

Mayor Gonzalez
Introduced by

Mayor
Prepared by

Finance, Board of Public Works,
Resource Conservation Commission
Referred to

January 22, 2019
Date

RESOLUTION R-26-19

CITY OF FITCHBURG RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH CLEAN ENERGY

WHEREAS, climate scientists agree that climate change, mean temperature and sea level rise, ocean acidification and coral reef destruction are occurring and will intensify as a result of human greenhouse gas emissions, causing massive global and local ecological harm, *including to Wisconsin ecosystems, agriculture, business, recreation opportunities; and*

WHEREAS, the entire world united in December 2015 to support the Paris Climate Agreement to attempt to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C; and

WHEREAS, federal and Wisconsin state agencies have since withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement and deny the urgency and causes of climate change; and

WHEREAS, many U.S. cities have declared that they are *still in* the Paris Climate Accord, including some communities in Dane County, and have adopted either a carbon neutral goal or a goal to use some or all of their electricity from clean, renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fitchburg committed to use 25% of their municipal energy from renewable sources by 2025 through the State of Wisconsin 25x25 Energy Independent Community Pledge in 2008, and as of 2018 have reached 15%; and

WHEREAS, the Fitchburg's Common Council and Mayor signed the 2009 Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and the City developed a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a climate action plan to reduce its carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS, the Fitchburg Common Council approved installation of 362 kW of solar electric on four city-owned buildings (City Hall, Library, West Fire Station and Public Works) in 2017, which has been added to the City's 22.2 kW of existing solar electric; and

WHEREAS, the City has solar hot water at City Hall and West Fire Station (with another planned for new East Fire Station in 2019), and two geothermal buildings (Library and West Fire Station (with geothermal being planned for East Fire Station)); and

WHEREAS, the City has committed to energy efficiency through LEED equivalent checklists that provide guidance for all municipal building projects, 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 is fair to all users; and

WHEREAS, 90 Fitchburg residents have completed a community solar survey, and more than 125 people turned out for two recent community forums: solar options (2016) and climate change (2017); and

WHEREAS, the City's energy use could be served by existing renewable energy technology at reasonable cost, and the economic opportunities in this area 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, many City businesses are installing rooftop solar systems because they regard them as good business decisions, 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, which is within practical and economic reach given the dramatic decrease in renewable energy costs; 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, low-income and vulnerable residents are often most burdened by the cost of energy and are the most susceptible to public health impacts of continued reliance on fossil fuels (especially the incidence of asthma and other respiratory illnesses related to air pollution on high temperature days); and the City is committed to 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, it is the duty of current leaders to act promptly and resolutely to mitigate climate change for the health and well-being of the planet and all living beings who depend on it for sustenance; and

WHEREAS, use of distributed, renewably-generated energy, paired with energy storage, and sometimes connected by micro-grids is an important strategy to build disaster resilience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that given the City's first choice for meeting energy needs is energy efficiency measures that reduce both operating costs and carbon footprint, the City will prioritize energy efficiency and conservation as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will work to reduce its fossil energy use for all city operations at least 30% per capita; by 2030, and 50% per capita by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will actively facilitate the reduction of community wide energy use (from 2018 levels) by at least 30% per capita by 2030, and 50% per capita 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 *supports science based decisions* 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 community-based development of renewable energy and will collaborate with other government and public entities, including Dane County Climate Council, to implement all energy mitigation measures; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will develop *an Energy and Water Plan* that includes a resiliency/sustainability and adaptation plan to deal with anticipated changes associated with climate change.

Adopted this 26th day of February, 2019.

Patti Anderson, City Clerk

Jason C. Gonzalez, Mayor