

Climate Fast Forward

The background of the entire image features a stylized, semi-transparent grid pattern. The main visual elements are the Wisconsin State Capitol dome on the left and a bronze statue of a woman with her right arm raised, set against a background of stylized blue waves. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-brown tones in the upper half and cooler blue tones in the lower half.

#FastForwardWI

A conference to “fast forward” solutions for a more sustainable Wisconsin.

Track 1: Energy Generation

Presented by Keith Reopelle at Dane County
Office of Energy and Climate Change

Track Subtopics

- Ensuring Clean Energy Equity/Justice
- Electrifying Heating & Cooling
- Optimizing Solar Siting
- Advancing Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)
- Energy Storage

Track 1: Energy Generation

Presented by Keith Reopelle at Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change

Near-term Recommendations

- Legalize third-party ownership of solar
- Create an Innovation Sandbox

Long-term Recommendation

- Carbon pricing

Track 2: Energy Use

Presented by Peter Skopec at WISPIRG

Track Subtopics

- Land use and transportation reform
- Promoting alternatives to driving and “car culture”
- Scaling up residential building energy efficiency
- Scaling up commercial and industrial building energy efficiency
- Advancing beneficial electrification

Track 2: Energy Use

Presented by Peter Skopec at WISPIRG

Near-term Recommendations

- Increase funding for local and state energy efficiency and community benefits programs (e.g. Focus on Energy, weatherization) to drive efficiency and renewable energy.
- Encourage businesses, gov't agencies and organizations to invest in public transit and active transportation, like they do in employee parking.

Long-term Recommendation

- Encourage consumers to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy by exposing the true external costs of fossil fuels.

Track 3: Resilience & Adaptation

Presented by Nadia Vogt at MMSD

Track Subtopics

- Anticipating and Preventing Flooding Disasters
- Safeguarding human health and public safety from climate impacts
- Advancing resilient agriculture and land use practices
- Protecting at-risk species and habitat
- Advancing energy security in uncertain times
- Tailoring resilience solutions to rural communities
- Institutionalizing and supporting resilience planning and practices
- Incorporating green infrastructure in urban areas

Track 3: Resilience & Adaptation

Presented by Nadia Vogt at MMSD

Track Subtopics

- Public engagement and education
- Equity and social justice including native nations

Track 3: Resilience & Adaptation

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Near-term Recommendations

- Create a state-funded and state-run Americorps – like program to position resiliency coordinators at the regional/watershed level.
- Pilot micro grids for critical infrastructure, privately and publicly funded.

Long-term Recommendation

- Develop a new message for community engagement and education.

Track 4: Natural Carbon Sinks

Presented by Fred Clark and Diane Mayerfeld

Track Subtopics

- Optimizing Carbon Sink Strategies in Forests
- Optimizing Carbon Sink Strategies in Agriculture
- Optimizing Carbon Sink Strategies in Conservation Lands
- Optimizing Carbon Sink Strategies in Urban Forests
- Advancing Working Lands Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Strategies

Track 4: Natural Carbon Sinks

Presented by Fred Clark and Diane Mayerfeld

Near-term Recommendations

- As state policy define carbon as forest product, including MFL
- Clarify state policy to allow 3rd party renewable energy generation on farms, regardless of scale

Long-term Recommendation

- Create state-based agricultural policy that pays farmers for carbon sequestration

Track 5: Governance

Presented by Lauren Azar, Azar Law LLC

Track Subtopics

- Mobilizing state-level leadership (Governor & Administration)
- Mobilizing state-level leadership (Legislature)
- Elevating state agencies as climate action champions (PSC)
- Elevating state agencies as climate action champions (DNR)
- Supporting local/municipal/county level leadership
- Advancing climate actions through tribal leadership
- Mobilizing the UW System and the educational system as climate leaders
- Mobilizing and empowering non-governmental organizations and the private sector

Track 5: Governance

Presented by Lauren Azar at Azar Law LLC

Near-term Recommendations

- Strengthen the State's energy office to fund UW Extension to facilitate collaborative resiliency planning.
- Accelerate the clean economy
 - Expand job training for clean energy;
 - Govt Incentives (Green Procurement for Govt; Regenerative Ag Incentives; WEDC climate grants)

Long-term Recommendation

- Price Carbon – Economy Wide – with an equity lens