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4
5 **A RESOLUTION**

6
7 Requesting annual reporting from We Energies to support Milwaukee County's climate,
8 infrastructure, and energy planning
9

10
11 WHEREAS, on May 7, 2021, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
12 adopted File No. 21-389, committing to net zero carbon emissions by the year
13 2050; and
14

15 WHEREAS, on April 24, 2025, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
16 adopted File No. 25-262 approving the Milwaukee County Climate Action (CA50) Plan,
17 outlining clear steps for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero
18 operational emissions; and
19

20 WHEREAS, on March 21, 2025, in the Committee on Community, Economic, and
21 Environmental Development, the Office of Sustainability reported a 46% reduction in
22 operational greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2005, demonstrating measurable
23 progress; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has advanced its clean energy
26 commitments, including installing solar panels on the Marcia P. Coggs Human
27 Services Center, reducing operational emissions and demonstrating leadership in
28 sustainable facility management; and
29

30 WHEREAS, because utility-provided energy is a primary driver of
31 Milwaukee County's operational emissions profile, timely and transparent utility
32 data is necessary to track progress toward the County's net zero carbon goal and
33 implementing the Climate Action Plan effectively; and
34

35 WHEREAS, WE Energies is the primary utility serving Milwaukee County
36 and maintains the data, planning projections, and operational information
37 necessary to understand local energy demand, generation mix, infrastructure
38 improvements, and system reliability; and
39

40 WHEREAS, the rising number of new Large Load Customers, including
41 high-energy-use industries such as data centers, increase demand on the power
42 grid and underscores the need for coordinated planning and transparency to
43 protect County interests; and
44

45 WHEREAS, changes in electricity rates have direct financial implications

46 for Milwaukee County households and public services, and improved insight into
47 utility planning will allow the County to better anticipate budget impacts and
48 advocate for affordability and rate stability; and

49
50 WHEREAS, expansion of the power grid using fossil fuel generation would
51 increase carbon emissions for Milwaukee County and put greater strain on water
52 and land resources; and

53
54 WHEREAS, regular reporting from utilities such as We Energies would
55 allow Milwaukee County to better understand the impacts of utility changes and
56 advocate for policies that protect residents; now, therefore,

57
58 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors requests
59 that We Energies and any other relevant utility companies provide a report to the
60 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors at least annually, containing the
61 following information:

- 62
- 63 • Total electricity demands in Milwaukee County
 - 64 • Change in demand by sector, such as residential, commercial, or
65 industrial
 - 66 • Forecasted 5-year demand growth for energy in Milwaukee County
 - 67 • Types of energy generated
 - 68 • Estimated greenhouse gas emissions
 - 69 • Updates on renewable energy generation
 - 70 • Updates on energy reliability in Milwaukee County and efforts made
71 to increase reliability
 - 72 • Quantity of new and proposed Large Load Customers, such as
73 data centers, as well as estimated energy demand, timeline, and
74 location for each project
 - 75 • Major utility infrastructure projects underway or planned in
76 Milwaukee County

77 ; and

78
79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Sustainability is
80 requested to serve as the central point of contact for receiving, reviewing, and
81 disseminating these reports, and shall establish any technical standards or
82 reporting specifications to ensure consistency and usability of the information;
83 and

84
85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Sustainability is
86 requested to provide a summary or briefing on the reported information to the
87 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, at least annually.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FISCAL NOTE FORM

DATE: 4/22/2026

Original Fiscal Note

Substitute Fiscal Note

SUBJECT: A resolution requesting annual reporting from We Energies to support Milwaukee County's climate, infrastructure, and energy planning.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Direct County Fiscal Impact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Staff Time Required
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Operating Expenditures
(If checked, check one of two boxes below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Absorbed Within Agency's Budget
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Absorbed Within Agency's Budget

<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Operating Expenditures

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Operating Revenues

<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Operating Revenues | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Capital Expenditures

<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Capital Expenditures

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Capital Revenues

<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Capital Revenues

<input type="checkbox"/> Use of contingent funds |
|--|--|

Indicate below the dollar change from budget for any submission that is projected to result in increased/decreased expenditures or revenues in the current year.

	Expenditure or Revenue Category	Current Year	Subsequent Year
Operating Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0
Capital Improvement Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0

DESCRIPTION OF FISCAL EFFECT

In the space below, you must provide the following information. Attach additional pages if necessary.

- A. Briefly describe the nature of the action that is being requested or proposed, and the new or changed conditions that would occur if the request or proposal were adopted.
 - B. State the direct costs, savings or anticipated revenues associated with the requested or proposed action in the current budget year and how those were calculated. ¹ If annualized or subsequent year fiscal impacts are substantially different from current year impacts, then those shall be stated as well. In addition, cite any one-time costs associated with the action, the source of any new or additional revenues (e.g. State, Federal, user fee or private donation), the use of contingent funds, and/or the use of budgeted appropriations due to surpluses or change in purpose required to fund the requested action.
 - C. Discuss the budgetary impacts associated with the proposed action in the current year. A statement that sufficient funds are budgeted should be justified with information regarding the amount of budgeted appropriations in the relevant account and whether that amount is sufficient to offset the cost of the requested action. If relevant, discussion of budgetary impacts in subsequent years also shall be discussed. Subsequent year fiscal impacts shall be noted for the entire period in which the requested or proposed action would be implemented when it is reasonable to do so (i.e. a five-year lease agreement shall specify the costs/savings for each of the five years in question). Otherwise, impacts associated with the existing and subsequent budget years should be cited.
 - D. Describe any assumptions or interpretations that were utilized to provide the information on this form.
- A. Approval of this resolution requests We Energies to provide annual reporting to support Milwaukee County's climate, infrastructure, and energy planning.
 - B. There are no costs or revenues associated with this resolution. Existing staff time from the Office of Sustainability will be needed to coordinate the report.
 - C. This resolution does not require additional resources that have not been appropriated within the 2026 Adopted Budget.
 - D. No assumptions were used.

Department/Prepared By Jane Geyer, Research Services Division, Office of the Comptroller

Authorized Signature Jane Geyer

Did DAS-Fiscal Staff Review? Yes No

Did CBDP Review?² Yes No Not Required

¹ If it is assumed that there is no fiscal impact associated with the requested action, then an explanatory statement that justifies that conclusion shall be provided. If precise impacts cannot be calculated, then an estimate or range should be provided.

² Community Business Development Partners' review is required on all professional service and public work construction contracts.

1 By Supervisors O'Connor, Shea, Capriolo,
2 Logsdon, Gómez-Tom, Martinez, Rolland, Vincent,
3 Roundtree Jr., Eckblad, Martin, and Coggs-Jones
4
5
6

File No. 26-419

7 **AN AMENDED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION**
8

9 Requesting annual reporting from We Energies to support Milwaukee County's climate,
10 infrastructure, and energy planning
11
12

13 WHEREAS, WE Energies has submitted a request to the Public Service
14 Commission of Wisconsin seeking an approximately 14% increase in residential electric
15 rates, representing one of the largest proposed increases in recent years; and
16

17 WHEREAS, residents, businesses, and local governments across Milwaukee
18 County are captive customers of WE Energies, with no alternative provider available,
19 making them wholly dependent on fair and reasonable regulation by the Public Service
20 Commission; and
21

22 WHEREAS, on May 11, 2026, the Milwaukee County Intergovernmental
23 Cooperation Council unanimously adopted a similar resolution and called upon the
24 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to join in support; and
25

26 WHEREAS, **WE Energies justifies** the proposed rate increase ~~is justified~~ in
27 part by planned investments in new energy generation and infrastructure, despite the
28 fact that ratepayers continue to bear costs associated with older, retired energy
29 facilities; and
30

31 WHEREAS, questions remain regarding the necessity, timing, and scale of these
32 new investments, particularly in light of whether they are being driven by increased
33 demand from large-scale energy users such as data centers and other high-
34 consumption private enterprises; and
35

36 WHEREAS, if new infrastructure investments are primarily intended to support
37 such high-demand private users, it is appropriate to question whether the costs should
38 be more directly allocated to those users rather than broadly distributed among
39 residential and small business ratepayers; and
40

41 WHEREAS, under the current regulatory framework, the Public Service
42 Commission authorizes a guaranteed rate of return for regulated utilities, effectively
43 insulating utilities and their investors from the risks typically associated with private
44 market investments; and
45

46 WHEREAS, this guaranteed profit structure shifts financial risk away from
47 shareholders and onto ratepayers, who are required to absorb the costs of capital
48 investments regardless of market conditions or the prudence of those investments; and

49 WHEREAS, in a free-market, capitalist system, investors in virtually all other
50 sectors are subject to market forces, including the possibility of financial loss due to
51 changing conditions or poor decision-making; and
52

53 WHEREAS, the continuation of a guaranteed rate of return for utilities raises
54 important questions about fairness, accountability, and whether existing regulatory
55 models appropriately balance the interests of utilities, investors, and ratepayers in
56 today's evolving energy economy; and
57

58 WHEREAS, municipalities within Milwaukee County have experienced firsthand
59 the consequences of delayed or insufficient infrastructure investment, in some cases
60 requiring extraordinary measures to compel necessary system upgrades while
61 continuing to face increasing costs; and
62

63 WHEREAS, local governments, as major ratepayers themselves, have a direct
64 interest in ensuring that utility rates remain reasonable, justified, and aligned with actual
65 service needs and prudent financial management; and
66

67 WHEREAS, the Committee on Community, Environment, and Economic
68 Development, at its meeting of May 18, 2026, recommended adoption of the substitute
69 resolution in File No. 26-419 as amended (vote 5-0); and
70

71 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors **expresses**
72 **concern regarding the proposed rate increase and the underlying regulatory**
73 **framework and** urges the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to conduct a
74 thorough and critical review of WE Energies' proposed rate increase, including a
75 detailed examination of the necessity of new infrastructure investments and the
76 allocation of associated costs; and
77

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
79 calls upon the Public Service Commission to reevaluate the continued use of a
80 guaranteed rate of return for regulated utilities and to consider reforms that introduce
81 greater accountability and align utility investment risk more closely with broader market
82 principles; and
83

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
85 strongly encourages all 19 municipalities within Milwaukee County to adopt similar
86 resolutions or to submit formal correspondence from their governing bodies and chief
87 elected officials to the Public Service Commission expressing concern regarding the
88 proposed rate increase and the underlying regulatory framework; and
89

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
91 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the
92 Wisconsin Legislature representing Milwaukee County and the chief elected officials
93 and governing bodies of all municipalities within Milwaukee County.
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05/18/26

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