
CLIMATE ACTION

IN THE GOVERNOR'S 21-23 EXECUTIVE BUDGET



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MANDELA BARNES

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Create the Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Administration, which will facilitate collaboration across state agencies and engage with environmental justice advocates communities of color, Native Nations, and low-income populations to design climate policies that reduce emissions and pollutants and address the cumulative and deadly impact of their concentration within those communities.
- Provide \$25,000 GPR in fiscal year 2021-22 for the Department of Natural Resources to start a tribal relations pilot project to be used as a tool to better communicate with tribal nations.



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BUILDING RESILIENCE

- Create a Chief Resilience Officer within the new Office of Environmental Justice to help develop and oversee state and local government risk assessment and resilience plans.
- Provide \$1,800,000 GPR in each year for grants to counties for additional county conservation staff to support climate change resiliency efforts.
- Invest more than \$30 million in programs that help build resilient roads and infrastructure, restore wetlands to prevent catastrophic flooding, support farmers when their crops are damaged, as well as an innovative first-of-its-kind program to help Wisconsinites purchase flood insurance.
- Establish a technical assistance grant program to assist municipalities and tribal nations to develop a plan to be carbon-free by 2050.



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CLEAN ENERGY & CLEAN ECONOMY

- Provide \$500,000 GPR annually under the Wisconsin Fast Forward framework for training for green jobs throughout the state, which will encourage individuals to engage in conservation and environmental career paths.
- Create a \$4 million renewable and clean energy research grant in fiscal year 2021-22 administered by the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy and funded by the Environmental Fund.
- Double the required utility contribution for the Focus on Energy program from 1.2 percent to 2.4 percent of annual operating revenues, which would generate an additional \$100 million in annual funding for the program.
- Reserve a portion of the additional Focus on Energy funds for the Public Service Commission to develop a low-income customer track that will, in partnership with the Department of Administration Weatherization program, offer enhanced incentives for eligible customers.



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CLEAN ENERGY & CLEAN ECONOMY

- Require the Public Service Commission to reevaluate the appropriate social cost of carbon every two years, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, and report the findings in a biennial report to the standing legislative committees. Require the commission to consider the social cost of carbon when determining whether to issue construction certifications.
- Expand low-cost debt financing of clean energy projects for residential, commercial and governmental customers, including:
 - Requiring PSC to create a model ordinance for counties to establish a property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program.
 - Authorizing the Focus on Energy program to allocate funds to market PACE programs across the state.
 - Authorize regulated utilities to offer inclusive on-bill financing for energy efficiency improvements.



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CLEAN ENERGY & CLEAN ECONOMY

- Expand the types of remaining costs incurred by retiring power plants that can be securitized using environmental trust bonds, which can result in cost-savings for customers.
- Requiring the State Bureau of Procurement within the Department of Administration to develop a plan to expand the use of green procurement practices and submit to the governor by June 30, 2022.
- Provide \$10 million in each year for grants to school districts to conduct energy efficiency school building projects, with priority for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system projects.
- Require the Department of Public Instruction to include climate change and human effects on climate change in model academic standards.



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CLEAN ENERGY & CLEAN ECONOMY

- Create a sales and use tax exemption for property used primarily to store or facilitate the storage of energy produced by a solar, wind or biogas renewable energy system. The fiscal impact is an estimated reduction in tax revenue of \$3.8 million in FY22 and \$4.4 million in FY23.
- Direct the Public Service Commission to establish an Innovative Technologies Pilot Program, which would set a voluntary goal for utilities to collectively spend \$100 million over five years on a pilot for a range of innovative technologies, including storage and microgrids.



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INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION & LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Connect people to local food systems by increasing funding for the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program, a grant program that funds local food efforts to increase the sale of Wisconsin-produced agricultural products.
- Create a new food waste reduction pilot project at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, funded at \$100,000 GPR in each year.
- Provide \$370,000 SEG in each year for a pilot program that studies the feasibility of a carbon market covering the state. Provide grants to producers and producer-led groups who participate in a carbon market pilot program.
- Create a new biodigester planning grant, funded at \$250,000 GPR in each year.
- Provide \$500,000 GPR in fiscal year 2021-22 to establish a nitrogen optimization pilot program.



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INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION & LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Extend the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program until fiscal year 2031-32 at \$70 million per year. Provide \$700 million in bonding authority for the program.
- Increase funding for the Urban Forestry Grant program by \$345,000 SEG in each year to combat emerging threats to urban forestry.
- Create additional categories within the Urban Forestry Grant program and provide \$300,000 SEG in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$650,000 SEG in fiscal year 2022-23.
- Providing \$325,000 SEG in each year in additional funding for the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program.
- Provide \$783,900 SEG in each year to increase the county forest acreage share payments from \$0.30 per acre to \$0.63 per acre.



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INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION & LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Authorize \$12 million in bonding authority in the urban non-point source and stormwater grant program and the municipal flood control program.
- Authorize \$7 million in bonding authority for the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) program at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- Create a sales tax exemption for landscape planning and counseling services that pertain to the restoration, reclamation or revitalization of prairie, savanna or wetlands if such services are provided under a separate fee distinct from other services. The fiscal impact is an estimated reduction in tax revenue of \$200,000 in FY22 and \$300,000 in FY23.



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CLEANER AND SAFER STREETS

- Allocate \$10 million of the remaining Volkswagen emissions settlement funds to be dedicated to reestablishing an electric vehicle charging station grant program administered by the Department of Administration. Allocate remaining funds in excess of \$10 million for the replacement of state vehicles with a focus on clean energy vehicles.
- Include requirements for non-motorized transportation facilities known as Complete Streets when building certain roadways.
- Provide local units of government with the authority to use eminent domain to purchase land for the construction of non-motorized paths.
- Provide \$5 million in transportation fund supported bonding to build electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



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CLEANER AND SAFER STREETS

- Provide an additional \$1 million in each year for the transportation alternatives program.
- Create a pilot program for critical infrastructure with \$15 million in transportation fund supported bonding to reconstruct transportation facilities that are at high risk of destruction from increasingly extreme weather events.
- Increase the Coordination of Transit for Job Access by \$4 million in each year to expand the eligibility of applicants of the program to higher populated areas of the state.



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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

