

Resolution to Support Pollinator-friendly Solar Electricity Awareness and Production in Wisconsin

Whereas, Wisconsin is reliant on imported non-renewable sources of electricity which pollute the land, air, and water and negatively impact Wisconsin's wildlife habitat and economics; and

Whereas, solar electricity is beneficial as a source that does not create emissions, and therefore does not pollute the environment, which allows animal populations and habitats to thrive and remain; and

Whereas, Wisconsin is far short of meeting its solar energy production potential, with only one-tenth of one percent of Wisconsin's electricity coming from solar energy; and

Whereas, Wisconsin spends approximately \$1.8 billion annually on imported coal and natural gas for electricity usage, and redirecting 10% towards in-state solar energy production would equate to \$180 million remaining within Wisconsin's state economy and

Whereas, the cost of solar has been on the decline since 2010 and the prices are projected to continue to decline, making solar energy a cost effective electricity generation option; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation board passed the "Resolution to Support Pollinator Education and Awareness in Wisconsin in 2015", that describes numerous ways to "promote the increase of native pollinators in Wisconsin"; and

Whereas, pollinator gardens would be a beneficial addition to the land underneath and between the rows of solar panels which could be planted with native pollinator-friendly plants that would provide habitat for more than 300 song and game bird species, butterflies, and honeybees; and

Whereas, generating 10% of our state's electricity from solar would provide the opportunity to create up to 40,000 acres of pollinator-friendly habitat to be developed, which is approximately 0.2% of Wisconsin's agricultural land, more than tripling the amount of prairies and grasslands in the state today.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting assembled April 21-22, 2017 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin requests the implementation of public outreach programs to educate farmers and citizens on the benefits of pollinator-friendly solar electricity, creating pilot programs, publicizing the results, and building partnerships between farmers, farm organizations, and utility companies; and

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Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation urges the collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Wisconsin Legislators to support the development of pollinator-friendly solar electricity production; and

Now therefore be it further resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation supports a goal of 10% of all Wisconsin's electricity be produced by solar energy by 2040 to restore habitat and bring economic benefits to the state of Wisconsin.

Submitted by the Conservation Leadership Corps:

Sawyer Boldt

Logan Lowery

Katie Nolan

Advisor: Tyler Huebner—RENEW Wisconsin

Resources:

- Energy Information Administration Wisconsin Electricity Statistics 2015:
<http://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/Wisconsin/>
- RENEW Wisconsin Estimate: 60 Megawatts (MW) of solar today, produces 70,135 MWh of Electricity
- EIA says Wisconsin "Total Retail Sales" of 68,698,932 MWh
- Therefore Solar provides about 0.1% of WI electricity sales
- 10% of Wisconsin's electricity from solar would be approximately 5,725 MW of solar
- "Solar Power in Wisconsin: All You Need to Know!" *Solar Power in Wisconsin: All You Need to Know!* N.p., n.d. Web. < <http://www.solar-nation.org/wisconsin> >.
- Wisconsin State Energy Office Energy Statistics Book:
<http://www.stateenergyoffice.wi.gov/subcategory.asp?linksubcatid=3691&linkcatid=2847&linkid=1451&locid=160> , helped us realize 21.7% of natural gas expenditures go towards creating electricity (via this specific page:
<http://www.stateenergyoffice.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=27232&locid=160>)
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eek/nature/habitat/prairie1.htm>
- Amount of prairies and grasslands still present in Wisconsin
- <http://www.eia.gov/state/data.cfm?sid=WI#ConsumptionExpenditures>
- Location of dollar amount of electricity usage.
- RENEW Wisconsin estimate / rule of thumb that 1 megawatt (MW) of solar uses approximately 7 acres of land