

Lee, Chris

From: Diana Luepke <dianaluepke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:15 PM
To: Lee, Chris
Cc: Mayor; Westmoreland, Lamont
Subject: Supporting the Climate and Equity Plan

I would be glad to speak at tomorrow's Finance and Personnel Committee meeting via phone or video if it's not too late, but I realize it likely is. So I'm submitting my written comments below in support of adopting the Climate and Equity Plan developed by the City/County Task Force on Climate and Equity.

I'm a lifelong Milwaukee resident and a homeowner in District 5.

Addressing climate change is the #1 issue I care about and look for in the platform of my elected representatives, because it impacts everything else. It will be awfully hard to make meaningful progress on improving community safety, educational quality, or financial stability for residents if our community is ricocheting from one climate-caused emergency to the next.

In addition to more obvious local impacts we are already seeing like increased heat waves, wind storms, air pollution, and flooding, I fear for the large-scale ways the climate emergency will impact Milwaukeeans down the road, from changes in farmers' ability to grow crops to mass migrations of people fleeing disasters or resource scarcity in other parts of the country/world.

Furthermore, climate impacts most negatively impact residents who are already at a disadvantage, making climate mitigation at large an equity issue. While no single municipality can solve the climate crisis on its own, we *must* do our part; we even have the opportunity to model and catalyze change among other communities.

I also care deeply about other issues that affect our community, especially interventions that target inequality by expanding the availability of family supporting jobs, affordable housing, and public transit.

The Climate and Equity plan addresses all of these concerns at once. It is a rare and special thing to identify interventions that meaningfully address multiple community challenges at once - and even more so for these most important issues of our time. What a gift to have an opportunity to use our resources so wisely!

The amount of work and community collaboration that went into the creation of this plan is impressive. Now it is our moral imperative as a community to work together to make it happen.

I urge the council not only to pass the plan, but to work hard to allocate resources for rapid implementation!

Thank you for your consideration,
Diana Luepke

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