

Media Advisory for: THURSDAY, June 6, 2013 ; ***IMMEDIATE RELEASE***
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Dane First Known U.S. County to Support Fossil Fuel Divestment ***Resolution passes unanimously, adds momentum to national movement***

MADISON, WI – The Dane County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Thursday evening in regular session to make Dane the first known U.S. County to officially support institutional divestment from the fossil fuel industry . Public testimony included 6 speaking in favor and none against.

Resolution 43, 13-14, “Dane County Supports Divestment From Fossil Fuel” puts Dane County government on record as concerned about climate change and against continued investment in the fossil fuel industry. It does not result in any county divestment action because Dane has no such direct investments according to a Policy and Fiscal Note prepared by County Treasurer Adam Gallagher.

District 4 Supervisor Kyle Richmond, first of the 25 resolution sponsors, announced plans at the board meeting to present the resolution for consideration as model legislation at July's National Association of Counties conference in Texas

“An incredibly important thing they did was recognize it is wrong to invest in fossil fuels and profit from ruining the planet for human life”, remarked Dick Smith, Coordinator for 350 Madison's public-employee divestment campaign, after the successful vote. “Resolutions for fossil fuel divestment by local governments shows how people can think globally about climate change and act locally to do something about it.”

"We are delighted the county has moved so swiftly after we asked supervisors to consider making this resolution to actually put it to a vote. It sends a powerful message to the fossil fuel industry and the world that Dane County puts the interests of a healthy, stable climate for all of us ahead of the interests of the richest corporations in world history," remarked Stephanie Kimball, 350Madison Coordinator.

“As a student I am delighted that Dane County with its strong history of sustainable initiatives has taken the lead among U.S. counties to stand against big oil and coal. I hope this encourages the UW Foundation to follow suit.” Emilia Burns, Climate Action 350 UW Co-coordinator., noted.

A similar April proposal by Mayor Paul Soglin for the City of Madison in concert with other Mayors Innovation Project cities awaits Council approval. Modeled on the anti-apartheid campaigns of the 1980s, the fossil fuel divestment campaign spearheaded by 350.org and other climate action groups started last fall at colleges and universities. It has now spread to over 300 campuses and over 100 other cities and states across the country.

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****ATTENTION NEWS MEDIA: Reporters are invited to interview Dick Smith, Coordinator for 350 Madison's public-employee divestment campaign, 608-469-2977 (cell), dsmith1568@charter.net; Emilia Burns, Climate Action 350 UW Co-coordinator., 952-215-4899, ekburns@wisc.edu ; and Kyle Richmond, District 4 County Supervisor, 608-251-3171, richmond.kyle@countyofdane.com ** Resolution (page 60) and Agenda (page 1) can be found at <http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/board/JUNE72013cboardpacket.pdf> .**