

Estimated Reading Time (Average Reader): 1m 30s



[Sun Prairie Utilities employees participate in Public Power on Parade Oct. 18, 2023.]

LOCAL UTILITY TAKES PART IN PUBLIC POWER CELEBRATION AT STATE CAPITOL

MADISON, (Wis.) — On Wednesday, Oct. 18, representatives from Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) met at the State Capitol with 108 legislators to talk about issues important to the 81 public power communities in Wisconsin, including Sun Prairie. The meetings took place just before a parade of more than 80+ utility vehicles and bucket trucks from utility companies across the state arrived at Capitol Square in celebration of MEUW's 95th anniversary. The truck drivers assembled at Waunakee Utilities and traveled in a caravan to downtown Madison.

"We are proud to be owned by the community and operating to serve the residents of Sun Prairie," said Rick Wicklund, Sun Prairie Utilities Utility Manager. "We rely on MEUW to train our lineworkers and be our voice with lawmakers on issues that matter to our utility and customers. This event was a fitting way to celebrate public power."

Several Sun Prairie Utilities employees showed up to participate in the event, a handful at Waunakee Utilities and some at the State Capitol. Staff even drove two bucket trucks and a pickup truck during the parade.

"I had a blast! It's always great to see such dedicated individuals working together towards a common goal. The camaraderie among municipal employees is truly something to be proud of," said Lori Ewoldt, Sun Prairie Utilities Operations Administrative Assistant.

In addition to the one-on-one meetings with community leaders and the parade, state lawmakers were given the opportunity to take a lift in a bucket truck so they could get a better idea of what it is like to do work on power lines. Other events of the day included a trade show of utility suppliers and safety demonstrations by and for MEUW members in Waunakee.

Wisconsin's 81 public power utilities, including Sun Prairie Utilities, are locally owned, locally controlled, and locally operated, enabling them to quickly respond to the needs of their communities. They operate as not-for-profits without the use of tax dollars. Municipal electric utilities are among the most affordable and reliable power providers in the state.

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