

## JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT

relating to

### WISCONSIN PACE COMMISSION

a Joint Powers Commission under Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes

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**THIS AGREEMENT** (“Agreement”), dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 among the parties hereto (all such parties, except those which have withdrawn as provided herein, being referred to as the “Members” and those parties initially executing this Agreement being referred to as the “Initial Members”):

#### WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes (as in effect as of the date hereof and as the same may from time to time be amended or supplemented, the “Joint Powers Law”), two or more municipalities of the State of Wisconsin (the “State”), may by contract create a commission for the joint exercise of any power or duty required or authorized by law; and

**WHEREAS**, each of the Members is a “municipality” as that term is defined in the Joint Powers Law and a political subdivision located in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, each of the Members is empowered by law to promote economic, cultural and community development, including, without limitation, the promotion of opportunities for the creation or retention of employment, the stimulation of economic activity, the increase of the tax base, and the promotion of opportunities for education, cultural improvement and public health, safety and general welfare, which may be accomplished by various means; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 66.0627(8) of the Wisconsin Statutes (as the same may from time to time be amended or supplemented, the “PACE Statute”) authorizes a city, a village, a town (a “Municipality”) or a county (a “County”) in this State to, among other things, make a loan to or otherwise arrange, participate in or facilitate the financing of an energy efficiency improvement, a water efficiency improvement or a renewable resource application to a real property within its jurisdiction and to provide for such financing through the imposition of a special charge against the property benefitted by the energy or water efficiency improvement or renewable resource project; and

**WHEREAS**, such financings are commonly referred to as “Property Assessed Clean Energy” or “PACE” financings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Members have determined that it is in the public interest to provide real property owners, lessees, lenders and other transaction parties (collectively, “Participants”) in their respective jurisdictions with access to a uniformly-administered program for PACE financing; and

**WHEREAS**, each Member has authorized entering into this Agreement by its governing body.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Members, for and in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements herein contained, do agree as follows:

**Section 1.      Creation.** Pursuant to the Joint Powers Law, there is hereby created a commission to be known as the “**Wisconsin PACE Commission**” (the “*Commission*”).

**Section 2.      Purpose.** This Agreement is a contract entered into pursuant to the provisions of the Joint Powers Law. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a joint powers commission for the joint exercise of any power or duty of the Members under applicable law. In particular, the purpose of the Commission is to adopt, implement and administer a uniform program for the qualification for, and approval, granting, administration and collection of, PACE loans (the “*PACE Program*”). Such purposes shall be accomplished in the manner provided in this Agreement.

**Section 3.      Effectiveness; Term.** This Agreement shall become effective and be in full force and effect and a legal, valid and binding agreement of each of the Members on the date that the Board shall have received from at least two of the Initial Members an executed counterpart of this Agreement, together with a certified copy of a resolution of the governing body of each such Initial Member approving this Agreement and the execution and delivery hereof. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until such time as it is terminated by written instrument executed by all of the Members.

**Section 4.      Powers.** The Commission shall have the power, in its own name, to exercise any powers or duties of the Members required or authorized by law and to exercise all additional powers given to a joint powers commission under any law, including, but not limited to, the Joint Powers Law, for any purpose authorized under this Agreement. Such powers shall include the power to make loans or otherwise arrange, participate in or facilitate the financing of energy or water efficiency improvement projects or renewable resource applications as provided in the PACE Statute including, without limitation, the exercise of the power and authority, without further action by the Member, to impose special charges pursuant to the PACE Statute on real property within the Members’ jurisdictions. The Commission is hereby authorized to do all acts necessary or convenient for the exercise of such power and authority, including, but not limited to, any or all of the following: (i) to make and enter into contracts; (ii) to employ agents and employees; (iii) to acquire, construct, provide for maintenance and operation of, or maintain and operate, any buildings, works, improvements, equipment or furnishings; (iv) to acquire, hold or dispose of property wherever located; (v) to incur debts, liabilities or obligations; (vi) to receive gifts, contributions and donations of property, funds, services, and other forms of assistance from persons, firms, corporations or any governmental entity; (vii) to sue and be sued in its own name; (viii) to make grants to governmental and nonprofit organizations to accomplish any of its purposes; (ix) to establish and collect fees; and (x) generally to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish its purposes.

**Section 5. Contractors and Subcontractors.** The Commission may enter into a contract with a third-party contractor for the provision of services related to the PACE Program. Such contractor shall be a nonstock corporation organized under Ch. 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes with its principal place of business located in the State of Wisconsin. The participant fee schedule established by the Board (as defined below) shall make provision for reasonable compensation and payment of the expenses of such contractor as may be set forth in the contract. A contractor may subcontract for any of its services to the extent permitted by the contract. The Board is also authorized to hire counsel or other consultants or advisers as it deems necessary in carrying out his functions.

**Section 6. Members' Obligations.** Each Member by its execution hereof acknowledges and agrees that it shall do all things necessary and appropriate in respect of the collection of special charges (or installments thereof), the certification of special charges on the tax rolls, the remittance of special charges collected as directed by the Commission and otherwise as such Member would perform in connection with special charges imposed by it on real property within its jurisdiction; and further shall cooperate with the Commission in respect of the enforcement of the liens of special charges on such properties.

**Section 7. Governance; Administration**

(a) **Board of Directors.** The Commission shall be governed by a Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board shall oversee all functions of the Commission under this Agreement and, as such, shall be vested with the powers set forth herein, shall administer this Agreement in accordance with the purposes and functions provided herein and shall otherwise exercise all powers set forth in the Joint Powers Law on the Commission's behalf.

(b) **Classes of Directors.** The Board shall be divided into two classes known as the "Representative Director Class" and the "Nominee Director Class" consisting of the number of members (each a "Director") serving for the terms as provided in this Section 7. In this Agreement, the term "Board" shall mean the entire Board (comprising all Representative Directors and Nominee Directors) and the term "Director" shall be used to refer generally to either a Representative Director or a Nominee Director).

(1) ***Representative Directors.*** The number of Representative Directors shall correspond to the number of Members of the Commission from time to time. Each Member of the Commission shall designate, by name or *ex officio*, one public official to serve as its representative on the Board. The term "public official" means an individual who holds a local public office, as that term is defined in Section 19.42(7w) of the Wisconsin Statutes, for the Member of the Commission designating him or her as its Representative Director. Each Representative Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Member designating him or her to such position; *provided*, that a Representative Director shall be deemed to have resigned upon withdrawal from the Commission of the Member designating him or her to such position. A majority of the Directors shall at all times be Representative Directors except that such requirement shall not apply until the Commission has at least four (4) Members.

(2) *Nominee Directors.*

(i) The number of Nominee Directors shall initially be three (3), nominated one each by the Wisconsin Counties Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Green Tier Legacy Communities (the “Supporting Organizations”). Thereafter, so as to insure that at all times Representative Directors comprise a majority of the Board, at such time as the Commission has at least seven (7) Members, the number of Nominee Directors shall be increased to six (6) and at such time as the Commission has at least ten (10) Members, the number of Nominee Directors shall be increased to nine (9), in each case with the additional directors nominated by the Sponsoring Organizations as provided above.

(ii) Nominee Directors may but need not be public officials.

(iii) Each Nominee Director shall serve for an initial term expiring at the first annual Board meeting held after December 31, 2016. The successors to such Nominee Directors shall be selected by majority vote of the entire Board consistent with a nomination process to be established by the Board. Thereafter, Nominee Directors shall serve staggered three (3) year terms expiring at the Annual Board Meeting in every third year or until their respective successors are appointed. Any appointment to fill an unexpired term, however, shall be for the remainder of such unexpired term. The term of office specified herein shall be applicable unless the term of office of a Nominee Director is terminated as hereinafter provided, and provided that the term of any Nominee Director shall not expire until a successor thereto has been appointed as provided herein.

(iv) The number of Nominee Directors may be increased or decreased by resolution adopted by the Board from time to time, *provided*, that any decrease in the number of Nominee Directors shall not decrease the term of any current director at the time of such decrease.

(v) A Nominee Director may be removed and replaced at any time by a majority vote of the Board.

(3) *Executive Committee.* The Board shall by resolution create an Executive Committee which shall be charged with carrying out the supervisory functions of the Board in such manner as the Board so directs. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall be Representative Directors.

(4) *Expenses.* Directors shall be entitled to reimbursement for any actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with serving as a Director, if the Board shall determine that such expenses shall be reimbursed and there are unencumbered funds available for such purpose. The Board may establish a per diem and/or expense reimbursement policy by resolution.

(c) Meetings of the Board.

(1) *Meetings Generally.* All meetings of the Board, including, without limitation, regular, adjourned regular, special, and adjourned special meetings shall be called, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law, Wis. Stat. § 19.81 *et seq.* (the “Open Meetings Law”). To the extent permitted by the Open Meetings Law, Board meetings may be held by telephone conference or other remote access technology as approved by the Board. A director shall be “present” at any regular or special meeting if he or she participates in person or telephone conference or other remote access technology as approved by the Board.

(2) *Proxy Voting.* Directors may not vote by proxy.

(3) *Regular Meetings.* The Board shall from time to time establish a schedule for its regular meetings; *provided, however*, it shall hold at least one regular meeting each year. The date, hour and place of the holding of regular meetings shall be fixed by resolution of the Board.

(4) *Special Meetings.* Special meetings of the Board may be called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Law. The date, hour and place of the holding of special meetings shall be fixed by resolution of the Board

(5) *Minutes.* The Secretary of the Commission shall cause to be kept minutes of the regular, adjourned regular, special, and adjourned special meetings of the Board and shall, as soon as possible after each meeting, cause a copy of the minutes to be forwarded to each Director.

(6) *Quorum and Voting, Generally.* Except as provided in Sub. 6, below: (i) a majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; (ii) Representative Directors and Nominee Directors shall vote as a single class on all matters to come to a vote of the Board; and (iii) no action may be taken by the Board except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present (or, with respect to any matter, such greater number as may be provided by the By-Laws or resolution of the Board), except that less than a quorum may adjourn a meeting to another time and place.

(7) *Special Quorum and Voting Requirements.* With respect to any vote to approve the imposition of a special charge on real property pursuant to the PACE Statute, the following shall apply:

(i) A quorum with respect to such vote shall exist only if (A) a majority of the Directors are present, and (B) a majority of the Directors who are present are Representative Directors.

(ii) No imposition of a special charge on real property shall be approved except upon the affirmative vote of (A) a majority of the Directors present and (B) a majority of the Representative Directors present.

(d) Officers; Duties; Official Bonds. The officers of the Commission shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, such officers to be elected by the Board from among the Directors, each to serve until such officer is re-elected or a successor to such office is elected by the Board. Each officer shall have the following general duties and responsibilities in addition to any further specific duties and responsibilities set forth herein, in the By-Laws or by resolution of the Board.

(1) The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Commission and shall be responsible for the calling of, and shall preside at, meetings of the Board.

(2) The Vice-Chair shall exercise the duties and functions of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

(3) The Secretary shall cause to be kept minutes of the regular, adjourned regular, special, and adjourned special meetings of the Board and shall, as soon as possible after each meeting, cause a copy of the minutes to be forwarded to each Director.

(4) The Treasurer shall be the depository of the Commission to have custody of all money of the Commission, from whatever source derived and shall have the powers, duties and responsibilities specified in by-laws or by resolution, and is designated as the public officer or person who has charge of, handles, or has access to any property of the Commission.

(e) Committees; Officers and Employees. The Board shall have the power to appoint such other committees, officers and employees as it may deem necessary.

(f) Delegation of Authority. The Board shall have the power, by resolution, to the extent permitted by the Joint Powers Law or any other applicable law, to delegate any of its functions to one or more of the Directors or officers, employees, administrators or agents of the Commission (including, without limitation, the contactor and any counsel or consultant hired or appointed pursuant to Section 5) and to cause any of said Directors, officers, employees or agents to take any actions and execute any documents or instruments for and in the name and on behalf of the Board or the Commission.

(g) By-Laws. The Commission may adopt, from time to time, by resolution of the Board such by-laws for the conduct of its meetings and affairs as the Board may determine to be necessary or convenient.

**Section 8. Fiscal Year.** The Commission's fiscal year shall be the period from January 1 to and including the following December 31, except for the first fiscal year which shall be the period from the date of this Agreement to December 31, 2016.

**Section 9. Disposition of Assets.** At the end of the term hereof or upon the earlier termination of this Agreement as set forth in Section 3, after payment of all expenses and liabilities of the Commission and provision for the continuing administration of all PACE financings that have been completed and are outstanding at the time of such termination, all property of the Commission both real and personal shall automatically vest in the Members in the manner and amount determined by the Board in its sole discretion and shall thereafter remain the sole property of the Members; *provided, however*, that any surplus money on hand shall be returned in proportion to any contributions made by the Members and not previously repaid.

**Section 10. Accounts and Reports; Audits.** All funds of the Commission shall be strictly accounted for. The Commission shall establish and maintain such funds and accounts as may be required by good accounting practice. The books and records of the Commission shall be open to inspection at all times by each Member. The Treasurer of the Commission shall cause an annual audit to be made of the books of accounts and financial records of the Commission by a certified public accountant or public accountant. Any costs of the audit, including contracts with, or employment of, certified public accountants or public accountants in making an audit pursuant to this Section 10, shall be borne by the Commission and shall be a charge against any unencumbered funds of the Commission available for that purpose.

**Section 11. Funds.** The Treasurer shall receive, have the custody of and disburse Commission funds pursuant to the accounting procedures developed under Section 10, and shall make the disbursements required by this Agreement or otherwise necessary to carry out any of the provisions of purposes of this Agreement.

**Section 12. Notices.** Notices and other communications hereunder to the Members shall be sufficient if delivered to the clerk of the governing body of each Member.

**Section 13. Additional Members; Withdrawal of Members.**

(a) **Counties.** Any County in this State may be added as a party to this Agreement and become a Member upon: (i) the filing by such County with the Commission an executed counterpart of this Agreement, together with a certified copy of the resolution of the governing body of such County approving this Agreement and the execution and delivery hereof; (ii) adoption by the County of the Model PACE Ordinance in accordance with Section 14(a) hereof and a certified copy of the resolution adopting same; and (iii) adoption of a resolution of the Board approving the addition of such County as a Member. Upon satisfaction of such conditions, the Board shall file such executed counterpart of this Agreement as an amendment hereto, effective upon such filing.

(b) Municipalities. Any Municipality in this State may be added as a party to this Agreement and become a Member upon: (i) the filing by such Municipality with the Commission an executed counterpart of this Agreement, together with a certified copy of the resolution of the governing body of such Municipality approving this Agreement and the execution and delivery hereof; and (ii) adoption of a resolution of the Board approving the addition of such Municipality as a Member. Upon satisfaction of such conditions, the Board shall file such executed counterpart of this Agreement as an amendment hereto, effective upon such filing.

(c) Withdrawal. A Member may withdraw from this Agreement upon written notice to the Board; *provided, however*, that no such withdrawal shall reduce the number of Members to fewer than two (2). Any such withdrawal shall be effective only upon receipt of the notice of withdrawal by the Secretary which shall acknowledge receipt of such notice of withdrawal in writing and shall file such notice as an amendment to this Agreement effective upon such filing. Withdrawal by a Member shall not affect any outstanding PACE loans within such Member's jurisdiction or the Member's obligations, if any, with respect to the certification, collection and remittance of special charges in accordance with the PACE Program, nor shall withdrawal entitle any former Member to impose a tax, fee or charge prohibited to the remaining Members under Section 17.

#### **Section 14. Model PACE Ordinance for County Members.**

(a) As a condition to membership in the Commission, each County Member shall have adopted an ordinance (the "Model PACE Ordinance") in substantially the form, and substantively to the effect, set forth in EXHIBIT A to this Agreement.

(b) As a condition to continued membership in the Commission, a County Member shall not have repealed its Model PACE Ordinance or amended its Model PACE Ordinance unless such amendment has been submitted to and approved by the Board (a "Conforming Amendment") prior to its adoption. The Board shall not unreasonably withhold approval of such an amendment but shall not approve any amendment to a County Member's Model PACE Ordinance that, in the opinion of the Board, would frustrate or unreasonably interfere with the uniform application and administration of the PACE Program. Approvals or non-approvals by the Board shall be final and conclusive.

(c) The repeal of or adoption of an amendment (other than a Conforming Amendment) to a County Member's Model PACE Ordinance shall be deemed to be a voluntary withdrawal by such County Member with the effects set forth in Section 13(c).

**Section 15. Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Board shall cause the Commission to indemnify any person who is or was a Director or an officer, employee of other agent of the Commission, and who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was such a Director or an officer, employee or other agent of the Commission, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in con-



nection with such proceeding, if such person acted in good faith in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the Commission and, in the case of a criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct of such person was unlawful and, in the case of an action by or in the right of the Commission, acted with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. The Board may purchase a policy or policies of insurance in furtherance of any indemnification obligation created.

**Section 16. Contributions and Advances.** Contributions or advances of public funds and of the use of personnel, equipment or property may be made to the Commission by Members for any of the purposes of this Agreement. Payment of public funds may be made to defray the cost of any such contribution or advance. Any such advance may be made subject to repayment, and in such case shall be repaid, in the manner agreed upon by the Commission and the Member making such advance at the time of such advance. It is mutually understood and agreed to that no Member has any obligation to make advances or contributions to the Commission to provide for the costs and expenses of administration of the Commission or otherwise, even though any Member may do so.

**Section 17. Prohibition on Charges.** No Member may impose upon or demand or collect from any Participant any tax, fee, charge or other remuneration as a condition to a Participant's obtaining PACE financing through or with the assistance of the Commission, except that Members may be permitted to do so pursuant to a uniform participant fee schedule established from time to time by the Board as part of the PACE Program.

**Section 18. Immunities.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, all of the privileges and immunities from liabilities, exemptions from laws, ordinances and rules, and other benefits which apply to the activity of officers, agents or employees of Members when performing their respective functions, shall apply to the same degree and extent to the Directors, officers, employees, agents or other representatives of the Commission while engaged in the performance of any of their functions or duties under this Agreement.

**Section 19. Amendments.**

(a) Amendments to the Agreement may be proposed by the Board or by any two Members. Except as provided in Section 13 and in Subsection (c), below, this Agreement shall not be amended, modified, or altered, without the affirmative approval of the Board and the affirmative written consent of each of the Members; *provided*, that if the number of Members exceeds ten (10) in number, this Agreement may also be amended with the affirmative approval of the Board and negative consent of each Member. To obtain the negative consent of the Members, the following procedure shall be followed: (i) the Commission shall provide each Member with a notice at least sixty (60) days prior to the date such proposed amendment is to become effective explaining the nature of such proposed amendment and this negative consent procedure; (ii) the Commission shall provide each Member who did not respond a reminder notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the date such proposed amendment is to become effective; and (iii) if no Member objects to the proposed amendment in writing within sixty (60) days after

the initial notice, the proposed amendment shall become effective with respect to all Members. No amendment may impose a direct financial obligation on any Member without that Member's affirmative written consent.

(b) The Board may, without the consent of the Members, amend this Agreement if, in its reasonable opinion and upon the advice of counsel, if deemed appropriate, upon which advice the Board may rely, such amendment is technical or clarifying in nature and does not substantively affect the rights and responsibilities of the Members. Notice of such amendment shall be provided to the Members at least twenty (20) but not more than sixty (60) days prior to the date such proposed amendment is to become effective explaining the nature of such proposed amendment and, upon the written request of any two (2) Members, the Board shall submit the proposed amendment for ratification by the Members in accordance with the procedure otherwise set forth in this Section 19.

**Section 20. Partial Invalidity.** If any one or more of the terms, provisions, promises, covenants or conditions of this Agreement shall to any extent be adjudged invalid, unenforceable, void or voidable for any reason whatsoever by a court of competent jurisdiction, each and all of the remaining terms, provisions, promises, covenants and conditions of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**Section 21. Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the successors of the parties hereto. Except to the extent expressly provided herein, no Member may assign any right or obligation hereunder without the consent of the other Members.

**Section 22. Miscellaneous.**

(a) This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

(b) The Section headings herein are for convenience only and are not to be construed as modifying or governing the language in the Section referred to.

(c) Wherever in this Agreement any consent or approval is required, the same shall not be unreasonably withheld.

(d) This Agreement shall be governed under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

(e) Any future amendments to the Joint Powers Laws shall be automatically incorporated into the terms of this Agreement and any terms of this Agreement inconsistent with future amendments to the Joint Exercise of Powers Laws shall, only to the extent necessary, be reformed in a manner consistent with the amendments.

(f) This Agreement is the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement among the Members, which supersedes and merges all prior proposals, understandings, and other agreements, whether oral, written, or implied in conduct, between and among the Members relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

*[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed and attested by their duly authorized representatives as of the day and year first above written.

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|---|---|
| <p>On behalf of _____ COUNTY / CITY<br/>/ VILLAGE / TOWN:</p><br><p>By: _____</p> <p>Its: _____</p> | <p>On behalf of _____ COUNTY / CITY<br/>/ VILLAGE / TOWN:</p><br><p>By: _____</p> <p>Its: _____</p> |
| <p>On behalf of _____ COUNTY / CITY<br/>/ VILLAGE / TOWN:</p><br><p>By: _____</p> <p>Its: _____</p> | <p>On behalf of _____ COUNTY / CITY<br/>/ VILLAGE / TOWN:</p><br><p>By: _____</p> <p>Its: _____</p> |
| <p>On behalf of _____ COUNTY / CITY<br/>/ VILLAGE / TOWN:</p><br><p>By: _____</p> <p>Its: _____</p> | <p>On behalf of _____ COUNTY / CITY<br/>/ VILLAGE / TOWN:</p><br><p>By: _____</p> <p>Its: _____</p> |

**Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement**  
**relating to**  
**WISCONSIN PACE COMMISSION**

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**EXHIBIT A**  
**Model Pace Ordinance**