



Dane County Council on Climate Change

Office of Energy and Climate Change

July 27, 2017
2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Minutes for the First Meeting of the Council on Climate Change

Agenda

- 2:00 – 2:15 Welcome and Introduction by County Executive Joseph Parisi
2:15 – 2:30 Welcome by Keith Reopelle, Director of the Office of Energy and Climate Change, and Introductions
2:30 – 3:00 Presentation on the state of Climate Change, Professor Dan Vimont
3:00 – 3:30 Overview and Logistics of the Dane County Council on Climate Change
3:30 – 4:00 Full Council Discussion
4:30 Adjourn

Council members in attendance included:

- I. Welcome and Introduction by County Executive Joseph Parisi
 - a. Hope for committee: look at the art of the possible. Identify where we want to be and figure out how to get there. Will not generate a report that sits on a shelf.
 - b. Discussions should be project-oriented. “Win-win” solutions should be the focus. Look at this council as a partnership in reducing our environmental footprint. No finger pointing; no blame. Lakes clean-up could be a model for the council. Look at data, find solutions.
 - c. Thanks to all participants and attendees for their involvement. Let’s create a work plan, be innovative, and lead on climate.
- II. Welcome by Keith Reopelle, Director of the Office of Energy and Climate Change, and Introductions
 - a. Thanks to all the participants for their commitment and the work ahead.
 - b. Introductions of all participants and organizations they represent.
- III. Presentation by Dan Vimont, Director of the Nelson Institute’s Center for Climatic Research. Professor Vimont’s presentation covered:
 - a. Atmospheric Physics 101
 - b. Climate Change: What we know and how we know it
 - c. Climate Change in Wisconsin
 - d. After Vimont’s presentation Keith asked the each Council member to volunteer one thought, observation or question they had in response. All Council members participated and offered thought provoking comments.
- IV. Presentation by Keith Reopelle: Overview of the Office of Energy and Climate Change
 - a. Overview of the Office

- i. Plan, organize, develop and implement a county-wide climate change action plan;
 - ii. Coordinate and Direct the activities of the Dane County Climate Change Action Council
 - iii. Coordinate programs of county departments
- b. Building Off of Prior Dane County Climate Work
 - i. 2013 Dane County Climate Change Action Council
 - ii. 2016 Dane County Air Emissions Inventory
 - iii. La Follette Capstone Climate Report
 - iv. Emergency Management Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
 - v. Clean Energy Projects
- c. How the County is Reducing its Impact
 - i. Homegrown Renewable Energy
 - 1. Trash to Gas at the Landfill
 - 2. BioCNG Transportation Fuel
 - 3. Solar PV
 - ii. Clean Lakes Initiative
 - 1. Cow Power Digester
 - 2. Methane reduction equivalent to emissions from over 4,000 cars
 - iii. Dane County 2016 Operations Electric Load vs. Renewable Generation (MWh)
 - 1. Power Consumption ~38,000 MWh
 - 2. Renewable Energy Generation: Almost 100% RE Generated
- d. Dane County Air Emissions Inventory
 - i. Univ. of Minnesota Researchers, Prorok et al.
 - ii. Transportation and Agriculture are the largest sources of GHG emissions within Dane County's boundaries; electric generation is the largest when you include electricity imported as a result of demand in the county.
- e. Dane County Climate Change Council Goal:
 - i. Develop a climate mitigation action plan that will put Dane County on a path to deep de-carbonization (GHG emissions) and establish Dane County as a national leader on climate mitigation
 - ii. Pathways to Deep Decarbonization (in the United States) reports are a great reference.
- f. Overarching Areas of Emphasis
 - i. Develop a climate mitigation action plan that:
 - 1. Demonstrates that deep de-carbonization policies, programs and projects will result in major **economic benefits**;
 - 2. Demonstrates that deep de-carbonization actions will result in major **health benefits**;
 - 3. Demonstrate that deep de-carbonization can be achieved in a **just and equitable** way; and
 - 4. Demonstrates how **rural and urban** citizens and stakeholders can come together and support and respect each other's roles in addressing one of the biggest challenges of our time.
 - 5. Demonstrates how reducing GHGs will increase **energy security**.

- g. Focus on Energy: 4 year period 2011 – 2014
 - i. Generated sales of \$5.5 billion
 - ii. Generated 6,200 net job years (and 13,000 out to 2038)
 - iii. Increased net personal income by \$1.4 billion
 - iv. Generated \$638 million in economic benefits (gross state income), and \$2.8 billion out to 2038
 - v. Generated \$6.66 in economic benefit for every \$1 invested
- h. Clean Energy = Jobs
 - i. 2017 DOE Energy and Employment Report
 - 1. 373,807 jobs in the solar industry
 - 2. More than those in all fossil fuel industries combined (187,117 jobs)
- i. Citi: Energy Darwinism II – Why a low-carbon future doesn't have to cost the earth
 - i. “The sums of money at stake in terms of investment in the energy sector are staggering – we estimate at \$190.2 and \$192.0 trillion between 2015 and 2040 for Citi’s ‘Action’ and ‘Inaction’ scenarios, respectively
 - ii. “However, going down the route of ‘Inaction’ will lead to a reduction in global GDP which could reach \$72 trillion by 2050 depending on the temperature increase scenario and discount rate used.”
 - iii. “...and with the additional benefit of cleaner air, why would you not’ argument comes to the fore, an argument that becomes progressively harder to ignore over time”
- j. Climate Council Structure and Logistics
 - i. The Council is a high priority for County Executive Parisi
 - ii. Keith will lead Council meetings, others will staff them
 - iii. The Council will meet approximately 3 times this year and more times over the next year
 - iv. Most of the work will be done between Council meetings and committees that will include non-council members
 - v. The Council will strive to make decision by consensus
 - vi. There will be an exceedingly high premium on innovation and creativity
- k. The Resulting Climate Action Plan will Include:
 - i. GHG reduction targets (short, mid and long-term)
 - ii. An emissions inventory
 - iii. Carbon emission reduction policies (to be adopted at the municipal level and implemented in the public and private sectors)
 - iv. Carbon emission reduction projects
 - v. Carbon emission reduction programs
 - vi. Modeling results
- l. Working Groups of the Council will Include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Energy Efficiency ii. Electricity Supply/Generation iii. Agriculture, Forestry & Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Transportation & Land Use v. Buildings vi. Water – Energy Nexus
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- vii. Adaptation
- viii. Public Engagement
- ix. Modeling
- m. Council Engagement Ground Rules
 - i. Be present (take your cell phone outside room)
 - ii. One speaker at a time (speaker queue with table tents)
 - iii. No side conversations
 - iv. We value brevity
 - v. Everyone participates, no one dominates (mullers & zappers)
 - 1. Mullers: contemplative, quiet
 - 2. Zappers: active and engaged, vocal
 - vi. We assume positive intent (be respectful)
 - vii. Disagree without being disagreeable
- n. Tracking Proposed Programs, Policies, and Projects
 - i. GHG Reductions
 - ii. Equity (how accessible is the solution to all citizens)
 - iii. Cost
 - iv. Economic benefits
 - v. Feasibility
 - vi. Temporal aspect (how soon can it get done)
 - vii. Health benefits, direct and co-benefits
 - viii. Adaptation
- o. Policy/Program/Project Ideas to Get You Thinking
 - i. Net Blue – Water Neutral Growth Initiative
 - ii. Expand compressed biogas to convert entire Dane County fleet, then municipal fleets, then private
 - iii. Carbon Farming Program
 - iv. Dane County energy efficiency program
- p. Challenge Yourself – and the Group/Council!!!
 - i. To think BIG!
 - ii. To be creative and innovative!
 - iii. To grow and work together!
 - iv. “If rapid emission reductions do not begin soon, the burden will be placed on young people to extract CO₂ emitted by prior generations may become implausibly difficult and costly.” – James Hansen
- V. Full Council Discussion
 - a. How often will subcommittee meetings take place?
 - i. Monthly is planned
 - ii. Chair for each committee, assign roles as appropriate (note takers)
 - iii. Keith and Matt will be in attendance for as many subcommittee meetings as possible and will take notes.
 - b. What will the structure of subcommittees be?
 - i. Chatham House Rules? No! You must assume that a reporter could be in the room.
 - ii. These will be public meetings following the format of Dane County meetings
 - c. How will we address issues and ideas that fall outside the purview of a subcommittee?

- d. Can other people attend subcommittee meetings?
 - i. Yes; they will be publicly noticed.
- e. Will we create a dedicated way for subcommittees to communicate with one another, specifically with the work that they are doing?
 - i. Project tracking will help facilitate communication. Updates will be posted regularly on the OECC website. Additionally, all minutes for every DCCCC and subcommittee meeting will be publically available. More consideration to this issue need to be made; perhaps create an online forum for the discussion?
- f. How is the airport factored into the Air Emissions Inventory Report?
 - i. Good question. According to the 2016 emissions inventory for Dane County, jet fuel accounts for 2% of the GHG emissions in that study. diesel accounts for 25% and gasoline for 72%.
- g. Equity considerations need to be made in everything that we do.
- h. EE and conservation are excellent opportunities for Dane County; not constrained by state or federal policy.
- i. UW plays an important role in this committee, but UW could do more.