

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DANE COUNTY'S CONTINUING SUPPORT
FOR THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD AND COUNTY ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dane County desires—and has a responsibility—to protect and enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work, and recreate in Dane County, now and for future generations.

There is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change.

Climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, and academic leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm public safety, public health, local and global economies, and quality of life.

County governments have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions through land use planning, transportation systems, building energy and water use, and the many daily operations they carry out to provide vital services to residents and visitors.

Dane County has demonstrated leadership in responding to the threat of climate change by adopting and working to implement the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan to reduce greenhouse gases generated by all county operations and facilities; by developing the Dane County Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness Report, to identify climate change risks and adaptation opportunities for the county and strategies to increase resilience in the face of these risks; and by creating a new Office of Energy and Climate Change and a Climate Change Council to position Dane County to coordinate an economy-wide effort to meet and exceed the Paris Climate Accord reductions.

Dane County has taken a variety of important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including: developing almost enough carbon-free, renewable electric generation to offset all of the county government's electricity use; using compressed natural gas (CNG) in county fleet vehicles, offsetting the use of more than 20,000 gallons of fossil-fuel gasoline and saving county taxpayers roughly \$40,000 annually; converting county landfill gas to electricity, generating \$3.75 million in gross revenues for the county; and recently joining the Wisconsin PACE Commission to incentivize and support increased energy conservation and use of renewable energy by commercial developers in Dane County.

The energy sector, particularly clean energy technologies, was one of the few sectors of the economy that kept growing through the recent global recession, and it continues to be the fastest growing sector in the nation. There were more people employed in the solar industry in the U.S. last year than in energy production from coal, natural gas, and oil combined. Clean energy technologies have become a key area of manufacturing industry growth and they hold promise to help make the Midwest manufacturing base great again. Wisconsin already has more than 500 businesses that manufacture components for clean energy technologies such as wind, solar and biogas systems.

Some of Wisconsin's and Dane County's most iconic industries including agriculture, forestry, and tourism are threatened by climate change. The climate solutions that Dane County is pursuing will help protect these industries and significantly grow these and others.

52 Improving energy efficiency and resilience in the face of potential disruptions in energy
53 production can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to Dane County, and
54 increase the county's long-term economic competitiveness and wealth.

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56 Actions that reduce the combustion of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gases in Dane
57 County, including prioritizing efficiency and transitioning to low-carbon energy sources, have the
58 potential to improve air quality, public health, energy security, social equity, local natural
59 environments, and quality of life for all residents.

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61 Dane County is joined in taking action on climate change by a coalition of cities, counties,
62 states, and national governments and community and private sector leaders who recognize the
63 importance and potential of these actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and
64 future generations.

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66 One hundred and ninety-five countries, including the United States, vowed to address climate
67 change in agreements reached in Paris in December 2015 (the "Paris Climate Accord").

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69 The United States' commitment under the Paris Climate Accord—a 26 to 28 percent reduction
70 from 2005 carbon emission levels by the year 2025—is a modest step toward protecting public
71 health, key industries, and our children's future.

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73 The reality and the science of climate change have not been affected by recent political
74 announcements or by the United States' potential withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord.

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76 The absence of federal leadership at this time only increases the importance of local leadership
77 in avoiding the most dangerous and costly effects of climate change.

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79 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and Dane
80 County government reaffirm their commitment to taking action to reduce its contribution to
81 climate change.

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83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainability Subcommittee of the Public Works and
84 Transportation Committee will work with county and community partners to set a date no later
85 than 2035 as the date by which 100% of electricity for county government operations will be
86 generated from renewable energy sources.

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88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board also supports setting a similar goal county-
89 wide and recognizes that achieving a community-wide goal cannot be done by county
90 government alone and will require leadership and commitment from businesses, community
institutions, and utilities.

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92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County continues to support the principles of the Paris
93 Climate Accord and the participation of the United States of America as a party to the Paris
94 Climate Accord.

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96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board Chair and Dane County Executive
97 be authorized to sign the *We Are Still In* statement (<http://wearestillin.com/>), joining hundreds of
98 local, state, university, and business leaders declaring that we are committed to climate action

99 to meet the Paris Climate Accord and hold warming to below 2°C to protect the health and
100 economic well-being of Dane County residents.

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102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County urges other counties in Wisconsin and the
103 United States to join with it in its commitment to address climate change and support the
104 principles of the Paris Climate Accord and the participation of the United States of America as a
105 party to the Paris Climate Accord.

106 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Dane County
107 legislative delegation, Representative Mark Pocan, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron
108 Johnson, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.