

Governor's Task Force on Climate Change

Notes from Public Listening Session 5

July 15, 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 envisioned when we started this Task Force, but we are adjusting to our new reality. As we are responding to the science and medical information about COVID, 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, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

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

Antonio Butts, Executive Director, Walnut Way Conservation Corporation

- Walnut Way Conservation Corp. is a resident-led neighborhood organization in the Lindsay Heights development of north Milwaukee.
- Walnut Way helps residents eliminate the barriers to wellness, work and wealth. Focus areas include renewable energy, environmental stewardship and catalytic development.
- Money is raised through a landscaping business and urban operations.
- Walnut Way's roots are in the Post-World War II African American migration from the South to Milwaukee to escape racism and segregation.
 - Most were met with segregation; cooperation and cohesiveness kept the community together.
 - Walnut Way was created to rekindle the spirit of togetherness that African Americans in Milwaukee experienced following the migration.
- Civic and community engagement is the cornerstone of Walnut Way's work.
- Community engagement is strength-based, knowing that everybody has a gift to share.
- Community Wealth Building happens through Blue Skies Landscaping, a leader in green infrastructure and sustainable practices. Projects include urban agriculture, stormwater management, parks, orchards, green infrastructure.
- Catalytic Development involves wealth growth through repurposing vacant lots, restoring housing, and revitalizing commercial properties.
- The Innovations and Wellness Commons will be a wellness and workforce resilience hub; service providers will reflect the needs of the neighborhood. Tenants include Milwaukee Area Health Education Center, Benedict Center, United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee, MSOE Honors, Milwaukee Center for Independence, Fondy Food Center, mental health practitioners and residents.

Nick Hyyla, Executive Director, Midwest Renewable Energy Association

Strategies for WI Energy Employment Growth

- Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is a 3000-member organization that works on:
 - Professional Training: Solar Corps; Grow Solar Programs; PV Technical Assistance; Solar on Schools; Rise Up Midwest!
 - "Soft cost" reduction: the non-hardware costs of solar such as fees, permits, taxes, etc.
 - Making the Midwest a global leader in clean energy.
- MREA helps properties, communities, schools install solar panels, achieve SolSmart designations and educate about solar energy.
- Solarprojectbuilder.org is a tool to help compare the costs/benefits of solar.
- Businesses that invest in workforce training spend less on labor over time.
- There are multiple solar career pathways: office, sales, design, installation, inspector, maintenance.
 - MREA trains employees toward NABCEP certification.
 - Collaborated with groups in IL, MN, MI, IN; hopeful to work in WI soon.
- Solar Corps includes four Wisconsin technical colleges; trains instructors, advances projects to give students hands-on internship experience.

- Solar workforce training is important because 40% of the in-demand jobs are in the energy efficiency sector.
- Solar Electric Generation is another key sector.
- Rise Up Midwest! is a campaign, “Let’s Put the Good People of WI to work and build the energy economy” of the future; need to invest in a new clean energy future.
- MREA’s tenets: scale existing successes; emphasize market stability; advance reasonable and prudent investments; increase market participation.
- MREA’s priorities: Expand the Focus on Energy Program; establish appropriate parallel generation rates for all electric utility ratepayers; improve access to low-cost project financing; support investment transition; support distribution system modernization.

Kristin Finn, Executive Director, Wisconsin Bike Fed

Complete Streets for Climate Action

- Wisconsin Bike Fed is the largest statewide bicycle advocacy program in the country; works on biking infrastructure, safety, and advocacy.
- The Complete Streets program support streets for people, bikes, cars, mass transit, shared mobility, and creature comforts; includes beautification projects and low speed limits.
- In 2009 Wisconsin passed its Complete Streets Law; all roadways with state funding must include safe and convenient travel for bikes, pedestrian, public transport and vehicles.
- In 2015 it was repealed; Wisconsin is the only state to ever repeal its Complete Streets legislation.
 - Now, separate line items are required for bike programs.
- The Invest in America Act calls for a federal Complete Streets bill.
 - A five-year, \$494 billion investment to get existing infrastructure working again.
- Increased driving and carbon emissions come from suburban sprawls rather than dense urban communities.
- In many areas of Wisconsin, emissions from driving grew faster than populations. Roads expanded and grew by more than the population from induced demand.
- We have a car-dominant culture; but for many, owning and operating a car is prohibitive, especially low-income people.
- One strategy to curb emissions from cars is to reduce the need for driving.
- Wisconsin is a leader in cycling; investments in cycling infrastructure would improve the health and quality of life for Wisconsin residents.
- Call to action:
 - Re-adopt a Statewide Complete Streets policy
 - Restore eminent domain for pedestrians and bike trails
 - Establish dedicated founding for biking and walking infrastructure

IV. Main Room Chat Notes

- 18:01:59** From Staff - Olivia Shanahan to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : are you going to chat Antonio for a presentation or ask him to share screen?
- 18:02:29** From Ellen Magee to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : how do we register to speak?
- 18:02:56** From Cindy Carter to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Hello Gary G.
- 18:03:44** From Susan Adams to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : I think I wouldn't have been able to go to so many unless they were virtual! Thank you
- 18:03:56** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Walnut Way Conservation Corp(Privately) : Hi Antonio, I gave you co-host access so you can share your screen
- 18:05:29** From Staff - Maria Redmond to nickh(Privately) : Hi is this Nick Hylla?
- 18:05:46** From Anne Donovan to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : I would like to hear about increased bus routes from Madison to outlying areas, and increased green energy and increased public charging stations for electric vehicles in Wisconsin.
- 18:13:31** From Frank to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Hello maria:
- 18:16:34** From Frank to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Please send me info on position openings from time to time. Thanks. Glad to finally connect with LG's office. My email:kojomanu10@yahoo.com.
- 18:26:51** From Rebecca Alwin to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : When I registered for this session, I registered to speak. Do I need to do anything to add my name to those wanting to speak this evening?
- 18:29:36** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Ellen Magee(Privately) : Hi Ellen, we will be breaking out to smaller groups and the facilitator will give you guidance on how to make your comments. Thanks for joining!
- 18:30:02** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Susan Adams(Privately) : I'm glad you were able to join us!
- 18:30:26** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Frank(Privately) : Will do, I will add you to our contact list.
- 18:30:53** From Staff - Maria Redmond to Anne Donovan(Privately) : Thank you, I will share your comment with the task force members.

18:31:20 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Rebecca Alwin(Privately) : We will be breaking out to smaller groups and the facilitator will give you guidance on how to make your comments. Thanks for joining!

18:33:12 From Ellen Magee to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : did anyone else's audio go down to barely audible a minute ago?

18:33:29 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Ellen Magee(Privately) : I wasn't having any issues.

18:43:23 From Staff - Maria Redmond to nickh(Privately) : Hi Nick, we need to finish up. Sorry.

18:44:57 From Staff - Maria Redmond to nickh(Privately) : Thanks so much !! Great presentation.

18:46:14 From nickh to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : Thank you for having me. My apologies if I was long-winded!

18:49:32 From Staff - Maria Redmond to nickh(Privately) : Not at all, it was a lot to cover in 10 minutes!!

18:50:35 From Staff - Maria Redmond to nickh(Privately) : I meant to say don't worry at all! I really appreciate your time on this!

18:50:38 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : nrxt skide

18:50:52 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : incest act slide

18:50:58 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : invest@!!!!

18:51:31 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : next tap

18:52:30 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : next slide

18:53:37 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Jake(Privately) : Thanks Jake!

18:54:52 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : next

18:55:22 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : thanks idk she forgot about needing to tell yiu sorry

18:55:58 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Staff - Olivia Shanahan(Privately) : next slide

18:56:04 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : next

18:56:26 From Staff - Maria Redmond to Staff - Olivia Shanahan(Privately) : last slide

18:56:33 From Jake to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately) : next

18:59:21 **From Susan Millar to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : Could you please provide the names and contact information for the 3 presenters tonight - add either here and hopefully also on the Task Force webpage. I also look forward to getting access to the video recordings of these presentations, which I presume will appear on your website. These are very important resources.

19:22:27 **From Roger to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : I can't unmute myself.

20:00:27 **From Gregg May - 1000 Friends of Wisconsin to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : Thank you for all the organizing Maria!

20:23:48 **From Cindy Carter to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : I hope you are saving the chat

20:24:23 **From Staff - Maria Redmond to Cindy Carter(Privately)** : Yes, we save the chat!

20:25:35 **From Cindy Carter to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : great thanks

20:31:01 **From Mike Friend to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : Don't forget the importance of protecting low-income communities and outreach to fossil fuel workers who feel their livelihoods are threatened!

20:31:15 **From Mike Friend to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : Sorry Maria, I thought I was on the everyone chat!

20:31:48 **From Mike Friend to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : But if you don't mind making sure the commission remembers those points as well, I would appreciate it :)

20:32:02 **From Staff - Maria Redmond to Mike Friend(Privately)** : No worries, Thanks for the comment. I will make sure that the Task Force members get your additional comment.

20:33:26 **From Mike Arney to Staff - Maria Redmond(Privately)** : Thanks to Task Force and Staff!

V. Notes from Breakout Room 1

- **Cindy Carter, Citizen of Appleton**
 - I'm concerned about the I-94 interchange project and that it is taking place in a segregated community; I would like to ask why that project is back on the table?
- **Joe Sabol**
 - Part of energy use is its cost; for lower-income people, the cost is a higher percentage of their total budget. HR-763 is a federal bill and we need something similar in Wisconsin. It provides rebates as a redistribution of income. Model a State program after HR-763; proceeds should go to supplementing public transportation, bicycles, etc.
- **Kat Beyer**
 - My biggest concern is that we learn from the example of the Rio Summit, and we give legislative solutions teeth: they have to be funded and enforceable.
- **Yvonne Besyk**
 - I don't have solutions, but I know that there are people with the solutions. We need to bring them together and determine where most of our energy is being used, and segregate the solutions based on where energy is used. I own rooftop solar and have owned it in Illinois and Wisconsin. Here, buyback and metering put solar rooftop owners at a disadvantage because we get only 85% of buyback. Metering needs to be more equal so it is an economic benefit to the solar owners. I was surprised about the comments I heard about solar—a lot of people don't understand, so education needs to be included.
- **Cheryl Nenn**
 - Our biggest sources of carbon are related to transportation and power plants. We can do things in both areas. One, we are expanding highways, but no attention is being paid to public transit. This is a huge environmental justice concern. I want to see more attention paid to transit in Wisconsin. Two, I want to see Wisconsin transition away from coal and more investments put into renewable energy.
- **Anne Donovan, Citizen of Platteville**
 - I hope some of the programs presented today can be extended to smaller communities. Maybe set up mentorships to groups in smaller communities?
- **Abbey Lois, Citizen of Madison**
 - I am 25 years old, and 22 of those years were the hottest on record. I was born into the climate crisis. I was told I could do anything, but in reality, the only career option we have is climate work or there will be no future for us. I always wanted to have kids, but now I'm too terrified of the world they will grow up in. I was having serious health issues and was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. My condition is exacerbated by heat. Last year's explosion at the downtown MG&E substation caused our power to go out, and the heat rose in my apartment. I ended up in the emergency room. Heat is a trigger for many with autoimmune diseases. I recovered, but many people don't. Climate change leads to health concerns. The Task Force's recommendations should be as

ambitious as possible. My health and the health of other Wisconsinites depends on it. I invite you to review [Climatehealthaction.org](https://climatehealthaction.org).

- **Emily Park, Board of Directors, 350 Madison**

- I have spent the majority of my life concerned about climate change. I am beyond angry that we could have mitigated this in the 1990s. I'm in a position of privilege and will not experience the worst—communities of color will suffer. Wealthy communities cause most of the climate change. I want to focus on the fact that companies profit on the destruction of our planet. We should cut off funding to exploration projects. The Enbridge Line 5 directly threatens the health of local communities. I want the Wisconsin Retirement System and University of Wisconsin to pull their funds out of fossil fuel infrastructure and pressure banks to move to sustainable funds. We suggest that Wisconsin cut off money to fossil fuel projects and the banks that fund them. I'm hopeful that it is important to the Task Force and State that we don't let companies profit from the death of our planet. Consider the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

- **Katie Rosenberg, Mayor of Wausau**

- Wausau sits at the confluence of three rivers which are the heart of Wausau and our county's recreation and economy. We have a lot of flooding. I need to ensure that our community is safe, and I encourage the Task Force to support for a Statewide comprehensive resiliency planning program. It would help with cross-agency jurisdiction, economic development, emergency preparedness, and mitigation. Other states have enacted these plans to help lessen the impact of climate change on local communities. It would help economic growth and protect the public. Please recommend a Statewide resiliency strategy.

- **Briant Novinska-Lois**

- We are in a health crisis. Daily our death counts are marching higher due to COVID. Each death is a human being. But what don't we see? Current particulate pollution results in deaths. As does burning coal. Increased malnutrition, diarrhea, and tropical diseases are labelled as causing these deaths, but the root cause is really climate change. They have been accepted as the price of progress for a select few. "Business as usual" comes with an unbearable price tag. You have the ability to help protect the lives of others through this Task Force. I urge you to use your power wisely and boldly. Scientific models give us less than ten years to make sweeping change. Sweeping societal change must be implemented by 2030. We cannot afford to waste another moment. Increase green space. Increase flooding infrastructure. COVID reveals what happens when we don't invest in public health and public systems. You have the power to make us excited by the news—use it wisely.

- **Susan Wolfram, Member, Eau Claire Plan Commission**

- I advocate for closing racial and social disparities. Everyone deserves a safe, quality affordable home. In Eau Claire, 42% of residents experience income and housing insecurity. Many residents live in poverty. Our economy, society and changing climate are driving people out of their homes, accelerated by COVID. Eau Claire is built next to water—the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers. We celebrate them, but flood waters rise, and they have the potential to devastate our buildings. Our poorest neighborhoods are

most likely to flood and be affected by severe weather. As an affordable housing advocate, I urge you to support a Statewide resiliency plan. It would facilitate Statewide recovery and planning.

- **Stephanie Robinson, Citizen of Madison; 350Madison; Environmental Planner**
 - I urge the Task Force to approach this work with a strong sense of urgency to preserve a sustainable, healthy, and equitable future. We need to provide adequate support to municipalities committing to clean energy. I encourage the Task Force to consider how local governments can be empowered. Consider how BIPOC people are disproportionately affected by polluting industries. The Line 5 pipeline reroute goes through waterways.

- **Gregg May**
 - I value walking and biking in Wisconsin. Last week the Evers Administration restarted the I-94 expansion project. This investment is a statement of our values; we need to be more proactive than that.

- **Ellen Magee, Citizen of Madison**
 - I have a vision for planet Earth. We will create a world that works for everyone, based on our common love for Earth. Industrialized nations will take responsibility. We will make reparations. The world's Indigenous people will be our best source of leadership. Climate-destroying lifestyles will be changed. What makes us feel comfort and free is at the expense of the Earth. Is comfort worth the end of the human species? At what cost to our souls?

- **Laura G, Citizen of Madison**
 - I would like the Task Force to support Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation. It is supported by scientists and economists. A steadily rising price on carbon would return fees to individuals. Climate change is a justice issue, but carbon fees and dividend would protect low-income people. Over half of households would receive more from their dividends than they would pay. We can't be harmed by the solutions.

- **Cindy Carter**
 - I want the Task Force to turn the DNR Secretary and Public Service Commission positions into two-year, elected positions. These should be citizen positions, not industry leaders.

- **Mike Friend, Citizen of Chicago**
 - I was born and raised in Wisconsin but live in Chicago. I am happy that Wisconsin is working to address climate change. I volunteered with 350 Madison. I want to stress the importance of opposing the Line 5 Pipeline. It threatens the Bad River Band and local landowners' water. Wisconsin should divest from fossil fuel industries. I want to see efficient mass transit between southern Wisconsin and Chicago. I hope the Task Force appreciates the necessity of a just transition, and especially the importance of making this a way to uplift lower-income communities, because they have borne the brunt of the climate crisis. Factor into pipeline decisions those who worked for the pipeline. Wisconsin needs to make it clear that stopping the pipeline would not be a threat to their jobs.

- **Jeremy Gragert, City Council of Eau Claire**
 - Transportation is on my mind. The I-94 expansion is really unfortunate. It's incongruous to the Task Force to continue to expand highways. It will cost about \$1 billion and is just west of an interchange we just reconstructed, and near another one. This is a misallocation of resources, given the equity concerns we know are there. We need to look at commuter rail, passenger rail and bus routes. In my area the Department of Transportation is looking at expanding I-94 from Eau Claire to Hudson. We are seeing this expansion of state highways while local and county roads are crumbling. It's an equity issue for our rural communities when we only invest in urban projects.

- **Alice Thompson, Wetland Scientist**
 - I am concerned about the impact of climate change on humans and biodiversity. I was part of the Climate Fast Forward Conference and we discussed carbon sequestration. Wisconsin is uniquely positioned to create ways to sequester carbon in wetlands, peatlands and agricultural practices. I echo the recommendations of Climate Fast Forward, and those could be incorporated into this Task Force. All the different climate action groups are working, and I hope Wisconsin will be a leader in climate change.

- **Heather Deaton**
 - I want to see economic opportunities for the underserved and small businesses. Not only to help recover from the current environmental crisis, but to build sustainable infrastructure and do more in environmental and social governance. Promote local. Redirect rainwater.

- **Michael Pinkert, Citizen of Madison; Citizen's Climate Lobby**
 - I attended the Climate Fast Forward Conference. The conference results showed that majority were in support of carbon pricing. From an economic justice standpoint, it is successful. Pricing carbon is the most important policy. It has the biggest lift but will get us very far towards our goal. Support carbon pricing initiatives in Wisconsin, and voice support for national initiatives. It is supported by companies, conservatives, liberals, progressives, states and local governments.

- **Adrien, Professor, UW-Madison Engineering Physics Department, Nuclear Engineering**
 - Since I arrived in Madison, I've seen students who are eager to make changes towards climate change. Many come to us and feel there is a crisis coming, and they want to play a role in helping it. Try to tap into that strength and connect with younger generations. They are going to see the policies you enact. Involving them as early as possible would be a good idea. Educationally, I organize a national event: Nuclear Innovation Bootcamp. We show there is a path for an energy mix of renewables. And nuclear has to be considered. Private companies are interested in funding nuclear start-ups. I would encourage people to consider nuclear as a possibility to use toward a sustainable energy future.

- **Marie**
 - Coronavirus provided an opportunity to bypass using carbon fuels. People are forced to work from home, cutting down cars on the road while showing increased productivity. Policies should encourage companies and schools to rethink how they work their

workforce. Take advantage of the lessons learned from COVID to maintain people working remotely even part-time.

- **Joe Sabol**
 - We have to look at where we are going. The Coronavirus will be here for a year. What can we do with the conditions we have, not just the conditions we want?

End of staff notes.

Breakout Room 1 Zoom Chat:

19:03:32 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : I would like more attention paid to public transportation. Not so exciting during COVID, but really important to community welfare and climate welfare.

19:03:48 **From Kat Beyer/Ocelot** : What she said

19:05:20 **From Gregg May - 1000 Friends of Wisconsin** : ^I second Elizabeth Brewer

19:08:35 **From Joe Sabol** : Correct. Paris Accord is voluntary reductions in energy use. The State needs to develop its carbon budget and find the low hanging fruit.

19:09:48 **From Cindy Carter** : Yvonne what you are talking about with the buy back program was MANDATED by the so called Public Service Commission lobbied by WE Energies and Alliant Energy

19:09:51 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : and also education as to how solar works depending on the orientation of your roof.

19:12:06 **From Joe Sabol** : Solar hot water can be done anywhere, even Superior, Ashland, etc. Any facility that has a large body of warm water, i.e., school or hotel swimming pool can maintain its water temperature using solar hot water. This is not on-demand boiling water, just constant warm water. Solar hot water.

19:15:55 **From debnemeth** : Given that transportation sources are the largest single source of GHG emissions, it is essential to the credibility of the Task Force that you address how this problem will be addressed. Expanding highways runs counter to the administration's commitment to equitably reduce Wisconsin's climate emissions.

19:17:33 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : Gov walker rejected funding for trains. any prospect for future funding? or working for it?

19:17:59 **From Mark Johnson** : Abby Lois -- thank you for the very moving statement, you should try to publish it if you are comfortable sharing more widely -- submit to the Wisconsin State Journal or Cap Times perhaps?

19:18:18 **From Joe Sabol** : Atmospheric CO2 was 280 ppm in 1800 and 410 ppm in 2020. Current atmospheric/ocean temperatures are about 1.0 deg C above the pre-industrial era and are projected to

be 1.5 C by 2030-2050, at which point, we are beyond the point to no return. We need to find ways to *limit* CO2 emissions, limit carbon energy use. Solar hot water, PV, etc are needed!

19:18:39 **From Cindy Carter** : We need to STOP subsidizing the highways and airlines, and START subsidizing public transportation and electric vehicles

19:18:45 **From Abby Lois** :
https://climatehealthaction.org/media/cta_docs/US_Call_to_Action.pdf

19:19:51 **From Joe Sabol** : Yes, Wisconsin can be a leader in high-speed rail.

19:20:10 **From Abby Lois** : Thank you Mark, I would be happy to try and publish it in the Capital Times or WI State Journal.

19:20:28 **From Cindy Carter** : We need this nation to CATCH up with high speed rail

19:20:55 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : Very important to oppose investment in fossil fuel

19:21:37 **From Joe Sabol** : Don't forget about CH4 methane leaks; very strong IR absorber GHG.

19:22:34 **From Anne Donovan** : It would be helpful to know which big banks to avoid doing business with, as regards to their support for fossil fuels.

19:22:47 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : Thank you Emily for your arguments;

19:23:36 **From Abby Lois** : Yes, thank you Emily! All of your arguments are spot on!

19:24:04 **From Emily Park** : Anne, Chase Bank is the biggest funder of fossil fuel infrastructure, followed by Wells Fargo. Rainforest Action Network has a great report on exactly how much all of the banks pump into fossil fuel projects

19:24:06 **From Joe Sabol** : Can we get FOXCONN to start making efficient batteries, fuel cells, other high-tech devices in Racine County (in Walker's fool's errand, but its here not going back to farmland - ever.) METRA link from Mount Pleasant to Chicago?

19:24:44 **From Cindy Carter** : Anne, Chase Bank Bank of America, also Liberty Insurance is the insurer of this industry, avoid them as well

19:25:25 **From Anne Donovan** : Thank you Cindy.

19:25:37 **From Cindy Carter** : I mean Liberty Mutual

19:25:41 **From Joe Sabol** : Yes, agree. Pull out of all business (close accounts) with big bans Chase, BoA, Citi, WF, ...

19:28:06 **From Emily Park** : and if you pull your money out of these banks, tell them why! Make sure they know it's because they profit from the climate crisis!

19:28:14 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : Briant,your attention to consequences on individual and community lives is much appreciated.

19:32:45 **From Mike Friend** : Seconded, Briant, that was a really impassioned statement :)

19:36:28 **From Cindy Carter** : I would like this task force to ELIMINATE the appointment of the DNR Secretary and turn that back into an elected position so that the Sec would be more beholdng to the people NOT big business, and then limit the term to 2 years. Also the PSC MUST BE EOMINATED no more appointments of those positions either, the public service comm does NOT represent the public it represents big industry. I would like the PSC turned into a task force type commission SEATED by regular citizens from ALL OVER the state, which can easily be done via zoom now

19:37:06 **From Cindy Carter** : I mean ELIMINATED

19:38:08 **From Emily Park** : I agree with Cindy, particularly re: DNR secretary!

19:39:05 **From Mike Friend** : I third that!

19:41:43 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : I support investment in alternatives to highways and roads. How do we gather support for that particularly in the age of COVID when people are suspicious of public transportation even more than in the past?

19:42:48 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : Thank you for that Ellen. And what cost to non-human species?

19:42:53 **From Mike Friend** : Laura, it's so great to see you here! I miss the CMC so much!

19:43:15 **From Yvonne Besyk's iPhone** : A stronger citizen utility board/task force to offset the lobby focused PSC

19:44:01 **From Joe Sabol** : Buses and trains are going to have to be reconfigured so as to not pack in many ppl. Make public transportation comfortable, pleasant, safe.

19:44:32 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : But doable!

19:46:06 **From Joe Sabol** : Yes. carbon dividend, see HR 763. Anyone in CD-01 contact Rep. Bryan Steil, but he does not understand when I bring this up.

19:48:59 **From Emily Park** : Hi Mike! We miss you here in Madison, come back :)

19:50:11 **From Cindy Carter** : Yes, there are other green jobs they could transition to

19:53:56 **From Cindy Carter** : Joe S. I hate to disappoint you, but I was on a zoom today with R Sean Casten from IL and he sits of the federal Climate Task Force that was put together by Nancy Pelosi and he said that NO legislator is going to vote for carbon fee and dividend as they can not imagine how this would work for the economy

19:56:36 **From Mike Friend** : Michael Pinkert, I see you raising your hand on video, and I want you to get your word in: I think he means using the "Raise Hand" function in Zoom. If you go to the bottom of the Zoom window and click on "Participants", it'll open a side bar where there's a button that says "Raise Hand"

19:56:38 **From Joe Sabol** : Wisconsin should look into "blue carbon" as a way to mitigate CO2 emission.

19:56:45 **From Anne Donovan** : Joe S., was that a legislator republican or democrat?

19:57:03 **From Michael Pinkert** : Thank you Mike Friend!

19:57:20 **From Cindy Carter** : Casten is a DEM

19:57:22 **From Mike Friend** : Np :)

19:59:21 **From adrien** : Sorry for the question but how can I put my name on the list to give a comment?

19:59:27 **From Mike Friend** : I forgot to mention that when I was talking! I also definitely want to see carbon pricing!

19:59:56 **From Anna Haines** : Go to participants and you should see a raise hand

20:00:10 **From Staff - Raj Kamal** : Adrien, I will call on you in a moment.

20:01:43 **From Joe Sabol** : Rep. Bryan Steil is R.

20:02:17 **From Joe Sabol** : Rep. Bryan Steil (WI CD-01) is R.

20:04:05 **From Emily Park** : Thank you so much for facilitating, Raj!

20:04:22 **From Alice Thompson, she, her** : Yes nice job Raj

20:05:54 **From adrien** : Thanks Anna Haynes!

20:06:14 **From Laura G** : Yes I have also said that I would like to see work from home, at least one day a week, continue after the pandemic, as a way to reduce emissions!

20:06:42 **From Joe Sabol** : Agree, Marie. As they say in hockey, skate to where the puck is going.

20:07:21 **From Cindy Carter** : I have spoken to dozens of parents, they WANT their kids back in school!!

20:07:55 **From Elizabeth Brewer** : Yes, but how?

20:08:47 **From Cindy Carter** : Smaller class sizes, combo of 1/2 day in school 1/2 day home

20:10:10 **From Jen Schmitz :** Yes, Jim Boulter!! 100% agree!

20:10:36 **From Emma Stevens :** Thank you so much for the work you're doing Jim Boutler.

20:10:56 **From Cindy Carter :** NO I 94 zoo interchange!!!!

20:12:13 **From Susan Adams :** Yes -- I have a hybrid and now have to pay more for licensing!

20:12:15 **From John Skoug :** Take note of the number of times that carbon pricing/carbon fee & dividend, HR763 have been mentioned this evening!

20:12:36 **From Cindy Carter :** That is the fossil fuel industry lobbyists regarding higher fees for electric cars

20:12:57 **From Gloria Belken :** Thank All for joining this group everyone has done a good job...A challenge we are appealing CHC Transmission line going across the driftless area causes leukemia and other health issues is supposed to transport coal and fossil fuels no electricity to local ratepayers who will have to pay for it. As millions and millions dollars Cardinal Hickory Creek projects when BWARA of 900,000 dollars by the Public Service Commission Staff recommended just few pennies compared to CHC projects...We have a couple of months left and our judge Neiss retired leaving judge Frost to take over.

20:13:18 **From Gloria Belken :** From Gloria Belken

20:13:32 **From Cindy Carter :** Hey Gloria!!!

20:14:24 **From Gloria Belken :** Hi Cindy!!

20:15:17 **From Cindy Carter :** Gloria did you see my comments in the chat regarding eliminating the PSC and turning it into a citizen task force of people from all over the state

20:16:09 **From Cindy Carter :** no more appointments of the PSC

20:16:12 **From Gloria Belken :** Perfect!!

20:16:39 **From Gloria Belken :** Good job!!Cindy!!

20:17:31 **From Joe Sabol :** YES. INTERNALIZE the environmental costs. Cost of climate change must be included the cost of carbon.

20:17:59 **From Anne Donovan :** I love this idea, Debora Hutchison, about the Environmental Justice Department.

20:18:37 **From Susan Adams :** yes - start an Environmental Justice Dept!

20:19:13 **From Natasha :** Locally in Brown Co there is an active Environmental Justice Taskforce

- 20:19:32** **From Cindy Carter** : Yes Environmental Justice Department NOT PSC!!
- 20:21:01** **From Cindy Carter** : NOT DNR
- 20:21:03** **From Emma Stevens** : Not only is it more expensive to clean-up after the fossil fuel industry - renewables themselves are becoming less expensive. According to Tyler Huebner, executive director of Renew Wisconsin, ""Utilities across America and in Wisconsin are finding that it is less expensive to build new solar and wind energy facilities than it is to keep operating some existing coal power plants," <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/wisconsin-governor-orders-100-carbon-free-by-2050-despite-lack-of-legisla/561177/>
- 20:21:52** **From Emma Stevens** : The cost of utility scale solar power has decreased 88% in the last decade and utility scale wind has decreased 69%. <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/wisconsin-governor-orders-100-carbon-free-by-2050-despite-lack-of-legisla/561177/>
- 20:21:58** **From Natasha** : Great reference Emma
- 20:22:15** **From Jim Boulter** : So grateful for and inspired by all the varied yet crucial messages communicated today. Thank you all so much - this was good for my soul! Thank you to Gov. Evers, Lt. Gov. Barnes and their staff for making this possible! All the best with your continued work - it's so important!
- 20:22:37** **From Kathy Konle-Barth** : The Public Service Commission is submitting a report, with comments taken until August 14th. There are many problems with the report, and almost no information on renewables. Maybe more information is available on line that we could use for specific recommendations.
- 20:22:40** **From Cindy Carter** : Ditto Jim NOW they need to ACT
- 20:23:00** **From Jim Boulter** : Emma - I so appreciate your reliance on facts and citations! Good work!
- 20:23:02** **From John Skoug** : Great job, Jill!
- 20:23:03** **From Gloria Belken** : No more 3 commissioners that were lawyers for the Electric Company of ATC or ITC that care little for ratepayers or saving them money or caring about climate change. Gloria

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?

- Don Ferber, Sierra Club
 - Great emphasis on how people in local communities understand their needs and have the skills and solutions
 - Local communities should be empowered to create local solutions, but they need state support too

- Rebecca Alwin
 - Bike Fed presentation got her thinking about how one of the reasons to establish legislation for complete streets and to emphasize mass transit is that WI has an older than average population
 - Many in our state who are safe drivers may not be so in a decade or so.
 - Need ways for seniors to get around without getting behind the wheel

- Victor from Wauwatosa
 - Looking for more information on how much of our energy comes from coal

- Sarah Bownds
 - Would like to see more on transportation alternatives
 - Also would like more emphasis on larger systemic changes on energy usage from institutions, DOA, the UW System, rather than just residential energy solutions

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?

- Rita Hindin
 - Grad school training in public health and epidemiology Brings an epidemiological approach to non-traditional health issues like incarceration and contaminants
 - Wants to share about a new initiative around rye called Rye Revival
 - Farmers, conservation biologists,
 - Rye is delicious, nutritious, and ecologically beneficial
 - And the resurgence of its usage can be helpful to us all in battling climate change
 - Need to move away from just cultivating corn and soybeans
 - Rye can transfer solar energy into plant growth

- Phyliss - WI State Energy Alliance
 - Thankful to Gov. Evers for starting Task force
 - Most significant thing we can do is stop the burning of fossil fuels
 - We are a main thoroughfare of tar sands, including the 67-year old Enbridge line 5
 - Michigan's AG is suing to get it closed down.
 - The new section of Enbridge would endanger sovereign land and water of the Bad River tribe. They have already lost significant land that the state has stolen.

- Dr. Caitlin Rublee
 - Emergency Medicine and Public health physician in Milwaukee
 - Has worked in cities across the country and across the state, urban and rural
 - In all of these places, she has seen effects of climate change on health -- heat related issues, lung issues, heart problems, digestive issues
 - Heat stroke kills hundreds each year in the US
 - These are infants left in vehicles, athletes, older adults whose medications or lack of mobility make them more susceptible
 - Vector-borne diseases are an increasing problem too (ticks, mosquitos, etc)
 - Disasters are also fueled by climate change
 - Displacement, migration
 - Lack of access to health care
 - Transportation issues due to flooding
 - The time is now--as we emerge from COVID-19, we need to build more resilient systems, build early warning climate technologies and improve communication with the public. Design more health and climate focused curriculum, disease and health crisis preparedness, etc.

- Don Ferber
 - Moratorium on utility shut-offs is ending on the 25th
 - Communities are demanding clean energy and affordable solutions to their problems
 - Our decisions and policies should not be decided by utility companies, but with the people's best interest in mind
 - Energy should be provided for all

- Connie Champnois - Blue River, WI
 - Groups leader of Richland County climate lobby and Richland County electric co-op and has been attending energy and infrastructure subcommittee
 - Only bridge to brother's home got covered by rain water, putting health at risk
 - Rural electricity is costly, and coal is cheapest option
 - Taxing carbon will send incentive moving off carbon and the money could go back into the communities to assist with cost of living increases

- Julie Lyne - Madison, Sierra Club volunteer
 - Renewable energy production, storage and transmission is very important
 - Has taken a pandemic to prove that we are living out of balance with nature
 - We have the opportunity to build new, clean energy systems and green jobs
 - Coal power plants are the largest sources of air pollution in the energy sector
 - Exacerbating effects of respiratory, cardiovascular, and other illnesses
 - Need protections and resources for workers who rely currently on these coal plants
 - Third party financing should be allowed for plants who are moving to renewable energy to make it easier for them
 - Need to normalize getting energy from other locations like offshore Michigan
 - Need a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure
 - With modernization of electric grid, plans must consider new integration of these power sources and environmental impacts of these new power grids

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?

- James Davies
 - State should stop expanding highways
 - I-94 expansion will spend far too much money when commuting is at an all-time low
 - We have no chance of meeting any climate goals if we continue to expand highways
 - That money could go to local communities to expand local roads, rather than expanding 3.5 miles of highway

- Rebecca Alwin
 - Most important thing Wisconsin can do is deny the permit of Enbridge Line 5
 - These pipelines are dangerous in the short-term
 - Enbridge has a reputation of leaking pipelines--not a matter of if, but when
 - This enabling of fossil fuels is foolishness
 - Have to get serious about major action not only to mitigate climate chaos that's already here but to block things like line 5 and other tar sands lines in the state
 - The nature of rain has changed over the last 4-5 years as a result of climate chaos.
 - Never had water in their basement until the last few years after decades living in home
 - Flooding is one of the ways we are experiencing this climate chaos

- Nancy Coffey
 - Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors
 - Need statewide resilience plan to focus on traditionally underserved areas and plan for a hotter, wetter future
 - Quality of life of people across the state depends on taking action to be adaptive and resilient and work toward clean energy initiatives

- Matt Coffey
 - Our UW system should develop clean water and energy infrastructure
 - Can use clean energy to create green jobs and address income inequality
 - Gov. Walker implemented distance requirement for wind energy -- should look at repealing
 - Microgrids are a solution that can make our energy systems more resilient to changes and outages

- Ronald Zabler
 - During Gov. Walker years in 2017-18, Sen. Tiffany opened up state to metallic ferrous and non-ferrous mining
 - This requires DNR to allow permitting for these projects
 - Copper sulfide mining project in Oneida that is dangerous and will create copper sulfide waste aka battery acid
 - This is at headwaters of Wolf River, which supplies Lake Michigan with 25% of clean drinking water

- Widely proven by transportation planners that if you slow down automobile traffic, communities are safer, more walkable and bikeable, and people will be more encouraged to actually do those things
 - Levy limits should be lifted so communities can raise revenue to improve transportation
 - Level of Service (LOS) is a measure of congestion that is used when evaluating streets, but it incentivizes larger highways
 - Widening of highways doesn't fix traffic issues
- **Bobbie Webster**
 - Appreciates lens of environmental justice being employed by task force
 - Would like to see one of the recommendations be that we create a statewide plan for environmental justice
 - Solutions should not reinforce existing power structures -- this will not help BIPOC
 - State needs to provide a lot more support for local governments and municipalities in helping them reach their clean energy goals
- **Patty**
 - Hopes state will continue to pursue clean drinking water initiatives
 - Water is life and if people don't have access to clean drinking water, they don't have much of a life
 - We also need energy and need to work at improving the state's energy plan. Need to make sure we are switching to renewable energy sources
- **Cindy Crane**
 - Task Force should look at existing legislation that aligns with our goals and promote passage by the legislature.

End of staff notes.

Breakout Room 2 Zoom Chat:

19:08:48 **From dr.gloriabelken :** Hi

19:09:06 **From dr.gloriabelken :** Is it possible to ask a question?

19:10:20 **From nickh :** <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=W1>

19:11:15 **From james :** The transportation sector is #1 for energy-use:<https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=41093>

19:11:20 **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>.

19:11:53 **From Joel Haubrich** : Strategic Energy Assessment
<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/SEHome.html>

19:14:28 **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?

19:15:13 **From Victor Wauwatosa WI** :
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/24/climate/how-electricity-generation-changed-in-your-state.html>

19:15:35 **From Victor Wauwatosa WI** : this is an article that I use when I think of electricity generation in Wisconsin

19:16:06 **From Victor Wauwatosa WI** : I am unsure that it is accurate but it shows that 70% of our electricity is generated by coal.

19:16:40 **From Victor Wauwatosa WI** : I was immediately surprised by the 5% wind generation. I see windmills everywhere.

19:20:10 **From Victor Wauwatosa WI** : I had heard that something that both Dems and Reps could agree on in the state was plug ins for electric vehicles. I own a Chevy Bolt and I do find that EV charging stations are sparse.

19:26:41 **From Victor Wauwatosa WI** : One thing that I notice as I pass windmills in Wisconsin is that many are idle on Saturdays and Sundays and spinning at full capacity during the week. I was under the impression that running these at full capacity while varying other forms of electricity generation like coals, gas, nuclear. Are windmills being operated correctly? Is there regulation around using wind generation first?

19:27:49 **From Staff - Chet Agni** : The main webpage for the Task Force is ClimateChange.wi.gov, and the direct link to submit comments is: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/climate/comments>

19:30:22 **From Caitlin Rublee MD** : <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/>

19:32:08 **From Ronald Zabler** : Thank you so much for all the work that you do during these difficult time's Dr. Rubilee great presentation!

19:32:34 **From Vu Nguyen** : Agree with Don and Caitlin

19:35:04 **From Joel Haubrich** : <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/APPS/NewsReleases/default.aspx>
06/11/2020 State Moratorium on Utility Disconnections During COVID-19 to End July 25

19:35:05 **From Vu Nguyen** : Agree with Connie! We need carbon fee and dividend! Reduce consumption and create equality.

19:35:30 **From Vu Nguyen** : <https://energyinnovationact.org/how-it-works/>

19:35:31 **From Don Ferber** : Part of the problem too is that we are being forced to pay for expensive coal for the utilities and their shareholder's profits, rather than meeting people's demand in an affordable manner.

19:36:26 **From Don Ferber** : The high fixed fees are part of the problem. I pay \$500 per year before I pay for any energy.

19:37:49 **From Don Ferber** : Yes to Julie. The externality costs of coal are not accounted for, but we and the environment all pay for them.

19:40:52 **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?

19:41:50 **From Don Ferber** : That amount of money would go much further if spent on mass transit and alternative forms of transportation.

19:47:30 **From Patty** : The state could really help communities by allowing for distributed energy projects that aren't tied to utilities like Alliant, MGE, and WE. It's also very disappointing that the PSC has approved the Cardinal-Hickory Creek high-voltage transmission line through the Driftless Region. The state should be investing in efficiency through the Focus on Energy program and it should also be investing in upgrades to existing infrastructure. As a rural resident, I would love to be able to work with my town's residents on how we could meet our own energy needs, especially through solar and battery storage.

19:49:00 **From Julie Lyne** : Here is an article on liquid air energy storage that mentioned being developed in the UK

19:49:03 **From Julie Lyne** : https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/worlds-biggest-liquid-air-battery-starts-construction-in-uk?utm_term=RWRpdG9yaWFsX0dyZWVuTGlnaHQzMjAwNjI0&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email&utm_campaign=GreenLight

19:49:31 **From Don Ferber** : To Victor's earlier question about wind turbines, part of the issue is that coal and nuclear power plants can't easily be ramped up or down in power.

19:57:53 **From Don Ferber** : Ronald, there are groups working on mining issues. You can contact the Sierra Club for one and we can direct you to who to talk to.

19:58:18 **From Nancy Coffey** : Xcel is a pretty good supporter of green energy. However, being a monopoly, they have negotiated an advantage of pricing for individual feeding solar energy to the system. I have an installed solar energy system. However, they charge me 12 cents a KW if I buy more than I use, but they will only pay me 3 cents a kw. This is a major disincentive for individual to invest in green energy! Need to change.

20:00:05 **From Martha** : Thank you, task force, for this informative session and opportunity to give input. Thanks to all the participants who offered comments with such variety of viewpoints. I'll submit a comment in writing. Good night!

20:00:09 **From Don Ferber** : @Nancy. Yes, there have been programs (can't recall the name) that provide for that, but the utilities have been opposing them.

20:01:37 **From Ronald Zabler** : I appreciate it Don. I understand your group along with the River alliance and the Wolf River alliance are some of the allies in this fight. Ironically, I joined the Sierra club today. Maybe some day we will speak.

20:03:08 **From Don Ferber** : Ronald, here is a link. If you contact us, ask for Dave Blouin.
<https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/issues/mining>

20:04:00 **From Rita Hindin** : Thanks, Mike! Agreed.

20:04:34 **From Ronald Zabler** : Thank you Don

20:07:22 **From Nancy Coffey** : Task Force can work to encourage the passage of the clean water bills stalled due to COVID-19 and ensure there are funds to move the bills to implementation.

20:13:23 **From Mike Miles** : Tony-call me 608 886 0030. A major victory up here last week. I have an opportunity to get on to the Polk County Board to replace a supervisor who is moving to Florida. It's all pretty shady,

20:18:01 **From Cindy Crane** : Thank you for that reminder, Nancy Coffey. This is a comprehensive bill that the last time I heard had mainly partisan support, but it is something to keep pushing for. A task of the task force could be to look at existing proposed legislation that represent what is being asked for by the citizens via these sessions.

20:19:16 **From Ronald Zabler** : Thank you Olivia for your great moderating skills tonight!

20:23:37 **From Staff - Olivia Shanahan** : climatechange.wi.gov

20:23:41 **From Rebecca Alwin** : Thank you to Olivia for friendly moderating and to everyone who has made these climate change listening sessions possible.

VII. Notes from Breakout Room 3

- Gloria Belken wondering what age group Walnut Way is targeting in their work and wondering what the pay of employees is at Walnut Way. Also curious how COVID-19 is impacting workers. Would like to use more solar and move away from coal. Curious about social distancing on bikes. Kirsten Finn from Bike Fed suggests following CDC guidelines.
- John Schuster very interested in the presentations tonight. Inspired to bridge organizations together. Concerned about Milwaukee and other urban areas and how they handle water. Canals and rivers are going to flood without better planning and mitigation.
- Nate Timm lives in Mazomanie, WI. Concerned about watersheds throughout the state that have to various degrees throughout our history had issues and now with new dynamics of climate change are struggling with a new set of conditions that put additional strain on them. Nate lives on the Black Earth Crick. It drains watershed from Middleton to the Wisconsin River. River bed is low lying but because it has such a wide drainage pattern excessive rain events combined with new development upstream flooding has increased and disproportionately impacts the downstream area. He's seen things get worse over the last 50 years. There have been episodes of flooding throughout his lifetime but they've been greatly exaggerated and accelerated in the last twenty years. In 2001 they had 11 inches of rain in 24 hours that caused flooding. In 2014 15 inches of rain in 24 hours caused even more catastrophic flooding. What exacerbates the problems in Mazomanie is the village replaced an older bridge within the last 25 years and did not take climate change into consideration and put a pillar in the center of what had been a spanned bridge so it took out some of the flow area from the previous bridge. It also invites the collection of debris on the pillar so there's need for constant maintenance. If you don't maintain the area there isn't sufficient area to egress.
- Marcia Buhler from Racine. Passionate about protecting the environment. State should put climate first as we consider regulating transportation, ag, other key industries. She lives in an area directly impacted by the Oak Creek WE Energies power plant. We need to eliminate this and other coal fired plants within the next decade. Air pollution from coal fired plants like Oak Creek is proven to negatively impacted health and Marcia's health has been impacted. Families who live in the shadow have higher #s of cancer, Chron's disease. They've had to provide bottled water to nearby residence and have bought houses and raised them to prevent further problems. WE Energies requested and received a variance from the DNR to discharge into Lake Michigan pollution that has more Mercury than is safe for wildlife. WI needs to stop enabling this work and invest in renewables. WE Energies tried and failed to punish customers who wanted to generate their own energy. They must be forced by the state to act. Please develop a plan to transition away from coal and replace jobs with solar/wind/renewable/clean energy sources. Right thing to do for Wisconsin.
- Emma Stevens from Wauwatosa. 16 years old. Very grateful the state is taking action when there is a lack of federal leadership. Asking the Task Force to consider making climate education a priority. Access to state parks, classroom curriculum. She's extremely concerned about her future. If more

people understand the impacts that we will be feeling in the state there would be more unanimous support of legislation and action to address climate change.

- Jackie Thiry is concerned that we aren't acting fast enough. We need to transition more quickly from coal to renewables. We need to create an office of environmental justice to protect marginalized communities and allow everyone to experience the benefits of clean energy. We just need to move everything faster. Economists tell us the most effective way to make the transition is to tax carbon, though she's worried about affecting low income individuals. Carbon fee and dividend in Wisconsin would benefit us and provide a powerful free market incentive. Wisconsin employment in renewable energy would increase dramatically and the dividend would ensure that low income people are not penalized.
- Carolyn's Husband (no name) reiterating Jackie to endorse a Carbon fee and dividend program. We should no longer be subsidizing pollution by giving companies tax breaks. Also echoing Nate Timm re increased intensity of storms across the Midwest. Reinforcing the importance of a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend program. Good for environment and economy, will build jobs. He was incredulous when he read the renewable portfolio standard for Wisconsin. Compared to our neighbors it's embarrassing, and we need to resurface the standards. They should be aspirational; we should aim for 100% renewable by 2050 with no coal or gas. Need more charging stations for electric vehicles across the state.
- Jen Schmitz from Cashton. County supervisor and farm union member. In 2018 there were record amounts of rain in 24-hour periods during two back to back weeks. 28 dams broke and farms, homes, etc. were destroyed and permanently altered. Still unmet needs of flood survivors that they are working on. Really upset about the ways that climate change has been politicized and it's difficult to discuss with farmers. We need more grass pastures, buffer strips, trees, organic and sustainable practices. We need to fix soil and massive erosion. They're having local watershed listening sessions for Little Lacrosse watershed and the Kickapoo river. Resiliency hubs are a key to the future. Question for complete streets is what is the solution for rural America? Cost of maintaining roads is expensive so they keep getting smaller. Mostly 22-foot-wide roads.
- Jennifer Abel from Milwaukee County. She believes the climate emergency is the biggest existential issue facing our country and world. We can't address any other issues and concerns without first keeping our climate safe. Please take a racial and social justice lens to the task force's actions. Really upset about expansion of I94. Transportation sector is currently the biggest emitter of CO2 in the state. Investing transportation tax dollars in I94 expansion isn't equitable or sustainable. Put a moratorium on new highway expansions and shift focus to biking/walking infrastructure, transit expansions.
- Pastor Bridget Jones in Superior. Fighting a new fracked gas plant on the Nmajie River could draw up to 3 million gallons of water away. Job creation is often in conflict with economic protections, especially up north. But God teaches us to care for the world and take care of our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us. We need to protect poor communities and communities of color. Green economic jobs will give people the \$\$ they need to survive and thrive. Really

appreciates our history of environmental protections, let's move back to that. 2050 is too late for 100% renewable energy, let's do it by 2040. Prioritize land preservation. Deny parts of the Namaji.

- Beth on the North Side of Madison. Creation Care work involves working to protect an area on Madison's north side near the former Oscar Meyer plant. Groundwater level has risen back up to mirror Lake Mendota following the plant shutdown. Prior to building the plant it was a historic wetland. She'd like to preserve the parcel and utilize it for an outdoor learning space or nature center. Limited space in the neighborhood for kids to play so she'd like to put together a partnership for purchasing it for preservation.
- Kelly Hilyard, City of Middleton. Suggesting ways for state to help local municipalities:
 - Looking at resiliency planning. State should be leading on this to help guide and give resources to municipalities.
 - Legislative: any way to empower municipalities to have more home-rule power. They could ramp up the fight if they had the power to impact and influence code.
 - Prohibits from increasing stormwater runoff requirements
 - Can't exceed state building codes
 - Can't ban plastic bags
 - State should create an Electric vehicle plan and invest in statewide resources. Would be helpful for municipalities to know where they do not need to invest.
 - Clarify legality of third party solar. If they can finance it in different ways it would help.
 - Would love to see more money given to focus on energy program and to strengthen the state energy office. More grants for municipalities.
 - Support community digesters. Multifaceted approach to water, energy, managing waste streams. We need more research on how to safely handle the byproducts, but state can lead there.
- Annalise Panthofer medical student @ UW Madison. Co-leader for students for sustainable healthcare. Urging us to recognize the growing threat of climate change. Recognize it impacts human health and how it impacts our most vulnerable populations the most. Everyone in the US should have access to safe and healthy drinking water. She worked at 16th street community health center and was talking with teenagers about drinking water at school during the day. The students said the water that comes out of the fountains at school came out brown. MPS schools have tested positive for lead. She'd like the state to become involved in fixing the infrastructure that keeps the kids from being healthy.
- Frankie Fuller from Ft. Atkinson. Recommends watershed manager and staff for every watershed in the state. Has worked with MREA and helped spearhead a solar program in Jefferson County. She had a lot of fun and success engaging the community in investing in solar. The little things that people do really add up.
- Max McMeeken student at UW Madison. Suggests we ban plastic and make producers responsible for the plastic we create. Any policy that promotes a circular economy. Pipelines in Wisconsin should be shut down. Pipelines are present day colonialism. Oil going through pipelines does not benefit

our economy.

- Kermit discussing his impacts of climate change. In Midwest impacts of climate change are somewhat diffused so middle class people aren't really noticing. We should endorse national climate pricing. Should do all we can to prevent development to unneeded and ultimately destructive infrastructure like refineries and pipelines.
- Jim Boulter professor at UWEC. Atmospheric chemist. Has been engaged in education about climate science for many years. Very happy to participate and hear comments. From standpoint of a scientist there is no doubt that we are facing negative climate actions and it's a result of human activity. Floods devastate households, businesses, municipal and transportation infrastructure. Flooding causes substantial harms to farms and farmland. Doesn't discriminate between rural and urban settings. These impacts are easily observed in increased FEMA payouts that continue to rise annually. Livelihoods, mental health tragedies, viability of communities also should be a consideration. These events treat people disproportionately based on health, access to health care, socioeconomic status, etc. Equally important that policy solutions address resiliency. We need to prepare for the next and worse disaster. Adopt policy of a statewide resiliency plan to help assess our vulnerabilities, guide investments, craft policy making that reduces risk for individuals and build back when events happen. State officials need to heed research and require state agencies to coordinate investments with this in consideration. We need a statewide entity to develop this forward looking and comprehensive strategy.
- Dan Barth really appreciates everyone's comments. Thinking about all of the people who are not on the call and how important it is that we all get involved in moving away from fossil fuel addiction. We have to hurry, encourages GOV and CCTF to get behind efforts in an energetic way to make profound changes. We need to create a vision for Wisconsin. Incentivize the work. Supports carbon fee and dividend at state and federal level. Upset about electric car registration fees. We need incentives to do the right thing.
- Robert Owen from Middleton thanks the task force for taking comments. Wants to discuss 3 mitigation strategies for the state.
 - Proposed PSC policy to have level 3 EV stations in every county
 - Allow utilities to lease the usage out to other companies
 - PSC policy to require utilities to obtain some of their clean energy from Lake Michigan offshore wind. We should develop offshore wind power.
 - Opportunity for MKE/eastern WI to become a leader in wind technology
 - Enact a fee for large greenhouse gas emitters to begin paying into a state fund in amounts proportional to their emission since 1988. Pay into fund which could be used to pay farmers, forest landowners, etc. for sequestering carbon. Could also be used to study possibility of sequestering carbon in unused mines. Also could be used to pay for other forms of carbon sequestration. We have too much CO₂ in the air and it's incompatible with civilized human life. We have to reduce it.

- Debora Hutchinson believes it is important to establish an office of Environmental Justice. Due to our lack of attention to social justice matters we haven't made much progress on human rights, nor have we made progress on how certain populations are impacted more by pollution and climate change. We are working backwards by being reactive, rather than moving forward, our Wisconsin motto, and helping our most vulnerable communities. It's many times more expensive to clean up dirty air, water, flood damage, etc. then to have done it right in the first place. Impacts of climate change are felt by front line communities and it's not fair to them. Why do we let these abuses go on? Until we face our reality and make meaningful changes the human rights issues will continue and we will all be complicit. An Office of Environmental Justice will send experts to address issues. It will take an investment at the beginning but it will save money in the long run. The suffering and trauma caused by these injustices is horrible. The office of environmental justice is the first step to help us move forward in an inclusive way. Now is the time.
- Jill Mitchler is an organizer for Citizen's Climate Lobby. 2008 CCTF recommendations suggested Federal Carbon pricing (at that time it was cap and trade but these days a carbon fee and dividend is the best, most equitable solution) We need carbon pricing to help us achieve our goal. It's the biggest tool in the emissions reduction toolbox.

End of staff notes.

Breakout Room 3 Zoom Chat:

19:02:22 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC :** you staff did an awesome job!!!!

19:08:21 **From Nick Matthes :** I work for the MREA, I spend every day working on solar issues, and would be happy to answer any questions on the second presentation!

19:10:03 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC :** matt can u find me on Facebook. id like to learn more and help you connect to more in urban areas

19:10:17 **From Jake :** can we talk about climate change and not coronavirus, please?

19:13:29 **From Jake :** Anyone have questions about transportation issues relating to climate change?

19:14:57 **From Jen Schmitz :** are there plans for farm equipment to leave diesel ad gasoline?

19:15:40 **From Jake :** I would like to know why the governor is proposing to spend 1.1billion on freeway expansion when we know for a fact that expanding freeways does not solve congestion and in fact increases climate change impact. Thank you.

19:15:47 **From Jen Schmitz :** and/or big trucks for hauling products?

19:15:50 **From Sherrie Gruder** : Is there a time limit to comments? And focus relevant to the plan elements?

19:16:13 **From Susan Millar** : Yes, what happened to the 3-minute limit?

19:16:32 **From Jake** : Can the staff cut him off please?

19:17:07 **From Natasha** : feedback loops and tipping points

19:18:08 **From sluysb** : raising my hand please

19:18:15 **From Staff -Emma Campion** : Hi Everyone, let's please remain respectful of one another's time and comments. Thanks!

19:19:03 **From Natasha** : Please remember to mute your mic if you are not speaking

19:20:27 **From Gloria Belken** : Hi

19:22:03 **From Gloria Belken** : I have been asked to be a speaker in DC as a Climate Reality Leader next year.

19:22:41 **From Glenn Danz** : Thank you, Emma! Great ideas!

19:23:34 **From Gloria Belken** : Wisconsin nee

19:24:23 **From Gloria Belken** : CCL are you a member of CCL??

19:24:47 **From Emma Stevens** : La Crosse has independently set a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050, employing such a climate tax, increasing every year.

19:24:58 **From kimsuhr** : To Jackie's point: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act/>

19:25:12 **From Gloria Belken** : Jackie are you a CCL member?

19:25:57 **From Natasha** : If anyone is interested please check out xramerica.org to get more involved in taking more drastic action - natasha@xramerica.org

19:26:17 **From John Skoug** : Thanks you Jackie and "Carolyn's iPad husband for suggesting a Carbon Fee & Dividend!

19:28:26 **From Susan Adams** : I vote for that and also for restoring the complete streets as the bike presentation discussed.

19:28:29 **From Jill Mitchler** : I also support Carbon Fee and Dividend to reduce emissions quickly and to benefit public health, the economy and people with low income.

19:29:10 **From Emma Stevens** : Another market based strategy I wanted to mention is the cap-and-trade policy which has already seen great success by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative(RGGI). This policy is especially effective because it allows the market to find the best ways to decrease emissions in the cheapest way possible. Read more here from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions:

19:29:13 **From Emma Stevens** : <https://www.c2es.org/content/market-based-strategies/http://www.c2es.org/content/regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative-rggi/>

19:29:20 **From Sherrie Gruder** : The governor's goal in exec Order 338 is 100% carbon free electricity x 2050

19:30:11 **From Jake** : I liked that the Bike Fed said about the TAP money. Why are we giving away federal dollars meant for bike and ped projects to highway rojects? We should use all money available for that purpose to make safer bike and ped routes for all people in the state! only 25% of the projects applied for are funded!

19:30:50 **From Kermit Hovey** : I agree with previous comments in the chat & by speakers about pricing carbon! The Task Force & Wisconsin should Endorse and advocate for a Federal revenue neutral carbon dividend program, like the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. It would be a fantastic major step toward addressing the climate crisis.

19:31:58 **From Susan Millar** : Thank you, Jen Schmitz!!

19:32:28 **From Kelly Hilyard, City of Middleton** : Thanks Jen! Thank you for the ag perspective. So important.

19:32:54 **From Emma Stevens** : Thank you so much for these incredibly important points, Jen Schmitz. I really appreciate this perspective and solutions.

19:33:01 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC** : Mr. Evers, Mr. Barnes, Executive Staff, Task Force Subcommittee Members, Participants i had an amazing time being present and contributing to this task force. It was fulfilling hearing all the Science and Solution. I am having difficulties due to yet another storm. It seems every task force meeting is met with rainy weather proving the point that WI needs to address Climate Change. What I wanted to offer at the end of this session is my concerns of the costs that will be handed down to poor renters and having difficulties energizing the discussions for Climate Change overall with COVID, Equality, and Unemployment issues. I have made grounds thou and have a couple people who can help with awareness, education, and application. One of my goals before COVID was to try and get my youth activity and peer support for people in need across WI. I am working to achieve to help grassroots establish themselves so I can set up Science and Math and Activity Labs with them. I sent a Powerpoint Introduction

19:33:29 **From Jim Boulter** : Thank you so much to Emma and Jen for your perspectives and your diverse leadership roles!

19:33:49 **From Jen Schmitz** : yes, climate first!

19:37:08 **From Emma Stevens :** I feel that it is also important to note that minority communities are disproportionately affected by this problem, as they are the ones forced to live near the epicenters of mercury, arsenic, lead, carbon dioxide, and methane pollution, all of which are detrimental to a person's health. According to the NAACP, "race – even more than class – is the number one indicator for the placement of toxic facilities in this country."

19:37:10 **From Mike Arney :** To Emma Stevens -- Thanks for your comments! I'm also in Tosa and would love to talk with you about a Clean Energy resolution coming to Council in 2 weeks. green.neighbor@gmail.com.

19:38:17 **From Dan Barth :** As someone who happily drives an electric car and powers it primarily with sunshine from the solar panels on our house I know we need incentives of all kinds. The most equitable incentive I've seen so far is provided by HR763, Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend act that puts all the money collected from a fee on carbon emissions in all our pockets. Governor Evers must support this bill. Then find ways to motivate Wisconsinites to make the transition to renewable energy and sustainable tech like electric cars, lawnmowers, etc. Look at Norway for examples.

19:38:21 **From Emma Stevens :** Sorry, I forgot to cite my last comment:www.naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice/.

19:40:29 **From Susan Adams :** Yes - Marcia's comment about WE energies. My friends just put in solar because their energy company in Wisconsin Rapids area was going to buy back solar energy from them but it isn't doing that the way they were told at first. IT isn't going to as cost effective as they thought. I'll ask them to send you a comment themselves.

19:41:43 **From kirstenfinn :** Well said, Jennifer!

19:41:55 **From Tyler E. Ruprecht, AD35 Candidate :** Hi everyone, I want to thank you all for coming here today and letting your voice be heard! Please feel free to contact me anytime about ideas you have for helping solve our climate and environmental issue. You can contact me anytime on my Facebook (Tyler E. Ruprecht for WI State Assembly) or by email (tyler@tylerruprecht.com). Thanks again, Tyler E. Ruprecht Candidate for District 35, WI State Assembly.

19:42:56 **From nick utphall -- advent lutheran (he/him) :** Nicely said, Pastor Jones. Thanks!

19:43:17 **From Natasha :** xramerica.org provides an opportunity to take action as a community

19:43:20 **From John Skoug :** Thank you Pastor Bridget for your inspirational comments!

19:43:58 **From Jim Boulter :** Thank you for your comments and your words, Pastor!

19:44:18 **From Peter Bakken :** Thanks, Pastor Bridget!

19:44:23 **From Jennifer Abel :** To Mike Arney: I'm in Tosa too and would love to hear more about the coming resolution. I'll send you an email.

19:46:01 **From Glenn Danz** : Excellent statements, Bridget Jones and Jennifer Abel, thank you so much!

19:47:08 **From Emma Stevens** : As a frequent volunteer with the UEC, I would really look forward to seeing the Urban Ecology Center step in to help restore this natural setting.

19:47:30 **From Susan Millar** : Beth is using this forum to promote a local issue which in fact works against Madison City Planning Department plans to move forward with dense affordable housing with strong public transit.

19:50:18 **From Jen Schmitz** : while the request for cities to be stricter, it is problematic in rural areas because being stricter than the state is very difficult to do/enforce.

19:50:32 **From Gloria Belken** : Kelli

19:51:07 **From Gloria Belken** : Kelli Good for you. Ene

19:52:20 **From Cara Pratt** : YES! @Kelly! I hope attendees on this call will consider contacting your local Mayor or Alderperson to inquire who in city government is working full-time to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The answer is often NO ONE - and that can change! Kelly in Middleton and me, in Racine have been hired within the past year in Sustainability Coordinator roles.

19:52:21 **From John Skoug** : Thanks for sharing some really good ideas, Kelly!

19:53:25 **From Gloria Belken** : Kelli Could you give me your email we have energy district in Iowa county..You are Great!!my email is gbelken@tds.net Thanks Kelli from Gloria

19:54:12 **From Kelly Hilyard, City of Middleton** : Gloria - khilyard@cityofmiddleton.us

19:54:59 **From Gloria Belken** : Sorry missed spelled your name Kelly. Thanks

19:55:08 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC** : thank you for bring up the lead in the water 💧

19:55:18 **From Kelly Hilyard, City of Middleton** : Hi Cara! yes. It really helps to have a dedicated staff member working on sustainability/equity in a municipality.

19:55:44 **From Emma Stevens** : Thank you for sharing your unique perspective, Annalise Panthofer. This is a really important issue that needs to be addressed.

19:55:45 **From Jen Schmitz** : Very well stated Annalise!!

19:56:01 **From Glenn Danz** : Thanks for your important statement, Annalise!

19:57:16 **From Susan Adams** : great job -- yes - lead in the water is a problem -- and letting water companies come in and take our good water -- and letting CAFOs waste the water is just plain wrong!

19:58:49 **From Gloria Belken** : CAFOs pollute too

19:59:13 **From Susan Adams** : sorry - I forgot to say water bottling companies coming in and using plastic so we'll BUY water. Our water should be good enough and I agree with Max about the plastic.

19:59:32 **From Tyler E. Ruprecht, AD35 Candidate** : Max, can you send me the names of those bills? I missed the 2nd one

20:00:03 **From Gloria Belken** : Thank you All and now I can get i.

20:00:06 **From Susan Adams** : and Gloria about the CAFOS I'm surprised that didn't come up directly last week so much with the ag presentation.

20:00:16 **From John Schuster Save Our Streets WI & Team HAVOC** : Mr. Evers, I still would like to learn how to play Euchre.

20:00:36 **From nick utphall -- advent lutheran (he/him)** : Are past presentations/recordings available?

20:00:46 **From Emma Stevens** : Thank you for raising the issue with CAFOs. I would encourage people to consume organic meat, or consume less meat in general to help address this issue.

20:01:54 **From Natasha** : well put, I would love that in a quote!

20:02:51 **From nick utphall -- advent lutheran (he/him)** : (oh -- I think answering my own question: <https://climatechange.wi.gov/Pages/MeetingPublicHearingMaterial.aspx>)

20:10:11 **From Natasha** : Jim xramerica.org is looking to create a citizens assembly like you speak of who would give legally binding recommendations.

20:10:29 **From Jen Schmitz** : Yes, Jim Boulter!! 100% agree!

20:10:56 **From Emma Stevens** : Thank you so much for the work you're doing Jim Boutler.

20:11:15 **From Cindy Carter** : NO I 94 zoo interchange!!!!

20:12:33 **From Susan Adams** : Yes -- I have a hybrid and now have to pay more for licensing!

20:12:35 **From John Skoug** : Take note of the number of times that carbon pricing/carbon fee & dividend, HR763 have been mentioned this evening!

20:12:56 **From Cindy Carter** : That is the fossil fuel industry lobbyists regarding higher fees for electric cars

20:13:17 **From Gloria Belken** : Thank All for joining this group everyone has done a good job...A challenge we are appealing CHC Transmission line going across the driftless area causes leukemia and

other health issues is suppose to transport coal and fossil fuels no electricity to local ratepayers who will have to pay for it. As millions and millions dollars Cardinal Hickory Creek projects when BWARA of 900,000 dollars by the Public Service Commission Staff recommended just few pennies compared to CHC projects...We have a couple of months left and our judge Neiss retired leaving judge Frost to take over.

20:13:38 **From Gloria Belken :** From Gloria Belken

20:13:51 **From Cindy Carter :** Hey Gloria!!!

20:14:43 **From Gloria Belken :** Hi Cindy!!

20:15:36 **From Cindy Carter :** Gloria did you see my comments in the chat regarding eliminating the PSC and turning it into a citizen task force of people from all over the state

20:16:29 **From Cindy Carter :** no more appointments of the PSC

20:16:31 **From Gloria Belken :** Perfect!!

20:16:59 **From Gloria Belken :** Good job!!Cindy!!

20:17:50 **From Joe Sabol :** YES. INTERNALIZE the environmental costs. Cost of climate change must be included the cost of carbon.

20:18:18 **From Anne Donovan :** I love this idea, Debora Hutchison, about the Environmental Justice Department.

20:18:57 **From Susan Adams :** yes - start an Environmental Justice Dept!

20:19:32 **From Natasha :** Locally in Brown Co there is an active Environmental Justice Taskforce

20:19:51 **From Cindy Carter :** Yes Environmental Justice Department NOT PSC!!

20:21:20 **From Cindy Carter :** NOT DNR

20:21:22 **From Emma Stevens :** Not only is it more expensive to clean-up after the fossil fuel industry - renewables themselves are becoming less expensive. According to Tyler Huebner, executive director of Renew Wisconsin, ""Utilities across America and in Wisconsin are finding that it is less expensive to build new solar and wind energy facilities than it is to keep operating some existing coal power plants," <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/wisconsin-governor-orders-100-carbon-free-by-2050-despite-lack-of-legisla/561177/>

20:22:11 **From Emma Stevens :** The cost of utility scale solar power has decreased 88% in the last decade and utility scale wind has decreased 69%. <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/wisconsin-governor-orders-100-carbon-free-by-2050-despite-lack-of-legisla/561177/>

20:22:17 **From Natasha :** Great reference Emma

20:22:35 **From Jim Boulter** : So grateful for and inspired by all the varied yet crucial messages communicated today. Thank you all so much - this was good for my soul! Thank you to Gov. Evers, Lt. Gov. Barnes and their staff for making this possible! All the best with your continued work - it's so important!

20:22:56 **From Kathy Konle-Barth** : The Public Service Commission is submitting a report, with comments taken until August 14th. There are many problems with the report, and almost no information on renewables. Maybe more information is available on line that we could use for specific recommendations.

20:22:59 **From Cindy Carter** : Ditto Jim NOW they need to ACT

20:23:20 **From Jim Boulter** : Emma - I so appreciate your reliance on facts and citations! Good work!

20:23:21 **From John Skoug** : Great job, Jill!

20:23:22 **From Gloria Belken** : No more 3 commissioners that were lawyers for the Electric Company of ATC or ITC that care little for ratepayers or saving them money or caring about climate change. Gloria

VIII. Facilitator Summaries

Main themes from breakout room #3 (Wenona):

- It is important to protect watersheds and rivers
- Need a State resiliency plan
- Carbon fees and dividends
- Need a State office of environmental justice
- Fund local governments to build infrastructure
- Climate education is important
- Pay specific attention to agriculture and rural communities; rural communities face unique barriers
- Pipelines, coal plants, and the need to not rely on fossil fuels
- No fracking
- Information about the impact climate change has had on the health of individuals was shared

Main themes from breakout room #2 (Olivia):

- Extreme weather events lead to flooding, infrastructure failures, threats to human health and have exorbitant recovery costs
- Healthcare concerns from increased heat-related illnesses, especially among the poor and people of color
- Severe weather events disrupt healthcare
- Climate refugees and displaced people's health care is disproportionately affected by climate change
- Emphasize local solutions and use residents as key players in solutions
- It is important to educate Wisconsin residents
- Create a local workforce
- Promote mass transit for all, especially the elderly and differently abled
- Stop highway expansions
- Environmental justice
- Involve all citizens in solutions
- Protect local watersheds
- Promote local renewable energy systems first
- Encourage regenerative agriculture with a preference for small farmers making incremental changes
- Update the State's energy storage plan

Main themes from breakout room #1 (Raj):

- I-94 interchange
- Need to make new ideas actionable with enforceability
- Solar buyback metering is not fair; educate the public to address misinformation about solar
- Extend programs to smaller towns, perhaps through mentorship programs
- The State investment board should divest of fossil fuel projects
- Need for a Statewide, comprehensive resilience plan
- Efficient mass transit between large cities
- Carbon sequestration
- Help small business owners focus on green energy
- Promote local roads as opposed to highways

- Engage younger generations as soon as possible
- Consider nuclear energy
- Policies should rethink employees working from home to cut down emissions through commuting

IX. Closing remarks

- Thank you to the presenters, facilitators and staff. Thank you for participating. Your input is necessary to help ensure that we put forward the most equitable policies in an inclusive way. Thank you for helping this go smoothly and for participating. It's been an honor to join the public over these last three weeks. Government should operate in the best interest of people, not companies or corporations. We are here to incorporate the voices of people who don't always have a chance to speak up. We want to protect and truly serve Wisconsin.
- Submit your comments and recommendations online through Friday, July 31 to DOAGovernorTaskForceonClimateChange@wisconsin.gov. I encourage folks to go to the Task Force website at climatechange.wi.gov.
- Thank you for your participation and I hope you have a good night!