

CASE STUDY

MILWAUKEE STREET LIGHTING

LOCATION

Milwaukee, WI

CUSTOMER

City of Milwaukee

APPLICATION

Street lighting

SYSTEM INSTALLED

19 x EverGen-M

TECHNICAL FEATURES

- Lead-acid batteries, with five days of autonomy
- Autobahn cobra head roadway fixtures
- Dusk-to-dawn operation at IES recommended light levels

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

- No trenching or electrical work
- Supports safe nighttime activity
- Helps evaluate future energy and cost savings

THE CHALLENGE

The City of Milwaukee operates approximately 87,000 streetlights, many connected to aging series circuits dating back to the early 1900s. These fragile systems can leave an entire string of lights dark when a single fault occurs. As the City works to replace these older lights with LEDs, it has also been exploring solar lighting. But Milwaukee's short winter days, cold temperatures, and extended cloudy periods raised an important question: could a solar system perform reliably through a northern winter?

THE SOLUTION

Public Works installed a single EverGen-M pilot system in June 2024 and monitored it through the following winter. The system needed to meet IES light-level targets from dusk to dawn while providing at least five days of autonomy. After evaluating several products, the department found that only the EverGen-M could meet both requirements. The City purchased 19 additional systems for the streets around Emigh Playfield. They were installed in November 2025.

THE IMPACT

Milwaukee is still evaluating the technology, but early results are encouraging. After a successful winter pilot and a larger follow-up installation, the results suggest that properly sized solar lighting can be a viable option even where winter conditions put energy collection and storage to a serious test.

