WORKING DRAFT 1/19/21

Background for Waste and Sustainable Consumption Working Group
City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity

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1. FOUNDING CITY-COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

These resolutions establish the Task Force including listing of the groups to send representatives. They mandate the Task Force to make recommendations with the goals of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions 45% by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner AND mitigating racial and income inequality through "green jobs."

City Common Council Resolution 190445
County resolution 19-582

The Task Force is subject to open meeting laws. Task Force information including minutes of meetings and presentations to the Task Force are on the Legistar portion of the City's website. [Erick's suggestion: refer instead to the climate plan portion of ECO]

The Task Force met starting in late 2019 and met through 2020. It published its Preliminary Report with findings and recommendations in March 2020 (see #4 below.) The current phase of planning, Phase 2, will create a final Climate and Equity Plan to meet the City-County mandates.

2. PHASE 2 CHARTER

Erick Shambarger, Director of Sustainability and head of the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO), is the Project Manager for this phase of work. He and the Task Force have created a 13-page charter [put link here] that defines the process to create the final plan. It establishes project parameters including scope of work, a high-level timetable, roles & responsibilities, constraints & assumptions, funding & budget along with measures of success. It establishes 10 working groups:

Jobs and Equity	Education and Outreach	Adaptation and Climate Resilience
Greening the Grid	Transportation and Mobility	Land Use, Urban Ag & Reforestation
Finance	Green Buildings	Waste and Sustainable Consumption
Implementation, Accountability, and Reporting		

The Task Force has named a Chair or Co-Chairs and will name official members of each working group. All working groups meetings are open under public meeting laws, and the public will be invited to attend.

3. ICLEI EMISSIONS REPORT

Working Group members should become very familiar with this report, as it establishes the basis for plans and actions to address climate change.

The City funded an analysis of Milwaukee's GHG emissions by "ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability." The intent is to establish a baseline against which goals and progress can be measured, along with estimating impacts of proposed actions. It documents sources of data and wrestles with problems of limited data in certain categories. The 26-page report is linked on the ECO web page.

Milwaukee community-wide produces 7.7 million (tons?)(pounds?) of GHG emissions (labeled as CO2e or Carbon Dioxide equivalent, because there are multiple greenhouse gasses.) According to the report, the largest percentage of GHG emissions in Milwaukee is commercial and industrial energy (45%). Residential Energy is 30%, and Transportation 21% (though transportation data does not include aviation or port emissions. Solid waste is documented at 2% (see pp. 5-6 including Figure 1, p. 6).

Emissions are also broken down by Scope. This allows for the collection of activity data without double counting when reporting. Scope 1 emissions are emissions occurring within the boundary of the community, such as combustion of natural gas for heating or gasoline for vehicles. Scope 2 emissions are emissions that occur outside the boundary but are demanded by activity within the boundary, such as electricity generation. Scope 3 emissions occur outside a boundary but relate to in-boundary activities. It is important to note, for the purposes of the Waste and Sustainable Consumption working group, that the ICLEI Emissions Report does not attempt to include the life-cycle emissions of products consumed in Milwaukee but extracted and produced elsewhere (see ICLEI Report at p. 14).

To characterize the waste stream, ICLEI had to use a 2009 state-wide study that is the best information available. Within the solid waste category, the largest contributor is food waste at 15.8% contributing 142,044 (units?) of GHG emissions, followed by office paper (7.2%) and corrugated cardboard (4.6%.) "Food miles" (the distance our food travels to reach us) is not discussed. Waste and Sustainable Consumption is not a major, measurable piece of the GHG inventory. Nevertheless, the over-use of materials, particularly single-use plastics, does have significant, unmeasured, GHG profile. The Waste and Sustainable Consumption Working Group will have to find the measures that provide the most "bang for the buck" and assess what is often now called a "circular economy" in which one person/company's waste is another's resource.

4. RELEVANT ITEMS IN PRELIMINARY REPORT

The founding resolutions establishing the Task Force required a report to the City and County. After approximately five months of work, the Task Force produced what it called a "Preliminary Report."

This 70-page report was published and released to the public in March 2020 as a progress report. It included an inventory of the current state of affairs, along with guiding recommendations as the region enters the new "green" economy. It was seen by the Task Force not as the conclusive guidelines for addressing climate change and economic equity in the region, but rather a crucial step in the planning process. It documented current relevant efforts underway to build upon, and recommended a phase 2 to develop a final plan to address the twin goals of addressing climate change and promoting economic equity. The Phase 2 charter described above is this next phase of work. Here are some of the findings from the report that pertain to the Waste and Sustainable Consumption Work Group:

A. "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment and Reduction Strategies" (Chapter 3)

From Table 1, Sector-Specific Strategies (p. 20)

Food Systems: Reduce food waste, increase food composting, support urban and local sustainable agriculture, promote plant-based, lower-carbon diet

Solid Waste: Landfills, Circularity. See ICLEI publication on circular economy transition.

Short-Term Projects/Programs p. 23

Reduce Food Waste
The Task Force should develop strategies to reduce food waste, feed hungry Milwaukee residents, increase composting, and develop markets for compost. Also, the Task Force should look to the City of Nashville's successful Food Waste Initiative as a model.

Implement Commercial Recycling Inspections and Improved Residential Recycling
The City should implement proactive enforcement of recycling laws among Milwaukee's businesses, particularly fast-food restaurants. The City should also expand recycling education for Milwaukee residents and ensure all households are provided with recycling bins.

B. Jobs and Equity (Chapter 4)

See pp 24-28 for documentation and findings of systematic inequity.
Among the specific equity programs listed (p. 28):

- HOME GR/OWN and Walnut Way collaboration with national grants.
- City efforts on Healthy Food Access.

Among the sectors listed for assessment of how under-represented groups are getting training, hiring and advancement opportunities (p. 34):

- Food Waste/Waste and Recycling.

Short Term Projects and Programs (p. 34)
Increase investment and reduce barriers to programs that create paid hands-on training and employment

- Food programs, including addressing food waste (a climate change problem) and
- food insecurity (a jobs and equity problem).
- (p. 36) Urban agriculture such as the program at Vincent High School, including Vincent's salad sales entrepreneurial programs at the Brewers stadium.

C. Finance and Funding opportunities (Chapter 5)

The chapter catalogues 10 innovative financing solutions the City has used to address climate change (pp. 37-39) and 45 additional financing possibilities (pp. 39-47). Some of these might be used to fund or assist businesses and nonprofits working to address waste and sustainable consumption/circular economy.

Chap. 6 "Education and Outreach" and Chap. 7 "Monitoring and Accountability" are process-oriented chapters discussing the importance of these functions to the overall climate and equity planning.