



# DANE COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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DATE 9/26/2022

TO: All Cities, Towns and Villages in Dane County  
Adjacent Town, City, Village and County Clerks  
Wisconsin Department of Administration  
Capital Area RPC  
Madison Public Library  
Other Interested Parties

CC: Roger Lane, Zoning Administrator  
Todd Violante, Director of Planning and Development  
Josh Wescott, Chief of Staff

RE: Public Hearing: Amending the Dane County Comprehensive Plan by Adopting the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan

The *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan* ensures farmer eligibility for state farmland preservation income tax credits. Dane County's current plan (adopted in 2012) is due for state recertification on December 31, 2022. For the 2022 update, Planning and Development staff conducted public opinion surveys of farmers, stakeholders and the general public. The Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee held 8 public meetings, and heard from experts in various domains. Significant changes from the 2012 plan include new sections on:

- climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation;
- policies and guidelines for alternative energy installations (particularly solar), and;
- recommendations for a county matching grant program to support town, city, village and nonprofit purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) programs.

In addition, agricultural inventory, demographic and land use data were updated and reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other changes over the last ten years.

The Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee has completed its work on the *2022 Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan* and has requested the county board adopt it as part of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*. In order to comply with the requirements of the state comprehensive planning law, Dane County must notify all local government jurisdictions within or adjacent to the county, giving them a 30 day review period prior to the county public hearing. The entire *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan* is proposed for adoption under the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*. You may also review the application materials at: <https://dane.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx> and enter the Ordinance Amendment number "2022 OA-30" in the legislative text box

The public hearing of the County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee on this item is scheduled for **November 15, 2022**. Please return any comments concerning the plan amendment to the Dane County Department of Planning and Development; Room 116, City-County Building; 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; Madison, WI 53703 by that date. Please feel free to contact me at (608) 267-4115, or by e-mail at [standing@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:standing@co.dane.wi.us) with any questions, or if you would like to receive any of these materials in an alternate format.

Sincerely,

Brian Standing, Senior Planner

