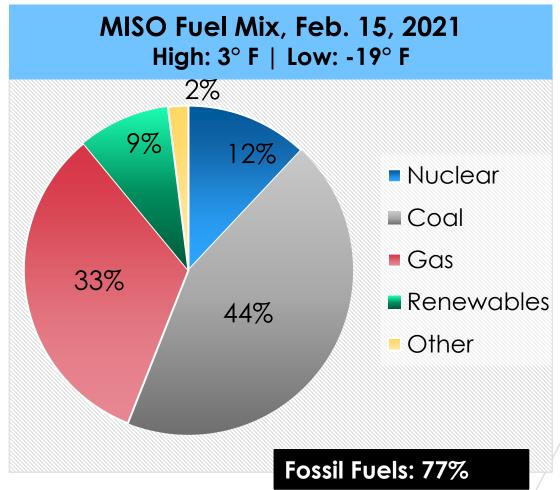




## Keeping the Lights On – A Real Example

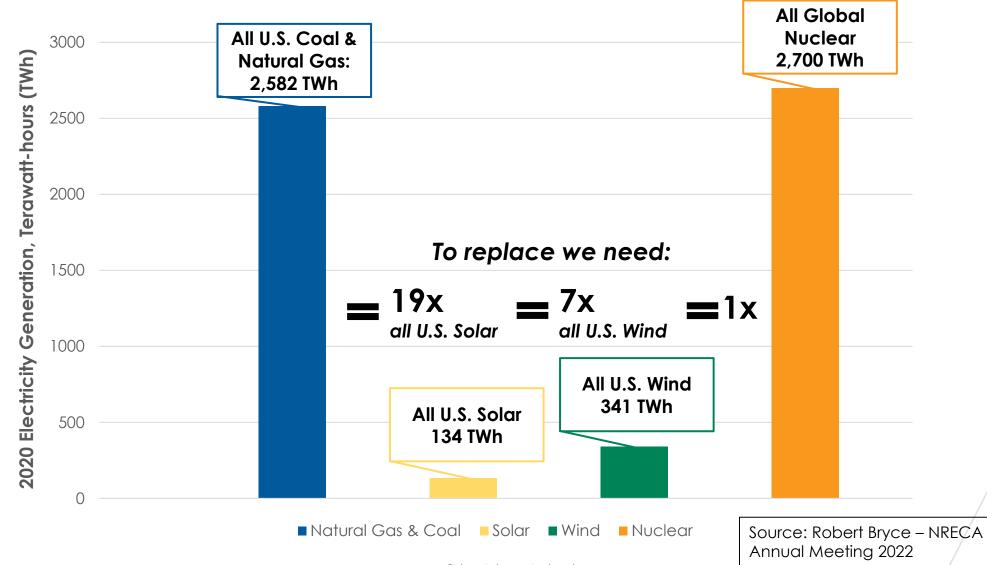


Fossil Fuels: 57%





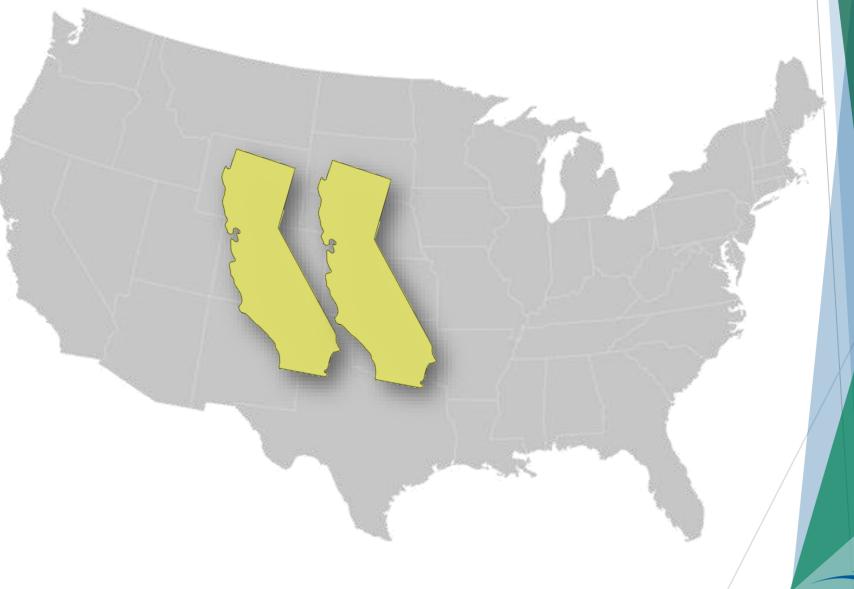
## "Zero Carbon Grid by 2035" – What it means?



### And Cartoonish Amounts of Land

- Meeting existing U.S. electricity demand with wind energy would require 900,000 km2
- That's two Californias!
- Vaclav Smil, Energy Myths and Realities, 2010
- Lee Miller & David Keith, Environmental Research Letters, 2018

Source: Robert Bryce – NRECA Annual Meeting 2022

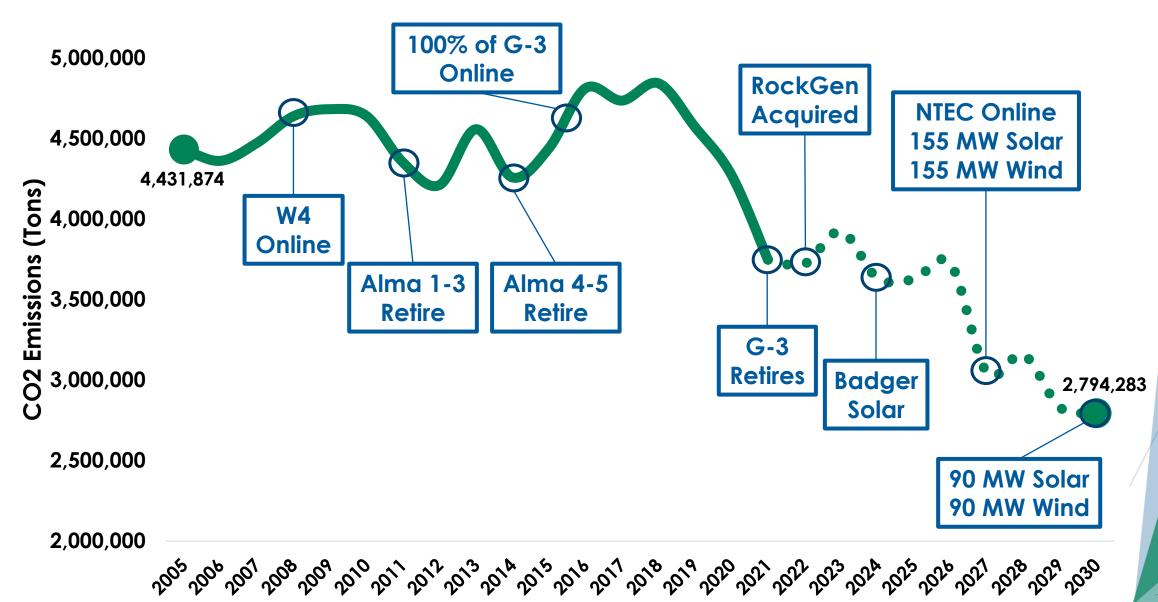


# What is Dairyland doing to reduce carbon and maintain reliability?

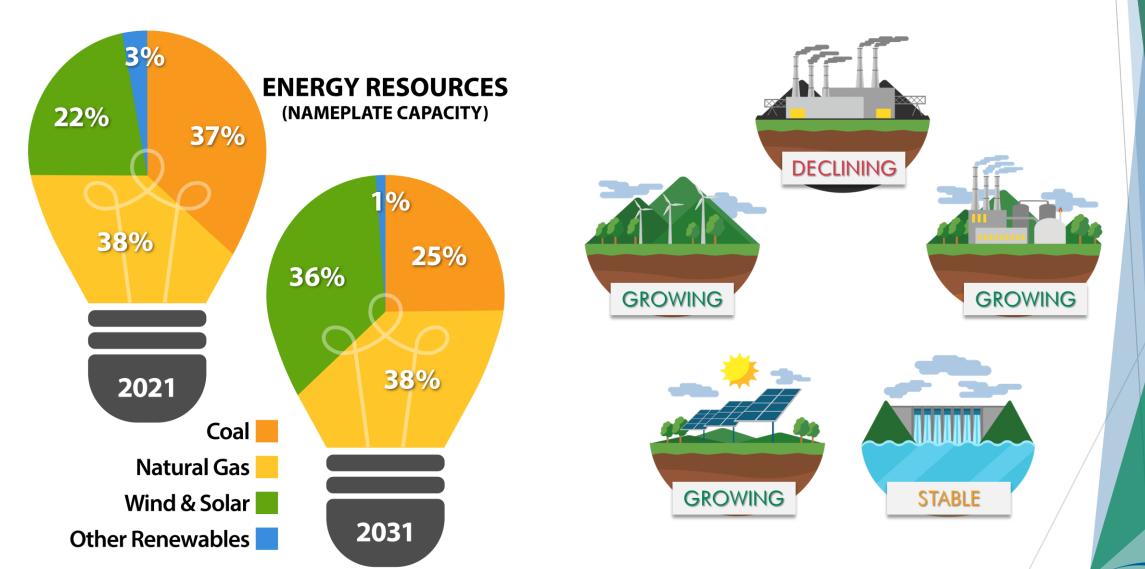
Our Purpose: Safe, reliable and cost-effective



## Dairyland Carbon Reduction Over Time



# Dairyland's Current Energy Mix



## Renewable Generation Resources



#### Utility Scale Solar = Best Value

- 25 MW from 18 arrays (2016-18)
- ▶ 149 MW Badger State Solar
- Planned operation 2023



#### Wind

- Quilt Block (98 MW)
- ▶ Barton (80 MW)
- Tatanka Ridge (52 MW)
- Winnebago (20 MW)
- Adams (18 MW)
- ▶ "Other" (18 MW)
  - Across multiple facilities

#### **Landfill Gas**

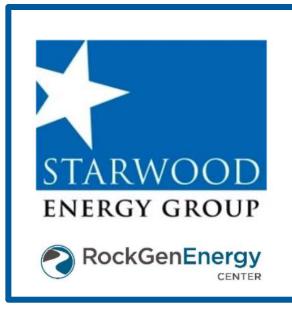
- Central Disposal Landfill Generating Station (5 MW)
- Timberline Trail Landfill Generation Station (5 MW)



## RockGen Energy Center

- ▶ 503 MW combustion turbine
  - ► Three dispatchable units
- ► Located in Cambridge, WI
  - Near Madison in Dane County

- Commercial operation date
  - ▶ October 2001
- Acquisition included contracts that supply capacity to other utilities in the region







## Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) Power Plant Development

- Reformation of project in 2021
  - ▶ Dairyland 50%
  - ▶ Basin Electric 30%
  - ► Allette/MN Power 20%
- Minnesota Power still the operator
- ▶ Legal challenges remain
- Finalizing regulatory permitting



## NuScale

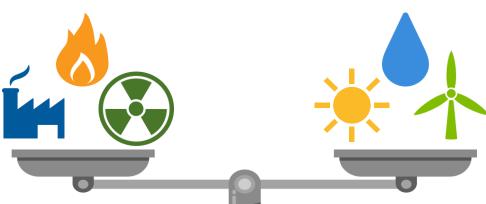
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered with NuScale
- ▶ Long-term review of nuclear as non-carbon emitting 24/7 option through small modular reactor (SMR) technology
- Coal and gas needed for transition and integration of renewable energy





## Safe, Reliable and Cost-Effective Energy for the Future

- We will take a balanced and measured approach to carbon reduction
- Investment is trending toward renewable energy
- We must ensure a reliable and affordable flow of electricity
  - ▶ Innovation will drive the transition.
  - Traditional resources will keep the light on
- "All of the above" approach
  - Retiring coal plants within MISO
  - Natural gas = lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions + renewable-enabling (can ramp up/down quickly)
  - Add renewable
  - Consider advanced nuclear



Balance = safe, resilient, environmentally responsible



# Comments and Questions



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

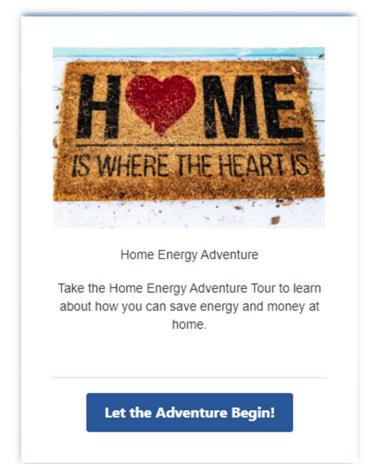
# Manager's Report - Pages 8 and 9



Aaron Torud

# Energy Efficiency Tools for Members

- Available at barronelectric.com
  - Resources Residential
  - Home Energy Adventure
  - Quiz and questions about energy efficiency
- Save Energy To Save Money
  - Tips, articles, and videos on efficiency, technology, and safety
- Our Energy Video
  - Touchstone Energy videos on saving energy



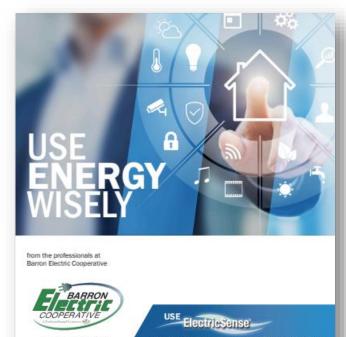
# Energy Efficiency Tools for Members

- Use Energy Wisely Brochure
  - 12 pages of energy information, down to almost everything you plug in at home
- Rebates for Energy Star Rated
   Appliances at barronelectric.com
- Load Control Status
  - Water heaters, electric heat,
     EVs



Dairyland Power Cooperative Load Control Status:

#### Residential



# Electric Vehicle Information

- Trego Level 2 and 3 chargers
  - Average of 964 miles put on cars per month (Last 5 months)
- We are purchasing a F-150
   Lightning to add to our fleet (2023)
  - Put it to work and see how it stacks up against our other half-ton pick-ups
  - Report the progress, failures, and successes of it



# Electric Vehicle Information

- Charge EV LLC, Created 2020
  - 31 electric cooperatives then, now 72
  - Created to help EV adoption by creating a charging network in rural America





# Electric Vehicle Information

- Gas Car (25 MPG), \$4.00 per Gallon
  - 16 cents per mile to drive
- Electric car (3M/KWH)
  - 10.57 cents per KWH (Home Charging)
  - 3.5 cents per mile to drive
- 25 Cents per KWH (Public Charging)
  - Trego Chargers
    - 8.3 cents per mile to drive



# Renewable Energy at the Cooperative Level

- Community Rays Installed in 2014
- 10 Homes for 1 Year
- 100 KW System, ½-acre Site
- 19,000 Members/Homes
- Approximately 1,000 Acres of Solar Panels to Produce Enough KWHs for all Barron Electric Homes
- System is Producing Electricity 15% of the Time (Capacity Factor)
- Would Need a Storage System to Keep the KWHs
   Until You Need Them at Night or During a Cloudy Day



# Concern for Community

- Drive-thru Clinics for the COVID Vaccine Held at Cooperative
- Hosted Blood Drives
- Committed 720 hours of Community Service
- Cooperative Matched Employee Donations - \$8,000
- Over \$30,000 in Federated Youth Foundation Donations from Unclaimed Capital Credits
  - \$18,300 to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Donations Matched by CoBank and FYF



# Thank You!