



1. These comments are submitted on behalf of the Climate Change Coalition of Door County (CCDC) by the Co-Chairs Mary Smythe and Roy Thilly. CCDC has been working for the past 8 years to increase understanding of climate science, mitigation strategies and adaptation in Door County through educational programs, news columns and events, including tree planting partnerships with schools, TNC and others, hikes and other initiatives. Over 125 local businesses have signed onto CCDC's Climate Declaration which recognizes that climate change is real, driven by human activity and requires prompt action.
2. CCDC applauds Governor Evers for creating the Task Force, Lt. Governor Mandela for leading it and all the members for their participation and dedication. It is past time for a Wisconsin Climate Action Plan. The failure of federal and state government to forcefully mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has contributed to what now amounts to a global climate emergency that threatens humanity's future. It is frightening that data now shows that arctic warming is exceeding the climate projections of just a few years ago.
3. Given the need to act immediately, we urge the Task Force to focus on practical steps that Wisconsin can take promptly to begin effective mitigation and adaptation. The Task Force must also include recommendations that will be more difficult politically and time-consuming to achieve.
4. Increasing public awareness and understanding of likely global warming impacts and causes is essential to developing the political will required for many of the actions so critically needed. For this reason, we urge the Task Force to recommend reinvigorating the work of Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) with substantial funding and find ways to disseminate that work in understandable form to broad audiences across the state. Much has happened since the initial WICCI report. It is also very important that the DNR track and report on the state's GHG emissions on an economy-wide basis annually, so we know where we are and whether we are making headway or not.
5. Given the expertise of Task Force members, we recognize that our suggestions for inclusion below are almost certainly already included in the Task Force's deliberations in greater depth than we can provide. The items below highlight priorities we hope are a part of your process.

a). Drawdown. Project Drawdown, now being headed by Jonathan Foley, a former UW professor and key contributor to Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force, provides the most detailed and extensive analysis of strategies of which we are aware to mitigate and begin to reverse global warming. This analysis has recently been updated. <https://www.drawdown.org/> As a check, we urge the Task Force to review the Drawdown work and identify the most impactful strategies that fit Wisconsin.

b). Promoting Climate Leadership. To drive change the Task Force should

(i) Recommend policies that require the state to lead by example on energy efficiency, use of renewable energy and electric vehicles, building construction and rental contracts and factoring climate impacts into decision-making at all agencies.

(ii) Reinvigorate and upgrade the Green Tier Legacy Community program to assist and enable local government units to lead on sustainability in their communities, saving money long term and setting an example for residents in energy use, building and operational efficiencies, transportation, development of green infrastructure and across the board consideration of the climate impact of decisions. This will require easy access to expertise and funding.

(iii) Provide recognition for businesses that are climate and sustainability leaders and leverage their knowledge and experience, as well as that of the University System, to assist other businesses. Many of the state's largest corporations, and smaller businesses, are way ahead of the state at this point and should be recognized.

c). Schools. As with local governments, recommend programs that will enable our public schools to adopt comprehensive sustainability programs and practices which demonstrate to their students the importance and responsibility of taking decisive action to address climate change. Most importantly, recommend reinstating climate science and policy curriculums at all levels, elementary, middle school and high school, in ways that include hands-on citizen science that can be utilized by the DNR and the University. Kids are incredibly important agents of change.

d). Electricity. Significant progress has been made in reducing CO2 emissions through closure of coal plants around the country and the adoption of renewable energy technologies. Wisconsin utilities all have significant GHW reduction goals. But more needs to be done. The Task Force should recommend that Wisconsin's utility goals be more aggressive with the objective of getting to a carbon-free or near carbon free state by 2040, with clear interim goals that are publicly tracked and reported so progress is continually being made.

To achieve this target, the Task Force should recognize that technological innovation will be essential, particularly for utility-scale batteries with long lives. Highly reliable electric service is essential to health, safety and the economy and with the dramatic growth of IT needs and the electrification of transportation reliable electric service will become even more crucial. The system cannot operate solely with intermittent resources. Batteries hold the promise of being a huge game changer and together with increased demand response and aggressive conservation will be essential to success. The Task Force should recommend regulatory and tax policies that will drive success.

Diversity of supply will also be important. This means that in addition to solar power on- and offshore wind should continue to grow dramatically. Wind power will require transmission.

In addition, regulatory action is needed to foster the development and use of distributed energy resources (DERs) that are efficiently, seamlessly and reliably tied into distribution networks, including development of micro grids. In particular, we urge the Task Force to recommend policies that will result in rapid growth of community solar installations. Community solar will be very popular. Many homes are not well situated for rooftop solar. Community solar installation provides an opportunity to optimally locate panels for maximum exposure to sunlight and to benefit local distribution systems while providing visibility and valuable access for distribution providers. Likewise, finding ways to take advantage of big box store and warehouse roofs for large solar installations is very important. Rate policies that recognize the carbon reduction value of customer-owned solar will also be important and

incentivize utilities to partner and promote DERs and conservation and efficiency projects. Focus on Energy should be put on steroids.

e) Buildings. Wisconsin needs a new, strong energy efficiency building code for new residential and commercial buildings that will lead to a dramatic increase in net zero energy buildings. Existing building stock presents a major challenge. In addition to increasing current rehab programs, revenues from any state GHG emission fees should be primarily devoted to programs that address efficiency and renewable programs in disadvantaged communities, recognizing the disproportional impact that pollution has had on people of color. Also, the Task Force should urge our federal representatives to champion use of any future carbon tax or cap and trade revenues to fund environmental justice programs that will reduce GHG emissions and climate change impacts. Finally, we suggest the Task Force recommend an energy efficiency audit process with basic upgrade requirements where needed for the sale of existing home and commercial buildings.

f). Transportation. Emissions from transportation are higher in many places today than from electric generation. With the transition to clean energy resources for electricity, it will be very important to dramatically increase the availability of rapid electric vehicle charging stations across Wisconsin. This need will provide a major business opportunity for utilities that aligns with climate needs, provided that they accelerate the transition of their resources to clean sources of energy. Improving mass transit in urban areas is also necessary, but as a result of lessons learned in the pandemic, more people are likely to work remotely in the future and the advent of ride sharing services like Uber is already putting increased financial pressure on mass transit.

g). Food Waste. Drawdown has identified food waste as a very large contributor to GHG emissions. In the U.S., these emissions are driven by the production and transportation of the food we waste in our homes, restaurants and grocery stores. Reducing this waste will be quite difficult as it will require behavior change. We urge the Task Force to recommend that the state take a leadership role by example, find ways to encourage grocery and restaurant waste reduction programs and help local communities to lead and schools to educate. Coupled with waste, there is also a need to reduce powerful methane emissions through support for the development of local composting programs.

h). Agriculture. To succeed in addressing climate change, it is important that emissions from agricultural practices, including methane emission from cattle, use of fertilizers and plowing and planting practices, be reduced. It is also essential that the carbon sequestration capacity of our soils, prairies and forest be dramatically increased. We urge the Task Force to address both of these requirements through a combination of recommendations that include tax and other incentives, education and leveraging the resources of the University System to lead change.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments,

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July 20, 2020