



DANE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE & RENEWABLES

County Executive
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Director
John Welch, PE

DATE: July 12, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Personnel and Finance Committee

FROM: John Welch, Director, Department of Waste & Renewables

RE: Request to Hire Position #3406 – Position Vacant for More Than Six Months

County Ordinance 29.52(15) requires the Personnel and Finance Committee and the County Executive approve filling positions that are vacant longer than six (6) months.

The Dane County Department of Waste & Renewables (W&R) is requesting to hire Position #3406 – Sustainability Engagement Coordinator which has been vacant for more than six months.

Background

The existing Rodefild Landfill has less than 10 years of site life remaining and the Department of Waste & Renewables is in the process of planning for a new landfill and sustainability campus at a new site. The vision for this new site is to be more than just a landfill, but a multi-use Sustainability Campus with opportunities for on-site reuse and recycling, alternative organics management options such as digestion or composting, renewable energy production, and space for research or new resource management technologies to emerge. This infrastructure will move Dane County towards a circular economy, where waste and raw materials are minimized through reuse, fixing and repairing items, and recycling. There is a significant need for additional staff to support such a project and this position was approved as part of the 2022 budget.

What is the nature of the work or what is the essential function of the position?

This classification is responsible for strategic planning of campus initiatives, identifying and attracting campus tenants and partners, developing recycling and waste diversion projects, leading community engagement and behavior change programs, building and maintaining partnerships with local community leaders and groups, and builds capacity of existing and emerging materials management leaders to move towards a circular economy in Dane County. This position will also oversee scheduling and staffing of outreach and education events, including the Trash Lab, site tours, workshops and other special events.

How has this function been fulfilled without his position?

The Department has been completing this work with other staff FTE positions and LTE positions.

What will be the impact on the Department's function and mission if the position remains vacant?

If this position is denied, W&R will be limited in capacity to engage with community during this critical planning process for the new site and also be limited in ability to participate in special events and educational programming.