

From: [EDC](#)
To: [Freedman, Andrea](#)
Subject: FW: BESP
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 2:46:16 PM

From: Nancy Vedder-Shults <nancyv-s@tds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 2:21 PM
To: EDC <EDC@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: BESP

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Dear Economic Development Committee Members:

The Building Energy Savings Program (BESP) will substantially reduce carbon emissions from approximately 700 of the biggest commercial buildings in our city. By themselves, these structures are responsible for about 30% of the CO2 emissions in our city. As you know, carbon emissions are the major cause of global warming, which is causing the climate crisis that we are experiencing.

The BESP does not require building owners to publicly declare their energy usage. It simply requires owners of buildings 25,000 square feet or larger to record and report their energy use annually using the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, a free online tool. If the building is 50,00 square feet or larger, it would be required to do a “tune-up” every four years, a no-cost or low-cost practice that involves a qualified professional who assesses a building’s existing energy and maintenance practices and then performs minor repairs or low-cost adjustments to improve performance and save energy. This is a minor inconvenience — for most, simply paper work — for a major win in our struggle with the climate crisis, which is ruining our weather and therefore our world and the social structures that our society depends on. In most cases, the building owner will immediately save money on their energy outlays.

I have two grandsons who depend on the decisions we make today so that they will inherit a country that is still democratic and liveable. Please remember your own children and grandchildren as you make this decision. I urge you to pass the BESP.

Sincerely,
Nancy Vedder-Shults