



Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Fareway, Alliant Energy Break Ground on New Solar Field



Fareway Stores and Alliant Energy have broken ground on a 1-megawatt solar panel field in the Boone Industrial Park on six acres of land bordering the west side of the grocery chain's campus.

President Garrett Pklapp noted that Fareway is the first Iowa business to partner with the Madison, Wis.-based energy company. He told the audience that the solar field is "the latest asset in a growing list of recent improvements to this economic development area," which includes the 150-acre Phase II expansion, the Highway 17 overpass east of the industrial park to improve safety and dramatically reduce traffic delays that had occurred at several nearby Union Pacific Railroad crossings, and numerous additions and improvements by nearby businesses.

Alliant Energy, which serves 970,000 electric and 420,000 natural gas retail customers across Iowa and Wisconsin, will oversee construction of the solar facility. Alliant will also own, operate and maintain the field, which will include 2,000 solar panels.

The Fareway Solar Field is part of Alliant's Clean Energy Blueprint, which is a strategic roadmap to speed up investment in cost-effective renewable energy and lower carbon emission. Its goals including ending the burning of coal to generate electricity by 2040 and "achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity we generate by 2050."

Alliant Energy Vice President of Customer and Community Engagement Mary Farlinger said the project is "just the beginning of many more to come" across the state.

“We have been serving customers for more than 100 years and we look forward to becoming the next-generation energy company. We take great pride in building a smarter energy infrastructure to deliver cleaner, more reliable and resilient energy to all customers, and maintain affordable rates,” Farlinger said. “We are excited to show the benefits renewable energy can bring to our communities businesses, and homes.”

Mayor Pro-Tem David Byrd thanked the companies for their important roles in the industrial park’s continued development and for their efforts to provide clean energy to the city’s homes and businesses. Councilman Terry Moorman noted that renewable energy is a valuable resource for business recruitment and retention.

Alliant Energy executives have noted that clean energy, including solar, “has become increasingly cost effective in the last few years.”

“By providing these additional opportunities for partnerships in Iowa, we’re not only building local engagement, but also delivering clean energy solutions that have a direct benefit for our customers,” said Mason Adams, Alliant Energy’s key account manager. “Our renewable programs in Iowa are increasing in popularity as customers seek renewable solutions that meet personal or business interests. We applaud Fareway for their leadership and collaboration on this project as it will provide a local renewable energy source, along with the environmental benefits for the community.”

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