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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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February 13, 2019

**Ald. Nik Kovac**

(414) 286-3765

**Ald. Robert J. Bauman**

(414) 286-2221

**Ald. Cavalier Johnson**

(414) 286-3777

## **Three public libraries could soon be using solar energy systems**

### *Public Works Committee recommends approval for solar energy systems legislation*

The **Public Works Committee** today recommended for approval legislation 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.

The resolution (Council **File #181537 – attached**) 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. The city has already received the solar equipment (currently stored at a city facility) and if the legislation is approved by the full Common Council, the systems would be installed and operating this year.

**Alderman Nik Kovac**, primary sponsor of the legislation and a member of the Public Works Committee, said if approved 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.

“This would be a tremendous increase in the city’s use of solar energy and 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),” Alderman Kovac said. “We are committed as a city to sustainability and to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels to operate city facilities and infrastructure.”

**-More-**

## **Solar systems/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 climate pollution in alignment with the city's energy efficiency and renewable energy goals, and a move to equip city buildings with solar is in line with the principles of the Paris Climate Accord," Alderman Bauman said.

**Alderman Cavalier Johnson**, a co-sponsor and also a member of the Public Works Committee, said 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. "I certainly hope it might spark increased momentum in our future generations' interest and usage of clean energy as they deal with the effects of global climate change."

The legislation is expected to be taken up by the full Common Council when it meets at 9 a.m. in the third floor Council Chamber on Tuesday, February 26 at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 181537      **Version:** 1  
**Type:** Resolution      **Status:** In Council-Adoption  
**File created:** 1/14/2019      **In control:** PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
**On agenda:**      **Final action:**  
**Effective date:**

**Title:** Substitute resolution relating to solar facility installations at City-owned buildings.

**Sponsors:** ALD. KOVAC, ALD. BAUMAN, ALD. JOHNSON

**Indexes:**

**Attachments:** 1. Budget Letter, 2. Urban Milwaukee article, 3. We Energies letter, 4. Solar Now and DRER Tariff Pilot Overview, 5. 1-22 letter from EPS.pdf, 6. Yale public perceptions on climate change- Milwaukee County.pdf, 7. Milwaukee leaders have choice words for utility in solar standoff \_ Energy News Network, 8. solar email2, 9. solar email, 10. 1-9 letter from WE to Mayor Barrett, 11. solar email3

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result	Tally
1/14/2019	0	COMMON COUNCIL	ASSIGNED TO		
1/23/2019	0	PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE	HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR	Pass	5:0
2/13/2019	1	PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE			

181537  
SUBSTITUTE 1  
091066, 131035, 131576, 170337, 171843, 180457  
ALD. KOVAC, ALD. BAUMAN, AND ALD. JOHNSON

Substitute resolution relating to solar facility installations at City-owned buildings. This resolution authorizes the Department of Administration to enter into a conventional construction agreement with Eagle Point Solar to build up to 210 kilowatts (KW) of solar systems on three library facilities: Central Library, Center Street Library, and Tippecanoe Library. Under the agreement, 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.

Whereas, On December 22, 2009, the Common Council adopted File Number 091066, supporting the "25 x 25" goal, which called for generating 25 percent of the City's electricity from renewable resources by 2025; and

Whereas, On December 17, 2013, the Common Council adopted File Number 131035, approving and directing implementation of the City's sustainability plan, ReFresh Milwaukee; and

Whereas, The City's sustainability plan calls on the City to reduce energy use 20% by 2020 and increase use of renewable energy to 25% by 2025; and

Whereas, On April 2, 2014, the Common Council adopted File Number 131576, directing the Department of Administration-Office of Environmental Sustainability and the Department of Public Works to create an energy independence plan that will, among other things, reduce reliance on fossil

fuels for the supply of electricity, natural gas and heat to operate City facilities and infrastructure; and

Whereas, On June 20, 2017, the Common Council adopted File Number 170337, expressing the City's support for the Paris Climate Accord; and

Whereas, The City has made a commitment to take action to reduce climate pollution in alignment with the City's energy efficiency and renewable energy goals, and continues to support the principles of the Paris Climate Accord; and

Whereas, On April 17, 2018, the Common Council adopted File Number 171843, directing the Department of Administration-Environmental Collaboration Office to accept \$211,882 of incentive funding from the Focus on Energy program and work with a participant investor and solar installer to design, supply, install, commission, maintain and finance 1.1 megawatt (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on six City-owned buildings; and

Whereas, The Department of Administration issued Request for Proposal #15921 to identify the most financially advantageous proposal from qualified solar installers and participant investors for the solar PV panels project; and

Whereas, On July 31, 2018, the Common Council adopted File Number 180457, authorizing the Department of Administration-Environmental Collaboration Office to enter into a Solar Services Agreement with Eagle Point Solar to design, supply, install, commission, maintain, finance, and co-own 1.1 MW of solar PV panels on six City-owned buildings; and

Whereas, The City executed a contract with Eagle Point Solar; and

Whereas, Under the agreement, Eagle Point Solar has already procured and delivered solar panels specifically designed for installation on these City buildings, and the solar equipment is currently in storage in a City of Milwaukee facility; and

Whereas, We Energies denied Eagle Point Solar's application to interconnect the system to the grid, citing We Energies' belief that Eagle Point Solar is acting as a public utility; and

Whereas, The dispute over the denial of the interconnection requests is ongoing and has indefinitely delayed construction of the project; and

Whereas, In December, 2018, We Energies received Wisconsin Public Services Commission approval to offer customers solar energy through two new tariffs, referred to as Solar Now and the Dedicated Renewable Energy Resource; and

Whereas, The City will carefully review and consider using We Energies' offer to provide 2 MW of solar PV panels through We Energies' Solar Now pilot tariff and additional renewable energy under the Dedicated Renewable Energy Resource pilot tariff for future energy projects to help the City further advance its clean energy goals; and

Whereas, The City asserts its interest in having a diversified portfolio of clean energy options and demonstrating immediate action on climate change; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Department of Administration-

Environmental Collaboration Office is authorized to use existing appropriations under the Better Buildings Challenge capital account, and approximately \$45,000 in incentives from the Statewide Focus on Energy program, to enter into a conventional construction agreement with Eagle Point Solar at a total project cost up to \$419,000, to build up to 210 KW of solar PV panels on three library facilities: Central Library, Center Street Library, and Tippecanoe Library; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City of Milwaukee will maintain 100 percent ownership of these solar facilities on these three library buildings immediately upon construction completion and project commissioning; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Attorney's Office is authorized to draft and execute the appropriate legal agreements for this contract.

Environmental Collaboration Office  
LRB 173450-2  
Erick Shambarger/Aaron Michelson  
2/11/2019