



GREAT WATERS GROUP

John Muir Chapter

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/

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Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

September 21, 2006

Dear Members of the Milwaukee Common Council,

The Great Waters Group of the Sierra Club urges you to vote yes on Resolution 060424 authorizing and directing application by the City of Milwaukee for membership in ICLEI-(International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), and appropriating \$875 from the City Clerk's Special Purpose Account for City memberships for the City's 2006 pro-rated annual membership dues and directing the proper City officials to endorse the U.S.Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

The number one Sierra Club Conservation Initiative is: *Smart Energy Solutions*. This initiative calls for a bold shift from reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power to a safe, clean energy future built on efficiency, renewable fuels, and innovative technologies.

If every community in the United States took action with energy efficiency, renewable power and clean vehicle solutions, billions of dollars that are now literally being wasted could go to improving city services, bettering our schools, and re-building our aging infrastructure. By reducing the rising costs of energy, cities are reducing the cost of government while solving global warming, one city at a time.

Milwaukee has a good start with plans proposed by the Mayor's Green Team, some of which are already in place and setting up an Office of Sustainability under the direction of Anne Beiers. We applaud Mayor Barrett for approving energy conservation measures that have been identified as a result of the We Energies walk-thru that will reduce energy consumption by 11% and save an estimated \$55,000 in 2006. We also applaud the City for purchasing 10% of City Hall's electricity from renewable energy through WE Energies' Energy for Tomorrow Program making us a US EPA Green Power Partner.

By becoming a dues paying member of ICLEI we can work with other cities in ICLEI's Climate Protection Program, use their programs to help compute an emissions inventory

and track progress made in energy use reduction, as well as learn more about grants for implementing these improvements. ICLEI can help us to reduce global warming pollution to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 as required in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Milwaukee can be a Cool City, a Green City and a leader in slowing global warming just like hundreds of other cities that are curbing global warming emissions and saving millions of taxpayer dollars every year. These savings will benefit our citizens, our economy and help us to create more job opportunities.

Sincerely,



Cheri Briscoe
Chairperson
Great Waters Group