



Memorandum

TO: Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair Marina@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Scott Spiker, Vice-Chair Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Peter Burgelis Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Milele Coggs mcoggs@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Sharlen Moore Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant clee@milwaukee.gov

FROM: Kevin L. Shafer, Executive Director
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

DATE: October 30, 2024

**RE: Support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO)
and allowing ECO to remain a part of Mayor Johnson's Administration**

I'm writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

For years the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and ECO have collaborated on numerous initiatives and projects targeting shared goals and visions for the City of Milwaukee and MMSD. MMSD and ECO have collaborated on the City's ReFresh Sustainability (2013) and Green Infrastructure Plans (2019). ECO and MMSD partnered on MMSD's Regional Green Infrastructure (2013) and Resilience Plans (2019). Both entities have a long-standing partnership to expand green infrastructure implementation within the City of Milwaukee. ECO and MMSD have been guiding organizations for the MPS Green Schools Program, MMSD Neighborhood Small-scale Green Infrastructure Program and Green Tech Station Research Facility, and on the City's Improving Our Neighborhood One Tree at a Time Project. Additionally, ECO and MMSD have partnered on information sharing and public outreach related to green infrastructure, stormwater, and watershed health through the Fresh Coast Resource Center. ECO has successfully collaborated with MMSD on numerous grant applications, renewable energy planning, and environmental justice initiatives.

Erick Shambarger, Alexis Laverdiere, and Mia Rudolph-Schulta work closely with the MMSD's Integrated Watershed Management Division to share and expand resources for residents in Milwaukee. ECO is a model of collaboration with the community. I understand that there is a proposed amendment to

change the reporting structure from the Mayor to the City Clerk. I ask why a change such as this is necessary when the current structure has been so successful. I urge you to vote against the proposed amendment #7.

MMSD looks forward to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council to meet our shared goals for Milwaukee residents, the region, and the environment. Thank you for your support of this important work!



October 30, 2024

Email to: Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair Marina@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Scott Spiker, Vice-Chair Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Peter Burgelis Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Milele Coggs mcoggs@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Sharlen Moore Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant clee@milwaukee.gov

Good afternoon, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan*.

For more than 50 years, since our founding as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade in 1970, Clean Wisconsin has been working to protect all that makes our state special — breathable air, drinkable water, fishable, swimmable lakes and rivers, and thriving ecosystems. Our work aligns seamlessly with ECO's mission, particularly in supporting community-driven climate resilience strategies. We believe local voices should lead in determining solutions that best serve their neighborhoods, and ECO has been a vital partner in this effort.

Clean Wisconsin has collaborated closely with ECO on various initiatives aligned with the Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan. Our staff participated in the working groups that developed this comprehensive plan, and, as a funded partner in a recent EPA government-to-government grant, we've worked alongside Mia Rudolph-Schulta, program coordinator, and Erick Shambarger, director, on the "Healthy Homes and ECO Neighborhoods Project." This initiative aims to expand housing improvement programs and federal funding access through outreach by resilience ambassadors.

ECO exemplifies community-centered collaboration, securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support the Ten Big Ideas outlined in the Climate and Equity Plan. We understand a proposed amendment may shift ECO's reporting structure from the Department of Administration (DOA) to the City Clerk's Office. However, ECO's integration within the DOA

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608-251-7020 | www.cleanwisconsin.org





has facilitated its successful cross-departmental work and alignment with broader city initiatives as it's responsible for many other centralized functions of the City of Milwaukee. Through our partnership, we have witnessed ECO's dedication to Common Council priorities while maintaining effective collaborations across departments and agencies. Altering ECO's structure could disrupt a proven, efficient model of climate and community engagement. Simply put, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7, which would change ECO's reporting structure.

Milwaukee succeeds when we work cooperatively toward common goals. Clean Wisconsin looks forward to supporting both the Department of Administration and Common Council in implementing the Climate and Equity Plan, advancing the well-being of Milwaukee residents and our planet. Thank you for your support of this essential work.

Sincerely,

Nancy Grimaldo Retana

Nancy Grimaldo Retana
Resilient Communities Program Director

634 W. Main St. #300, Madison, WI 53703
608-251-7020 | www.cleanwisconsin.org





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Jonathan Altenberg
President & CEO

October 30, 2024

Dear Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is a multinational coalition of local governments, led by mayors and chief elected officers, working collaboratively to safeguard the economic, environmental, and social health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. We are committed to stewarding the basin's freshwater and ensuring that all residents have access to clean, safe, and affordable water as the foundation for sustainable, vibrant, inclusive, and resilient communities.

The City of Milwaukee is one of the Cities Initiative's most important members. We regularly engage with the Mayor's Administration, as Mayor Johnson serves as a Director on our Board of Directors and a U.S. Co-Chair of our Mayors Commission on Water Equity.

The Cities Initiative has been fortunate to work with Erick Shambarger, Environmental Sustainability Director, and Alexis Laverdiere, Sustainability Program Manager, at ECO on several initiatives in recent years. Time and again, they have ensured seamless collaboration between our organization and the Mayor's Administration.

Our collaboration with ECO has helped position Milwaukee as a regional leader on key issues such as sustainable economic development, water equity, and climate resilience. Recent examples of ECO's valued assistance include:

- Arranging for Mayor Johnson's presence at our 2024 Annual Conference, where he joined Mayor Valerie Plante of Montreal, Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago, and hundreds of local elected leaders from across the basin in making commitments to advance sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic development over the next decade.
- Facilitating smooth communication between our organization, the Mayor's Administration, and Milwaukee Water Works to ensure Mayor Johnson's participation in the 2024 White House Water Summit in Washington, DC, where he joined leaders from Chicago and Detroit in announcing the Great Lakes Lead Pipes Partnership, an initiative to expedite lead service line replacement and promote water equity across the Great Lakes.

- Securing Milwaukee as the host city for our 2025 Annual Conference, which will be centered on the theme of “The Future of Fresh Water” and highlight Milwaukee’s world-renowned efforts to combat urban flooding and strengthen climate resilience through green infrastructure.

ECO is a model of collaboration with the community and has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led *Climate and Equity Plan*. We understand that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure of from the Mayor to the City Clerk. ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support Common Council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor’s Administration. Through our partnership with ECO, we have seen firsthand their collaboration across departments, with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and are concerned that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. Therefore, I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO.

Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. The Cities Initiative looks forward to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council in 2025 and beyond to successfully implement the *Climate and Equity Plan* for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the planet. Thank you for your support of this important work!

Sincerely,



Jon Altenberg
President and CEO
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



October 30, 2024

Esteemed Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan as part of Mayor Johnson's Administration.

Reflo is a Milwaukee nonprofit with a mission to catalyze community-based water projects. Our work has included support for green and healthy schoolyard redevelopment projects, broad coalition building, youth employment, urban agriculture, community storytelling and vacant lot redevelopment. We've worked closely with ECO over the past decade to engage communities throughout Milwaukee on important, local initiatives and impactful community-based projects.

ECO has been incredibly resourceful in working with City departments, policy makers, other public agencies, and nonprofits to collaboratively secure over \$40 million in federal funding to support the Ten Big Ideas in the community-led Climate and Equity Plan. The proposed Amendment #7 changes ECO's reporting/organizational structure and risks disrupting many active and impactful partnerships. In reading the proposed amendment there is no clear reason why this is proposed or what impact it would have on ECO and the communities that it supports. I'm concerned that significant structural change, especially without discussion or consideration of existing partnerships, could disrupt important community-based projects. For this reason, I am opposed to Amendment #7 and I encourage the Committee to carefully inquire further and debate the risks of this amendment.

I look forward to continuing to work with ECO and Common Council to further implement the important community-based work called for in the Climate and Equity Plan. Thank you for your support of this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin A. Hegarty", is written over a horizontal line.

Justin A. Hegarty, P.E., LEED A.P.
Executive Director
justin.hegarty@refloh2o.com



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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216

414-861-5429
centurycitytna@yahoo.com

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Ald. Scott Spiker, Vice-Chair Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Peter Burgelis Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Milele Coggs mcoggs@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Sharlen Moore Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant clee@milwaukee.gov

To the members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

As coordinator of the Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association, (CCTNA) a Milwaukee grassroots neighborhood, I have worked with ECO staff as a community advisor participant and as a partner on Environmental initiatives. Operating under the current structure has provided our residents an opportunity to participate and have their voices and opinions heard as we transform our community into an environmentally sustainable space.

ECO is a model of collaboration with the community and has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led *Climate and Equity Plan*. We understand that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure of from the Mayor to the City Clerk. ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support Common Council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. Through our partnership with ECO, we have seen first hand their collaboration across departments, with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and are concerned that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO.

The City of Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. CCTNA looks forward to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council in 2025 and beyond to successfully implement the *Climate and Equity Plan* for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the planet. Thank you for your support of this important work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvonne McCaskill".

Yvonne McCaskill, Coordinator

Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association

October 30, 2024

To:

Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair Marina@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Scott Spiker, Vice-Chair Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Peter Burgelis Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Milele Coggs mcoggs@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Sharlen Moore Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant clee@milwaukee.gov

Re: Support for Maintaining the City of Milwaukee's ECO Under the Mayor's Administration

Dear Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

On behalf of EcoBalance Technologies, a small business established in Milwaukee, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and its ongoing leadership in implementing the Climate and Equity Plan as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration. Their ongoing efforts are critical to the city's sustainable future and economic resilience.

EcoBalance Technologies is currently working with ECO across key neighborhoods, including Sherman Park, Harambee, and Lindsey Heights, as part of the Cream City Climate Challenge and Green Congregations Initiative, funded by the Building Upgrade Prize. Working alongside Pam Ritger, Mia Rudolph-Schulta, and under the guidance of Erick Shambarger, we have engaged in strategic planning, conducted energy assessments, and provided technical support to implement Milwaukee's climate action strategies while laying a foundation for local workforce development to support building decarbonization. This partnership has empowered us to expand climate and energy solutions to additional communities and congregations throughout Milwaukee, showcasing the essential role ECO plays in fostering meaningful community engagement, driving sustainable economic growth, and advancing environmental sustainability.

I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO's reporting structure. ECO has consistently shown a strong commitment to supporting Common Council priorities while effectively collaborating with other city departments and government agencies under the Mayor's Administration. Through our partnership, we have witnessed firsthand their ability to coordinate efforts across departments, engage with policymakers, and build meaningful relationships with external stakeholders. We are concerned that altering ECO's reporting structure could jeopardize the success of these collaborations, potentially disrupting a system that has been working efficiently.

Thank you for your support. Sincerely,

**Victor G. Niño, Ph.D, PE***President & Founder*

EcoBalance Technologies

Lee, Chris

From: diggelmanbc@att.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 1:27 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina; Spiker, Scott; Burgelis, Peter; Coggs, Milele; Moore, Sharlen; Lee, Chris
Cc: diggelmanbc@att.net; Bauman, Robert; 'Louise Petering'
Subject: 2024-10-30.Letter to the City of Milwaukee Finance & Personnel Committee in support of ECO.docx

Email to: Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair Marina@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Scott Spiker, Vice-Chair Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Peter Burgelis Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Milele Coggs mcoggs@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Sharlen Moore Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant clee@milwaukee.gov

Comment Template:

Good afternoon, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

We are writing to express our support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

My husband and I have lived in Milwaukee since 1964, except for 2-years in Shorewood. Our children attended Milwaukee Public Schools. We have been supporters of Erick Shambarger and the ECO office since it was created. We have long admired what it has been able to achieve in Milwaukee working collaboratively in the community. ECO has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led *Climate and Equity Plan*.

We understand that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure of from the Mayor to the City Clerk. ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support Common Council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. We have seen first-hand their collaboration across departments, with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and are concerned that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. In short, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. **We urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO.**

The City of Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. Thank you for your support of this important work!

Sincerely,

Carol & Robert Diggelman
1522 N. Prospect, Unit 304
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Cc. Alderman Robert Bauman



Good afternoon, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I am reaching out on behalf of Citizen Action of Wisconsin to express our strong support for the Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and its essential role in implementing the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan as part of the Executive Branch of city government.

ECO has exemplified an effective, community-driven approach to sustainability by securing over \$40 million in federal funding to realize the "Ten Big Ideas" of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan. Their ongoing efforts to meet both Council and Mayoral goals depend on their close coordination with various city departments, and any proposed reorganization should be approached with caution.

We are not aware of the underlying reasons for the proposal to shift the management of ECO to the Common Council because there has been no process to include stakeholders and community members at large that we are aware of. Speaking from our experience in Milwaukee, and what we know about other cities that are leading on climate and equity, we believe that restructuring ECO outside the executive branch could limit their capacity to work effectively across departments—work essential to achieving Milwaukee's ambitious climate and equity goals. From our current vantage point, the City of Milwaukee's best interests are served by an ECO that is embedded within the executive framework, allowing seamless collaboration, rapid response, and integrated planning.

Perhaps members of the Common Council are aware of issues unknown to the stakeholder community. If so, we encourage the committee to undertake a thorough, stakeholder-inclusive review process **before considering any structural changes**. Milwaukee can learn from similar offices in other major cities where direct alignment with the Mayor's office has been key to effective, streamlined operations and the successful deployment of federal resources like those from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

On behalf of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, I urge you to vote against Amendment #7. Let's maintain ECO's successful collaborative model, which continues to benefit all Milwaukee residents by advancing our community's climate and equity goals. We urge you to **vote no on the proposed amendment**. If changes to ECO's structure are considered in the future, we request that the process includes ample opportunity for public comment, thorough assessments, and multiple stakeholder meetings to ensure that any adjustments support ECO's effectiveness and continue to serve Milwaukee's climate and equity goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat Klawes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Climate Action Policy Coordinator, Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Lee, Chris

From: Jennifer Giegerich <jennifer@conservationvoters.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 4:48 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina; Spiker, Scott; Burgelis, Peter; Coggs, Milele; Moore, Sharlen; Lee, Chris
Subject: Please Oppose Amendment #7 and Keep ECO in Mayor's Office

Dear Members of the Personal and Finance Team,

I am writing in support of the Milwaukee ECO office remaining in the Mayor's office, continuing their efforts to implement the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

Wisconsin Conservation Voters has prioritized working with local communities around the state to support commitments to clean energy. We are fully in support of the city of Milwaukee in their efforts to transition to locally owned and operated renewable energy sources and to implement Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan. We have appreciated ECO's staff time and recommendations to best inform our efforts to educate Milwaukee residents on how to take advantage of the IRA consumer benefits. That IRA education work, completed through our door-to-door canvass with Forward Together Wisconsin, allowed us to highlight existing city programs that would be beneficial to city residents, both homeowners and renters. We also appreciate the ECO office's leadership in seeking funding for shared resources with other Milwaukee County municipalities to expand the number of sustainability staff implementing clean energy plans and projects. This collaboration with other municipalities is an example of the leadership that is necessary for this work to be holistic and cost-effective.

ECO is a model of collaboration with the community and has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the Ten Big Ideas in the community-led Climate and Equity Plan. We understand that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure from the Mayor to the City Clerk. ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support common council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. Through our partnership with ECO, we have seen firsthand their collaboration across departments and with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and are concerned that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. In short, if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO. The City of Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. Wisconsin Conservation Voters looks forward to working with both the Mayor and the common council in 2025 and beyond to successfully implement the Climate and Equity Plan for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the planet.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Giegerich
Government Affairs Director

Wisconsin Conservation Voters

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Jennifer Giegerich, Government Affairs Director

Wisconsin Conservation Voters

133 S. Butler St. Ste. 320, Madison, WI 53703

Office: 608-661-0845 | Direct: 608-208-1130 | Cell: 608-213-1406

Jennifer@conservationvoters.org | www.conservationvoters.org

Engaging voters to protect Wisconsin's environment.

Lee, Chris

From: Louise Petering <l.petering@lwvmilwaukee.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 9:59 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina; Spiker, Scott; Burgelis, Peter; Coggs, Milele; Moore, Sharlen; Lee, Chris
Cc: Nancy Maloney
Subject: LWV Milwaukee Co. Mayor's Budget Amendment #7

Chair Dimitrijevic, Vice Chair Spiker and members of Finance and Personnel Committee

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County urges the Finance and Personnel Committee to retain the ECO in the Mayor's Office.

Please see the attached statement for our full comments.

Thank you,
Louise Petering, Member and former President, LWVMC on behalf of
Nancy Maloney, President



2024 10 30 ECO Office ACTION Retain in Mayor's Office



The Coalition for a just
and sustainable community

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair Marina@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Scott Spiker, Vice-Chair Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Peter Burgelis Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Milele Coggs mcoggs@milwaukee.gov
Ald. Sharlen Moore Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant clee@milwaukee.gov

Esteemed Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee:

This letter is written to support the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

Our Future Milwaukee is a non-governmental coalition of more than 20 organizations that is dedicated to ensuring the full and equitable implementation of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan. We also support efforts for expansion of the Plan to the county and surrounding areas. We monitor implementation of the plan, inform the public about its implementation, and advocate for resources to support local climate action. More than 800 individuals have subscribed to our newsletter.

Our continued collaboration with ECO has been, and is, critical to achieving Our Future Milwaukee's goal of ensuring the full and complete implementation of Milwaukee's Plan. In many respects, ECO has surpassed our expectations, securing more than \$40 million in federal funding to enable the implementation of each of the Ten Big Ideas (strategies) of the Climate and Equity Plan. Many of these grants were accomplished through collaboration with other city departments and community organizations.

In addition, ECO staff have been open to our input for improving the progress reporting on the Climate and Equity Plan, and they have graciously acquiesced to our requests for regular monthly updates. We are also aware that in addition to working with other city administration offices to ensure funding and implementation of the Climate and Equity Plan, ECO is a respected partner in the region, providing resources and advice to other local and regional government entities.

The proposed amendment to move ECO from the administrative office to the Common Council may put this working relationship at risk. At the least, this change will be disruptive to an effective working process, and at worst may make it more difficult to ensure transparency and accountability to the public. For these reasons, we oppose Amendment #7.

Cooperation with and between the Mayor and the Common Council is crucial to achieving Milwaukee's goals of creating a more resilient and equitable community. We support your efforts in this important work.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Evans, President
Linda Frank, Secretary
Ted Kraig, Treasurer

Lee, Chris

From: perkdrews@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 3:11 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina; Moore, Sharlen; Spiker, Scott; Burgelis, Peter; Coggs, Milele; Lee, Chris
Cc: Shambarger, Erick; Rudolph-Schulta, Mia; Mabel Lamb; Steve O'Connell; martin childs; Tim Perkins; Ann Knoedler; Cheri Fuqua; Ritger, Pamela
Subject: Tim Perkins, Sherman Park ECO (in support of ECO continuing as part of the Mayor's Admin.) 10 30 24

Good afternoon, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

I'm also writing with appreciation for the work of Erik Shambarger, Mia Rudolph-Schulta, Pam Ritger and Dynasty Caesar (formerly an ECO Staff Member), who have supported and encouraged our Sherman Park ECO Ambassadors and our Sherman Park Green Team in our work to address environmental concerns in our Northside Neighborhood. In partnership with ECO and the Sherman Park Community Association and in collaboration with other Milwaukee Environmental Groups (i.e. Milwaukee Water Commons, Milwaukee River Keepers, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, and Clean Wisconsin), Wisconsin Environmental Groups (i.e. Green Homeowners, Slip Stream, and Green Print Partners, the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee's Water Marks initiative and the Masters of Sustainable Peacebuilding Program), we have planted and maintained trees, reduced single use plastic, improved the energy efficiency of homes and buildings, offered Green Community Dinners to share eco resources, organized Big Cleans in the community, and sought to educate our urban neighbors about environmental issues and ways to care for themselves and the earth. In addition thanks to that collaborative work, we have secured significant grants to help fund these important green initiatives.

It's my opinion and I believe our shared opinion here in Sherman Park that ECO is an effective model of collaboration with the community. ECO's resourcefulness in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led *Climate and Equity Plan* has been a gift. We are committed to working to implement the "Plan" here in the Sherman Park Neighborhood of Milwaukee in partnership with the city's Environmental Collaborative Office, as it is presently managed.

We have been informed that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure of from the Mayor to the City Clerk. In its work ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support Common Council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. Through our partnership with ECO, we have seen first hand their collaboration across departments, with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and share their concern that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. *If it isn't broken, don't fix it.* As one of a number of ECO Leaders in Sherman Park, I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO. The City of Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals.

As a Sherman Park ECO Ambassador and active member of the Sherman Park Community, we look forward to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council in 2025 and beyond to successfully implement the Climate and Equity Plan for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the planet. Thank you for your support of this important work!

Feel free to call me, if you want testimonials from me and members of our ECO Ambassadors Group and our Green Team here in Sherman Park. (1-414-403-0221)

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Perkins
Sherman Park ECO Neighborhood Ambassador
3245 N. 52nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53216
414-403-0221

cc: Erick Shambarger, Mia Rudolph-Schulta, and Pam Ritger at the ECO Office and Mabel Lamb, Steve O'Connell, Ann Knoedler, Cheri Fuqua, and Rev. Dr. Martin Childs Jr, all Sherman Park ECO Ambassadors



October 30, 2024

Attn: Finance and Personnel Committee
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

ECO has been a driving force and collaborative partner of the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC) since its inception in 2020. WLGCC provides a platform for local governments across the state to learn from each other and work together to break down barriers to reaching clean energy and climate goals. ECO Director, Erick Shambarger, is a founding member of WLGCC and currently serves as our Board President. Under Director Shambarger's board tenure, WLGCC has grown from just a few members to 23, representing almost 40% of the state's population. His leadership at the local level serves as a model for how other local governments can grow a communities' sustainability efforts and have a meaningful impact. ECO staff member Pam Ritger de la Rosa has also made meaningful contributions to WLGCC's mission. For example, she has worked with other members to identify ways to access energy data for community members and has collaborated on strategies to decarbonizing buildings.

ECO is a model of collaboration with the community and has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led *Climate and Equity Plan*. We understand that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure from the Mayor to the City Clerk. ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support Common Council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. Through our partnership with ECO, we have seen first-hand their collaboration across departments, with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and are concerned that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. In short, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO.

The City of Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. WLGCC looks forward to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council in 2025 and

beyond to successfully implement the Climate and Equity Plan for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the planet. Thank you for your support of this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Carlson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Allison Carlson
Executive Director
Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE • PO BOX 1607 • WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1607 • TELEPHONE (262) 547-6721

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October 30, 2024

Dear Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

This letter is to express support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan. ECO is a model of collaboration within the community and has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led Climate and Equity Plan.

An example of ECO's collaborative spirit is its recent work to help the Commission secure a planning grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. The grant provides funding for a pollution reduction action plan covering the Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), including Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties. The Climate and Equity Plan has served as a foundational document for the first deliverable of the grant, The Metropolitan Milwaukee Priority Pollution Reduction Action Plan.

The Priority Plan presents several elements, including: a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, priority pollution reduction measures, low-income and disadvantaged communities benefits analysis, and a review of authority to implement. It also includes six priority strategies that can achieve significant GHG reductions. These strategies are based on Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan and were developed with stakeholder input and outreach to counties and municipalities within the Milwaukee MSA. Close collaboration with ECO will continue as future deliverables of the grant are developed, including a comprehensive pollution reduction action plan for the four-county metro area.

The Commission staff looks forward to working with ECO in 2025 and beyond on future CPRG planning grant deliverables and supporting implementation of the Climate and Equity Plan for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the Region.

Thank you for your support of this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin R. McKay".

Benjamin R. McKay, AICP
Deputy Director

BRM/JBS
#275116 – City of Milwaukee ECO Support Letter



Good afternoon, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's *Climate and Equity Plan* as part of Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

WestCare Wisconsin, Inc. has been involved with the city of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan with work being performed at our Resource HUB / COP house located at 2979 N Palmer St, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53212. Our mission is to "Uplift the Human Spirit" and the work collaboratively create job opportunities and workforce development to an undeserved population.

ECO is a model of collaboration with the community and has been incredibly resourceful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to support all of the *Ten Big Ideas* in the community-led *Climate and Equity Plan*. We understand that there is a proposed amendment to change the reporting structure of from the Mayor to the City Clerk. ECO has demonstrated their willingness to support Common Council priorities while working effectively with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. Through our partnership with ECO, we have seen firsthand their collaboration across departments, with policymakers and outside stakeholders, and are concerned that a change in structure could disrupt what has proven to be successful. In short, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. I urge you to vote against proposed amendment #7 to change ECO.

The City of Milwaukee works best when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. [Name of your organization] looks forward to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council in 2025 and beyond to successfully implement the Climate and Equity Plan for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the planet. Thank you for your support of this important work!

Sincerely,

Travis Landry
Regional Vice President
WestCare Wisconsin Inc.

Email travis.landry@westcare.com



Uplifting the Human Spirit

WestCare Wisconsin

335 W. Wright St., Milwaukee, WI 53209

westcare.com | 414-239-9359

Finance and Personnel Committee
Milwaukee Common Council
City of Milwaukee

October 30, 2024

Good afternoon, members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

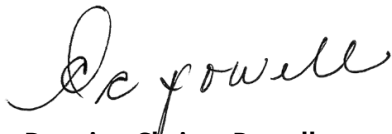
I'm writing to express my strong support for the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) and their continued implementation of the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan under Mayor Cavalier Johnson's Administration.

In 2022, I had the privilege of working with ECO as a Senior Executive Fellow, focusing on community engagement for the Climate and Equity Plan. This plan stands out as one of the most committed and detailed climate action strategies in the country, often referenced across our network as a beacon of effective, community-led climate action. ECO's collaborative approach and dedication to sustainability have been instrumental in making this plan a model that others look to for guidance and inspiration.

ECO exemplifies effective collaboration within the community and has been incredibly successful in securing over \$40 million in federal funding to advance all of the Ten Big Ideas outlined in the Climate and Equity Plan. We understand there is a proposed amendment to change ECO's reporting structure from the Mayor to the City Clerk. I want to highlight that ECO has consistently supported Common Council priorities and worked seamlessly with other city departments and government agencies as part of the Mayor's Administration. Through USDN's partnership with ECO, we have seen firsthand their ability to engage across departments, policymakers, and community stakeholders—a collaborative spirit that would be disrupted by such a structural change. Simply put, this is a model that works well as it is, and altering it may risk the positive outcomes we've seen.

The City of Milwaukee achieves its best results when we all work cooperatively toward common goals. USDN is committed to working with both the Mayor and the Common Council in 2025 and beyond to fully implement the Climate and Equity Plan for the benefit of Milwaukee residents and the broader community. Thank you for your support of this critical work.

Warm Regards,



Deneine Christa Powell

Chief Executive Officer

Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)

dcpowell@usdn.org