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## **News Release**

# **Stoughton Utilities**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Robert Kardasz, Utilities Director

### **Stoughton leads nation in use of renewable energy *Program's success ranks among top ten in U.S.***

**Stoughton, Wis., June 1, 2016** – Stoughton Utilities recently earned national recognition for its leadership in the use of renewable energy. The utility ranked tenth in the nation on the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) annual list of leading utility green power programs by customer participation rate.

Based on 2015 customer participation, 5.14 percent of utility customers in Stoughton purchased green power equal to all or a portion of their electricity usage. NREL will release the 2016 national average for customer participation later this year.

"We're very grateful to our community for their enthusiastic response to our renewable energy programs," Robert Kardasz, Utilities Director said. "Making the NREL lists shows that even small communities can make a difference when we work together."

Community members in Stoughton purchase electricity from clean, green sources by participating in their utility's Renewable Energy and Green Power for Business Programs. Customers pay \$3.00 per month for blocks of renewable energy equal to some or all of their monthly electric usage. A block is the equivalent of 300 kilowatt-hours of electricity. Stoughton Utilities customers can choose to purchase enough blocks to cover some or all of their energy usage each month. This reduces the amount of energy generated by coal, oil and natural gas.

The Green Power for business program is a similar option or businesses to buy 300-kilowatt hour (kWh) blocks of energy generated for sustainable resources, with bulk discounts

for larger purchases. Five Stoughton businesses are members of SU's '100% Club,' which means the owners purchase enough blocks to power their business with 100% renewable energy. These business are Brown's Bair & Landing, Famous Yeti's Pizza, Oceanhawk Counseling Alternatives, Shaw Builders & Design and Woodland Studios.

"Our small businesses are such a big part of Stoughton's identity. It's inspiring to see so many of them choose to be 100% powered by renewable energy. It shows how much they care about our community and the environment," said Kardasz.

The utility's renewable programs are provided through its nonprofit power supplier, WPPI Energy, and Stoughton Utilities is a member-owner of WPPI Energy.

To learn more about how Stoughton Utilities helps its community be green, visit <https://www.stoughtonutilities.com/residential/renewable> (residential) or <https://stoughtonutilities.com/business/gp4b> (business).

Using information provided by utilities, NREL develops "Top 10" rankings of utility programs in the following categories: total sales of renewable energy to program participants, total number of customer participants, customer participation rate, and green power sales as a percentage of total utility retail electricity sales. The lists are compiled each year based on United States utilities' green power program performance in the previous year.

NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. To view NREL's "Top 10" lists for 2015, visit <http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/resources/tables/topten.shtml>.

Stoughton Utilities customers seeking more information about the Renewable Energy Program can call the utility at (608) 873-3379 or visit [www.stoughtonutilities.com](http://www.stoughtonutilities.com).