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4 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

5  
6 committing Milwaukee County to becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and requesting the  
7 Director of Sustainability, Department of Administrative Services, develop and  
8 administer a strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County facilities  
9 and operations by 2050

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12 WHEREAS, carbon neutrality is the process of balancing carbon emissions with  
13 carbon removal or elimination until the net effect is zero; and

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15 WHEREAS, carbon emissions are a result of extraction, refinery, transportation,  
16 and burning of fossil fuels, like coal, natural gas, and oil; and

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18 WHEREAS, normally, trees absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, but the  
19 increased creation of carbon dioxide and destruction of forests for agriculture, new  
20 developments, and collection of lumber prevents this natural process from occurring  
21 and, as a result, excess carbon emissions absorb radiation and prevent heat from  
22 escaping the atmosphere, causing disrupted weather patterns, global warming, and  
23 climate change; and

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25 WHEREAS, reduction, elimination, or offsetting of carbon emissions is critical to  
26 preventing the continued effects of climate change on the planet; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Global Carbon Project outlines the process to become carbon  
29 neutral as:

- 30 1. Calculating carbon emissions and other greenhouse gas from activities  
31 2. Reducing emissions wherever possible  
32 3. Balancing the remainder by purchasing offsets

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34 ; and

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36 WHEREAS, reducing emissions includes limiting energy usage and emissions  
37 from transportation, buildings, and equipment, using electrical energy or low carbon  
38 energy sources, employing wind, nuclear, hydro, solar and geothermal power; and

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40 WHEREAS, offsetting emissions includes buying and planting trees, investing in  
41 carbon offset projects in underserved communities, or purchasing carbon offsets or  
42 carbon credits; and

43 WHEREAS, in the absence of broad federal climate policies, state and local

44 governments are leading the way in planning for carbon neutrality; and

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46 WHEREAS, eight states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico have 100 percent  
47 clean energy goals, with more states considering similar plans, and it is estimated that  
48 renewable energy sources will generate nearly a third of the country's electricity by  
49 2050 based on these state commitments alone; and

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51 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 17-506, committing to the  
52 principles and goals of the Paris Agreement for climate change awareness, which the  
53 United States provided notice of withdrawal in 2019 but later rejoined in February 2021,  
54 and requesting that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) develop  
55 a plan for a comprehensive recycling system throughout all parks for approval by the  
56 County Board; and

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58 WHEREAS, created through File No. 19-582, Milwaukee County has examined  
59 its progress towards eliminating carbon emissions through the Milwaukee City-County  
60 Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity (the "taskforce"); and

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62 WHEREAS, the taskforce met to discuss and provide recommendations as to  
63 how Milwaukee can achieve net greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 45 percent of  
64 2010 levels by 2030, achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner,  
65 and how to mitigate racial and income inequality through "green" jobs; and

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67 WHEREAS, related to becoming carbon neutral, some of the taskforce's  
68 recommendations as found in File No. 20-496 included:

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- 70 • Obtaining a community greenhouse gas inventory to measure progress
- 71 • Hiring a consultant or expanding sustainability staff to create a narrative
- 72 form of the greenhouse gas inventory to present to the public and
- 73 stakeholders
- 74 • Developing a Milwaukee Climate and Equity Action Plan for reducing
- 75 emissions
- 76 • Working with other Milwaukee County municipalities and the State of
- 77 Wisconsin to coordinate and implement mitigation efforts
- 78 • Assessing the short, medium and long-term funding needs to implement a
- 79 Climate and Equity Action Plan
- 80 • Analyzing the expected financial savings that could be achieved through
- 81 the adoption of a Climate and Equity Action Plan
- 82 • Aggregating economic data on the emerging green economy in Milwaukee
- 83 • Evaluating the potential of larger-scale structural interventions to leverage
- 84 a climate transition to dramatically improve regional economic equity

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86 ; and

87           WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Transit System is in the process of acquiring  
88 hybrid-electric buses and electric buses for its fleet, which provides an opportunity to  
89 greatly decrease the greenhouse gas emissions produced by public transit, and the  
90 2021 Adopted Budget included a provision to study the transition of all County fleet  
91 vehicles to electric vehicles; and

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93           **WHEREAS, the Solar Now program allows local governments to partner**  
94 **with We Energies to install solar panels on roof tops or land parcels and, in**  
95 **return, receive lease payments, which Milwaukee County is interested in pursuing**  
96 **on a large-scale to offset the costs of implementing carbon neutrality measures**  
97 **throughout Milwaukee County; and**

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99           WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 19-397 declaring racism a  
100 public health crisis and File No. 20-174 codifying the County’s commitment to becoming  
101 the healthiest county in Wisconsin through the elimination of racism; and

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103           WHEREAS, in 2018, the United States Global Change Research Program,  
104 commissioned through the Global Change Research Act of 1990, released the “Fourth  
105 National Climate Assessment” evaluating the impacts, risks, and adaptations in the United  
106 States to climate change and found that climate change has a disproportionate effect on  
107 communities of color because of a propensity to live in urban areas that suffer from poor  
108 air and water quality, inability to quickly or totally recover from climate events, amongst  
109 other concerns; and

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111           WHEREAS, improving the health of the environment is vital to improving human  
112 health in our goal to become the healthiest county in the state; and

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114           WHEREAS, to make progress towards becoming carbon neutral, Milwaukee  
115 County will need to work with its 19 municipalities and the public to provide education  
116 on the importance of understanding and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

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118           WHEREAS, it is imperative that all levels of government across the United States  
119 mobilize to avoid the worst effects of climate change; and

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121           WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to fulfilling the recommendations  
122 provided by the taskforce to reduce carbon emissions and become carbon neutral, as  
123 well as mitigating racial and climate inequity through “green” jobs; and

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125           WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of  
126 April 13, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-389 as amended (vote 5-0); now,  
127 therefore,

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129           BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the policy of Milwaukee County to become carbon  
130 neutral by 2050; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the Director of Sustainability, Environmental Services Division, Department of Administrative Services, in conjunction with the Economic Development Division and any other relevant entities, develop and administer a strategic plan to achieve carbon neutrality in Milwaukee County facilities and operations by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Director of Sustainability provide a report on Milwaukee County's current progress on reducing and eliminating its carbon emissions and a framework for developing and administering a strategic plan for becoming carbon neutral by 2050 no later than the September 2021 cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the framework shall include estimates on the costs of developing and implementing the strategic plan, the major avenues for reducing carbon emissions, an approximate timeline for the development of a plan, the entities involved in the development of the plan, and any additional, relevant information.

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