

100% Renew Madison

Madison Students Launch Petition for 100% Renewable Madison Schools

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MADISON – Students of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) have launched a [petition](#) for the Board of Education to adopt a 100% renewable energy [resolution](#) this spring. Similar to the City of Madison and other area communities who have passed 100% renewable energy resolutions in their municipalities, students want their district leaders to make the same commitment towards a sustainable future.

Students and community members plan to address the MMSD Board of Education at their Feb. 4 meeting. Katia Wanish, one of the students testifying on Monday night and a West High School senior says, “The student voice in the resolution is very powerful and demonstrates our generation’s concern for the planet we will be taking over.”

“Establishing this resolution would send a signal to students that one of the largest institutions in one of the most progressive cities cares about tackling climate change, a problem that will disproportionately impact youth,” states Charles Hua, a founder of 100 Renew Madison and a recent MMSD graduate.

In addition to achieving 100% renewable energy for all district operation energy needs by 2040, the resolution calls on the district to create a Green Climate Initiative plan and to hire a sustainability director or consulting firm. Students are motivated to do all they can to combat climate change but recognize that moving to 100% renewable energy will benefit the district’s operating budget as well.

The students have set an ambitious goal to collect 10,000 signatures from students, staff, and residents in Madison by February 28. Heather Driscoll, an MMSD parent living on Madison’s east side says, “I’m so inspired to see our youth taking action to find solutions for the difficult challenges that lie ahead. It’s clear the time to take action on clean energy is now and we must do everything in our power to create a livable future for our kids.”

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100 Renew Madison was founded to help youth in Madison, Wisconsin achieve a more sustainable, equitable, and livable future through advocacy of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives across Madison schools. For more information, see 100renewmadison.org.