

Why is *Integrated Resource Planning* Important?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.