



SIERRA CLUB
GREAT WATERS GROUP

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Cavalier Johnson
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee. WI 53202

Honorable Members of the Common Council
c/o Jim Owczarski, City Clerk
Milwaukee City Hall, Room 205
200 E Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Common Council:

The Wisconsin Chapter and Great Waters Group (GWG) of the Sierra Club urge you and members of the Milwaukee Common Council to formally adopt Milwaukee's [Climate and Equity Plan](#), as approved by the City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity on March 21, 2023.

We further request that Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan be adopted as part of the city's comprehensive plan, so that it may inform present and future city planning.

The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest, and most influential environmental organization. The Wisconsin Chapter and Great Waters Group recognize that climate change and racial inequity are the greatest existential threats to our city and county. The work of the Sierra Club and our dedicated activists includes collaborating with other local organizations to address the high energy burden that disproportionately impacts Black and Latinx families, partnering with Nearby Nature on stream cleanups and other improvement projects along Lincoln Creek, and raising awareness about our city's green space treasures through organized outings.

We feel that the Climate and Equity Plan represents the best and most effective opportunity available to address the climate and economic inequity threats that face our region. The plan was developed over two years and with input from more than eighty local leaders and many concerned residents. The Climate and Equity Plan provides a roadmap for achieving two goals:

- Reduce Milwaukee's community-wide net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45% by the year 2030, and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner.
- Reduce racial and income inequality in Milwaukee by assuring that greenhouse gas reduction investments and policies create the maximum number of permanent living wage green jobs for people who live in the most impoverished neighborhoods with limited economic opportunity.

The Plan is organized around Ten Big Ideas (or sections), each of which includes an equity component. These recommendations will facilitate economic and environmental justice for Milwaukee by:

- Tapping into new and current industries ripe for growth
- Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, which are costly and add to air pollution that increases health costs and adds to environmental injustices
- Generating additional family-supporting jobs to advance our workforce
- Positioning the city to take advantage of new federal funding opportunities

We believe that the Climate and Equity Plan is our best chance to build a city that helps ensure healthy environments, safer neighborhoods, and living wage jobs for all residents. We urge you to adopt the Plan as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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