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3 **2024 RES-186**

4 **AMENDING THE OFFICE OF ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE BUDGET TO ACCEPT AN YOUTH CLIMATE**  
5 **ACTION FUND GRANT TO SUPPORT THE 2024 DANE COUNTY YOUTH CLIMATE CONFERENCE**

6 The Office of Energy & Climate Change (OECC) was established to lead countywide climate action  
7 efforts. To spur climate action OECC makes local stakeholders aware of state and federal resources that  
8 can help individuals and entities pursue clean energy projects to save energy and money, expand access  
9 to family-sustaining careers in clean energy, and leverage resources to expand equity and environmental  
10 justice in Dane County. Consistent with Dane County’s 2020 Climate Action Plan, OECC prioritizes  
11 equity—making sure that all Dane County stakeholders see benefits of our transition to clean energy.

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13 OECC also collaborates with a variety of other stakeholder groups to empower those groups to pursue  
14 climate action. One noteworthy partnership is OECC’s work with the Dane County Youth Environmental  
15 Committee (DCYEC). DCYEC is a coalition of high school youth who are working on climate action issues  
16 in their schools and communities; the group is entirely youth led. Since 2020 OECC has collaborated with  
17 DCYEC, helping the youth to connect to resources and showcasing their successes.

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19 Beginning in 2021 OECC has partnered with UNA-USA Dane County members, the Dane County Youth  
20 Environmental Committee and other stakeholders to host a Dane County Youth Climate Conference  
21 each fall. The one-day event, which is free to high school and college youth in the area, provides young  
22 people with an opportunity to network with other youth who are interested in climate action issues.  
23 Typically, the event features keynotes from youth climate leaders and workshops that enable the youth  
24 to explore issues of interest to them. Every year attendees report that after attending the event they felt  
25 less alone and more empowered relative to the climate crisis; that is an important outcome since  
26 numerous national studies report high levels of climate anxiety among young people in the US.

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28 Each year conference organizers raise sponsorship dollars for the conference. OECC has been a  
29 conference sponsor every year and other regular sponsors include local energy utilities and various  
30 environmental groups. The conference is free to youth so conference sponsorships cover all the costs  
31 associated with space, food for the event and other logistics.

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33 In 2024 the City of Madison received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies to create a Youth Climate  
34 Action Fund grant program that offered up to \$5,000 of funding to youth-led climate initiatives. (The  
35 grant program is a partnership between Bloomberg Philanthropies, the City of Madison, United Way of  
36 Dane County and UW-Madison Extension.) DCYEC was interested in securing grant funds for the 2024  
37 conference but could not apply directly because they are not an official nonprofit organization so OECC  
38 submitted an application for funding on behalf of DCYEC.

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40 DCYEC’s grant application was successful; OECC is receiving \$5,000 for the 2024 Dane County Youth  
41 Climate Conference. Per the intent of these funds, OECC would use the funds to cover costs associated  
42 with the 2024 Dane County Youth Climate Conference on November 13, 2024.  
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44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board approves amending the Office of Energy &  
45 Climate Change budget by increasing the following accounts:

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47 OECC 22098 "EECBG Outreach & Education" \$5,000

48 OECC 82970 "EECBG Miscellaneous Revenue" \$5,000

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