

Title:

Accepting the Using a Resilience Strategy to Address the Social Effects of Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin Report and adopting the recommendations in the executive summary.

Body:

WHEREAS in 2012 the City of Madison Common Council adopted the Madison Sustainability Plan which states the mission of achieving the City's environmental protection and resiliency goals; and,

WHEREAS the Madison Sustainability Plan seeks to incorporate sustainability principles into the City's operational practices and to engage the community in addressing the cause and effects of climate change; and,

WHEREAS recent storm events and subsequent flooding in the Madison/Dane County region have brought into sharp focus the urgent need to prepare for the effects of climate change; and,

WHEREAS In August 2018, Madison faced a 500-year storm where parts of the city experienced 12 to 15 inches of rain in a matter of hours which prompted more than 1,000 emergency (911) calls, including 80 for water rescues, and caused numerous injuries and one fatality; and,

WHEREAS the City of Madison applied for and was selected by the The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Madison for a semester capstone graduate student team project; and,

WHEREAS the student team was tasked with answering the research question: To what extent does the city of Madison need to become more resilient to the acute shocks of extreme climate events, both short, medium and long-term - especially for vulnerable populations, and how can Madison approach a formal plan to address this component of urban resiliency; and,

WHEREAS on April 22, 2019 the student team presented their final report findings to the Sustainable Madison Committee; and,

WHEREAS the Sustainable Madison Committee approved the final report titled "Using a Resilience Strategy to Address the Social Effects of Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin"; and,

WHEREAS the final report defines climate resilience as a systematic framework that encompasses a range of strategies that communities may employ to adapt to the changing climate as well as a focus on helping individuals and neighborhoods prepare for and recover from climate events; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Madison to adopt the “Using a Resilience Strategy to Address the Social Effects of Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin” report with the recommendations in the Policy Brief:

To the Madison Common Council and Mayor

- Hire a Chief Resilience Officer to lead the city’s resilience strategy planning and implementation.
- Develop a Madison-specific climate adaptation and resilience task force. Members could include technical and operational experts, a Sustainable Madison Committee representative, and local leaders across sectors.

To the Sustainable Madison Committee

- Establish accountability measures for a climate resilience strategy including, goals, monitoring, and tracking of initiatives and actions.
- Support a culture in City departments that understands and uses resilience models to help anticipate the effects of climate change related chronic stresses and of acute shocks, into planning and programs.
- Conduct a stakeholder mapping of residents and city leaders to understand community priorities related to resilience.
- Support the City to pursue improvements in housing quality and energy efficiency.

To City Departments

- Establish strategies to identify vulnerable populations and subpopulations; for example, non-native English-speaking communities.
- Target 2023 for completion of a formal resilience plan. Resilience leaders can expect the planning process to take about two years.
- Strategically leverage nonprofit service providers, especially those who provide services to older adults.
- Develop an equity-based climate risk assessment tool similar to the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative tool that departments can modify and adapt to their responsibilities.
- Consult with surrounding communities and municipal stakeholders to explore a regional resilience strategy.
- Establish Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Liaisons to build social networks within neighborhoods.