

## **WI CAN Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program?**

The CPRG program is a \$5 billion federal investment over four years to provide States, local governments, Tribal Nations, and territories with funding to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. In Summer 2024, Governor Evers designated the WI Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy as the lead organization for the CPRG program. The OSCE received \$3 million from the CPRG program to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan by March 2024, a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan by March 2025, and a Status Report by Spring 2027.

### **How does WI CAN align with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant?**

The OSCE created the WI CAN to help deliver community engagement requirements as part of the CPRG program. Moving forward, the group will inform the creation and deployment of the State's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and future State climate action planning and implementation work. While OSCE is leveraging CPRG funding to launch this initiative, WI CAN is a broader community engagement effort aiming to empower local ideas and launch climate action programming and projects collectively.

### **Why is OSCE creating WI CAN now?**

WI CAN emerged from many conversations about OSCE's goal to help Wisconsin pursue transformative climate action through meaningful community engagement. This work now has financial support from the CPRG program. As one of our core values, collective action, OSCE recognizes that authentic community engagement is only possible by aligning with and leveraging the values and work of existing climate change and community development coalitions. Given the numerous State climate action plans and the historic federal funding available, OSCE is happy to serve as a central point for this work.

### **How is WI CAN different from existing coalitions/organizations?**

WI CAN is intended to both add to and support existing statewide climate action efforts. The OSCE has no desire to be redundant of/or replace existing efforts but rather aims to help leverage these efforts to support a wider community engagement process.

The OSCE is uniquely positioned to lead a statewide collective action effort as a central point in the state for climate and clean energy planning (complimenting the experience with the administration of the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change and development and delivery of the state's first-ever Clean Energy Plan). OSCE has support of the Governor and State Agency leadership to move climate action forward, but needs a group like the WI CAN to ensure our work is supportive with organizational priorities "on the ground."

## What makes a Wisconsin Climate Action Navigator?

Navigators are informed connectors and stakeholders who: a) support near-term climate action through personal or organizational efforts; b) see themselves as part of a network dedicated to addressing climate change and clean energy ; c) commit to help build collective action via their own network; d) help ensure ongoing trust, engagement, and community empowerment; and e) can work to ensure meaningful contributions from people with diverse social, economic, health and geographic situations throughout the network to achieve shared vision and goals.

## What is climate action?

**Climate action** refers to efforts taken to address climate change and its impacts, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions (**climate mitigation**), taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future (**climate adaptation**), increasing the capacity or ability to cope and recover from the impacts of events (**climate resilience**), and/or the ability to change the fundamental attributes of a socioecological system in anticipation or response to climate change and its impacts (**climate transformation**).

## What are the desired outcomes of WI CAN?

The OSCE has currently identified **PROCESS** outcomes of the WI CAN. These process outcomes are focused on methods to empower community-based climate actions holistically rather than any one specific climate action issue. The initial process outcomes of WI CAN are:

- Empowering WI CAN to help create the design of this initiative
- Increasing the WI CAN network and partnerships with more community organizations, especially those disproportionately impacted by climate change
- Increasing awareness, alignment and pursuit of multi-sector climate action strategies
- Identifying, utilizing, and supporting existing efforts within WI CAN partners
- Increasing trust and engagement across the WI CAN network
- Increasing opportunities for communities to define and deploy successful policies, projects related to their specific social, economic, and location.

Much of our time at gathering on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> will be used to work together to create shared goals and measures that will form the basis of specific WI CAN **IMPACT** outcomes.

## What commitments are required to be a WI CAN?

The two most important and immediate commitments are to show up to the in-person meeting and help to build trusting relationships. Research on collective efforts shows that committed ongoing participation within a trusting environment is the highest predictor of success. We anticipate the need for at least two additional WI CAN gatherings to launch this initiative fully and successfully. Where applicable, participants will help collect data on our shared measures

and support continuous communication among the group. Finally, we will work together to design and implement regional community engagement meetings. Once the work of the WI CAN is defined, participants may continue work to provide input on the statewide Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and potential collaborative funding proposals.

**Is there funding to support WI CAN and my organization's involvement?**

Yes. We have funding available to cover the costs of attending WI CAN in-person meetings. We also have limited funds to provide organizational support for your work on WI CAN efforts. We are actively pursuing additional funding sources to support the growth and development of WI CAN into the future.

**How will the group engage moving forward?**

At our first in-person meeting, we will identify the best ways to ensure consistent communication among the group for the long term. We will need to identify potential platforms to support ongoing communication. Below is a list of possible ways for the group to continue working together.

- WI CAN In-Person meetings;
- WI CAN Virtual Events;
- WI CAN Co-hosted Community Engagement Sessions within local regions across the state;
- WI CAN breakout sessions within existing conferences;
- And, a shared tool to quickly assess the activity and impact of the Navigators graphically.