



**City of Racine, Wisconsin**  
**AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM**

**AGENDA DATE:** Finance and Personnel Committee, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Communication sponsored by Alder West, on behalf of the Transit & Mobility Director, requesting permission to apply and if granted accept the Wisconsin Public Service Commission’s Energy Innovation Grant for energy project planning and implementation. Grant Control #00558

**PREPARED BY:** Trevor Jung, Transit & Mobility Director

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Under the administration of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), the State of Wisconsin has offered energy project grants through the Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) since 2018. Each year, this grant program serves to encourage energy efficiency activities that align with State goals to reduce energy usage and associated environmental burdens.

In 2018, the City of Racine applied for a PSC Energy Innovation Grant for Energy Planning and was awarded \$78,000. This grant was used for comprehensive energy assessment and planning of city-wide buildings, street lighting, and fleet.

In November 2023, the PSC announced another round of funding for its EIGP. Funding is divided into three (3) different “Activities” or categories, of which applicants may apply for one, some, or all of the Activities:

- Activity 1: Renewable Energy & Energy Storage
- Activity 2: Energy Efficiency & Demand Response
- Activity 3: Comprehensive Energy Planning & Feasibility Studies for Microgrids

As part of an existing professional services agreement with McKinstry Essention, LLC (McKinstry) for Sustainability Services, the City wishes to proceed in application for the PSC EIGP for the 2023-2024 funding cycle under both Activities 2 & 3.

Grant application for Activity 2 would request \$300,000 for the design and construction of five (5) dual-port Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the City’s pit lot located at 730 Washington Ave, Racine, Wisconsin. If awarded, this grant would cover 100% of the costs to complete this project with a soft local match of \$50,000 through an existing EV fleet lease agreement.

Grant application for Activity 3 would request \$50,000, with no local match, (prescribed amount by EIGP for a single entity application under Activity 3, no more/less) to initiate Investment Grade Audits (IGA) at the Library and Memorial Hall. This audit would evaluate existing HVAC systems for infrastructure replacement and geothermal integration as well as feasibility for ground-mount solar at these locations. Grants to be awarded in late spring of 2024.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** Grant amount of \$350,000 with soft match of \$50,000 through existing EV fleet lease agreement.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That staff be granted permission to apply and if awarded the Mayor and City Clerk accept the Wisconsin Public Service Commission’s Energy Innovation Grant for energy project planning and implementation. Grant Control #00558