



# Dane County Comprehensive Plan

Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities (TUCF) Workgroup

## ***UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES - Draft Goal, Objective, Policy, Program and Recommendation Statements***

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### **I. Overall**

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#### **Goals & Objectives**

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- 1) Goal: Provide Dane County residents with adequate and efficient public utility services, such as water, sewer, solid waste, recycling, telecommunications, natural gas, and electrical generation and transmission, in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

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  - 2) Goal: Ensure availability of access to quality, affordable, efficient community services and facilities such as healthcare, childcare, and recreation to maintain the health, safety, and well being of Dane County residents.

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  - 3) Goal: Provide infrastructure, utilities and community facilities and services to meet existing and planned community needs.
    - a. Objv: Locate future development where a full range of urban services can be efficiently provided while protecting environmental corridors, and minimizing conversion of agricultural land.

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    - b. Objv: Cooperate with other governmental units to avoid duplication of services and promote the development of shared facilities, services, and equipment

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    - c. Objv: Create consolidated and/or contiguous "utility corridors" (electric, natural gas, phone, cable, gas, etc.) to service new development

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    - d. Objv: Require that developers pay for 100% of infrastructure costs

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    - e. Objv: Adopt "green" building practices for county facilities

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    - f. Objv: Locate new public county facilities where accessible to transit services

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    - g. Objv: Encourage all Dane County communities to examine the public service costs of developments and promote those developments that have a desirable impact on existing local and regional facilities

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    - h. Objv: Sustain and implement further coordination and cooperation between agencies and disciplines.
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**I. "Other" Community Facilities - Badger Prairie Health Care Center**

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**Goals & Objectives**

- a. Objy: Support recommendations of the Facility Planning Task Force for the Badger Prairie Health Care Center (2003).
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**Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Implement recommendations of the Facility Planning Task Force for the Badger Prairie Health Care Center (2003)
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- 2 Provide enough capacity and service to cover projected need.
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- 3 Ensure that transit service is given great weight in site assessment.
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**II. Energy & Transmission**

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**Goals & Objectives**

- 1) Goal: Promote the adequate provision of affordable, efficient, reliable and environmentally sound energy to meet the current and future energy needs of Dane County residents and businesses
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- 2) Goal: Promote the adequate provision of affordable, efficient, reliable, environmentally sound, and aesthetically unobtrusive telecommunications facilities to meet the current and future needs of Dane County residents and businesses.
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- a. Objy: Encourage adoption of green energy policies.
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- b. Objy: Explore the establishment of a public utility company for electric power / transmission and telecommunications.
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- c. Objy: Establish working relationships with private sector electrical power generation and transmission utility companies and other local units of government to monitor energy generation and transmission issues, and study/promote new technologies
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- d. Objy: Incorporate energy conservation methods and renewable energy alternatives as part of a strategy to meet Dane County's future energy needs
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- e. Objy: Develop ways to reduce dependency on energy sources outside Dane County while also promoting sound conservation practices
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- f. Objy: Reduce pollution from coal and other polluting energy sources
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## **Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Develop and promote appropriate applications of renewable energy and support utilization of on-site distributed energy generation (e.g., solar, wind, geo-thermal, biomass, solid waste)
- 2 Sponsor educational programs on energy conservation.  
Develop procedures and standards to ensure that any future siting decisions for energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities will be evaluated to ensure consistency with community and regional development objectives, and the overall protection of public health, safety and the environment.
- 3
- 4 Develop guidelines and codes for energy efficient site planning and building methods that promote and take advantage of conservation opportunities.
- 5 Support programs to increase energy efficiency and reduce life-cycle costs of public and institutional construction projects.
- 6 Recognize that energy generation, including alternate forms of energy, is an important economic development activity.
- 7 Recommend that the siting of "merchant" plants be re-regulated.
- 8 Require multiple, redundant transmission lines to bring power into the county (to serve as back-up)
- 9 Require additional power generation facilities to be sited close to demand to reduce transmission lines and excess energy loss.
- 10 Encourage incentives for conservation such as tax credits for commercial use during non-peak hours.

## **III. Telecommunications**

***copy the appropriate G&Os from above.***

### **Goals & Objectives (see 'overall')**

### **Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Encourage Dane County communities to adopt enforceable guidelines for siting and removing telecommunications facilities.
- 2 Strengthen consideration of aesthetics in the building of towers (e.g., education, design competition, exhibits).
- 3 Maximize coordination of telecom facility needs with existing structures, buildings, water towers, etc.

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4 Adopt ordinance requiring feasibility study of alternatives before allowing new tower construction.

5 Because Internet communication has become necessary in the conduct of commerce and provision of services in the county, promote countywide WiFi (wireless Internet).

6 Encourage exploration of municipally-owned telecommunication facilities to furnish wireless service to all areas of the county

**IV. Cemeteries**

**Goals & Objectives**

1) Goal: Determine and accommodate future cemetery growth

2) Goal: Preserve and maintain existing cemeteries

a. Objv: Encourage local governmental units to include future cemetery growth in comprehensive plans and subsequent updates.

**Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

1 Ensure that existing cemeteries, public and private, are protected from development including transportation corridors.

2 Research projected internments to plan for future needs

3 Continue to maintain cemetery at Badger Prairie and plan for projected need at new facility

**V. Parks/Recreation Facilities (defer to ANCR)**

**VI. Childcare Facilities**

**Goals & Objectives**

1) Goal: Encourage availability and access to quality childcare services in Dane County

a. Objv: Develop local community linkages related to childcare to create an available information clearinghouse for broad dissemination

b. Objv: Explore the potential economic impacts of 4-year old kindergarten programs on other childcare facilities and onsite employer provision of childcare

c. Objv: Study child demographics and project future childcare needs

d. Objv: Make information on childcare providers available through county website

e. Objv: Develop a childcare provider informational phone line

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## **Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Provide incentives for employers to provide on-site childcare.
- 2 Develop program similar to the state in which a sponsored center offers a preference and discount to county employees.
- 3 Improve availability of information about childcare including development of a page on the county website and a childcare provider informational phone line.
- 4 Encourage communities to scrutinize location and site design of new facilities where children can be dropped off and picked up safely from childcare.

## **VII. Healthcare Facilities**

### **Goals & Objectives**

- 1) **Goal:** Make available and accessible high quality health care facilities and services in Dane County
  - a. **Objv:** Support the unification / consolidation of municipal and county public health functions and administration
  - b. **Objv:** Communicate and coordinate with health care facilities and providers to anticipate and address future needs.

### **Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Encourage health care providers to consider locating near multiple modes of transportation when making siting decisions.
- 2 Continue county-funded special transit programs that provide transportation to and from health care facilities.

## **VIII. Public Water Supply**

### **Goals & Objectives**

- 1) **Goal:** Protect, improve, and preserve the quality and quantity of water resources. Water resources include, but are not limited to, lakes, rivers, wetlands, watersheds and groundwater
  - a. **Objv:** Ensure that public water provide capacity in public utility systems that is sized to accommodate anticipated population growth
  - b. **Objv:** Locate and design of urban development in order to minimize potential adverse impacts on the quality of ground and surface waters
  - c. **Objv:** Explore innovative methods of improving water quality and waste disposal by coordinating land use patterns with applications of new technology
  - d. **Objv:** Include evaluation of potential groundwater and hydrological impacts when making land use and siting decisions in Dane County.
  - e. **Objv:** Recommend groundwater protection strategies to improve existing management and prevent groundwater pollution
  - f. **Objv:** Promote the cooperative planning for future water needs among neighboring municipalities, including consideration of regional municipal wells.

### **Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

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1 Continue to implement the policies and recommendations of the Dane County Water Quality Plan and the Dane County Groundwater Protection Plan (continued water quality monitoring; non-point source pollution mitigation; Priority Watershed Projects, etc.).

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2 Work cooperatively with Dane County communities to maintain water quality planning function at the county level, including review and oversight of Urban Service Area extensions, *[ensure they are related to the comprehensive plan decisions and 5-year phasing maps]*, and protection of environmental corridors.

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3 Support the continuation of Phase II (management program) of the recently completed water body classification study to guide protection, restoration, and mitigation efforts on Dane County water bodies.

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4 Support through incentives, and where established, regulations, the continued implementation of agricultural conservation practices (e.g., contour farming, grassed buffer strips, etc.).

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5 Convene a summit of local elected officials and staff to analyze future water needs throughout Dane County and determine possible areas for cooperative planning of future water supply infrastructure, conservation and mitigation efforts, etc.

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6 Maintain a county office that has an adequate level of funding and number of staff to oversee erosion control & stormwater management compliance issues in an expeditious manner.

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7 Require all county facilities to install rain gardens and other runoff containment and infiltration systems/methods.

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**IX. Sanitary Sewer and Private Wastewater Facilities**

**Goals & Objectives**

- 1) **Goal:** Plan for efficient use of sanitary sewer service facilities and infrastructure
  - a. **Objv:** Prevent and control pollution of surface and subsurface waters by regulating the location, construction, installation, alteration, design, and use of private sewage systems
  - b. **Objv:** Wastewater facilities planning and improvements should be conducted in the context of comprehensive areawide and watershed plans for pollution control and resource protection
  - c. **Objv:** Review proposed expansion of sanitary sewer service in the context of local plans, projected population growth and demand, and water quality considerations
  - d. **Objv:** Support the continued monitoring and inspection of privately owned onsite wastewater treatment systems by Dane County Environmental Health
  - e. **Objv:** Limit public sewer service to those areas designated as urban service or limited service areas
  - f. **Objv:** Explore possibilities of urban / subdivision growth using onsite wastewater treatment in conjunction with municipal water use and fire
  - g. **Objv:** Investigate processes to infiltrate effluent water back into the aquifer to maintain or increase water level

**Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Ensure long-term viability of onsite sewerage disposal systems through continued support of the Dane County private sewerage system ordinance.
  - 2 Sponsor cooperative effort for municipalities and agencies to work closely with one another to jointly plan the extension of infrastructure, including onsite sewerage disposal systems, and possible decentralized sewer systems (small community collection and treatment systems) so that such services complement, rather than conflict with one another.
  - 3 Promote use and development of new technologies for private septic systems.
  - 4 Look at county policy to allow limited services if necessary to existing subdivisions. Promote sharing of limited service areas between towns & municipalities if they mutually agree.
  - 5 Encourage the use of recycled waste water (a.k.a. "gray water") for nonpotable water uses including but not limited to landscaping, refiltration beds, etc..
  - 6 Limit growth in areas if water recharge cannot keep up with water use.
  - 7 Promote recharge of groundwater.

**n.a. Stormwater Management (deferred to ANCR)**

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**X. Solid Waste & Recycling**

**Goals & Objectives**

- 1) Goal: Promote solid waste reduction, resource recovery, recycling and conservation efforts in Dane County
- a. Objv: Identify and assess new opportunities for developing resource recovery systems as part of county or municipal solid waste management programs
- b. Objv: Develop strategies and other appropriate technical guidelines necessary to implement a more comprehensive county/local solid waste management program
- c. Objv: Promote composting and paper recycling, and explore other uses for biodegradable waste
- d. Objv: Investigate recycling methane gas at landfills and dumps and installing electrical generators at waste facilities

**Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Continue to support the County Solid Waste Management Plan processes and recommendations including regular updates to the plan.
- 2 Through the County Solid Waste Management Plan process or as a separate process, seek municipal interest in regionalizing recycling facilities and/or drop-off sites in more populated areas.
- 3 Utilize sustainable practices (those that will lengthen the life of the landfill) including bioreactor and other technologies.
- 4 Study potential siting issues with respect to integrated solid waste management facilities.
- 5 Explore new methods of recycling especially for electronics, etc.
- 6 Partner with the City of Madison to expand the Computer Recycling Round-up.

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**XI. Libraries & Schools**

**Goals & Objectives**

1) Goal: Recognize and promote the social, educational and economic benefits provided by libraries.

2) Goal: Recognize and promote the important role schools play in developing an educated, productive citizenry.

a. Objy: Recognize and support the planning processes of the Dane County Library Board including the 2004 update to *The Plan for Library Service* .

b. Objy: Recognize and support annual planning efforts of the South Central Library System (SCLS)

c. Objy: Encourage the timely expansion and improvement of public schools.

**Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

1 Encourage efficient and cost-effective provision of infrastructure, utilities and services to proposed new school sites.

2 Encourage communities and school districts to locate new schools near other community facilities.

3 Encourage local communities and school districts to locate new schools near mass transit corridors/routes

4 Encourage communities and school districts to implement "safe routes to school" program(s) to improve ability of students to walk and bicycle safely to schools.

5 Encourage local school districts to build/rebuild in existing neighborhoods to accommodate existing infrastructure (transportation, etc.)

6 Encourage communities to inform school districts of planned development areas as well as pending development proposals.

7 Promote energy efficient/green school facilities including retrofitted facilities.

8 Encourage communities to adopt ordinances to require land for schools be set aside for development of a given size or when a critical number of home sites are approved.

9 Continue to support the Dane County Library Service

10 Support implementation of the recommendations of the Dane County Library Board, including current and future updates to *The Plan for Library Service*

11 Support implementation of Dane County-related aspects and initiatives recommended by South Central Library System planning efforts.

12 Explore the merger/consolidation of the Dane County Library Service with the South Central Library System or member library.

13 Encourage municipalities to establish and support their own public libraries

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**XII. Police, Fire and Rescue**

**Goals & Objectives**

- 1) Goal: Ensure availability of access to quality, affordable, efficient community services such as police and fire protection and rescue, to maintain the health, safety and well being of all in Dane County
- a. Objv: Recognize and support strategic planning processes of the Dane County Sheriff's office.

**Policies, Programs & Recommendations**

- 1 Work with towns in supporting local fire departments through adequate funding, facilities and equipment.
- 2 Encourage less populated municipalities (towns, villages and cities) to explore joint service agreements with neighboring municipalities where consolidating and coordinating services will result in better services and/or cost savings.
- 3 Continue to support cooperative fire service agreements and the operation of volunteer fire departments in some areas of the county.
- 4 Work with towns and state to ensure that the departments have adequate equipment and training.
- 5 Work with towns in addressing specific deficiencies in water supply and/or water storage areas that impact fire protection.
- 6 Provide funding for a study of EMS in Dane County to identify strengths and weaknesses of the current system and methods to maximize the efficient and cost-effective delivery of services over all districts.
- 7 Continue support of the mutual aid pacts.
- 8 Educate rapidly growing communities that they should not depend entirely on volunteer fire service.
- 9 Support ongoing cooperative strategies for county law enforcement
- 10 Study Madison Urban Area with the objective of providing uniform fire, police and rescue service over the whole area.
- 11 Explore creation of service impact fees for new development.