

Craig, Sondra

From: Maureen Freedland <maureenfreedland@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 10:49 AM
To: ZZ Council Members; ZZ City Clerk External; Reynolds, Mitch
Subject: our citizen's energy future

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Dear Council Members, City Clerk and Mayor Reynolds:

I am writing in support of favorable action by the La Crosse City Council to declare an energy emergency as it works toward its goals of energy efficiency and a transition to renewable energy.

I point out that the goals of climate action declarations and plans are quite long term and are in no way intended to shortchange your immediate responsibilities. I am a County Board Supervisor; as you know, county government focuses on jails, health/human services, rural roads, etc. Yet our climate action resolution is giving us a "working plan" - an overall, structural concept (more than a piece of paper) with overall direction and vision as it affects each and every department of county government in significant ways.

As a County Board Supervisor I recognize that there will always be challenges in how to move most quickly toward our long term goals. There are and shall always be budgetary, political, and practical considerations and more. Administrative leadership, skilled department heads and other staff will discuss, often with continued citizen input, how to implement our respective climate action plans as time goes on and within these constraints. Our climate action plan can be a critical guide to long term decision making. A climate action plan might even make the delivery of county or city services more targeted, for example by focusing on water events. As illustration, our County climate action plan was referenced in our discussions about how to use our ARPA funding in relation to our own water flooding mitigation projects.

I have no doubt there are many ways that the County and City can work together to facilitate partnerships to share resources, and exchange ideas and more while we mitigate climate change and pursue sustainable development for our citizens. I look forward to that.

Thank you.

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County Board Supervisor, District 4

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