

RESOLUTION #21-87

CLEAN ENERGY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the protection, stewardship, improvement, and promotion of the environment is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the De Pere community for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the City Council established a Sustainability Commission to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in De Pere, with the ultimate goal of providing a more sustainable, livable, and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already demonstrated progress in reducing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, for example through its green roof on city hall, its transition to natural gas engines in public works vehicles, and other building efficiency upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, City of Green Bay, the Oneida Nation, Green Bay Area Public School District, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and St. Norbert Student Government Association have all committed to achieving 100 percent clean energy, energy conservation, and other sustainability goals by 2050 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, the entire community stands to benefit when collaborative approaches are taken to invest in clean energy, such as job creation, increased property values, long-term resilience, cleaner air and water, improved public health, and economic benefits for taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, continual advancements in clean energy technology as well as opportunities for federal and state grant money have made investment in many types of renewable energy more cost-effective than further investment in fossil fuels (which are a major contributor to global climate change), posing a financial benefit for the long-term budget of the City of De Pere; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts reported that Brown County, including the City of De Pere, is already experiencing long-term climatic changes, such as increased annual temperatures of 3 degrees Fahrenheit and a 20% increase in annual precipitation, as well as an increase in the severity of individual weather events, such as increased intensity of individual precipitation events, which have contributed to increased flooding along the Fox and East Rivers; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) have found that if rapid action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the planet will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reaching this level of warming will lead to long-term changes in the climate system that will have negative impacts on human health, food and water security, and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is committed to ensuring all residents, no matter race, ethnicity, age, income, geographic location or ability level are involved in the decision making and planning process so that the city's transition to clean energy benefits all; 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 emphasizing efforts in the mid- and long-term ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline; and

WHEREAS, the goal of carbon neutrality fits within a cornerstone element of the City of De Pere's Comprehensive Plan related to sustainability and becoming an eco-municipality, such that the City Council and the Mayor of De Pere already adopted a resolution "endorsing the principles of sustainability and applying them in city decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices" and a second resolution committing the City of De Pere "...to working towards greater sustainability as an eco-municipality."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Given energy efficiency is a key and economical choice for meeting energy needs, reducing operating costs, and reducing our carbon footprint, the City will advance energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs, and outreach as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

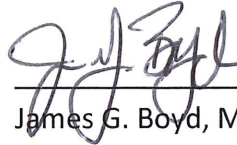
The City of De Pere will account for these goals in its future budget cycles and will collaborate with the De Pere Sustainability Commission to develop a work plan which identifies cost-effective measures to transition to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

All City officials, officers and employees are authorized and directed to take such steps as are lawful and necessary in furtherance thereof.

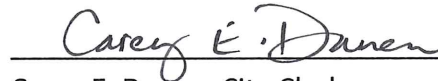
Adopted by the Common Council of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin, this 17th day of  
August, 2021.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. G. Boyd", written over a horizontal line.

James G. Boyd, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carey E. Danen", written over a horizontal line.

Carey E. Danen, City Clerk

Ayes:   6  

Nays:   0  

Board/Committee Approval: 8/10/2021