

# Chapter 4 : Utilities and Community Facilities

## Introduction

The county owns and operates 23 facilities around the county and provides a variety of direct services, ranging from the county land fill, recycling and compost facilities, to lake weed harvesting, as well as traditional services such as public safety and emergency services.

As Dane County's population continues to grow over the next 20 years, so too will the demand for community services, facilities, and utilities. From new school referenda to proposals for shared police, fire, and EMS services, Dane County communities constantly search for opportunities to meet growing demand in creative and fiscally responsible ways.

## Purpose

This element of the plan outlines goals, objectives, and policies to ensure that Dane County residents continue to enjoy high quality community services and facilities, including:

- Sanitary sewer service;
- Water supply;
- Solid waste disposal;

- Recycling facilities;
- Onsite wastewater treatment technology;
- Telecommunication facilities;
- Power plants and transmission lines;
- Cemeteries;
- Health care facilities;
- Child care facilities;
- Police, Fire and Rescue;
- Libraries;
- Schools, and;
- Other community facilities.

## Stakeholders

The Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities workgroup (TUCF) developed the recommendations in this chapter, on a consensus basis. Many stakeholders participated in the planning process, including town officials, county government officials, energy providers, environmental groups, telecommunication experts, regional planning advocates, water source and sanitary sewer experts, and service providers.

### Key Issues

**Dane County's high quality public services, schools, infrastructure and community facilities have contributed to the county's quality of life and economic success. What can the county, local governments and partners do to maintain a high level of service under the following conditions?**

- 80-85% of the energy consumed in Dane County comes from a non-local source.
- Transmission infrastructure is aging and frequently overloaded.
- Elderly populations will soon outnumber residents with school-age children, resulting in greater difficulty in maintaining support for schools.
- Volume of library usage has increased 10-20% per year over the last decade.
- Reliance on technology to treat wastewater creates higher level of risk as proper maintenance and operation is critical to systems functioning properly.
- The primary groundwater quality problems are nitrates and bacteria, pesticides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).