

# DEARBORN PARTNERS

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Another Dearborn Partners Core Rising and High & Rising Dividend SMA Portfolio Increase: WEC Energy Group

On December 5, 2020, WEC Energy Group (WEC) announced a 7.1% increase in its quarterly dividend per share to \$0.6775 (\$2.71 annually) from \$0.6325 (\$2.53 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on March 1, 2021 to holders of record as of February 14, 2021. This is the 18th consecutive annual increase in the dividend paid by WEC Energy Group.

From the press release: "The board's review today is consistent with our ongoing plan that targets a dividend payout ratio of 65 to 70 percent of earnings,' said Gale Klappa, executive chairman. The projected dividend growth for 2021 is in line with the company's longer-term objective to grow earnings per share at a rate of 5 to 7 percent annually."

WEC Energy Group (NYSE: WEC), based in Milwaukee, is one of the nation's premier energy companies, serving 4.5 million customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. The company's principal utilities are We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, Michigan Gas Utilities, Minnesota Energy Resources and Upper Michigan Energy Resources. Another major subsidiary, We Power, designs, builds and owns electric generating plants. In addition, WEC Infrastructure LLC owns a growing fleet of renewable generation facilities in the Midwest.

WEC Energy Group is in the Utilities sector of both of our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolios. So far this year, 42 of 49 companies in our Core Rising Dividend portfolio have announced 47 dividend increases averaging about 7.2% more than these companies paid a year earlier. In our High & Rising Dividend Portfolio, 21 of 25 companies have announced 24 dividend increases averaging about 5.8% more than these companies paid a year earlier. No companies in these portfolios have reduced or suspended dividends so far this year.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.

*This dividend increase announcement is not a complete description of, nor a recommendation to invest in, any investment strategy (the "Strategy") mentioned herein. It is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy, is not a recommendation regarding any securities transaction, nor is it an offer to provide advisory or other services by Dearborn Partners, L.L.C. The information contained in this writing should not be construed as financial or investment advice on any subject matter. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. There is no assurance the Strategy will be profitable, achieve its objectives, be suitable for you, or not incur losses. Some of the information herein has been obtained from third party sources. We believe such information is reliable but we have not in each case verified its accuracy or completeness. Any opinions herein are as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. Dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the company's board of directors. There is no assurance that any Rising Dividend portfolio company will increase its dividend, or not reduce its dividend, or not have a significant decrease in its stock price. Dividend yield is one component of performance and should not be the only consideration for investment. Dearborn Partners L.L.C. is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. For a complete list of all Dearborn Rising Dividend holdings that in the past year - increased their dividends, had no dividend increases, or had*

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*a dividend decrease, please contact the Dearborn Rising Dividend Team at [RD@dearbornpartners.com](mailto:RD@dearbornpartners.com). It should not be assumed that portfolio trades made in the future will be profitable, or will increase their dividends, or will equal the performance of the securities in this announcement.*