

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 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 for 2010 with progress towards the ultimate goal of zero waste; and,

WHEREAS the City of Madison already focuses efforts on food waste diversion by collecting approximately 10,000 tons of food scraps annually, and even still food waste comprises over 20% of the waste stream entering the Dane County Landfill, and siphoning food out of the waste stream will both increase the lifetime of the Dane County Landfill and offer the opportunity to generate renewable natural gas and produce compost, which can increase carbon storage in the soil and reduce methane emissions; and,

WHEREAS reducing methane emissions can help the City meet its renewable energy and carbon goals because the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) recommends methane reductions on the order of 60 to 80%¹ to avoid surpassing the 1.5°C warming, and because the IPCC's 4th assessment report² lists methane as 72 times more potent for global warming compared to carbon dioxide over a span of two decades, and with changing science and technology related to renewable energy and energy efficiency resulted in the Common Council passing a resolution in 2017 to update the Energy and Carbon Goals in the Sustainable Madison Plan to aim for 100% renewable energy and net-zero carbon emissions or better by 2050 or sooner; and,

WHEREAS the Madison Sustainability Plan emphasizes the nexus of food waste and energy through goals such as a Natural System's goal to prevent solid waste from entering the landfill which includes supporting actions like develop programs to eliminate organics from landfill; establish municipal curbside pick-up of organic waste; develop and implement a zero waste plan for the City; continue to develop a waste pilot project and construction of anaerobic digesters that capture energy from food waste and other organic waste, and also the Carbon and Energy's goal to obtain 25% of Electricity, Heating, and Transportation Energy from Clean Energy Sources by 2025 which includes a supporting action to divert urban organic wastes into fuel sources for local bio-digester energy production; and,

WHEREAS some of the recommendations in the sustainability plan and the 100% Renewable Madison report are already underway; for example, the City of Madison is assessing the feasibility of utilizing an anaerobic digester for food waste; and,

WHEREAS support exists for food waste reduction efforts exists at the county level as highlighted in the Dane County Climate Action Plan, and that plan recommends food waste should be one of the next waste materials on the landfill diversion prioritization list, and that the Office of Energy & Climate Change will work with the Department of Waste & Renewables and municipalities to develop a plan for collection and diversion of food waste that includes digestion, composting, and other management tools that maximize the GHG emission reductions associated with food waste; and,

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>

WHEREAS according to Public Health Madison Dane County the rate of food insecurity at the county level can exceed one in three households³ for vulnerable groups, which means at least one person in the household experiences insufficient or uncertain access to food at some point in the year, and food insecurity can severely negatively impact the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development of children, 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; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT 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



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

- supporting this cross-sector goal requires budgetary and city staff support to meet the timelines set in these inter-related goals
- the Sustainable Madison Committee will review and advise of efforts and updating of goals (do we put time line?) related toward food waste reduction efforts
- Do we have a food waste reduction goal we want to push?
- Educating the public on food waste reduction benefits and landfill diversion alternatives
- Commit appropriate city committees and staff to collaborate with local organizations and governments to identify and implement actions that reduce food insecurity (do we need to explicitly state in regards to food waste)