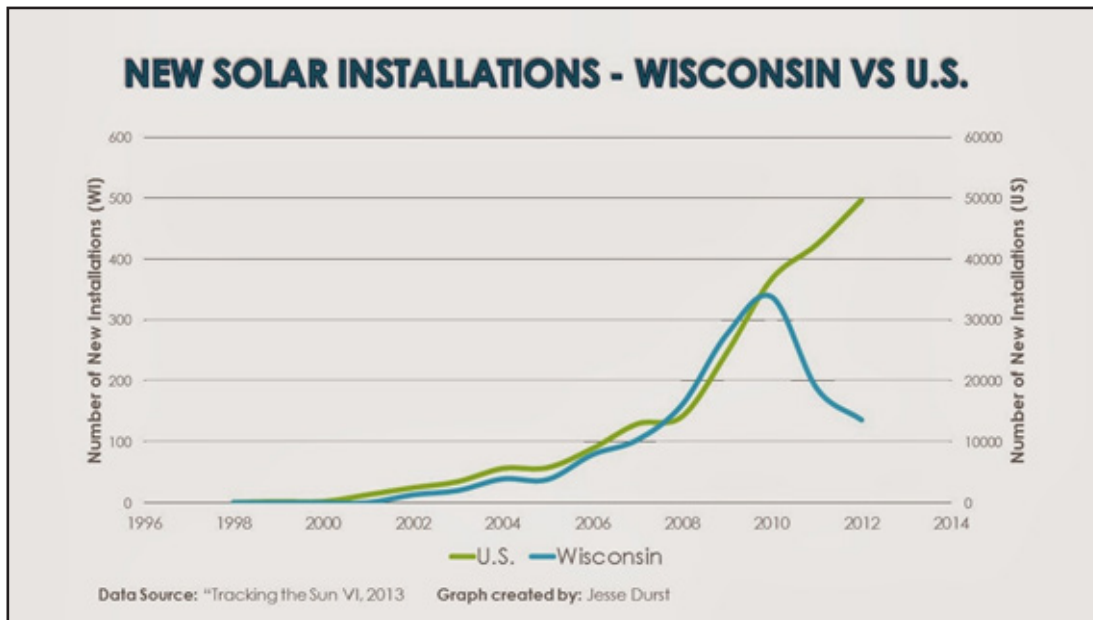


~ Clean Energy Choice ~

Promoting Renewable Energy without Costing Taxpayers a Dime

With a simple clarification to the law, the State Legislature could help make Wisconsin a leader once again in renewable energy. Wisconsin is lagging behind the United States and other Midwestern states in the production of clean energy, but Clean Energy Choice can help reverse that trend



Clean Energy Choice, sometimes referred to as third party power purchase agreements, would allow a person to contract with a developer to pay for and install a renewable energy system at the person's home, farm, or business. Many people are daunted by the high upfront cost of installing a renewable energy system, but Clean Energy Choice would mitigate that fear. The third-party company will install, operate, and maintain a solar panel, manure digester, wind turbine or other renewable energy system on their property at no cost to the landowner. The energy from these systems either passes directly to the customer or is sold to the local utility. This third party would take the profits allowing them to grow as a business and bring green jobs to the state.

More than 20 states (including Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan) expressly allow third-party ownership of renewable energy systems on a customer's premises. Wisconsin is missing out on an economic opportunity by allowing neighboring states to take these jobs instead.

So why are third party developers avoiding Wisconsin? The problem is that by selling the excess energy back to the grid, the third parties technically could be considered a utility, and they are afraid of being hit with lawsuit or fine for operating without a utility license. Wisconsin law currently does not expressly permit nor expressly forbid arrangements like Clean Energy Choice, so to be on the safe side developers head to neighboring states.

This fact sheet is brought to you by:



Green Energy: What can the state do?



Pass legislation that would clarify that third party providers of energy are not utility companies.

This would allow consumers to lock in their energy rates for up to 20 years, providing both energy savings and certainty for farmers. It would also provide a boost to the 130+ solar companies located in Wisconsin with no government subsidies.

A 2014 poll by Zogby Analytics found that 69% of Americans want *more choices* for their electricity and energy supply. However, most Wisconsin citizens only have two ways to purchase energy for their homes or businesses: either they buy it from the local electric utility or they pay to have their own alternative energy sources installed on their property. This effectively gives utility companies a monopoly because most people don't have the disposable income to install such devices on their own.

Clean Energy Choice would increase competition in the energy marketplace and give consumers more options. It would bring jobs to the state and promote renewable energy sources, all at no cost to rate-payers or taxpayers.

Help move Wisconsin forward with Clean Energy Choice.

Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven farm organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors and civic engagement.

Learn more at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

