

# CRANES

## Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability

*On behalf of its member organizations and individuals, advocating collaboratively for the environment of the South Central Wisconsin region (eight counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk) toward a high quality of life; an ecologically sustainable and just culture; and, the celebration of the beauty of this place, both natural and built.*

### VISION

*The Capital area's environment, including water, land, and air resources, will be conserved or restored to ensure the region's quality of life and the beauty of this special place, for all who live or visit here, now and in the future.*

### PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

*Earth/Art® Resources  
Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy  
League of Women Voters - Dane County  
Madison Audubon Society  
Sierra Club - Four Lakes Group  
W. Dane Coalition for Smart Growth & Environment  
West Waubesa Preservation Coalition*

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A Wisconsin Non-Profit [EIN 26-4056421]  
Fiscal Agent  
*River Alliance of Wisconsin*  
A Tax-exempt 501(c)3 Non-profit  
WisconsinRivers.org

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TO: City of Madison Economic Development Committee  
CC: Mayor Paul Soglin  
DATE: 18 December 2013  
SUBJECT: Benchmarking Ordinance [Legistar #32255]

Dear Economic Development Committee Members:

The *Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability* (CRANES) supports passage of the Benchmarking Ordinance.

This ordinance would cover:

- city-owned buildings;
- large buildings (50,000 square feet or larger by 2016; 15,000 square feet or larger by 2017); and,
- residential housing with 35 units or more.

The ordinance would require owners of such buildings to measure energy efficiency by inputting basic energy consumption data into a free database, with the goal of improving use of energy.

The proposed Benchmarking Ordinance would help achieve the City's 2012 Sustainability Plan, including 80% reduction of carbon emissions by 2050.

The Benchmarking Ordinance would also support the goals of the DANE HEALTHY SKIES climate action program. The City endorsed this program in September 2013, as one of the 39 partner organizations of the federally-funded Capital Region Sustainable Communities Consortium (please see below for a complete listing).

A central goal of DANE HEALTHY SKIES is to, by 2050, achieve a net 100% reduction of all anthropogenic air pollution, including greenhouse gases (and if possible, a net negative reduction, i.e., offsetting historic pollution).

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Dane County Board of Supervisors voted to fund the climate action inventories needed for the DANE HEALTHY SKIES program, as part of the county's FY14 budget.

Both of these sustainability efforts will position the City and the County for outside funding of the capital improvements that will be necessary to respond to climate disruption in a timely fashion.

Delay is no longer an option. We urge you to vote YES tonight, on behalf of the City's climate action goals, as well as those of the entire county.

Sincerely,



Gary Werner  
President, CRANES Board of Directors

**CRSC Consortium Members**

September 2013

1. Capital Area RPC (lead agency)
2. Centro Hispano
3. City of Fitchburg
4. City of Madison
5. City of Middleton
6. City of Monona
7. CRANES
8. Dane County
9. Dane County Housing Authority
10. Dane County Timebank
11. Earth/Art Resources
12. Edgewood College
13. Freedom Inc.
14. Home Savings Bank
15. Madison Area Builders Association
16. Madison Area Bus Advocates
17. Madison Area Transportation Planning Board
18. Latino Support Network
19. Madison Metro
20. Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
21. Mentoring Positives
22. Project Home
23. Realtors Association of South Central Wisconsin
24. Smart Growth Greater Madison
25. Sustain Dane
26. Town of Dunn
27. Town of Springfield
28. Town of Sun Prairie
29. Town of Westport
30. Town of Windsor
31. United Way of Dane County
32. Urban League of Greater Madison
33. UW-Madison Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning
34. Village of DeForest
35. Village of Waunakee
36. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
37. Wisconsin Environmental Initiative
38. Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development
39. YWCA Madison