

**Resolution No. 1-1213**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE FOR WISCONSIN**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County has a goal of becoming more sustainable in its planning, operations, management, and policymaking in order to save energy, reduce waste, and conserve natural resources while also meeting the needs of its residents and supporting a health economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County has formally adopted sustainability practices, as well as guidelines for their implementation, including: (1) reducing dependence on fossil fuels and extracted underground metals and minerals, (2) reducing dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature, (3) reducing dependence on activities which harm life that sustains our ecosystems, and (4) meeting the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, as an example of Iowa County's commitment to sustainable energy, the Iowa County Board previously approved the construction of the Montfort Wind Energy Center, a 20-turbine wind energy farm in Iowa County that from 2001 to 2008 was the newest and largest commercial wind power installation in the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa County Board continues to support policies that expand opportunities for its citizens and businesses to both generate and access renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, current ambiguities in Wisconsin state law make it difficult for customers to directly access clean, renewable energy produced on their premises from systems owned by third parties; and

**WHEREAS**, more than twenty other states have adopted policies expressly authorizing customers to enter into contracts with third parties to install, own, and operate renewable energy systems on the customers' premises to encourage sustainable energy and promote the creation of a renewable energy marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, the businesses, residents, schools, and local governments in Iowa County wish to exercise responsibility over their long-term energy choices in a manner that integrates clean energy into their daily lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County supports a policy that clarifies for Wisconsin citizens their right to pursue and host clean energy systems that are designed to serve their own needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Energy Choice initiative would seek to expand market opportunities for Iowa County and Wisconsin companies and their employees who are part of the state's vast renewable energy supply chain by integrating locally available

renewable energy into our economy and by engaging local manufacturers, distributors, installers, farmers, builders, entrepreneurs, and related professional workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa County urges the State of Wisconsin to adopt as its policy the Clean Energy Choice initiative expressly allowing customers to enter into contracts with third parties to install, own, and operate renewable energy systems on the customers' premises to aid households and businesses in overcoming the diminishing supply of renewable energy incentive dollars available from Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program in a manner that will add no additional costs to other ratepayers and taxpayers.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors joins other Wisconsin citizens, businesses, and local governments in endorsing the Clean Energy Choice initiative as a policy for Wisconsin residents;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the County's state legislative delegation so that our legislators are alerted of the need to support the Clean Energy Choice initiative and the increased affordability and sustainability of renewable energy that it would promote in our state.

Resolution drafted by Iowa County Corporation Counsel at the request of, and respectfully submitted by, the Economic Development and Property Committee.

Adopted by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of December, 2013.