

# **INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING**

Why Wisconsin Needs Strategic Energy Development

To meet the energy needs of our future, Wisconsin needs a statewide plan that considers the cost of new energy investments and their impact on human health and the environment. We can achieve this by passing legislation requiring Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) for Wisconsin utilities.

An IRP is a long-term (10-20 years) strategy that outlines utilities' future energy resources and emphasizes reliability and transparency. Implementing a standard for utility energy planning in Wisconsin would ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement, require alternative generation and transmission options, and consider the environmental and social impacts of energy investments.

Wisconsin's current planning process, known as the Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA), only looks at current and historical data without considering our future energy needs. Decisions made by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) consider one utility at a time without assessing the plans of other utilities in the state.



There are already thirty-three other states, including several neighboring states, with IRP legislation. Certain Wisconsin utilities, like Xcel Energy, are familiar with IRP processes because of their operations in neighboring states. We know Wisconsin utilities can create smart, healthy energy plans. Without an IRP, the PSC is often forced to make energy decisions that unnecessarily cost ratepayers millions of dollars.



## Why is Integrated Resource Planning Important?

#### **Maximize Efficiency**

An IRP creates a comprehensive assessment of current and future energy needs, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to meet demand while minimizing waste.

#### Resilience and Risk Management

By incorporating diverse energy resources and technologies, an IRP enhances the resilience of the energy grid, making it more capable of withstanding disruptions from offline power plants, natural disasters, or even cyberattacks.

### **Sustainability**

An IRP evaluates energy resources to meet demand while maximizing the use of clean, renewable sources. By planning for grid upgrades and battery storage, an IRP can ensure consistent, reliable power from renewable sources and avoid the negative impacts of long-term investments in fossil fuels.

#### **Community Engagement**

Developing an IRP encourages transparency and accountability through collaboration with various stakeholders, including utilities, regulators, environmental groups, and community organizations. By engaging stakeholders in the planning process, Wisconsin can build consensus, address concerns, and ensure that the resulting energy strategy reflects the needs and priorities of all parties involved.

#### **Cost-Effective Planning**

By evaluating various energy resources and technologies, an IRP helps identify the most cost-effective energy generation, transmission, and distribution options, saving utilities and consumers money while reducing costs related to impacts on human health and the environment. In addition, an IRP helps utilities meet renewable portfolio standards and emission reduction targets by identifying ways to integrate more homegrown, low-cost renewable energy.

