## COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** November 18, 2013

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM**: Gordie Bennett, Sustainability Director, DAS-Facilities Management

SUBJECT: Wisconsin State Energy Office Grant - Planning and Implementing Clean Energy

Investments in Wisconsin Communities

## **Policy**

The Sustainability Director is requesting authorization to apply for and accept a Wisconsin State Energy Office Planning and Implementing Clean Energy Investments in Wisconsin Communities grant for fiscal year 2014.

## Background

In November 2013, the Wisconsin State Energy Office (SEO) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) with \$100,000 in grant funding for planning and implementing clean energy investments in Wisconsin communities. The grants are open to local governments who seek help with increasing the use of 'clean energy' in their operations. Clean energy can be defined as energy saved or created from wind, biomass, biogas, hydroelectric, energy efficient products, solar electric and solar thermal (i.e., hot water). Using clean energy can reduce energy use and costs, support Wisconsin's energy resources, and divert waste from the landfill, protecting our natural resources.

The SEO will award grants in the amount of \$5,000 to \$20,000 for up to 10 clean energy projects. Awards will be for a period of six months, and awarded projects must be completed by June 30, 2014. Although there are no cost-sharing requirements under the grant program, SEO favors applicants that contribute to the total project costs using their own funds. For this reason, the Sustainability Director would list in-kind staff time and supplies as the cost share in Milwaukee County's clean energy grant application.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Sustainability Director be authorized to apply for and accept a Wisconsin State Energy Office Planning and Implementing Clean Energy Investments in Wisconsin Communities grant for fiscal year 2014.

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