# **Offsite Solar at UW-Eau Claire**

Lily Strehlow Sustainability Coordinator

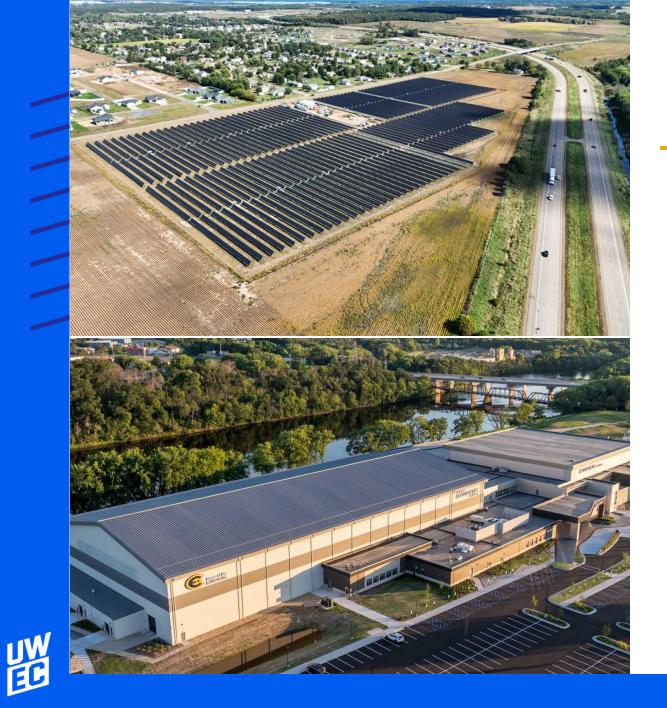
5-20-2025

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire









## Power Purchase Agreement

- Technically a "renewable energy rider" in Wisconsin
- Impetus: offsetting a new all electric building to achieve net energy neutrality
  - Sonnentag Center
- UWEC subscribes to 2.8 MW (5,717,600 kWh) annually
  - Equivalent to annual energy use of new building
  - Total array is 5MW
- Partner: campus utility Xcel Energy
- Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) retired by Xcel on behalf of UWEC

### **EXCELENCIPY** RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER SERVICE AGREEMENT

This Renewable Energy Rider Service Agreement (the "Agreement") is made this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023, by and between Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin corporation with offices located at 1414 West Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701 ("NSPW" or the "Company") and the BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM, d/b/a the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Wisconsin with offices located at 105 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701 (the "Customer").

#### RECITAL

- A. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (the "Commission") approved NSPW's Voluntary Renewable Energy Rider - Contract (Schedule VRE-3) by Final Decision dated April 26, 2023 in Docket No. 4220-TE-112 (PSC REF # 465296).
- B. The Customer takes service from NSPW under one or more of the Rate Schedules identified in Schedule VRE-3, as may be amended from time to time by the Company and approved by the Commission.
- C. To take service under Schedule VRE-3, the Customer is required to execute this Agreement with the Company.

#### AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter set forth, NSPW and the Customer, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, successors and assigns, agree as follows:

1. <u>Schedule VRE-3</u>. The terms and conditions of Schedule VRE-3, as may be amended from time to time by the Company and approved by the Commission, are hereby incorporated into this Agreement; provided, however, that if approved amendments to



### How the contract works

- Solar Array produces energy
- UWEC buys solar energy and RECs from Xcel
  - Flat rate of \$78.42 per MWh
- UWEC receives a credit, determined by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, for energy produced
  - Cap of \$90.00/MWh
- The difference between the credit and the charge per MWh is the financial benefit OR drawback of the program
- The building will continue to use electricity at the "regular" cost of energy from Xcel regardless of the solar production, credits, & charges.



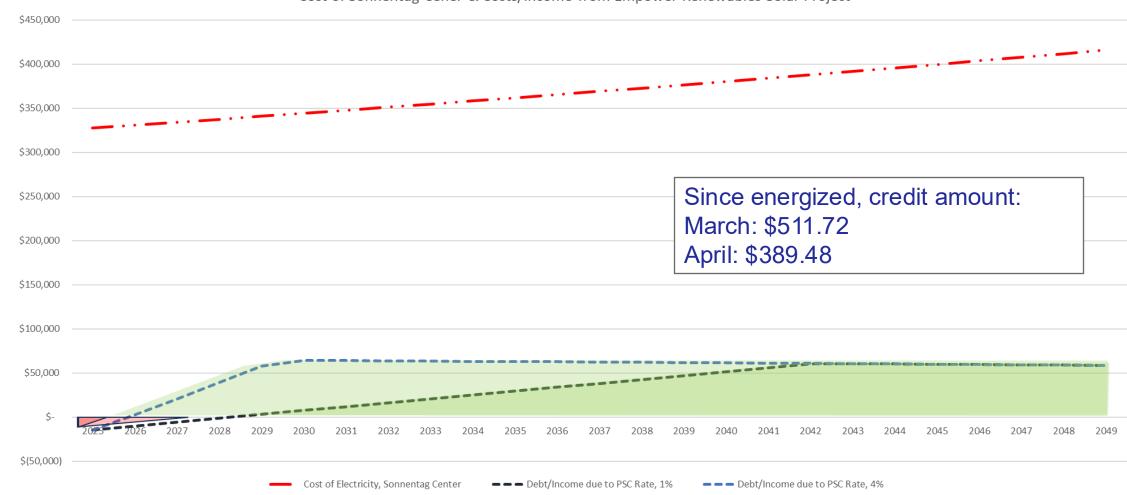


#### UWEC ILLUSTRATIVE BILL EXAMPLE with 2023 Cg-9 Tariff Rates

	ELECTRICITY CHARGES	RATE: Cg	-9 Large TOD Srv	Secondary	
	DESCRIPTION	USAGE UNITS	RATE	CHARGE	The somentag building uses energy.
	Customer Charge			\$180.00	seney.
	On-Peak Energy ChWinter	116,667 kWh	\$0.088500	\$10,325.00	1 use eners
	Off-Peak Energy ChWinter	175,000 kWh	\$0.054000	\$9,450.00	uilding that
	Energy Cost Adjustment	291,667 kWh	\$0.003730	\$1,087.92	+29 <sup>102</sup> 410
	Customer Demand	599 kW	\$3.500000	\$2,097.60	mentars
	On-Peak Demand ChWinte	599 kW	\$13.000000	\$7,791.10	me <sup>50</sup> is
	Subtotal			\$30,931.62	The all contribution
	WI Low Income Assist			\$309.32	ratertion
	Total			\$31,240.93	a fatoduo
	OTHER RECURRING CHAP	RGES DETAILS			The and is the for the and is the and is the for the and is the for th
UWEC is credited for the by PSCW \$75.90/MWh stos	DESCRIPTION			CHARGE	NECTON
by ps product dited	Empower Renewables				JN - 00
cap of \$75 on at row the	Production Price/Credit				
\$90.00 MWb Set	Solar Production Period				
MWh tos	Empower Renewables Price	291,667 x	0.07842	\$22,872.50	
	S*CC Production Credit	291,667 x	-0.07590	-\$22,137.50	
	*** Monthly Estiamted Empor	wer Renewable Cost/C	redit	\$735.00	
UW	_				



UWEC pays or is paid the difference



Cost of Sonnentag Cener & Costs/Income from Empower Renewables Solar Project



## **Pros & Cons of PPA**

### Pros

- Easy to execute project, as Xcel took care of the details
  - No permitting, RFPs, etc.
  - Less risk/uncertainty for UWEC
  - Xcel handles maintenance and repairs
  - Xcel retired RECs on our behalf
- No large capital investment from campus required
- Less red tape internally for UWEC vs. owning the solar development
- Research, tours both still possible for campus community
- Potentially lower cost for install due to 5MW size and ground mount style
- \$40,000-\$60,000 in credit if math is correct

### Cons

- Rooftop solar on the new building would have saved the campus more \$...probably
  - 90% of energy needs on annual basis would have been met using rooftop
  - Need to factor in bond/large upfront investment to ROI
- Offsite solar is less visible to students & community
- Credit applies to bill instead of returned as cash to campus no monetary benefit to susty. office
- Ceiling on credit reduces returns over long run
- Confusing process



## **THANK YOU**

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> University of Wisconsin Eau Claire