



RESOLUTION # 21-8/20

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AS AMENDED

ITEM # 8-7

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 29
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: -
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -

PLANNING RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 0

RE: ADOPTING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS OF IMPROVED EFFICIENCY TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION, ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY AND TRANSITIONING TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050.

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change (IPCC) is an international treaty that seeks to stabilize the global climate system by pursuing efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels, which requires improved efficiency to reduce energy consumption, while pursuing carbon neutrality and 100% of energy coming from renewable sources by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the French Island waste-to-energy plant operated by Xcel Energy burns refuse derived fuel provided by the regional solid waste system, producing less carbon emissions than landfilling of waste, which has saved over 300,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions over the past 32 years and provided electrical power to more than 10,000 homes, while extending the life of the landfill as part of a comprehensive waste disposal system seeking to encourage reduction, reuse or recycling to minimize landfilling to the extent possible.

WHEREAS, the County has a demonstrated history of action on sustainability and innovative energy conservation projects including but not limited to roof top solar, the gas-to-energy project with Gundersen Health systems producing electricity and heat recovery and implementation and conversion to light emitting diode (LED) technology; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Sustainability Indicators Report, the County, in conjunction with Xcel Energy initiatives, has achieved a 39% reduction in CO2 emissions associated with energy consumption since 2007, including fuel use by County vehicles, natural gas and electricity use at county facilities, while saving more than \$2 million dollars within County operating budgets by implementing sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin pays an estimated \$14 billion dollars to states with fossil fuel resources and is last in per capita workforce in the clean energy economy in midwestern states, and pursuing these goals will reduce cash flows out of state, spur local economic development and create jobs; and,

WHEREAS, without achievement of these goals, local climate change impacts will continue to include extreme weather events that threaten infrastructure, excessive flooding, worsening heat waves, increasingly severe and more frequent droughts, diebacks of native tree species, increased presence of algal blooms on area lakes and ponds, and loss of suitable trout stream habitat in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the February 4, 2019 Center on Wisconsin Strategies report, Wisconsin Opportunity in Domestic Energy Production: The Economic and Health Benefits of 100% In-State Energy Production by renewable resources would result in a statewide economic benefit of more than \$28 billion, plus the addition of more than 160,000 jobs and social and health benefits of decreased pollution and carbon emissions; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board adopts the goals of improved energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption, achieving carbon neutrality and transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050 for County operations, and leads the pursuit of these goals community-wide when considering land use planning, public transit, job creation, energy conservation, housing, economic development decisions and facilitation of public private partnerships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will seek to collaborate across local governments, area institutions and community organizations in pursuit of these goals, including prioritizing equity, affordability and access, particularly for low-income and marginalized communities, while encouraging the engagement of local businesses, residents and environmental advocacy groups, to exchange ideas and implement action steps to address the challenges of reducing energy use, addressing climate change and pursuing sustainable development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will undertake planning and action initiatives to assist in achieving these sustainability goals for County operations, and County staff will provide a status report to the County Board as part of the annual update of the Sustainability Indicators report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that La Crosse County will continue to educate, evaluate and incorporate emerging sustainable technologies and practices into future management decisions, purchases and construction projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County must evaluate and show positive effects on key sustainability measures as it evaluates future potential consequences of decisions in its adoption of carbon reducing energy methods or projects. Those key measures must include economical (financial), environmental (ecological) and social sustainability (people, social capital).

FISCAL NOTE: The direct fiscal impact is unknown without analysis of individual actions, however, the history of initiatives to date demonstrates significant budget savings over time.

Date: August 3, 2020
Peggy A. Sola
COMMITTEE CHAIR
[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

Date: August 12, 2020
Monica Kruse
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Terri J. Pavlic
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.		<u>SO</u>	
Fin. Director	<u>SPD</u>		
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>		
Board Chair			

Requested By: Monica Kruse
Date Requested: July 29, 2020
Drafted By: County Administrator

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 20 Day of August, 2020

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 20th day of August 2020.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk