

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

Progress Report



Prepared by the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

May 2023





BUILDING A GREENER, CLEANER FUTURE FOR WISCONSIN

One year ago, at the direction of Governor Tony Evers, the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) developed and released the state's first-ever Clean Energy Plan. As the leading state entity working to implement the strategies of this plan, OSCE is proud and excited to share our accomplishments over the last year. We center our work on the values of justice, equity, and collective action, and we want to thank the many businesses, local governments, Tribal Nations, non-governmental organizations, environmental justice organizations, farmer and agriculture groups, federal and state agencies, and residential partners throughout the state who have played an important role in this work. We appreciate your efforts to prioritize this plan and help us launch actionable strategies that effectively mitigate the effects of climate change and maximize the benefits of a clean energy economy. Together, we are moving on a constructive path forward to reach the goal of 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2050 while reducing our reliance on out-of-state energy sources and lowering energy bills for working families across our state.



After a successful first year, we still have a lot of work ahead of us. Both the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change Report and the Clean Energy Plan serve as foundational works to facilitate an equitable transition toward our climate and energy goals. As we have seen in recent global climate reports, climate change and its impacts are continuing to threaten communities across the country and the world, including here in Wisconsin. Wisconsinites in every corner of the state have experienced the effects of climate change firsthand, affecting their health, safety, and economic well-being. Recognizing these existing conditions, we continue to work under Governor Evers’ leadership to prioritize the acceleration of clean energy technology deployment, maximize energy efficiency, modernize buildings and industry, and innovate transportation. We also continue to prioritize health equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic development, fast-track workforce development and just transition, and accelerate government-led efforts.

At this juncture, we have an unprecedented opportunity to leverage sources of funding and technical support to accelerate our strategies, including the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act of 2022. Additionally, the Governor’s 2023-25 Biennial Executive Budget includes more than \$20 million in proposed investments toward clean energy and climate initiatives, among many other investments to keep Wisconsin moving forward on our goals and to build the sort of future we all want to see for our state—one that is more sustainable and just for generations yet to come.

Wisconsin is ready for bold and urgent solutions to the climate crisis, and I look forward to continuing our work over the next several years to improve Wisconsinites’ health and well-being, protect our communities, and build a strong clean energy economy!

Respectfully,

Maria Redmond
Director, Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

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WISCONSIN CLEAN ENERGY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Published on April 19, 2022, the state of Wisconsin's first-ever Clean Energy Plan (CEP) developed under Governor Evers and the Evers Administration serves as one of many necessary steps to protect our planet from the impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and maximize the benefits of moving to a clean energy economy. The Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) created the CEP to be a living document designed to be comprehensive yet flexible and able to adapt to market, technological, and attitudinal changes. The CEP intentionally centers strategies on environmental justice, multi-sector deep decarbonization, and a bustling clean energy economy that supports a diverse workforce and technological innovation. Implementation of the CEP is expected to lower energy bills, reduce reliance on out-of-state energy sources, accelerate job and apprenticeship training opportunities, and create more than 40,000 jobs by 2030. This report highlights the efforts to engage Wisconsinites in our shared clean energy progress; understand the status of strategies and progress toward goals; highlight work by stakeholders and agency partners; and provide an understanding of Wisconsin's evolving clean energy ecosystem.



BACKGROUND

In August 2019, Governor Tony Evers issued Executive Order #38 in which he directed the OSCE to create a comprehensive CEP.¹ Recognizing the existing conditions in Wisconsin and the role the state plays in both regional and national emissions reductions initiatives, the plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:



- Putting Wisconsin on a path for all electricity consumed within the state to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2050;
- Ensuring that the State of Wisconsin is fulfilling the carbon reduction goals of the Paris Agreement;²
- Reducing the disproportionate impacts of energy generation and use on low-income communities and communities of color;
- Maximizing the creation of, and equitable opportunities for, clean energy jobs, economic development and stimulus, and retention of energy investment dollars in Wisconsin;
- Improving reliability and affordability of the energy system;
- Strengthening the clean energy workforce through training and education while retraining workers affected by the transition from fossil fuel to clean energy sources; and
- Protecting human and environmental health by reducing ecosystem pollution from fossil fuels.

The CEP represents a portion of the action needed to address climate change by targeting an expeditious transition to a clean energy economy. The strategies included in the CEP provide a roadmap that accomplishes Wisconsin's objective of achieving a carbon-neutral power sector and reducing a range of other energy-related emissions. The plan is also designed to provide environmental justice organizations, nongovernmental organizations, advocacy groups, policymakers, utilities, businesses, state governments, Tribal governments, local governments, educators, and residents an actionable plan to transition Wisconsin to a robust and affordable clean energy economy.

¹ Wisconsin Executive Order No. 38 (2019). https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/executive_orders/2019_tony_evers/2019-38.pdf

² The United States of America Nationally Determined Contribution. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2021, April). Retrieved 2021, from <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20States%20of%20America%20First/United%20States%20NDC%20April%202021%202021%20Final.pdf>



CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION VALUES

As Wisconsin transitions to a clean energy economy, the state continues to embrace and encourage others to adopt three core values: **justice, equity, and collective action.** These core values will not only ensure communities that have been most impacted by climate change benefit from this transition but also ensure that all communities benefit. Wisconsin will be a stronger and more successful state when all communities have access to a clean environment and economic opportunity. In addition, the implementation of the work outlined in the CEP requires collective action. Government, industry, private sector, non-profit, and other large systems all bear responsibility for doing this work.

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the state of Wisconsin continues on a path to a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future, the CEP focuses on four key pathways to create momentum and action to meet the above objectives::

- **Accelerate clean energy technology deployment** by increasing funding options for projects, investing in infrastructure, new emissions goals, expanding state energy resources for generation, technology innovation, equitable expansion of clean energy, and leveraging existing policies and programs.
- **Maximize energy efficiency** by strengthening energy efficiency standards and programs to reduce energy waste, create jobs, and save consumers money on energy costs.
- **Modernize buildings and industry** by addressing building codes, supporting electrification, expanding funding, and supporting industry and businesses in their transition.
- **Innovate transportation** by supporting the transition to low- to no-emission vehicles and supporting refueling options, along with planning and increased options to move people around.

Additional ways the CEP ensures an inclusive transition include:

- Prioritizing health equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic development;
- Fast-tracking workforce development and just transition; and
- Accelerating government-led efforts (Lead-by-Example).

Background

The state of Wisconsin has a goal of 100 percent carbon-free electricity consumed by 2050, as outlined in Executive Order #38 issued by Governor Evers in 2019. With increased electrification of buildings, transportation, and industry, decarbonization of the power sector will be necessary to support economy-wide reductions. The deployment of clean energy requires a multi-faceted effort from multiple stakeholders, including Wisconsin utilities, renewable energy developers, governments, and other partners.

Accomplishments

Expanded support, resources, and incentives to increase clean energy technology deployment occurred through the following:

- In April 2023, Governor Tony Evers announced the creation of the Governor's Green Ribbon Commission on Clean Energy and Environmental Innovation, which will advise the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) on the establishment of an environmental and clean energy fund program. This Commission will include robust stakeholder engagement, including consultation with Tribal Nations in Wisconsin.
- In March 2023, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) awarded nearly \$10 million in funding from the Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP). The grants went to 32 energy-related projects to increase the deployment of renewable energy, microgrids, and energy storage, support energy efficiency and demand response, bolster preparedness and resiliency in the energy system, and facilitate comprehensive energy planning.
- Microgrids:
 - ◇ The PSC OEI supported microgrid development through its Critical Infrastructure Microgrid and Community Resilience Center Pilot Grant Program (CIMCRC), which awarded nearly \$1 million in grants in 2021 to support microgrid feasibility studies proposed by 15 applicants. Final reports for all feasibility studies are complete and now available to the public.³
 - ◇ The Focus on Energy® Program doubled the annual Energy Efficiency Research and Development (EERD) program to help support further development of microgrids and other technologies.
- Energy Storage:
 - ◇ Several energy storage installations are being considered through utility applications to the PSC, as part of newly proposed projects or "reopeners" to add storage to already-approved solar facilities. Energy storage was also considered as an option in the PSC's Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA) analysis documented in the 2022 report.
 - ◇ Since 2022, the PSC has authorized 488 megawatts (MW) of utility scale lithium-ion battery storage and is reviewing another 617 MW of similar battery storage, all of which are associated with solar.

The Governor's Green Ribbon Commission on Clean Energy and Environmental Innovation will advise on the establishment of an environmental and clean energy fund program.

³ Critical Infrastructure Microgrids, 9705-FG-2020 (2020) <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/OEI/CriticalInfrastructure.aspx>

Recently, the first utility submitted "stand alone" storage application for Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WP&L) at the Edgewater Power Plant in Sheboygan (99MW).⁴

- Solar:

- ◇ Focus on Energy® in collaboration with the DOA Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) team has developed a unique multi-family solar and heat pump program. Projects must incorporate both solar and air source heat pumps to be eligible for the program. The offering launched in early 2023.
- ◇ The PSC and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff have had ongoing discussions with utilities and developers about potential co-benefits at large solar projects and recently began discussion with University of Wisconsin (UW) researchers on a potential working group.
- ◇ The DNR has been working with solar and dairy biogas facilities, and two biogas facilities have utilized water quality trading to meet Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit requirements associated with water discharged at these facilities. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the DNR worked with DOA to solicit for a statewide water quality trading clearinghouse, as authorized under 2019 Wisconsin Act 151. In early 2023, a contract was executed with Wisconsin Clearinghouse LLC to provide clearinghouse services. The clearinghouse procurement process defined quantification, verification, and contracting requirements that will enable more agricultural pollution reductions to be credited to possible users such as solar and dairy biogas facilities.
- ◇ The PSC continues to approve proposals for utility-scale renewable generation through a process that carefully scrutinizes siting considerations. Recent approvals have included expanded reporting requirements designed to track local job impacts from projects more thoroughly.
- ◇ Development of Wisconsin's Inclusive Solar Community Offering (WISCO) project remains ongoing. Active discussions are occurring between the PSC OEI, involved cooperatives, and Wisconsin Community Action Program agencies to make progress toward project completion, which is expected in late 2023.
- ◇ WEDC established an ongoing contract with RENEW Wisconsin and Solar Shares to expand cooperative solar. RENEW Wisconsin received Targeted Industry Project (TIP) grant funds to help facilitate the creation of a new state-wide community solar cooperative, WISCo-op⁵. The WEDC grant funds will catalyze the development of local community solar projects up to 5 MW in size in rural areas. The co-op aims to accelerate the renewable energy transition and ensure that a broader segment of the population benefits financially. The co-op will also serve as a central clearing house for members and developers who are interested in building community solar projects involving individual investors in the equity ownership of the projects.

⁴ Application of Wisconsin Power and Light Company for a Certificate of Authority for Construction, Installation, and Operation of a Battery Energy Storage System, Known as the Edgewater BESS Project, in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, 6680-CE-184 (2023) <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/APPS/dockets/content/detail.aspx?id=6680&case=CE&num=184>

⁵ Wisconsin Solar Share Co-op, <https://solarshare.coop/>

- In November 2022, the PSC OEI and UW-Stevens Point completed case studies focused on three dairy industry anaerobic digester operations. They are complementary to the Wisconsin Biogas and Feedstock Survey, a previous study conducted in 2021.⁶
- To further incentivize tax credit developers that incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability into the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing developments, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) revised its Qualified Allocation Plan to encourage sustainable building practices. Applications closed in January, but as of publication of this report, applicants may still submit more information about sustainability/efficiency implementation to improve their scores. In fiscal year (FY) 22, the sustainability category accounted for 7 percent of the total score; in FY23, it was 9 percent, which is significant for advancing sustainable building practices.
- Utilities continue to move towards their carbon emissions reduction goals. As documented in the PSC’s SEA from October 2022 :⁷
 - ◊ WEC Energy Group updated its 2030 carbon emissions reduction goal to 80 percent, and all five of the largest investor-owned utilities have committed to 100 percent carbon emissions reductions by 2050.
 - ◊ Wisconsin utilities project emissions reductions from electricity generation of 58 percent by 2028—significant progress from the 40 percent reduction achieved as of 2020. One key driving factor in those emissions reductions are plans to retire three of the seven utility-scale coal facilities operating in Wisconsin, which have a combined capacity of nearly 2,800 MW. Those retirements will reduce coal from more than one-third to one-fifth of Wisconsin’s electric generation mix. In place of coal plant retirements, utilities have plans to add more than 2,500 MW of new solar energy capacity, as well as the battery storage capacity mentioned above.
 - ◊ To plan, measure, verify, and report on how the balance between carbon produced and taken out of the atmosphere (net-carbon) will work to reach the interim and final targets, the PSC requested expanded emissions reporting as part of the 2022 SEA and will continue (and consider further expanding) that reporting in future biennial cycles of SEA data collection and reporting.
 - ◊ More information was collected from utilities and summarized, and staff conducted their own independent analysis on resource planning considerations, referred to in the CEP as an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process. Continuing and expanding these efforts can be considered in future SEA cycles. The expanded SEA efforts are intended to capture these goals to the extent possible within the existing statutory framework.
 - ◊ The PSC has collaborated with the DNR on the Wisconsin Emissions Inventory Report and as noted above, addressed power sector-specific considerations through expanded emissions reporting in the SEA.

Wisconsin utilities project emissions reductions from electricity generation of 58 percent by 2028.

⁶ Public Service Commission of Wisconsin – Office of Energy Innovation, Biogas Case Studies (2022) retrieved from, <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/OEI/Biogas.aspx>

⁷ Strategic Energy Assessment for January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2028, 5-ES-111 - <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=451939>

- Work on the interconnection rulemaking continues, including an initial review of proposed rule language by the PSC in late 2022, with an expectation to finalize draft rules for submission to the legislature in 2023.⁸
- Through the PSC Roadmap to Zero Carbon Investigation⁹ :
 - ◊ During 2022, in-depth engagement on Performance Based Regulation (PBR) occurred through a series of four workshops, which identified related topic priorities and draft outcomes and metrics to be considered, including affordability, energy efficiency, demand response, decarbonization, and reliability. Work during 2023 will build on the foundation created through these workshops, through research designed to identify appropriate metrics that can support the development of future PBR related goals and incentives. Load management and demand response considerations have been discussed as part of the PBR discussions and work on those issues will continue in 2023.
- The PSC approved updated parallel generation tariffs for the state’s five largest investor-owned utilities in late 2022, which confirmed alignment between tariff structures and utilities’ actual avoided costs.
- In steps forward to expand Focus on Energy® incentives, the Quadrennial Planning IV Process addressed a range of issues, including emissions reduction, electrification, and low-income participation.¹⁰ The PSC acted through its Order of November 14, 2022, which directed Focus on Energy® to:
 - ◊ Explore playing a larger role in cost-effectively reducing emissions by continuing to emphasize energy savings but also seeking to make measurable progress toward emissions reductions
 - ◊ Take action to enhance measurement and tracking of Focus’ emissions impacts to support this transition;
 - ◊ Use the Quadrennial Period (2023-2026) as a transitional period to position the program to take on a larger role in beneficial electrification;
 - ◊ Seek to better support low-income participation in Focus programs by:
 - Coordinating with the DOA to fill gaps not already served by low-income weatherization programs,
 - Launching a community-based pilot targeting income-qualified customers,
 - Convening a stakeholder group that includes community-based organizations to gather input on effective methods to reach low-income customers and reduce barriers,
 - Modifying Focus on Energy’s® cost-effectiveness test to provide a “Benefits Adder” that recognizes the enhanced value of reaching low-income customers,
 - Setting a goal in Focus on Energy’s® third-party administration contract to increase participation in low-income programs by six percent by 2024, over a baseline from the 2019-2022 period.

⁸ In the Matter of Rulemaking to Update Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter PSC 119 for Interconnecting Distributed Generation Facilities, 1-AC-256 <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/APPS/dockets/content/detail.aspx?id=1&case=AC&num=256>

⁹ Roadmap to Zero Carbon Investigation, 5-EI-158 <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFsearch/content/searchResult.aspx?UTIL=5&CASE=EI&SEQ=158&START=none&END=none&TYPE=none&SERVICE=none&KEY=none&NON=N>

¹⁰ Focus on Energy® Quadrennial Planning Process IV, 5-FE-104, <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFsearch/content/searchResult.aspx?UTIL=5&CASE=FE&SEQ=104&START=none&END=none&TYPE=none&SERVICE=none&KEY=none&NON=N>



Source: Monona Community Media

CLIMATE SUCCESS STORY: MONONA GROVE EMBRACES SOLAR POWER

The Monona Grove School District is harvesting sunlight to power a greener future for its schools.

In the summer of 2022, the district celebrated the opening of a 1,400-panel solar array atop its high school. Covering almost two-thirds of the high school roof, the array boasts a capacity of 674 kilowatts and will generate about 845 megawatt hours of power every year – enough to supply about half of the building’s electrical usage, according to the district. The energy produced from the solar system through mid-May 2023 is equal to the carbon offset of 336 trees planted; 9,499 gallons of water saved; 1,474 gallons of gasoline emissions; and 1,155 pounds of methane reductions.

The array project costs were partly defrayed by a \$250,000 grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and a \$50,000 grant from Focus on Energy, a state program that offers resources and incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The project is expected to save the district \$1.5 million dollars over the array’s 30-year lifespan.

The benefits of the array have been manifold. In addition to the financial savings, the project will replace coal-fired electricity that currently powers the district and offset the burning of 16,000 tons of coal, reducing harmful coal-related emissions, including 31,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The project also affords an opportunity for students and staff to learn more about sustainable practices and renewable energy.

The solar array project was made possible due to the collective efforts of teachers, students, school administrators, and community members to create a sustainability committee that furthers sustainability practices and goals.

The total energy generated by the district's solar array through mid-May 2023 equaled the carbon offset of:

- 336 trees planted
- 9,499 gallons of water saved
- 1,474 gallons of gasoline emissions
- 1,155 pounds of methane reductions

MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Background

To simultaneously meet the state's clean energy goals, economic goals, and carbon goals, Wisconsin needs to drastically increase energy efficiency, which will require a major ramp-up in investment. Not only are drastically higher levels of energy efficiency critical to reaching these goals, but they are also necessary to keep costs as low as possible in a future where energy needs are met with high levels of clean, renewable energy generation. Energy efficiency is one of the only strategies that holds the potential to significantly decrease energy burdens among homeowners, renters, and businesses.

Accomplishments

- Strengthening the Focus on Energy® program:
 - ◇ See the [Accelerate Clean Energy Technology Deployment Section](#) above and the last bullet on Quadrennial Planning IV Process (page 11).
 - ◇ DEHCR is working with Focus on Energy® to ensure collaboration instead of competition and to best meet the needs of all customers. Focus on Energy® is providing funding for solar heat pump installations and communicating the availability within the weatherization network. DEHCR will review all weatherization agency project proposals for viability before moving forward.
 - ◇ Focus on Energy® also launched a new website in 2022 with improved navigation and accessibility to rebate and incentive information.
- DEHCR is meeting with the PSC OEI to discuss ways to maximize opportunities between Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding and weatherization. Both DEHCR and the PSC OEI want to ensure that these programs complement and not compete. Ongoing discussions will take place as the PSC OEI develops the rules for the IRA rebate programs.
- To support the continued reduction of energy used in the agriculture sector, Focus on Energy® and the PSC OEI continue the propane offering, focusing on heaters, grain dryers, and energy-efficient equipment, which has seen increasing uptake and success. Continuation of and funding levels for that program are due to be considered by the PSC Commissioners as part of its State Energy Program annual planning cycle in Spring 2023.

MODERNIZE BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY

Background

Direct emissions from commercial and residential buildings are primarily the result of space heating and cooling, water heating, electronics, lighting, and other needs. These direct emissions are distinct from indirect emissions associated with electric generation needed to power buildings. Buildings are the fourth largest emitting sector in Wisconsin after electric generation, transportation, and agriculture.

Accomplishments

- The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) is working to support Wisconsin wood product utilization and protect Wisconsin forests by leading trainings for the Wood Council on the use of mass timber, presenting on progress; and working with the Mass Timber Task Force to produce a guidebook.

- In May 2022, the DSPS established the Wisconsin Advisory Council on Building Sustainability, under Wis. Stat. § 227.13 and § 440.042(1), to review all building and construction codes and provide recommendations to the Department on changes that would increase safety, resiliency, and sustainability.¹¹
- The Commercial Building Code Advisory Council will be sending a comprehensive code update to the State Legislature in 2023. This is the first comprehensive commercial building code update since 2015 and will ensure the technical standards of the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code align with the 2018 and 2021 editions of the International Code Council model code suite and will incorporate the most up-to-date code standards available.
- The Plumbing Code Advisory Council Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapters 381-387 were last reviewed in 2009. Since Wisconsin's last comprehensive review, federal regulations relating to the plumbing industry have changed, creating inconsistencies. In 2022, DSPS launched a comprehensive review of Wisconsin's plumbing code chapters that will ensure that public health and safety of Wisconsin residents are a priority, and ensure Wisconsin's buildings are safe and sanitary. In addition, updated plumbing codes will help ensure that buildings are more water efficient and will reduce water waste. Water and energy efficient buildings play a key role in Wisconsin meeting its energy and environmental goals.
- DSPS is pursuing federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to support energy codes updates.
- WEDC issued \$250,000 in grants funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to the UW Milwaukee Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) to help students make suggestions to businesses on energy, productivity, and waste improvements including suggestions to deploy new technologies.
 - ◊ WEDC Targeted Industry Project (TIP) grant funds bolster the initiative to train the next generation of energy-savvy engineers and provide free energy, productivity, and waste assessments to small- and medium-sized industrial facilities.
 - ◊ IAC assessments are in-depth evaluations, which include a remote survey, a two-day site visit, and generation of facility-specific recommendations with estimates of costs, performance, and investment payback times. The IAC team identifies energy-saving opportunities and recommends implementing new and innovative energy-saving and greenhouse gas reduction technologies like electrification, energy storage, heat pumps, and concentrated solar power.
- To use energy resources more effectively, WEDC invested \$750,000 for manufacturing automation efforts, a critical step to make Wisconsin manufacturing more competitive. WEDC will match up to \$35,000 in addition to investments made by the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership, whose partners represent over 40 companies.
- The DNR is working with Focus on Energy® to support Green Tier participants as they reduce their energy use as well as improve their efficiency. DNR developed a Green Tier charter that recognizes and supports signatories to establish energy and carbon reduction goals.
- In October 2022, the Wisconsin Climate Leadership Forum launched, which is one of 20 volunteer-led Regional Hubs in 16 states. This group will work to address embodied carbon impacts and solutions in buildings and manufacturing. This is a CEP strategy to reduce emissions via lowering embodied carbon and supporting low-carbon materials procurement. This group is made up of manufacturers, businesses, engineers, and public partners.

11 Department of Safety and Professional Services - Wisconsin Advisory Council on Building Sustainability, (2022) <https://dps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/Sustainability/Default.aspx>

Background

Emissions from the transportation sector are the direct output from the combustion of fossil fuels used to power vehicles. Cars, buses, trucks, off-road vehicles, commercial aircraft, boats, and rail all contribute to transportation end-use emissions. Strategies that avoid or reduce the state’s fossil-fuel dependence are critical to creating a clean, resilient transportation system and directly address climate change in Wisconsin.

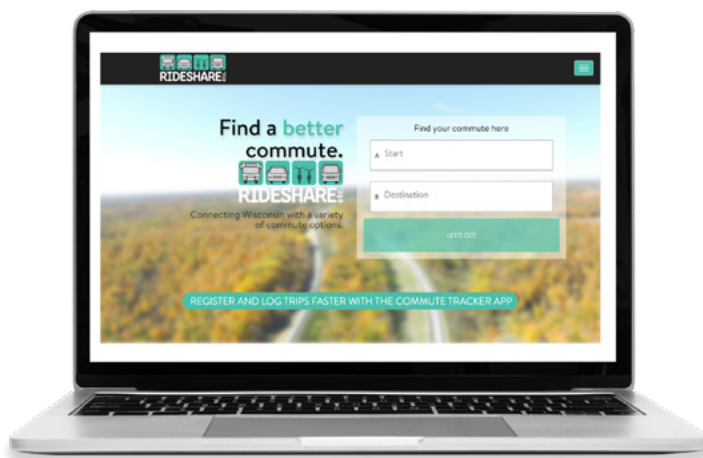
Accomplishments

- State agencies and partners are working to support the transition to Electric Vehicles (EV) statewide:
 - ◇ The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) established the Wisconsin Electrification Steering Committee to coordinate vehicle electrification and related charging across agencies. Partner agencies include PSC, OSCE, DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).
 - ◇ Wisconsin participates on two multi-state memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to address transportation electrification:
 - The Regional Electric Vehicle (REV) Midwest Plan is a multistate partnership between Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin coordinating work to accelerate medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification in the Midwest.
 - The Lake Michigan Circuit is a multistate collaboration project to build the best new road trip for EV drivers in America. It covers the entire coastline of Lake Michigan across four states, and it can be driven entirely by an EV. Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin have signed an MOU to work together to future-proof tourism and promote EV adoption by eliminating range anxiety, all while promoting green travel across our states. WisDOT is working with partner states to determine the best locations for EV charging stations to complete the route. WisDOT’s second role will be to promote the route to these groups, as well as to the general public, such as through installing informational signs along the route alerting motorists that there is a charging station ahead.
 - ◇ Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) formula program, the federal government will direct \$78.65 million over five years to Wisconsin. WisDOT will administer the funds to support private industry construction of EV Charging Stations along the state’s Alternative Fuel Corridor system. The current Alternative Fuel Corridor system in Wisconsin includes I-90, I-94, I-43, I-41, I-535, US 53, and US 151. In 2022, Wisconsin received approval from the Federal Highway Administration for US 51, WIS 29, US 2, US 141, US 8, and US 41 to be included in the program.
 - ◇ DATCP’s Bureau of Weights and Measures purchased a TESCO TS400 to test electrical vehicle charging stations ensuring consumers are getting the time for a charge they are paying for. The tool was purchased in April 2022 and was received by DATCP in August 2022.

Under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula program, the federal government will direct \$78.65 million over five years to Wisconsin.

◇ The PSC and DATCP have been working collaboratively to define responsibilities in the EV space and discuss emerging issues. Several EV-related filings have been reviewed and approved by the Commission.

- To address Transportation Demand management, WisDOT's Rideshare program matches commuters by location and commute schedule with carpool partners, bike buddies, and other available alternatives to driving alone. WisDOT, in partnership with the Greater Madison MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), has moved its RIDESHARE service to a new platform and mobile app in Spring of 2023. RIDESHARE's shift to the new platform will provide users with more information and a streamlined user experience, helping to further RIDESHARE's growth and expand access to transportation options across the State.



- The Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) grant program at WisDOT supports new business development in Wisconsin by funding transportation improvements that are needed to secure jobs in the state. The process begins with a governing body, such as a town, village, city, or county, that is willing to serve as the applicant (or sponsor) of the grant, and a commitment from a business located within that governing body to create and/or retain jobs. The funding is intended to help the business with transportation improvements so it can achieve its job creation/retention goal. The program provides grants up to a maximum of 50 percent of the eligible project costs or \$1 million based on the number of jobs created or retained. Since the Clean Energy Plan was adopted in April 2022, the TEA program has awarded four grants in three Wisconsin communities totaling \$1,332,360. The program has an estimated \$11.3 million available for future grants as of Spring 2023.
- Wisconsin participates in two separate, non-exclusive MOUs with other state coalitions relating to identifying opportunities for advancing clean hydrogen production and use in the region. The MOUs signed by Governor Evers include the Midwestern Hydrogen Coalition with partnering states Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana, and the Heartland Hydrogen Hub with partnering states Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota.
- In March 2023, WEDC released the report, "Wisconsin's Electric Vehicle/Electrification Supply Chain Strategy".¹² The report outlines the tremendous opportunity for Wisconsin to develop a globally competitive cluster centered on the manufacturing of EVs and EV-related equipment, which in turn can help revitalize Wisconsin's automotive manufacturing industry and drive statewide economic development.

¹² Wisconsin's Electric Vehicle/Electrification Supply Chain Strategy <https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Wisconsin-EV-Supply-Chain-Strategy-2023-03.pdf>



CLIMATE SUCCESS STORY: Great Lakes Corps Builds Greener Wisconsin

The Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps continues the Civilian Conservation Corps' tradition to address climate change, advance greener living, and provide needed education and training for disadvantaged populations in the Great Lakes area. Whether it is helping to develop a clean energy workforce, promote solar power, or reduce carbon footprints, the Corps is on the front lines of forging a sustainable future for Wisconsin.

As a training program, the Great Lakes CCC strives to find culturally responsive, educational, and exciting applied learning activities where its Corps members—military veterans and young adults ages 17 to 23—can acquire the insight and pride from experience that set them apart from their peers.

The work done by Corps members runs a gamut of environmental and conversation projects. For example, the Great Lakes CCC, in partnership with the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, created and installed the prototype of the electric Little Free Library that serves as a community solar cell phone charging station. Crews will be teaming with elementary and high school students to fabricate and place 20 additional eLFLs throughout southeastern Wisconsin and tribal lands. When power goes out, community members can access the eLFLs to power their cell phones.

The Corps is also doing its part to reduce its environmental footprint and curb carbon emissions. The Great Lakes CCC continues to expand its fleet with alternative fuel vehicles that reduce carbon emissions. An all-electric vehicle and a compressed natural gas (CNG) bi-fuel vehicle afford Corps members the opportunity to experience innovative technologies, change behaviors, increase disaster resilience, and reduce their carbon footprint. To date, the addition of the EV and CNG bi-fuel vehicles has resulted in a carbon offset of approximately 42 metric tons.



Background

Historically, Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Hmong American, Asian American, other communities of color, people who have low incomes, people with disabilities, immigrants, women, senior residents, veterans, and rural communities have been left out of the conversation on transforming our country’s energy system and the transition to clean energy. These communities must be involved in decision-making on clean energy technologies, jobs, financial impacts, and health impacts in order to mitigate climate damage. As an example, maximizing energy efficiency reduces energy costs for individuals, families, and communities with low to middle incomes, ensuring that they, too, benefit from Wisconsin’s transition to clean energy. Deployment of technology must also be affordable and available to all residents and communities.

Accomplishments

- Governor Evers established the Office of Environmental Justice via Executive Order #161 on April 22, 2022. The Executive Order also establishes the first Climate Resilience Officer position in the region.
- Preparation is underway, facilitated by Slipstream Inc., in partnership with Elevate Energy and Illume, to implement the state’s first Equity First Program.
- Wisconsin state agencies are engaging in inclusive stakeholder input practices:
 - ◇ Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) prepared by PSC staff are available to the public. Applications for Certificates of Authority or Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) include some environmental information the public can view. The Commission has public comment periods for projects that require an EA or EIS, as well as a public hearing process for contested cases, including the large CPCN dockets.
 - ◇ In collaboration with other state agencies, WisDOT led the development of the Wisconsin Electric Vehicle Initiative Plan (WEVI),¹³ which included a robust public engagement initiative with the general public and stakeholder organizations. Public input and perspectives were a foundational component to the WEVI Plan. A total of 226 comments were received from individuals and organizations located throughout Wisconsin and from other states from July 14, 2022, through July 24, 2022. A total of 206 participants, including stakeholders from 97 organizations, attended Wisconsin’s virtual public webinar events on June 21 and June 22, 2022. Wisconsin conducted one-on-one meetings with the 58 stakeholder organizations from industry, local governments, utilities, small businesses, and community organizations.
 - ◇ The DNR developed a new Public Participation Handbook for employees, published July 2022.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation included a robust public engagement program when developing the Wisconsin Electric Vehicle Initiative Plan.

¹³ Wisconsin Electric Vehicle Initiative <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/electrification.aspx#:~:text=National%20Electric%20Vehicle%20Infrastructure%20Program&text=In%20November%202021%2C%20the%20Bipartisan,of%20electric%20vehicle%20charging%20stations.>

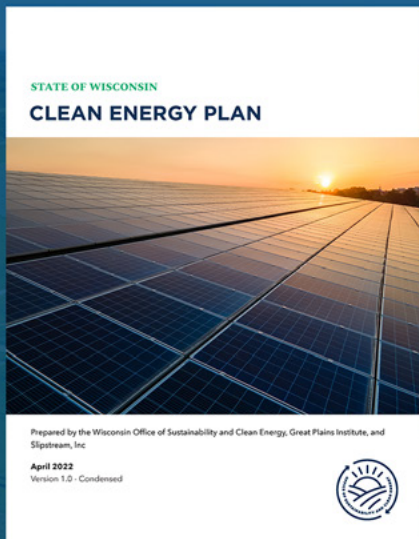
- Since the release of the CEP, OSCE staff have markedly increased their clean energy and sustainability outreach efforts throughout the state. They presented on the CEP and related work at 43 conferences, meetings, and events whose audiences included state agency staff, environmental advocacy groups, environmental justice groups, labor groups, utility representatives, nonprofits, businesses, Tribal Nations, and local governments. Their estimated reach at these events was approximately 2,875 individual stakeholders.
- The OSCE is serving as a central source for information on funding and incentives for clean energy and sustainability efforts by stakeholders. OSCE established an approach to provide one-on-one meetings with as many stakeholders as possible. OSCE can gather specific information pertaining to projects and help identify needs/ gaps, followed by providing timely information on incentives, resources, or connections to other organizations to help them move their projects forward.
- The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin (CECW) was launched, comprised of 12 founding members including those representing health, conservation, renewable energy, environmental justice, and workforce.¹⁴ The CECW will work closely with the State and advocate for clean energy and climate policies that accelerate economic development, increase Wisconsin’s energy independence, and achieve carbon-free electricity by 2050.
- The Wisconsin Environmental Justice and Infrastructure Initiative launched, which serves as a cross-disciplinary group that aims to provide greater access to networks, leadership, and resources that support the mission of equitable infrastructure investment, in a wide range of Environmental Justice situations, involving the rights of individuals, especially Wisconsin communities of color.¹⁵

The new Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin represents health, conservation, renewable energy, environmental justice, and workforce.

14 Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin - <https://cleaneconomywi.com/progress/>

15 Wisconsin Environmental Justice and Infrastructure Initiative - <https://www.ejicwisconsin.org/>

Ensuring Accessibility



The Clean Energy Plan summary was translated into English, Spanish, and Hmong.



FAST-TRACKING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND A JUST TRANSITION

Background

Wisconsin must achieve an inclusive and equitable clean energy workforce by systematically training and preparing workers for the transition to clean energy. The CEP works intentionally to provide clean energy job opportunities for those that have been excluded from the traditional energy economy. Opportunities should include training, apprenticeships, and high-paying jobs for workers. This also may include requirements for businesses that benefit from state clean energy policies and incentives to have a workforce that is reflective of the population specific to the regions of the state.

Accomplishments:

- The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) launched a clean energy job inventory and outreach program by identifying clean energy job classifications and related apprenticeship tracks. They continue to work on mapping businesses that comprise the clean energy industry.
- DWD continues to support clean energy training and reemployment with the current resources in the Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) program. In 2022, the WFF program funded two grants and one internship program to support clean energy training and reemployment programs.
- The CEP aims to improve engagement with labor unions. DWD increased engagement and collaboration with labor unions by hosting periodic meetings with construction trade unions that implement apprenticeship programs. DWD is leveraging existing union/apprentice training programs with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and General Program Revenue (GPR) funds allocated for registered and youth apprenticeship.
- DWD financially supports WisDOT's Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance (WETAP), which includes CEP focus areas, including transit. Fifty-two counties have WETAP projects that support transit for job access and reverse commute programs.
- The Apprenticeship Bureau at DWD provides technical assistance with curriculum development to employers creating apprenticeships, including clean energy.

Background

Drawing from the lived experiences, expertise, and knowledge of Tribal Nations, local government representatives, and state agency employees, governments can be leaders in efforts to reduce emissions, conserve energy, and transition to new technologies. These efforts are often referred to as “Lead-by-Example,” where government entities analyze and transition their facilities and fleets to realize substantial cost savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, diversify energy use, build resilience, and procure more sustainable products.

Accomplishments

Tribal Nations

- The PSC ensured Tribal representation and input on decision making efforts:
 - ◇ Secured Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA) representation on the interconnection rulemaking committee;
 - ◇ Conducted its first ever agency Tribal consultation in January 2023; and
 - ◇ Environmental staff added a section to application filing requirements that requires applicants with projects in the Ceded Territory to include any Native American Tribes that hold off-reservation treaty rights in the Ceded Territory.
- Focus on Energy® staff led the development of the first Tribal Nation Energy Symposium held in March 2023 at North Star Mohican Casino in Bowler, WI. Nine Tribal Nations in Wisconsin attended the event.

Local Governments

- WI Local Governments Climate Change Coalition (WLGCC) worked to help members share ideas and find opportunities to collaborate in support of policy and utility regulatory outcomes to advance their clean energy and carbon reduction goals and aspirations. Almost 1 in 3 people in the state of Wisconsin live in a community participating in WLGCC.
- The DNR's geographic information system (GIS) experts made at least 25 environmental justice geospatial data sets available for internal and public use via DNR open data portal.

State Agencies

- In April 2023, the OSCE formed the State Agency Technical Team. This group will review decarbonization and other Lead-by-Example efforts comprehensively for all state agencies and University of Wisconsin colleges. Until now, efforts have been based on individual agency priorities. This team consists of more than 45 subject matter experts from 20 agencies who have been designated by agency leadership to help the state address sustainability measures for a multitude of categories including procurement, fleet, energy use, waste, water use, environmental justice, and state agency GHG emissions.
- Multiple state agencies have launched affinity groups to help with climate and lead-by-example work.

- State agencies are working to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions. Some examples include the following:
 - ◊ DATCP partnered with the DOA to replace all ceiling lights and ballasts for more energy-efficient lighting throughout the Agriculture building.
 - ◊ The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) is currently completing installation of light emitting diode (LED) projects throughout their facilities, with 10 of 19 locations completed. Once all are installed, guaranteed savings over the next 14 years will be nearly \$300,000.
 - ◊ DOC is currently pursuing two solar projects via the state's Energy Conservation Bonding Program. In total, these projects will produce 800 kW of electricity that will be used as energy to operate the facilities. One project will also provide educational opportunities for persons in their care.
 - ◊ DNR staff are engaged in the DOA Green Team's work to increase resiliency and sustainability of state facilities by making climate-informed improvements. The DNR Parks and Recreation Management program is engaged in 29 capital development projects at 23 properties, replacing and upgrading buildings with more efficient water and utility systems, including solar powered wells, water heaters, and fixtures with LED lighting. The DNR Wildlife Management program has implemented solar panels on grazing sites to energize the perimeter fencing on 15 different wildlife and state natural areas, along with six wells and water systems.
 - ◊ UW-Parkside broke ground on a 2.08 MW photovoltaic solar tracker array on campus grounds.
 - ◊ UW-Stout received an approval for a multi-building energy conservation project by the Wisconsin State Building Commission in summer 2022. The project will provide a 400kW rooftop solar photovoltaic array on the General Services Building and Jarvis Hall Tech Wing. The project also includes LED lighting upgrades in Applied Arts, Harvey Hall, Jarvis Hall and the Sports and Fitness Center; building envelope weatherization improvements in 22 campus buildings; and installing new destratification fans in the Sports and Fitness Center. Construction work is currently underway with expected completion in March 2024.
 - ◊ UW-Stevens Point installed a 6.2 kW photovoltaic system at the Schmeeckle Reserve on the north side of the visitor center parking lot. This photovoltaic system serves as a core research, demonstration, and educational hub on campus for students, faculty, and visitors to learn more about solar energy and sustainability initiatives.
 - ◊ UW-Madison purchased and has been operating electric mowers since the summer 2022 season.
 - ◊ UW-La Crosse is leveraging previous investments in metering (each campus building has steam, electricity, natural gas, chilled water meters) and building automation systems to drive energy efficiency. By enrolling in the Strategic Energy Management through Focus on Energy®, the university will be able to tap into technical knowledge and drive efficiencies that can be implemented across the campus.
- The DNR Fleet Team established baseline emissions calculations for department vehicles and developed the Fleet CO2 Emissions Dashboard to inform vehicle selections. The DNR has purchased 11 electric vehicles and one plug-in hybrid vehicle, the most of any Wisconsin state agency. The Wildlife Management program is piloting an alternative fueled light truck project to determine overall operating costs and durability of the compressed natural gas systems. The program replaced two traditional, gasoline-powered, half-ton trucks

with trucks of equivalent specifications powered by both compressed natural gas and gasoline.

- DOC, with support of the PSC and OSCE, is participating in a U.S. DOE-sponsored Better Building Initiative called the Sustainable Correction Infrastructure Partners (SCIP) Accelerator. As a partner in this initiative, Wisconsin aims for total DOC portfolio savings of 20 percent through energy and water conservation measures, integration of renewable energy technologies, and energy storage for resilience. Bayfield County is also participating in this accelerator.
- The DOA Coastal Management program is supporting climate resiliency efforts in a variety of ways. New lidar (which stands for light detection and ranging) derived elevation data is being used to update Federal Emergency Management Agency Digital Floodplain Insurance Maps (DFIRMS). They are creating urban storm sewer and green infrastructure designs in underserved communities and working with agricultural producers to plan new conservation practices to reduce manure runoff and preserve soil health. They are monitoring coastal bluff erosion and estimating storm surge impacts, analyzing dam breach scenarios and culvert washouts caused by recent higher than normal rainfall events, and assessing future wildfire risk under warming climate conditions.



NEXT STEPS

Wisconsin's CEP continues to provide a framework to ensure that Wisconsin businesses, communities, and people are well-positioned to share in the work of this plan. The OSCE will continue its role in implementing the CEP, seeking input on strategies, and securing additional resources (financial and technical) to help the state transition to a clean energy economy. OSCE will also continue to consider and advise on the status of Wisconsin's energy generation and use, emissions, affordability, and social factors that may influence the pathways.

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2023-25 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Wisconsin is well-positioned to continue advancing toward a clean energy economy, workforce, and state that is built for the 21st century. This movement will result in improved public health, more reliable energy resources, lower costs for families, and thousands of new, family-supporting jobs. Released in February 2023, Governor Evers' 2023-2025 biennial budget proposal moves the state forward on several goals and recommendations from the CEP, and:

- Invests in building out our clean energy infrastructure,
- Increases funding for our state's Focus on Energy® program,
- Supports and expands jobs and skills training in innovative, high-need industries,
- Reduces barriers for homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Supports small businesses in the clean energy sector and
- Supports local communities in resiliency planning efforts.

In addition, the governor is proposing key initiatives to build out Wisconsin's electric vehicle charging station network to accelerate the deployment and adoption of electric vehicles in Wisconsin, lowering emissions and improving air quality for all Wisconsinites. Overall, Governor Evers' 2023-25 budget proposal includes many key investments in building a clean energy economy, promoting clean energy production and energy efficiency, and supporting and creating jobs in the clean energy sector, all of which will be necessary to see significant momentum in the state's clean energy transition. See Appendix I for the governor's clean energy and climate proposals.

The recent assessment report provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasizes key findings stating that anthropogenic climate impacts continue and will negatively affect people and ecosystems with every fraction of a degree in warming. The IPCC assessment underlines that adaptation and mitigation measures, systemwide transformations, and a just transition will help us to build resilience, but we need substantially more financing to effectively scale solutions across multiple sectors. The state's dependence on fossil fuels to meet its energy consumption needs contributes to regional, national, and global greenhouse gas emissions. Inaction in Wisconsin will have tremendous costs to our communities—especially low-income communities and communities of color that face disparate impacts of climate change, our agricultural industries, statewide infrastructure, and our economy.

The framework for moving the CEP and its implementation forward will continue to require three key elements: (1) ongoing stakeholder engagement; (2) measurement and verification of strategies; and (3) an Annual Report that reports out ongoing data collection, synthesis, and analysis that is accurate and relevant to understanding Wisconsin's evolving clean energy ecosystem and CEP implementation progress.

Wisconsin will meet its carbon-free electricity and climate goals while staying within its carbon budget by leveraging these efforts and bolstering its commitment to actions that reduce the tremendous costs of climate change in communities across the state.

FEDERAL ACTIONS

In addition to state investment, the state also recognizes that federal investment and broad federal action are necessary for any state to advance clean energy initiatives. A partnership between the state and the federal government is crucial in the future. On the heel of the release of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and before enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the release of Wisconsin's Clean Energy Plan provided a necessary blueprint for approaching and securing federal funding under both programs. Some federal funding opportunities that could contribute to the goals laid out in the CEP include:

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
 - ◇ National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI)
 - ◇ Grid Resilience State/Tribal Formula Grant Program
 - ◇ State Energy Program
 - ◇ Hydrogen Hubs
 - ◇ Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program
 - ◇ Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation
 - ◇ Building Codes Implementation for Efficiency and Resilience Program
 - ◇ Clean School Bus Rebate Program
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - ◇ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG)
 - ◇ Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole-House Rebates (HOMES) Program
 - ◇ High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEHRA) Program
 - ◇ Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
 - ◇ Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G)

APPENDIX

Governor Evers' 2023-25 Executive Budget Proposals

Bolstering the Clean Energy Economy

- Establish the existing OSCE in statute within the DOA, which will continue to promote the development and use of clean and renewable energy across the state, advance innovative sustainability solutions that improve the state's economy and environment, diversify the resources used to meet the state's energy needs, and generate family supporting jobs by promoting the expansion of Wisconsin's clean energy economy.
- Establish a Clean Energy Small Business Incubator within the DOA, which will provide business development, mentorship, and expertise to Wisconsin small businesses operating in the clean energy sector. Provide \$5 million GPR over the biennium to support a one-time pilot clean energy small business start-up grant program.
- Create a renewable and clean energy research grant with one-time funding of \$4 million GPR in FY2023-24 administered by the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy within the DOA.
- Provide \$62,800 PR in FY2023-24, \$82,300 PR in FY2024-25, and 1.0 FTE PR project position at the DNR to assist with reviewing and permitting solar energy projects.
- Include utility-owned battery storage facilities in the calculation of shared revenue utility aid payments to counties and municipalities to encourage the construction of facilities necessary for renewable energy storage and incentivize local governments to host this form of utility property in their communities.
- Establish a program to utilize federal funding to further build out Wisconsin's electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This action will enable the state to use \$17.1 million of federal funding in FY2023-24 and \$17.4 million of federal funding in FY2024-25 along with potential state funds to allow greater use of electric vehicles throughout the state.
- Provide \$234,900 GPR in FY2023-24, \$177,300 GPR in FY2024-25, and 2.0 FTE GPR positions to provide consumer protection oversight of electric vehicle charging stations.
- Modify current law to explicitly exempt from the definition of a public utility a nonutility that supplies electricity through an electric vehicle charging station and charges by duration or the kilowatt-hour.
- Include utility-owned electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the calculation of shared revenue utility aid payments to counties and municipalities to promote the use of renewable energy and reward local governments that host these facilities in a manner similar to other utility property.
- Provide \$5 million annually for a clean energy job training and reemployment program.
- Provide \$1 million annually under the Wisconsin Fast Forward framework for training in green jobs, including conservation and environmental career pathways.
- Provide \$2 million in FY2024 to create the Southeast Wisconsin Green Jobs Corps to encourage young adults facing barriers to employment to enter energy efficiency, conservation, and environmental sector jobs.

Investing in Energy Efficiency

- Double the required utility contribution for the Focus on Energy® program from 1.2 percent to 2.4 percent of annual operating revenues, which would generate an additional \$100 million in annual funding for the program.
- Modify the types of eligible projects under the Focus on Energy® program to include projects that deploy electric technologies to meet energy needs currently served by other fuel sources..
- Authorize regulated utilities to offer inclusive on-bill financing to residential and commercial customers for energy efficiency improvements, allowing customers to pay for energy efficiency improvements incrementally over time and making such improvements more accessible.
- Provide \$250,000 PR in FY2023-24 and 1.0 FTE PR position to establish a stretch energy code working group to develop a stretch energy code for Wisconsin. A stretch energy code permits local governments to voluntarily enact regulations that improve energy efficiency relative to the base energy code.

Prioritizing Climate Resiliency and Environmental Justice

- Establish the Office of Environmental Justice within the DOA, created by Executive Order #161, to facilitate collaboration across state agencies and engage with farmers and agricultural industries, environmental justice advocates, communities of color, Tribal Nations, and low-income populations, and design climate policy recommendations that reduce emissions and pollutants and address the cumulative and harmful impact of their concentration within these communities.
- Provide \$25,000 GPR per year to the Office of Environmental Justice for the execution of state and local government climate risk assessment and resilience plans. Provide a 1.0 FTE GPR unclassified position for a new chief resilience officer to oversee the development and execution of these plans.
- Establish a technical assistance grant program to assist municipalities and Tribal Nations in developing plans to be carbon-free by 2050. Provide \$150,000 GPR over the biennium at the Office of Environmental Justice for this purpose.
- Require comprehensive plans developed by municipalities to address climate change, require that local hazard mitigation plans include consideration of climate change, and require communities throughout the state to include climate change impacts in their community health improvement assessment and plans.
- Require the PSC to consider the social cost of carbon when determining whether to issue construction certifications. Additionally, require the commission to reevaluate the appropriate social cost of carb on every two years, in consultation with the DNR, and report the findings in a biennial report to the standing legislative committees.
- Specify that the establishment of discounted utility rates for low-income customers does not qualify as rate discrimination, if rates are approved by the commission and published in the utility's schedule or tariffs.
- Reserve \$50,000 annually in intervenor compensation funding for entities who plan to review economic and environmental issues impacting low-income populations at the PSC.