



## Regulators Reject Alliant Energy Proposal to Overhaul Residential Solar Energy Policy

Climate Advocates Applaud Decision, Calling it a Win for Climate Justice in Wisconsin

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 10, 2023

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**MADISON, WI**—At a meeting of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) yesterday, regulators rejected a proposal by Alliant Energy subsidiary Wisconsin Power & Light to overhaul net metering, a mechanism that allows rooftop solar owners to be compensated for excess energy generated and returned to the grid.

A similar proposal by Madison Gas & Electric (MGE) was rejected by the PSC on Friday, November 3.

[350 Wisconsin](#), a nonprofit organization focused on climate and environmental justice, applauded both decisions, calling them victories for clean energy and climate justice. As an intervenor in the two cases, 350 Wisconsin submitted detailed testimony in opposition to the proposals.

“The PSC’s decision to preserve net metering couldn’t have come at a better time. Mitigating the worst impacts of climate change requires us to dramatically scale up alternatives to fossil fuels as quickly as possible and at every level,” said Stephanie Robinson, Co-Executive Director of 350 Wisconsin.

Although Alliant had made modifications to its original proposal in response to public pressure, those changes — including a provision to preserve net metering for another two years—did not do enough to win the approval of the commission.

According to [Midwest Environmental Advocates \(MEA\)](#), the nonprofit law firm that represents 350 Wisconsin, Alliant Energy’s proposal would have increased the amount of time it takes to recoup the cost of solar panel installation. As a result, the proposal would have exacerbated climate inequity by putting rooftop solar further out of reach for low- and middle-income Wisconsinites.

“We are pleased with the PSC’s decision. Affordable rooftop solar has an important role to play in accelerating the transition from dirty fossil fuels to clean, renewable sources of energy and ensuring that the transition is just and equitable,” said MEA Senior Staff Attorney Dan Gustafson.

During the meeting, the PSC also took action to reduce Alliant’s authorized return on equity, which will reduce the overall rate increase for its customers. MEA submitted detailed testimony on behalf of 350 Wisconsin outlining how Alliant’s request to increase rates would have exacerbated the energy burden on low-income families.

“While we wish the PSC had gone even further, we are pleased that the commission took some action to address inequitable energy burdens by limiting shareholder profits,” said Robinson. “We expect Wisconsin’s utilities to be true leaders in an equitable transition to clean energy. They should be working to solve the crisis, not profit from it.”

Commissioner Tyler Huebner thanked all those who participated in the case, including the intervenors and over 500 members of the public who submitted written comments. He noted that strong public participation contributed to the PSC having a robust and complete record.

“Going forward, we would like to see Wisconsin adopt a more consistent statewide approach to net metering, with less variation in policies and reimbursement rates from utility to utility,” said MEA Senior Staff Attorney Dan Gustafson. “A consistent approach would facilitate the adoption of rooftop solar, and we were pleased to learn during these two rate cases that regulators are willing to consider a move in that direction.”

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*350 Wisconsin is a grassroots nonprofit that mobilizes grassroots power to change hearts and minds, laws and policies, and humanity’s massive systems to make transformational progress toward environmental justice and solving the climate crisis by 2030. Learn more at [www.350wisconsin.org](http://www.350wisconsin.org).*

*Midwest Environmental Advocates is a nonprofit law center that combines the power of law with the resolve of communities facing environmental injustice to secure and protect the rights of all people to healthy water, land, and air. Learn more at [www.midwestadvocates.org](http://www.midwestadvocates.org) or [www.facebook.com/midwestadvocates](https://www.facebook.com/midwestadvocates).*