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## POWERING THE FUTURE

### Another major step forward

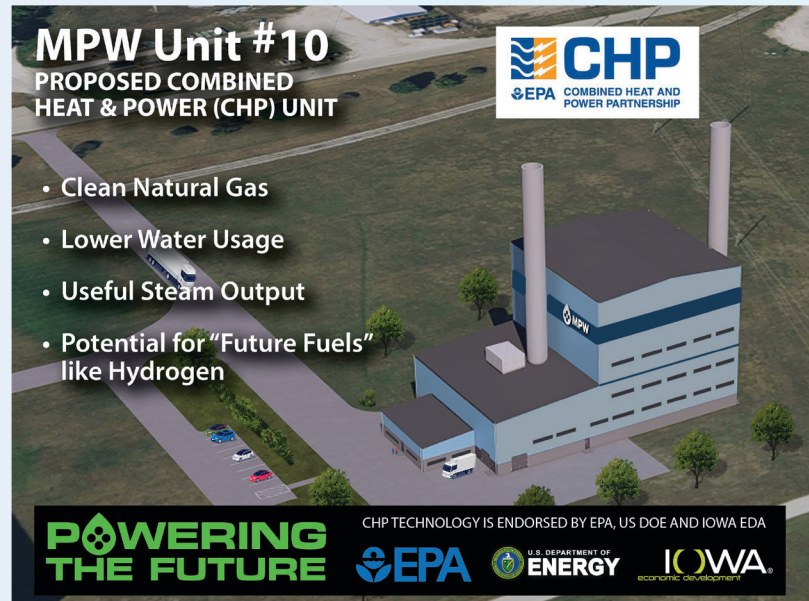
At its June meeting, MPW's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art combined heat and power (CHP) unit.

To be known as "Unit 10", the new CHP will require an estimated net investment of \$85 million, compared to the \$240 million invested for the construction of the current Unit 9, in the early 1980s. A key piece of the Utility's Powering the Future (PTF) initiative, Unit 10 achieves MPW's reliability needs at a lower net cost than any other alternative.

MPW plans to take advantage of federal tax credits of \$10 to 13 million. A new steam sales agreement with Grain Processing Corporation (GPC) will also help cover a portion of operating costs. As a result, the CHP is expected to have only a very small impact on customers — less than a dollar per month for the average residential bill!

"We're excited to move forward," shared MPW General Manager, Gage Huston. "The CHP technology will enable us to provide dependable and affordable power, supporting our mission to meet the community's needs now and in the future. And the steam sales agreement will provide mutual benefit to both GPC and all MPW electric customers." Huston added that he was truly impressed by GPC's focus on ensuring this project was the right solution and a win-win for all MPW customers.

The PTF plans also include the development of a 250-acre solar farm scheduled for completion in 2026.



Learn more about Powering the Future at <https://mpw.org/powering-the-future/>



Over the summer break in June and July, MPW team members offered fun and educational activities with Muskie S.P.A.R.K. students at Jefferson Elementary.

New interactive sessions included a lesson on wind turbines and "Fizz, Bubble and Goo", along with the return of popular activities like Lego Engineering and water tests. And of course, kids loved it when MPW opened a fire hydrant, allowing them to cool off in the spray. Thanks for the invitation again this year. We're looking forward to another great season of learning, next summer.





# Buyer Beware! 5G is NOT 5 Gig!

Consumers are being bombarded by claims that "5G home internet" is the greatest thing since sliced bread. Despite all the hype and relentless ads, emails and postcards offering you 5G wireless as a replacement for your trusty fiber connection, remember fiber remains the worldwide, go-to connection type for extremely fast and extremely reliable internet.

First, the "G" does not stand for "Gigabit". 5G simply means it's the "fifth-generation" of wireless technology. It's a high-frequency radio signal, and while it is better than the older 3G and 4G technologies, it still has the same limitations as any radio wave — they're easily interrupted by physical barriers like buildings, hills, and trees — even distance and weather conditions such as rain and snow. If you want 5 Gig, 1 Gig, or even half a Gig, you need MPW fiber.

Fiber is simply a better solution than 5G home internet. Not only does fiber possess the most developed internet infrastructure, it remains the superior option due to its unmatched speed, reliability, and affordability at higher speeds. It also provides lower latency than wireless 5G. Fiber is perfect for data-intensive activities including streaming video, interactive gaming and video conferencing while working from home.



Those 5G ads and mail pieces shout their low introductory price, but a simple dive into the fine print will often reveal the true cost of 5G Home Internet. There's usually a hefty connection charge and you may be required to also have mobile phone service with the same carrier.

Before considering a switch to 5G home internet, do your homework. That introductory price may look attractive, but MPW Fiber Internet's everyday low price is extremely competitive, and you get a better, more reliable connection. Also with fiber, you choose the speed you need from 100 Mbps to 5 Gbps — and that's for both uploads and downloads, because ours are symmetrical. Moreover, fiber is a dedicated line to your home that ensures consistent and stable connections, unaffected by physical obstructions or 5G's other limitations. In fact, MPW internet customers experienced consistent, uninterrupted connectivity 99.96% of the time in 2023.

For robust and consistent internet connectivity, fiber remains your best choice, ensuring seamless online experiences for work, education, and entertainment. MPW's HelpDesk professionals work for you and are always willing to discuss the advantages of fiber.



## 5G or not 5G? THAT IS THE QUESTION

- You will need a receiver with a good "line of sight" to a 5G cell site or tower for the best results.
- Download and upload speeds are variable and rarely consistent based on the factors mentioned. Some carriers have monthly data caps and/or reduce your available speed when the network is congested.
- Speeds are NOT symmetrical. You may be able to get 100 Mbps download, but your upload speeds will only be a fraction of that.
- 5G coverage is limited in more rural cities and towns like ours. It's better suited to large cities where tower locations tend to be more dense.
- As 5G adoption grows and networks congest, performance of 5G home internet service and user experience may be negatively impacted.

## Family Cybersafety Security Kit

Looking for a way to discuss online safety with your children? **KnowBe4**, MPW's trusted security awareness and phishing simulation provider, offers a fun and interactive cybersecurity kit to teach valuable online safety and security skills to families.

Visit <https://www.knowbe4.com/cybersecurity-activity-kit> or scan the QR code to enjoy these activities with your family. It's never too early or late to learn how to stay cyber-safe!



KnowBe4



Address: 3205 Cedar St. • Muscatine, IA 52761 Visit our website: [www.mpw.org](http://www.mpw.org).  
Lobby Hours: 8 AM - 4 PM; Drive-thru: 8 AM - 5 PM, Mon-Fri. HelpDesk: 6 AM - Midnight, 7 days a week.  
Utility Emergencies: 263-2631, opt 0 (Phones answered 24/7) • HelpDesk: 263-2631, opt 2 (6 AM - Midnight)  
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