



Environmental Collaboration Office

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

Preston D. Cole
Director of Administration

Erick Shambarger
Environmental Sustainability Director

July 26, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the
Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development Committee
City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 301-B

Dear Committee Members:

With your support the, Common Council adopted Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan (CCFN # 221233). The Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO), Department of City Development, other city departments and external partners are working collaboratively to implement its bold goals that support reducing greenhouse gas emissions while supporting racial and economic equity. As noted in my letter dated November 13, 2023, **ECO supports the *Growing MKE Plan***. After the completion of the planning process, we continue to support the final product. Moreover, we support the inclusive process for developing the plan that effectively combined technical expertise of DCD planners with community engagement and feedback.

As previously noted, **Growing MKE is a consistent with the Climate and Equity Plan**. Growing MKE adds specificity the Climate and Equity Plan, particularly the *People-Centered Transportation and Urban Design Chapter*. Growing MKE offers zoning code updates that will increase housing choice within Milwaukee, including permitting additional styles of housing and increased density in neighborhoods that are well served by transit and well connected to regional job centers. Implementing these proposed updates will improve neighborhood walkability, transit access, and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and consequently, carbon pollution from transportation.

In addition to supporting Growing MKE, ECO also supports other changes in practice that can accelerate development of new affordable and market-rate housing on Milwaukee's many vacant lots scattered throughout our neighborhoods. We will endeavor to work more closely with DCD to help the development community adopted better construction methods that reduce the long-term use of fossil fuels to heat and power our homes, including broader adoption of solar energy and efficiency standards like ENERGY STAR and the US Department of Energy's Zero Energy Home Ready standard. Consequently, this will reduce the often-burdensome monthly energy bills that go with home ownership.

Thank you for your on-going support of Climate and Equity Plan and Growing MKE.

Sincerely,

Erick Shambarger
Director of Environmental Sustainability
City of Milwaukee