

Tyler Testimony

**Statement of Tyler Huebner, Executive Director, RENEW Wisconsin
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Now is the time for the City of Madison to be a solar hero. Wisconsin's solar industry has been hurt badly by state policies in recent years, but this has created an opportunity for municipalities to step in and be a champion.

Solar energy provides local jobs, supports industry and small business, and allows customers myriad benefits from fixing their electricity prices for years to come and reducing their environmental impact.

The installed price of solar has dropped 50% in the past 4 years alone, and can legitimately provide cost-competitive electricity to customers. Now is an excellent time for customers to "go solar" and adoption rates are skyrocketing nationally.

"Loan loss reserves" are a particularly powerful financial tool that the city can use to bolster the solar industry in Madison. They essentially provide a 20-fold leverage to the money the City puts in. Banks will loan out funds for energy projects, as long as there is a small reserve to cover defaults, which are typically in the 1-2% range. In addition, Group Buys are proven methods to reduce costs and make solar projects even easier for customers.

Now is the time. Madison is the place. Good luck!

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