

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE TO SELECT RESOURCE RECYCLING SYSTEMS AS THE PREFERRED VENDOR TO COMPLETE THE WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, AND REQUESTING THE WASHTENAW COUNTY AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE AND FUND THE PROJECT

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

August 24, 2021

WHEREAS; the Washtenaw County Environmental Council was established by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners through resolution 18-191, and the mission of the environmental council is to develop recommendations to achieve net zero emissions, reduce the overall contributions to climate change, protect and improve the environment, and to prioritize environmental justice, and

WHEREAS; on August 7, 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released “The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate”, and this report states unequivocally that human influence has warmed the planet, the scale of these changes are unprecedented over centuries to millennia, and that this change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region of the globe, and that temperature limits will be exceeded unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions occur; and

WHEREAS; the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners has adopted numerous resolutions to show support for efforts to stop and reverse actions causing climate change, and to set the County on a path to achieve net zero emissions; including resolution 17-100 pledging the intent to take action in accordance with the goals of the Paris Climate Accord, resolution 19-165 which declared a climate emergency, resolution 20-122 setting an organizational carbon neutrality goal of 2030, and resolution 19-165 setting a community carbon neutrality goal of 2035, and

WHEREAS; resolution also 20-122 also directs the development and presentation of a climate action plan to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, inclusive of a just, equitable, and participatory climate mobilization; and

WHEREAS; the Board of Commissioners allocated \$30,000 through resolution 19-212 to fund the development of a County Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS; on April 8, 2021 a plan to develop a Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan was proposed to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at their working session, and this proposal put forth a process to work with an outside party to create a community engagement process, climate action plan, and implementation recommendations to achieve a carbon neutral organization by 2030, and carbon neutral community by 2035, in a manner aligned with the goals and qualities desired by the Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS; this proposal was further developed and brought to the Environmental Council for review and improvement at their April 27, 2021 and May 25, 2021 meetings; and

WHEREAS; on June 6, 2021 Washtenaw County published Request for Proposal (RFP) #8118 – the Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan, and was open for 30 days to interested parties, and returned 4 proposals for consideration; and

WHEREAS, a selection committee was established to review the proposals submitted in response to the County RFP, and was designed to be inclusive of many of the populations and priorities expressed regarding the direction of the Climate Action Plan. This selection committee included staff support from Bethann Duffy, Washtenaw County Senior Buyer, and included:

- Kris Olsson – Chair of the Washtenaw County Environmental Council, Ann Arbor Township Trustee
- Sue Shink – Environmental Council member, Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
- Dr. Missy Stults – former Environmental Council member, City of Ann Arbor Manager of the Office of Sustainability and Innovations
- Crystal Campbell – former staff support to Environmental Council, Washtenaw County Racial Equity Office Program Manager
- Andrew DeLeeuw – staff support to Environmental Council, Washtenaw County Director of Strategic Planning; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee developed a multi-part and comprehensive review and selection process intended to identify the proposal which would best meet the County's needs and provide the best value to County residents, and this process was inclusive of response scoring, reference reviews, and interviews with the finalists; and

WHEREAS, Resource Recycling Systems (RRS) has been recommended by the Selection Committee as the preferred vendor to work with the County to complete the Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the RRS project team includes a diverse and complementary array of members who bring both significant knowledge about the local environment as well as deep experience and expertise in climate planning and engagement, including EcoWorks, Elevate, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Wade Trim, and the American Society for Adaptation Professionals; and

WHEREAS, the RRS proposal thoroughly and thoughtfully addressed all how all components desired by the County would be created, and did so in a way that fully addressed and integrated all of major considerations and characteristics the County described in its request; and

WHEREAS, if the project described in the RRS proposal were to be approved and completed, it would deliver a technically and scientifically sound, ambitious but practicable, community and organizational climate action plan which would provide a path to meet the carbon neutrality goals established by the Board of Commissioners, inclusive of a meaningful community engagement process and attainable recommendations for implementation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Environmental Council hereby accepts the recommendation of the Selection Committee to select Resource Recycling Systems as the preferred vendor to complete the Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Environmental Counsel accepts and supports the project proposal developed by Resource Recycling Systems to develop a Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Environmental Council requests that this item be brought to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for their review and consideration at the next practicable meeting, and that the Board of Commissioners be asked to approve the project, allocate all remaining funding needed to develop this plan, amend the budget, and to authorize any other actions necessary to complete this work.