

# Climate and Equity Plan

6/13/2022

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## Background

- Common Council established the City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity in 2019 (CCFN 190445) to address the ongoing climate crisis and mitigate racial and economic inequity through “green” jobs. The Task Force authorizing resolution contains no specific end date.
- The Task Force was co-chaired representatives of the Common Council and County Board. Alderman Nik Kovac was a consistent leader on the Task Force, until he was recently appointed to Budget Director. The County Board is now on its third chair (in order: Supreme Moore Omokunde; Marcelia Nicholson; now Priscilla Coggs-Jones).
- Broad coalition of organizations have representatives on the Task Force.
- The Task Force completed its Preliminary Report in March 2020; ECO completed Greenhouse Gas Inventory and supported preliminary analysis and Climate Vulnerability report. **Nine subcommittees and the Task Force met extensively throughout 2021, did public outreach, and submitted plan recommendations to the Steering and Rules Committee in March 2022.**
- The Communications sub-group and Accountability subgroup have met periodically since March, but the broader Task Force has not. The Task Force has not yet presented its recommendations to the County Board.
- The Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) is serving as the project manager to develop the final **Climate and Equity Plan**, which we hope the Council will adopt in December 2022. ECO has hired a FUSE Fellow, Deneine Powell, to support additional community outreach on the plan this summer and fall. Website is [Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan](https://Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan)
- ECO hired a consulting firm, GRAEF-USA, to produce the final plan in consultation with ECO and Task Force members. **GRAEF will have a draft documents for the Task Force to react to in mid-July/early August.**
- The Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) has a strong track record of implementing climate related projects and has already begun implementing parts of the plan. See page 2 for specifics.
- Members of the Accountability Working group have met with Common Council President Perez and County Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones in June, 2022. Possible next steps include:
  - Presenting working group recommendations to the County Board
  - Possible appointment of a co-chair from the Milwaukee Common Council
- Both the Milwaukee County Board and Milwaukee Common Council are in recess during August. The full Task Force may reconvene in September.

**ECO Project Updates- 10 Big Ideas**

|          | <b>Climate Plan Strategy</b>  | <b>Progress Update</b>   |
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| <b>1</b> | <b>Green Jobs Accelerator</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. \$2m was requested but unfunded as part of ARPA Phase 1.</li> <li>B. ECO applied for a highly competitive \$24m federal grant in February to create a DPW Green Jobs apprentice program and recruiting which would also address our critical shortage of trade workers; grant still pending but was highly competitive</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Coordinate Residential Energy Efficiency Projects with MHD Lead abatement work</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. \$2m funded through ARPA. ECO has issued an RFP to hire a technical consultant to help establish a coordinated program</li> <li>B. ECO's Me2 had a very successful year</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Net Zero Energy New Homes</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Housing manufacturing company identified; DCD concerned 90 jobs not enough for Century City; looking for alternative site for new factory, but available vacant land is limited</li> <li>B. Consultant selected for housing finance plan (single family)</li> <li>C. RFP for developer to build prototype units to be issued later this summer (from \$1m ARPA allocation)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Commercial Building Benchmarking and Building Performance Standard policy</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Mayor Johnson joined White House led BPS Coalition of cities and states nationally, pledging to implement a commercial building climate ordinance by Earth Day, 2024</li> <li>B. ECO participating in national cohort to learn and implement best practices; working on building a supportive coalition of commercial building owners</li> <li>C. ECO working with State of Wisconsin to encourage higher building codes statewide</li> <li>D. Lead interdepartmental Energy Reduction Team to cut energy use in municipal operations</li> </ul> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Greening the Grid</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. ECO co-founded the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC.org) to advocate for supportive policies at the Public Service Commission and other State agencies. Council endorsed on membership (CCFN 201620)</li> <li>B. Advocating for statewide clarification on third-party financing of solar</li> <li>C. Worked with We Energies to complete largest solar energy project in City's history (2.25MW, 9 acres on landfill next to airport)</li> </ul>   |

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|           |  | D. Working with We Energies on a new tariff that would allow City to purchase 25%-100% of our power from renewable sources by 2025   |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Electric Vehicle Strategy</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. ECO installed a limited number of EV Charging stations in 2012.</li> <li>B. Working with city departments to purchase hybrid and electric vehicles; MPD now buy hybrids</li> <li>C. Lead interdepartmental EV planning group</li> <li>D. Preparing for possible federal grants from Infrastructure bill</li> </ul>     |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Reducing vehicle miles traveled</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Council support to curb reckless driving also supports safer streets, bikes, and pedestrians</li> <li>B. DPW applying for federal grants for safer streets and to fully implement Complete Streets Plan</li> <li>C. More funding needed to expand Bus Rapid Transit and other transit options and frequency</li> </ul> |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Nature in the City</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. No new firm funding sources have been identified</li> <li>B. Green Schoolyard projects are popular; showcased them to State officials for future funding consideration</li> </ul>  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Food Waste Reduction</b>            | No firm strategy identified or underway  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Resilience Ambassadors</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. ECO administering EPA Environmental Justice grant with Walnut Way and Sixteenth St. Community Health to distribute information on Healthy Homes</li> <li>B. Eco Neighborhoods initiative to collaborate with neighborhood groups on environmental education; ECO hiring new coordinator for this.</li> </ul>           |