

Resolution adopting sustainability goals transitioning to carbon neutrality and 100% renewable energy by 2050.

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement is an international treaty that seeks to stabilize the global climate system by "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels"; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists have determined this upper temperature limit to be the best feasible scenario in managing climate change impacts (such as extreme weather events and sea level rise) that threaten public safety, infrastructure, private property, and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, essential goals toward adhering to the Paris Climate Agreement locally would include carbon neutrality and 100% of energy coming from renewable sources by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the February 4, 2019 Council on Wisconsin Strategies report, "Wisconsin Opportunity in Domestic Energy Production: The Economic and Health Benefits of 100% In-State Energy Production," concludes that producing 100% of the state's energy needs by in-state renewable sources would result in a statewide economic benefit of more than \$28 billion plus addition of more than 160,000 jobs and social, environmental, and health benefits of decreased pollution and carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations align with the Common Council's core value of "judicious investment in public resources and protection of natural and cultural resources"; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations succeed the City's 2009 *Strategic Plan for Sustainability* commitment of 25% renewable electricity and transportation fuels by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City envisions a climate and energy planning process that will reflect community values and stakeholder participation to develop low-carbon means to reach these goals. Stakeholders include residents, low-income and minority populations, large and small businesses, local utilities, the educational community, institutions, the building and construction sector, transportation providers, waste companies and many others; and

WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while ratcheting up efforts in the mid and long-term target ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline;

WHEREAS, Mayor Kabat has signed the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Endorsement supporting the goal of 100% clean, renewable energy in our city and is a member of the bi-partisan Climate Mayors, committed to adopt, honor and uphold Paris Climate Agreement goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it adopts the following sustainability goals:

- 1) Achieve municipality and community carbon neutrality by 2050 with incremental drawdown targets of 5% by 2020, 30% by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 100% by 2050.
- 2) Obtain 100% renewable energy by 2050 for the municipality and city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 2015 greenhouse gas baseline will be used to evaluate progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will undertake planning and action initiatives to assist the municipality and community in achieving these sustainability goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all purchasing decisions that come before the Common Council for approval, which impact our goals of carbon neutrality and renewable energy, shall include a cost benefit analysis and a measurement of the contribution the purchase will have towards reaching our stated goals. Such analysis shall include, at a minimum, the initial purchase cost differential, and if significant the relative operation and maintenance costs of the competing options.