

Resolution supporting improvements to State energy efficiency regulations that would benefit the City of La Crosse in reaching its carbon neutrality goal.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of La Crosse passed resolution 19-0471 transitioning to carbon neutrality and 100% renewable energy by 2050.

WHEREAS, the city of La Crosse cannot meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets without better codes governing energy for residential and commercial buildings. The State of Wisconsin establishes the energy code for buildings and does not allow local governments to set higher energy conservation codes within their jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's adopted code lags far behind what is recommended by the International Energy Conservation Code (2021 IECC). Wisconsin's Commercial Building Energy Code (SPS 363) is based on the 2015 IECC, but with a series of amendments so that the code is effectively very similar to the 2009 code.

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) convened the Commercial Building Code Council to review the 2021 International Building Code, including the energy chapter, for potential adoption.

WHEREAS, Section 12 of the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report (December 2020) outlines energy code recommendations that include adopting the latest model energy code, updating the energy code more frequently, allowing local jurisdictions to adopt a stretch energy conservation code, and incorporating electrical vehicle charging readiness requirements.

WHEREAS, for every model code update, the U.S. Department of Energy provides state-specific data illustrating that building owners, occupants and the State of Wisconsin would benefit from the adoption of the IECC without weakening amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of La Crosse Common Council supports the DSPS taking the following actions:


- Adoption of the latest model energy code without weakening amendments.
- Update the energy code on a regular 3-year cycle instead of every 6 years.
- Allow local jurisdictions to adopt a stretch energy conservation code stronger than the state code, or the State adopting a more stringent code than the 2021 IECC that is suitable for Wisconsin's climate.
- Responsible incorporation of electrical vehicle charging readiness requirements in the code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of La Crosse Common Council recommends that the Wisconsin's Building Code Council add a stronger voice for energy conservation in its deliberations. In particular the Task Force supports all or a combination of the following:

- Appointing new Commercial Building Code Council member(s) to provide leadership and technical support within the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code to move forward with the adoption of latest building energy conservation standards (such as ASHRAE 90.1 and IECC) This person ideally should meet the following professional criteria:

- Be familiar with ASHRAE 90.1 Standard or IECC code or equivalent, or
- Be an advocate for energy conservation
- Provide advice related to changing building energy codes considering thermal comfort, indoor air quality and economic impact.
- Be familiar with the Wisconsin Building Energy Code.
- Have notable expertise with Energy Efficiency practices (i.e., building envelope science, energy modelling, commissioning, etc.)
- DSPS hiring a consultant that would be engaged extensively in advising the Code Council throughout the code review to ensure alignment with the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report recommendations.
- DSPS forming a separate energy conservation code committee, comprised of efficiency/conservation engineers and technical experts, to make recommendations specifically on the energy use portion of the building codes.

I, Nikki M. Elsen, certify that this resolution was duly and officially adopted by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse July 14, 2022.



*Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC, City Clerk
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin*