

Governor's Task Force on Climate Change

Notes from Public Listening Session 4

July 9, 2020

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 we are adjusting to our new reality. As we are letting science guide our way of life with COVID, as we will let science guide this Task Force. COVID-19 has forced us to adapt to new ways of learning and listening. I would like to travel in person to talk to you, but it is not the scientifically safe thing to do.
- This Task Force not about myself nor the administration—this 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 the voices and experiences of 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, 66th Assembly District
Representative Mike Kuglitsch, 82nd 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, 16th Senate District
Stacy Craig, Environmental Stewardship Advocate
Stephanie Delgado
Katie McGinty, Johnson Controls Inc.
Mike Peters, WPPI Energy

III. Presentations

Patrick Pelky, Director, Environmental, Health, Safety, Land and Agriculture Division, Oneida Nation

Oneida Nation's Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

- Oneida Nation has 12,000 acres of agricultural land and a rich history of farming.
- Food grown and produced on the reservation goes to a variety of sites: schools, assistance programs, farmer's market, retail outlets.
- Oneida's Community Integrated Food Systems (OCIFS) is a local food system and economy; OCIFS strategies include
 - Educating the Oneida community about food, agriculture, nutrition, health issues.
 - Integrating locally produced foods into the community and local institutions.
 - Planning for growth and development.
- Agriculture and food initiatives include Tsyunhehkwa Farm, Farm and Orchard, aquaponic system, farmers market, food pantry, food distribution.
- It is important to continue to educate the Oneida community and youth; "Pay the doctor or pay the farmer."
- Climate change is harming the soil due to erosion from increased severe water events; expanded grassed waterways help erosion.

Heidi Rudd, Director, Badger Rock Neighborhood Center

Rooted Growing Community

- In 2020 the Center for Resilient Cities and Community Ground Works merged to create Rooted.
- Rooted is committed to collaborations rooted in food, land and learning to enable people to grow and thrive in healthier, equitable and sustainable Madison neighborhoods.
- Projects are focused on urban agriculture and food sovereignty; diversity, equity and inclusion are key areas of focus.
- Rooted Badger Rock includes Badger Rock Middle School and Badger Rock Neighborhood Center.
 - Employs a farmer / teacher to ensure that the garden is incorporated into school curricula.
 - Neighborhood Center includes community programming, Community Market, community garden, emergency food distribution, workshops, food pantry.
- Rooted Troy Farm includes a production farm, kids garden, Troy Farm Summer Camp, and early care and education.
- With COVID, food production and free distribution have increased, including culturally relevant food boxes.
- Rooted provides stipends to trainees to learn how to farm and teach.

Paul Daigle, Land and Water Program Director, Marathon County Conservation Department
Impacts and Solutions to Changes in Climate

- The relationship between agriculture and changing weather is important because agriculture is Wisconsin's primary industry.
- We need to support farming systems that mimic the natural cycle of solar to chemical energy and the water cycle.
- Wisconsin had the driest decade on record 2000-2010 and then the wettest decade on record 2010-2019. This is indicative of climate change and makes farming very difficult and risky.
- The recent 22% increase in the amount of land tilled has negative effects:
 - Tillage-induced carbon dioxide loss is the primary environmental enemy in production agriculture.
 - Farming can be a contributor to climate change but can also be a solution.
 - Tillage destroys soil aggregates.
- Increased water events lead to increased gully erosion, downstream flooding, increased sediment, and nutrient runoff.
 - Voluntary conservation and minimal compliance requirements are not enough.
 - "Soil is naked, hungry, thirsty and running a fever."
- Farming must mimic nature; Mother Nature always wins.
 - Soil cannot be left bare; needs to be covered year-round.
 - Farmers need to plant cover crops along with annual crops.
 - Soil health leads to watershed health using resilient farming systems.
- We need to employ systems of biomimicry.
- There are many initiatives in Marathon County to improve farming practices:
 - The Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation integrates resilience into natural resources, community, and economy of the Eau Pleine Watershed.
 - Not one group can do it alone; multiple organizations are working together to restore water and nutrient cycles to the area.

IV. Main Room Chat Notes

18:02:46 From Susan Millar to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : We wouldn't have wanted to drive to this hearing. Online is better!

18:03:57 From Susan Bence to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Will audio be available after the session?

18:05:06 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Susan Bence(Privately) : yes, we will do our best to get it to posted quickly.

18:16:38 From Susan Bence to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Another option - can you give me permission to record from my computer?

18:25:12 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Susan Bence(Privately) : Sure, I gave you permission

18:30:21 From Susan Bence to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Something isn't working from MY end - so I will rely on your recording - thanks :)

19:57:34 From Cindy Carter to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Task force, please push to put a Moritorium on MOWING DITCHES in WI. Governments mow thousands of miles of habitat for birds, and our pollinators by mowing the wildflowers and clovers Pollinators are in trouble and this would help improve their food sources greatly

19:59:46 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Cindy Carter(Privately) : Thank you for your comment. I will share it with the Task Force members.

20:00:12 From Nick to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : can you please let tom know that I did not mean to take the money from them, but to make the the money that goes to them to be for a renewable source, not for a combustion source

20:00:15 From Cindy Carter to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : thank you this is a small detail that has major effects

20:02:25 From Cindy Carter to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : at least save the mowing for the fall after our pollinators are mostly gone

20:04:34 From Janie Riebe to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Thanks to all of you! Let's get to work on this!

20:05:03 From SharonR to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Book to read recommendation and to better understand the animacy of nature, Native American relationship with the land is Braiding the Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmer. Thank you.

V. Notes from Breakout Room 1

- **Jed Downs**
 - The State needs to address agriculture which is farmer-friendly and use our soil for carbon capture. I look forward to seeing how the State moves in that direction.
- **John Duffin**
 - My takeaway is that climate change is a huge, daunting problem, that it's nice to see so many angles presented. I'm reminded of the phrase "it takes a village" because we all need to pull together to combat climate change. I am encouraged by these constructive solutions.
- **Meghan**
 - I appreciate the discussion on agriculture and moving forward to work with natural systems.
- **Brandon Kim**
 - I enjoy how many different specialties are on this call. It is enlightening to hear everyone talk about their expertise.
- **Marya Bradley**
 - I appreciate the indigenous perspective, and inclusion of marginalized communities.
- **Susan Millar**
 - Paul Daigle's were very good. I recommend Gabe Brown's *Dirt to Soil* book. Is there any way to get Paul Daigle's presentation out very broadly? For example, churches, youth groups, etc.?
- **Pamela Guthman**
 - I'm the daughter of an 84-year-old farmer, and the last presentation was especially mindful to me. Years ago, farmers were advised to do more in order to get their soil ready for planting. We need to look at how to educate farmers, especially during the transition from older ways to younger farmers. We need to speak in a manner that would be well-received by Republicans.
- **Mary Reames**
 - I appreciated Paul Daigle's concept of resilience: how quickly a system can bounce back from an impact. This will be key for living with climate change; climate change is here and we have to find ways to live with it and its effects.
- **Sharon R**
 - We need to look at how indigenous communities have maintained cultural practices. They have been doing this sustainably for centuries. Paul took a systems approach, and we have to discuss agriculture, especially local production. Missing was the discussion of the other greenhouse gas: nitrogen. Synthetic nitrogen in fertilizers is a problem that needs to be solved. It is also a greenhouse gas from fossil fuels. I never hear people talking about

nitrogen. Nitrogen is the key to our agricultural production now, but it contributes to climate change.

- **Mary Reames**

- I am a Sierra Club member, a sustainability consultant, and a mother concerned about my son's future. In 2008 my son and I experienced the huge storm during which the Lake Delton dam broke. Climate change effects are facts at the local level. Multiple water events happen every year. Communities need to be prepared with resiliency programs. The State can help communities prepare for and recover from climate disasters. The State can help communities fund resiliency plans and change legislation to enable communities to use those plans. We can't reverse climate change, so we need to prepare to live with it. We need to respond quickly and efficiently; we all must become resilient.

- **John Duffin**

- The pandemic has put a spotlight on our social justice issues, including vulnerability to respiratory illness. That can come from increased carbon pollution and less access to health care. It is tragic to see increased COVID rates among minorities and marginalized people. Long overdue is a move full throttle toward clean energy. The fairest and most effective way to diminish our reliance on fossil fuel is to put a price on carbon. Increasing fees for burning fossil fuels would drive the cost of energy up. The revenue from those fees would be returned to households via a monthly dividend. I support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act HR763. It uses market forces to decrease the burning of fossil fuels. Low income families could bear the increased energy prices with monthly dividends. This would stimulate the economy and fund new jobs building renewable energy infrastructure. I urge the Task Force to endorse that legislation.

- **Jed Downs, Citizen of Cross Plains; Doctor of Osteopathy; Health Care Providers for Climate Change**

- We have been slow to respond to global warming. My ask is that we acknowledge the health impacts of burning fossil fuels, especially on high-risk populations. Landlords need to be required to cool houses in the same way they are required to provide heat, because people need a cool place to sleep at night. This is especially important for high-risk populations such as pregnant women, diabetics, elderly, etc. Ambient temperatures are increasing and there are many associations between heat and health issues. People need to be able to cool off and Wisconsin needs cooling standards.

- **Meghan, Citizen of Madison**

- Wisconsin needs a bold, ambitious plan to retire all coal plants and get to 100% clean energy. Coal affects our air quality; I've seen the negative effects on my family. Why continue to hurt our health when we can transition to cleaner energy? Please consider environmental and racial justice. Coal plants are a source of pollutants, and low-income communities are disproportionately affected by them. This systemic racism must end. Close all coal-fired plants so our children have a clean future. I'm working to take personal actions, but my government needs to help, especially with energy sources. I ask you to create a plan to retire all coal plants that includes a plan to assist workers in those coal plants.

- **Chris Rockwood, Citizen of Wauwatosa; Sierra Club Member; Citizen's Action of Wisconsin**
 - Yesterday morning's press release stating that the expansion of the I-94 corridor in Milwaukee would move forward spurred me to join this meeting. We need to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels, and any effective climate change plan should not include highway expansion. Practically, we are in the middle of a pandemic, and anything to address highways should wait until the pandemic is over. We may be looking at long-term transportation changes due to the pandemic. Now is not the time to expand freeways; we should only make short-term repairs until the pandemic is over. I want the Evers administration to oppose this expansion, unless the Republicans are willing to do things to help with climate, namely increase the fuel tax, provide funding for local roads and transit, and address the people who live in Milwaukee, not just the business interests and commuters. We need a regional transit authority. This legislation includes racial equity issues; transit in and around Milwaukee is a big concern and does not have a dedicated funding source. This is a poorly timed announcement. It's not the right thing for the climate, and I want the administration to oppose the expansion unless we can also get meaningful climate and transit actions included.

- **John Lyndell, Citizen of Bayfield; Retired Federal Biologist**
 - One effect of climate change is flooding in the Mississippi River basin. Flooding comes from three things: climate change, population/urban growth and ineffective land use management. The upper Mississippi watershed has experienced increased water events. Multiple environmental factors, increased population, and unwise land management have increased the adverse effects of these storms. What to do? We need to re-establish Wisconsin as a national leader in land and water conservation, as it was in 1930s. Please support State programs for land use management and support federal and State carbon fee and dividend legislation. Thank you.

- **Marya Bradley, Citizen of Milwaukee**
 - Thank you for doing this work with an eye to an ecologically and economically sustainable future that includes all races. I care deeply about preserving the beauty of life on earth and all species. I feel urgently the need for humans to shift away from fossil fuels and big agricultural industries that value profits over life itself. It is critical that we understand nature is not a commodity; access to nature cannot be sacrificed for profit. I urge the Task Force to commit to retire all coal-fired power plants and create a 100% clean energy future with solar, wind, geothermal, and battery energy sources. Do not neglect the communities that have relied on fossil fuel jobs. Reject the introduction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure, including shutting down the Line 5 expansion. They threaten the watershed and species in their pathway. Commit to stewardship of Wisconsin's state forests, wild spaces, native biodiversity, and a reduction of invasive species. Stop all highway expansions, including I-94 in Milwaukee. Instead, use those funds for electric transit systems and bike and walk pathways, which are important to connect marginalized communities. Incentivize sustainable agricultural practices and stewardship of lands, including reducing the use of pesticides. Promote healthy, organic foods in all communities. We need to do more to understand our connection to the human web of life.

- **Pamela Guthman, Doctor of Nursing; Professor at UW-Eau Claire; Health Professionals for Climate Action**
 - I am a nurse and focus on population health. I have three kids and three grandkids, and I worry about their future. Many in my family suffer from asthma; it is painful to watch a loved one gasping for air. Innocent people have been affected by coal-fired power plants. Their environmental health dangers have been hidden from the public; the fossil fuel industry has caused global warming. Severe storms cause death and changes in air quality. The warming of the planet is accelerated by our dependence on fossil fuels. We will see increased mold and pollens. There are more costs and health effects to come. Climate events are increasing; we cannot afford to wait. We need innovative approaches to climate change for the health of our families and community. We need to invest in alternative energy. Decrease carbon emissions. Put the health of our community first with green jobs. Electrify public transit. Dismantle the systemic racism that disproportionately affects lower-income communities. Invest in community and solar gardens, farmer justice initiatives and farmers' markets. Invest in upstream river infrastructure. There are many, many proposed solutions and we also need to consider prevention strategies. Moral courage and bold rapid action are needed.

- **Brandon Kim, Medical student at UW-Madison**
 - I am worried about the health of my patients. Refocusing our food and agricultural systems would have co-benefits on the climate and Wisconsinites. Poor nutrition is a primary cause of obesity and diabetes. Only 1/10 Americans consume enough fruits and vegetables. There is too much red meat in Americans' diets. Nitrogen-based pesticides adversely affect health in multiple ways. Our agricultural practices are making us sick directly and indirectly. Rearranging our food system priorities to practices that are sustainable will create a healthier environment and healthier humans. The inequalities in our food system are enormous. Low socio-economic communities don't have access to healthy food sources, and healthier options are often more expensive. We can improve environmental and human health while also creating a more equitable society. Other adverse effects of climate instability that increase mortality include increased severe weather events, air pollution, increased ticks and tropical diseases. Switching to 100% clean energy could save people from premature deaths, asthma exacerbations, and sick days. Wisconsin is at a precipice to make a difference; let's make health a priority by acting strongly for the environment.

- **Casey Hicks, Community Organizer in De Pere**
 - Green Bay and the Breen Bay School District are committed to using 100% clean energy by 2050. De Pere and Brown Counties are considering making their own commitments. Governments are going to see budget shortfalls with COVID. Often local governments don't know how to take the first steps or have the funds to start. I ask the Task Force to recommend fully funding the Office of Energy Innovation in order to fund local governments' efforts toward clean energy goals.

- **Sharon Riley, Wildlife Conservation Biologist**
 - I recommend protecting current family farms. Ensure that farmland remains used for agriculture or conservation. Develop a program to buy back farmland or help struggling family farmers. Diversify our farming away from megafarms.

End of staff notes.

Breakout Room 1 Zoom Chat:

17:39:59 **From Raj Kamal** : Just testing chat connectivity :-)

17:40:59 **From Staff - Maria Redmond** : I see it.

19:04:20 **From Miriam Douglass** : Great to see the Indigenous people perspective. They have always been attentive to be in connection with nature.

19:05:12 **From Miriam Douglass** : The last presentation was very informative on better farming practices. I agree with others that we need to disseminate this information more broadly.

19:05:31 **From John Duffin** : Agreed, Miriam. We have a lot to learn from Indigenous Peoples' sustainable practices.

19:06:18 **From Rick Larson** : I don't have audio or camera set up. My public contribution is an idea of converting lawn grass into gardens. On a mass scale this conversion would contribute to various forms of carbon savings and carbon storage. On a small scale I have been experimenting in my backyard and have been successful growing a large portion of my vegetable and fruit requirements without using any chemicals fertilizers or biocides. Working with nature as the soil scientist alluded to. The state could encourage this through various messaging and a property tax rebate.

19:07:38 **From Meghan (she/her/hers)** : And encourage permaculture and permagardens

19:08:09 **From Rick Larson** : There you go Meghan!

19:11:07 **From Gregg Schneider** : I liked these presentations so much; I appreciate so much our farmer's market even more!

19:13:19 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC** : For a detailed read on Smart Rainwater Management google search "Smart Rainwater Management: New Technologies and Innovations" By Raseswari Pradhan and Jayaprakash Sahoo. most updated data on rainwater catches i could find. all pricy thou between plumbing, electrical, construction and maintainance. a book full of ideas thou

19:13:52 **From Gregg Schneider** : I love the idea of the property tax rebate if you have yards with native plants and do not use pesticides and herbicides that Rick Larson just wrote about. We're planting as many prairie plants as we can and trying to be pollinator friendly.

19:16:01 **From Susan Millar** : I recommend 2 books that strongly support Paul Daigle's presentation. One is "Dirt to Soil" by an extraordinary midwestern farmer, Gabe Brown. He writes it pretty much farmer to farmer and it's full of very grounded, superb science. The second is "DrawDown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming," edited by Paul Hawken. DrawDown is an NYT bestseller. It is full of information that most of us simply do not know about. The content is available online at www.drawdown.org. Reading the book in paper is superb as well.

19:25:01 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC** : I'm concerned that mandates will further create animosity between government and citizens of WI. we have to do this in a way that brings citizens voluntarily to address Climate Change and want to invest in solutions instead of feeling of being forced. My other concern is how we make sure that those in poverty are protected if displaced by a weather event and how do we make sure the poor do not endorse the cost by fines and higher taxes in urban and rural areas.

19:25:16 **From Gregg Schneider** : We agree - get rid of coal plants

19:27:13 **From Susan Millar** : Taking up the idea noted above of mass converting lawn grass into prairie, rain gardens, and other perennial gardens, I ask the Task Force to ask all our public universities to convert all their lawns into these diverse, carbon-capturing, pollinator-and bird-friendly spaces. The UW-Madison, for example, uses nitrogen fertilizer and weed-killing chemicals on all their lawns. These chemicals seep into and harm our beautiful lakes. And then UW-Madison uses a lot of fossil fuel to spread these chemicals and then keep these lawns cut for 6 months of the year. This university, and all the other public universities can make a big difference, and help lead the way, by replacing their fancy lawns.

19:27:28 **From Meghan (she/her/hers)** : Agreed - no more highway expansion

19:28:08 **From Susan Millar** : YES, no more highway expansion!

19:28:09 **From Katie Hogan** : Agreed, highways are systematic racism in our built world

19:29:14 **From Gregg Schneider** : Yes - I love the idea of starting with the universities and technical colleges and all gov't buildings - stop all the lawn mowing etc. It would help so much!

19:29:30 **From Casey Paulson** : agreed, put more money into clean public and regional transport/transit

19:30:00 **From Meghan (she/her/hers)** : Yes - more funding to clean energy public transportation

19:30:03 **From Jed Downs** : I agree every effort should be made to not invest further in fossil fuel infrastructure. The immediate concern is the building of Enbridge Line 5 which will bring the filthiest crude to Sarnia Ontario. It puts WI and especially the Bad River Band at risk and 90% (+) benefits and fuel will be used in Canada, not in the US. Just because we are a short cut to Sarnia doesn't mean that we could have to assume the risk.

19:32:32 **From Susan Millar** : Wrt the highways, there is excellent research on the relationship between urban sprawl and increased highway capacity. The amazing finding from this research is that even if highway expansion "keeps up" with the new urban sprawl developments, highway congestion always gets worse. We need to reduce sprawl and go with denser, walkable/bikeable/useable urban centers in order to reduce car use.

19:34:16 **From Jeffrey Gohlke** : The overall use of public mass transit has declined rapidly due to the pandemic. Is this the time to build more?

19:35:23 **From Jed Downs** : I've had concerns about the amount of land that will need to be dedicated to solar electrical generation. I am not sure if it's workable, but I have wondered if Highway right ways could be used for solar panel installations. This would be a potential source to feed the EV energy needs. Just a brain storm.

19:36:37 **From Meghan (she/her/hers)** : If solar energy could be placed more so on housing roofs, that would create a lot of useable space as well

19:36:56 **From Jeffrey Gohlke** : Transportation of goods and people will continue to grow. Relieving congestion leads to more efficient use of the system regardless of the fuel source. Perhaps one should focus on fuel efficiency, hybrid and electric vehicles.

19:37:14 **From Jed Downs** : But not at the expense of urban trees

19:37:32 **From Jeffrey Gohlke** : Agreed

19:38:18 **From Casey Paulson** : absolutely, these pipelines need to be shut down

19:39:27 **From Chris Rockwood** : The written comments that I submitted regarding the proposed I-94 East-West Corridor expansion were even longer! In my effort to shorten my spoken remarks, I may have rambled a bit. Here is a more succinct statement: This segment of freeway does need to be reconstructed because of its age and safety deficiencies (especially left-hand entrance and exit ramps). I would like to see the Evers administration (1) defer any decisions, announcements, or studies involving this freeway until after the pandemic is over and its impacts are better understood; and (2) oppose expansion of this freeway segment and favor only reconstruction at the minimum possible cost within its existing footprint, with no changes other than safety improvements (e.g., eliminating left-hand entrance and exit ramps) -- unless authorizing a modest expansion could be part of a compromise in which Republican legislators would agree to raise fuel taxes and authorize the creation of a regional transit authority in southeastern Wisconsin.

19:44:18 **From Gregg Schneider** : Reverse the extra cost for hybrid cars. Instead the legislature should base the fee on the weight of the vehicle, since the bigger the truck the more the damage.

19:45:22 **From Casey Paulson** : agree with pamela, completely!

19:45:43 **From Gregg Schneider** : So do we!

19:45:54 **From Meghan (she/her/hers)** : 100%!

19:46:31 **From Rick Larson** : Solar electric and heating is doable on a building by building level. This issue on centralized measures are transitional losses, and shareholders demanding dividends. However, the plan would have to be long term view scaling up, instead of wanting it all now, do something, from 10% of individual home and business usage, to 25%, and so forth. I sold solar for over three years, performing 400 solar site assessments, selling over 100. And can tell you the people who didn't buy in would rather save their money for vacations, a new car, which is now in jeopardy with the virus I might add. So maybe its now an easier sell.

- 19:46:56** **From Jed Downs** : Let's recognize that government can be an agent for good and be willing to pay taxes to pursue the goals which Pamela listed.
- 19:47:08** **From Gregg Schneider** : Put Pamela on the committee!
- 19:48:44** **From Meghan (she/her/hers)** : Thank you Brandon!
- 19:50:36** **From Kerry Schumann** : All of the testimony has been really great tonight. As a member of the task force, I just want to say thank you. Your time and expertise are really appreciated.
- 19:51:12** **From Bobbi Wilson (she/her), Wisconsin Farmers Union** : Thanks for your comments, Brandon. Well done!
- 19:53:38** **From Mary Reames** : Sierra Club has created a Green Energy Toolkit to help these communities to develop their plans for green energy.
- 19:54:09** **From Rick Larson** : Having the chance to share my home is 1212 S 26th St in Manitowoc, you can see my work on the satellite view. Notice the white roof to reflect heat in the coming hot house Earth years.
- 20:04:02** **From Jed Downs to Staff - Raj Kamal (Privately)** : Nice job of coordination of the breakout session. Thank you
- 20:04:23** **From Staff - Raj Kamal to Jed Downs (Privately)** : Thank you, Jed, for your participation.

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?

- Kathy from La Crosse
 - All three presenters were clear that we need to be bold and creative and can't mince words because the alternative is increasingly devastating outcomes for our communities, lands, and food systems

- Ted Kraig - Citizen Action Milwaukee
 - On Milwaukee City Task force for climate and equity
 - Liked connection between food and land and equity in presentations
 - Lots of neighborhoods in Milwaukee, Racine, etc that are in distress and have had huge unemployment
 - Climate action is an opportunity to address this.
 - In anything we do, we need to think hard about how these will be good quality jobs for people
 - There is a plan to reforest Milwaukee--lots of good jobs in managing trees and forests that could benefit people who need them
 - Need to be intentional so that these green jobs are union jobs and pay well with benefits

- Jim Boulter
 - All of the communities represented in the presentations live on economic margins, whether its urban agriculture or Indigenous communities or farming communities--all are on the edge a lot of the time and state needs to enable and encourage these transitions
 - Question for Paul Daigle about how to help farmers transition

- Paul Daigle (in response to Jim)
 - We need to put incentives in place to get farmers to try new systems and practices and help them when there are failures
 - Need to create regional sustainable food systems, not nationwide vertically integrated systems
 - When beef started becoming scarce, they went to our local producers, but we need better processors to support that local sourcing

- Jamie
 - Happy that both urban and rural farming were represented in presentations

- Ned Grossnickle
 - Phosphorus from CAFOs is the limiting nutrient in lakes and the vast majority of inland lakes in Wisconsin are being affected by phosphorus
 - Lots of runoff especially as ice melts and this contributes to pollution in lakes

- William Lynch
 - Can these programs be adopted broadly enough to have a truly significant impact on carbon and climate change?
 - Needs to be more emphasis on how farms can be sustainable while not sacrificing too many profits or going out of business
 - He imagines there are farms that have changed their practices that can be used as examples that you can be more sustainable and be financially secure

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

- Ryan Sorenson - Sheboygan City Council
 - Has seen impacts of climate change in Sheboygan
 - Increased water levels in Lake Michigan and surround rivers which has contributed to shoreline erosion, damage to parks and other public spaces
 - tourism, water usage, recreation around the water have been massively impacted by this
- Victoria - Chief Resident and Primary Care Physician
 - Bears witness to pain and trauma of patients and aims to ease their suffering
 - Much of our health is related to and determined by their environment
 - The health impacts of climate change are overwhelming
 - She knows she will see more heat strokes cases, more lung problems, tropical diseases that will become more common in the US, etc.
 - And even more global health impacts of climate change are felt around the world
 - Has chosen not to have children because of climate change
 - Need to shut down coal plants in Wisconsin and transition to clean energy
 - This will disproportionately benefit communities of color and improve everyone's lives
- Ashley - Janesville
 - Similar concerns to Victoria
 - Mother has severe respiratory illness and very concerned air is not clear and things will get worse
 - Currently Dairyland Power Co-op and Minnesota Power are planning for Bemidji power plant that will require 5 million gallons of water ever day
 - Wind and solar energy are clean alternatives that will protect our natural resources from further degradation
 - We should follow example of Milwaukee and WE energies in constructing solar field on closed landfill
 - Should shift to 100% renewable energy by 2030
 - Would mean the world if her mom could have clean air to breathe
- Nancy Turyk - Water Resource Scientist
 - Co-chair for WI Greenfire's Climate Change working group
 - Look at science behind climate change's impacts on natural resource systems
 - We have species of plants and animals that will be negatively impacted by climate change if not completely removed from Wisconsin because of it
 - We know that when we have even small temperature changes, that can have large impacts on ecosystems

- Al Buss
 - Here on behalf of Vernon County Energy district
 - Trying to accelerate transition to renewable energy
 - On 9/12/2012, he was on US Highway 41 in the Upper Peninsula and was riding bicycle around Lake Superior
 - Was on two-lane highway and there were tons of cars -- just people going about their day
 - Made clear how addicted to oil we are. Most of us cannot leave our house without fossil fuel
 - We are creating a disaster by our continued use. We cannot live without this thing that is destroying our life. Just like the nature of addiction
 - We didn't get here overnight -- we made lots of decisions to get to this point and we have to remake all these decisions
 - Supports carbon taxing and carbon dividends
 - Concerned at some point we will end up with wildfires like they have in California
 - Not easy to break an addiction but not breaking it is even more difficult

Question prompts: 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?

- Tom Wilson
 - Spent his career working in energy efficiency and climate issues
 - On April 18, 1978, went to NYC and provided testimony before federal energy administration to support newly instituted low-income weatherization program they were proposing
 - That same evening, Pres. Jimmy Carter issued speech now known as Moral Equivalent of War speech announcing the need to go to war with our energy issues
 - Similar to Green New Deal
 - Called for efficiency and social justice
 - Especially wants to encourage people who are listening to look back at things that have worked and not recreate the wheel.
- Kathy from La Crosse (again)
 - Wants to make sure transportation is a high priority in the task force considerations
 - Top greenhouse gas emitter is transportation sector
 - Need huge investments and expansion of public transportation
 - Need to make accessible to everyone
- Jen Giegerich - WI Conservation Voters
 - State can help local governments with technical resources to establish baselines and benchmarks to move to renewables
 - State should invest in other programs to help local governments financially
- Shana Ledvina - Alder in De Pere
 - On De Pere Sustainability Commission

- De Pere wants to invest in clean energy solutions but making these investments is difficult when up against budget constraints
- Their commission and council lack expertise to create a plan to get to 100% clean energy, so they need to hire consultants to do it, but don't have funds
- State Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy should help local governments
- Jim Boulter (again)
 - UW Eau Claire scientist and serves on City of Eau Claire Sustainability commission
- Lauren Johnson- Madison high schooler
 - Need climate solutions rooted in justice and need to incorporate racial equity
 - Need Green New Deal
 - Need to prioritize frontline communities and be included in decision making process
 - Need Indigenous control over decisions on Indigenous land to respect tribal sovereignty
 - Repeal AB 426 pipeline bill
 - Need green job guarantee, especially for current dirty energy workers
- Annabel, intern at 350 Madison
 - DNR should broaden their environmental impact statement on the Line 5 Enbridge tar sands pipeline to include climate impacts
 - The pipeline reroute is a band aid not a solution
 - This oil will be burned and go into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change
- Nick from Madison
 - Engineer focused on data
 - Need to look at numbers of what will make the most impact
 - Need to take reinvest
- Jamie
 - Farming is Wisconsin's heritage and very alarming to see small and midsize family farms going out of business
 - Need to provide incentives to sustain farmland, and offer payments to farmers for carbon sequestration, emphasize wetland preservation

End of staff notes.

Breakout Room 2 Zoom Chat:

19:06:17 **From Brenda Taylor, AIA Wisconsin :** Thank you for the very informative presentations.

19:07:35 **From ahaines :** Ned Grossnickle keeps raising his hand/clapping

19:07:39 **From Victoria :** There is someone who has been raising their hand up in videos - Ned Grossnickle

19:11:38 **From Staff - Olivia Shanahan** : To raise your hand click the “participants box” on the bottom of the screen and in the box that pops up, click the “raise hand” button. Additional comments, questions, and resources can be sent to climatechange.wi.gov on the “comments” tab or by following this link: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/climate/comments>.

19:15:57 **From Staff - Olivia Shanahan** : Q1: 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?

19:20:59 **From Jim Boulter** : Thank you, Dr. Victoria, for all you do! I appreciate and agree with all you said.

19:21:36 **From John Skoug** : Thanks Victoria! Well stated!

19:23:45 **From John Skoug** : Great ideas, Ashley!

19:24:16 **From John Skoug** : A Carbon Fee & Dividend would really support your concerns!

19:34:30 **From Staff - Olivia Shanahan** : Q1: What solutions have worked in your community or industry to mitigate and adapt the effects of climate change? Q2: What should the state of Wisconsin be doing to assist communities in combatting climate change?

19:36:23 **From Eric Neusen** : Let's see a show of hands of how many folks in this zoom room have solar on their home and drive an electric car. Activists need to lead by example. Use the "thumbs up" reaction button.

19:39:23 **From Shana Ledvina** : I have an electric car plug in in my garage, working on getting the car :)

19:46:59 **From Staff - Chet Agni** : Hi Shana, Gov. Evers has created the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy. You can find more information here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/OSCE.aspx>

19:48:16 **From Eric Neusen** : Since 2018 I've had a 7.2kW solar system on my home and have been driving a Chevy Volt PHEV for my 40mi daily work round trip. I charge the car on sunshine every day. I haven't had to put gas in my car since April. Time to act people. Talk is cheap. Being an example spurs renewable energy and clean transportation conversations with neighbors, friends, co-workers. Unless we start the conversations, no one will

19:48:34 **From Shana Ledvina** : Awesome. Now time to fund incentives for governmental bodies to invest in clean energy!

19:48:40 **From Shana Ledvina** : Yeah Lauren! :) :)

19:48:56 **From John Skoug** : I have a 11.2 kW solar panel system and just purchased a Tesla Model Y!

19:49:19 **From Jim Boulter** : Excellent comments, Lauren - thanks so much for your passion and your engagement!

19:51:33 **From Eric Neusen** : Last fall I convinced the owner of my place of work to install a 133kW rooftop solar system and two car charging stations. It's been up and running since January.

19:52:52 **From Annabel Stattelman-Scanlan** : If you'd like to submit a comment to the DNR regarding the Line 5 reroute, follow this link:

19:52:54 **From Annabel Stattelman-Scanlan** :
<https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/decommission-line-5>

19:55:09 **From Tom Wilson** : sorry for the last outburst. I had no idea my mike was on, but it was an involuntary out burst to say to take money from low income folks to research.

20:04:49 **From Nick to Staff - Olivia Shanahan(Privately)** : can you please let tom know that I did not mean to take the money from them, but to make the the money that goes to them to be for a renewable source, not for a combustion source

20:04:59 **From Nick to Staff - Olivia Shanahan(Privately)** : tom wison

VII. Notes from Breakout Room 3

- Cindy Carter
 - Wants the state to put a moratorium on mowing ditches to help grow pollinators.

- Jennifer
 - Echoing previous concerns about food security and fossil fuels.
 - We need to address social justice when we address climate change.
 - Discussion about heat waves and how they specifically impact people in concentrated urban areas and who have preexisting conditions.
 - We should shift to renewable energy production with a green economy.
 - New Green jobs should be targeted towards displaced workers, low income individuals, and people of color.

- Jessica LeClair, Madison
 - Public health nurse who is now an educator.
 - She has witnessed how accelerated climate change is impacting public health over the years. Some communities are on the front lines of the climate crisis more than others.
 - Social identities can impact people's interactions, many times identities overlap.
 - Sharing story of attending a neighborhood meeting where a local principal discussed that students were missing school because of increased asthma symptoms. They identified the asthma symptoms because of mold in basements of apartments that had flooded years before and were never fully renovated. The residents did not want the nurse to act or engage with the landlords because they feared eviction and there are not enough affordable housing options in Madison.
 - Climate change is a civil rights issue and we need to protect health of marginalized groups when we work to address climate change.

- Mayor of Glendale Bryan Kennedy
 - Speaking about Glendale's efforts to create a resiliency plan.
 - They partnered a few years ago with Johnson Controls to adopt the Paris Climate Accords plans.
 - Worked with Johnson Controls to rebuild city hall to have green infrastructure.
 - When they rebuilt, they realized they were in a flood plain.
 - During the planning they reworked the landscape to help trap as much water as possible where it falls to prevent flooding.

- Terry Wiggins Milwaukee resident
 - Encourages establishing office of environmental justice.
 - WI is one of the only states without such an office.
 - Upset about I-94 expansion and thinks the task force should speak up in opposition to this decision. Create jobs by rebuilding, not expanding. Expansion will not respect the full humanity of the community and violates the principal of environmental justice. Expansion will only increase cars on the road, increasing congestion and air pollution. Increase transit instead.

- Sarah Chwaszczewski
 - Not someone who typically participates or testifies.
 - Grew up in Appleton, lived in Green Bay and still lives in the Fox Valley.
 - WI has historically been a progressive state, she's proud to be from Wisconsin.
 - Let's think about future generations.
 - How do we manage our forests in a way that promotes conservation? We should use them to capture carbon. When we harvest lumber, we should do so responsibly.
 - Task force should consider protecting old growth forests from clearcutting. Old growth forests capture much more carbon.
 - We have coal plants in this state and there is other technology available to us. In 2020 we need to implement- on a policy level- banning the use of fossil fuels. Air quality is suffering as a result of coal powered plants. Coal plants generate electricity and when we use electricity with cleaner products (like electric vehicles) we are not doing as much good as we think we are.
 - We need net zero emissions.

- Susan Modder lives by the Oak Creek Power Plant
 - The coal is detrimental to resident's health and is costing \$75 million more/ year to operate than the value of its output.
 - Retire Oak Creek power plant and all coal plants in Wisconsin.
 - Train workers to work in a renewable economy.
 - 6,000 tons of coal are burned daily. The air pollution from these plants contribute to cancer, asthma, and more problems.

- Marjorie Lewis from Madison
 - Concerned/terrified parent. If we don't take action to cut carbon emissions by 2020, we won't get to the outcomes we need by 2030. Worried we are running out of time.
 - Her children have expressed to her that they might see the end of the world in their lifetimes. Her oldest was 6 when they watched Hurricane Katrina on TV and it feels like things haven't calmed down since then. It's a lot to take.
 - Wants the taskforce to use the lens that nothing matters on a dead planet. She wants the taskforce to create a new model of climate leadership. She wants a bold, decisive plan that move the state swiftly to 100% renewable energy. Address equity and environmental justice. Take plan to legislature and ask them to take action.

- Gail Nordheim, board president of 350 Madison
 - COVID-19 pandemic is a preview of the havoc climate change will bring to the world.
 - We need to eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels.
 - State should consider a 3-pronged approach: infrastructure, divestment, reducing demand.
 - Recovering from the pandemic will be an enormous challenge. State should consider approaches that address climate change and foster community.

- Dan Dietrich
 - Believes we need to reward people as they use clean energy to promote future use. What is good is burning less gas/oil/coal and using reliable, resilient, cost-effective, renewable energy. Supports carbon fee and dividend.

- Cindy Carter
 - Asking folks to stop Enbridge and contact DNR.
- Greg St. Ange in Northwoods near Lake Superior
 - Helps create and maintain cross country ski trails. Seasons have warmed rather dramatically over his lifespan.
 - We need to create more publicly available charging stations. Works in conjunction with tourism.
- Phil Smith speaking on behalf of a friend Kim.
 - Recognizes power of collective to preserve our natural environment while maintaining the economy. Combatting climate change is the answer to both.
 - We are Wisconsinites, we know this can be done. We can be on the forefront of clean energy development.
 - Encourages programs that will subsidize development of renewable energy in WI. We need to disincentivize use of fossil fuels by adopting carbon fee and dividend.
 - We should listen to the nonpartisan citizens climate lobby.
 - Nothing can happen with piecemeal steps; we need to move forward boldly and with courage.
- Jennifer
 - Believes we already have many systems in place to move ahead.
 - Tech College System already doing some green job training but that should be expanded.
 - We can redirect funding for fossil fuel energy to clean energy programs.
 - Economics are so good right now with clean energy the business side incentivizes investment in infrastructure.

End of staff notes.

Breakout Room 3 Zoom Chat:

19:27:52 **From Cindy Carter :** Everyone on this call please contact the DNR via email and tell them to DENY the PERMIT for Enbridge Tar Sand Oil Pipeline 5 and to decommission the old line. This is to happen in Ashland Cty and will effect the Bad River watershed, Copper Falls and Lake Superior. We need to invest in green energy not dirty tar sands oi. EMAIL your request to DENY the permit to DNROEEAComments@WI.gov before July 11

19:32:14 **From Phil Smith :** Marjorie

19:34:06 **From Phil Smith :** Thanks Marjorie for sharing the very real concern that faces all of us that are paying Attention!! I hope too that this task force and our leaders will engage and take real action!!

19:35:22 **From Charles Bensinger :** Susan: I'm working with a new energy technology that could replace Oak Creek with clean green energy, way cheaper than wind and solar even.

19:39:24 **From Marjorie Lewis** : Neat ideas about green jobs for youth, Gail.

19:41:16 **From Tyler E. Ruprecht - AD35 Candidate** : Hi everyone, thank you all for speaking out! It has been good to hear so many great ideas from you and from the speakers. I'm running for State Assembly and I hope I can help to pass them into law. I'd love to hear more ideas from you all. You can find contact information on tylerruprecht.com

19:41:53 **From Cindy Carter** : Tyler what district are you

19:42:37 **From Tyler E. Ruprecht - AD35 Candidate** : District 35

19:46:21 **From Sarah Chwaszczewski** : Dan, that is a great idea...would love to have a link to look into this "dividend" or incentivization of products made through non-polluting methods. Something similar to the "Nuvalue" rating system developed for food products to show their relative overall nutritional value, except this rating system could show the climate cost of the product's manufacturing process - that rating would be so helpful for climate-conscious consumers.

19:47:06 **From Cindy Carter** : STOP LINE 5 DNROEEAComments@WI.gov email before July 11,

19:47:28 **From Cindy Carter** : pass on this inof

19:48:56 **From Cindy Carter** : info

19:49:35 **From Dan Dieterich** : Thanks for your interest, Sarah,. You can find a ton of information by going either to Citizensclimatelobby.org or by just googling "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act."

19:51:35 **From Marjorie Lewis** : I emailed the DNR. Thank you, Cindy.

19:51:57 **From Cindy Carter** : you are welcome and thank you

VIII. Facilitator Summaries

Main themes from breakout room #3 (Wenona):

- We need to transition towards healing our planet and our people
- Equity, social justice, environmental justice, and the effects of climate change all affect the health of people of color
- Climate change is a public health emergency
- Fossil fuels are at the heart of this
- Move to clean and renewable energy
- Improve public transit
- Infrastructure is a way to stimulate the economy post-COVID
- Extreme heat is a concern
- I-94 expansion is a concern
- We need a statewide resiliency plan, especially to address flooding issues
- Incentivize clean energy
- Support carbon fee and dividend legislation
- Support electric vehicles and the infrastructure to support them

Main themes from breakout room #2 (Olivia):

- Shoreline erosion and damage to parks are due to rising water levels
- The health impacts of climate change fall disproportionately on communities of color
- Pipeline expansion will harm the environment
- Climate change is affecting biodiversity
- We need resilient local and regional food systems
- Use renewable energy on landfills
- Preserve ecosystems
- Support carbon fee and dividends
- Move away from fossil fuels on personal and utility scales
- State support for local governments is needed
- Use the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy as a resource for local support

Main themes from breakout room #1 (Raj):

- Positive response to the presentations; it is good to see diversity in the presentations
- New information about tilling should be shared with farmers who are learning from older farmers
- Resiliency plans are needed, and the State could provide funding, expertise and tool kits to help
- We need to focus on nitrogen
- Keep energy dollars in Wisconsin
- Require landlords to cool houses same way they are required to provide heat because of the health consequences of heat
- Focus on land and water conservation
- Recommend to not view nature as a resource for profit
- Pay attention to food priorities
- Keep family farmland in use for agriculture

IX. Closing remarks

- Thank you to the presenters, facilitators, and staff. Thank you for participating. Your input will be key. 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 hearing is July 15. Your help with outreach would be appreciated. Submit your comments and recommendations online. It is not too late to submit your comments online—submit them before Friday, July 31 to DOAGovernorTaskForceonClimateChange@wisconsin.gov.
- Thank you for your participation and see you next time!