

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-38**

**RESOLUTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VALUING AND SETTING FORTH  
COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIBLE RENEWABLE ENERGY  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIES IN RACINE COUNTY AND SUPPORTING  
STATE LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS THAT PROMOTE AND INCENTIVIZE  
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND PRESERVE THE NATURAL CHARACTER  
AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

**WHEREAS**, clean, renewable energy is defined as energy derived from ongoing natural processes that rapidly replenish and is sustainably collected from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal; and

**WHEREAS**, maximizing renewable energy opportunities is a critical element to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and achieving carbon neutrality; and

**WHEREAS**, transitioning from fossil fuel-powered operations to clean, renewable energy is also vital to build a more resilient community, promote job creation and sustainable economic growth, and protect our local community and the Earth for current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Racine County is committed to encouraging the development of responsible clean energy and energy efficient infrastructure in the local, residential, and commercial sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, Racine County recognizes that there are financial costs and benefits associated with carbon neutrality efforts and renewable energy activities, and that the following information is needed to assess the same: reduction targets and action plan costs and benefits; costs/savings/revenue/return on investment; identifying and evaluating financial techniques for energy projects; and lifecycle cost analysis of each recommended strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, Racine County recognizes that there are legal and regulatory issues associated with carbon neutrality efforts and renewable energy activities, and that it is necessary to identify and evaluate potential barriers based upon local, state, and federal laws and regulations and that potential legislative/regulatory actions may be necessary to address barriers; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of its renewable energy planning strategy, Racine County will assess and identify renewable energy and energy storage opportunities and approaches to achieve identified strategies or scenarios including identification of appropriate locations for renewable energy and/or storage installations or implementation to potentially include County-owned/operated lands or facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Racine County recognizes, however, that wholesale removal of large tracts of agricultural land from the inventory of airable lands for renewable energy arrays to capture solar energy may result in the further erosion of agricultural activities in Racine County as the broader infrastructure necessary to support agriculture and to direct construction traffic

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4 and development into rural areas may not be sustainable and may be disruptive to certain  
5 environments as Racine County also endeavors to address erosion control and water and soil  
6 quality improvements; and

7 **WHEREAS**, enhanced development of rooftop solar farming may provide direct and  
8 indirect benefits to those structures which incorporate solar fields and, in certain instances, may  
9 reduce and/or offset the substantial visual impact and altered land use impact of ground  
10 installations of arrays; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Racine County wishes to encourage responsible development and use of  
12 renewable energy, leveraging available and practical technologies where feasible; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Racine County is supportive of encouraging development of renewable  
14 energy in a manner which identifies principal project risks (including, but not limited to, system  
15 underperformance, electrical safety, supply constraints, procurement timeline, and severe  
16 weather impacts) and is not deleterious, or which needlessly erodes the history, culture, and  
17 environment of Racine County and the State of Wisconsin; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Racine County will in close coordination with County staff continue to  
19 explore energy efficiency opportunities, potential sources of external funding and/or incentives,  
20 and stronger means to capture energy data for existing County owned and operated buildings  
21 and facilities and land by providing a comprehensive list of the energy efficiency activities  
22 already undertaken by the County and developing a coordinated strategy for future actions that  
23 is mindful of the County's energy use and technological solutions, barriers, land use and visual  
24 impacts, legal implications, and potential financial models for renewable energy implementation.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Racine County Board of Supervisors  
26 that Racine County commits itself in its own operations, policies, and guidelines to continuing its  
27 efforts towards improved energy efficiency, clean energy, reduction of greenhouse gas  
28 emissions, and sustainability. These efforts include, but are not limited to, increasing energy  
29 efficiency in existing buildings, designing and constructing new buildings to be more energy  
30 efficient and/or to allow for cost-effective incorporation of energy efficient components in the  
31 future, and exploring feasibility of renewable energy opportunities such as solar photovoltaic,  
32 solar thermal, methane recovery, and alternative fueling strategies.

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Racine County encourages and promotes the  
34 incorporation of responsible renewable energy infrastructure and strategies within private and  
35 public related development projects.

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Racine County respectfully requests that the state  
37 legislature continue efforts to incentivize the responsible development and use of land and  
38 buildings and facilities to incorporate renewable energy resources and strategies as a  
39 fundamental element of design while promoting conservation of and protecting precious land  
40 resources.

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County  
5 Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives  
6 representing Racine County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

7 Respectfully submitted,

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9 1st Reading \_\_\_\_\_

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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11 2nd Reading \_\_\_\_\_

12

13 BOARD ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas E. Roanhouse, Chairman

14 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

15 For \_\_\_\_\_

16 Against \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Kramer, Vice-Chairman

17 Absent \_\_\_\_\_

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19 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Robert N. Miller, Secretary

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21 Prepared by:  
22 Corporation Counsel

Jason Eckman

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Robert D. Grove

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Donald J. Trottier

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Melissa Kaprelian

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Scott Maier

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Tom Rutkowski

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41 **The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of**  
42 **Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:**

43 **Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

44 **Vetoed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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46 **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_,

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**Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive**