

RESOLUTION #2018-32: CITY OF MIDDLETON RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING THROUGH CLEAN ENERGY

WHEREAS, the City of Middleton ballot referendum results on climate change in November 2016 showed a strong 81 percent mandate from our residents in support of mitigating climate change; and

WHEREAS, the mayor is a 2017 signatory to the Mayors' Pledge to support the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City has been committed to gradually reducing its carbon footprint since resolving to become an Energy Independent Community in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City intervened in MGE's 2014 rate case at the PSC to support electric rates that encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy that are fair to all users; and

WHEREAS, the City has installed solar energy projects at City-owned buildings and cooperated with Madison Gas & Electric (MGE) to install a large community-solar array to provide clean electricity to its residents and businesses on the Middleton Operations Center roof; and

WHEREAS, low-income residents are often most burdened by energy rates and climate impacts, and the City is committed to ensuring all residents enjoy the benefits of energy efficiency and renewables, electrified transportation, fair utility rates, and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, youth and future generations will be more severely impacted by climate change, and it is the duty of current leaders to act promptly and resolutely to mitigate climate change for their benefit; and

WHEREAS, use of distributed solar and other renewable energy sources, paired with energy storage, and/or backed up by renewable co-generation, is an important strategy to build disaster resilience in the City; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 88 percent of electricity delivered to Middleton consumers by Madison Gas & Electric was generated from fossil fuels - 68% coal and 22% natural gas (vs. the national average of 30% coal and 35% NG); and

WHEREAS, the City's energy use could be served by existing renewable energy technologies at reasonable cost, and the economic opportunities from a clean energy transition greatly exceed any economic opportunities from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, community-based environmental infrastructure development can benefit the entire City, and provide jobs, add to economic activity, and provide equity benefits; and

WHEREAS, given the accelerating rate of climate change, energy consumers, the City, and the utility serving the City must take strong action imminently to reduce carbon emissions, and shift to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 within practical and economic reach; and

WHEREAS, achieving these energy goals will require concerted action from individuals and the community, in urban and rural areas, from local and state governments, and from businesses and utilities; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists agree that local climate change impacts will continue to include increasingly severe and more frequent droughts, worsening heat waves, excessive flooding, dieback of native tree species, reduced winter sports opportunities, increased prevalence of algal blooms on area lakes and ponds; and loss of suitable trout stream habitat in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, virtually the entire world united in December 2015 with the Paris Climate Agreement to agree to attempt to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C; yet, federal and Wisconsin state government have since withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement and deny the urgency of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that given energy efficiency is the City's first and most economical choice for meeting energy needs and reducing our carbon footprint, the City will prioritize energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs and outreach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will increase green infrastructure such as urban tree canopy, green streets, green roofs, electric vehicle charging stations, and bike and pedestrian paths as an effective strategy to reduce energy consumption and increase public health and well-being along with other climate resiliency strategies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will reduce its energy use for city operations at least 15% by 2030, and 50% by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will work to reduce community wide energy use at least 10% by 2030, and 40% by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will meet 25 percent of its electric needs for City operations through renewable energy resources by 2025, 80 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2035; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City establishes goals to meet 66 percent of all City operations energy needs with renewable energy by 2030, 88 percent by 2035, and 100 percent by 2040; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City establishes goals with increasing targets to meet 20 percent of community-wide electric needs through renewable energy resources by 2025, 66 percent by 2030, 88 percent by 2035, and 100 percent by 2040; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City establishes goals to meet 21 percent of community-wide energy needs with renewable energy by 2030, 80 percent by 2040, and 100 percent by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will prioritize energy resources and programs that benefit low-income residents and create more equity in energy use, rates and jobs in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City opposes the rollback of science and climate policy at the federal and state levels and affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the City's responsibility to meet its greenhouse gas reductions based on the Paris Climate Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will prioritize renewable resources and programs over purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs) to reduce reliance on RECs during the transition to 100 percent renewable resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will prioritize community-based development of renewable energy in Dane and surrounding Counties; and

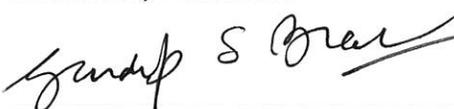
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will collaborate with other governmental and public entities locally and regionally to facilitate all energy measures; and

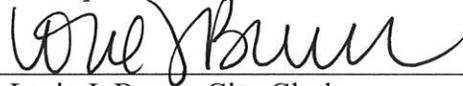
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will prioritize local and micro-grid-based renewable energy projects over remote generation and transmission, and provide renewable energy and energy storage at key public facilities to reduce vulnerability to main electric grid failure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will develop a resiliency plan to deal with anticipated changes associated with climate change.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2018.

The Common Council of the
City of Middleton, Wisconsin

By: 
Gurdip Brar, Mayor

Attest: 
Lorie J. Burns, City Clerk

VOTE:

Ayes: 6
Noes: 0