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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **MMSD School Board adopts 100% Clean Energy Resolution**

***MMSD is the largest school district in the nation to commit to this goal***

**Madison, WI --** The Madison Metro School District (MMSD) became the first school district in Wisconsin and the largest school district in the nation to adopt a goal of 100% clean energy by 2040. The resolution came out of a robust student- and alumni-led and community-supported campaign.

“I applaud the Board of Education for establishing this resolution and investing in its students to create a more sustainable, equitable, and livable future for youth in Madison. The renewable energy goals outlined in the resolution will go a long way towards generating savings in electricity costs, improving the environmental sustainability of the school district, and creating hands-on learning opportunities in a growing clean energy job market. The future looks bright for Madison schools,” commented **Charles Hua, MMSD alum and 100% Renew Madison member.**

The 100% Renew Madison campaign garnered a lot of support from students, with more than 2,000 of the 2,486 signatures collected coming from students. Many student leaders expressed urgency around climate change and the security of their futures as a driving cause behind the campaign.

“At this point in time, climate change and the need for clean energy is something most, if not all, middle schoolers know about. I think whenever the topic is brought up we all feel either hopeless or vexed by the situation as we feel we have no say in the future of our planet,” **Kadjata Bah, an eighth grade student who organized a petition drive at O’Keeffe Middle School and collected more than 500 petition signatures** reflected. “In bringing this effort to Madison schools, students have the chance to participate in change. We need to be reminded that it starts with us. We need to be told that we can lead. We need to find within ourselves the will to be able to do so, and I think that’s exactly what we did.”

With clean energy becoming increasingly affordable, providing STEM learning experiences for students, and decreasing climate-change-exacerbating emissions, the resolution is an exciting step toward a clean energy future for MMSD and for our community.

**West High Green Club Advisor Patrick Grady** vocalized the urgency of the goal set by this resolution. “Supporting the MMSD 100% Renewable Energy Resolution demonstrates our commitment to the findings of international scientists and publicly declares our collective effort to be, as Gandhi advised, the change we wish to see in the world.”

MMSD’s resolution follows a growing support for 100% clean energy across Dane County, Wisconsin and the nation. In the past few years, the City of Madison, the City of Middleton and the City of Monona have all passed resolutions calling for 100% clean, renewable energy community-wide. The City of Fitchburg has set the same goal for its city operations. However, setting a goal is just the beginning.

**Don Ferber, Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter chair and 100% Renew Madison member** said, “It is so exciting to see growing support for 100% clean, renewable energy. The questions now become ‘how quickly can these goals be implemented and what resources are our school districts, our cities, and our utilities willing to commit toward realizing these goals?’ We need to honor the students who pushed for this resolution by actually building that clean energy.”

Supporting this resolution signals that the Board of Education is committed to preserving a safe and livable future for students, whose lives are threatened by the climate crisis.

“By adopting this resolution, I’m happy to see the MMSD School Board take action to create a livable future for our youth. I hope their next step will be to end their School Resource Officer contract, which we know contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline. By ending that contract, they will show they value all of our students’ lived experiences and can use the much-needed funds to invest in our youth,” said **Heather Driscoll, Safe Schools Coalition member and 100% Renew Madison member.**

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*100% Renew Madison is a coalition of students, parents and community members helping youth in Madison achieve a more sustainable, equitable, and livable future through advocacy of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives across Madison schools. 100% Renew Madison is currently collecting signatures petitioning the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Board of Education to establish a 100% renewable energy resolution for the school district. You can find out more at <https://100renewmadison.org/>.*