

## Lee, Chris

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**From:** Dennis Grzezinski <dennisglaw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:32 PM  
**To:** Lee, Chris  
**Subject:** City of Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan

This email is to express my support for adoption of the City of Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan.

I live at 3025 N. Farwell Avenue, and have lived in Milwaukee since May of 1975.

I have practiced law in Milwaukee since being admitted to the bar later in 1975. For over three decades my practice has primarily focused on public interest environmental law and environmental justice work, representing organizations including 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, the Bad River Tribe of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Door County Environmental Council, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope, NAACP Milwaukee Chapter, the Sierra Club, Waukesha County Environmental Action League, and Wisconsin Justice Initiative. I currently serve as the legal chair of the Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter, and am a member of the steering committee of Nearby Nature Milwaukee, which serves Milwaukee's Lincoln Creek neighborhoods, and I also participate in the Advocacy Committee of the Coalition on the Lead Emergency (COLE)..

Mayors Norquist and Barrett appointed and reappointed me as a Commissioner of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District from 1989 to 2008, including 4 years as Chair of the Commission. I was privileged to be involved in the transformation of Milwaukee's three rivers from open stinking sewers that until 1993 could support little aquatic life beyond carp and pollution-tolerant slugs -- into vibrant, attractive waterways that now support over 40 species of fish, bring anglers from around Wisconsin and even from beyond our state borders to Milwaukee, and have brought billions of dollars of investments into nearby City neighborhoods. Change and environmental progress is not only possible but has actually been taking place in Milwaukee.

I have served on the board of directors of the Urban Ecology Center for 25 years, including as board President from 2001 until 2004, helping UEC to grow from a double-wide trailer sitting behind Riverside High -- to its environmentally sustainable Riverside Park facility on Park Place, then expanding to Washington Park, and then also to Three Bridges Park in the Menomonee Valley.

Like all Milwaukee residents, I have benefitted from the City's considerable environmental progress and sustainability efforts over recent decades. However, there is still much more that needs to be done to respond to climate change *and to the unjust and inequitable racial disparities that have long plagued the City and the metropolitan region*. I was glad to be able to be part of the Transportation Work Group that drafted recommendations regarding improving public transit and pedestrian and cycling mobility, and reducing miles traveled by individual vehicles.

All of the "10 big ideas" that are contained in the Climate and Equity Plan are important, and need to be put into place in the City of Milwaukee's policies. For this reason, I urge the Common Council to adopt and enact the Plan, and equally importantly, to then move forward with implementation of the Plan's provisions.

Very truly yours,

**Dennis M Grzezinski**

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