

The Focus on Energy Environmental and Economic Research and Development Program (EERD)

Program Overview

The Environmental and Economic Research and Development Program was designed by the legislature to support research projects that study the environmental and economic impacts of energy use in Wisconsin. Like other Focus on Energy Programs, EERD is overseen by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW).

The primary goal of EERD is to contribute practical and useful knowledge to planning the state's energy future by funding research projects that fill gaps in our existing knowledge. It is an important part of Focus on Energy because it addresses the interconnections among energy use, environmental quality and economic stability.

The Research Forum

Nine Wisconsin organizations were each invited to send a representative to serve on the Research Forum for the EERD program. They are the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Clean Wisconsin, two investor-owned utility representatives (currently representing We Energies and Alliant Energy), and the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence. A representative of the Public Service Commission serves as Chair, bringing the total membership of the Research Forum to ten members. The primary role of the Research Forum is to evaluate submitted proposals and recommend a list for program funding.

PROGRAM GOAL:

To better understand the environmental and economic impacts of energy use in Wisconsin by:

- Identifying the gaps in environmental and economic knowledge
- Filling (some) knowledge gaps by funding appropriate research

ROLES OF RESEARCH FORUM:

The purpose of the Environmental Research Forum is to provide a diversity of viewpoints and sources in order to:

- Identify research priority areas
- Recommend specific research projects and funding levels
- Act as knowledge resources for baseline and gap analyses
- Provide review and comment on an annual report
- Provide review and comment on research reports