

## **Draft Food Waste Resolution**

WHEREAS the City of Madison has several goals related to increasing food waste diversion, increasing renewable energy, and advancing sustainable food systems as described below; and,

WHEREAS food waste comprises over 20% of the waste stream collected by the City of Madison, which means 10,000 tons of food scraps are sent to the Dane County landfill; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2021, the Dane County Landfill has approximately 10 years of usable life remaining at its current site; and,

WHEREAS the Common Council initially set the City of Madison on a zero-waste trajectory by passing a resolution in 2008 to set a goal of 65% waste diversion by recycling and composting by 2010 with progress towards the ultimate goal of zero waste; and,

WHEREAS reducing methane emissions can help the City meet its renewable energy and carbon goals; and,

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 4th assessment report lists methane as 72 times more potent for global warming compared to carbon dioxide over a span of two decades; and,

WHEREAS the adopted 2012 Madison Sustainability Plan emphasizes the nexus of food waste and energy through goals to prevent solid waste from entering the landfill to obtain 25% of Electricity, Heating, and Transportation Energy from Clean Energy Sources by 2025; and,

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Madison Common Council passed a resolution to update the Energy and Carbon Goals in the Madison Sustainability Plan to aim for 100% renewable energy and net-zero carbon emissions or better by 2050 or sooner; and,

WHEREAS the recommendations in the Madison Sustainability Plan and the 100% Renewable Madison Report are already underway; for example, in March of 2021 the Madison Common Council accepted the Final Anaerobic Digester Feasibility Study which assessed the feasibility of utilizing an anaerobic digester for food waste; and,

WHEREAS according to Public Health Madison Dane County the rate of food insecurity at the county level can exceed one in three households for vulnerable groups and food waste diversion efforts can help strengthen sustainable food systems; and,

WHEREAS, the Madison Comprehensive Plan has strategies to encourage emergency food system and facilitate donation of near-expired, but high-quality, foods and establish a city-wide food scrap recycling program in the neighborhoods and housing and green & resilient sections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Madison that the City will:

- Set a food waste diversion goal of XX by XXXX
- Educate the public on food waste reduction benefits and landfill diversion alternatives
- The Sustainable Madison Committee will review and advise of efforts and updating of goals related toward food waste reduction efforts (Timeline?)
- Support this cross-sector goal which requires budgetary and city staff support to meet the timelines set in these inter-related goals
- Commit appropriate city committees and staff to collaborate with local organizations and governments to identify and implement actions that reduce food insecurity

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Madison that the City will work to provide leadership, funding, and programmatic resources to support food waste diversion efforts to meet renewable energy goals and advance sustainable food systems.

1

<https://daneclimateaction.org/documents/CAP-2020/Dane-Co-Climate-Action-Plan-202004-web.pdf>

2 <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4-wg1-chapter2-1.pdf>