2017–18 WISCONSIN STATUTES & ANNOTATIONS
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Statutory changes effective after August 19, 2019, are designated by NOTES.

CHAPTER 1
SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION OF THE STATE

1.01 State sovereignty and jurisdiction. The sovereignty and jurisdiction of this state extend to all places within the boundaries declared in article II of the constitution, subject only to such rights of jurisdiction as have been or shall be acquired by the United States over any places therein; and the governor, and all subordinate officers of the state, shall maintain and defend its sovereignty and jurisdiction. Such sovereignty and jurisdiction are asserted and exercised over the St. Croix River from the eastern shore thereof to the center or thread of the same, and the exclusive jurisdiction of the state of Minnesota to authorize any person to obstruct the navigation of said river east of the center or thread thereof for the purpose of sorting or holding logs, is denied; such acts can only be authorized by the concurrent consent of the legislature of this state.

Cross-reference: See also Article IX. As to sky sovereignty, see s. 114.02.
History: 1983 a. 538.

1.015 Territorial and state waters. The state owns all territory and waters below the high water mark of the lake or stream in the state. See s. 91.01 and 91.06.
History: 1983 a. 538.

1.02 United States sites and buildings. Subject to the conditions mentioned in s. 1.03, the legislature consents to the acquisitions hereforeof and hereafter to be effected by the United States, by gift, purchase or condemnation proceedings, of the title to places or tracts of land within the state; and, subject to said conditions, the state grants, cedes and conveys to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over all such places and tracts. Such acquisitions are limited to the following purposes:

1. To sites for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, custom houses, courthouses, post offices, or other public buildings or for any purpose whatsoever contemplated by the 17th clause of section 8 of article one of the United States constitution.

2. To all land now or hereafter included within the boundaries of Fort McCoy in townships 17, 18 and 19 north, ranges 2 and 3 west, near Sparta, in Monroe County, to be used for military purposes as a target and maneuvering range and such other purposes as the department of the army deems necessary and proper.

3. To erect thereon dams, abutments, locks, lockkeepers’ dwellings, chutes, or other structures necessary or desirable in improving the navigation of the rivers or other waters within and on the borders of this state.

4. To the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 6, township 19 north, range 7 east, of the fourth principal meridian to be used for military purposes as a target and maneuvering range and such other purposes as the department of the army deems necessary and proper.

5. To the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 6, township 19 north, range 7 east, of the fourth principal meridian, consisting of 640 acres, and upon the execution of said lease the state grants, cedes and conveys to the United States exclusive legislative jurisdiction over said place and tract, retaining concurrent jurisdiction solely to the extent that all legal process issued under the authority of the state may be served upon persons located on said place and tract. The authority granted in this section shall remain in effect for the duration of said lease and continue in effect in the event title passes to the United States at the termination of the lease.

History: 1985 a. 135.

1.025 United States jurisdiction in Adams County. The legislature consents to the conveyance by lease with option to purchase to the United States of the institution and the land on which it is located in the town of New Chester, Adams County, described as follows: The entire section 15, township 16 north, range 7 east, of the fourth principal meridian, consisting of 640 acres, and upon the execution of said lease the state grants, cedes and conveys to the United States exclusive legislative jurisdiction over said place and tract, retaining concurrent jurisdiction solely to the extent that all legal process issued under the authority of the state may be served upon persons located on said place and tract. The authority granted in this section shall remain in effect for the duration of said lease and continue in effect in the event title passes to the United States at the termination of the lease.

History: 1973 c. 90; 1977 c. 418.
1.026 Apostle Islands land purchase. (1) LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND INTENT. (a) The legislature concurs with the stated purpose of Congress in authorizing the establishment of the Apostle Islands national lakeshore. It is therefor the purpose of this section to conserve and develop for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreational use, and enjoyment of the public certain significant islands and shorelands of this state and their related geographic, scenic and scientific values.

(b) It is the policy of the legislature that the Apostle Islands be managed in a manner that will preserve their unique primitive and wilderness character. The department of natural resources is directed before taking any action or making a decision concerning the Apostle Islands to make a finding that such an action or decision will ensure that the citizens of this state will be assured the opportunity for wilderness, inspirational primitive and scenic experiences in the Apostle Islands into perpetuity.

(2) JURISDICTION CEDED TO THE UNITED STATES. The consent of the state is given to the acquisition by the United States, in any manner authorized under an act of Congress, of lands lying within the boundaries of Apostle Islands national lakeshore, and jurisdiction is hereby ceded to the United States to all territory which is now or may be included within the lakeshore, except that the state shall retain concurrent jurisdiction in all cases, and such criminal process as may issue under the authority of the state against any persons charged with the commission of any offense within or without such areas, including, but not limited to, state laws and regulations governing fishing, hunting and trapping on those areas open to such activities, may be executed thereon in like manner as if such jurisdiction had not been ceded to the United States.

(3) LANDS TO BE CONVEYED. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the department of natural resources, with the approval of the governor, is directed to donate and convey, upon request of the United States for purposes of the development of the lakeshore, all state-owned lands within the lakeshore boundary, as hereafter described: The state-owned lands on Basswood, Oak, Michigan and Stockton Islands in township 50 north, range 3 west; township 51 north, range 1 west; township 51 north, range 3 west, township 52 north, range 3 west, all in the town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin. Each conveyance shall contain a provision that such lands shall revert to the state when they are no longer used for national lakeshore purposes as defined by section 7 of the Apostle Islands national lakeshore act of 1970 (P.L. 91—424; 84 stat. 880), except that such reversion does not apply to lands upon which capital improvements have been placed by the United States.

History: 1975 c. 51; 1975 c. 198 s. 62; 1979 c. 89.

1.03 Concurrent jurisdiction over United States sites; conveyances. The conditions mentioned in s. 1.02 are the following conditions precedent:

(1) That an application setting forth an exact description of the place or tract so acquired shall be made by an authorized officer of the United States to the governor, accompanied by a plat thereof, and by proof that all conveyances and a copy of the record of all judicial proceedings necessary to the acquisition of an unencumbered title by the United States have been recorded in the office of the register of deeds of each county in which such place or tract may be situated in whole or in part.

(2) That the ceded jurisdiction shall not vest in the United States until they shall have complied with all the requirements on their part of ss. 1.02 and 1.03, and shall continue so long only as the place or tract shall remain the property of the United States.

(3) That the state shall forever retain concurrent jurisdiction over every such place or tract to the extent that all legal and military process issued under the authority of the state may be served anywhere thereon, or in any building situated in whole or in part thereon.

1.031 Retrocession of jurisdiction. The governor may accept on behalf of the state, retrocession of full or partial jurisdiction over any roads, highways or other lands in federal enclaves within the state where such retrocession has been offered by appropriate federal authority. Documents concerning such action shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county wherein such lands are located.


1.035 Wildlife and fish refuge by United States. (1) The state of Wisconsin consents that the government of the United States may acquire in this state, in any manner, such areas of land, or of land and water, as the United States deems necessary for the establishment of the “Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge,” in accordance with the act of congress approved June 7, 1924; provided, that the states of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota grant a like consent, and all rights respectively reserved by said states, in addition to the reservation herein made, are hereby reserved to this state; and provided, further, that any acquisition by the government of the United States of land, or of land and water, shall first be approved by the governor, on the advice of the department of natural resources.

(2) The consent hereby given is upon the condition that the United States shall not, by an act of congress or by regulation of any department, prevent the state and its agents from going upon the navigable waters within or adjoining any area of land, or land and water, so acquired by the United States, for the purpose of rescuing or obtaining fish therefrom; and the state shall have the right to construct and operate fish hatcheries and fish rescue stations adjacent to the areas so acquired by the United States; and the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and the carrying places between the same, and the navigable lakes, sloughs and ponds within or adjoining such areas, shall remain common highways for navigation and portaging, and the use thereof, as well to the inhabitants of this state as to the citizens of the United States, shall not be denied.

(3) The legal title to and the custody and protection of the fish in the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi River and in the navigable lakes, sloughs and ponds within or adjoining such areas in this state, is vested in the state, for the purpose of regulating the enjoyment, use, disposition and conservation thereof.

(4) The state retains jurisdiction in and over such areas so far that civil process in all cases, and such criminal process as may issue under the authority of the state against any persons charged with the commission of any offense within or without such areas, may be executed thereon in like manner as if this consent had not been given.

Subject to the conditions specified in s. 1.02, the United States commissioner of fisheries may establish fish hatcheries within Wisconsin and may take fish or fish eggs from the waters of this state for propagation in such hatcheries. The United States commissioner of fisheries and authorized agents may conduct fish culture operations, rescue work, and all fishing and other operations necessary therefor in connection with such hatcheries in such manner and at such times as is considered necessary and proper by the commissioner and agents.

History: 1989 a. 56.

1.036 Bird reservations, acquisition by United States. Consent of this state is given to the acquisition by the United States by purchase, gift, devise, or lease of such areas of land or water, or of land and water, in Wisconsin, by and with the consent of the governor of the state, as the United States deems necessary for the establishment of migratory bird reservations in accordance with the act of congress approved February 18, 1929, entitled “An Act to more effectively meet the obligations of the United States under the migratory bird treaty with Great Britain by lessening the dangers threatening migratory game birds from drainage and other causes by the acquisition of areas of land and of water to furnish in perpetuity reservations for the adequate protection of such birds; and authorizing appropriations for the establishment of such areas, their maintenance and improvement and for other pur-
poses,” reserving, however, to this state full and complete jurisdiction and authority over all such areas not incompatible with the administration, maintenance, protection, and control thereof by the United States under the terms of said act of congress.

1.04 United States sites exempt from taxation. Upon full compliance by the United States with ss. 1.02 and 1.03, relating to the acquisition of any place or tract within the state the governor shall execute in duplicate, under the great seal, a certificate of such consent given and of such compliance with ss. 1.02 and 1.03, one of which shall be delivered to such officer of the United States and the other filed with the secretary of state. Such certificate shall be sufficient evidence of such consent of the legislature and of such compliance with the conditions specified. All such places and tracts after such acquisition and while owned by the United States, shall be and remain exempt from all taxation and assessment by authority of the state.

History: 1981 c. 314 s. 146.

1.05 United States sites for aids to navigation. Whenever the United States shall desire to acquire title to any land belonging to the state and covered by the navigable waters of the United States, for sites for lighthouses, beacons, or other aids to navigation, the governor may, upon application therefore by any authorized officer of the United States, setting forth an exact description of the place desired, and accompanied by a plat thereof, grant and convey to the United States, by a deed executed by the governor in the name of the state and under the great seal, all the title of the state thereto; and such conveyance shall be evidence of the consent of the legislature to such purchase upon the conditions specified in s. 1.03.

History: 1989 c. 56.

1.055 National forest. (1) Consent of this state is given to the acquisition by the United States by purchase, gift, lease or condemnation, with adequate compensation therefor, of such areas of land not exceeding 2,000,000 acres as the United States deems necessary for the establishment of national forests in the state, in accordance with the act of congress approved June 7, 1924, and the board of commissioners of public lands are authorized to sell and convey for a fair consideration to the United States any state lands included within such areas; provided, that this state shall retain concurrent jurisdiction with the United States in and over such areas so far that civil process, in all cases, and such criminal process as may issue under the authority of this state against any persons charged with the commission of any crime within or without said areas, may be executed thereon in like manner as if this consent had not been given. Provided, further, that the boundaries of any areas so selected shall be first approved by the governor, the board of commissioners of public lands, the department of natural resources, and the county board of each county in which any such area is located.

(2) Power is conferred upon the congress of the United States to pass such laws and to make or provide for the making of such rules and regulations, of both a civil and criminal nature and provide punishment therefor, as in its judgment may be necessary for the administration, control and protection of such lands as may be acquired by the United States under sub. (1).

1.056 State conservation areas. Consent of this state is given to the United States to acquire by purchase, gift, lease or condemnation, with adequate compensation therefor, areas of land and water within boundaries approved by the governor and the county board of the county in which the land is located, for the establishment of state forests, state parks or other state conservation areas to be administered by the state under long-term leases, treaties or cooperative agreements, which the department of natural resources is hereby authorized to enter into on behalf of the state with the federal government.

1.06 Surveys by United States; adjustment of damages. Any person charged under the laws of the United States with the execution of a survey or any part thereof, may enter upon any lands in this state for the purpose of doing any act necessary to the performance of the survey. The person may erect on the lands any signals, temporary observatories or other small frame structures, establish permanent marks of stations, and encamp on the land. The person is liable for all actual damages done thereby. If the amount of the damages cannot be agreed upon by the person, or any representative of the federal government, and the owner or occupant of the lands entered upon, either of them may petition the circuit court for the county in which the lands, or any part of them, are situated for the appointment of a day for the hearing of the parties and their witnesses and the assessment of the damages. The hearing shall be held at the earliest practicable time after 14 days' notice of the time and place is given to all the parties interested in the manner the court orders. The damages may be assessed by the court with or without a view of the premises. If the damages assessed do not exceed the sum tendered the occupant or owner of the land, the person who made the tender shall recover costs; if they are in excess of that sum, the other party shall recover costs, which shall be allowed and taxed in accordance with the rules of the court.

History: 1997 c. 449.

1.07 State coat of arms. The coat of arms of the state of Wisconsin is declared to be as follows:

**ARMS.**—Or, quartered, the quarters bearing respectively a plow, a crossed shovel and pick, an arm and held hammer, and an anchor, all proper; the base of shield resting upon a horn of plenty and pyramid of pig lead, all proper; over all, on fesse point, the arms and motto of the United States, namely: Arms, palewise of 13 pieces argent and gules; a chief azure; motto (on garter surrounding inescutcheon), “E pluribus unum”.

**CREST.**—A badger, passant, proper.

**SUPPORTERS.**—Dexter, a sailor holding a coil of rope, proper; sinister, a yeoman resting on a pick, proper.

**MOTTO.**—Over crest, “Forward”.

History: 1975 c. 61.

NOTE: An example of the state coat of arms is shown below:

![Wisconsin State Coat of Arms](image)

1.08 State flag. (1) The Wisconsin state flag consists of the following features:

(a) Relative dimensions of 2 to 3, hoist to fly.

(b) A background of royal blue cloth.

(c) The state coat of arms, as described under s. 1.07, in material of appropriate colors, applied on each side in the center of the field, of such size that, if placed in a circle whose diameter is equal...
to 50 percent of the hoist, those portions farthest from the center of
the field would meet, but not cross, the boundary of the circle.
(d) The word “WISCONSIN” in white, capital, condensed
Gothic letters, one-eighth of the hoist in height, centered above
the coat of arms, midway between the uppermost part of the coat
of arms and the top edge of the flag.
(e) The year “1848” in white, condensed Gothic numbers,
one-eighth of the hoist in height, centered below the coat of arms,
midway between the lowermost part of the coat of arms and the
bottom edge of the flag.
(f) Optional trim on the edges consisting of yellow knotted
fringe.
(2) The department of administration shall ensure that all offi-
cial state flags that are manufactured before May 1, 1981 may
continue to be used as state flags.
History: 1979 c. 286.
1.09 Seat of government. Be it enacted by the council and
house of representatives of the territory of Wisconsin, that the seat
of government of the territory of Wisconsin, be and the same is
located and established at the town of Madison, between the 3rd
and 4th of the 4 lakes, on the corner of sections 13, 14, 23 and 24
in township 7, north, of range 9, east.
1.10 State song, state ballad, state waltz, state dance,
and state symbols. (1) The Wisconsin state song is “On, Wis-
cconsin”, music written by W. T. Purdy, the words to which are as
follows: “On, Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! Grand old badger state!
Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! Champion of the right, ‘Forward’, our
motto — God will give thee might!”.
(1m) The Wisconsin state ballad is “Oh Wisconsin, Land of
My Dreams,” music written by Shari A. Sarazin and lyrics written
by Erna Barnett, the words to which are as follows: “Oh Wisconsin,
land of beauty, with your hillsides and your plains, with your
jackpine and your birch tree, and your oak of mighty frame. Land
of rivers, lakes and valleys, land of warmth and winter snows, land
of birds and beasts and humanity, oh Wisconsin, I love you so, Oh
Wisconsin, land of my dreams. Oh Wisconsin, you’re all I’ll ever
need. A little heaven here on earth could you be? Oh Wisconsin,
land of my dreams. In the summer, golden grain fields; in the win-
ter, drift of white snow; in the springtime, robins singing; in the
autumn, flaming colors show. Oh I wonder who could wander, or
who could want to drift for long, away from all your beauty, all
your sunshine, all your sweet song? Oh Wisconsin, land of my
dreams. Oh Wisconsin, you’re all I’ll ever need. A little heaven
here on earth could you be? Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams. And
when it’s time, let my spirit run free in Wisconsin, land of my
dreams.”
(1r) The Wisconsin state waltz is “The Wisconsin Waltz,”
music and lyrics written by Eddie Hansen, the words to which are as
follows: “Music from heaven throughout the years; the beau-
tiful Wisconsin Waltz. Favorite song of the pioneers; the beau-
tiful Wisconsin Waltz. Song of my heart on that last final day, when it
is time to lay me away. One thing I ask is to let them play the beau-
tiful Wisconsin Waltz. My sweetheart, my complete heart, it’s for
you when we dance together; the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz. I
remember that September, before love turned into an ember, we
danced to the Wisconsin Waltz. Summer ended, we intended that
our lives then would both be blended, but somehow our planning
got lost. Memory now sings a dream song, a faded love theme
song; the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz.”
(2) The Wisconsin state dance is the polka.
(3) The Wisconsin state symbols are as follows:
(a) The mourning dove (Zenaidura macroura corolinensis lin-
naeus) is the symbol of peace.
(b) Milk is the state beverage.
(c) The sugar maple (Acer saccharum) is the state tree.
(d) Corn (Zea mays) is the state grain.
(e) The wood violet (Viola papilionacea) is the state flower.
(f) The robin (Turdus migratorius) is the state bird.
(g) The muskellunge (Esox masquinongy masquinongy
Mitchell) is the state fish.
(h) The badger (Taxidea taxus) is the state animal.
(i) The dairy cow (Bos taurus) is the state domestic animal.
(j) The white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) is the state
wildlife animal.
(k) The American water spaniel is the state dog.
(l) The honey bee (Apis mellifera) is the state insect.
(m) The trilobite (Calyemene celebra) is the state fossil.
(n) Galena (lead sulfide) is the state mineral.
(o) Red granite is the state rock.
(p) Antigo silt loam (Typic Glossoboralf) is the state soil.
(r) The cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon) is the state fruit.
(s) The tartan whose thread count is described in this paragraph
is the state tartan. The thread count for the state tartan shall begin
with 44 threads of muted blue, followed by 6 threads of scarlet, 4
threads of muted blue, 6 threads of gray, 28 threads of black, 40
threads of dark green, 4 threads of dark yellow, 40 threads of dark
green, 28 threads of black, 22 threads of muted blue, and 12
threads of dark brown, at which point the weave reverses, going
through 22 threads of muted blue, and continuing the sequence in
reverse order until the weave reaches the beginning point of 44
threads of muted blue, at which point the weave reverses again.
(t) The kingle is the state pastry.
(u) Cheese is the state dairy product.
(v) Ginseng is the state herb.
(4) The Wisconsin Blue Book shall include the information
contained in this section concerning the state song, ballad, waltz,
dance, beverage, tree, grain, flower, bird, fish, animal, domestic
animal, wildlife animal, dog, insect, fossil, mineral, rock, soil,
fruit, tartan, pastry, dairy product, and herb.
321; 2007 a. 217; 2013 a. 20; 2017 a. 8, 86.
1.11 Consideration of environmental impact. The legisla-
ture authorizes and directs that, to the fullest extent possible:
(1) The policies and regulations shall be interpreted and
administered in accordance with the policies set forth in this sec-
tion and chapter 274, laws of 1971, section 1; and
(2) All agencies of the state shall:
(c) Include in every recommendation or report on proposals for
legislation and other major actions significantly affecting the
quality of the human environment, a detailed statement, substan-
tially following the guidelines issued by the United States council
on environmental quality under P.L. 91–190, 42 USC 4331, by the
responsible official on:
1. The environmental impact of the proposed action;
2. Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be
avoided should the proposal be implemented;
3. Alternatives to the proposed action;
4. The relationship between local short-term uses of the
human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of
long-term productivity;
5. Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of
resources that would be involved in the proposed action should it
be implemented;
6. Such statement shall also contain details of the beneficial
aspects of the proposed project, both short term and long term, and
the economic advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.
(d) Prior to making any detailed statement, the responsible
official shall consult with and obtain the comments of any agency
which has jurisdiction or special expertise with respect to any

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SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION 1.12

Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, Inc. v. DNR, 115 Wis. 2d 381, 340 N.W.2d 722 (1983).

Increased traffic congestion was a sufficient allegation of injury to acquire standing to challenge a final environmental impact statement. Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club v. DHSS, 130 Wis. 2d 56, 387 N.W.2d 245 (1986).

When a state action did not come within an action type listed in Department of Administration rules, an environmental assessment was required. A determination followed that an environmental impact statement was not required for a building constructed for the state by a private developer under a lease/purchase agreement. The project was reasonable under the circumstances. Larsen v. Munz Corp., 167 Wis. 2d 583, 482 N.W.2d 332 (1992).

The test as to whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) should be done is one of reasonableness and good faith. When conditions for approval that compensate for any adverse environmental impacts are imposed, the statutory threshold of significant environmental impact is not crossed, and no EIS is required. State ex rel. Boehm v. DNR, 174 Wis. 2d 657, 497 N.W.2d 445 (1993).

Section 227.42 (1) does not grant a right to a contested case hearing regarding the need for an environmental impact statement. North Lake Management District v. DNR, 182 Wis. 2d 500, 513 N.W.2d 703 (Ct. App. 1994).

When the legislature has selected a specific project site, consideration of alternative sites is too remote and speculative and not reasonably related to the proposed project. Shoreline Park Preservation, Inc. v. DOA, 193 Wis. 2d 750, 537 N.W.2d 388 (Ct. App. 1995), 94–2512.

The burden of proving the adequacy of an environmental impact statement is discussed. Citizens’ Utility Board v. PSC, 211 Wis. 2d 537, 565 N.W.2d 554 (Ct. App. 1997), 97–0867.

It was reasonable to suspend the requirement for a draft environmental impact statement and the corresponding comment period when legislatively imposed time constraints could not have been met. Responsible Use of Rural & Agricultural Land v. PSC, 2000 WI 129, 239 Wis. 2d 660, 619 N.W.2d 888, 99–0667.

A court must assess an environmental impact statement (EIS) in light of the rule of reason, which requires an EIS to furnish only such information as appears to be reasonably necessary for the determination of the environmental consequences of the project rather than to be so all-emcompassing in scope that the task of preparing it would become either fruitless or well nigh impossible. While reasonable alternatives are to be considered, every possibility need not be evaluated. Clean Wisconsin, Inc. v. PSC, 2005 WI 93, 282 Wis. 2d 250, 700 N.W.2d 768, 04–3179.

The environmental impact statement is an informational tool that does not compel a particular decision by the agency or prevent the agency from concluding that other values outweigh the environmental consequences of a proposed action. Clean Wisconsin, Inc. v. PSC, 2005 WI 93, 282 Wis. 2d 250, 700 N.W.2d 768, 04–3179.

Agency decision-making under the Wisconsin environmental policy act. 1977 WLR 111.

1.12 State energy policy. (1) Definitions. In this section:

(a) “Local governmental unit” has the meaning given in s. 19.42 (7u).

(b) “State agency” means an office, department, agency, institution of higher education, the legislature, a legislative service agency, the courts, a judicial branch agency, an association, society, or other body in state government that is created or authorized to be created by the constitution or by law, for which appropriations are made by law, excluding the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

(2) CONSERVATION POLICY. A state agency or local governmental unit shall investigate and consider the maximum conservation of energy resources as an important factor when making any major decision that would significantly affect energy usage.

(3) GOALS. (a) Energy efficiency. It is the goal of the state to reduce the ratio of energy consumption to economic activity in the state.

(b) Renewable energy resources. It is the goal of the state that, to the extent that it is cost-effective and technically feasible, all new installed capacity for electric generation in the state be based on renewable energy resources, including hydroelectric, wind, solar, refuse, agricultural and biomass energy resources.

(c) Afforestation. It is the goal of the state to ensure a future supply of wood fuel and reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by increasing the forested areas of the state.

(4) PRIORITIES. In meeting energy demands, the policy of the state is that, to the extent cost-effective and technically feasible, options be considered based on the following priorities, in the order listed:

(a) Energy conservation and efficiency.

(b) Noncombustible renewable energy resources.

(c) Combustible renewable energy resources.

(cm) Advanced nuclear energy using a reactor design or amended reactor design approved after December 31, 2010, by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

2017–18 Wisconsin Statutes updated through 2019 Wis. Act 18 and through all Supreme Court and Controlled Substances Board Orders filed before and in effect on August 19, 2019. Published and certified under s. 35.18. Changes effective after August 19, 2019, are designated by NOTES. (Published 8–19–19)
(d) Nonrenewable combustible energy resources, in the order listed:
1. Natural gas.
2. Oil or coal with a sulphur content of less than 1 percent.
3. All other carbon-based fuels.

(5) MEETING ENERGY DEMANDS. (a) In designing all new and replacement energy projects, a state agency or local governmental unit shall rely to the greatest extent feasible on energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy resources, if the energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy resources are cost-effective and technically feasible and do not have unacceptable environmental impacts.

(b) To the greatest extent cost-effective and technically feasible, a state agency or local governmental unit shall design all new and replacement energy projects following the priorities listed in sub. (4).

(6) SITING OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES. In the siting of new electric transmission facilities, including high-voltage transmission lines, as defined in s. 196.491 (1) (f), it is the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible that is consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, the following corridors should be utilized in the following order of priority:

(a) Existing utility corridors.
(b) Highway and railroad corridors.
(c) Recreational trails, to the extent that the facilities may be constructed below ground and that the facilities do not significantly impact environmentally sensitive areas.
(d) New corridors.


NOTE: 1993 Wis. Act 414, which creates subs. (1) and (3) to (5), contains extensive explanatory notes.

Cross-reference: See also ch. NR 150 and s. PSC 4.30, Wis. adm. code.

When the Public Service Commission (PSC) makes a determination under the plant siting law, s. 196.491, it applies sub. (4) in the context of determining whether to approve the requested plant siting. The question the PSC should ask is: Given the requirements of the plant siting law, what is the highest priority energy option that is also cost-effective and technically feasible? Clean Wisconsin, Inc. v. PSC, 2005 WI 93, 282 Wis. 2d 250, 700 N.W.2d 768, 04−3179.

1.13 Land use planning activities. (1) In this section:

(a) “Local governmental unit” has the meaning given in s. 1.12 (1) (a).

(b) “State agency” has the meaning given in s. 1.12 (1) (b).

(2) Each state agency, where applicable and consistent with other laws, is encouraged to design its programs, policies, infrastructure and investments of the agency to reflect a balance between the mission of the agency and the following local, comprehensive planning goals:

(a) Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.

(b) Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.

(c) Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.

(d) Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.

(e) Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs.

(f) Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.

(g) Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.

(h) Building of community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.

(i) Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for individuals of all income levels throughout each community.

(j) Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and an adequate supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

(k) Promoting the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.

(L) Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.

(m) Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.

(n) Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that affords mobility, convenience and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including transit−dependant and disabled citizens.

(3) Consistently with other laws, each state agency, whenever it administers a law under which a local governmental unit prepares a plan, is encouraged to design its planning requirements in a manner that makes it practical for local governmental units to incorporate these plans into local comprehensive plans prepared under s. 66.1001.


1.14 Display of flag at public buildings, structures, and facilities. (1) In this section:

(a) “Local governmental unit” has the meaning given in s. 16.97 (7).

(b) “State agency” has the meaning given for “agency” under s. 16.70 (1e).

(c) “State authority” has the meaning given for “authority” under s. 16.70 (2).

(2) Each state agency, state authority, and local governmental unit shall ensure that each United States flag that is displayed at each building, structure, or facility that is owned or occupied entirely by the agency, authority, or unit is manufactured in the United States.

History: 2007 a. 166.