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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Requesting the Office of Sustainability, Department of Administration, to develop criteria
7 to evaluate capital projects for their contribution to the County’s adopted goal of carbon
8 neutrality and alignment with the strategic plan outlined in the Climate Action 2050
9 report

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12 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 17-506, committing to the
13 principles and goals of the Paris Agreement for climate change awareness, which the
14 United States provided notice of withdrawal in 2019 but later rejoined in February 2021;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and
18 Economic Equity was established in 2019 for the purpose of making practical
19 recommendations to achieve net greenhouse gas emission reductions and mitigate
20 racial and income inequality through green jobs in the community (File No. 19-582); and

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22 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County committed to achieving net zero carbon
23 emissions and advancing equity, justice and community resilience when File No. 21-389
24 was adopted, which also tasked the Office of Sustainability to develop a strategic plan
25 to achieve carbon neutrality in County facilities and operations by 2050; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Office of Sustainability presented the “Climate Action 2050”
28 report in 2021, which established a strategic plan that identifies potential strategies and
29 challenges in achieving net zero carbon emissions in County facilities and operations,
30 while aligning with Milwaukee County’s defined Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan (File
31 No. 21-700); and

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33 WHEREAS, the Climate Action 2050 report qualitatively assessed 35 potential
34 strategies to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County and categorized strategies
35 by emissions sector (Buildings & Facilities, Transit Fleet, Vehicle Fleet, and Street
36 Lights & Traffic Signals), then each strategy was scored against related co-benefits
37 such as fiscal responsibility, job creation, resiliency, efficiency, community business
38 development, health and community engagement; and

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40 WHEREAS, File No. 22-389 allocated \$220,000 in American Rescue Plan Act
41 (ARPA) funds to develop the Climate Action 2050 Plan for Milwaukee County
42 operations and identified a final phase of the plan that would include implementation
43 and monitoring; and

45 WHEREAS, in addition to adopting sustainability and climate related goals,
46 Milwaukee County adopted File No. 19-397 declaring racism a public health crisis and
47 File No. 20-174 codifying the County's commitment to becoming the healthiest county in
48 Wisconsin through the elimination of racism; and

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50 WHEREAS, improving the health of the environment is vital to improving human
51 health and achieving Milwaukee County's goal of becoming the healthiest county in the
52 state; and

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54 WHEREAS, the County's annual capital budget process utilizes a 5-year Capital
55 Improvement Plan to estimate future capital project needs and consider departmental
56 requests which are reviewed and scored by the Capital Improvement Committee; and

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58 WHEREAS, the current process for scoring and ranking capital projects does not
59 take into consideration a project's contribution to the County's adopted sustainability
60 goals; and

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62 WHEREAS, establishing an evaluation tool to review capital projects for
63 alignment with the County's Climate Action 2050 plan and overall goal of carbon
64 neutrality would align the County's spending with its adopted sustainability goals; and

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66 WHEREAS, the Committee on Community, Environment, and Economic
67 Development, at its meeting of April 10, 2023, recommended adoption of File No. 23-
68 485 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

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70 BE IT RESOLVED, the Office of Sustainability, Department of Administration,
71 working in coordination with the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance and any
72 other relevant entities, is hereby requested to develop criteria to evaluate and score
73 capital projects for their contribution to the County's adopted goal of carbon neutrality
74 and alignment with the strategic plan outlined in the Climate Action 2050 report and
75 provide a report to the County Board of Supervisors by the July cycle; and

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77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Sustainability, Department of
78 Administration Services, is requested to provide regular reports to the County Board on
79 the progress of the Climate Action 2050 once a monitoring plan is finalized; and

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81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Sustainability, Department of
82 Administration Services, is requested to coordinate with applicable departments to seek
83 grant opportunities to support projects that help achieve the County's adopted
84 sustainability goals.

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