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2016 RES-465

**ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE FIRST DANE COUNTY SUSTAINABLE
OPERATIONS PLAN AND PLANNING NEXT STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Dane County government is pursuing a goal of becoming more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable in its planning, operations, management, and policymaking. Over the last several years the county has initiated and implemented numerous efforts that are contributing to greater sustainability through energy conservation, greenhouse gas emission reductions, stormwater runoff reduction, renewable fuel vehicles, and racial and social equity. The Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan provides a formal and comprehensive guideline for building on our existing efforts and achieving greater environmental, social, and economic sustainability across county departments and functions.

The Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan focuses on the county's internal operations and management and is intended to guide county leadership, elected officials, and county government staff in collectively carrying out the county's daily operations in a sustainable manner. It incorporates the county's adopted sustainability principles across virtually all operational areas—the vehicles we drive, the energy and water we consume, the construction and operation of our buildings, the products we purchase, the way in which we view and handle waste materials—to create a more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable county government now and into the future.

The plan was developed through a series of strategic planning meetings of a cross-departmental Sustainability Work Group and was submitted for further review and input by a team of department heads and constitutional officers convened by the Department of Administration. These groups worked to ensure that Dane County's internal operational sustainability goals, objectives, and strategies reflect and advance the county's commitment to sustainability. The intention of this plan is to build on and enhance numerous existing sustainable practices and resources, and to provide additional strategic guidance for making county operations more sustainable, efficient, and resilient in the face of future challenges.

The plan outlines specific goals, objectives, and strategies across eight broad operational categories:

- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- transportation and vehicle fleet
- water
- waste
- county buildings and facilities
- purchasing
- education and outreach
- employee experience

In addition, specific departmental action plans were developed by department heads or representatives of each department or constitutional office and are included in the appendix to the plan. The comprehensive set of goals, objectives, strategies, and departmental action plans are intended to be achievable by county staff. The strategies are intended to allow for flexibility and creativity in implementation in order to be most responsive to departments' specific needs and functions. The plan recognizes that successful implementation will rely heavily on the experience, engagement, and collaboration of staff and decision makers across Dane County operations.

52 Working toward greater sustainability reflects not only the county’s commitment to future
53 generations, but also to good government. Our focus on sustainability rewards efficiency and
54 continuous improvement. Our successes in achieving sustainability goals will allow us to deal
55 more resiliently with uncertainty and future risks by being more efficient with limited natural
56 and fiscal resources. Through becoming a more sustainable local government we have the
57 opportunity to create positive impacts that go beyond our operations and our jurisdictional
58 boundaries.

59
60 Dane County government is fortunate to have innumerable employees—from constitutional
61 officers and department heads to frontline staff across all departments—who sincerely care
62 about making our daily operations, and the Dane County community as a whole, more
63 sustainable now and for future generations.

64
65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of
66 Supervisors acknowledges receipt of the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations
67 Plan and appreciates the commitment and thorough work of the Sustainability and Program
68 Evaluation Coordinator, the Department of Administration, and all Dane County department
69 and agency staff who participated in the development of the plan;

70
71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Board recognizes the goals, objectives,
72 strategies, and departmental action plans set forth in this plan as critical for the continued
73 achievement of greater sustainability in Dane County and recognizes the plan as the guiding
74 document for addressing sustainability in Dane County’s daily operations;

75
76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Board directs all standing committees of the
77 County Board to place on their agendas, on at least an annual basis, time for county
78 departments to report the status of their action plan implementation and a description of how
79 their annual budget request contributes to implementation of the Dane County Government
80 Sustainable Operations Plan;

81
82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that departmental proposals for the SMART Fund
83 should include a description of how the proposal contributes to implementation of
84 the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan and the SMART Fund application
85 should be updated to include this requirement;

86
87 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Sustainability and Program Evaluation Coordinator
88 shall provide a progress update on implementation of the Dane County Government
89 Sustainable Operations Plan on an annual basis.