

PUSH Negaunee: Mather Mine as a Community Energy Storage Asset

The **City of Negaunee** partnering with **Michigan Technological University** to engage the community and discuss sustainable and renewable energy system incorporation within the city limits of Negaunee. We have partnered with **Dairyland Power Cooperative** and **MineStorage International** as potential developers.

- The City of Negaunee is a rural municipality with a population just over 4,000 citizens. The City currently owns several abandoned underground and open pit Iron Ore mines dating as far back to the city's founding and is representative of communities with legacies of hardrock mining throughout the upper midwest.
- Since 2019, the city began partnering with Michigan Technological University, studying the iron mine's potential for an Pumped Underground Storage Hydropower (PUSH) facility location, student researchers working with community heritage organizations and state archival repositories.
- By 2021, the Mather Mine was identified as an excellent potential site. Community interest began to grow. The study became the basis for a national assessment of PUSH. Collaborative studies of the Mather continued into 2024, examining aspects of environmental, technological, economic, and social assessments. These studies attracted interest from partners in industry.
- If awarded, this prize will allow rapid progress in specific tasks, including community-engaged planning and design, with teams of students and researchers facilitating interactions between city residents and experts from industry and agencies.
- The result will be a model action plan for how PUSH facilities can be co-designed to repurposed as profitable grid assets that enhance reclamation and redevelopment planning.

