
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 11, 2008

Ald. Tony Zielinski
(414) 286-3769

Council Votes For Solar Energy

Milwaukee One Of 12 Grant-Eligible Cities

The Common Council has approved a measure that allows for the acceptance of the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Cities 2008 grant. The measure directs the city's Office of Environmental Sustainability to apply for and accept a \$200,000 grant, matched by \$100,000 in allocated city funds, to help remove barriers to the implementation of solar technologies in the city. Milwaukee is one of 12 cities selected for this grant in 2008 and the results of this project will be shared across the country.

Ald. Tony Zielinski (District 14), lead sponsor of the resolution, said the two-year grant will include training for solar panel installers and also provides funds for the production of educational materials to make more residents aware of how solar technologies work to increase efficiency and save costs.

"This is just what we hoped for when the Council directed the Office of Environmental Sustainability to investigate solar energy options for Milwaukee. This grant provides excellent leverage for environmental action that will set the example for cities across the United States," he said.

"I am proud that Milwaukee's commitment to energy conservation and cutting-edge technology has earned our city this impressive grant, and I am excited for the growing solar industry's potential to create new, good-paying jobs for Milwaukeeans," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "I envision Milwaukee as a national leader in environmental protection and groundbreaking advancements, and the Council's vote to provide the matching funds continues that mission."

-More-

Council Approves Solar Grant/ADD ONE

Ald. Zielinski said Milwaukee will be setting the example for sustainability and efficiency in energy options. “Combined with the support we’ve received from project partners We Energies and Focus on Energy, this can become a large scale project with great impact on our community,” he said.

The grant helps to fulfill the charge of Milwaukee’s long-term goal for solar energy, the alderman said.

-30-