

Proposed Energy and Carbon Goals Resolution

Fiscal Note No funds required.

Title: To update Carbon and Energy Goals in the Sustainable Madison Plan in response to changing science and technology around climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Body

WHEREAS, the City of Madison (City) desires to formulate and implement energy and carbon policy consistent with the environmental, economic and social objectives articulated in the Madison Sustainability Plan;

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus demands we limit global temperature increases below 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius to avoid the most destructive and dangerous effects of climate change;

WHEREAS, existing city of Madison energy and carbon goals were created before the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP 21, where 174 countries developed even more aggressive global targets that have since been ratified by the United States;

WHEREAS, the Common Council has directed the Sustainable Madison Committee to “Create a working group of the Sustainable Madison Committee that includes other community stakeholders to review the City’s climate change goals and update if needed”;

WHEREAS, the “Energy and Carbon Working Group” has received public testimony, consulted with a variety of experts and identified ambitious and common sense goals during five working group sessions from July through November 2016;

WHEREAS, the City of Madison aims to lead by example in the community, the state, and across the nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Madison that: The Sustainable Madison Plan must be updated to reflect scientific consensus and community aspirations by establishing community wide goals of 100% renewable energy and net-zero carbon emissions within a time-frame that aligns with sound and established science as the official energy and carbon goals of the city of Madison—replacing existing goals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Madison that: city administrators will develop a plan to achieve updated goals for City of Madison operations including a target date [no later than December 2030], to be delivered to the Common Council no later than June 2017;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Madison that: city administrators will update the Common Council and general public on progress toward updated goals no less frequently than every two years [annually] from the date of adoption.

ITEMS in [] are potential replacements/inclusions