

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: February 5, 2021

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman,
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Gordie Bennett, Sustainability Director, Facilities Management,
Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: From the Sustainability Director, Facilities Management Division,
Department of Administrative Services, requesting retroactive
authorization to apply for, and accept if awarded, 2020 Wisconsin Energy
Innovation Grant Program funds to expand Milwaukee County's building
retro-commissioning program.

BACKGROUND

On November 9, 2020, the Public Service Commission's (PSC) Office of Energy Innovation issued a Request for Proposals for the 2020 Wisconsin Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP). The PSC is awarding \$7 million in EIGP funding to Wisconsin manufacturers, municipalities, universities, schools, hospitals, and like entities for clean energy initiatives. Grant applications will be scored according to their proposed energy savings, economic impact, equity benefits, innovation, and several other factors.

The Office of Sustainability within the Facilities Management Division, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), submitted a 2020 EIGP application on behalf of Milwaukee County (the County) on January 21, 2021. If awarded funding, the proposed project will expand the County's building retro-commissioning program to the nine additional buildings listed in Table 1.¹ These buildings were chosen based on their positive equity impacts, high energy use per square foot, history of temperature control issues, and/or equipment failures.

Retro-commissioning will provide a 'tune up' of these buildings to ensure they operate as efficiently as possible while serving our community, resulting in energy savings, reduced operating and maintenance costs, and enhanced occupant comfort. Systems to be commissioned will include heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), building controls, and lighting controls.

¹ Milwaukee County's building retro-commissioning program launched through the support of a 2019 Fund Transfer approved by the County Board (see [File 19-915](#)). Three buildings are being commissioned with this funding: Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center, Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center, and the Criminal Justice Facility.

Table 1. Additional Milwaukee County buildings to be commissioned if 2020 Energy Innovation Grant Program funding is awarded.

Dept.	Building	Address	SF
Parks	Mitchell Park Domes	524 S. Layton Boulevard	68,463
	Boerner Botanical Gardens	9400 Boerner Drive	52,942
	Kosciusko Park Community Center	2201 S. 7th Street	58,397
	Sherman Park Boys & Girls Club	3000 N. Sherman Boulevard	54,160
	Martin Luther King Community Center	1531 W. Vliet Street	34,120
Zoo	Apes of Africa	10001 W. Bluemound Road	33,300
	Peck Welcome Center		41,650
	Administration Building		14,300
DAS	Courthouse	901 N. 9th Street	727,168

The total cost of the proposed project is \$287,129, which includes the \$179,258 grant request plus a \$107,871 Milwaukee County cost share/match consisting of:

- \$94,154 in existing funds for retro-commissioning (Project #WO641-20181).
- \$13,717 in staff wages and fringe benefits.

By improving the energy efficiency of Milwaukee County buildings, the project will reduce the County's operating costs by approximately \$177,832 per year. In addition, the project will help to improve equity by investing in four County Parks properties with racial equity index scores of six or higher².

Finally, the project will provide mentoring and job experience to a qualified Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) student intern. We plan to partner with the Milwaukee County 'We Care Crew' program and outside agencies to recruit for this internship from under-served communities. By 'investing upstream', this project supports the County's sustainability goals and vision to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin by addressing racial equity.

² In 2020, County Parks developed the racial equity index score to identify Milwaukee County park properties that serve communities of color and other historically underrepresented and/or economically challenged communities. Equity scores are based on various demographic data and range from 1 (low needs) to 10 (high needs). See [File 20-638](#) for more information.

RECOMMENDATION

The Sustainability Director, Facilities Management Division, Department of Administrative Services, respectfully requests retroactive authorization to apply for, and accept if awarded, 2020 Wisconsin Energy Innovation Grant Program funds to expand Milwaukee County's building retro-commissioning program.

Gordie Bennett

Gordie Bennett, Sustainability Director, DAS-Facilities Management

cc: David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sherri Jordan, Interim Director, Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
Stuart Carron, Director, Facilities Management Division, DAS