
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

February 27, 2019

Ald. Nik Kovac

(414) 286-3765

Ald. Robert J. Bauman

(414) 286-2221

Ald. Cavalier Johnson

(414) 286-3777

Common Council approves legislation to use solar energy systems at three public libraries

The Common Council unanimously approved legislation on Tuesday, February 26 that would bring solar energy systems to the Central Library, Center Street Library, and Tippecanoe Library – a significant increase in the use of solar on city buildings.

Council File #181537 authorizes the Department of Administration to enter into a construction agreement with Eagle Point Solar to build up to 210 kilowatts (KW) of solar systems for use at each of the three Milwaukee Public Library buildings. Installation of equipment can now begin, with the systems projected to be fully operational later this year.

Alderman Nik Kovac, primary sponsor of the legislation and member of the Public Works Committee, said the city would own 100% of the solar systems and use an existing capital appropriation from the Better Buildings Challenge capital account and Focus on Energy rebates to fund the construction.

“I am pleased with the strong support of my colleagues on this issue, as we are committed as a city to sustainability and to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels to operate city facilities and infrastructure,” Alderman Kovac said. “This would be a tremendous increase in the city’s use of solar energy to help power three libraries that serve residents downtown (Central Library), on the north side (Center Street Library) and on the south side (Tippecanoe Library).”

-More-

Solar systems approved/ADD ONE

Alderman Robert J. Bauman, chair of the Public Works Committee and primary co-sponsor of the file, said the move is in line with the city's adopted "25 x 25" goal, which calls for generating 25% of the city's electricity from renewable resources by 2025.

"The Council is on record in support of the Paris Climate Accord and has made a commitment to take action to reduce CO₂ emissions in alignment with the city's energy efficiency and renewable energy goals," Alderman Bauman said. "This move to equip city buildings with solar is in line with the principles of the Paris Climate Accord."

Alderman Cavalier Johnson, a co-sponsor and also a member of the Public Works Committee, added that he is pleased with the high visibility the projects would have at each library building.

"With so many children and young people using these facilities, I can only imagine their interest and fascination with the solar panels and how they provide clean energy for our future," Alderman Johnson said. "It is my hope that our actions today will spark increased momentum in our future generations' interest and usage of clean energy as they deal with the effects of global climate change."

Additional co-sponsors of this legislation include **Alderman Michael J. Murphy**, **Alderman Khalif J. Rainey**, **Alderman José G. Pérez**, **Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II** and **Alderwoman Chantia Lewis**.

