

2025 WEC Policy Statement

Dear Members,

Many of us don't really consider where our electricity comes from as we flick on the lights or watch TV. That is, until the electricity goes off! Then we realize how much we use and rely on it on a daily basis.

Like many things in today's world, where and how we generate and transport electricity to all of us is more complicated than in the past. Our utility, WEC, under the careful and thoughtful direction of managers, staff, and Board Directors through the years, has and is embracing new technologies to improve our reliability and to continue to lead with 100% renewable energy, while keeping rates as affordable as possible. There was careful consideration and planning when they decided to create the Coventry generating plant. We are already talking about its future when our contract ends in 2038.

Currently, we are planning to implement an advanced metering system (AMI) that improves our ability to see how and where our system is using electricity in real time. Members will also be able to see and track their own usage and should be able to get more detailed information more quickly than today about their own usage. With that data, WEC can create a time of use rate system with higher and lower KWH rates which allows members to choose lower rate times for high energy-usage items such as EV cars, heat pumps, air conditioning and dryers. The AMI system will also alert WEC crews immediately on outages and indicate their locations more precisely. These advantages will increase our efficiency in our response to storms.

Many of you are inquiring about backup batteries. As we explore battery options for either home or substation use, we need to consider how to use battery storage for the good of all our members, and whether batteries will provide energy during high peak usage times or for outages. I support WEC to consider and implement some form of a battery program in the future.

Your Board of Directors is always concerned about how to support lower income members with equity for all. We work with Efficiency Vermont, Capstone, and other organizations that offer weatherization projects, upgrades, and rebates for more efficient electric appliances. In addition, we have partnered with the Vermont Electric Coop on a solar project that gives \$45.00 credit on qualified members' electric bills for five years.

As a small and very rural utility, that is mostly residential, with few commercial accounts or town and city center members, WEC still has the same rules and regulations and laws to follow as the larger and municipal utilities in the state, despite being governed by its members. Our general manager, Louis Porter, works tirelessly with the Legislature to be sure our voice is heard as they grapple with climate, clean heat standards, net metering and more.

These are a few of the ways that supplying you with electricity is a complicated business! As a Director these past three years, I have appreciated the depth of experience from staff and present and past Directors, that help me learn about this cooperative venture in order for me to make decisions that strive to provide you, members, with reliable electricity, at a price that just covers

WEC expenses (there is no profit taken by cooperatives), and considers equity issues for its members.

I thank you for taking time to consider my continued interest in serving as your Director for another three year term at Washington Electric Coop!

Sincerely,

Betsy Allen