

1 By Supervisors O'Connor, Eckblad, Capriolo,  
2 Martin, Vincent, Rolland, Shea, Gómez-Tom, Bielinski,  
3 and Logsdon  
4

File No. 25-315

5 **A RESOLUTION**  
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7 to support the Milwaukee County Sustainable Design Standards in alignment with the  
8 County's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050  
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11 WHEREAS, on Earth Day 2021, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
12 adopted File No. 21-389 committing the County to achieve carbon neutral operations by  
13 2050; and  
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15 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has been working towards this goal in a variety of  
16 ways, achieving a 46% reduction in emissions in 2023 since the base year of 2005; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has adopted a comprehensive Climate Action  
19 2050 Plan (CA50) that establishes a clear roadmap toward achieving carbon neutrality  
20 in County operations by 2050 and advancing resilience through climate adaptation  
21 strategies; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Office of Sustainability has developed, with  
24 the collaboration of many county stakeholders, the Sustainable Design Standards,  
25 hereto attached to this file, as a tool to operationalize the CA50 Plan by incorporating  
26 equity-focused, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient practices into the planning,  
27 design, and construction of County-owned facilities; and  
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29 WHEREAS, approximately 65% of Milwaukee County's operational emissions  
30 are associated with its building portfolio, making the Sustainable Design Standards a  
31 primary climate action strategy to achieve carbon neutrality; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the Sustainable Design Standards are a set of standards on  
34 sustainability measures like renewable energy, water conservation, and occupant health  
35 and well-being to be implemented during the design and construction processes; and  
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37 WHEREAS, the Sustainable Design Standards will enable greater resource  
38 efficiency in the long-term by ensuring that County resources are allocated in alignment  
39 with all relevant goals; and  
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WHEREAS, the level of requirements is divided into two Tiers, to be determined for each project based on the cost and scope, as detailed in the Sustainable Design Standards; and

WHEREAS, to prevent any undue burden that may affect the completion and viability of certain projects, certain exemptions have been outlined in the Sustainable Design Standards as well as an exemption process that can be pursued during the Pre-Design stage; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that adhering to sustainability standards can result in significant cost savings, such as the current upgrades of LED fixtures that will result in an estimated 30% reduction in energy costs for Milwaukee County; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Design Standards institutionalizes Milwaukee County's commitment to environmental stewardship, equity, and resilience by promoting strategies such as energy efficiency, emissions reduction, and adaptive infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Community, Environment, and Economic Development, at its meeting of May 12, 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-315 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports the Office of Sustainability's Sustainable Design Standards, as hereto attached to this file, by incorporating equity-focused, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient practices into the planning, design, and construction of County-owned facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors strongly encourages the inclusion of the Office of Sustainability's Sustainable Design Standards for consideration in all relevant construction project requests for bids and proposals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports all relevant projects meeting applicable minimum mandatory requirements as detailed in the Sustainable Design Standards attached to this file.

05/12/25

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