VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND **Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee** *NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING*

**Monday, September 14, 2026** **6:00 PM** **McFarland Municipal Center**
5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland
*Community Room*

AGENDA

The public may attend in-person or remotely through the Zoom webinar or telephone options listed below. *Please Note: Virtual attendance is offered as a convenience, but technical difficulties beyond the Village's control may prevent or limit its availability at any meeting. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting in person to assure full access to the proceedings.*

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN THE ZOOM WEBINAR:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86075962378
Or by Telephone: +1 (312) 626-6799
Webinar ID: 860 7596 2378
Press *9 to raise/lower hand. Press *6 to mute/unmute.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.
   a. This is an opportunity for attendees to provide public comment on matters that are not on the agenda. Attendees desiring to provide public comment on specific items on the agenda may do so at the time that agenda item is brought up. Zoom attendees wishing to speak should type their name, address, and the relevant agenda item in the Q&A feature within the online meeting platform. Zoom attendees may also register in support or opposition of an item through the Q&A feature. In person attendees should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your public comment. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Written comments will not be read into the record during the meeting but may be sent to sustainability@mcfarland.wi.us to be included with the agenda materials.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
   a. Motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026, Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

4. BUSINESS.
   a. Presentation by Friends of McFarland Parks
   b. Discussion on Solar PV Feasibility Study.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.
   a. Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format should contact the McFarland Municipal Center at (608)838-3153, 5915 Milwaukee Street, McFarland, Wisconsin, or village.clerk@mcfarland.wi.us by 2:00 p.m. at least 5 business days prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request. If the meeting or request is less than 5 business days from the meeting, requests for accommodations may still be made and reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate each request.

# Minutes
# Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Meeting
# June 9, 2026

**Committee Members Present:** Alisa Leamy, Mark Neidinger, Lori Whitman, Kaci Coconate, Claire Huntley-Schwartz

**Committee Members Absent:** Mary Nervig, Glenn Schwabe

**Staff Present:** Lee Igl, Public Works Director; Kong Thao, Associate Planner; Phil McDade, Utility Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

   Committee Chairwoman Alisa Leamy called the joint meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

   No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   **a. Motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.**

   Motion by Leamy, second by Neidinger, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

   **b. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 Joint Village Board and Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.**

   Motion by Leamy, second by Neidinger, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 Joint Village Board and Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUSINESS

   a. **Discussion regarding updates on sustainability projects.**

   Thao reviewed with the committee recent and upcoming village sustainability projects including: the Dane County food composting program offered at the village Public Works building; installation of public electric vehicle charging stations (one is slated for the village Public Safety Center); a battery installation at the Public Safety Center for storing solar power; the completion of a solar panel farm on Siggelkow Road; solar panel installations at the village's new lift station; and "No

Mow May" initiatives. The village also may install solar panels at the village's new Community Park shelter and Well #5 building.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

    a. Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

    Leamy motioned to adjourn; Neidinger seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

VILLAGE OF
McFarland

# SUMMARY SHEET

**MEETING DATE:** **Monday, September 14, 2026**

**SECTION:** **Business**

**DEPARTMENT:** **Public Works**

**CONTACT:**

**AGENDA ITEM:** **Presentation by Friends of McFarland Parks**

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**
None.

**ISSUE SUMMARY:**
The Friends of McFarland Parks nonprofit organization was invited to join the Sustainability & Natural Resouces Committee for a discussion regarding their organization, including what the group is currently working on and ways to collaborate in the future.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:**
None.

**VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:**
None.

**ORDINANCE REFERENCE:**
None.

**BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**
No action is required.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
None

VILLAGE OF
McFarland

## SUMMARY SHEET

**MEETING DATE:** **Monday, September 14, 2026**

**SECTION:** **Business**

**DEPARTMENT:** **Community Development**

**CONTACT:** **Andrew Bremer, Comm & Eco Dev Director, Kong Thao, Associate Planner**

**AGENDA ITEM:** **Discussion on Solar PV Feasibility Study.**

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

**ISSUE SUMMARY:**
The Village Board's 2026-2027 Strategic Plan includes an action step to study the addition of solar power at park shelters and utility infrastructure and to implement solar recommendations following the completion of the study. This item is an introductory discussion on a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Feasibility Study. The packet includes a presentation on municipal energy usage data between 2021-2025. Staff are partnering with HGA Architects to develop, review, and identify feasible village-owned properties that are suitable for solar PV. This does not include natural gas as solar PV only impacts electrical usage. The properties are separated into four categories relative to their use and function: Core Buildings, Parks & Shelters, Utility, and Miscellaneous. The "Miscellaneous" category includes various assets such as flashers, and a limited number of streetlights. These items have been excluded as their usage was found to be very low.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the electrical energy use of these buildings and shelters and to recommend 5-6 properties to advance forward for a more in-depth study of the solar feasibility of these properties, including estimated construction costs and payback period. HGA will complete the study and provide additional in-depth analysis, recommendations on a project timeline, and valued research on solar PV products and installation. Per H.R. 1 (aka One Big Beautiful Bill Act), resource funding will sunset at earlier dates than prior legislation. Solar projects beginning after July 4, 2026 must now be placed in service no later than December 31, 2027 to qualify for eligible tax credit. Therefore, it will be advantageous for the Village to consider the completion of several solar projects in 2027 before the tax credit program expires.

Staff will review the energy use data with the Committee. Based on the initial findings, staff is recommending the following sites for additional study for confirmation by the Committee:

1. Community Park Shelter. The new shelter features electrical heat and is a good candidate for solar installation.
2. Urso Dog Park Shelter. Similar to Community Park, this shelter uses electricity for heating and lighting and is a good candidate for solar installation.
3. Well #3.
4. Well #4.

5. Well #5. This well is currently under construction and will be completed in the Summer/Fall of 2027. Energy usage is anticipated to be similar to Wells 3 and 4, although with newer technology the pumps should run more efficiently than Wells 3 and 4.
6. Public Works Building. Although this facility already has rooftop solar, there is capacity on the roof for additional solar panels to increase the amount of renewable energy generated at the site.

Unfortunately, due to potential future improvements planned for the Library and the Municipal Center, installation of solar panels on these rooftops is not feasible in 2027 but maybe a future project as those potential building renovations are being considered by the Village Board.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:**
The Village Board's 2026-2027 Strategic Plan includes $15,000 to complete the solar PV feasibility study and $250,000 for the construction of the solar installations. Funding for the project is anticipated to come from remaining 179D in-kind services from HGA and existing Elective Pay revenues from the Public Safety Center solar PV and geothermal installations.

**VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:**
2021 Sustainability Plan. The following feasibility study is consistent with the following electrical objectives:

- Municipal percentage of Total Energy Consumed/Generated from Renewables per year; 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040.
- 20% Decrease total municipal electricity consumption per year by 2030.

2023 Comprehensive Energy Plan. The feasibility study is consistent with the planning for recommendations on buildings that can support viable solar PV arrays. Early recommendations included the Public Works Building, Municipal Building and Public Library.

2026-2027 Village Board Strategic Plan.

**ORDINANCE REFERENCE:**

**BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**
This item is for discussion only.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
1. VOM Municipal Energy Tracking_09.09.2026

# Village of McFarland

# Solar Feasibility Discussion

## Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee

## Preliminary Discussion

September 14, 2026

# Table of Content



*Aerial photo of 1.4 MW solar farm, 3443 Siggelkow Road, 2026*

# Project Summary



At the June 17, 2026 Special Village Board meeting, the Board was supportive of studying the feasibility to add solar to the new shelters under construction at Community Park and Well #5.

- *B. Public Infrastructure, Objective 1., Action Step i.*

This effort is expanded to provide a comprehensive look at the performance of Village buildings and facilities to identify high usage faculties and areas of interest where solar can reduce non-renewable energy consumption. This presentation reviews the Village's energy consumption from 2021-2025. This does not include gas usage (Therms) as these cannot be directly offset with solar installation.

# Related Plan Initiatives

2021 Sustainability Plan

- **Municipal percentage of Total Energy Consumed/Generated from Renewables per year; 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040.**
- 20% Decrease Total Municipal Electricity Consumption per Year by 2030.

2023 Comprehensive Energy Plan

- Establishes benchmarking through this comprehensive plan's approach. The plan provides recommendations on energy saving improvements to building efficiency along with viable solar installation.
- Recommendation on solar PV array includes the Public Works Building, Municipal Building and Public Library.

# What does the data tell us?

# Staff notes

- Utility providers.
  - The data combines reported usage collected from Alliant Energy and MG&E between 2021-2025.
  - Usage data for 2026 is not a full year, therefore excluded.
  - Properties with MGE date back to August 2021. Staff calculated the average monthly usage and monthly cost from January – July using 2022-2025 data to estimate 2021. See red text in tables below.

- New or recently acquired. Other data gaps reflect acquisition and construction timelines.

- Active projects. The Community Park Shelter and Well #5 are under construction and expected to be completed in 2027.

- Unique. Egner Park doubles as Well #4 and a park shelter. This is presented within the Utility category only.

# Categories



Core Buildings

- Public Library
- Public Safety Building
- Municipal Center
- Public Works Building

Parks (and shelters)

- Brandt Park
- Arnold Larson Park
- Lewis Park
- McFarland Park
- McDaniel Park
- Urso Park/Dog Shelter
- Community Park Shelter

Utility

- Lift Station #1-5
- Well House #1-5
  - #2 is decommissioned and #5 under construction
  - Well #4 (Egner Park)
- Well Tower #1 and #2

Miscellaneous (not included very low usage)

- Flashers (x4)
- Flower Corner
- Fountain

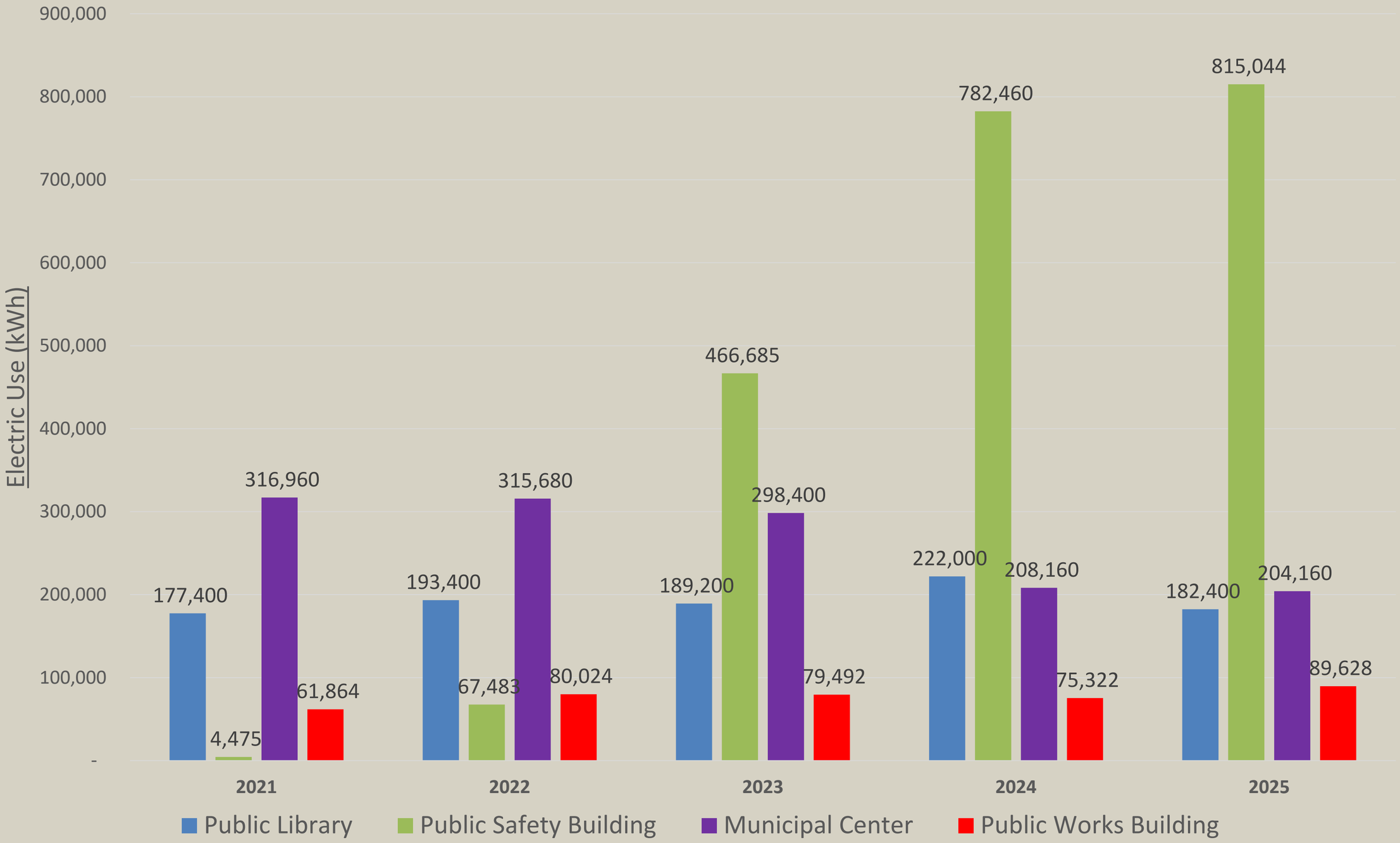
# Core Buildings Energy Use

| | 2021-2025 (kWh) | Avg / 5 yrs (kWh) | 2021-2025 ($) | Avg / 5 yrs ($) | Cost/kWh |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Library | 964,400 | 192,880 | $119,288 | $23,857.60 | 0.12369 |
| Public Safety Center | 2,136,147 | 427,229 | $112,664 | $22,532.80 | 0.05274 |
| Municipal Center | 1,343,360 | 268,672 | $138,442 | $27,688.40 | 0.10306 |
| Public Works Building | 386,330 | 77,266 | $20,915 | $4,183.00 | 0.05414 |
| **TOTAL** | **4,830,237** | **966,047** | **$391,309** | **$78,261.80** | **0.08101** |

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Avg / 5 yrs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Safety Center **Renewables (kWh)** | 0 | 0 | 159,000 | 570,000 | 568,180 | 432,393* |
| Public Works **Renewables (kWh)** | 27,410 | 33,030 | 35,220 | 12,000 | 27,900 | 27,112 |
| **TOTAL** | **27,410** | **33,030** | **194,220** | **582,000** | **596,080** | **459,505** |

**Average of only three years of data.*

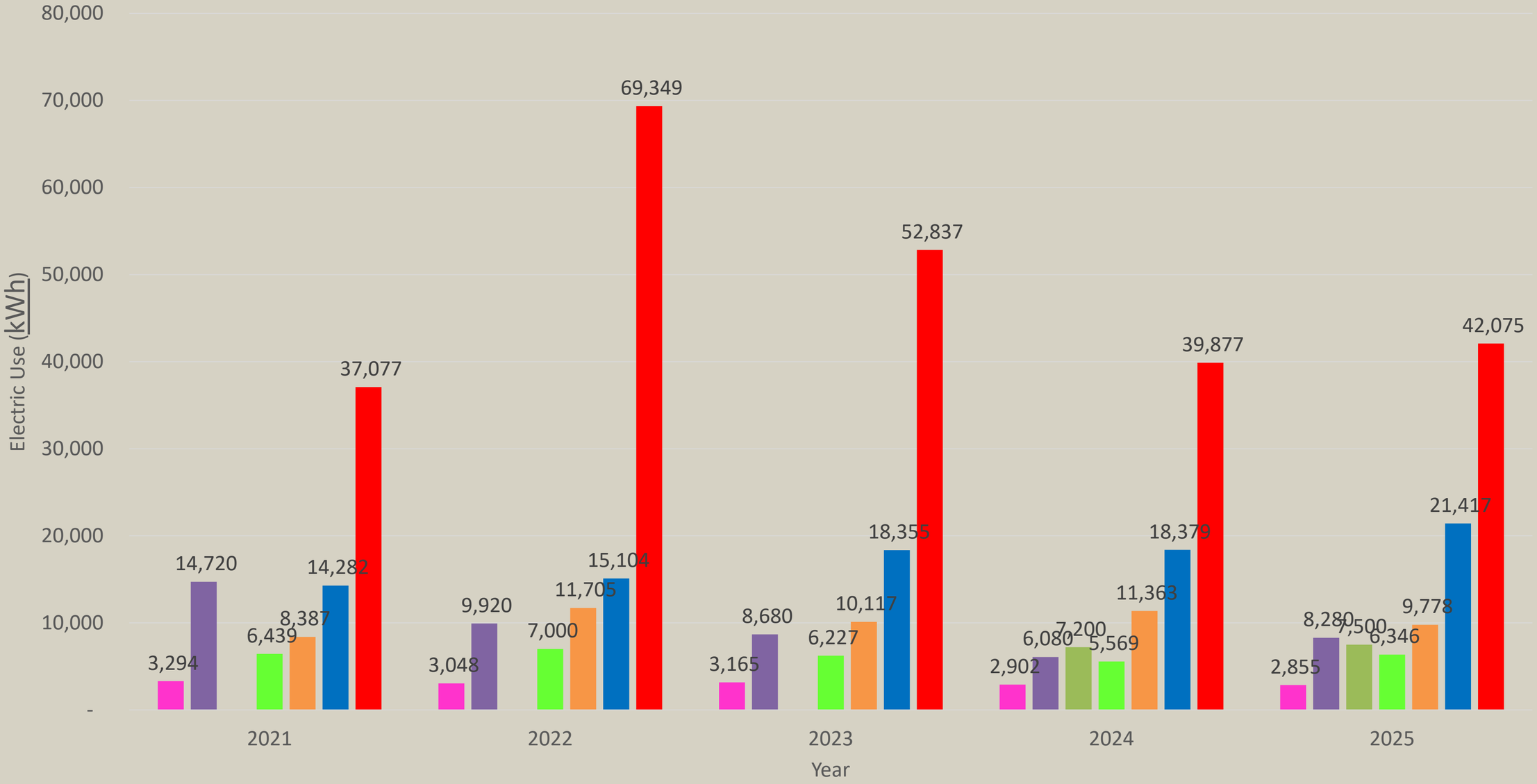
# Core Building (2021-2025)



# Parks Energy Use

| | 2021-2025 (kWh) | Avg / 5 yrs (kWh) | 2021-2025 ($) | Avg / 5 yrs ($) | Cost/kWh |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arnold Larson Park | 15,264 | 3,053 | $3,055 | $611.00 | $0.20014 |
| Brandt Park | 47,680 | 9,536 | $7,207 | $1,441.40 | $0.15115 |
| Community Park Shelter | 14,700 | 2,940 | $2,839 | $567.80 | $0.19313 |
| Lewis Park | 31,581 | 6,316 | $5,209 | $1,041.80 | $0.16494 |
| McDaniel Park | 51,350 | 10,270 | $7,825 | $1,565.00 | $0.15239 |
| McFarland Park Soccer Building | 87,537 | 17,507 | $14,510 | $2,902.00 | $0.16576 |
| Urso Park/Dog Shelter | 241,215 | 48,243 | $32,100 | $6,420.00 | $0.13308 |
| **TOTAL** | **489,327** | **97,865.40** | **$72,745** | **$14,549** | **$0.14866** |

# Park Electric Use (2021-2025)



# Utilities Energy Use

| | 2021-2025 (kWh) | Avg / 5 yrs (kWh) | 2021-2025 ($) | Avg / 5 yrs ($) | Cost/kWh |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lift Station #1 | 68,254 | 13,651 | $10,651 | $2,130.20 | $0.15605 |
| Lift Station #2 | 73,432 | 14,686 | $11,507 | $2,301.40 | $0.15670 |
| Lift Station #3 | 17,785 | 3,557 | $3,939 | $787.80 | $0.22146 |
| Lift Station #4 | 9,641 | 1,928 | $2,378 | $475.60 | $0.24665 |
| Lift Station #5 | 87,900 | 17,580 | $13,114 | $2,622.80 | $0.14919 |
| Well #1 | 234,728 | 46,946 | $31,897 | $6,379.40 | $0.13589 |
| Well #3 | 632,000 | 126,400 | $84,298 | $16,859.60 | $0.13338 |
| Well #4 | 628,600 | 125,720 | $111,149 | $22,229.80 | $0.17682 |
| Water Tower #1 (Indian Mound) | 25,098 | 5,020 | $4,370 | $874.00 | $0.17412 |
| Water Tower #2 (Holscher Rd) | 3,193 | 639 | $1,396 | $279.20 | $0.43730 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,777,631** | **355,526.20** | **$274,699** | **$54,939.80** | **$0.15153** |

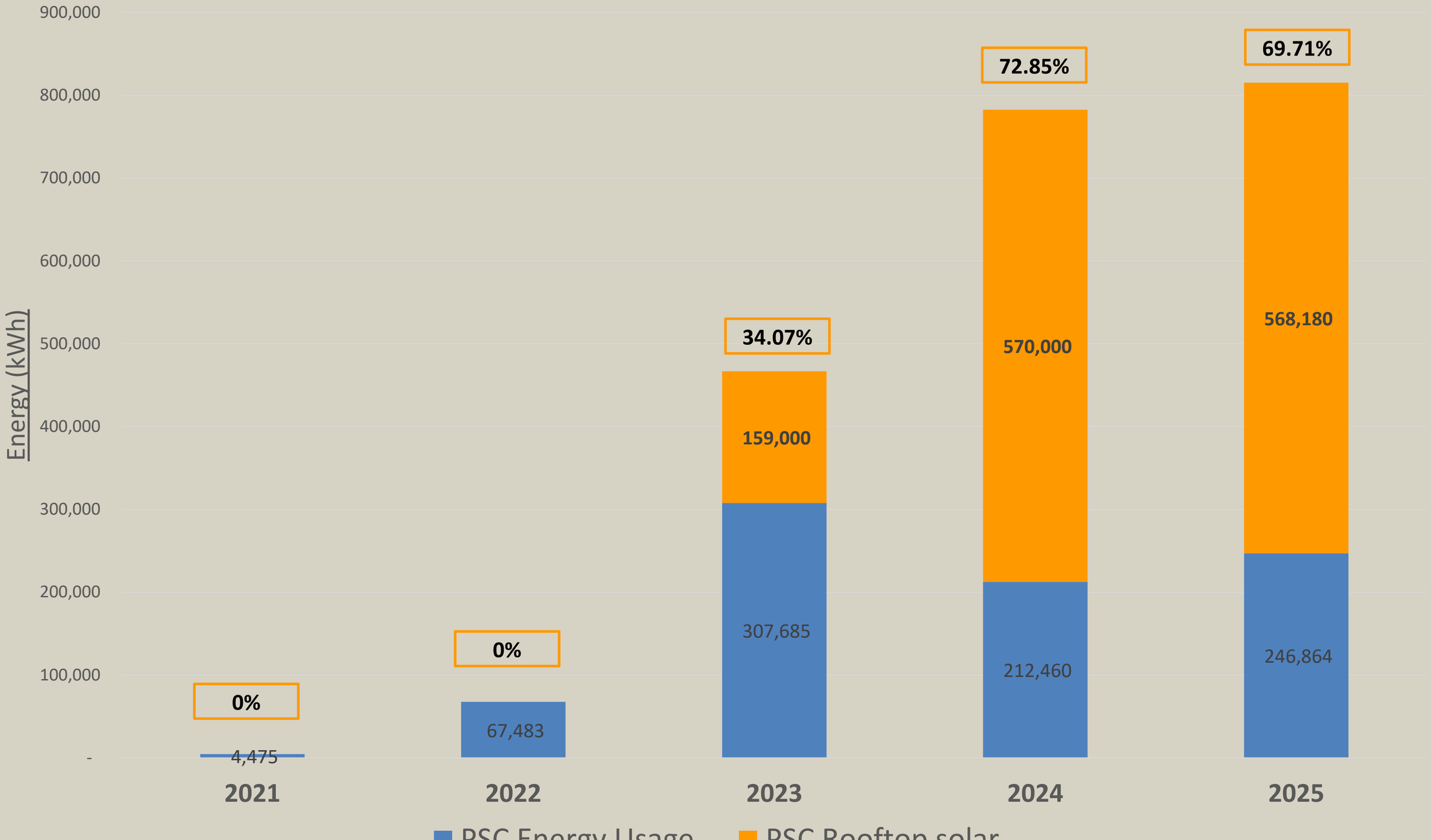
# Well House Usage (2021-2025)

# Lift Station Usage (2021-2025)

# Renewable Energy

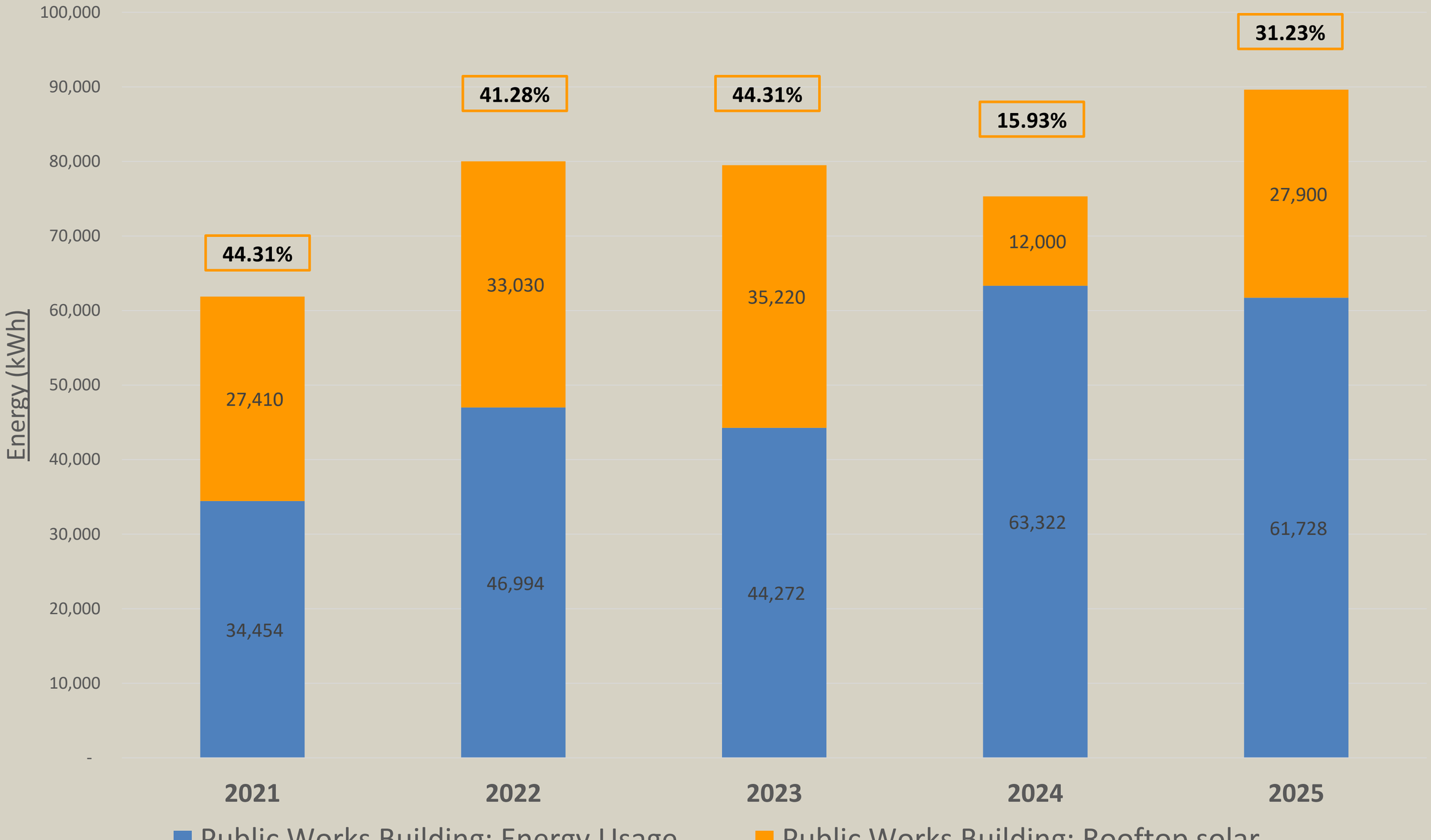
*Public Safety Center – Rooftop Solar*
*1,146 solar panels, 470 kW DC  (2023)*

# Public Safety Center Usage & Renewables

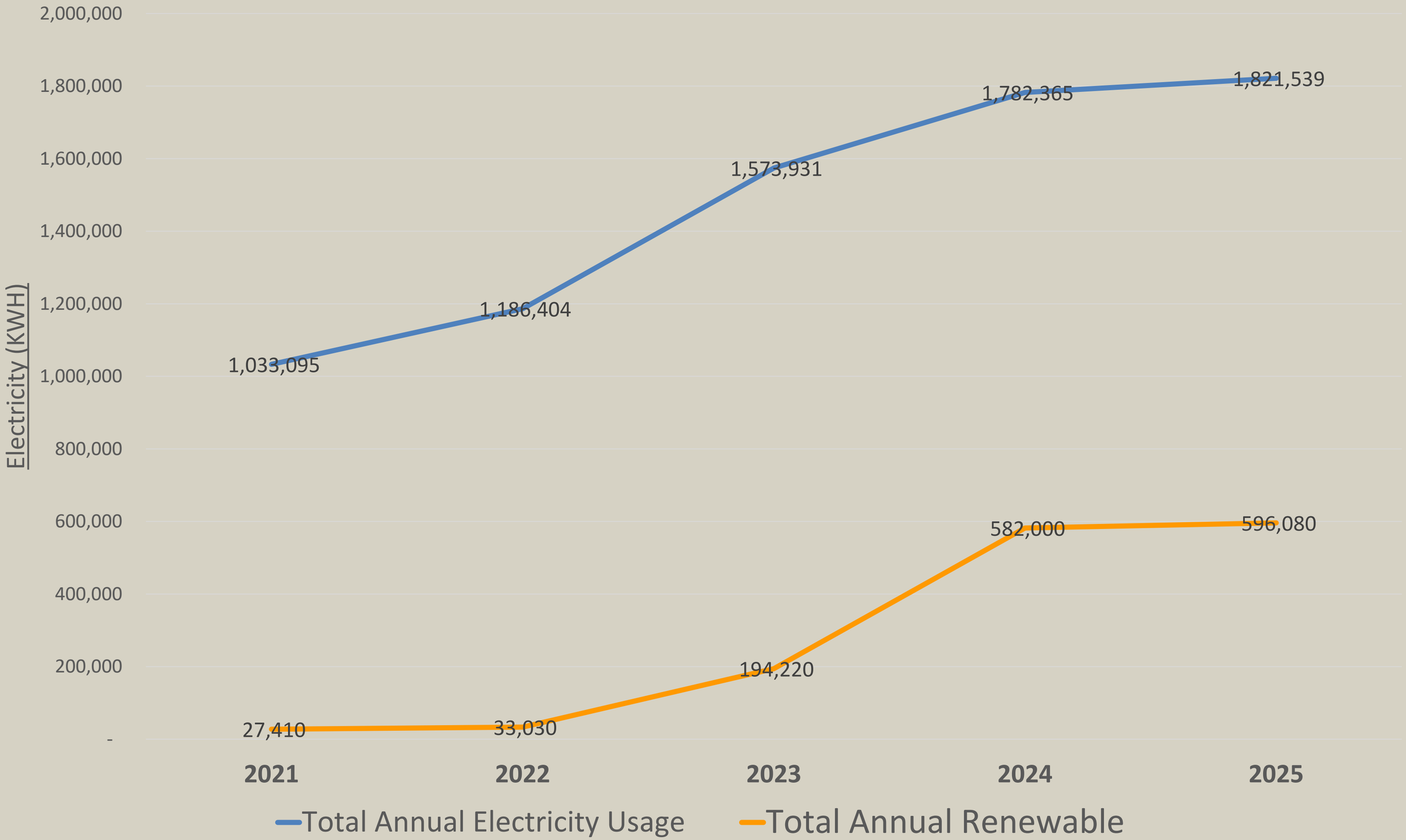


*Public Works Building – Rooftop Solar, 23 kW DC solar PV array (2021)*

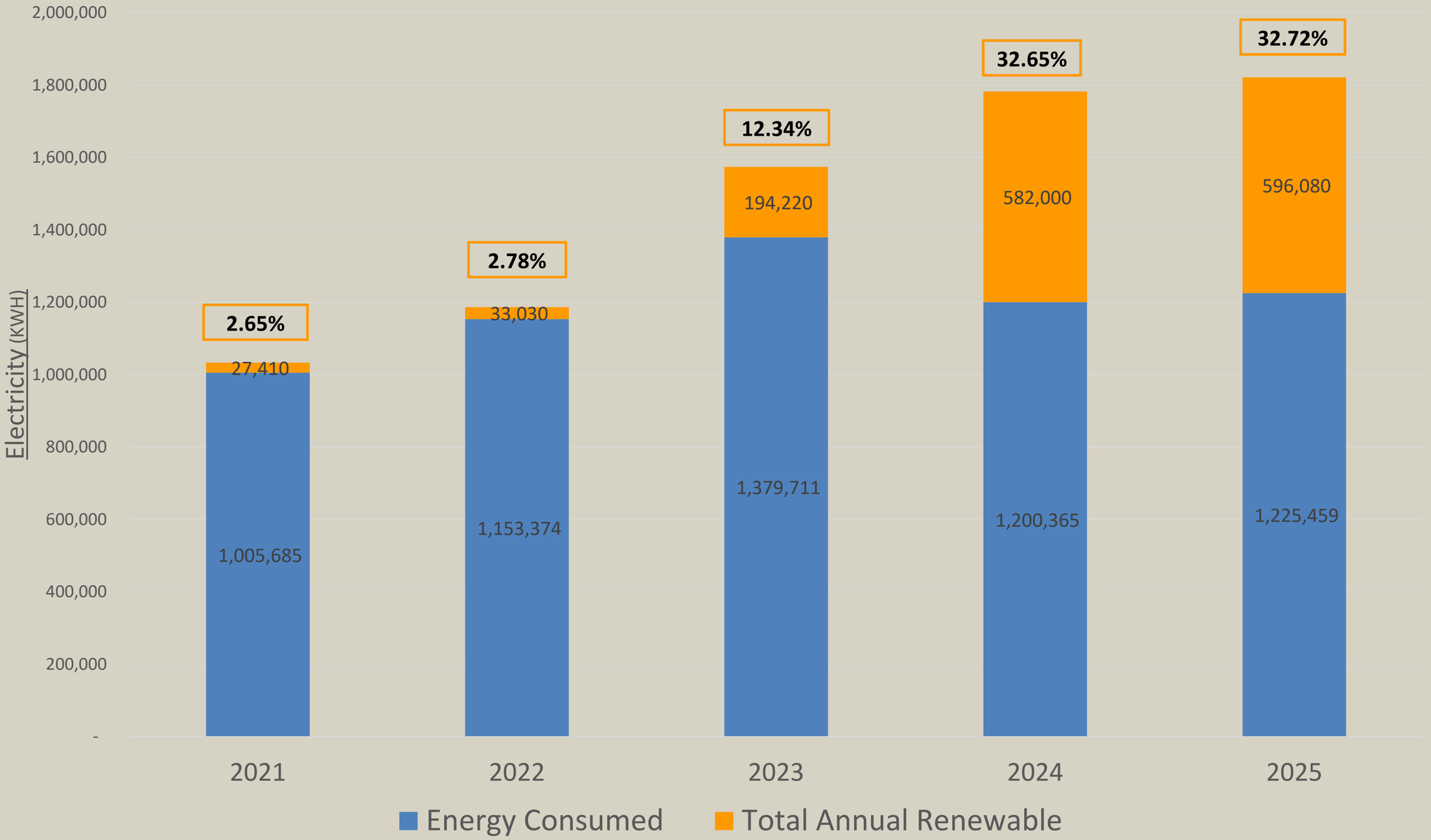
# Public Works Usage & Renewables



# Annual Energy Consumed and Renewables



# Annual Energy Consumed and Renewables



# Analysis

# Core Buildings Analysis

- The Public Safety Center was completed in 2023 with 2024-2025 as the first two operational years.
- Following the transition of Police, Fire, and Municipal Court in 2023, the Municipal Center saw a 30% decrease in overall energy use.
- The Public Safety Center is both the highest renewable energy producer and energy user. Includes net-zero designs. A battery is expected to be installed in 2026 that will further provide energy cost savings in 2027.
- The Public Works Building is the lowest energy user and least costly.  The current solar panels account for 35% of the building's energy usage.

# Parks & Shelter Analysis



- Community Park Shelter is under construction. The table only includes construction usage data for 2024 and 2025, not operational usage. The building is being considered for solar rooftop upon completion.
- The building at Egner Park doubles as a park shelter and Well #4. Most of its energy use is from the well operation.
- Urso Park/Dog Shelter has the highest energy use among park shelter due to electric heating.
- The McFarland Park’s Soccer Building energy usage in 2021 was calculated.

# Utility Analysis



- Well #1 is being considered for decommission following Well #5 completion; (First Well in Village making it the oldest with high repair costs)
- Well #2 was razed in 2006. Currently a vacant lot.
- Well #5 is under construction and is considered for rooftop solar.
- The water towers at Indian Mound Conservancy and off Holscher Road used a combined 28,291 kWh between 2021-2025.
- Lift station #2 was upgraded in 2026 and includes solar rooftop. This station supports nearly 50% of all sewage in the Village.
- The Lift station #4 energy usage in 2021 was calculated.

# Renewables Analysis

- As of 2025, 33% of the Village electricity usage comes from renewables.
- Two renewable energy sources not shown include : Lift Station #2 and the 1.4 MW solar farm. These projects were completed in 2026.
- Through the sub-lease agreement with the School District, the Village will receive 60% of all renewable energy credits (RECs) generated from the solar farm. These RECs will be retired to offset non-renewable energy usage (energy from the grid), drawing the Village closer to being 100% renewable on energy usage.
- Staff estimate by 2027, the *Total Energy Consumed/Generated from Renewables* will be around 80-90% **for electricity only**, ahead of the 2030 goal of 50% and very close to 100% by 2040.

# Next steps

# Initiatives & Objectives

- At the August 13, 2026 Village Board meeting, the 2026-2027 Village Board Strategic Goal included allocating funding for ~5 solar projects for 2027.
- The feasibility study should consider current and future energy usage data accounting for future addition of municipal buildings and building improvements.
- HGA Architects will provide expertise support in the study's development along with bidding and construction processes to ensure consistency with feasibility study.

# Funding

- Identifying funding sources help reduce project costs on local budgeting and improve payback schedules.
- Per the H.R. 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act), funding sources for future climate action projects will sunset at earlier dates than prior legislation. Solar project beginning after July 4, 2026 **must now be placed in service no later than December 31, 2027** to qualify for the eligible tax credit.
- The Village received **$1,137,593** from IRA Elective Pay reimbursement in 2025 for sustainable features for the Public Safety Center. $799,593 remaining.
- Therefore, urgency on project implementation is necessary to ensure program eligibility for tax credit such as Elective Pay reimbursement.
- Other funding sources include: Focus on Energy incentives

# Preliminary Discussions

The following properties are identified as high users and costs. These candidates are considered based on energy review alone (in no particular priority).

- Community Park Shelter – Already being considered.
- Well #5 – Already being considered.
- Well #4 – Doubles as a park shelter and well. Could lower costs.
- Well #3 – Comparable energy usage with Well #4.
- Urso Dog Park – Highest park structure usage. Electrically heated.
- Public Works Building – The existing solar panels provide for 35% of the building's energy usage over the last 5-years. Could be considered for additional solar or future solar in the event of expansion.