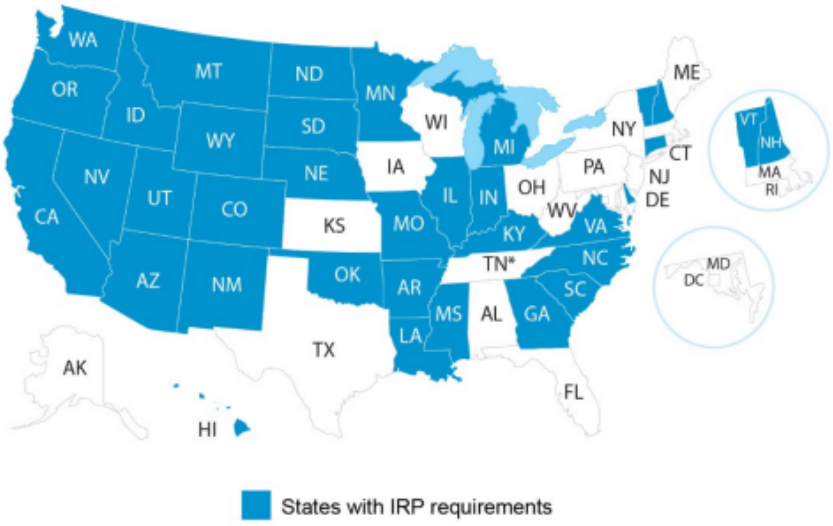
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING

Why Wisconsin Needs Strategic Energy Development

To meet the energy needs of our future, Wisconsin needs a statewide plan that considers the cost of new energy investments and their impact on human health and the environment. We can achieve this by passing legislation requiring Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) for Wisconsin utilities.

An IRP is a long-term (10-20 years) strategy that outlines utilities' future energy resources and emphasizes reliability and transparency. Implementing a standard for utility energy planning in Wisconsin would ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement, require alternative generation and transmission options, and consider the environmental and social impacts of energy investments.

Wisconsin's current planning process, known as the Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA), only looks at current and historical data without considering our future energy needs. Decisions made by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) consider one utility at a time without assessing the plans of other utilities in the state.



There are already thirty-three other states, including several neighboring states, with IRP legislation. Certain Wisconsin utilities, like Xcel Energy, are familiar with IRP processes because of their operations in neighboring states. We know Wisconsin utilities can create smart, healthy energy plans. Without an IRP, the PSC is often forced to make energy decisions that unnecessarily cost ratepayers millions of dollars.