



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Nov. 6 Climate Crisis Program: WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MATTER**

*League of Women Voters of Dane County Public Issues Forum-Climate Crisis Series*

**Madison, Wisconsin, October 15, 2019** — Over half a million people live within Dane County's assortment of cities, villages, unincorporated communities and Ho-Chunk Nation Trust lands. These local governments provide a wide range of services essential for our collective and individual quality of life. We also depend upon them to prepare our communities for the lasting environmental challenges we face with climate change.

Experts from local governments will come together at 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at the Capitol Lakes Health Center Auditorium in a program to explore solutions and strategies to address climate crisis problems.

Local governments play a crucial role beyond individual actions. Their purview is large-scale and future-oriented. "It does come down to what we are willing to do in our community," says presenter Stacie Reece, sustainability program coordinator for the City of Madison. "I want to move away from the individual action mindset and get more toward a sort of hive mindset to get everyone activated and working together."

Ralph Petersen, Ph.D., UW-Madison Space Science and Engineering Center and former NASA and NOAA scientist, will open the forum with a short overview of the federal government's role in providing climate services.

Sherrie Gruder, sustainable design specialist, energy program manager, at University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Natural Resource Institute, and LEED™ Accredited Professional, Building, Design and Construction, will show how small communities partnering with each other can mobilize and bolster their efforts to make clean energy goals a reality.

*Encouraging informed and active participation in government since 1920.*

Keith Reopelle, director of Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change, will discuss major climate emissions challenges. He will highlight the most impactful and innovative mitigation strategies from the soon-to-be-released Dane County Climate Action Plan.

Reece will discuss the City of Madison's investments to achieve the adopted City goal of 100 percent renewable energy for all city operations by 2030. The goal for the entire Madison community is 2050.

Speakers will also participate in a 'lightning round' panel followed by an open audience discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing us.

The program, entitled *Why Local Governments Matter*, is part of the League of Women Voters of Dane County's 2019-2020 Public Issues Forums— *Climate Crisis Series*. The series aims to raise awareness and private/public action to reduce carbon emissions and build resilient communities through non-partisan leadership.

**The program is free and open to the public and will be live-streamed on our Facebook page. Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) is providing promotional sponsorship to Dane County local governments.**

Location: Capitol Lakes Health Center Auditorium, 333 W. Main Street, Madison.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m.

Free parking is available in space reserved for Capitol Lakes in the ramp across the street. This venue is served by almost all Madison Metro bus routes.

*The League of Women Voters is a non-profit, non-partisan, national organization whose purpose is to promote informed and active participation in government at all levels. Like Government, the League functions on several levels—local, state, regional and national. LWVDC is also a part of the state and national Leagues.*

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