



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Agenda

Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

Thursday, June 16, 2022

4:30 PM

Grandad Room

This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing. The meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar):

<https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/4857797/a8c61270-e220-4ad3-a234-c76d9d7dde51>

If you wish to speak on an agenda item, you can do so as part of the virtual meeting. Contact the Planning & Development Department at the email or phone number below so we can provide you with the necessary information to join in.

Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org, using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing the Planning & Development Department, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601. Questions, call 608-789-7361.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Items:

- 1 [22-0760](#) Presentation on Public Health Capstone Climate Change Workbook and Request for Follow Up Feedback - Jeni Walker Bailey
- 2 [22-0427](#) Resolution declaring a climate emergency, committing to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion and accelerating the clean energy transition, and endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.
 - Attachments:** [Resolution](#)
 - [SAFE Cities Webpage](#)
 - [Letter of Support - Gorski - 5.21.2022](#)
 - [Support Letter - K. Allen - 5.30.2022](#)
 - [Support Letter - C. Van Maren - 5.31.2022](#)
 - [Support Letter - L. Herling - 5.31.2022](#)
 - [Committee Registration Slips - 5.31.2022](#)
 - [Support Letter - B. Moore - 6.5.2022](#)
- 3 [22-0827](#) June Climate Action Plan Workshops Update and Discussion
- 4 [22-0831](#) June Partners in Energy Outreach and Engagement

- 5 [22-0832](#) Discussion on Community Events at Which to Share Climate Action Planning Process Information - Van Maren

Adjournment

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

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Text File

File Number: 22-0760

Agenda Date: 6/16/2022

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: General Item

Agenda Number: 1



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Text File

File Number: 22-0427

Agenda Date: 6/9/2022

Version: 1

Status: Recommended to be
Adopted

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: Resolution

Agenda Number: 2

Resolution declaring a climate emergency, committing to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion and accelerating the clean energy transition, and endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the city of La Crosse is impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, and particularly citizens who face socioeconomic and health inequities, including youth, elders, Indigenous people, people of color, low-income people, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and people with health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report warns that the continued installation of unabated fossil fuel infrastructure will 'lock-in' GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to the public's health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and

WHEREAS, our community is committed to a just energy transition and to appropriate investments that offset the impacts of evolving industries and employment as well as ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs, decarbonize our economy, and reduce future climate change; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of La Crosse Common Council declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, citizens, and environs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crosse Common Council opposes the rollback of climate policy and affirms its ongoing commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crosse Common Council endorses the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that will end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of La Crosse Common Council intends to implement policies limiting or preventing fossil fuel expansion and promoting electrification because of the inherent dangers to the public's health and safety in extraction, transport, storage, and combustion of fossil fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Environmental Planner is requested to explore and develop policy recommendations in keeping with our local law-making power that limit fossil fuel infrastructure expansion and promote electrification and a clean energy future in order to protect public health and safety.

Craig, Sondra

From: Peter Gorski <peter.k.gorski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 3:25 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Re: Public comment on resolution voting Tuesday night

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

I had 1 typo, which I have corrected in bold below.

I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution. As a resident of La Crosse and a parent of two young children, climate change and the instability and dangers it will cause is the number one issue on my mind. We are already locked into significant warming and changing weather patterns that will have severe knock down effects on food supply chains, public health and safety, recreation sports and activities, water access, and much more. The La Crosse community is one which prizes the natural beauty we are fortunate to possess, and it is at serious risk if human society continues on its current path.

These destabilizing events have already caused death via drought, pollution, famine, flooding, and violent conflict over resources. As a community, La Crosse already faces serious flooding issues regularly, and we must act now to mitigate and prevent future flooding. Calling this situation an emergency is very appropriate. We need society as a whole to wake up to the severe crises we are facing.

It is not too late to act to reduce the impacts of warming, and ultimately draw carbon back down from the atmosphere and reverse the changes we have caused. However, it will take an all hands on deck effort and large-scale investment in renewable energy and zero emission alternatives to our current systems. The speed at which we are currently making these changes is far too slow to save most if not all of the planet from being inhospitable and uninhabitable. We must move more quickly to a zero carbon and ultimately negative carbon infrastructure if we hope to avoid systems level collapses.

Not only is climate action the only sane choice when faced with the alternative, but at this point it is also the wiser financial investment for the future economy of La Crosse. Over their lifetime, renewables are far cheaper than fossil fuels, and as these industries scale they will only become more affordable. Fossil fuels are a finite resource, and costs to procure and process them will continue to increase.

Renewables are already a better investment according to many sources. Forbes shows renewables returning seven times that of fossil fuels now, and renewables investments have tripled fossil fuel investment returns over the last decade according to Bloomberg. The only ones who gain from continued fossil fuel use are the small number of companies getting rich by destroying our environment. It is only a matter of time before we make these changes, and the sooner we act, the cheaper it will be as we avoid the costs of impending disasters.

These investments also make our power more locally sourced and more directly controlled by the communities that use these resources. If there is a future, it will be one running on non-fossil fuel energy sources. Investing early into these options will result in better regional job creation and improve the economic outlook as well.

Leaders in government at all levels have a responsibility to act with the utmost urgency and force to protect the lives of everyone on Earth and secure a habitable planet for future generations. I urge you all to vote in favor of this resolution, and to continue to push forward as climate champions. Thank you for working to better our community.

On Sat, May 21, 2022 at 3:23 PM Peter Gorski <peter.k.gorski@gmail.com> wrote:
Good afternoon,

Please deliver my comments below for the public hearing on the resolution declaring a climate emergency on this Tuesday. I cannot make it in person, but if someone is able to read my comment into the record I would appreciate that as well. Thank you!

I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution. As a resident of La Crosse and a parent of two young children, climate change and the instability and dangers it will cause is the number one issue on my mind. We are already locked into significant warming and changing weather patterns that will have severe knock down effects on food supply chains, public health and safety, recreation sports and activities, water access, and much more. The La Crosse community is one which prizes the natural beauty we are fortunate to possess, and it is at serious risk if human society continues on its current path.

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Leaders in government at all levels have a responsibility to act with the utmost urgency and force to protect the lives of everyone on Earth and secure a habitable planet for future generations. I urge you all to vote in favor of this resolution, and to continue to push forward as climate champions. Thank you for working to better our community.

Craig, Sondra

From: Kathy Allen <kk0427@live.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 9:28 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Public comment on 22-0427

***** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Members of the Judiciary & Administration Committee, I am writing to express my support for your agenda item 22-0427, the resolution declaring a climate emergency, opposing fossil fuel expansion, and accelerating the clean energy transition. In recent years, climate scientists have warned us repeatedly that we are running out of time to avert the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. One of the biggest steps we could take is to break free of fossil fuels as an energy source and replace them with clean, renewable energy as quickly as possible. This will benefit not only the environment, but also human health and Wisconsin's economy. Please vote in favor of advancing item 22-0427 to the full council.

Thank you,
Kathy Allen
Coulee Region Sierra Club Chair
1815 Cameron Ave., La Crosse

Craig, Sondra

From: cvm <cvanmaren@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 10:01 AM
To: ZZ City Clerk External; ZZ Council Members
Cc: Reynolds, Mitch
Subject: Vote Yes on Climate Emergency Resolution

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear City Council Members,

I am emailing to urge you to pass the resolution declaring a climate emergency (#22-0427 on tonight's J&A committee agenda). After decades of inadequate action on this unprecedented threat, our world has reached the virtual edge of the cliff. If we don't stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible, we will have no path to keep global heating below the thresholds that climate scientists have identified as the limit for future habitability of our planet for humans and billions of other species.

We are already on the "maybe" list. Because models have been relatively conservative so far, even if we stop immediately, there's a chance it will have been too little too late.

This is not an Internet conspiracy. This is the conclusion of hundreds of thousands of professionals using facts and data. You have read it, I'm sure. If not, I've included a gift link (behind the paywall) to a good New York Times summary of the latest IPCC report.

Now, you, as community leaders, must go beyond simply knowing. I hope, if you haven't yet, you will sit with this situation and let it really sink in. Because then you will be passionate and adamant about the need to act.

As climate scientist Michael E. Mann says, we must have urgency AND agency about the climate crisis.

The city's past acts--improving energy efficiency, installing solar, moving to electric buses, and more--and current climate action planning are great steps in the right direction, not just to provide and take actions that will make a difference, but also to model for other communities in our region how to move forward on this most important issue.

That's why your passing this resolution is important. Not only will La Crosse join hundreds of others around the world to strongly press for meaningful global and national action, we will also elevate and amplify the facts and discussion, encouraging others to join the effort.⁶

I am so proud of our city's leadership on this. The ripple effects of La Crosse's strong commitment to climate action increase the momentum to make the big changes needed.

Please vote to pass the climate emergency resolution.

Thank you.

Cathy Van Maren
2815 Highland St
La Crosse

Stopping Climate Change Is Doable, but Time Is Short, U.N. Panel Warns (by Brad Plumber and Raymond Zhong, NYT, April 4, 2022)

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/04/climate/climate-change-ipcc-un.html?unlocked_article_code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACEIPuomT1JKd6J17Vw1cRCfTTMQmqxCdw P1xftm3iWka3DJDm4eiO8RAo2J50qKbg5iYtlv0nGQRNZHP7JqReR5xapCOQptVwys6NOiqagyHh8U-8i1T39kmNXER6w5-jvnKTLiir1yLHh-krWbWf1XPSIhmkrIwtmvcFvd1GtjHRZwq6RQvVnmYUrhYdXDZh-QzwDYSaLvuC5SEktfYXbMWyPr1U-SOpbWjrMnNKD6bpmcAhaC1nOT3gX8n9roZoHe4tRZPCjWkZmLMnugrwRCXhqK5OoBvAyQovVILZqst3duHzJsZmlmoDCKBRrffonNfs&smid=url-share

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

From: Lily Jacqueline Herling <lherling@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:01 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Cc: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Resolution 22-0427

***** CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *******

Dear Judiciary and Administration Committee,

I am writing in support of the “Resolution declaring a climate emergency, committing to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion and accelerating the clean energy transition, and endorsing the call for a global fossil fuel nonproliferation treaty” (Resolution 22-0427). I am grateful for the steps taken already by La Crosse leadership towards climate action but those commitments also require mechanisms for action and accountability.

Thank you,
Lily Herling

1516 Ferry St
La Crosse, WI 54601
lherling@wisc.edu
(608) 738-4831

Forms must be complete before the start of the meeting.

No forms will be considered after the start of the meeting; except in the case of public hearings that are required by law (as noted on the agenda).

Please put the File # of the Legislation beside the appropriate committee.

J&A 22-0427

F&P _____

COMMITTEE HEARING REGISTRATION SLIP

Name: Shannon McKinney Date: 5/31/22
PLEASE PRINT

Municipality of Residence: LaCrosse

I Represent: myself

Legislation: Resolution on climate emergency

(Please fill out a separate sheet for each piece of legislation in which you are registering.)

Please check only one (1) of the following:

- I wish to **SPEAK IN FAVOR** of the legislation.
- I wish to **SPEAK IN OPPOSITION** of the legislation.

- I wish to **REGISTER IN FAVOR** of the legislation.
- I wish to **REGISTER IN OPPOSITION** of the legislation.

- I'm in favor of the legislation, but only here to answer questions.
- I'm in opposition of the legislation, but only here to answer questions.

Effective August 31, 2021

Forms must be complete before the start of the meeting.

No forms will be considered after the start of the meeting; except in the case of public hearings that are required by law (as noted on the agenda).

Please put the File # of the Legislation beside the appropriate committee.

J&A 22-0427

F&P _____

COMMITTEE HEARING REGISTRATION SLIP

Name: Dana Fisher Date: May 31
PLEASE PRINT

Municipality of Residence: La Crosse

I Represent: myself

Legislation: _____

(Please fill out a separate sheet for each piece of legislation in which you are registering.)

Please check only one (1) of the following:

() I wish to **SPEAK IN FAVOR** of the legislation.

() I wish to **SPEAK IN OPPOSITION** of the legislation.

() I wish to **REGISTER IN FAVOR** of the legislation.

I wish to **REGISTER IN OPPOSITION** of the legislation.

() I'm in favor of the legislation, but only here to answer questions.

() I'm in opposition of the legislation, but only here to answer questions.

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Please put the File # of the Legislation beside the appropriate committee.

J&A 22-0427

F&P _____

COMMITTEE HEARING REGISTRATION SLIP

Name: Janet ~~Holloman~~ Wodlam Date: May 31 2022
PLEASE PRINT

Municipality of Residence: La Crosse

I Represent: myself.

Legislation: _____

(Please fill out a separate sheet for each piece of legislation in which you are registering.)

Please check only one (1) of the following:

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() I wish to **SPEAK IN OPPOSITION** of the legislation.

I wish to **REGISTER IN FAVOR** of the legislation.

() I wish to **REGISTER IN OPPOSITION** of the legislation.

() I'm in favor of the legislation, but only here to answer questions.

() I'm in opposition of the legislation, but only here to answer questions.

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 7:00 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: #22-0427 - Resolution declaring a climate emergency

From: Beth Moore <ebmoore1@LIVE.COM>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 9:42 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: #22-0427 - Resolution declaring a climate emergency

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Council Members

I am writing to express my strong support for this resolution. I think it is imperative that we as a city recognize that we are in the midst of a climate emergency and commit to policies opposing fossil fuel expansion, accelerating the transition to clean energy as quickly as possible and implementing ways to mitigate the impacts of climate change that are specific to this particular locale.

Beth Moore

3436 East Ave So.

La Crosse, WI 54601



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

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La Crosse, WI 54601

Text File

File Number: 22-0827

Agenda Date: 6/16/2022

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: Status Update

Agenda Number: 3



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
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Text File

File Number: 22-0831

Agenda Date: 6/16/2022

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: Status Update

Agenda Number: 4



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Text File

File Number: 22-0832

Agenda Date: 6/16/2022

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee

File Type: General Item

Agenda Number: 5