



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

November 12, 2020

Kevin Fletcher
President and CEO
WEC Energy Group
231 W Michigan St.
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

The City of Milwaukee and County of Milwaukee have established bold goals for community greenhouse gas reductions and social equity. Specifically, we aim to reduce community-wide carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner. As part of this transition we seek to focus new job opportunities for those who live in our most impoverished areas. In support of these goals, we formed the *City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity (CCTFCEE)* to develop strategies to achieve these goals. We published our Preliminary Report in February and are now starting to develop a formal Climate and Equity Plan. We cannot meet these goals alone. As our electric and gas provider, We Energies has a very big role to play in our community's energy outlook and greenhouse gas profile.

Extending over the last decade, Task Force members have been frustrated by We Energies roadblocks to distributed renewable energy development. The company has also been slower than many utilities to embrace the positive business opportunities of vehicle electrification, energy efficiency, and large scale renewable energy investments. However, we are optimistic to know that this may be slowly changing. In particular, We Energies' pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050 is welcome news. **We would like to invite you or your staff to attend an upcoming Task Force meeting** to provide additional details about your carbon reduction plans, explore mutually beneficial goals, and hear policy and programmatic ideas from our Task Force members. We'd like to learn more about the timing of new renewable energy projects and the retirement of coal-fired power plants. The Task Force is also interested in exploring utility support for large scale energy efficiency and demand-side management programs, with a particular emphasis on low-income communities that have the heaviest energy burden.

Ultimately, some communities around the country have worked with their utilities on a Clean Energy Memorandum of Understanding to lay the groundwork for shared goals and a process for collaboration. We would like to explore this possibility. At a minimum, we understand that you are an important stakeholder in our process to develop a Climate and Equity Plan. Enclosed for your reference is a listing of policy proposals from our Preliminary Report that we submitted to Governor Ever's Task Force on Climate Change.

We appreciate the recent collaborative efforts between the City and We Energies. As you know, the Solar Now project on the City-owned landfill is a win-win for both parties. And thank you to your staff for providing the City and County with our respective community-wide greenhouse gas emissions data. Sharing data helps our respective planning efforts. Yet there is much more to be done to achieve our mutual climate and equity goals.

In addition to getting a better understanding of We Energies' carbon reduction goals, the Task Force also invites your staff to present on the mechanics of the Dedicated Renewable Energy Resource (DRER). We understand that this program is a potential means of expanding the landfill solar project



by another 5MW or more, and can be used at other locations to help the City achieve its longstanding 25% by 2025 renewable energy goal.

If you are willing to have your staff present to the Task Force, please contact Task Force staff assistant Linda Elmer at lelmer@milwaukee.gov or 414-286-2231.

We look forward to exploring these concepts together.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Nik' and the signature on the right is 'S.M.O.' (Supreme Moore Omokunde). Both signatures are enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Alderman Nik Kovac and Supervisor Supreme Moore Omokunde
Co-Chairs, City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity

Supporting Local Governments to Act on Climate Change

Actions State of Wisconsin agencies could take to support local governments' climate goals



Prepared by City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) April 27, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ACTIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Wisconsin's Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) should release additional funding to local governments through the Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP).
- Clarify that solar installers that provide customer financing for rooftop solar are not "public utilities," thus ensuring that utilities connect third-party financed systems to the grid.
- Require electric and gas utilities to annually issue [community energy reports](#), like Xcel energy does.
- Allow utilities to invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure as part of their rate base.
- Set solar net metering rates equal to the retail rate of electricity and allow for net metering on properties up to 1 MW
- Require Wisconsin electric utilities to develop plans to phase out all coal-fired power plants by 2040, and retire WEPCO's South Oak Creek power plant (units 5-8) by 2023.
- Require utilities to invest in energy efficiency by requiring them to offer "[on-bill financing](#)."
- Help utilities meet customer demand by requiring them to offer [community solar](#) options.
- Allow "[master-metering](#)" so that a single solar array can support multiple tenants of a multi-family building, even if the individual units separately pay their own energy bill.

BUILDINGS

- Strengthen Wisconsin's Commercial Building Energy Code (SPS 363), by specifically removing provisions that water-down full adoption of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. For example, SPS 363.0403(9) eliminates the requirement to commission HVAC systems, even though [commissioning ensures the building will operate as designed](#). Alternatively, the State could allow municipalities to adopt a stronger "[stretch code](#)" for energy.
- WHEDA should develop a new Net-Zero Energy home financing program to advance net-zero energy infrastructure (including HVAC, lighting, building envelope) for new construction and gut-rehabs in low-income neighborhoods. ECO will provide a more detailed proposal.
- Establish a "[Green Bank](#)", perhaps through the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands or WEDC, structured to provide financing to local governments *without contributing to their municipal debt limit*.
- Ensure Wisconsin's technical colleges have programs in renewable energy, weatherization, and HVAC and take proactive steps to make these programs accessible to people of color.

TRANSPORTATION

- Provide balanced transportation funding from the WisDOT. In particular:
 - ✓ Transportation plans and funding should be designed to support and increase population density, rather than fueling new ex-urban development. Example: [SEWRPC's Vision 2050](#).
 - ✓ Increase funding for multi-modal freight networks and public transit