

Title:

Accepting the Using a Resilience Strategy to Address the Social Effects of Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin Report with the recommendations in the executive summary.

Body:

WHEREAS in 2012 the City of Madison Common Council adopted the Madison Sustainability Plan which states the mission of achieving the City's environmental protection and resiliency goals; and,

WHEREAS the Madison Sustainability Plan seeks to incorporate sustainability principles into the City's operational practices and to engage the community in addressing the cause and effects of climate change; and,

WHEREAS recent storm events and subsequent flooding in the Madison/Dane County region have brought into sharp focus the urgent need to prepare for the effects of climate change; and,

WHEREAS In August 2018, Madison faced a 500-year storm where parts of the city experienced 12 to 15 inches of rain in a matter of hours which prompted more than 1,000 emergency (911) calls, including 80 for water rescues, and caused numerous injuries and one fatality; and,

WHEREAS the City of Madison applied for and was selected by the The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Madison for a semester capstone graduate student team project; and,

WHEREAS the student team was tasked with answering the research question: To what extent does the city of Madison need to become more resilient to the acute shocks of extreme climate events, both short, medium and long-term - especially for vulnerable populations, and how can Madison approach a formal plan to address this component of urban resiliency; and,

WHEREAS on April 22, 2019 the student team presented their final report findings to the Sustainable Madison Committee; and,

WHEREAS the Sustainable Madison Committee approved the final report titled "Using a Resilience Strategy to Address the Social Effects of Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin"; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Madison to accept the “Using a Resilience Strategy to Address the Social Effects of Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin” report with the recommendations in the Executive Summary:

Recommendations to the City of Madison Common Council and Mayor

- Hire a Chief Resilience Officer.
- Develop a Madison-specific climate adaptation and resilience task force.

Recommendations to the Sustainable Madison Committee

- Set accountability measures for a climate resilience strategy.
- Promote resilience as a way to approach cross-department city development that anticipates the broad effects of chronic stresses and acute shocks.
- Conduct stakeholder mapping.
- Assist the City of Madison with housing-quality mitigation and energy-efficiency improvements.

Recommendations to the City of Madison Departments

- Establish strategies to identify specific subsets of vulnerable populations.
- Target 2023 for completion of a formal resilience strategy.
- More strategically leverage nonprofit service providers, especially those who focus on older adults.
- Develop an equity-based climate risk assessment tool that city departments can modify and adapt to their responsibilities.
- Consult with surrounding community municipal stakeholders to determine potential buy-in for a regional resilience strategy.
- Develop Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Liaisons.