

## FAQ 3 Sustainability:

### How are each of these options advancing the City's sustainability goals?

The [Community Campus sustainability goals were approved in February 2020 by the Common Council](#). The City needs to ensure that these goals are met under all the construction options. The City also has both civic and community energy and resiliency goals that are defined in [Resolution 2018-32 Addressing Global Warming Through Clean Energy](#).

The Community Campus sustainability goals address energy use, water resources, waste and materials, transportation, resiliency and adaptation to climate change, workforce training, biodiversity health, and health equity. These goals were built from the City's Resolution 2018-32 Addressing Clean Energy Through Global Warming, the 2020 Energy Plan, the [Comprehensive Plan](#), and the Sustainable City Plan from 2010. The goals are further supported and cross-referenced in subsequent approved City plans and policies such as the [Strategic Plan](#), [Sustainable City Plan 2022-24](#), and the Sustainable Purchasing Policy. One of the goals, bird safe glass, is now a zoning code requirement for all new construction greater than 10,000 square feet in the City of Middleton.

Many of the goals offer flexibility in design and execution and could be incorporated into building options 3-7. **The number one goal, however, is to prepare the building project to be a net zero carbon building – a building that is highly energy efficient with remaining energy needs powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources.** The hybrid and new construction options 4-7 offer the most straightforward opportunity for meeting this goal. We cannot differentiate sustainability measures between options 4-7 at this time because we have not started the preliminary design phase that would model whole building energy use using a wide variety of combined strategies to see what works best for that particular site and building configuration.

The hybrid and new construction options 4-7 also present the best opportunity to increase resiliency and add value to the project for residents by incorporating a microgrid with battery backup power to one or more of the buildings. A microgrid is a **group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources that acts as a single controllable entity concerning the grid. A microgrid can connect and disconnect from the grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected and island-mode.** In other words, the Library or Senior Center could also function as a community resiliency center in the event of a power outage or local disaster.

The "Do Nothing – status quo" option will not address the City's sustainability goals. Doing nothing will most likely mean costly repairs in the short term, until the City is forced to renovate or build new in the future. The uncertainty of the longevity for three significant civic assets: City Hall, Library, and Senior Center has already led to many piecemeal short-term solutions regarding HVAC replacement, LED lighting controls, space accommodation, service delivery, comfort, technology solutions, and safety and accessibility considerations.

Renovation offers the opportunity to improve sustainability in all three buildings, but not comprehensively. There may be structural issues that limit feasible renewable energy system solutions and zero-carbon buildings. The renovation option also limits growth for service offerings and staff expansion in a fast-growing City.

Sustainability is well-being for all, and the goals include essential considerations for the social determinants of health, which include a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Health is broadly defined here with overlapping indicators between sustainability and equity in a community. A strong public engagement process to ensure this civic development promotes well-being for all residents is perhaps the most important goal. The project should add value to our community and its civic assets, and aim to bring people of all backgrounds into public life, to ensure a strong local democracy. A robust public engagement should elevate and center city residents' needs, while also aiming for efficient service delivery.