

Kenosha



County

MEMORANDUM

Communication to Kenosha County Board of Supervisors
(For Informational Purposes Only)

COMMUNICATION TO APPEAR ON COUNTY BOARD MEETING AGENDA: 04/18/2023

SUBJECT: A Resolution on a Renewable Future for Kenosha County - Encouraging the Strategic Development of Renewable Energy Resources in Kenosha County and Requesting the State Legislature to Identify Sustainable Strategies for Such Development that Maintains the Natural Character and Environment of the State of Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: Choose a Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Supervisor Bashaw

RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED AT Choose a Committee **COMMITTEE ON** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional):



KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Resolution No. _____

Subject: A Resolution on a Renewable Future for Kenosha County - Encouraging the Strategic Development of Renewable Energy Resources in Kenosha County and Requesting the State Legislature to Identify Sustainable Strategies for Such Development that Maintains the Natural Character and Environment of the State of Wisconsin		
Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resubmitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Corrected <input type="checkbox"/>	2nd Correction <input type="checkbox"/>
Date Submitted: 4/18/2023	Date Resubmitted:	
Submitted by: Supervisor Bashaw		
Fiscal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/>	Legal Note Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement	
Prepared by: Supervisor Brian Bashaw	Signature:	

WHEREAS, Renewable energy resources are being developed at a rapid pace within Kenosha County, and;

WHEREAS, Renewable energy arrays to capture solar energy, as currently designed, require significant land resources and space to be a viable resource to augment the energy needs of our citizens, and;

WHEREAS, It is unreasonable to expect that when/if solar farmlands are remediated in 50 years, that the land will return to sustainable agricultural use, and;

WHEREAS, Removing large tracts of agricultural land from the inventory of airable lands may result in the further erosion of agricultural activities in Kenosha County as the broader infrastructure necessary to support agriculture may not be sustainable, and;

WHEREAS, Agricultural lands utilized for Renewable Energy Production, perpetually remove productive agricultural use accelerate decline of active agricultural production through loss of aptitude; equipment; support structures such as grain elevators, access to herbicide and fertilizer and equipment support; etcetera, negatively and perpetually impacting the future of agriculture in Kenosha County and the State of Wisconsin, and;

WHEREAS, The Town of Paris WI is 36 square miles or 23,040 total Acres, where the Paris Solar project encompasses 5,350 acres, and an area of 1,500 acres developed with installed equipment dedicates 6.5% of the township (1,500 ac / 23,040=6.5%) or 8.3% of

18,000 acres of agricultural land available for agricultural applications within the Town of Paris to renewable energy, and;

WHEREAS, Paris Solar is expected to produce approximately 200 MW, enough power for more than 38,000 homes, and;

WHEREAS, It is beneficial to produce and utilize power as close as possible to the intended end user, ie manufacturing or warehouse facilities or residential centers, and;

WHEREAS, Active development zones for arrays are disruptive to the rural environment as construction and maintenance of an array farm direct construction traffic and development into rural areas which may not have infrastructure to support the activities, and;

WHEREAS, Business Development in Kenosha County is robust, with millions of square feet (acres) of lands converted to under roof spaces, which represent a significant opportunity for dual use as solar farmed rooftops, and;

WHEREAS, There are currently ~235 buildings in the county over 50,000 sq ft. The total area of those buildings is 47,839,935 sq ft (1,098 acres) under roof, equal to 73% of the land use requirement for the Paris Solar project, and;

WHEREAS, Development of rooftop solar farming may provide direct and indirect benefit to those structures which incorporate solar fields, and;

WHEREAS, Installation of roof top arrays reduces the substantial visual impact and altered land use impact of ground installations of arrays, and;

WHEREAS, Development of rooftop solar farming should be seen as a best practice use of large flat geographic spaces to support beneficial collection of solar energy rather than being neglected space acting as energy deserts within the county, and;

WHEREAS, Installation of rooftop arrays may reduce or minimize the impact of ground heat gain under arrays, and;

WHEREAS, Responsible citizenship requires considerate use of land resources within the county, which can include mixed purpose use of properties such as those with large areas of lands under roof combined with solar energy gathering, green-scapes or other strategies which are pro-environment and pro Kenosha County, and;

WHEREAS, Kenosha County wishes to encourage responsible development and use of renewable energy, leveraging available and practical technologies where feasible, and;

WHEREAS, Development of renewable energy in Kenosha County must be encouraged in a manner which is not deleterious, or which needlessly erodes the history, culture and environment of Kenosha County and the State of Wisconsin.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, In the pursuit of responsible and rational development of renewable resources, Kenosha County will intentionally identify and employ renewable energy strategies as they relate to our strategic development objectives, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Through strategic development initiatives, Kenosha County will encourage and promote the incorporation of renewable energy infrastructure within private and public related development projects, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Kenosha County advocates for the utilization of rooftop solar farming in association with but not limited to all large span rooftops including distribution, manufacturing and warehouse related projects, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Kenosha County will collaborate with developers to identify and seek out opportunities for incorporation of and application of responsible renewable energy strategies, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Kenosha County is requesting the state legislature to incorporate language into the requirements for TIF or Special Development Zone projects to include strategies for inclusion of Renewable Energy as a project plan, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Kenosha County encourages and promotes the incorporation of roof top, passive or alternate renewable energy development, into all current and future development projects within the county to promote multi-purpose land and facility use, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Kenosha County encourages all communities to adopt land use language and strategies associated with TIF or other development projects to incorporate guidelines and opportunities for public-private partnerships for incorporation of renewable resources and strategies to incorporate renewable energy, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Kenosha County requests that the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin draft clear legislation related to the development and use of commercial real estate including rooftop infrastructure to incorporate renewable energy resources as a fundamental element of design, promoting conservation of land resources through multi use development in the State of Wisconsin, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Natural Resources protect the natural beauty of Wisconsin by defining renewable resource strategies that minimize the loss of traditional land use, perpetually degrading the historic and natural beauty of the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Kenosha County Board directs the County Clerk to provide this resolution to all Counties in Wisconsin, all State and Federal Elected Officials who represent Kenosha County and to the WEC for consideration.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of April, 2023.

Brian Bashaw
