

2024 RES-186

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

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

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

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

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

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

DCYEC’s grant application was successful; OECC is receiving \$5,000 for the 2024 Dane County Youth Climate Conference. Per the intent of these funds, OECC would use the funds to cover costs associated with the 2024 Dane County Youth Climate Conference on November 13, 2024.

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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