

Elsen, Nikki

From: Alysa Remsburg <remsburga@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 9:39 AM
To: Kabat, Tim; ZZ Council Members
Subject: Request for funding Sustainability Plan

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Dear Mayor Kabatt and the La Crosse City Council,

Thank you for your recent commitments to our city's sustainability and renewable energy future. I am concerned that funding for updating the city's sustainability plan and greenhouse gas inventory will again not be included in next year's budget. I realize that it is hard to prioritize long-term and global issues when each year has pressing crises. However, our city must act quickly and dramatically to meet our local goals for having a livable future. The scientists' warnings about climate change have only intensified in the last year, and the unimaginable climate consequences will be costly. We can avert the worst of these problems, but only if we act urgently. Funding an updated Sustainability Plan and determining what actions will have the greatest greenhouse gas impacts in 2020 are a relatively inexpensive set of steps to help us take our sustainability goals seriously. Thanks for doing all you can to fit these into the budget.

Best regards,
Dr. Alysa Remsburg

La Crosse city resident since 2013

Elsen, Nikki

From: Collin Secor <secor8604@uwlax.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 12:43 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Upcoming budget plans

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Hello,

My name is Collin Secor, and I am a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. I am emailing you today to ask you to consider budgeting for a new sustainability plan in the city of La Crosse, especially with renewable energy.

I am a member of Citizen’s Climate Lobby, which is an international organization which is working diligently to combat climate change. We also have constructed a bill which is currently in the house of representatives, H.R. 173 which would systematically place a tax on carbon and give back to U.S. citizens with the dividends.

Additionally, I am a part of a club on campus called Students for Sustainability which advocates for sustainability primarily on campus, but we also have the city of La Crosse in mind too.

As you may have been noticing, climate change has become a very important and well known topic which will play a vital role in the upcoming presidential election next fall. I encourage the city of La Crosse to be ahead of the game, and start to change our living habits to become more sustainable. We can be one of the cities of the world which is a leader and prototype for others on how to attack climate change and other sustainability issues such as single use plastics.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Collin Secor

Elsen, Nikki

From: cvanmaren <cvanmaren@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 2:31 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Kabat, Tim
Subject: Sustaibility belongs in the 2020 budget!

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I have been told that funds for updating the city's 2009 Sustainability Plan, which were originally proposed for the 2019 budget but were pushed to the 2020 budget, have now been pushed from the 2020 budget to the 2021 budget.

I hope this is not true!

The 2009 Sustainability Plan was written by true visionaries but they wrote it before the full scope and horror of our future on its current carbon emissions trajectory beame well known. We now understand that increasing planetary warming threatens our community, our food supply, our water resources, our economic systems, our farms and businesses, our health, and our children's future. This is not a movie or a hypothetical. This is what will happen. Please read [The Uninhabitable Earth](#) if you haven't yet.. Note that it was written two year ago and recent assessments show that global carbon and greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise despite agreements and accords and treaties. (See: [Countries must triple climate emission cut targets to limit global heating to 2 degrees C.](#))

With the passage of the zero carbon/100% renewable resolution earlier this year, you have accepted the dire warnings of world climate scientists and the promise of a more sustainable future through carbon drawdown and an aggressive move to renewable energy sources. That is great!

But we can't get there from here in a efficient and financially responsible manner if we don't have a plan. The plan the city is currently operating under is old and does not include many of the systems and priorities we must update and add to reach our new goals. This is not like whether we want to change the curtains in the dining room this year or next year. This is like do we need to fix the failinng foundation before the house falls over the cliff. Yes. We need to fix it immediately!

We must start now to plan our next steps. Two years ago, scientists warned that we had 12 years left before our past carbon emissions overran any system changes we could make and global heating would propel us into uncharted and dangerous territory. Now, we have ten years left. Next year, it will be nine years. And every year, really, every MONTH we delay makes the task exponentially harder.

In the past year or so, neighborhoods in our city have spent upwards of \$1 million on metal, plastic, and rubber play features shipped from overseas for our parks. I realize this is a different pot of money, but really, where are our priorities!? Sustainability must be at the top of the priority list going forward. .

In addition to funds for the Sustainability Plan update, we also need to include funding for the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and assesment that will inform the updated plan. Again, we must have these two before we can move forward.

The budget is the talk made real. We have talked a good talk - renewables, carbon emissions, sustainability, concern for our planet and our future, responsibility for ensuring a positive and healthy future for our children, etc.

Now it's time to put that in the budget.

I hope you will see this is not a luxury or something we can keep delaying. In order to move forward, this must be a priority in our talk AND in our budget.

Now, if I've been misinformed and those funds ARE in the budget for 2020, this email is a thank you for realizing the seriousness of the situation and taking on the next necessary steps to address it.

Either way, you may be interested in an article that was recently published in Inside Climate News - "As Climate Threatens Midwest's Cultural Identities, Cities Test Ways to Adapt."

This plan update and ghg assessment is fundamental to moving forward and seriously addressing our city's and our world's future sustainability and survivability.

Thank you for considering my request.

Cathy Van Maren, La Crosse

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