

## Acklin, Tim

---

**From:** cathy <cvanmaren@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 11:45 AM  
**To:** Acklin, Tim; Kabat, Tim  
**Cc:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** Public budget hearing comments #257 GHG Inventory/Climate Action Plan

\*\*\* **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 am submitting comments about the proposed 2021-2025 capital improvement budget for tonight's public hearing. Because of my home internet limitations, I may not be able to "attend" the meeting in person. Thank you.

### **I am emailing in strong support of item #257: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan.**

Nearly a year ago, the City Council passed Resolution 19-0471 (2019) pledging carbon neutrality and 100% Renewable Energy by 2050.

The greenhouse gas inventory in item #257 will build the foundation for future action toward the carbon neutral goal. The Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan is the second step. This is very important.

The July 2019 resolution references the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s warning that we must limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees C to best manage climate change impacts such as extreme weather events like floods and droughts and sea level rise. In fact, the IPCC has repeatedly warned that strong and meaningful action must be taken in a very short time to have any real impact on the problem. In its [2018 "Summary for Policymakers"](#), the agency noted that, "we are already seeing the consequences of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes," and, "Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all (> 99 percent) would be lost with 2°C." In short, we cannot put off action or minimize the catastrophic consequences of too little/too late action. NASA data shows [we are nearly at 1 degree already](#).

The resolution also notes that the February 2019 report by the [Center on Wisconsin Strategies \(COWS\)](#) on in-state production of clean renewable energy shows large economic benefits to the state and communities for transitioning fuel sources and energy generation processes. With COVID-19-related job and income losses, saving money and energy for businesses and homes and increasing locally-produced renewable energy takes on new urgency. Jobs in energy and site assessment, energy saving upgrades, and renewable energy installations would help the city and its residents recover.

The amount allocated for these programs over five years is really the very least the city can promise. One hundred thousand dollars over five years is less than \$0.50 per La Crosse resident 18 years and older per year ([US Census](#).) This is the amount we have pledged to battle the existential threat of the climate crisis?

Is our city serious about fulfilling the promise officially made through passage of the July 2019 resolution and serious about combating the climate change that is costing us so much (flooding, loss of housing and businesses, extreme storms, loss of recreational/tourism due to warmer winters, more severe stress on city infrastructure, health threats from [vector-borne illnesses](#), and more)?

A budget show an organization's true priorities. This one is pretty depressing.

At least please retain the \$100,000 over five years for a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan. And, if possible, add funding to this very important preparation for the looming pandemic of the climate crisis.

Cathy Van Maren  
2815 Highland Street  
La Crosse.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.