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Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

News Release Stoughton Utilities

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Contact: Jill Weiss, Utilities Director

Stoughton Utilities Recognized as 2023 Climate Champion

Stoughton Utilities was recently recognized as a 2023 Climate Champion in the Catalyst category for their Choose Renewable program, which allows customers to offset part or all of their energy usage with renewable energy.

County Executive Joe Parisi joined the Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC) to recognize local entities leading on climate action through Dane County's Climate Champions program. A part of Dane County's Climate Action Plan is to recognize local entities that are making significant efforts to address climate change. It is the collective effort of groups like these that make Dane County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% county-wide by 2030 and being carbon-neutral by 2050 within reach.

This year, a total of 43 Climate Champions awards will be presented across 38 entities. The Office of Energy & Climate Change recognizes achievements across ten categories, including:

- Building Energy Use -for entities with very energy-efficient buildings
- Building Design -for facilities still being planned or built that are projected to be very energy efficient
- Fleet Operations -for entities with a fleet powered by clean fuels
- Employee Commuting -for entities whose workforce commutes via bike, foot, transit, or telecommuting
- Water Saving Practices -for entities that have implemented practices to reduce water consumption
- Waste Diversion Practices -for entities that have strong waste diversion practices

- Sustainable Land Use Practices -for farms and land with strong sustainability practices
- Catalysts -for entities that help others take climate actions
- GHG Emissions -for entities that have reduced their carbon footprint
- Other -for entities that have taken actions that don't fit into other categories

Entities that achieve Climate Champion status receive signage and recognition on the OECC website. "This year's variety of Climate Champion organizations demonstrates that the pace of change is accelerating across all sectors," said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. "Like Dane County itself, these organizations are leading by example. These Champions are an inspiration to their customers, their employees, and their peer organizations. This is how we spur climate action at scale."

"The Climate Champions program is an important way for us to recognize how organizations across the county are accelerating climate action. Each of these Champions is helping us achieve our countywide climate action goals." Parisi added.

To learn more about the 2023 Climate Champions, visit the <u>Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change website</u> and the related Climate Champions map.

Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area, and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi established the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change in 2017 to further the county's efforts to address climate change. As a division within the County Executive's Office, the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change works with local governments, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders to identify innovative ways to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with the County's 2020 Climate Action Plan.