



This sample resolution, created by the Wisconsin Solar Coalition, is available for communities to signal their opposition to We Energies' proposed solar charge. Please feel free to adapt this resolution and introduce it to your local government body for adoption. If you need a Word version of this resolution or have any questions please email Heather Allen, Program Director, RENEW Wisconsin at heather@renewwisconsin.org.

TITLE

In opposition to the solar surcharge proposed by We Energies in its current rate proceeding before the Public Service Commission

BODY

WHEREAS, the County has committed to the principles of sustainability and advancing renewable energy; and,

WHEREAS, the County has an interest in protecting local ratepayers from unnecessary fees and from a rate design that would reduce savings from renewable energy investments; and,

WHEREAS, State of Wisconsin energy policy embraces the principle that solar energy's benefits should be available to all Wisconsin citizens, in as many forms and configurations that make practical sense, one of them being customer-sited photovoltaic systems; and,

WHEREAS, solar energy provides multiple benefits to Wisconsin in the form of reduced air emissions and carbon footprint, reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels, increased energy self-sufficiency, and lower customer bills; and,

WHEREAS, solar energy is a pathway for attracting private investment into our local communities, thereby growing the state's economy; and,

WHEREAS, the solar industry creates jobs in Wisconsin. Solar jobs create new opportunities for Wisconsin residents to build clean energy careers. Wisconsin now has more than 3,000 solar jobs and the industry continues to grow year over year; and,

WHEREAS, We Energies has proposed a new rate design in its current rate case before the Public Service Commission (Docket No. 5-UR-109) that includes a new charge on solar systems; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed "Fixed Cost Recovery Charge" discriminates against We Energies' solar customer-generators because it impedes their ability to use a locally available energy resource to reduce their consumption of grid-supplied electricity; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed "Fixed Cost Recovery Charge" discriminates against We Energies solar customer-generators by forcing them to bear a financial penalty that is not tied directly to their energy usage; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed "Fixed Cost Recovery Charge" is discriminatory because no other regulated electric utility in Wisconsin has sought to impose a financial penalty on any of its solar customer- generators; and,

WHEREAS, this new rate design would assess a charge of \$3.53 per kilowatt of solar production, adjusted each month to the solar system's peak output in that billing period, and when applied to the average residential solar installation in We Energies territory, it would result in an annual cost of \$180, a reduction of 20-25% of the expected dollar savings; and,

WHEREAS, We Energies proposes to impose a surcharge of \$3.67 per kilowatt on solar systems owned by small commercial customers; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 a Circuit Court judge rejected a nearly-identical proposal to impose surcharges charge on solar customer-generators residing and doing business in We Energies territory; and,

WHEREAS, in April 2019 the Michigan Public Service Commission rejected a similar proposal from DTE Energy, the state's largest electric utility, because the proposed charge was not based on the cost of serving customers and was thus unreasonable; and,

WHEREAS, solar generates benefits other Wisconsin electricity customers. With solar power, customers are providing peak power on those hot sunny days when we need it most. Every home or business generating solar electricity lowers the demand on the entire system, and reduces the need for everyone to pay for more power plants and transmission lines to meet higher peak energy demands; and,

WHEREAS, due to these expected effects, the proposed rate design will impair the County's ability to meet its sustainability goals and likely impair the financial worthiness of additional solar investment by the County; and,

[IF APPLICABLE] NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fixed Cost Recovery Charge is diametrically opposed to the goals set forth in the [local sustainability plan] and the [renewable energy commitments]; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for the reasons enumerated above, the County Council is opposed to "Fixed Cost Recovery Charge" and requests We Energies to withdraw this proposal from consideration before it is entered into the rate case record; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, should We Energies decline to withdraw the "Fixed Cost Recovery Charge" proposal, the County urges the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to affirm the principles of fairness and reject the proposal.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, the County Clerk shall submit a copy of this resolution to the Public Service Commission (Docket No. 5-UR-109).