

**CITY OF VERONA  
RESOLUTION NO. R-19-018**

**CITY OF VERONA SUSTAINABILITY RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the City of Verona recognizes that climate change is at a critical stage that is increasingly impacting human health and well-being, ecosystems, and our economy and that the City is responsible to lead the way to carbon neutrality for our residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, youth and future generations will be most severely impacted by climate change, and it is the duty of current leaders to act promptly and resolutely to mitigate climate change for their benefit; and,

WHEREAS, the economic impacts of severe climate events will become unaffordable to Verona residents as the August 2018 flooding clearly demonstrated, so that mitigating climate change while improving the resilience of City infrastructure is the prudent thing to do; 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, use of distributed solar and other renewable energy sources, paired with energy storage, and backed up by renewable co-generation, is also an important strategy to build disaster resilience in the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City's energy use could be served by existing renewable energy technologies at reasonable cost, and the economic opportunities from a clean energy transition greatly exceed any economic opportunities from fossil fuels; and,

WHEREAS, given the accelerating rate of climate change, as detailed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming SR15 and in the Fourth National Climate Assessment, 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 as soon as feasible; and,

WHEREAS, achieving these energy goals will require concerted action from individuals and the community, in urban and rural areas county-wide, from local and state governments, and from businesses and utilities; and,

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

WHEREAS, trees and other vegetation have been shown to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, contribute positively to human health, and to enhance childhood happiness; and reduce erosion/run off; and,

WHEREAS, some of America's greatest environmentalists, Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Gaylord Nelson, were inspired by the natural beauty of Wisconsin and that we act as responsible stewards of our environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City will reasonably undertake the necessary steps to make our community more resilient and to do our part to combat climate change including, but not limited to the following to-do list:

- Build green infrastructure:
  - Begin switching the city to renewable energy as soon as possible, with an eye towards working on proof-of-concept projects for immediate results.
  - Work towards a goal of using 100% renewable energy for City needs by 2050.
  - Review the goal of using 100% renewable energy for the City every five (5) years.
  - Prioritize community-based development of renewable energy in Dane and surrounding Counties.
  - Collaborate with other governmental and public entities locally and regionally to facilitate all clean energy measures.
  - Prioritize local and micro-grid-based renewable energy projects over remote generation and transmission, and provide renewable energy and energy storage at key public facilities to reduce vulnerability to main electric grid failure.
  - Provide support for electric vehicle charging stations.
  - Replace City vehicles with hybrid, electric, or alternative fuel vehicles or vehicles with improvements in fuel-efficiency.
- Support natural areas:
  - Plant more trees and increase the tree canopy.
  - Support the use of native plants.
  - Create City ordinances to support the use of native plants and preserve quality trees.
  - Protect and expand the Verona segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, including a corridor of native plants and trees.
  - Allow for natural areas and natural trails in the City.
  - Protect the Sugar River Watershed by preserving wetlands.
- Make our infrastructure more resilient to deal with the effects of climate change:
  - Anti-flooding efforts, including strategically placed grass swales and other solutions noted in the Stormwater and Infiltration section of Dane County's Yahara Lake Level Task Force Recommendations.
- Conserve our natural resources:
  - Ensure our City buildings are energy efficient.
  - Reduce overall waste for the City.
  - Make sure our City buildings are energy efficient, expanding on the effort started when the City outfitted the Verona Fire Department and Fitch-Rona EMS District building with a hybrid geothermal system.
- Retrofit City owned properties:

- Installation of renewable energy such as wind, solar, and geothermal and energy efficient materials for City owned buildings and structures.
- Pilot programs, demonstrations, and education for maintaining rain gardens, no mow areas, plantings, and other opportunities in the future.
- Striving for green buildings with building materials for new structures and buildings.
- Amend City Ordinances to mitigate the impacts of climate change:
  - Support the use of native plants, preserve quality trees, and replace removed trees.
  - Provide language for preservation of wetlands, trees, environmentally sensitive areas, and natural areas.
  - Provide language to geographically disperse electric charging stations throughout the City.



**CITY OF VERONA**

  
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Luke Diaz, Mayor

  
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Ellen Clark, Clerk