

PowerOn Midwest—Supporting Cottonwood County reliability

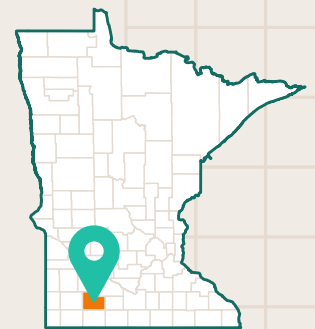


PowerOn Midwest strengthens reliability across the Midwest and in Cottonwood County by moving electricity from where it is generated to where it is needed in real time. This flexibility helps Minnesota maintain reliable, around-the-clock electric service at the lowest practical cost.

Cottonwood County

Load GWH		Generation GWH		Imports	Exports
Current year	+20 years	Current year	+20 years	% of time	% of time
131	145	662	921	21%	79%

Source: Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)_ Series 1A models



Cottonwood County has substantial generation resources—about **five times** its electric load—but those generation resources are not always available. For example, wind power is only available when wind is blowing and solar is only available when the sun is shining. Providing access to the lowest-cost available generation maintains reliable and affordable electricity around-the-clock.

Cottonwood County's generation resource is primarily wind generation, which supports local reliability when it's available, and surplus power can be exported to areas that need it. When Cottonwood County's generation is not available, Cottonwood County imports power through the transmission grid from other parts of Minnesota and beyond. **Today, Cottonwood County exports power about 79% of the time and imports power about 21% of the time.** In the future, as electric demand grows and the regional generation fleet becomes more dependent on wind, solar, and natural gas resources, the existing transmission grid lacks sufficient capacity to move power into and out of Cottonwood County reliably. PowerOn Midwest provides a high-capacity reliable electric backbone to move power across Minnesota.

Minnesota both imports and exports electricity, but over the course of a year, it is a **net importer**. Over the past decade, **generation outside the state served 10–20% of Minnesota's electricity needs¹**, a consistent trend expected to continue over the next 20 years. As electricity demand grows and the Midwest generation fleet evolves, more power will need to move into and out of Minnesota to maintain reliability. Together, **PowerOn Midwest and the Minnesota transmission grid are expected to bring more power into the state than leaves it.**



1. Energy Information Authority: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/>. Minnesota 2014 – 2023.