

# **Governor's Task Force on Climate Change**

## **Notes from Public Listening Session 3**

July 8, 2020

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### **Explanation of Notes**

Task Force listening sessions began with introductory remarks and presentations from various invited experts, followed by breakout sessions moderated by staff. At the conclusion of each meeting, all participants were brought back together for closing remarks. As such, notes for each listening session have been compiled as such:

- I. Opening remarks
- II. Roll Call
- III. Presentations
- IV. Main Room Chat Notes
- V. Notes from Breakout Room 1
- VI. Notes from Breakout Room 2
- VII. Notes from Breakout Room 3
- VIII. Facilitator Summaries
- IX. Closing remarks

Breakout rooms were facilitated by staff who directed conversation and took notes. Conversation was guided around various prompts as members of the public were asked to comment on the ways in which their lives were impacted by climate change and their recommendations for the Task Force. In some cases, these questions will be noted in bold to represent what question people were responding to at the time. Every room also had a Zoom chat feature where participants shared comments. Each breakout room note section will feature notes taken by staff, as well as corresponding text from the Zoom chat. The main room chat will be posted after the presentation notes.

## I. Opening remarks

- Welcome to this Listening Session of the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change. Thank you for taking time out of your evening to be with us. This is not the experience we imagined when we started this Task Force, but this is our new reality. COVID-19 has forced us to take on new ways of learning and listening. While I would like to travel in person to talk to you, it is not the scientifically safe thing to do. Science is going to guide our Task Force.
- This Task Force is not about myself nor the administration—this is about the people of this State and the future of this State. Your experiences and voices are crucial to ensure the policies that the Task Force recommends reflect the will of the people. It is important to include people who are often left out of conversations about climate change: the inner city, Black, immigrants, indigenous people, farmers, low-income folks, people of color. I am committed to working to reach environmental, economic and social justice for everyone.

## II. Roll Call

\*those in bold in attendance

Amber Meyer Smith, Clean Wisconsin

Anna Haines, Professor, UW-Stevens Point

Bill Hogseth, Wisconsin Farmers Union

Bob Stone, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2150

Doug Rebout, Roger Rebout & Sons Farms

Dr. Darryl Williams, Administrator, Wisconsin Emergency Management

Dylan Jennings

Jeffrey Crawford

Kerry Schumann, Wisconsin Conservation Voters

**Kirsten Shead, Milwaukee Water Commons**

Kristofer Canto

Krystal Westfahl

Mark Stoering, Xcel Energy

Paul Graham, Central Waters Brewery

**Sec. Randy Romanski, Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection**

Representative Greta Neubauer, 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Representative Mike Kuglitsch, 82<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Rob Palmberg, Dairyland Power Cooperative

Robert "Bert" Garvin

**Secretary Caleb Frostman, Department of Workforce Development**

Secretary Preston Cole, Department of Natural Resources

Senator Mark Miller, 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Stacy Craig, Environmental Stewardship Advocate

Stephanie Delgado

Katie McGinty, Johnson Controls Inc.

**Mike Peters, WPPI Energy**

### III. Presentations

#### **Peter Annin, Director, Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation, Northland College**

##### *Lake Superior: A New Era of Vulnerability?*

- The Burke Center produced a video about climate change around the Lake Superior watershed, from Duluth, Minnesota to Houghton, Michigan.
- The area is experiencing a “new normal” of extreme weather events. Three major storm events in the last seven years created costly infrastructure damage.
- What will climate change mean for the future of the Great Lakes? Lake Superior is more vulnerable than may have been thought.
- Great Lakes water levels have fluctuated naturally during history; natural variability in water levels of +/- 6 feet are normal.
- Lately, Lake Superior is experiencing increased water level volatility due to unprecedented weather patterns.
  - Records are being broken and then broken again just a few years later.
  - Lakes Michigan and Huron have broken monthly water level records every month in 2020.
  - 2015-19 was the wettest 5-year period ever recorded in the watershed.
  - Worsening algal blooms on Lake Erie are so big as to be visible from space; algal blooms show that water level issues are complex.
- Current infrastructure structure adaptation and funding are inadequate.
  - We need to prepare for extreme weather patterns, water levels, droughts and storms.
  - Climate-driven water level volatility is now challenging human and natural environments.
- Regional residents and infrastructure are not prepared for this volatility and it impacts Great Lakes tourism.
  - Adaptation, resilience and funding are necessary to meet these challenges.

#### **James Edward Mills, Journalist; Author, “The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors”**

##### *Outdoors for All*

- Mills works at the intersection of equity and inclusion to ensure the outdoors are accessible to all
  - Seldom sees a Person of Color experiencing the outdoors as he does.
  - Recreation requires disposable income, leisure time, and desire; traditionally, these are denied to People of Color.
- The Adventure Gap is real: Black Americans are 13.1% of the population yet comprise just 2% of national park visitors
  - While the Black American population is growing, it is not keeping pace with outdoor recreation growth.
  - What will happen when growing minority populations are not engaged with the outdoors? By 2045, the U.S. will become “minority white.”

- Organizations need to be deliberate to make these areas accessible to People of Color—as deliberate as were the policies to restrict it, such as the history of racially restrictive covenants in the Milwaukee suburbs.
- How do we achieve change?
  - The Ice Age Trail Alliance and Aldo Leopold Centers include inclusive language in their missions
  - Tell a more comprehensive story of the land by including Native American land acknowledgements and information about the land history of People of Color
  - Ensure that all segments of the population are welcome to enjoy the outdoors
  - Share a love of the outdoors with future generations as if our lives depend upon it
- In the next 10 years we need to engage underrepresented segments of the population to ensure the next generation is engaged with land use.

### **Gordy Ringberg, Mayor of Bayfield**

*City of Bayfield, Wisconsin*

- Bayfield is on the South shore of Lake Superior; a gateway to the Apostle Islands. Bayfield was founded 1856 to be a port. It is full of natural wonders, year-round activities and small-town charm.
- Historic extraction of natural resources from the area include fur, lumber, timber, brownstone, fish.
- Tourism became a source of income when the area's natural resources dwindled; now, tourism is Bayfield's only industry.
- Climate change is affecting Bayfield with destructive storms, high lake levels, overwhelmed wastewater treatment systems, algal blooms, dwindling lake ice coverage, necessary air conditioning, a natural environment stressed by large number of visitors and concern about potential climate refugees.
- Current efforts by Bayfield to become an eco-municipality include promoting renewable energy, protecting its natural beauty, promoting local farms and orchards, protecting the water of Lake Superior, and looking for ways to promote sustainable tourism.
- Nothing is inexhaustible, even the tourists. Will climate change make Bayfield's tourists go away?

#### **IV. Main Room Chat Notes**

- 18:01:51** From Susan Twiggs to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : When do I raise my hand to make a comment?
- 18:07:35** From Ben Strong to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : We can't see the video
- 18:07:38** From Susan Millar to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : need to share your screen - we can only see you
- 18:08:55** From clairegervais to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Can you mute everyone?
- 18:14:42** From James Mills to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Sorry I was late...I'm coordinating other conference on Thursday. I'm here now
- 18:19:42** From Susan Millar to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Will the recording of this session be available on your website?
- 18:20:39** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Susan Twiggs(Privately) : We will breakout to 3 groups and you will be able to make your comments then
- 18:21:09** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Susan Millar(Privately) : Yes, we will be posting the recording
- 18:21:58** From Susan Millar to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : thanks
- 18:24:23** From John Gosling to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : that also pertained to home plots in Appleton!
- 18:29:38** From Deborah Elsas to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : when and where can we enter a question?
- 18:35:29** From Staff - Raj Kamal to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : FYI - The sound is not very good quality for this presenter.
- 18:36:33** From John Gosling to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : does Bayfield have solar panels and wind turbins?
- 18:40:20** From Kermit's Big Screen to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : can you send Kermit's big screen to breakout room 1 where "Kermit hovey" already is. its a long story.
- 18:42:59** From Kermit's Big Screen to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : I am resending this in case it did not get through. can you please send Kermit's big screen to breakout room 1 where "Kermit hovey" already is. its a long story.

**18:43:31** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Kermit's Big Screen(Privately) : I assigned it to room 1

**18:45:21** From Kermit's Big Screen to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : It still seems to be in the main screen.

**19:50:58** From iPhone-john : awesome Jill!!!

**19:51:25** From Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union : Thank you Ross

**19:51:42** From Eric Neusen : You are correct and awesome Deborah Elsas!!

**19:52:06** From Jill Mitchler : Leave Room

**19:53:04** From Missy Nergard (UW-Madison) to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Room 3

**19:54:14** From Missy Nergard (UW-Madison) to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Hello!

**19:55:04** From Missy Nergard (UW-Madison) to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : My mic is broken - I'm just working on e-mails. :) I love these conversations!

**19:55:25** From Missy Nergard (UW-Madison) to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Thank you!

**20:06:08** From Jill Hiroskey to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : To find information on public opinions on climate change topics, you can go to <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu>. Go to climate Opinion map. you can play around in the map and sort by state, county, question, etc.

**20:06:41** From Jill Hiroskey to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Sorry, site it <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu>

**20:07:03** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Jill Hiroskey(Privately) : Thank you! I will share with the Task Force members.

**20:07:52** From Bob & Julie Ullman to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Can we get a link to the Yale survey about community perceptions?

**20:09:08** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Bob & Julie Ullman(Privately) : I think this is it? <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu>

**20:13:09** From Preston Cole- DNR to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : well done!!

**20:13:35** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Preston Cole- DNR(Privately) : Thank you!

**20:14:33** From Sarah Krause to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : thanks for doing this!!

**20:14:39** From Karen Durnin to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Thank you!

## V. Notes from Breakout Room 1

- **“Debra’s iPad,” Citizen of La Crosse**
  - It is imperative that we act today, and in a way that can relieve us of some of these issues. I used to be the sustainability coordinator for La Crosse County. I had to learn to speak Republican. When you discuss climate change or greenhouse gases, you lose half of the audience. We need to speak in terms that our Republican friends can understand, by stressing issues of money, faith, security, and independence because they are issues important to Republicans.
- **Ben Strong, Citizen of Waukesha**
  - I am moving to Eau Claire in August. What is very important for me is addressing sand mines. “Fracking” is used to extract oil, and oil is a harsh progenitor of climate change. What is the Task Force’s plan for closing down the sand mines and protecting the families who will lose jobs?
- **Ned Dorff, Citizen of Green Bay**
  - Green Bay is experiencing a lot of flooding. My neighborhood was hit hard; some of my students have been evacuated multiple times. Flooding is an issue we are trying to tackle, and it will take a regional approach. We are working on clean energy and building clean energy plans. There is lots of support among municipalities for this work, but they need an initial source of money to invest in projects. How can the State and municipalities work more closely to free up money for these projects? There are numerous environmental justice issues, such as highly polluted waters being fished because they are a source of food. Continuing to clean up our waterways is a huge project, and environmental justice needs to be in the forefront.
- **Tim Hundt, Citizen of Driftless Region**
  - I work for Congressman Ron Kind. I grew up in the Coon Creek watershed, where conservation practices were born. Lots of flooding is documented in [wisconsinfloodsstories.org](http://wisconsinfloodsstories.org). In 2007, flooding broke records, and there was more flooding until 2018. We now see 500-year floods every few years. We advocate for a whole watershed approach. Almost a third of the State’s flood-control structures are located in this area, and they failed or were destroyed; nowhere else in the country has that happened. We feel like the canary in the coalmine. With our hills and steep valleys, we are a good test area for flood control infrastructure, land management practices, and water management. We need federal money studying the watershed. Dams are breached without the funds to fix them.
- **Kermit Hovey, Citizen of Middleton; Climate Action Team; Citizens’ Lobby**
  - I am grateful that Wisconsin is stepping up to make up for lost time in addressing climate change. I have been heavily involved with climate change advocacy work since 2012. Climate change is really happening, it’s really human-caused, and we can do something about it. Wisconsin can work upwards with federal legislation. Wisconsin can work outwards across the state with regulations, for example the DNR can recognize the environmental and economic cost of carbon pollution. And Wisconsin can work downwards with funding, laws and policies aligned to empower city and municipal

governments to do their part to tackle the climate crisis. We need building codes that mandate energy-efficient construction. We need group buys of electric vehicle fleets. Anything we can do would improve tourism, health and life for everybody.

- **Claire Strader, UW-Madison Extension; Fair Share CSA Coalition**
  - Agriculture is a particular concern of mine. I work specifically with small-scale, organic vegetable farmers who are Small-scale producers, farming 5-50 acres, growing diverse vegetable crops. Climate change is affecting them in multiple ways: extreme weather events means crops are planted later and harvested later. Damage to fields from equipment when fields are wet. Issues in the fall with harvest. Trouble getting root crops out of the soil. 2018 and 2019 saw these challenges. A string of farms decided to stop farming and named climate change as the reason they went out of business. Please put more resources into researching how farmers can adapt to climate change. We need ways to help small local farms adapt and still survive with climate change. We also need research around disease-resistant varieties that don't require pesticides. Fund more research into how farms can adapt to climate change.
  
- **Randy Scanol, Citizen of Breen Bay**
  - Green Bay has constant high-water issues. We can't put in docks, recreation areas are affected, and the trout fishing event was cancelled. We are already feeling the effects of climate change.
  
- **Phil Smith, En-ROADS; Environmental Engineer**
  - Our planet needs dramatic cuts to greenhouse gases or else it will be inhabitable to future generations. We need to pay attention to the numbers and get to net zero greenhouse gases by 2050. En-ROADS is an online tool that demonstrates how climate change solutions compare. It models climate change solutions and contains lots of information about how efforts help mitigate climate change will help. Carbon fees and dividend can be a strong solution. Each year that we delay makes a solution more difficult; we need to start now.
  
- **Charles, Citizen of Milwaukee; 350.org**
  - Time is not our friend; we need to take decisive action soon. We haven't heard much about the flooding around the State. We have no idea what's happening in Driftless Region and Green Bay, for example; there is a virtual blackout in Milwaukee around what's going on around the State. This hearing is a great service, to be able to hear from folks across the State. We will need everybody's creativity to do this and this helps us develop solutions in an accelerated way. We will need substantial resources to solve these problems. Hopefully the Task Force will identify new revenue sources to tackle these issues. We spend \$14B for energy in this State, I suspect most of that is exported out of the state. How can we keep some of that in-state and harness in-state energy production?
  
- **Lauralee G.**
  - I'm making many personal sustainability choices. We had trouble trying to go to solar energy. In a new house we were able to make solar additions, but in many places, people don't have the ability to include solar power due to economic or infrastructure limitations. In New York, people can buy into solar cooperatives and share in the economic advantages of solar panels. If we want to do more with sustainable energy, we need to involve more

people. We need regulation and simplification to encourage people to be able to become more sustainable in groups, co-ops, and buying into solar or other sustainable infrastructure.

- **Brenda Taylor, American Institute of Architects**
  - We advocate for sustainable buildings. We need mandates for higher standards in future construction. We are committed to net zero emission goals by 2050. We hope to be a resource to the Task Force and citizens of Wisconsin. We work on sustainable designs for every project.
  
- **Sharon R.**
  - I grew up in rural south Louisiana, where many houses had no electricity. A simple system of water pressure was used to make fans move. There are so many simple, non-high-tech solutions that we shouldn't forget about. I worked for an energy company in Hawaii, and we thought about energy conservation from the production side, and a lot of energy production is on the mass-production side. Whenever we mass produce energy, we impact wildlife. Just because it is good for humans, does not mean it is good for other species. We need to think about the whole system at once. There are conservation measures we can use in our homes, agriculture and businesses to minimize the amount of energy we use. We need to produce clean energy and use less energy. Our forests are so important; we have to look at how this is impacting forests, as they are a major part of our watersheds. They are changing rapidly; I am concerned about diseases coming into our forests. We need to take action at local and systems levels at the same time.
  
- **Jill Bilings, Wisconsin State Representative**
  - Thank you for addressing this issue, it is long overdue. I encourage all to stick with it as legislation enters the capital. We live on the Mississippi River, and I'm on the Great Lakes caucus. Flooding happens in three ways in La Crosse: severe rain events, high water incidents and river swells. People have for months had water standing in their basements. Some sold their homes and made them rental units. There are elderly and children living in damaged buildings in a depressed socio-economic area. When you can't move grain up or down the river, that's a huge hardship for everybody. Barge traffic accomplishes a lot for our economy.
  
- **Ben Strong**
  - It's almost a disappointment to see that we have a climate change Task Force. It is a good thing to have, but the idea that we're still figuring this out, as if the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, and local organizations, don't already know what needs to be done, is disappointing. I am happy with everyone coming together, but it is disappointing as a testament to the ineffectiveness of government. What we need is to get moving forward with policy and legislation. It is heartening to see everyone coming together; it is disheartening to see the government is still using a Task Force to figure it out. All the data is out there, we just need to move forward with it.
  
- **Ronald Zabler**
  - I'd like to read a quote: "Wisconsin's natural resources are truly incredible. The outdoors is essential to our health and well-being. We need all to recreate respectfully and be a steward of the land." That is from DNR Secretary Preston Cole at the beginning of the Task Force.

We've seen a big change in the mining laws since 2018. Now that the DNR's doors are open for mining, Wisconsin seems to be doing what it can to help mining companies come in to get our resources. Whenever there is economic demand, there will be action to make it happen. As a plumber of 30 years, I was taught to protect the waters. I thought DNR was 100% my mentor—I followed all its statutes, codes and setbacks to protect our State's waters for all. Recently in Sheffy(?) a company came in and drilled for prospect mining within 5 months. That is very, very fast to get through the State's rules. The DNR has shifted toward fast-tracking mines and permitting them while the legislation is proper. I'm not wholly against mining, but I want to ensure it is done safely. We are at the top of a waterway to which mining could do a lot of damage, and the company is proposing an open pit copper mine, which is very polluting. With their renewal coming up in December, I'd like to see more public hearings about this. I'm a landowner adjacent to the site, and we were never notified by anyone in government about the project. The DNR needs to focus on reaching people around the new mines and include them in the dialogue. It was a shock to my parents, who have owned the land since the 1950s. I believe the DNR has always been a protector of our resources, but I believe we need to work harder on educating the public about the projects, and look at how they will be done in a safe manner, so that the waterways, land, and air isn't polluted. In 5 months, DNR let a foreign mining company come in and do damage; that doesn't make sense to me.

- **Linda Flashinski, Citizen of Caledonia**

- I care a great deal about climate change for our descendants. I live four miles to the two coal-burning plants in Oak Creek. First, Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee counties receive an F on air quality from the American Lung Association. The leading cause of cancer deaths is lung cancer. Second, there are many reasons, especially air quality, for ending coal burning here as soon as possible. Sam Johnson fought against the second coal plant vigorously. He was correct about the negative impact this has had on health and air quality. Three, coal burning has to be put to an end very soon. Renewable energy is accessible and affordable now. It is healthier and job-creating. There is no good reason to be transporting dirty coal on railroads, challenging the health of those who live along the tracks. It's time for WE Energies to stop these dangerous activities. I want this committee to look at closing and converting coal plants. The Oak Creek plants, do they continue to burn coal because of the low-income communities they are located in? Is this a social justice issue? Fourth, I wrote a letter to the executives of WE Energy. They replied with, "At this time we have no plans to retire or convert the Oak Creek plant." It appears that WE Energy has dug in its heels. Could there be a State incentive for stores that decide not to run TVs, monitors all the time? Prioritize the conservation of energy, rather than the sale of energy? Please work for the closure or conversion of Oak Creek plants. Every day of this bad air is detrimental to our health, our descendants and our residents.

- **Siri Martin**

- I'm from Mount Horeb and I go to school in Northern Michigan, Marquette. Marquette has also been hit by rains. As this Task Force talks about what this State can do, I hope we can discuss how we can work with our neighbors. As a 19-year-old I am gravely concerned about the future of our planet. We are running out of time to mitigate climate change. We have the engineers and resources to create renewable and sustainable energy options. Coal accounts for 46% of carbon emissions in the world. Wisconsin's use of coal makes us part of the problem. Air pollution from coal plants disproportionately affects low-income

communities. I ask that Wisconsin retire its coal so that my generation can feel confident that we will have a healthy and sustainable future.

- **Sharon R**

- I'd like to share follow-up comments about my experience in the 1970s when I was a graduate student working on environmental water regulations. There was a lot of pushback because these regulations were going to negatively impact industry. The Great Lakes were on fire, we had no fish in certain rivers, and we made political decisions to turn the tide. Ben's comment was strong and compelling—we know what needs to happen, but we need the political will to move it forward. We need to look at our history of leading with clean air and water acts. I want to remind all that these were bipartisan bills enacted under a Republican administration. They did not negatively impact our economy. Why do we think that we have to make a buck off it now? The Task Force needs to act with real action items. Cogeneration energy production has been around a long time, and we don't talk about those facilities that capture energy we are using. All that steam could be recaptured and reused as energy. There are existing technologies that are simple, been used for decades, that we could implement tomorrow if we had the political will to do so. We don't need to come up with new things, we need to implement the ideas we know. I love that young people are making sure we are moving forward for future generations. We need to take action. We made dramatic changes in legislation in a short period of time—the 1970s and '80s— that reversed the course. People don't remember that before the EPA you couldn't even go to the water. We made dramatic bipartisan changes while growing our economy at the same time.

- **Sarah Krause**

- The first gentlemen said that the most useful thing he needed to learn was speaking another language, Republican, and that makes me smile. I come from a conservative background, and I am very liberal, but am sensitive that my parents and extended family want similar things, but how we go about getting those things is very different. Our language is really important, and explaining why we want things, because we will be speaking to folks without good buy-in from science, is necessary. We need to touch them in places emotionally where it matters. For example, leaving things better than you found them from the Boy Scout motto, conserving the land that you love so your grandchildren can enjoy it. One of the things that holds my grandfather back is that he's an automotive enthusiast and sees regulations from EPA on his hobby. But he feels put upon when he sees corporations allowed to pollute. It would be helpful to say to him, first, do no harm. Corporations and individuals need to stop making the pollution. Then, the next step is to impose strong incentives on large companies to make more environmentally responsible choices. We need balance between freedom and security. We have to do something decisive, and the folks who don't agree may not be around to see why it had to be done.

- **Charles**

- Regarding coal-fired power generation, the problem is that we have an archaic utility system. It was designed 100 years ago as a monopoly, only interested in returning money to stakeholders, without care for the environment. We need to go to the legislature and citizens' boards and create a more democratic public utility system. Changing legislation and creating a new regulatory environment has to be an immediate action items for the Task Force.

- **Tom Siri**
  - I've been involved with environmental organizations for a long time. So much of what I've been hearing deals with money. Those who got it control what's going on. I want to suggest that the Task Force focus not just on what they can get through legislature, but what can happen in the executive branch. How can things be done with electric utilities, for example? Maneuver those folks to put solar panels on everyone's roofs instead of just farms. Low-income households could survive better with solar panels. I encourage you to focus on rural areas. The solution is in giving control to people in those areas, whose lives depend on it. What educational things can we do to educate the people of this State from all angles to limit the effects of climate change? For example, electric utilities, how we move into renewables, and how that goes to the public service commission. Look at what kind of technology businesses can use and educate about how those ways are better for their businesses, for example, with lower utility bills. And, we need major job programs. Look at green jobs throughout the State. Also, do a study on the greenhouse gas that is going out from our State and see what its sources are. That would help us determine what to focus on. Look at where the money is coming from.
  
- **Gus Merwin**
  - The Great American Outdoors Act just passed the Senate, and its aim is to address the \$12 billion national park maintenance backlog and would fund land and water conservation. It's a bipartisan bill and Tammy Baldwin was a co-sponsor. Legislators need to have some teeth in their legislation. The science is sound, but it shouldn't take science to forge these relationships and pound home the importance of this. Anyone who farts in a room knows greenhouse gases will affect everyone.
  
- **Kermit Hovey**
  - We don't need to go to Lake Superior to experience torrential rain; it was a traumatic experience for me to have my wife fear-stricken saying our daughter is in the middle of flooding, in the middle of Mineral Point and Gammon Roads. The streets were flooded, and she was beside herself with fear. The 500-year rain or flood will become the 3-year-flood, or more, and it has personal ramifications for all of us.

*End of staff notes.*

## **Breakout Room 1 Zoom Chat:**

**18:40:37**      **From Janie Riebe** : Will written testimony carry the same weight as speaking publicly?

**18:48:07**      **From Kirsten Shead - Milwaukee Water Commons** : We will definitely take your comments into consideration, Ben. Thank you.

**18:49:14**      **From Staff - Raj Kamal** : We are happy to take written testimony. Please send to the addresses shown earlier - we will repeat them later tonight. Thank you.

**18:52:13**      **From Staff - Raj Kamal** : Public comments are welcome via:  
DOAGovernorTaskForceonClimateChange@wisconsin.gov

**18:54:33**      **From SharonR** : If you want to implement whole watershed approach to land management, the Hawaiian Ahupua`a system is a good model to study and use.

**18:58:45**      **From Kelly Kearns** : I have to leave early, but want to encourage the task force to pay close attention to the work of the WI Initiative on Climate Change Impacts task forces. These science based groups have looked at impacts on a wide range of natural and cultural resources. I also want to encourage renewable energy.

**19:01:34**      **From Janie Riebe** : The people on my screen are not the people I'm hearing.

**19:03:02**      **From Kirsten Shead - Milwaukee Water Commons** : Climate adaption has definitely been a conversation in the Agriculture, Forestry & Conservation Subcommittee. Thank you for your input.

**19:04:05**      **From Tim Hundt** : Anyone interested in the oral history project can go to [www.wisconsinfloodstories.org](http://www.wisconsinfloodstories.org)

**19:06:09**      **From Ben Strong** : I'm not part of the task force, for the people asking. I'm not sure why it's giving people the option to message me.

**19:07:54**      **From Dan Dieterich** : The En-Roads software was produced by MIT and is quite useful in clarifying what the impacts are of a wide variety of climate change actions. I urge everyone to check it out.

**19:07:59**      **From Ronald Zabler** : People just need to select everyone instead of an individual name. it's a simple mistake. Just select Everyone before you chat.

**19:08:52**      **From Phil Smith** : Please google Enroads to check out how your favorite climate solution stacks up against other solutions. It's a fantastic tool that allows anyone to see what is highly effective and which actions are more marginal.

**19:13:19**      **From Erika Kluetmeier** : Lauralee check out Legacy Solar Co-op for options to invest in community solar projects with economic, social and environmental benefits.

**19:15:52**      **From Dan Dieterich** : Lauralee, you may also want to touch bases with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) in Custer, Wisconsin. They may be able to help you.

**19:16:45**      **From Lauralee G** : Thanks for the information about the energy sharing everyone.

**19:20:53**      **From Brenda Taylor, AIA Wisconsin** : AIA Wisconsin advocates for policies that promote resilient design and dynamically curtail buildings' harmful impact to the climate. Climate action requires changes to public policy targeting existing commercial and residential buildings, and a mandate for higher standards in future construction.

**19:23:37**      **From Phil Smith** : Flashinski was trying to be recognized. "Raise hand" electronically by clicking on participants, then click on the "Raise Hand" icon at the bottom of the participant box.

**19:28:10**      **From Pamela Guthman** : En-Roads - <https://www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads/> Solutions need to include policy for subsidies for green energy investment (solar and wind), as well as electrification. Investments similarly so for afforestation and for sustainable agriculture Taxes need to be equitably applied to companies for their carbon footprint given the high amounts of carbon / greenhouse gases from oil, gas, and coal production, It is critically important to consider not only from the economic issues, but also as health is significantly impacted and is costing our state/nation in regard to high rates of asthma and increased cardiovascular issues regarding the increased air pollution and other climate related changes occurring in our health. Injuries from the infrastructure being obliterated from more intense storms and flooding, as well as mental health issues from the continued effects and challenges re: trying to recover. In addition, our minorities and people of color are disproportionately affected.

**19:32:22**      **From Phil Smith** : Thanks Pamella for the link to Enroads!

**19:34:14**      **From Kathleen** : ASHRAE-WI is here as a resource for policy makers and free guidelines for all to advance energy efficiency in existing buildings and new building design. You can find more information at ASHRAE.org and reach out to our local chapter [ashrae-wi.org](http://ashrae-wi.org) and [ashrae.wisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:ashrae.wisconsin@gmail.com)

**19:38:21**      **From Cassie Steiner** : Well said, Linda!

**19:44:16**      **From Janie Riebe** : The talkers and the screens don't match and it is very distracting.

**19:48:08**      **From Janie Riebe** : How will input from all the groups over the series of Listening Sessions be shared with the public?

**19:50:39**      **From Staff - Raj Kamal** : The recordings of these listening sessions will be placed on a public site.

**19:50:45**      **From Phil Smith** : Sharon makes a great point!. I give a presentation on the Energy Innovation and Climate Dividend Act and present a graph of US GDP over time. Super-imposed are each of the main environmental laws of the 70s and 80s, RCRA, CWA, CAA, CERCLA... none of them had any discernable effect on GDP. We got a much cleaner environment and growth too! We can do the same with climate change.

**19:51:11**      **From Tanace Matthiesen 350 Madison** : One of the major ways to address climate change is to stop approving and building fossil fuel pipelines! DNR, do not approve the Line 5 Reroute permit. The pipeline permit clearly violates a number of the requirements of NR 103! We need to move away from fossil fuels. Thank you for holding these listening sessions.

**19:53:58**      **From Kermit's Big Screen** : Sarah is right on the money about making corporations take responsibility for cutting back their pollution one way or the other. For example the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act HR763 would send a price signal through the market place that would motivate corporations to reduce fossil fuel use.

**19:57:42**      **From Karen Samelson** : Thank you, Sarah! I hope the emphasis on inclusivity and diversity in tonight's intro means the task force outcomes will address environmental justice issues as well. We need to address transit issues and move away from our car culture.

**19:58:08**      **From Cassie Steiner** : I agree with Karen! Her comment in the chat makes a good point!

**19:59:24**      **From Kirsten Shead - Milwaukee Water Commons** : Thank you, Karen. Environmental Justice is a central consideration for the Task Force.

**20:01:30**      **From Tim Hundt** : Regenerative ag is a big piece of the solution. I would recommend Gabe Browns TED talk Carbon sequestration, increased water retention and reduced synthetic inputs

**20:04:07**      **From SharonR** : FYI - the Great Outdoors Act funding comes from offshore oil drilling royalties. I'm not sure it is a good example of legislation that will move us toward a more sustainable future.

**20:04:44**      **From Pamela Guthman** : Thank you !

**20:04:52**      **From Ronald Zabler** : Thank you all!

**20:04:53**      **From Brenda Taylor, AIA Wisconsin** : Thank you

**20:05:10**      **From Kirsten Shead - Milwaukee Water Commons** : Thank you for all your input!

## VI. Notes from Breakout Room 2

**Question prompt: Does anyone have any thoughts or comments on the presentations we just heard and the issues they highlighted?**

- Susan Twiggs - children's author
  - Appreciated Peter Annin's presentation and thinks we should be educating all kids about the Great Lakes so they understand the benefit of having them and will protect them
- John
  - Appreciated all three presentations, particularly moved by James Mills' presentation
  - If we don't engage people of color and make opportunities to experience the outdoors accessible for people of color, less people will understand why it's important to protect them
  - Especially as people of color become a greater part of our population

**Question prompt: How is climate change impacting you, your community, or your industry? Q2: Of the many ways climate change is impacting our state, specifically, what is the greatest threat?**

- Deborah Elsas
  - Worrying about climate change has had a huge impact on her mental health and this is true for others as well
- Ted from Ashland
  - Many local impacts of climate change
  - Most significant is that anytime they get a massive rainstorm, the rainwater overwhelms the sewer system, causing untreated sewage to flow into the bay.
- Man from Adams-Friendship
  - Was chairing the Climate Conversation which was canceled due to COVID
  - CNN released a bulletin stating that the Siberian arctic is warming up twice as fast as before and is releasing CO2 into the atmosphere as well as contributing to rising lake levels
  - Need to figure out how this impacts Wisconsin and how to address it
- Deborah Elsas
  - Climate refugees will be an issue we need to prepare for -- people will be fleeing Arizona, Texas, and other places for Wisconsin and other more temperate states
  - Need to do more to protect Great Lakes, as federal government cannot currently be trusted to do so
    - The states and Canadian territories, and tribes that border the lakes should work together to preserve them
- Dr. Patz
  - Blue Green Algae is a huge human health concern for Wisconsinites and can cause digestive issues and skin damage.
- Linda Frank - Milwaukee Attorney
  - Member of Milwaukee City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity
  - State should protect 30% of Wisconsin's natural lands and waters by 2030
  - Need to scale up restoration of state forests

- Need to protect and enhance biodiversity
- The climate crisis is caused by human actions that have disrupted the natural balance of the earth and its ecosystems
- Laura Schlachter - 350 Madison and Environmental Sociologist
  - Need to focus on clean water and taking action on climate justice implications
  - Testified at DNR public hearing for Tar Sands Enbridge line 5 expansion
    - Thinks this expansion will put water quality and Lake Superior at risk and harm the environment, and also trample on tribal sovereignty
  - A just transition requires economic opportunities and green jobs, not a binary between clean energy and jobs
- Deborah Elsas
  - Interested in getting people out of cars and putting resources towards light rail
  - Need inner-city rail and regional rail to transfer people to Milwaukee and Chicago
  - Would also create jobs
- Samara - Green and Healthy Schools
  - Need to destigmatize public transportation
  - In Oshkosh, they have struck a deal where students can take public transportation for free to get to and from school
- Bruce - Pathologist
  - Climate change is an important cause of death and disease.
- Man from Green Bay
  - Flooding and erosion along bay shore and Lake Michigan shoreline is increasing
  - PSC needs to consider the impact of climate change in all of their decisions
  - Need to take aggressive action here in Wisconsin and need to empower local governments to act
- Joel Charles on behalf of WI Medical Society
  - Rural family doctor
  - August 27, 2018 was the day his son was born, but also the day his community was struck by a devastating flood.
  - Storm caused damage and flooding and impacted everyone in the community
  - Climate change is a human health threat, not just an environmental issue
  - Wisconsinites will see worsened air pollution, multiple health threats, illness from flooding, and the constant spectre of global health threats due to malnutrition
  - Need data driven, comprehensive, and equitable policies to adapt to climate change and improve health outcomes
  - Need to cut emissions in half by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050
  - Investments should be directed to mitigate disparate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities.
  - Our actions will define our children's future
  - Hoping that public servants will heed this call to action and dedicate every resource and policy lever to build a Wisconsin where everyone can thrive

- Samara
  - Not enough support for educators to teach about climate change in our schools -- this is needed in order to build future climate leaders
- Laura Schlachter
  - Concerned about her infant daughter's future
  - Agrees with Samara that we need more resources for school, teachers, and parents to talk about the climate crisis with her kids
- Joe
  - Racine County Zoo put on event about climate change and its impacts on animals which would be a good place for more education for young people about climate change
- Rhonda
  - Works with Milwaukee Water Commons
  - Wants policymakers to take human impacts and civil rights impacts into account with any solutions in order to address environmental justice
- Kathy - Mukwonago
  - Having worked in health care and seeing the effects of dirty energy on people's asthma and lungs, she wants Wisconsin to phase out coal and other dirty energy sources no later than 2030
  - Wants us to allow solar leasing and fair metering for people to move away from coal individually as well
- Bill from Bayfield
  - Experiences the five hundred year flooding that has been happening
  - Iron County lost a marina with damage of many millions of dollars
  - The money to repair this damage comes from state and federal taxpayers

**Question prompt: What solutions have worked in your community or industry to mitigate and adapt the effects of climate change? What should the state of Wisconsin be doing to assist communities in combatting climate change? Do you have other specific recommendations?**

- Susan Twiggs
  - Biking thoroughfares can help more communities transition away from car transport and build recreation space
  - Task Force should consider incentivizing electric vehicles as personal vehicles are the largest contributor to transportation-related pollution
- James from Beloit area
  - To power the US with 100% Solar energy would require 33,000 square kilometers aka the entire state of Maryland
  - Wind power would require 198,000 square kilometers (Nebraska)
  - Nuclear power would require 1300 square kilometers (Rhode Island)
  - Nuclear power should have a seat at the table

- Ted from Ashland
  - Climate change is rarely the headline of the day's news, but is always a facet of what's going on
  - Increasing heat, violent storms, floods, and erratic weather patterns are changing Wisconsin before our eyes. If we act now, the damage will be less. If not, damage will be catastrophic
  - Wants state lawmakers to support HR 761
  
- Eric Mosher
  - Worked as Climate Change specialist for DNR
  - In 90s and early 2000s
  - 1998 Wisconsin Climate Change Action Plan had a number of recommendations that are still relevant today, and Task Force should look at it
  
- Jeremy Gragert - Eau Claire City Council
  - Eau Claire has committed to a 100% climate neutrality and net zero energy goal by 2050 and state should help encourage cities and counties to make these goals
  - Homegrown solutions can bring people together
  - Eau Claire has a number of documents on how they are planning long term
  
- Deborah Elsas
  - Wants to acknowledge that the Governor will have a tough time with the Republican legislature that does not prioritize climate change
  - Governor should do some of this via Executive Action with support of AG Kaul
  
- Jill Mitchler
  - Supports carbon dividend bill
  - Would improve public health and boost the economy and help low-income people and promote a just transition
  
- Ross DePaola
  - Much of this can be done with building code and lighting changes to cut energy usage
  
- John Coover
  - Should be encouraging that the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act has been signed onto by Lindsey Graham
  
- Jill Mitchler
  - Cross-county will help with regional approaches to the problem
  
- Mira Grinsfelder
  - Disincentivizing dirty energy and moving away from expansion of Enbridge line 5
  - We should include health and how we measure health. Bad River Reservation has explicitly said that Line 5 hurts cultural health
  
- Joel Charles
  - PSC should include health impact assessments when they are making decisions, particularly on fossil fuel energy projects and have that be explicitly valued

- Teresa from Monona
  - Heartened by number of people attending and with the City sustainability committee
  - Something she hasn't heard yet is that there is so many things we can do individually, but need to get government leaders to act
  - People should elect leaders who will act on climate.

***End of staff notes.***

## **Breakout Room 2 Zoom Chat:**

- 18:40:05**      **From Samara - Green & Healthy Schools :** Hi everyone!
- 18:40:22**      **From Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union :** Hello everyone, thanks for being here tonight
- 18:41:18**      **From Susan Twiggs :** Hello to you al
- 18:41:20**      **From JosephDubaniewicz :** where can we submit written comments?
- 18:41:43**      **From Susan Twiggs :** Susan Twiggs can you tell me who was the first speaker from northland College
- 18:42:58**      **From Andrew Lewandowski, DO :** Written comments can be submitted through the task force website at this link: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/climate/comments>
- 18:43:19**      **From Staff - Chet Agni :** Yes, thank you Andrew!
- 18:43:29**      **From Staff - Chet Agni :** Susan, the first speaker from Northland College was Peter Annin
- 18:49:14**      **From Samara - Green & Healthy Schools :** @SusanTwiggs - we have an opportunity to use this time of having to educate our students while socially distancing to use outdoor spaces at schools as extensions of the classroom.
- 18:51:38**      **From Samara - Green & Healthy Schools :** Where can recordings of listening sessions be found online?
- 18:51:38**      **From Susan Twiggs :** thanks Chet for this information. Yes samara this time is an opportunity to take children outside in the environmen
- 18:58:58**      **From Bobbi :** Hi, I'm Bobbi Rongstad. I live near Lake Superior in Iron Co. and very near Enbridge Line 5. I've learned a lot recently about how pipeline operators take and use our land. Wisconsin should have laws in place that can allow denying permits for pipelines. As it is now, no agency in WI has the authority to approve the siting of an oil pipeline. As we address climate change,

adding more pipeline capacity is a mistake. Allowing the expansion of Line 5 in the Bad River watershed is a nightmare. 20% of the oil in the country flows through WI because we have no laws to stop them.

**19:00:37**      **From Samara - Green & Healthy Schools :** "just transition" - thank you for the language @Laura

**19:02:07**      **From Laura Schlachter :** thank you @samara. the climate justice alliance and many others are doing great work in that space and I think Wisconsin should look to their example!

**19:02:59**      **From Laura Schlachter :** yes @bobbi! thank you

**19:04:43**      **From Greta Neubauer :** Thank you all for the really thoughtful comments so far!

**19:11:29**      **From Joe Dubaniewicz :** Thank you Greta for your service on the Task Force.

**19:12:27**      **From Joe Dubaniewicz :** Thank you Dr. Charles

**19:13:02**      **From Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union :** Thank you Dr. Charles

**19:13:37**      **From iPhone-john :** kudos to Dr Charles- heartfelt story and spot-on requests!!

**19:14:54**      **From Samara - Green & Healthy Schools :** I encourage listeners live & future check out EN-Roads to try out for themselves the many facets that will need to be addressed to make reach our <2C : <https://en-roads.climateinteractive.org/scenario.html?v=2.7.19>

**19:16:23**      **From Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union :** Thank you Laura

**19:16:25**      **From joelcharles :** Thanks Laura

**19:17:14**      **From Laura Schlachter :** thank you all, your comments and commitment give me hope!

**19:19:46**      **From Staff - Chet Agni :** Here is the email that anyone can send information, comments, resources, or recommendations to:  
DOAGovernorTaskForceonClimateChange@wisconsin.gov

**19:19:50**      **From Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union :** Thank you Deborah

**19:22:38**      **From joelcharles :** For folks who want to learn more about what health professionals in Wisconsin are doing to build a healthy climate, check out Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action at <https://www.wiclimatehealth.com>

**19:23:13**      **From joelcharles :** WHPCA would love to collaborate with other climate groups

**19:23:30**      **From Heather Driscoll to Staff - Chet Agni(Privately) :** Hi Chet, good to see you and thanks for your work on this!!

**19:23:52** From **Samara - Green & Healthy Schools** : Thank you to the many health professionals who joined this conversation. Your voices are critical!

**19:24:57** From **joelcharles** : Thanks Kathy

**19:30:48** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you Susan

**19:34:18** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you James

**19:34:19** From **Michael Barnett** : <https://www.renewwisconsin.org/solar-and-agricultural-land-use/>

**19:35:14** From **DoctrinAire** : DoctrinAire has something to say.

**19:35:37** From **Eric Neusen** : Solar panels have gone from roughly 170watts/panel to 400watts/panel in the last ten years. So which wattage /panel is that land usage study based on James?

**19:36:56** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you Ted

**19:43:07** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you DoctrinAire

**19:43:33** From **Staff - Chet Agni** : You can send those documents to the Task Force at the public comment page: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/climate/comments>

**19:44:17** From **jeremyragert** : [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xty\\_bFqW6wd1TDuRG2QC7f6d3weTNmT-/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xty_bFqW6wd1TDuRG2QC7f6d3weTNmT-/view?usp=sharing)

**19:46:42** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you Jeremu

**19:46:47** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Jeremy :)

**19:48:03** From **Susan Twiggs** : have to leave. thanks so much for this opportunity

**19:49:02** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you Jill

**19:50:52** From **iPhone-john** : awesome Jill!!!

**19:51:19** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you Ross

**19:51:36** From **Eric Neusen** : You are correct and awesome Deborah Elsas!!

**19:52:01** From **Jill Mitchler** : Leave Room

**19:53:55** From **Bill Hogseth - Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thank you John

**19:55:39** From **Ross DePaola** : <https://daneclimateaction.org/>

**19:56:18**      **From joelcharles** : Thanks Jill

**19:58:00**      **From Jill Mitchler** : support innovative funding, too

**19:58:06**      **From jeremyragert** : <https://www.wicleanenergytoolkit.com/>

**19:59:19**      **From joelcharles** : Thanks Jeremy

**20:01:01**      **From Eric Neusen** : Gov Evers and Lt Gov Barnes needs to use executive order to mandate that each WI county government create and begin implementing a clean energy and sustainability plan. It's time to act!

**20:01:20**      **From Greta Neubauer** : Thank you all so much for your comments!

**20:01:32**      **From Greta Neubauer** : We are really grateful for your participation!

**20:02:28**      **From Diane's Fire** : Thank you for all this GREAT information! Diane

**20:04:52**      **From Joe Dubaniewicz** : MyVote.WI.GOV (not .ORG)

## VII. Notes from Breakout Room 3

- Jenifer
  - Jennifer has been trying to learn as much as she can about how climate change impacts different groups of people. Where she lives in MKE lower income and predominately POC suffer greatest impacts of climate change because they live in climates with poor infrastructure and are saturated by heat blocks. Need to address climate justice at the forefront of climate change.
- Ligia Rivera lives in Appleton, from Puerto Rico.
  - Appreciates the natural beauty of Wisconsin. When she traveled to the southern border of Lake Superior it seemed like a different country altogether. Saddened and impacted by Mayor Gordon's presentation about Bayfield. Wants to learn and help preserve the natural beauty of Wisconsin.
- Secretary Frostman
  - Wanted to congratulate James on his fish, appreciates work of expanding access to outdoor and addressing systemic barriers to access to the outdoors for people of color.
- John Gosling
  - Happy to see that the Aldo Leopold center was mentioned. It's a zero-impact building. What can the state do to support building more structures like the Aldo Leopold center. Wants to know how much solar and wind energy infrastructure exists in Bayfield.
- Renee
  - Appreciated the stories from the towns and the people living along the Great Lakes and would love to see those stories told to wider press. Wants people outside our region to understand how we are being impacted by climate change. Include the Great Lakes as part of the international conversation on climate change.
- Ka Lo from Wausau
  - Member of the school board and the Marathon County Board. Lots of rivers run through Wausau. As a member of the school board working to help students reach their full potential. Climate change impacts them on an infrastructure level. More than 6,000 public schools across the country are in flood zones (2 dozen in Wisconsin). Many students who attend schools that are at high flooding risks are in low-income areas where resources are limited. Supports a statewide resiliency plan that addresses flooding. We need stronger building requirements in schools and stronger roads and bridges that school buses can drive on- even during a flood. Climate change poses a barrier to our children receiving education. This isn't in the future but is happening right now.
- Liz Wessel
  - Resident of Madison. Urges task force to propose a bold and ambitious plan through a lens of equity and justice. Energy conservation needs to play a huge role in climate change. Start by using less energy, then use it more efficiently. We rank 25<sup>th</sup> in energy use by ACEEE. Invest in trees, forest, planting in urban and rural areas. Modernize land use policies. Better urban street design. Create and expand appliance trade in programs. Energy efficient codes! It's not exciting, but it is effective and essential. Requires leadership. All buildings that

should be constructed and modified moving forward should have energy conservation and efficiency standards.

- John Andresi from Town of Rome in Adams County
  - Climate change is affecting his community. Surrounded by three man-made lakes. Huge issues w/ blue-green algae blooms which are promoted by excessive heat. Belongs to a group called 14-mile watershed joint committee which formed 4 years ago with the purpose of returning to a pristine form of recreation and living on the watershed in his area. He has done extensive testing to see what lakeshore owners need to do to keep water safe and clean. Programs are available. He applied to “9 key element program” through the EPA that allows for remedial efforts to take place. Co-authored by WIDNR and their grant program will give \$8million over the next decade to help with remediation.
- Melissa Vernon from Oconomowoc
  - Melissa has worked for 20 years in corporate sustainability. Huge business opportunity for the state to be a leader in corporate sustainability. Options for companies to become carbon neutral, purchase carbon offsets, etc. She’d love to see more work done in this field by WI companies. Businesses are taking steps to reduce their own impacts. Big opportunities around renewable natural gas. We have a big opportunity with landfills and methane.
- Brittany Keyes from Beloit
  - Athletic trainer, coach, mom. Speaking as a concerned health care provider and a parent. We need net zero carbon emissions as soon as possible. Public health trifecta of COVID-19, racism, and climate change. They all interact with each other and create detrimental outcomes, particularly for communities of color. Burning fossil fuel is dangerous for public health. Extreme heat detrimental for athletes to compete and train. Exertional heat illness is increasing for athletes. Allergy season in the Midwest is getting worse as climate change continues. Climate action will impact health outcomes, saving lives and money in the long run. The technology exists, we just need the lawmaking majority to have the courage to act. As we rebuild from the pandemic, we must rebuild an equitable, low carbon economy.
- Christine Johnson
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical student at UW Madison. Before medical school she was an RN. She’s seen professionally and personally the impacts of climate change. Increases in respiratory illnesses. Most vulnerable populations will feel impacts of climate change the most but ultimately it will affect all of us. Will affect everyone in all sectors of work and life. Things will get worse if we don’t act now. Climate change is a public health crisis and we need to take advantage of the shrinking window that we need to act now. Wants to protect her future patients. Concerned about the impacts of air pollution, new and worsening infectious diseases will pop up, mental health impacts, food and water security, injuries from extreme weather events. Calling for aggressive action on decarbonization in Wisconsin.
- Jeff Rafn, member of the taskforce.
  - Wants to thank James for sharing the importance of an appreciation of the outdoors. Seems to him the public does not have a sense of urgency on addressing climate change.
- ***Jeff posed a question to the group: What could/should we do to generate political will?***
  - Videos, inspiring people, finding something that is important to individual people

- Social media campaigns/ outreach
- Help people financially, make it financially beneficial to utilize cleaner infrastructure
- Focusing on increasing costs (food/energy/etc.) while connecting increases to the fluctuating weather because of climate change
- Elevate more young people in leadership positions
- Uncouple climate change and clean energy
- Sec. Cole:
  - Do we believe that individuals worrying about the daily ins and outs of their lifestyle will be able to care more about climate change? When we have so many people in America who have been put upon, isn't it our responsibility to help them with their daily circumstances so they can have the freedom and ability to want a better economy, to spend time outdoors, engage in climate change, etc. Improve the human condition first!
- Pam Pfang:
  - Madison resident. Thinks there may be a pressure point in the 7<sup>th</sup> CD with forest changes, fish changes, shorter winters, more algae, etc. The chambers of commerce in these communities could be effective advocates as changes to the environment impact \$\$ and resources. Legislators listen to chambers of commerce. When our communities suffer because tourists don't come in the same way they previously have, elected officials must listen.
- Kate Beaton from Eau Claire:
  - City Council member and organizer for WI Conservation Voters. Works closely w/ folks in local municipalities. Lots of them working to set clean energy goals. While climate change seems divisive, the solutions to climate change are widely supported by democrats and republicans across the country. There are financial and health benefits that clean energy brings to the community that encourage people to engage in climate change work. We need to meet people where they're at and help them find ways to engage w/ clean energy. Young people huge.
- Megan Salmon
  - Teaches undergrad climate science. Has noticed that students coming out of high school don't have climate literacy skills which is a problem as we move forward. Thinks climate literacy and climate science should be a required module.
- Brittany Keyes
  - I truly believe that a majority of people, regardless of political affiliation, support climate action
- Claire Gervais, family medicine physician
  - Part of WI health professionals for climate action. Climate change is a public health emergency. Changing weather patterns detrimental for people experiencing homelessness. Urgency to act. Healthcare professionals generally more trusted than politicians, they want to be used as a voice for the message.
- Renee Gash in Brown County (De Pere)
  - Speaking as a parent concerned about her children's future. Does not want her daughter to experience the mass extinction that is anticipated if we don't take action on climate change. Our position on the Great Lakes puts us in a position to be a leader nationally. Wants people to act with immediate urgency and long-term planning. She's part of her community's city planning commission. They have a 100% clean energy goal for city operations. The will and desire to accomplish goals exists but it felt out of reach for some. She wants task force

members to consider those individuals in discussions and figure out a way to connect with folks who have reservations and figure out how we help them succeed and achieve their goals. Task force should create an office of energy innovation that can provide financial and structural support to communities working on climate change.

- Tom Wilson in Viroqua
  - Wants to look at the programs we have now and see if they are working/not working. Audit our current programs for efficiency and success. Federal legislation would help fund and support weatherization programs. Frustrated with changes in our state's energy infrastructure and organizations over the years. It's a shame that our state government and PSC aren't doing more work to rebuild the existing programs and bring them back to function successfully.
- Tom Friberg, Brown County Supervisor
  - Working on getting a sustainability commission going in his community. Lots of concerns on the board that it won't be financially possible, and that technology won't be available. WI Conservation Voter wants:
    - Office of Environmental Justice
    - Carbon reduction top priority
    - Moving towards a carbon tax
    - Support for local gov't investments
      - Brown CO looking into financing for a microgrid and using savings from installation of a microgrid to pay off installation
  - If the state can create a public utility that focuses on energy generation, we can use the finances to build more solar installations.
- Meghan Salmon-Tumas from Ashland
  - Moved up from Madison partly because of the snow. Many people come up for outdoor recreation and tourism. Facing losses because of climate change. Ex: the Birkie was cancelled a few years ago because there wasn't sufficient snow. Communities will need support to diversify and have contingency events moving forward. The state has the opportunity to provide guidance, education, support, and resources. Believes that climate change is often not personal enough, thinks a phenology observation campaign would be helpful to teach climate change. Co-benefits to education and research. We need to increase equitable access to the outdoors and nature. WI needs to be a leader in controlling climate change.
- Kate Beaton, Eau Claire City Council (again)
  - Lots of opportunity for WI to be a leader, but also sees the ability for change to take place at the local level because it's happening across party lines. Local communities are eager to take on the transition to clean energy, but significant budget shortfalls are leaving gaps in resources for communities to step up into leadership roles. State can provide resources and professional knowledge to help invest in clean infrastructure and help guide communities through the process.
- Joe Fitzgerald
  - Thinks that folks in WI do understand climate change. Works in the climate change field. Understands that many people don't have the resources/time to work on climate change in their communities. Thinks it would be great for the state to create those opportunities for

people to work in the climate field. If the state takes a step forward in climate work and allows people to participate in the work in their own communities, it would be a great investment.

- DoctrinAire
  - Thinks we should work with existing systems and move forward from COVID-19 towards a healthier world. Sharing economic ideas to have wealthier citizens. Terraforming the Sahara. Planting and dealing with the dust blowing over to the southern US.
- Jill Hiroskey in Neenah
  - Responding to Jeff's question about increasing sense of urgency: Know the public's sense of thinking. Yale has published resources she finds are really valuable.

***End of staff notes.***

### **Breakout Room 3 Zoom Chat:**

**18:41:55**      **From clairegervais :** Im in room but video not working

**18:44:01**      **From Meghan Salmon-Tumas :** to raise your hand, click on participants and find the button on the bottom-right of the participants window.

**18:45:29**      **From Staff-Wenona Wolf :** Thank you Meghan!

**18:46:29**      **From Liz Wessel :** John Gosling has raised his hand

**18:49:00**      **From Staff-Wenona Wolf To Staff- Emma Campion(privately) :** Can you check your phone? I need your help. The hand raising is not going smoothly and other people are trying to help me.

**19:15:59**      **From Joe Fitzgerald :** Can you put Jeff's question in the chat?

**19:16:02**      **From Renee's iPhone :** I think the media stories about affects in the Great Lakes speaks to that question. People think climate change happens elsewhere. We need to show how it is affecting our Great Lakes freshwater.

**19:16:18**      **From John Gosling :** every building would benefit from a site energy assessment!

**19:16:19**      **From Renee's iPhone :** \*effects

**19:17:50**      **From gilbert :** Sorry for being a downer..... but given the terrible reactions that the the general public as shown, climate change is facing the same seemingly unmovable wall.

**19:18:24**      **From Rick Larson :** Focusing on increasing food costs while connecting these increases to the fluctuating weather because of climate change. Same with increases in energy usage (costs), ect.

**19:19:35**      **From Renee's iPhone** : we also need to elevate more young people in leadership positions. I think young people get it more often than most. every Sustainability Commission, climate task force, etc should have youth voices on it.

**19:19:50**      **From Staff-Wenona Wolf To Staff- Emma Campion(privately)** : Jeff's question is what can we do to get more people interested in combatting climate change and understanding the urgency to do it?

**19:19:59**      **From Staff-Wenona Wolf** : Jeff's question is what can we do to get more people interested in combatting climate change and understanding the urgency to do it?

**19:20:02**      **From Staff- Emma Campion To Staff-Wenona Wolf(privately)** : yes!

**19:21:15**      **From Preston Cole- DNR** : hand up

**19:21:37**      **From Claire Gervais** : My battery power is 23% and I don't have a power cord at my office. Can I jump in to talk soon?

**19:22:40**      **From Ted Kraig** : I have something to say regarding the question.

**19:25:15**      **From Kerry Schumann** : Well said, Preston.

**19:26:05**      **From Jennifer** : Surveys have shown that people of color are more likely to support efforts to address climate change but have fewer opportunities to engage/ have their voices heard.

**19:26:42**      **From Renee's iPhone** : Thought question: do we need to convince the masses to care about climate change, or can we decrease the power of the wealthy few that stand in the way of climate action?

**19:26:42**      **From Christine Johnstad** : I think that's an important point Secretary Cole, advocating for action on climate change is a privileged role

**19:26:48**      **From Jennifer** : I would like to address Jeff's question.

**19:28:12**      **From gilbert** : Words well said Pam. Chambers do sit on the right and they have tremendous pull with right wing legislators.

**19:29:30**      **From Ligia Rivera** : Fresh water security is critical to all our livelihood, indigenous, black, brown and white. Great Lakes are an important reservoir of fresh water that we need to protect.

**19:30:03**      **From Tom Wilson** : Claire needs to use earphones

**19:31:51**      **From Brittany Keyes** : Re: Jeff's question - I truly believe that a majority of people, regardless of political affiliation support climate action. I feel that a disproportional amount of attention is provided to those who disagree. A recent survey study shows/supports this (found in this article): <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2020/6/23/21298065/climate-clean-energy-public-opinion-poll-trends-pew>. So again, I believe that the majority of people support climate action.

Hopefully, because of this, the majority of our elected representatives can move forward with meaningful action.

**19:33:00**      **From Jennifer** : Thanks!

**19:35:17**      **From Meghan Salmon-Tumas** : Great point Brittany!

**19:36:21**      **From Jeff Rafn** : Thank you all for your insightful answers to my question. I you did not have chance to share feel free to email me at [jeff.rafn@nwtc.edu](mailto:jeff.rafn@nwtc.edu)

**19:43:26**      **From Ted Kraig** : Unfortunately, the coming climate catastrophe is not immediate enough to motivate most people. Even if most say they want action on climate action, it's not motivational enough to be a top priority that they are demanding action on. We therefore need to deliver on the immediate economic benefits of climate action. Lip service and happy promises are not enough. A laissez faire attitude towards quality job creation won't cut it. We need standards for the jobs and the career tracks. We need unions to be empowered and involved. We need to target the investment to communities that are discriminated against and often considered expendable. Equity and quality jobs cannot be an after thought.

**19:43:44**      **From Kerry Schumann** : question for Tom Wilson - any thoughts on policies that would improve rental housing? It seems that people who are renting miss out on the benefits of things like weatherization, etc

**19:45:10**      **From Jennifer** : I would like to see Tom Wilson's report.

**19:45:43**      **From Kathy Allen (she/her)** : Several years ago we had someone from Focus on Energy come to our house and install LEDs, faucet aerators, and low-flow showerheads - it was awesome! But now that's been cut and now you can only request limited efficiency materials (bulbs, showerheads, etc.) by mail!

**19:54:43**      **From Tom Wilson** : Kathy Allen - they should have tested your whole house with blower doors, infrared cameras, furnace testers and CO monitors and then gone on to do all the critical air sealing needs and reinsulated the whole house. What you got was chump change and even that is worse now.

**19:55:38**      **From Tom Wilson** : Kerry -low income weatherization also serves renters

**19:56:40**      **From Tom Wilson** : Jennifer. I'd be pleased to share the report (needs updating but I should have it ready soon. Anybody else who would like a copy, please contact me at [resenergy@mwt.net](mailto:resenergy@mwt.net)

**19:59:37**      **From Christine Johnstad** : Thank you all for sharing!!

**20:01:32**      **From Karen Durnin** : Can we submit additional written comments somewhere?

**20:03:23**      **From Staff-Wenona Wolf** : Yes!

**20:03:32**      **From Kerry Schumann** : Thanks for all the really great information, everyone!

**20:03:45**      **From Staff-Wenona Wolf** : You can submit written comments at our website:  
<https://climatechange.wi.gov>

## VIII. Facilitator Summaries

### Main themes from breakout room #3 (Wenona):

- a) The impact of climate change on lakes, tourism, and the outdoors
- b) Health professionals talked about the impact of climate change, especially on marginal communities
- c) The need for local support, local control
- d) Create an office of environmental justice,
- e) Provide funding to local governments and data for local governments to use,
- f) Carbon fee and dividends
- g) Invest in renewable energy and get rid of fossil fuel dependency
- h) The need for a Statewide resiliency plan
- i) Make conservation a priority
- j) It is the responsibility of corporations to invest in renewable energy

### Main themes from breakout room #2 (Olivia):

- a) Health professionals made thoughtful comments about the impacts of climate change on overall health, mental health, human health, and the compounding effects of climate change on healthcare
- b) Disparate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, especially People of Color
- c) Severe flooding issues around the State
- d) Impacts of climate change on recreation and tourism
- e) Our responsibility to future generations
- f) Recognition of the urgency of acting now for long-term impact
- g) Solutions include moving away from fossil fuels with aggressive timelines, education for youth, develop frameworks for discussing this with young people, engage with communities of color or other vulnerable populations, bold conservation of land, wildlife, energy, transportation, need for State support, incentivize local climate change work, health and climate change assessment as part of regulatory work

### Main themes from breakout room #1 (Raj):

- a) Stories of personal health affected by climate change
- b) Effects of 500-year floods
- c) The importance of needing to take action now in a bipartisan manner
- d) Take a watershed approach
- e) Wisconsin can work in multiple directions—up, out, and down
- f) Work with the utilities
- g) Solutions include looking at research into agriculture, getting to net zero greenhouse gases by 2050, online resources to review solutions, ways to enable personal choices to become sustainable, sustainable architectural design, non-high-tech solutions

## **IX. Closing remarks**

- Thank you for your energy in appropriately addressing climate change. Your continued participation will help us craft an environmental and equitable future. Thank you for helping this go smoothly and for participating.
- Our next public hearings are July 9 and July 15. Your help with outreach would be appreciated. Submit your comments and recommendations online before Friday, July 31.
- Thank you for your participation and see you next time!