

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

2019-2023 Focus on Energy Evaluation Contract

9501-FE-124

JOINT COMMENTS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OFFICERS OF DANE COUNTY, CITY OF MILWAUKEE, CITY OF LA CROSSE, CITY OF GREEN BAY, CITY OF MADISON, CITY OF RACINE, AND CITY OF EAU CLAIRE

On January 20, 2021 the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin issued a memorandum concerning a proposed Focus on Energy evaluation contract amendment that would increase the evaluation contract budget to include a solar PV potential study that would complement the ongoing energy efficiency potential study. The Commission invited public comments on this proposed change.

We strongly support the inclusion of renewable energy—and especially solar PV systems—in the potential study and related quadrennial planning efforts. As communities with ambitious clean energy commitments, we recognize that both energy efficiency and renewable energy are critical to achieving our clean energy goals and we support the Commission looking at these inter-related issues in a more holistic way that can maximize emerging technologies. (Similarly, we would also support a more integrated analysis of the opportunities associated with energy efficiency, customer-sited renewable energy, demand response, electrification and battery storage.)

More, we support the Commission's effort to double the Focus on Energy budget in the next biennium and we believe that adding an analysis of renewable energy to the potential study will provide important data related to that increased budget request.

We encourage the Commission to approve funding of Option 1, a study that will provide geographic insights as well as stakeholder input and information about equity issues. This comprehensive perspective is appropriate since the last analysis of the PV market occurred in 2009, more than a decade ago. (In that timeframe PV prices have dropped more than 75% and, as noted in the Strategic Energy Assessment, installations are growing by about 20% annually.)

We also want to thank the Commission, Commission staff and the Cadmus team for developing this proposal in response to the feedback from Potential Study stakeholders. Modifying the potential study so that it is more useful to our changing situation demonstrates an important commitment to a clean energy future.

Dated the 4th of February 2021.

/s/ Kathy Kuntz
Director, Office of Energy & Climate Change
Dane County

/s/ Erick Shambarger
Environmental Sustainability Director
City of Milwaukee

/s/ Lewis Kuhlman
Environmental Planner
City of La Crosse

/s/ Melissa M. Schmitz
Resiliency Coordinator
City of Green Bay

/s/ Stacie Reece
Sustainability Program Coordinator
City of Madison

/s/ Cara Pratt
Sustainability and Conservation Coordinator
City of Racine

/s/ Ned Noel
Senior Planner
City of Eau Claire