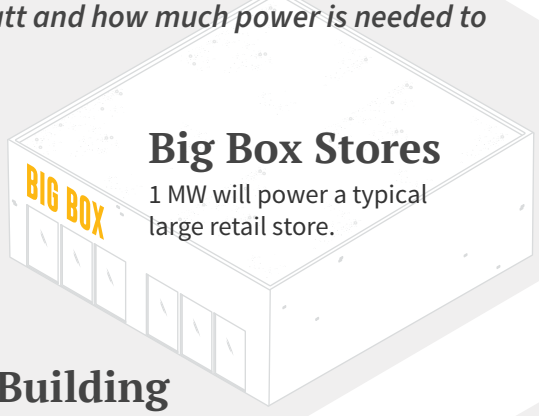
What Is 1 MW?

Exploding demand for electricity, lingering supply chain challenges and short-sighted public policy aimed at rapidly eliminating fossil fuels from power generation have forced large portions of the United States to confront unprecedented power shortages and soaring costs. In this graphic, we examine the familiar measurement of 1 megawatt and how much power is needed to supply common facilities in our communities.



Big Box Stores

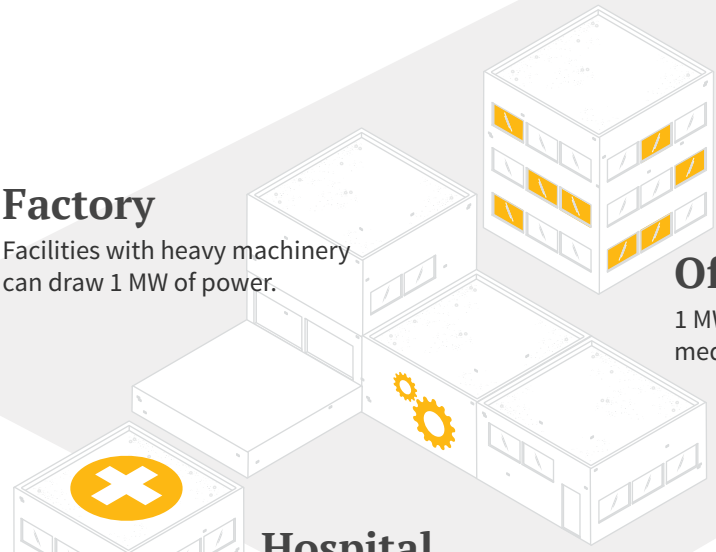
1 MW will power a typical large retail store.

Factory

Facilities with heavy machinery can draw 1 MW of power.

Office Building

1 MW can power several medium-sized office buildings.



Hospital

1 MW will power a small hospital.

Power Plant

Typical outputs:
Coal: 500 MW to 1 GW
Gas: 50 MW to 1 GW
Nuclear: 500 MW to 1.5 GW

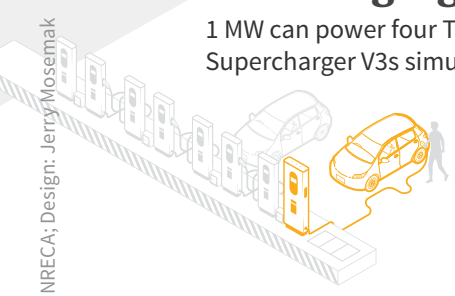
1 MW is 1 million watts of power.

School

0.5 MW will power a medium-size public school.

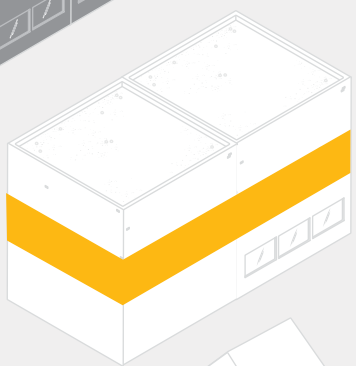
EV Charging

1 MW can power four Tesla Supercharger V3s simultaneously.



Data Center

1 MW will power one small data center.



Other facilities that can draw up to 1 MW of power:
- High-speed rail
- Large farms
- Wastewater treatment
- Stadiums

Residential

1 MW can power 750 to 1,000 homes.

Source: NRECA; Design: Jerry Mosemak