

City of Madison – File # 36998

Title

To develop an Energy Work Plan, investigate options and provide recommendations to the Common Council on how to implement the Energy Work Plan

Body

WHEREAS, the City of Madison (City) desires to formulate and implement an energy policy consistent with the Madison Sustainability Plan, whose goals are to include a 50% energy reduction by 2030 through increasing energy efficiency in public and private buildings and promoting the use of renewable energy so it comprises up to 25% of the City’s energy use by 2025;

WHEREAS, in 2013 the City also launched the Race Equity and Social Justice initiative whose goals include “equitable allocation of resources” in the community;

WHEREAS, Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) has announced its intent to hold community-wide energy conversations with the assistance of Justice and Sustainability Associates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Madison that:

1. The Sustainable Madison Committee shall be charged with the task of developing a detailed plan to enable the City to achieve its energy-related Sustainability Plan and Race Equity and Social Justice goals and to help provide a framework for participating in MGE’s community-wide conversations; the Sustainable Madison Committee shall investigate all options, including legal, statutory and regulatory alternatives, for implementing the energy work plan; the Sustainable Madison Committee shall develop recommendations for the Common Council to consider for how the City can best implement the energy work, such recommendations to be presented, if possible, in the fall of 2015.

Adopted by the Common Council at its meeting of March 31, 2015.

<https://www.mge.com/community-conversations/>

Community Energy Conversations

We at Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) encourage you to join the dialogue about our collective energy future.

The energy world is changing. As we look to the future, we must address some important questions, such as how to:

- Maintain the electric system reliability we've all come to expect.
- Preserve and fairly provide universal access to the system for all who want it.
- Ensure we incorporate new, renewable technology for the benefit of all customers.

MGE promises community engagement

As your community energy company, MGE strives to be responsive to local shared values and priorities, which is why we're looking to you—and to all of our customers—to help inform our long-range planning. In the fall of 2014, MGE pledged to host a community-wide exchange of information and ideas.

We want to ensure that this community process:

- Is designed, moderated and facilitated by an experienced, independent, third-party professional.
- Engages our broader community.
- Involves a meaningful and transparent discussion about our collective energy future.

MGE has engaged Justice and Sustainability Associates

MGE has engaged Justice and Sustainability Associates (JSA) from the Washington, D.C., area to help us design and to lead this extensive and comprehensive effort. JSA CEO Don Edwards delivered the keynote address at the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference last September. JSA has the skills and experience we were seeking:

- Experienced, third-party professional facilitators.

- A proven track record of designing and implementing multi-stakeholder processes related to achieving sustainable community development, environmental justice and smart growth.
- Projects encompassing small, single-issue meetings to city-wide public meetings to social media engagement.
- Processes in which everyone's views and concerns are treated with respect and shared interests emerge to form principles, projects and policy.

Learn more

We believe that JSA's approach to engagement aligns well with MGE's responsibility and commitment to the community it serves. You can learn more about JSA and Don Edwards on their website, <http://www.jsallc.com/>.

Next steps

JSA has started gathering information and bringing their expertise to the process. Once the design of the community conversations is complete, we will make a more formal announcement to launch the effort. We look forward to your participation.

Connect with MGE

We encourage you to explore our information online; this web page will change with the latest information. And join the important conversation about our collective energy future.

Submit your comments to MGE online. Email us at communityconversations@mge.com.