

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** larryhof@earthlink.net  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 2:58 AM  
**To:** mke100percent; Kovac, Nik; supreme.mooreomokunde@milwaukeecountywi.gov; Shambarger, Erick; George Martin; Janet Meissner Pritchard; Julie Kerksick; pam@milwaukeeelabor.org; pfendt@liunagroc.com; Ted Wilinski; Fred Royal; Freida Webb; Bruce Wiggins; Pam Ritger; Hamilton, Ashanti  
**Cc:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Where is the Climate & EquityTask Force?  
**Attachments:** Where are MECA & the Task Force.pdf; Mayor's Hearing Sched (orig) for 2021 Budget.pdf; Task Force--Short Term Projects from Prelim Report.docx

## **MECA and the City-County Task Force are:**

- A. forging ahead with actions on climate & minority employment**
- B. gradually gathering steam & gaining adherents**
- C. moving at a crawl**
- D. at a standstill**

It looks to me like D !

Please see the attachments and please Reply All.

Thank you,

**Larry Hoffman**

*Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance (MECA)*



*Lawrence M. Hoffman, Ph.D.*  
*3476-A N. Dousman Street*  
*Milwaukee, WI 53212*

August 10, 2020

**Members of MECA and the City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity:**

We all have different views of the huge climate and job equity project we've been working on for some three years. Each of us works at her/his own varied pace to carry out the necessary tasks the best s/he can.

At this point, I'm very uncomfortable with our pace. Of course, the pandemic has a lot to do with it, largely preventing in-person meetings. Perhaps some of you are undaunted. But the rush of good work that came with the initiation of the Task Force has slowed to a trickle.

**Below are 3 actions I am advocating. Please Reply All with (a) acceptance, (b) rejection, (c) suggestions for other actions, or (d) reasons why it's impossible to move ahead:**

1. **Budget.** It's late in the budget season, yet we don't seem to have any definite proposals other than what might come from the ECO office. I'm not a budget expert, but as I've stated to MECA, simply requesting or demanding a large amount is unlikely to yield a positive result.

**Attached to this email, cut from the Task Force's Preliminary Report, are all the short-term projects we listed.** It's been suggested that our budget requests should come from among them. I have added my comments and questions about their viability in **red**. **Please add your own**, perhaps in a different color, **and make some budget suggestions to all of us ASAP.**

**Attached also is the Mayor's initial calendar of budget hearings.**

2. **Officials to Connect with.** In my emails to MECA on July 2 & 9, I recommended we connect with (a) the new Commissioner of Development, (b) the City's Director of Administration, and (c) the principals in the marquee development project at 32<sup>nd</sup> & Center that recently received approval to be a TIF district. I'm working to draft correspondence to each of them. If any of you are interested in joining me in meetings with them and providing the Zoom link, please let me know.
3. **Skilled Trades Discussion.** In a May 6 email to the Jobs and Equity Work Group, I asked for a panel discussion to be held to review documents that Fred Royal has cited as important in describing Milwaukee's failure to achieve equity in hiring minorities in the skilled trades. I would envision inviting Fred to take part, as well as Pam Fendt, among others.

I have less time and energy these days for our climate and job equity project, but I don't want to see it die or get co-opted by slow-moving corporate initiatives. **What are your thoughts?**

Sincerely,

*Larry Hoffman*

Member, Milwaukee Equity and Climate Alliance; Citizen Member, Task Force Working Groups



# CITY-COUNTY TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC EQUITY PRELIMINARY REPORT

## Short-Term Projects/Programs

The report suggests that these activities could be accelerated, possibly in the next 1- 2 years.

### *Suggestions In Red for How to Start Them* **BUDGET ITEMS IN CAPS**

#### GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS ASSESSMENT AND REDUCTION STRATEGIES WORK GROUP (p. 12)

##### p. 21 Short-Term Projects/Programs

###### Utility-Scale Solar

The City recently approved participation in a new large-scale We Energies solar program (Solar Now) at the College Avenue former landfill near the airport. It should continue to move forward with the program and look into We Energies' other utility solar program, DRER. Also, the City should explore approaches to expanding the College Avenue solar project to fill the entire site.

IS THIS ALREADY A BUDGET ITEM FROM ECO?

###### Dialogue with We Energies on Shared Climate Goals

Since We Energies has often worked against the City's sustainability goals, the City should identify and evaluate strategies to partner with and, if necessary, compel the utility to:

- a) change the fuel sources for electricity production to renewable, zero emission sources as quickly as possible;
- b) assist with making electricity the end-use energy for transportation and space heating;
- c) prioritize locally-produced energy in its energy production;
- d) provide a Community Solar option;
- e) share emissions data. The City should develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with We Energies on shared climate goals.

Where are we on this? What staff are involved?

###### Maintain and expand ECO programs

Consistent funding should be provided for existing ECO programs, including Me2, Better Buildings Challenge, Milwaukee Shines, and HOME GR/OWN. ECO should also obtain funding for staff dedicated to planning, marketing, promotion and public education with respect to sustainability programs in order to achieve widespread participation in these programs, especially for Me2, the Better Buildings Challenge, the ECO Toolkit and Milwaukee Shines.

ARE THESE GOING TO BE ECO BUDGET ITEMS?

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###### Add Climate Action and Equity as goals across government agencies

The City should implement a "Climate Action Team" that includes the Department of Public Works, Department of City Development, Environmental Collaboration Office, and other agencies to coordinate transportation and urban planning around new, lower carbon models.



What are the initial steps to get this going? What would ECO propose? Development Commissioner Crump should be approached ASAP.

#### Increase Efficiency of City Vehicle Fleet

The City should replace retired City vehicles with low-carbon vehicles, prioritizing all electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, and fuel-efficient vehicles, in that order, while also considering cost and feasibility, based on the forthcoming ECO Energy Efficiency Report on Buildings and Fleet.

#### Expand Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Resources

The City should work with the State of Wisconsin and organizations like Wisconsin Clean Cities to develop a plan to utilize Volkswagen settlement funds to expand public electric-vehicle charging infrastructure and the electric fleet in Milwaukee. The City should then include information like the Evolution (<https://evolution.es.anl.gov/>) Tool to help consumers educate themselves about the benefits and comparative savings of electric vehicles.

#### Increase Ridership on County Transit Buses

1. Install Wi-Fi on buses, as a strategy to increase ridership.  
Is this already being evaluated by MCTS?
2. Address funding gaps within the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS).
3. Support expanded bus rapid transit lines and Milwaukee Streetcar service.
4. Evaluate MCTS in terms of Operational Efficiency and Access Equity, using a tool such as this: A Comprehensive Tool for Transit Performance Evaluation: Operational Efficiency and Access Equity

#### Explore Creation of Ongoing University Student Projects

The Task Force should Identify City or County projects that could be undertaken by

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university students engaged in a relevant course of study and explore collaboration with one or more local universities on an ongoing basis. This approach could be an option for implementing and marketing the ECO Toolkit, for example.

What is the standard procedure used by the City and County to invite university collaboration?

#### Reduce Food Waste

The Task Force should develop strategies to reduce food waste, feed hungry Milwaukee residents, increase composting, and develop markets for compost. Also, the Task Force should look to the City of Nashville's successful Food Waste Initiative as a model: <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/tackling-food-waste-nashvillian-style>.

Who is willing to investigate this?

#### Implement Commercial Recycling Inspections and Improved Residential Recycling

The City should implement proactive enforcement of recycling laws among Milwaukee's businesses, particularly fast-food restaurants. The City should also expand recycling education for Milwaukee residents and ensure all households are provided with recycling bins.

### Encourage Energy Efficiency Among Low-Income Households

The City and County should work to combat energy poverty by strengthening existing programs to promote and fund energy-efficiency and renewable energy for LMI (low to moderate income) residents in Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. The City and County should also explore new program options such as Cincinnati's Warm Up Cincy program as a possible model. Weatherization outreach programs should focus in census tracts where households experience the highest energy burdens (See attached energy burden map). Additionally, there should be efforts to assist local weatherization programs with outreach to all landlords and tenants currently receiving or eligible for energy assistance, connect property management companies and neighborhood associations with weatherization organizations to help residents apply for energy assistance and weatherization, and include information about available weatherization and energy efficiency programs in required programs for City of Milwaukee landlords.

Clearly this is very complex. What government agencies would be responsible for each aspect of this item? Which one is the lowest hanging fruit to start with?

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### Strengthen Green Building Standards on City-Financed Projects

1. PACE-financed projects
2. City-subsidized projects
3. New municipal buildings

Will this require passage of ordinances? Would the DCD be the department to work on it? Does it need a Common Council sponsor to present it as resolutions? To which committee(s)?

### **JOBS AND EQUITY WORK GROUP (p. 24)**

#### **p. 34 Short-Term Projects/Programs**

As planning goes forward for the overall Climate Change and Economic Equity report, there are some existing efforts that could be supported now. The Task Force recommends increasing investment in the following areas and reducing barriers to programs that create paid hands-on training and employment opportunities:

- Tree-planting projects (Ex. Branch Out Program, Ash Tree Replacement, City of Milwaukee Urban Forestry program, Decarceration and Reforestation program)  
THIS SHOULD BE A BUDGET ITEM. Which program is the lowest hanging fruit? HOW MUCH?
- Food programs, including addressing food waste (a climate change problem) and food insecurity (a jobs and equity problem).  
Are either of these issues that Hunger Task Force or Feeding America works on?
- Greening efforts of Milwaukee Public Schools and playgrounds (MMSD).  
With our help, the MPS Board passed a wide-ranging resolution to this effect.
- The Milwaukee Water Commons recommendations related to water quality and diversifying the workforce in water-related jobs.  
What are the initial steps to be taken to diversify the workforce in this field?

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- Programs that train people for existing jobs that address energy efficiency, and address barriers for attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. For example, MATC, in support of an industry effort to build a workforce for building maintenance, has worked with the industry to establish an apprenticeship program. The program is called Facility Maintenance Technician (FMT). This program started this spring and may be effective in dealing with an industry-wide shortage of maintenance workers. Studies have shown that properly maintaining facilities has a direct impact on energy use. Companies participating in the FMT program customize the course selection to their needs. Automated Building Systems (ABS) is a 2-semester program training for entry-level positions as building control technicians, a position in demand locally. Power Engineering trains people for operating boiler systems. It trains for the boiler operating license (several classes, one semester) as required by many operations, including MPS, and also has a one-year diploma.

What can we do to support MATC's programs? Ask Ted Wilinski and David Polk of MATC.

- Passive housing models such as the New Jersey Passive House organization, where they are building energy-efficient and carbon-free homes in a similar climate to Milwaukee. What individuals at the City, or companies involved in development, or nonprofits have information that could get the ball rolling?

There are also possible projects that could begin or be supported in the near term that will likely fit into a comprehensive plan and would significantly increase diversity of workforce in skilled trades needed for environmentally sustainable jobs. This can be done by:

- Energy conservation retrofitting programs that employ local residents. Based on existing research, this activity has tremendous greenhouse gas reduction and employment impacts, if brought to scale.  
Take this up with MATC, labor apprenticeship leaders, and possibly organizations of developers, contractors, and realtors. Try to develop a timeline. Find businesses of these kinds that are most interested in climate priorities and employment equity.
- Identify ways to immediately increase residential recycling levels, which has a major positive greenhouse gas emissions impact. King County has identified direct climate reduction impacts of increasing recycling, lowering food waste, and reducing the use of single-use containers and bottles <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrc/solid-waste/programs/climate/climate-changerecycling.aspx>

Where do the City, County, and municipalities' recycling policies get developed? Contact them?

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- Enabling electrification, a key component of a green transition, by increasing the number of public EV charging stations and working to incentivize large scale apartment and condo buildings to develop EV charging capacity for their residents.
- Combining decarceration efforts with reforestation and conservation efforts along the lines of Civil Conservation Corps models: With the impending extinction of key canopy species such as ash trees and following multiple years of divestment in natural areas, it is proposed that paid, hands-on training efforts intentionally include soon-to-be returning citizens in green-infrastructure installation and maintenance, engage under and unemployed community members in water treatment career pathways (MMSD, Walnut Way, Groundwork MKE, Cream City Conservation Corps, DNR, County Parks, WI Fast Forward, City of Milwaukee



Forestry, MATC), and re-evaluate paperwork requirements by federal and local entities for subsidized employment.

Contact these organizations to determine which ones to start with. Develop a rough flow chart and timeline for action.

- Urban agriculture such as the program at Vincent High School, including Vincent's salad sales entrepreneurial programs at the Brewers stadium.

Who to talk to at MPS? See the resolution recently passed that was presented by Director Bob Peterson.

- Commercial driver's license and drivers license reinstatement and obtainment.  
What agencies to contact? What laws or policies need to be changed?

## **FINANCE AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WORK GROUP (p. 36)**

### **p. 49 Short Term Projects/Programs**

The following is a list of short-term projects/programs that can be accomplished within the next year:

Which of the following is ECO pursuing? WHAT ARE THEIR BUDGET REQUESTS?

1. The City should explore use of the DRER program, including to further expand

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the solar field at the landfill at 1600 E College Ave., to achieve 25% renewable energy by 2025 for municipal operations. The City may consider approaching the PSC for revisions to the program to reduce financial risk from the program.

2. The City should continue the Me2, PACE financing, and Milwaukee Shines loan programs. [ongoing]
3. The City and County should inquire with the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources regarding whether all eligible Wisconsin Weatherization Assistance Program funding for Milwaukee County is being fully utilized each year. This would help determine whether more resources are needed to support outreach and marketing of the program, or whether additional funding is needed due to high demand for weatherization services in Milwaukee. [within 3 months]
4. The City and County should intervene at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) in the next Quadrennial Planning process for the Focus on Energy program and advocate for an increase in Focus on Energy funding. The next Quadrennial Planning process will likely occur in 2021. [within one year]
5. The City and County should work with other aligned Wisconsin municipalities to advocate for a State decision to supplement Focus on Energy funding with a charge pegged to energy usage above a "basic allowance" determined for each class of customers, similar to the Boulder, Colorado case study referenced under the Findings section.
6. In the context of a "Shared Climate Goals" conversation, the City should re-open the discussion initiated with We Energies in 2008 regarding offering on-bill financing to facilitate customers' ability to invest in energy efficiency improvements for their homes and buildings. [re-open discussion within 6 months]
7. If that discussion is not successful, the City and County should ask the Wisconsin Office of Clean Energy and Sustainability to conduct an assessment, or ask the Public Service

Commission (PSC) to initiate a generic investigation to explore on-bill financing in terms of likely benefits to ratepayers such as cost savings

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from energy efficiency upgrades, as well as benefits to utilities, such as a reduction in peak load demand and permanent shift in system peak due to more distributed generation resources being present on the grid.

8. The City and County should investigate any and all available grants through the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Volkswagen Mitigation Program to potentially help fund EV charging infrastructure and transit.
9. The City and County should ask the PSC, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Wisconsin Department of Administration to assess the benefits of EV infrastructure and determine if there are situations where utility investments in that infrastructure would be in the interest of the public good. [within 6 months]
10. The Environmental Collaboration Office should generate a report indicating how it would use an additional \$1 million, if it had such funds in its budget, specifying how additional expenditures up to this amount would be prioritized. [within 3 months]
11. The City should prepare a set of proposals for “shovel ready projects” that could take advantage of a large infusion of federal funds that might be anticipated from the adoption of a Green New Deal agenda at the federal level at some point within the next 2-4 years. These proposals should include a process for vetting the proposed projects in a manner consistent with the Outreach and Education recommendations of the Task Force. [within one year]

#### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORK GROUP (p. 51)**

##### **p. 60 Short Term Projects/Programs**

- Create a website to be the information and outreach hub for the Task Force.  
THIS SHOULD BE A BUDGET ITEM. Suggest \$10-15,000?
- Plan a kickoff event.
- Communicate with the community.  
This work group, in collaboration with MECA, has compiled a list of appropriate community groups to approach for initial presentations. MECA has created a slide presentation for which the emphases in the script can be adapted by the presenter.
- Hold workshops/ meetings, including focus groups.
- Monitor Common Council and County Board of Supervisors meetings/developers at licensing committee hearings.

Once community groups have been informed of the Task Force and its work, they can be tapped to alert their members to the interesting work of attending Common Council committee meetings and testifying purposefully to press property owners and developers to prioritize climate and economic equity. Training can be designed and offered to the members, and an ongoing cohort can be organized to keep track of committee calendars, developments throughout the city, and issues. Eventually similar cohorts could be started in other Milwaukee County municipalities.

# 2021 Budget Hearing Schedule

SEPTEMBER 2020				
Mon. 21	Tues. 22 9:00 A.M. COMMON COUNCIL MEETING Mayor's Budget Presentation	Wed. 23	Thurs. 24	Fri. 25
OCTOBER 2020				
Mon. 28 1:30 P.M. Steering and Rules Committee	Tues. 29 9:00 A.M. Licenses Committee	Wed. 30 9:00 A.M. Public Works Committee 1:30 P.M. Community and Economic Development Committee	Thurs. 1 9:00 A.M. Public Safety & Health Committee	Fri. 2 Finance & Personnel Committee Budget Hearings 9:00 A.M. Budget Overview (Given by DOA's Budget Director) Capital Improvement Overview City Revenue/City Debt Grant & Aid Fund CC Contingent Fund Tax Stabilization Fund 11:00 A.M. City Attorney Treasurer 1:30 P.M. Comptroller City Clerk



# 2021 Budget Hearing Schedule

OCTOBER 2020									
Mon.	5	Tues.	6	Wed.	7	Thurs.	8	Fri.	9
	<div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div> <div>9:00 A.M. Dept. of Administration Election Commission Assessor's Office</div> <div>1:30 P.M. Judiciary and Legislation Committee</div>	<div>9:00 A.M. Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development Committee</div> <div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div> <div>1:30 P.M. Dept. of Neighborhood Services</div> <div>3:30 P.M. Dept. of Employee Relations</div> <div>6:00 P.M. JOINT PUBLIC HEARING Common Council Chamber</div>		<div>9:00 A.M. Finance and Personnel Committee</div> <div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div> <div>1:30 P.M. Employee Retirement System Mayor's Office Municipal Court Deferred Compensation</div>		<div>9:00 A.M. Health Department</div> <div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div>	<div>9:00 A.M. DPW – Infrastructure DPW – Sewer Maint. Fund</div> <div>10:30 A.M. DPW – Transportation DPW – Water</div>		
Mon.	12	Tues.	13	Wed.	14	Thurs.	15	Fri.	16
	<div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div> <div>9:00 A.M. DPW-Admin. Services DPW - Sanitation</div> <div>10:30 A.M. DPW - Fleet Services DPW – Forestry</div> <div>11:30 A.M Milwaukee Public Library</div>	<div>9:00 A.M. COMMON COUNCIL MEETING</div> <div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div> <div>1:30 P.M. Port BOZA Dept. of City Development RACM</div>		<div>9:00 A.M. Police Department</div> <div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div>	<div>9:00 A.M.</div>	<div>10:30 A.M. Fire Department Fire and Police Commission</div> <div>Finance &amp; Personnel Committee Budget Hearings</div>			

# 2021 Budget Hearing Schedule

OCTOBER 2020					
Mon. 19  1:30 P.M. Steering and Rules Committee	Tues. 20  9:00 A.M. Licenses Committee	Wed. 21  9:00 A.M. Public Works Committee  1:30 P.M. Community and Economic Development Committee	Thurs. 22  9:00 A.M. Public Safety Committee	Fri. 23  4:45 P.M. Budget Amendment Submittal Deadline	
Mon. 26  1:30 P.M. Judiciary and Legislation Committee	Tues. 27  9:00 A.M. Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee  9:00 A.M. LRB DEADLINE FOR PUBLISHING WHITE PACKET	Wed. 28  9:00 A.M. Finance and Personnel Committee	Thurs. 29  Finance & Personnel Committee Budget Hearing  9:00 A.M. (All Day) BUDGET AMENDMENT DAY	Fri. 30  Finance & Personnel Committee Budget Hearing  9:00 A.M. (All Day) BUDGET AMENDMENT DAY	

# 2021 Budget Hearing Schedule

NOVEMBER 2020									
Mon.	2	Tues.	3	Wed.	4	Thurs.	5	Fri.	6
			9:00 A.M. LRB DEADLINE FOR PUBLISHING YELLOW PACKET		9:00 A.M. COMMON COUNCIL MEETING		9:00 A.M. DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING AMENDMENTS BE INCLUDED IN THE SALMON/24HR PACKET		9:00 A.M. (All Day) COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  BUDGET ADOPTION DAY
Mon.	9	Tues.	10	Wed.	11	Thurs.	12	Fri.	13