

1 By Supervisor Dimitrijevic
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4 **A RESOLUTION**
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6 to increase the adoption of solar energy by Milwaukee County government
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9 WHEREAS, General Mitchell International Airport would benefit from an
10 independent consultant to conduct a solar feasibility study, including the possible
11 construction of a “solar farm,” that analyzes cost/benefit factors while abiding by
12 regulations promulgated by the Federal Aviation Administration; and
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14 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to reducing its substantial energy
15 use and costs, protecting Wisconsin’s natural resources, and supporting local economic
16 activity and job growth; and
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18 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps support Wisconsin’s growing solar
19 industry, thus promoting local and regional economic activity and job growth; and
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21 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps build on Milwaukee County’s rich history
22 of environmental stewardship; and
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24 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps protect Wisconsin’s natural resources
25 and advances the energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions of Milwaukee
26 County Resolution File No. 07-111, the “Green Print” initiative; and
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28 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy supports Wisconsin’s goal of 10 percent
29 renewable electricity by 2015; and
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31 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy helps reduce Milwaukee County’s
32 dependence on imported energy sources and provides a hedge against its rising utility
33 costs; and
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35 WHEREAS, as of January 2014, Milwaukee County has installed nine solar
36 energy systems that collectively generate enough energy to power 10 homes for a year;
37 and
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39 WHEREAS, other municipal governments in Wisconsin and the Midwest are
40 significantly increasing their adoption of solar energy, including:
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- 42 • City of Monona, Wisconsin: Installing 156 kilowatts of solar photovoltaic (PV)
43 panels on the rooftops of four municipal facilities
- 44 • City of Dubuque Iowa: Large rooftop PV system generates over 200,000 kilowatt-
45 hours of electricity per year

- 46 • Indianapolis Airport Authority, Indiana: Collecting \$315,000 per year for the lease
47 of a new privately developed 75-acre solar farm

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51 WHEREAS, adopting solar energy is becoming more economically viable in
52 Wisconsin, with the average cost of solar energy systems decreasing 34 percent from
53 2012 to 2013; and

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55 WHEREAS, innovative leasing arrangements and financing models can further
56 reduce the up-front costs of solar energy systems; and

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58 WHEREAS, reducing Milwaukee County's substantial utility costs and promoting
59 efficient energy use in the state's largest metropolitan area is a matter of local concern
60 to Milwaukee County and its taxpayers; now, therefore,

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62 BE IT RESOLVED, it is the declared policy of Milwaukee County to increase its
63 adoption of solar energy when cost effective and beneficial to County residents; and

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65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Mitchell International Airport
66 Director shall take steps to retain an independent solar energy consultant to explore the
67 potential for implementing solar energy systems, including a solar farm, on airport
68 buildings and/or property; and

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70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Sustainability is shall develop a
71 process for other applicable County Departments to conduct professional solar energy
72 site assessments so that areas in addition to the Airport can be identified; and

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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the professional assessments should report on
75 the solar energy generation potential of applicable large County-owned rooftops and
76 underused ground areas and report the years needed to recapture a return on
77 investment based on each site's hypothetical solar energy generation; and

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79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Airport Director and Office of
80 Sustainability shall provide a report to the County Board by the April 2014 meeting cycle
81 that outlines the steps that will be taken to examine and implement solar energy
82 opportunities at the Airport and on other County-owned properties.