

Staff Updates

SMC – June 23, 2025



CITY OF MADISON
SUSTAINABILITY

Air Quality Monitoring

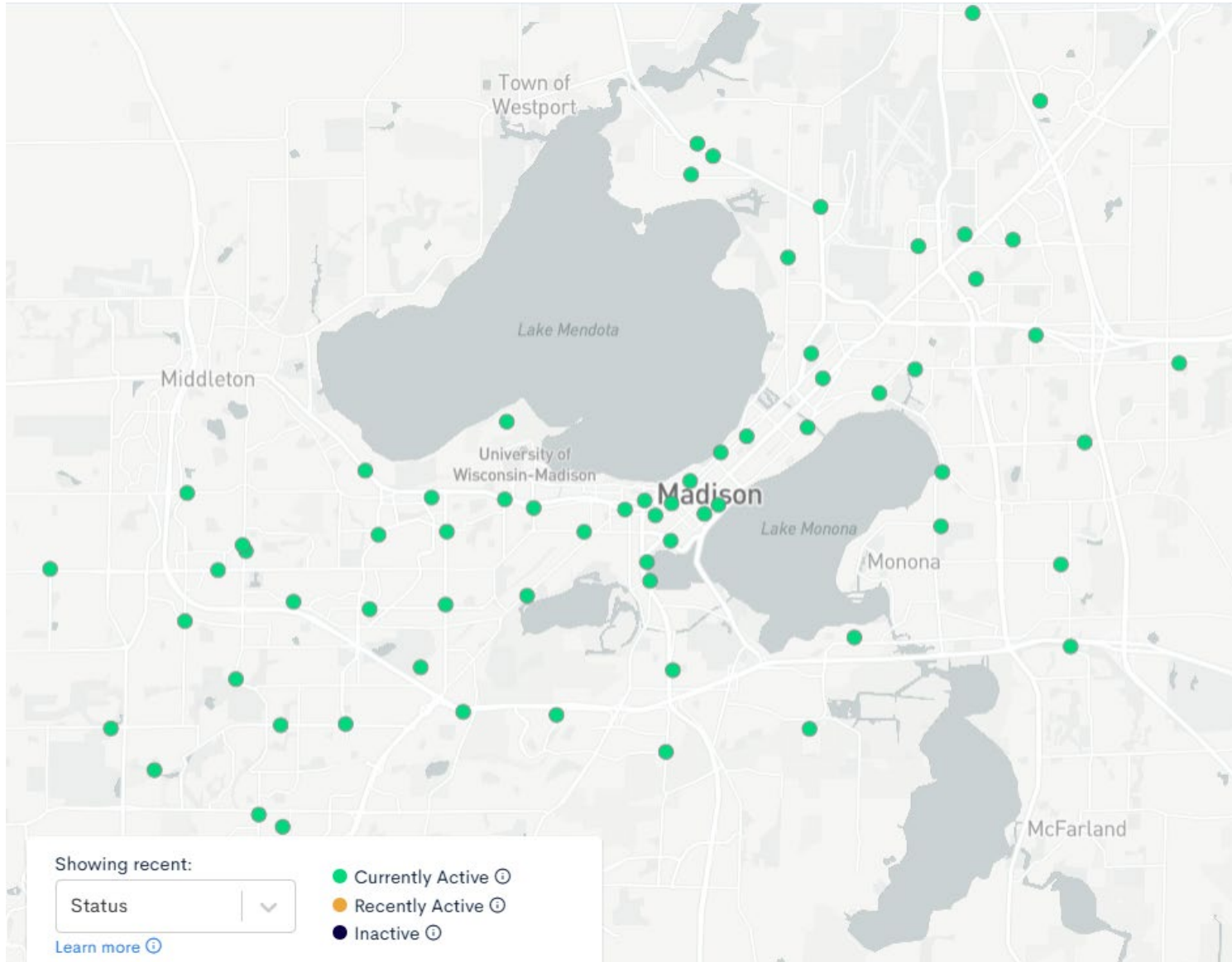
The City of Madison is leading a collaborative project to install a [citywide network of air quality sensors](#) to help understand air pollution in our community.

65 sensors are installed across Madison, roughly in each 2018 census tract.

This initiative is supported by a \$430,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Progress:

- All monitors have been installed
- Signing contract for website in the coming weeks, should have website live shortly after that.



Building Energy Savings Program

The City of Madison adopted the Building Energy Savings program (BESP) in March 2023 to improve energy efficiency in large commercial buildings community-wide through energy benchmarking and tune-ups.

In 2025:

- Commercial buildings larger than 50,000 square feet must benchmark by June 30.
- Total program size = 398 buildings.
- Currently 64% complete (254 buildings).

Progress:

Benchmarking window opened March 3, 2025.

Tune-ups deadline extended to give building owners more flexibility:

- Buildings 100,000 sq ft and larger must complete a tune-up by October 30, 2026
- Buildings between 50,000 and 99,999 sq ft have until October 30, 2027



Outcomes

- ~875 Buildings, ~70 Million sq ft
- Benchmarking results in 8-10% energy savings over time
- Tune-ups result in 12% energy savings on average, 2-3 yr ROI
- Cut carbon pollution by ~91,257 to 136,886 tons/year
- That's the equivalent of taking 17,838 to 26,757 cars off the road
- Information for future program design



100% Renewable Energy Goal



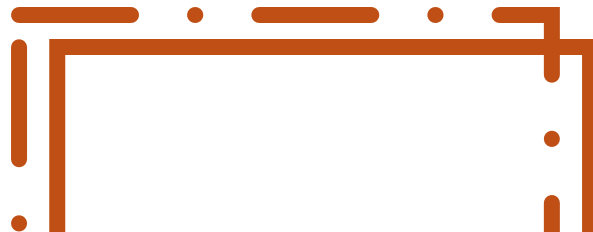
The City of Madison is working to reduce carbon emissions from our municipal operations, setting a goal to achieve 100% renewable energy usage for City operations by 2030.

In 2023, 82% of the electricity used by the City came from renewable sources.

That's a 7% increase since 2020, when 75% of electricity used for City operations came from renewable sources.

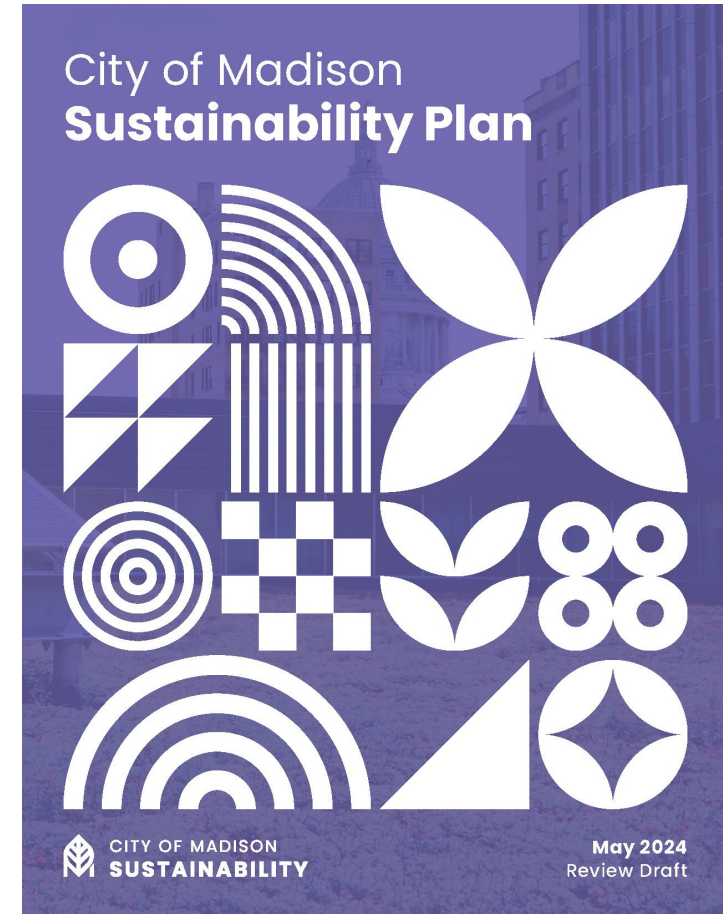
Overall Energy Usage:

- Writing letter of support for MGE's commercial shared solar program, which offers an avenue for partnership to get more solar built in our area that can help us reach our goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030



Sustainability Plan Update

- Held kickoff meeting for implementation on July 22nd
- Created an internal teams channel for sustainability champions
- Socialized all goals with champions
- Looking to hold fall meeting to finalize details about data collection



Sustainability Plan Update



Sustainability Plan Update



Grants

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (“CFI”)

City of Madison will collaborate with Dane County and other partners to build EV charging in rural areas, low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, and multi-family housing to help accelerate the transition to EV’s across our region.

Funding: \$13.2M

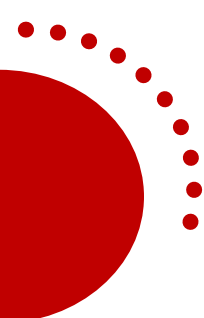
Status: \$1M Available, 12.2M Pending

Clean School Bus (CSB) Program Grant

Madison and Renew Wisconsin have been awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Increase awareness and advocate for the adoption of clean school buses in Wisconsin's school districts.

Funding: \$40,000

Status: Complete



Grants

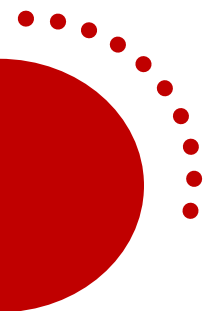
Community Change Grant

City of Madison and nonprofit partners will lead a collaborative project to provide energy efficiency upgrades to 1,875 low-income households in Madison.

Together, the team will expand and accelerate three complementary programs already at work in our community - Project Home, Sustain Dane's Efficiency Navigator Program, and Operation Fresh Start's Build Academy and Climate Corp.

Funding: \$20,232,000

Status: Currently unavailable



Grants

Youth Climate Action Fund – Round 2

Madison has been recommended to advance to Round 2 of the program, recognizing the success in Round 1. The City can support youth-led climate projects between \$1,000 to \$5,000 and allocate up to \$15,000 for administrative costs. Round 2 will focus on deeper local engagement, collaboration with youth, and highlighting innovative projects through a Global Announcement Day and peer learning sessions. The program encourages Madison to build on its success by fostering creative ways to engage youth, strengthening partnerships, and institutionalizing long-term youth involvement.

Funding: \$100,000

Status: [Awarded](#)

Youth Climate Action Fund is a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University.

