



## **“Forward on Climate” Package Bill List**

**November 15, 2021**

*Building on recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change, Forward on Climate includes twenty-two bills that work to create good, family-supporting jobs, reduce inequality, and fight climate change through Wisconsin-centered policy.*

### **LRB 0238 - Social Cost of Carbon**

*Authored by Representatives Greta Neubauer, Jimmy Anderson and Jodi Emerson  
Senators Kelda Roys, Chris Larson, Melissa Agard, Jon Erpenbach, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 0238** would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to consider the social cost of carbon in its vetting process for new utility-scale energy generation, high voltage transmission lines, and certain other public utility projects. The social cost of carbon is a measure of the impact of climate change, in terms of the costs to families, businesses, governments, and taxpayers, currently estimated at \$50 per additional ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted into the atmosphere. It is meant to be a comprehensive estimate of damages resulting from the current state of climate change, including changes in net agricultural productivity, human health, property damage from increased flood risk, and changes in energy system (heating and cooling) costs. By fully accounting for the impact and damages caused by carbon pollution, we can better estimate the true cost and value of new utility-scale energy proposals to Wisconsin energy consumers.

### **LRB 3734 - School Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Grants**

*Authored by Representatives Greta Neubauer, Dianne Hesselbein, LaKeshia Myers;  
Senators Janet Bewley, Jeff Smith, Janis Ringhand, Chris Larson, LaTonya Johnson,  
Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 3734** creates a \$10 million annual grant program in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction designed to support critical weatherization and energy efficiency updates in Wisconsin’s public schools. As many school buildings age, it can be difficult for local school districts to afford the resources needed to weatherize and update old buildings to meet new energy efficiency standards. By investing in weatherization and energy efficiency in our schools, we can cut down on school district energy bills, save taxpayer money, reduce our fossil fuel usage, and create a better environment for our children to learn.

### **LRB 0240 - Carbon Sequestration & Sustainable Agriculture**

*Authored by Representatives Greta Neubauer, Katrina Shankland, Mark Spreitzer;  
Senators Kelda Roys, Jeff Smith, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard, Lena Taylor*

Agriculture is crucial to Wisconsin’s heritage and economy, and our farmers are some of our best stewards and conservationists. **LRB 0240** creates a sustainable agriculture grant program in the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Transportation, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) designed to support Wisconsin’s farmers, reduce fossil fuel usage, and sequester carbon dioxide. By planting and maintaining certain types of vegetation, utilizing no- or low-till farming practices, and changing grazing practices, our farmers can remove carbon dioxide (a major accelerator of climate change) from our atmosphere and sequester it in the ground, along with other efficiency and conservation measures. While climate change poses a serious threat to the Wisconsin way of life, our farming traditions are a part of the solution.

### **LRB 3675 - On-Bill Financing**

*Authored by Representatives Supreme Moore Omokunde, Jodi Emerson, Chris Sinicki;  
Senators Jeff Smith, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Lena Taylor*

The up-front costs of large-scale energy efficiency improvements, especially solar panels and HVAC upgrades, can be cost-prohibitive for many homeowners. **LRB 3675** would make green home upgrades, including solar panels, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades, weatherization, and energy efficiency updates, more affordable and accessible to Wisconsin homeowners through an on-bill repayment option. On-bill financing streamlines the adoption of residential solar panels and other energy efficient home upgrades, utilizing the preexisting relationship between utilities and homeowners to make green energy affordable. Through this program, utility customers would be able to upgrade their homes and produce green energy with little to no upfront cost, while reducing emissions, building long-term savings, and supporting the green economy.

### **LRB 3473 - Regional Biodigester Planning Grants**

*Authored by Representatives Dianne Hesselbein, Dave Considine, Don Vruwink;  
Senators Janis Ringhand, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Melissa Agard, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 3473** will require the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to create a \$1 million grant program to support the planning and establishing of regional biodigesters. Biodigesters are used to convert municipal wastewater, dairy and agriculture waste, and food processing runoff into biogas, which can be used to heat and power our communities while creating useful co-products like fertilizers, composts, and more. By establishing regional biodigesters, we can use our organic waste resources more efficiently and generate more local renewable energy in communities across Wisconsin.

### **LRB 3472 - UW-Extension Climate Science Positions**

*Authored by Representatives Katrina Shankland, Mark Spreitzer, Dave Considine;  
Senators Jeff Smith, Melissa Agard, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 3472** creates and funds two agriculture and climate change research positions at the UW-Madison Division of Extension. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is renowned for its dedication to our state's agriculture, communities, and natural resources, reaching people in every corner of our state. By creating Extension positions dedicated to studying climate change and agriculture, we can learn more about how the changing climate affects the landscape and economy of our state and better support local efforts to make communities resilient and sustainable.

### **LRB 3437 - Focus on Energy Funding Increase**

*Authored by Representatives Katrina Shankland, Deb Andraca, Kalan Haywood;  
Senators Melissa Agard, Chris Larson, LaTonya Johnson, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys,  
Lena Taylor*

**LRB 3437** will direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to require participating investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to contribute 2.4 percent (currently 1.2 percent) of their annual operating revenue from retail sales to fund the Focus on Energy program. Focus on Energy is a popular program that helps people and businesses across the state install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, which in turn help create jobs, upgrade local infrastructure, and improve our environment. By expanding funding for Focus on Energy, the program will be able to better deliver bottom line energy savings opportunities for Wisconsinites and businesses all over the state.

### **LRB 3449 - Focus on Energy Low Income Program**

*Authored by Representatives LaKeshia Myers, Jonathan Brostoff, Evan Goyke;  
Senators Chris Larson, Lena Taylor, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard, Kelda Roys*

**LRB 3449** requires Focus on Energy to include programs specifically designed to decrease the energy burden for and address the energy needs of low-income households, including energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. This bill would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the funds utilities contribute to Focus on Energy are spent on these programs for low-income households. By requiring programs prioritizing low-income households, we can make sure that everyone has the opportunity to make their home or business more energy efficient, reduce consumer energy bills and energy waste, and reduce reliance on coal and natural gas from outside of Wisconsin.

### **LRB 3394 - County Conservation Staff for Climate Resiliency**

*Authored by Representatives Beth Meyers, Steve Doyle, Don Vruwink;  
Senators Jeff Smith, Chris Larson, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard,  
Lena Taylor*

As the state of Wisconsin ramps up its efforts to combat climate change, it's clear that action is needed at all levels of government: local, state, and federal. In many cases, conservation and environmental work is best managed by locals, who know the area best. County Conservation staff play a critical role in this work. **LRB 3394** expands the duties that county conservation staff may engage in to include work associated with climate change and climate change resiliency and makes \$1.8 million available for counties to support hiring for these purposes. By empowering counties to hire conservation staff dedicated to building climate resilience, we can make sure that every community in Wisconsin is ready to tackle the climate crisis.

### **LRB 3395 - Food Waste Reduction Pilot**

*Authored by Representatives Francesca Hong, Sara Rodriguez, Kristina Shelton;*

*Senators Jeff Smith, Melissa Agard, LaTonya Johnson, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 3395** works to reduce food waste in Wisconsin, while also helping struggling Wisconsin families access affordable, nutritious food through a DATCP-based grant program. The program would provide grants for food waste reduction pilot projects aiming to prevent food waste, redirect surplus food to hunger relief organizations, and compost food waste. Annually, [Americans waste 30-40% of all available food](#) or, in monetary terms, a loss of approximately \$161 billion. [At the same time, roughly 38 million people suffer from food insecurity, including 530,500 Wisconsinites](#). By supporting pilot programs to reduce food waste and redirecting would-be waste, we can help to address hunger and reduce our overall carbon impact.

### **LRB 3393 - Climate Change Local Planning**

*Authored by Representatives Robyn Vining, Evan Goyke, Sylvia Ortiz-Velez;  
Senators Jeff Smith, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard, Lena Taylor*

**Under LRB 3393**, when local governments prepare comprehensive plans, community health plans, or disaster mitigation plans, they must also include considerations for the impacts of climate change. The bill also provides funding and state staffing to support this additional work. Climate change is increasingly impacting communities in every corner of Wisconsin, from additional wear on local roads, to increasingly common severe weather events, to changes to our growing seasons. These impacts fall hardest on Wisconsin's communities of color, rural communities, and low income families. By empowering local governments to account for the effects of climate change in local planning, we can help communities be more resilient and prepared.

### **LRB 2013 - Complete Streets**

*Authored by Representatives Kristina Shelton, Lee Snodgrass, Evan Goyke;  
Senators Melissa Agard, Tim Carpenter, Chris Larson, Janis Ringhand, LaTonya Johnson, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 2013** requires the Department of Transportation to ensure that bikeways and pedestrian paths are constructed in all new highway construction and reconstruction projects funded with state or federal money. By requiring that new pedestrian and bike paths be built with new roads, we can ensure our neighborhoods, towns, and cities are equitably and sustainably connected, support public health, and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. *This bill restores the Complete Streets language as it appeared before its repeal in the 2015 budget.*

### **LRB 0630 - Long-Range Transportation Planning**

*Authored by Representatives Daniel Riemer, David Bowen, Sue Conley;  
Senators Melissa Agard, Tim Carpenter, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 0630** provides that the long-range statewide transportation plan developed by the Department of Transportation must include a vision for the following: 1) low-carbon public transit; 2) electrification of the transportation sector; 3) cost-effective charging infrastructure; 4) incentives to develop equitable, clean transportation options; and 5) transportation solutions for underserved areas of the state. By including these priorities in long-term transportation planning, we can support sustainable, equitable, and efficient transit options to suit the variety of transit needs in Wisconsin.

### **LRB 0248 - Urban Forestry Grants**

*Authored by Representatives Dora Drake, Lisa Subeck, Shelia Stubbs;  
Senators Lena Taylor, LaTonya Johnson, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard*

**LRB 0248** increases funding for DNR's urban forestry program by \$500,000 to support a grant program designed to mitigate the "urban heat island" effect. Urban and metropolitan areas experience significantly warmer temperatures than surrounding rural areas, with some cities experiencing as much as a twenty degree difference in temperature compared to the surrounding area.

These urban heat islands result in increased daytime temperatures, reduced nighttime cooling, and higher air pollution levels, impacting human health by contributing to discomfort, respiratory difficulties, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heightened asthmatic symptoms, and other heat-related injuries. Low income households and communities of color are particularly impacted, with less access to reliable cooling and weatherization. Urban forestry, or planting trees and creating more green spaces in cities, can help to cool neighborhoods and reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, and mitigate these effects of climate change.

### **LRB 4204 - Model Climate Academic Standards**

*Authored by Representatives Sondy Pope, Sue Conley, Deb Andraca;  
Senators Chris Larson, Melissa Agard, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 4204** would support the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to create model academic standards related to climate change. If the state superintendent adopts model standards, they must incorporate a) an understanding of climate, b) the interconnected nature of climate change, c) the potential local and global impacts of climate change, and d) the individual and societal actions that may mitigate the harmful effects of climate change. This bill would allow DPI to provide grants or to contract with state agencies or nonprofits to assist in developing the model curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students. Climate change is already affecting our state, and will continue to affect our children's lives in the future. By creating a model curriculum for schools to adopt addressing climate change and its effects, we can prepare students for success in a world changed by the climate crisis.

### **LRB 4200 - Climate-Focused HEAB Scholarships**

*Authored by Representatives Jill Billings, Jimmy Anderson  
Senators Jeff Smith, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 4200** creates a climate change scholarship program administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). The program would provide scholarships of up to \$5,000 per academic year to students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education and who are engaged in studies directly related to programs preparing the students for careers in occupational areas addressing or responding to climate change. By creating a scholarship program that will directly benefit students who are participating in climate change-related fields, we can make higher education more attainable for the next generation of conservationists, climate scientists, and environmental justice advocates.

### **LRB 5103 - Commercial & Residential Stretch Energy Codes**

*Authored by Representatives Gary Hebl, Samba Baldeh;  
Senators Melissa Agard, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 5103** requires the Department of Safety and Professional Services to create a stretch energy code working group and develop a stretch energy code for residential and commercial development that exceeds the requirements of our current energy conservation code. Under current law, municipalities are prohibited from enacting or enforcing minimum standards beyond the current DSPS energy conservation code. This bill would allow any county, city, village, or town to adopt and enforce the residential and commercial components of the stretch energy code. By empowering local governments to adopt the stretch energy code, Wisconsin communities can choose to collectively reduce their energy consumption, support sustainability, and reduce long-term energy costs for residents.

### **LRB 4199 - Racial Disparity Impact Studies**

*Authored by Representatives Shelia Stubbs, Marisabel Cabrera, David Bowen;  
Senators Lena Taylor, LaTonya Johnson, Melissa Agard, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys*

**LRB 4199** requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to take additional steps collecting public comment on and assessing the potential environmental impact of permit applications for the operation of facilities under DNR's regulation of air and water pollution and hazardous solid waste when such facilities are located in vulnerable communities. Environmental hazards, displacement, and economic immobility continue to disproportionately impact people of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities. By requiring these additional steps in the permit process, we can better protect communities that have historically experienced disproportionate health and environmental impacts, limit environmental and communal harm, and put more control in the hands of local communities.

### **LRB 4206 - Wisconsin Climate Corps**

*Authored by Representatives Greta Neubauer, Supreme Moore Omokunde, Francesca Hong;  
Senators Chris Larson, Melissa Agard, LaTonya Johnson, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys,  
Lena Taylor*

**LRB 4206** establishes the Wisconsin Climate Corps program, which will provide employment training, professional development, and career pathways for workers in climate resiliency, restoring and rebuilding natural lands, and supporting the clean energy transition. The Wisconsin Climate Corps allows local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit corporations, and executive branch agencies to sponsor projects relating to climate resilience, environmental justice, conservation, and sustainability, while helping young Wisconsinites to find gainful employment, build new skills, and receive professional training.

Wisconsin Climate Corps projects can take many forms, including the coordination of flood resilience practices, restoration of outdoor spaces for underserved areas of the state, planting trees, building community gardens, and the coordination of climate resilience, equity, and environmental justice practices. The program is focused primarily on workers between the ages of 16 and 30 years old, and 50 percent of the participants must be from underserved populations. Workers will receive a wage of at least \$15 per hour, a housing stipend, and health insurance coverage.

Not only will this program help young Wisconsinites find gainful employment and professional training, it will also increase the resiliency of the infrastructure of our state and provide greater opportunities for all Wisconsinites to enjoy the outdoors.

### **LRB 5051 - Green Jobs Training Grants**

*Authored by Representatives Greta Neubauer, Tod Ohnstad, Chris Sinicki;  
Senators Kelda Roys, LaTonya Johnson, Melissa Agard, Jon Erpenbach, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 5051** will support Wisconsin in transitioning to clean energy, reduce inequities, and create good jobs through a new program at the Department of Workforce Development. The Green Jobs Training Program will allow DWD to provide grants to public and private organizations to create or scale up existing green jobs training programs, targeting jobs that produce goods or provide services benefitting our environment and conserving our natural resources. This bill was drafted with input from numerous stakeholders to ensure organizations across Wisconsin have the opportunity to be part of growing our green jobs and renewable energy workforce.

### **LRB 5062 - Energy Innovation Grant Program**

*Authored by Representatives Kalan Haywood, Nick Milroy, Sylvia Ortiz-Velez;  
Senators Jeff Smith, Kelda Roys, Jon Erpenbach, Melissa Agard, Lena Taylor*

**LRB 5062** provides additional funding to the existing Energy Innovation Grant Program. This program supports a wide variety of energy related projects that reduce energy consumption and support renewable energy and energy storage, energy efficiency and demand response, or comprehensive energy planning. This bill will support the Office of Energy Innovation to increase the number of grants awarded, which will allow Wisconsin to transition to clean, renewable energy more rapidly.

### **LRB 0022 - Shoreline Erosion Control Revolving Loan Program**

*Authored by Representatives Tip McGuire, Deb Andraca;  
Senator Bob Wirch*

In recent years, our Great Lakes water levels have risen to near-record highs due at least in part to our changing climate. These high lake levels mean property on the Great Lakes shoreline is at risk due to rapid erosion, particularly when extreme weather strikes. Our state has over 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, and families from Superior to Door County to Pleasant Prairie are looking for assistance to protect the structural integrity of their homes. **LRB 0022** would create a revolving loan fund for homeowners and municipalities with property on Great Lakes shoreline. These loans will allow property owners the upfront capital that they need to take proactive steps to prevent future damage.