



February 12, 2020

The Honorable Tom Barrett, Mayor
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St., Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Mayor Barrett:

We are writing to support the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office's resolution (Common Council file 191604) authorizing a lease and service agreement for the construction and operation of a solar system on a City-owned landfill at 1600 E. College Ave. through the Wisconsin Electric Power Company's ("WEPCO" or "We Energies") Solar Now pilot program.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy <https://www.lwvmilwaukee.org/nonpartisan-policy>. Our position on the environment is that "as citizens of the world we must protect our planet from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity". <https://www.lwvmilwaukee.org/natural-resources>.

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County supports the City of Milwaukee's goal of "25 by 25", having 25% of its electricity needs (15 megawatts) generated by renewable sources by 2025. The above project is expected to contribute 2.25 megawatts toward that goal. The \$90,000 in lease revenue can and should be used to support additional solar capacity.

Our community is seeing a shift in fuels for generating electricity from fossil fuels to renewables, including solar, in response to climate change. At some point in the past, We Energies had a strong renewables department led by Carl Siegrist. It was eliminated. It is good to see that We Energies is again working with the City to build solar programs and capacity.

To reach the City's solar energy goal of 15 megawatts by 2025, it will take Mayor Barrett's "all of the above" approach, including City projects, third party projects and a strong public-private partnership between the City and We Energies.

Thank you for considering our comments in your decision-making.


Peggy Creer
President


Carol Diggelman, Member
Natural Resources Committee

FO: ECO
C: PV
AS
ME
Erick S.

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cc: Alderman Robert Bauman, Erick Shambarger (ECO)

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