

Lee, Chris

From: Anne Steinberg <asteinberg@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Lee, Chris; Mayor
Cc: OurFutureMilwaukee@gmail.com; Brostoff, Jonathan
Subject: Supporting Climate and Equity Plan

Dear Members of the Common Council and Mr. Mayor,

(Please forward my message to all members of the Common Council)

I am writing to support adoption of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan and especially Waste Reduction and Sustainable Consumption.

I've owned a home in the city of Milwaukee for over 30 years and have made a commitment to not only live within the city, but also to help make it a better place to live for everyone. Therefore, I support the Climate and Equity Plan and urge you to also support and implement it.

As an elder, I've watched the climate change and am very concerned about the world we are leaving for future generations. I'm also concerned about many fellow Milwaukeeans who are already suffering from poor access to good paying jobs, adequate housing, healthy food, clean water and other basic human needs. I believe that the Climate and Equity Plan will help Milwaukee do its part to slow climate change as well as improve the lives of current residents.

I'd like to focus on an area of the plan that you might be hearing less about during the hearings: **Waste Reduction and Sustainable Consumption**. Our food system from farm to kitchen to landfill is responsible for over a quarter of all the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Not only does food production and transportation have a large environmental impact, it is intensified when food is wasted and put into landfills.

The City of Milwaukee Sanitation Department reports that 24% of the waste stream in our city is food and yard waste. None of this should be going into landfills. Getting organic matter out of landfills would greatly reduce our climate impact.

So I urge the City not only to adopt the proposals to reduce food waste and get food to hungry people in our city, but to go even further and seriously explore expanding composting capacity in our region. Even with the best reduction and redistribution efforts, there will still be food waste and it should not continue to go into landfills where it creates methane -- and is wasted as a resource to build up soil.

In addition, it is important to keep in mind that not all the environmental impact from the food we eat here in the city is within our city boundaries, our food choices affect the nation's and world's climate and are important. We can't as easily measure the impacts, but making more sustainable food choices is an important part of slowing climate change. At the very least, the City can help educate residents about these choices.

Again, I urge the City to adopt the entire City Climate and Equity Plan and to begin to implement it.

Sincerely,

Anne Steinberg

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